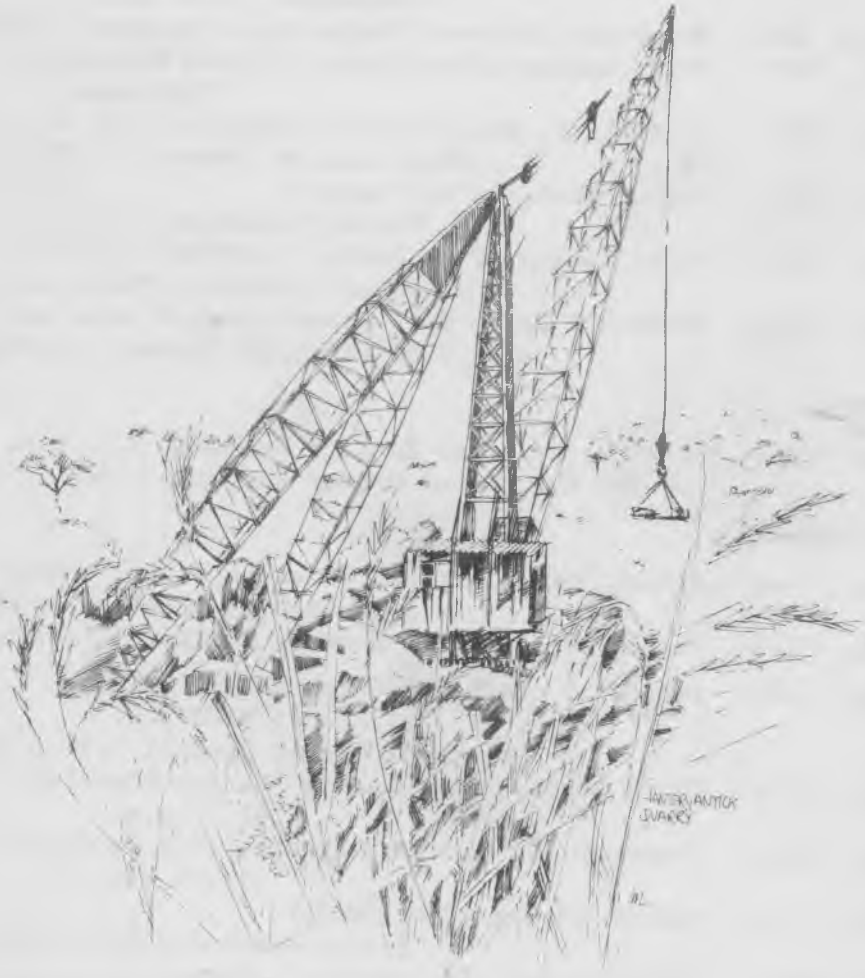
BLISLAND with TEMPLE and ST BREWARD

No. 14

10p

MAY 1981



Priest in charge:	The Reverend C. R. Sargisson, The Rectory, Blisland.	Bodmin: 850249
Churchwardens (Blisland)	Brigadier Edward—Collins.	Cardinham 226
	Mr. G. Masters	Bodmin 850331
(St. Breward)	Mr. C. Greenaway	Bodmin 850433
	Mrs. S. Hutton	Bodmin 850761

PARISH CALENDARS

BLISLAND with TEMPLE

May 1st Friday, SS Philip and James, Apostles
Holy Communion 10.00 a.m.
May 3rd Second Sunday after Easter Parish
Communion 10.00 a.m.
May 6th Wednesday Mothers' Union Sale: Pendrea 3.00p.m.
May 10th Third Sunday after Easter. Parish Communion
10.00 a.m.
May 14th S. Mattias, Apostle Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
(Note also St Breward 10.30 a.m.)
May 17th Fourth Sunday after Easter
Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.
May 24th Fifth Sunday after Easter - Rogation Sunday
Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.
May 28th ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. and
7.30 (Sung) (St Breward 10.30a.m.)

TEMPLE

May 10th Third Sunday after Easter: Evensong 3.30 p.m.
(NB The second Sunday for this time)

ST BREWARD

May 1st Friday. SS Philip and James, Apostles - Holy
Communion at Blisland 10.00 a.m.
May 3rd Second Sunday after Easter Mattins 11.30 a.m.
May 6th Wednesday Mothers' Union Sale, Pendrea
Blisland, 3.00 p.m.
Parochial Church Council 7.30 p.m.
May 10th Third Sunday after Easter Parish Communion
11.30 a.m.
May 14th Thursday S. Mattias, Apostle Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.
May 17th Fourth Sunday after Easter
Parish Communion 11.30 a.m.
May 24th Fifth Sunday after Easter - Rogation Sunday
Parish Communion 11.30 a.m.
May 28th Thursday ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. (also at Blisland see above)

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

On that early March day when we laid Reuben Long to rest in Blisland Churchyard I said that he was as firm as a rock and as sound as a bell. More is written of him elsewhere in this issue. I said that of him as the Man of Stone who had something of St Peter's rock-like qualities and as Captain of the Tower who rang true himself like one of his beloved bells.

In the sad necessity of finding Reuben's successor as leader of Blisland and St Breward ringers I arranged for an election to be held. There was general agreement that Roger Sanders is our man, and he was duly chosen on the appointed day. Liz Pengelly has kindly agreed to do any secretarial work. The Captain's job involves not only overseeing the actual ringing and the ringers, but also a good deal of climbing about among the bells in maintaining them and carrying out repairs. I am sure the whole parish will be grateful to Roger, in whom we have such confidence.

John Betjeman (so fond of Blisland Church) called his long poem about his early life 'Summoned by Bells'. He tells of how Atlantic rollers bursting in his ears and "pealing church bells and the puff of trains, the sight of sailing clouds, the smell of grass - were always calling out to me for words ", for much of the poem is of Cornwall. A single bell would call him to a village church along a deep and winding Cornish lane as he was drawn - fascinated and indeed, summoned, by the bell.

We hope in St Breward and Blisland to be summoned, not by a single bell on Sundays (except at Temple?) but by BELLS. This is a good chance to say how much we appreciate the time, patience and energy of our ringers and the way they give their ringing priority on Sundays and at practice. I am impressed by the understanding and patience with which the experienced hands treat the learners, all learning and improving together as teams.

Reuben asked that if bells should ring for him they should be open and not muffled for mourning. To me, as Reuben died, that spoke of resurrection. Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed, Alleluya. The best, for Christians,

is always in the future.

At Ascensiontide - May 28th - the bells will proclaim not only that victory but also Christ's triumphal entry into heaven, taking with him our redeemed manhood, that we may live with him, in him and for him.

The bells proclaim. They ring out over our countryside in the springtime with the joy that is from God himself.

The bells summon. They summon us to church and to GOD

Conrad Sargisson

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

Rebecca Ann Greenaway of
Brookfield at St Breward Parish Church
15th March 1981

*

Burials

Phyllis Amelia Hawken at
St Breward on April 1st 1981

William Henry Reuben Long at
Blisland on 12th March 1981

We commend the departed and their families into Our Lord's continuing care and love.

CRS

The Visitation Court of the Venerable George F. Temple, Archdeacon of Bodmin, is held at Bodmin Parish Church on 13th May, when our four churchwardens for the year will be sworn in. Father Temple was collated as Archdeacon and installed as honorary Canon of Truro in the stall of St Paul Aurelian on 5th April. I attended that Sunday Evensong when the ceremony was impressive and the Bishop's sermon amusing and informative. He spoke of the odd

history and functions of archdeacons, making it clear that in addition to their legal responsibilities (as in "visitations") they are very much his personal assistants in the pastoral care of the diocese.

Archdeacon Temple has accepted my invitation to preach on the Feast of SS Protus and Hyacinth on September 27th, both at St Pratt's Cross and at Evensong. Please book this date in your diary.

CS

The Royal Oak

The caption on the cover picture somehow got left off last month, but those of you diligent enough to read to the end of the magazine were rewarded! There seems to be a slight difference of opinion about the date this photograaph might have been taken. However who better than Mr Percy Nelder to settle any doubts? Mr Nelder's father came from Leigh Mill, near Plympton in 1904, to become landlord of The Royal Oak, and that was " a few years after the old building was taken down ". In fact the rebuilding was done during the tenancy of the previous landlord. It seems probable, therefore, that this took place in the late 1890s and certainly this picture, which belongs to a set which we believe to have been taken around 1900, shows the present building and the village shop next door, where Mrs Richards now lives. So it

seems that the old thatched Inn cannot have survived into the Twentieth Century.

During the time that the new Inn was being built the landlord carried on his trade in the old Chapel - now the Royal Oak Annexe. This old chapel seems to have had a very checkered career. Old Mr Axworthy, father of Russell - used to tell how during the time that it was used as a pub the Recobites would still come down from St Breward and carry on with their service, while the Blisland men sat at the back swilling their pints!

Later the building was used as a store and a branch of the Co-op, and in the second war as a canteen for the services. Lots of you must have memories of those years -- when the village was full of evacuees and school had to be held in three places - at Waterloo, in the Old School at the Institute and in the Village Hall. Bill Rowe remembers being sent all round with the register, which was no doubt a better way of passing an hour than sitting in the classroom.

RLS

MRS PHYLLIS HAWKEN

St Breward is much bereft by the sudden death of Mrs Phyllis Hawken just as she was home from hospital and apparently recovered. When I arrived here Phyllis had just got over the amputation of a leg, and was clearly a lady of cheerful disposition who had not let this fearful setback get her down. She was soon up and doing and looking after herself. She received the Blessed Sacrament at home nearly every week, for in her spiritual life was the secret of her strength. She was never anything but amiable , welcoming and calm in all she had to face. After the loss of the remaining leg , she said that she would sleep downstairs for a time, as it would be better not to attempt the stairs <u>just yet</u>. She soon mastered the two artificial limbs and got up and down those fearful steps outside Hollycot, coming to the Mothers' Union, her Disabled Club and visiting relations. We must all learn from Phyllis and her example of faith in her living Lord. It wasn't a matter of using God as a spare wheel in emergency. She was a churchwoman through and through and continued so joyfully and at the deepest level before and during illness and disability.

May she rest in the presence of her risen and living Lord.

CRS

REUBEN LONG

When you talk to people about Reuben Long, whether they knew him intimately as a family man, or as a colleague at work; whether they met him through a common interest in bees or as Master of the Tower, ringing the bells in our two parishes; whether they were his Brothers in the Honourable Order of Buffalos or simply neighbours in the village, all speak of his uprightness and honesty, of his sense of duty and the rightness of things, so that what emerges is a portrait of a man greatly loved and greatly respected, who had all the virtues of an earlier age and that former age's attitudes and codes of behaviour.

Reuben was a member of our Blisland community from the day he brought his young bride home to Tregenna in 1928, to the house where they remained together and brought up their family and later entertained their nine grandchildren, during 53 years. The success of their own children -- Reuben junior, Bandmaster of the Devon and Cornwall Police Band and four of their five married daughters in the nursing profession, reflects the standard of service in which they were set the example by their parents. Although times were often hard and money was short theirs was a happy home full of music and singing, although like other happy families it had its private griefs -- a son and a daughter both dying in tragic accidents during childhood.

Reuben started work at De Lank quarry at the age of eighteen. His life as a "Man of Granite" was the subject of a BBC film some years ago. For forty-five years bee keepers throughout the County enjoyed his friendship and his expert advice. In 1965 he was made Provincial Grand Primo in the Order of Buffalos, and at home he taught generations of youngsters to ring the church bells. He mended clocks and watches, cut people's hair, did all the improvements in his own house and lovingly tilled his garden. He will be greatly missed and long remembered.

DE LANK GRANITE QUARRY

The history of De Lank Quarry is closely associated with the parishes of St Breward and Blisland being, with China Clay, the largest employer of men not engaged in farming. The association of our ancestors with the rock of Bodmin Moor goes back much further - to those ancients of 1500 BC who erected stone circles at Leaze and Fernacre, or the moor's iron-age men who cut and shaped the granite to make beehive quarns (used for grinding) that have been found at Bedrawle Bridge and Penpont House in St Breward.

The two great experts on the history of De Lank, the late Percy Coggin, whose personal records of the quarry where he was manager, have sadly been shipped away to the USA, and Mr Ernest Colman, on whose valuable and wide-ranging records this article is based, never satisfactorily resolved the question of when De Lank first came into production. Mr Colman believes it to have been not earlier than 1825, although in the 1925 brochure of Thomas Ward and Co, soon after they acquired the Cornish De Lank Quarries it says " . . so far back as 1756 Smeaton, the eminent engineer, obtained from De Lank the stone for the exterior of the first Eddystone lighthouse." This is the date favoured by Mr Coggin. (Incidentally it was not the first Eddystone, two had been built before, but they were mainly wood. Smeaton was the first to build entirely in stone.) There is no doubt, however, that stone for the Smalls Rock Light off the coast of Pembrokeshire was quarried at De Lank between 1857 and 1861, and in 1877 Sir James Douglas selected De Lank granite again, for the new Eddystone Lighthouse because of the stone's wonderful durability and the skill of the masons, who had great experience in the dovetailing of the cut blocks. These qualities were further proved as Trinity House continued to chose De Lank for its most exposed Lighthouses including Beachy Head, and for the extending and recasing of the Bishop Rock.

The light silver grey of De Lank granite has also been much favoured for civic building including many famous bridges such as Tower Bridge and Blackfriars in London, and more recently the footings for the Tamar

and Severn Bridges. No less important has been its use in monumental works, among them the famous memorial to Nurse Edith Cavell which was carved in the quarry; less well known is the fact that it was used for the base of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and some fifty years later it was chosen for the base of the Winston Churchill statue that stands in Parliament Square

So famous was the Eddystone Light that its name became synonymous with De Lank - the Manager's house is still called Eddystone Cottage, although quarrying at the Eddystone face, where the rock for the lighthouse was cut, ceased in 1900, and work had moved to a new face which had three distinct sections - the Gully (still being worked today), the Middle Crane and the River Quarry. Experienced quarrymen can tell from which area a block has been cut, but to the layman's eye the differences in texture and colour are so slight as to be barely distinguishable.

Fame followed the Trinity House contracts and in 1901 the quarry was certainly not short of work, as a contemporary report in the Bodmin Guardian makes clear. After describing the blasting of a piece weighing 1,400 tons, for the Beachy Head Lighthouse, it goes on: "It is also of interest to know that there are contracts at the quarry for

Bank premises at Finsbury Pavement, Naval barracks at Chatham and Portsmouth; premises for Fry and Son, Bristol (this was all polished blocks according to Mr Colman), Capital and Co nties Bank in Commercial Road, London. ." and so on. At this time there were about a hundred masons working at De Lank, and probably as many, or more, unskilled labourers as well.

But times were not always to remain so prosperous. After the First World War orders fell away - the quarry was running at a loss and was put up for sale. Thomas Ward, a scrap metal dealer from Sheffield, sent a colleague of his down to put a price on the machinery. This nameless visionary fell in love with the place and longed to see it remain in production, so he advised Ward to buy it Lock, Stock and Barrell. Ward did so and thereby saved the jobs of about two hundred men from the neighbourhood who must otherwise have become redundant. The quarry has never been out of production since, but when times are bad it falls back on producing miles and miles of kerbstones. For a time in the thirties even this work was threatened as the new God - concrete - was used in place of granite, but in time the planners learned (what anyone at De Lank could have told them) that concrete cannot compare with granite for durability, and the kerbstones and channels came back on the order book.

More about De Lank, Tor and Hanter to follow - meanwhile let's hear from all you granite men. Ed

ST BREWARD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 31st March. Mr Nicks and Mr Ward from the South West Water Authority arrived with immaculate timing on the very day that most of us received our water rate demands! They were able to paint an interesting but rather worrying picture of the nature of their problems, and were able to hear at first hand some of our difficulties.

Unfortunately Mrs Alsey was unwell and unable to come to the Meeting. We hope she has now recovered, and perhaps we will see her next year. The Meeting heard of a suggestion, endorsed by the school governors, that the village might consider the possibility of providing a library. Although this would be a community effort that would benefit the Village as well as the school, fears were expressed at the Meeting that it would prove too expensive and that simpler solutions could solve our needs. I have since heard that with falling school populations, a redundant portable building could become available at reasonable cost. As well as providing a library this building could be used to house the collection of documents and historical records concerning the village, that is being built up. With increasing travel costs, more leisure time and less money available for library services, this proposal is worthy of further consideration. I have no doubt you will hear much more of it in the future, after we have looked into the question of costs and alternatives more fully.

The new footbridge is now in place at the bottom of Mill (Duck) Lane, and if you feel like taking a short cut to Coombe from the shop the path is clear, and it is a pleasant walk down by the brook as long as you avoid blasting times! I hope that by the time you read this we will have improved the path at the bottom of Duck Lane. By the way, there have been one or two complaints about horses using the little lane that goes from Red Cross Hall up to the church. The path is very narrow and the surface is easily damaged. Would horses therefore advise their riders to chose an alternative route!

Andy Henderson

ST BREWARD YOUTH CLUB

It's been an active time just lately for the Youth Club. In February a disco arranged mainly by the members brought in just over £22. We've also been quite busy outside the village with the club taking part in the Area Netball Competitions at Sir James Smith School, and getting in some badminton practice also, in the covered court. We've had quite a lot of support recently with Nick Dugdale, a teacher at the school helping with badminton - and of course the parents helping with transport.

Tony Metters, the Area Youth Officer, has been very helpful as well, coming out of his way to get the girls and their supporters into the Netball Competitions. Tony is very keen on outdoor pursuits and was partly responsible for an Outdoor Activity Weekend at the Old Outward Bound School at Ashburton. The idea was to give Leaders and older Youth Club members a taste of the activities available in Cornwall. These included rock-climbing, canoeing, hill walks, assault courses and caving. Some of the more virile members of the group also indulged in the ancient Outward Bound pursuit of jumping off a thirty foot bridge into an icy River Dart in full flood - much to the amazement of the few tourists who were about, and to the concern of the local constabulary who thought they might be called on to do a rescue operation. I was happy to let Stephen Tootle represent St Breward in this activity. Having spent much of the previous afternoon going down the river upside down in a canoe, I had had quite enough of the Dart, thank you! As a result of all this activity, I hope that about eight of our members will have been to Sibleyback, by the time you read this, sailing, canoeing and rock climbing. Perhaps more important, I have met a number of other leaders, and I hope to be able to arrange more outdoor pursuits with them this summer. If you are interested please let me know even if you don't usually come to the Youth Club.

This has been a sad week for St Breward who have lost a valuable citizen. Looking back through the Youth Club Minutes I find that the name of Alfred Hooper keeps recurring. His example, and all the work he did for the young people of the village, over many years, is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Andy Henderson

LETTERS

A Chance to learn

Dear Editor,

People have mentioned to me from time to time that they would be interested in a course of classes on the history of our local landscape or the architecture of local houses and cottages or other similar subjects; but so often lectures are held in towns and transport is difficult and expensive.

We have now had the offer of a course to be given in St Breward and concerned with the neighbourhood around both our parishes. Mrs V. Chesher, author of "The Cornishman's House" and lecturer for Exeter University's Department of Extramural Studies, has suggested giving a series of informal classes to even a small group of people.

If any readers of the Parish Magazine - or their friends - are interested in this idea, I should be glad if they would get in touch with me so that I can make some arrangements with Mrs. Chesher. It would be helpful also to know whether people prefer summer or winter, afternoon or evening.

Yours sincerely
Pamela Bousfield
Hantergantick, St Breward

Did you know B.F.Crowle ?

Dear Editor,

My father, the late Mr R. J. Moore made the foundation for the new pulpit in the Parish church, and I believe someone helped him - at least in the beginning. I think it may have been a Mr B. F. Crowle although I am not quite sure. It was made on the Rectory lawn - and as children we used to go and watch, this was some time between 1908 and 1910. I know my father finished the job alone, but I would so much like to know the name of the friend who helped him. Perhaps his own children might remember - if so they would, like me, be very old by now - but if any of your readers know anything about it I would like to hear from them.

Yours sincerely

J. Robertson
2, Limb Haven
Limehead, St Breward.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

ST BREWARD

The new President, Mrs Pamela Luke, welcomed Station Officer Collins and Auxiliary D. Whittle, who talked and showed films of the wonderful work of the Coastguard Service. Hair-raising rescues from cliffs and from various craft in inshore waters drove home the lesson that these areas are potentially dangerous and that ill-prepared climbers and people in ill-equipped boats are being both stupid and selfish. The routine work of coastal watch was also shown, where busy waterways demand traffic control to prevent collisions; it was interesting to see in what varied ways the information is gathered, from the most sophisticated radar instruments by the Straits of Dover to the personal observation of a man tending his garden at Lands End.

Mr Peter Vercoe kindly described to members the "Cornwall tapes for the handicapped Association", which is to be the Charity for which St Breward W.I. will be collecting money this year. This marvellous organisation, run entirely by unpaid volunteers, supplies lonely, housebound people in Cornwall with personally recorded tapes, to relieve their solitude.

Our new Secretary, Mrs Pamela Bridge, is to be our delegate to the Spring Council Meeting in Truro in May. She will be accompanied by the Treasurer, Mrs Phyllis Parr.

Pamela Bousfield

BLISLAND

It is with great pleasure that I have handed the reins of office over to Judy Ivil. For a long time I have been saying that the W.I. needs an injection of youth. I'm sure that with Judy as President we will get the ideas and enthusiasm so necessary to keep alive any organisation.

We older members have enjoyed running and organising the WI in the past, and now we can sit back and not only enjoy the fruits of our labour but the benefits the younger generation have to offer. From now on Judy will be taking over the writing of this column - so it only remains to me to offer her sincere good wishes for the coming year. E.W.

Well somehow I seem to have had my arm twisted into this position. So I only hope I can do it justice.

Most people will have had an invitation to our visitors evening on April 1st. I was so pleased that it was such a success. Mrs Brown's informal demonstration of Yeast Cookery was enough to put the best of us to shame. However our members excelled themselves when it came to refreshments. Happily some of the visitors managed to take home raffle prizes. Overall everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and there were whispers that some of the visitors were thinking of coming to future meetings - I hope so.

I also hope that many of you reading this will decide to give one of our meetings a try ? - everyone really is very welcome (except men of course!). The meetings are on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall. Next month we have someone coming to talk about cheesemaking - hope to see you there!

Judy Ivil

W.R.V.S. OVER SIXTY'S CLUB

We were delighted to welcome several guests to the Demonstration of Micro-wave cooking on March 17th. The convenience and time-saving must appeal to families with members arriving at odd times for their meals. The "tasting" session afterwards was well supported!!

The talk on St Piran's Church by the Rev: Browning on April 7th was much enjoyed being both interesting and informative.

April 21st will be a social afternoon - why not join us and see what goes on ?

On May 5th we shall celebrate our 8th Birthday by shopping and sightseeing in Launceston, followed by tea at Eagle House. We hope all members will be able to come and celebrate in this new way. There will be some spare seats on the coach which leaves the village at 1 p.m. So if you'd like an afternoon in Launceston do book with Miss Tucker.

G. M. Masters.

****

CHILDREN --- DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR COMPETITION ENTRIES

Closing Date May 1st. Don't be shy! Have a Try !

WEBBER TRAVEL

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A GENERATION AGO KEITH AND EVAN WEBBER TOOK THE NORTH CORNWALL PONY CLUB OVERNIGHT TO THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW: EVER SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST CHOICE FOR CLUB'S, PARTIES, GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS WHO WANT A FRIENDLY, RELIABLE, KINDLY AND UNFUSSY TOUR COMPANY TO TAKE THEM TO THEIR CHOSEN DESTINATION AT THEIR CHOSEN TIME. WHY NOT TRY US ? IT COSTS NOTHING TO FIND OUT ? TELEPHONE AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE SURE YOU GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT WHETHER FOR A DAY OR LONGER. OUR TERMS ARE COMPETITIVE - OUR SERVICE THE BEST.

ST BREWARD'S COFFEE EVENING and Bring and Buy Sale was a great success and a happy time was greatly enjoyed by supporters from both parishes. Congratulations and many thanks to all the good people who organised and contributed to it. The magnificent total of £74 was raised for the magazine, and a subsequent donation of £10 made it £84 - so the magazine remains safe for a good long time into the future.

De Lank:
The photograph on p9 shows Alex Masters & Hugh Davies standing infront of the Nurse Cavell Memorial in the quarry where it was carved. Photo, kindly lent by Mrs Masters, Osborne House

COVER
This month's cover was drawn by Julian Mulock.

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