

## Let's Go Out

### River Camel Memories

ON January 4th members of Wadebridge Old Cornwall Society embarked on a voyage up the river Camel without even dipping a toe in the water.

We were taken on a journey from the mouth of the estuary to the Port of Wadebridge, whilst sitting in the warmth of the Town Hall as usual - courtesy of a slide show presented by David Bartlett, using pictures from our archives. In actual fact we were a year late as the talk had been cancelled due to heavy snow in January 2010. This was also a history lesson, starting with the age of sailing ships and featuring in particular of vessels using the river for trade and leisure, right up to the present day.

At the end of the

nineteenth century Wadebridge was a busy port exporting mining machinery from its foundry, corn from surrounding farms and minerals from nearby mines, whilst Norwegian timber, South American guano, Welsh coal, plus food of various kinds came in. Dozens of ships were tied up at our busy quays and the railway link aided transport of such goods around the country.

When the railway reached Padstow in 1899, followed by enlargement of the harbour, the trading days of the Port of Wadebridge gradually declined.

Later pictures showed Wadebridge people using the river for boating trips and leisure craft appearing, rather than trading ships. Edwardian

ladies dressed in their "Sunday Best" complete with parasols, sat perched close to the water in rowing boats and regattas were popular events for the town.

Nowadays many of those quaysides are covered with flats and shops, the railway link is long gone and the town is busy with cyclists and tourists for much of the year.

We began with a sailing ship, encountered wrecks, appreciated the importance of our town as a busy trading port, with some boat building going on and saw how "progress" changed our fortunes and the use of the river.

The last view looked downriver from our famous medieval bridge, with its modern view of quayside flats, some remaining boatyards and the modern bypass bridge.

We can only ponder on the future but hopefully the next generation will appreciate the value of their heritage and continue to use the Camel for leisure and work, enjoying the views and varied wildlife.

Our March meeting will be on **Wednesday 2nd March** at 7.30pm, downstairs in Wadebridge Town Hall, when Mr David Laymond will talk about "The Victorian Tea Table". "Old" only refers to our heritage not our members, so you are welcome to join us whatever your age! Annual membership £7. Visitors £2. For details ring 01208 816307.

### St Breward Village Exhibition takes a step back in time as it looks forward to its future

IT all started with St Breward Parish Council being keen to consult the parishioners. Major work is needed to be undertaken to repair and restore to maintain one of the key ancient looppaths linking the centre of the village and the school, with the hamlet of Churchtown with its church and pub, Footpath No 13. Luckily for the path, the consultation spawned a major exhibition in St Breward's Methodist Chapel recently which displayed all that St Breward has to offer via its amenities, groups and clubs to its parishioners and visitors.

With an ancient looppath such as No 13, the historical connections must be endless in the growth of the village over the centuries. It was possibly used by the Knights Templar and pilgrims as they made their way across the moor via the Holy Well at St Breward. Becoming in the 20th century, a road for cars, a very narrow one at that, in the 1960s the road was downgraded to its current status as a looppath when a car allegedly became stuck - the modern car just became too wide!

Visitors to the exhibition were able to meet and talk to Cornwall Council's rights of way

officer for East Cornwall, Chris Monk, helped by Parish Council looppath officer Jane Hanscomb, who advised not only on Footpath No 13 and the repair work options, but also the extent of the looppath network both within the village and across the adjoining moorland and fields, illustrated by a display of lithic and modern-day entrance maps.

Included in the exhibition was a team from the recently formed St Breward History Group whose members made themselves available to collect from the public and scan in old photographs depicting life in the past, in and around St Breward. This proved extremely popular as, with a pre-announced emphasis on the sporting history of the village, boxes of old photographs appeared both of the old School sports teams and the village Football Club teams, some going back to the 1920s, with many photographs held in storage by St Breward Football Club. There was much deliberation over the photos by the elders of the village to recognise faces and put a name to as many people as possible as part of the History Group's archiving procedure.

The History Group also had a chance to show off their new computer equipment which will soon include a scanner following a recent Grassroots grant award of £880 from the Cornwall Community Foundation. The Foundation's assistant grants administrator Beth Martin, visited the exhibition to see how the grant will be used, commenting how surprised she was to see just how active the village and its residents were.

The History Group also received a visit from former long term resident and village archivist, Pam Bousfield, visiting the exhibition with some recently acquired old newspaper cuttings about the area. During her many years in the village, Pam researched and collected old documents, photographs and anecdotes, eventually writing and publishing a book called, "The History of St

Breward", which is still on sale to this day. When she moved, in 2006, to live in Wadebridge, she donated to the History Group all her research work and records which are now being archived on to the new computerised systems.

Looking forward, the Parish Council was also seeking local residents' suggestions on how to spend a £750 prize recently gained from achieving second place in the Cornwall Sustainable Village of the Year competition. Input was also sought on how to improve or add to the overall amenities within the village

long term, including the future of the play areas and equipment.

Despite all the activity over the two days of the exhibition, unfortunately no old photographs of Footpath No 13 and the people who have regularly used it over the centuries, came to light. However following the success of the exhibition, the message is well and truly out there with the History Group's profile considerably raised within the village, together with highlighting the Parish Council's request for village involvement in its future, as it looks back over its past.

Peter Glisner



The original historian for the village, Pam Bousfield with members of the recently formed St Breward History Group. Pictured L-R Jan Arnold, Hazel Burrows, Valerie Hill, Pam Bousfield, David Eno and Geoff Burrows.

Photo: [www.stbrenton.org.uk](http://www.stbrenton.org.uk)

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## STEAK & THAI at the Westberry Hotel

### Valentine's Weekend

£21.50

Sat 12th, Sun 13th, Mon 14th Feb

Freshly made spiced parsnip soup (V)

Fee sharing - selection of crostini (Penne, ham, goat's cheese & sun dried tomatoes, smoked salmon)

Crispy smoked chicken spring rolls (with sweet chilli marinade)

Freshly picked crab (with salad, mango & ginger sauce)

Supreme of chicken (with cream of leek and the sauce served with broiled leeks & sauté potatoes)

Stack of beef fillet (with potato rosti & truffle cheese sauce)

Trio of fish (red mullet, cod, sea bass fillet with smoked salmon & chive butter sauce)

Kang-ka-see kai (Creamy Thai yellow chicken curry)

Fila Parcel (V) (Goat's cheese, pine nuts, spinach, sun dried tomatoes & pesto)

Fresh Strawberry roulade (with Fambouse syrup)

Frangula crême brûlée (served with a tuille)

Westberry dessert skewer (Burrata, low, Strawberry, Puffinball)

Steamed dark chocolate pudding (with hot chocolate & ice cream)

Frangula de cheesecake (served with saffron biscuits)

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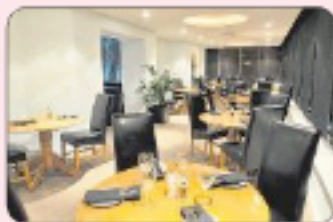
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## BODMIN & WENFORD RAILWAY

VALENTINES DINING TRAINS

Sat 12 February - 7pm Sun 13 February - 1pm

Treat that special person in your life to some

old fashioned romance and a sumptuous meal

on board a special steam hauled train.

Last few seats remaining!

£34.95 per person Advance booking essential

HALF TERM HAPPINESS!

KID for TWO QUID!

Sun 20, Tues 22 & Wed 23 February

All children travel for just £2—under 3's FREE

Steam trains from Bodmin General Station

10.50am 11.50am 1.50pm 2.50pm

A great family attraction!

0845 125 9678

[www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk](http://www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk)

### Half Term happiness - kid for two quid!

THE Bodmin & Wenford Railway - Cornwall's only full size (standard gauge) steam railway still regularly operated by steam locomotives - has a very special offer during the forthcoming February school half term holiday which most youngsters, and their parents and grandparents, will simply find hard to refuse - they can enjoy a whole day's travel on the line for just £2.

On Sunday 20th, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd February all children can travel all day for just £2 when accompanied by an adult paying the full fare. Children under the age of 3 are FREE.

There are no catches! All we ask is that each child is accompanied by at least

one fare-paying adult. Each adult may be accompanied by up to four children (up to age of 16). What's more, the special offer tickets are valid for as many trips as you like during the course of the day. Advance booking is not required - just turn up and enjoy a nice relaxing day out behind steam!

The Railway's blue timetable will be in operation on all three days, with departures from Bodmin General Station at 10.50am, 11.50am, 1.50pm and 2.50pm. All trains will be steam hauled by one of the beautifully restored and maintained ex-Great Western Railway tank engines now based on the line.

On all three days the Refreshment Room at

Bodmin General Station will be open, serving a range of home made food, snacks and non-alcoholic drinks, as well as the Railway's Giftshop at Bodmin General which offers a good range of souvenirs, gifts, books, models, postcards etc.

Bodmin General Station is well signposted from the A30/A38/A389 (follow the brown tourist signs) and there is a free car park directly adjacent to the station. For those who may like to come by train, main line train services operate to Bodmin Parkway, where there is easy cross-platform interchange with Bodmin & Wenford Railway services.

The opportunity for children to travel for just £2 on the Tuesday and

Wednesday of the forthcoming school holiday should appeal to everyone, and we hope as many people as possible will decide to visit us for a great day out with steam!

Old fashioned romance aboard the Valentine's luxury dining train

Why not treat that special person in your life to a sumptuous meal in glorious surroundings on board a steam-hauled train over Valentine's Weekend...?

The Bodmin & Wenford Railway - Cornwall's only full size railway still operated by steam locomotives - is running two very special Luxury Dining Trains over the weekend of 12th-13th February, offering the opportunity to enjoy a very special meal on a journey through the Cornish countryside lasting around two hours.

There are two options - Evening Dinner on Saturday 12th February (with the train departing from Bodmin General Station at 7pm), or Luncheon on Sunday 13th February (train departs 1pm).

Excellent food and drink, together with a superb, first-class dining service on a steam-hauled train provides a unique and memorable experience. Relax and allow our stewards to serve up some mouth-watering dishes, whilst the beautiful Cornish countryside slips gently by.

The Railway's dining train coaches are beautifully fitted out with wood panelling, table lamps and curtains, bringing back the style of an age gone by! The train has tables for two or four

Bodmin & Wenford Railway. Full details of the Bodmin & Wenford Railway's services and activities can be found on the official website, [www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk](http://www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk).

people, each with a table lamp next to a window. A special Valentine's Menu is being laid on, with a full three-course meal, followed by tea/coffee and mints, all served to your table. There is also a fully licensed bar - offering a selection of wines and spirits, locally brewed beers and soft drinks - on board the train.

Due to their popularity, advance booking is essential on the Bodmin & Wenford Railway's Valentine's Luxury Dining Train. The inclusive fare for both trains is £34.95 per person.

"Our Valentine's Luxury Dining Train is one of the most popular events in our calendar," comments Richard Jones, Bodmin & Wenford Railway General Manager, "and although we ran two trains for the first time last year, both were fully booked several weeks in advance, so early booking is strongly advised to avoid disappointment. It really is a memorable experience!"

Bookings for the Valentine's Luxury Dining Trains can be made directly on line at [www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk/diningtrain/valentine.html](http://www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk/diningtrain/valentine.html), by telephoning 0845 125 9678 (local rate call) during office hours, or by calling into Bodmin General Station (Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm).