

This article appeared in the June 1991 edition of Outreach, about the Leat Project in Pendeen

THE FINAL CHAPTER by Dennis A. Ayling, Chairman/Secretary

Time is illimitable, silent, it rushes on, just as the dusk of each day creeps in silently and brings us to the light of another dawn.

Suddenly we realise the year's passed, sometimes with complete surprise when thinking of a particular happening, and again we find at that moment that 14 years have passed since the Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977.

The reason for these thoughts are related to the Leat Pond Project which we are finalising and which will be elaborated on in much more detail below.

Nevertheless, I feel that it is not out of place to reminisce about the Jubilee Week which I had the honour of leading: to remember that so much was done together, the wonderful support of so many too numerous to single out. It was the time that Pendeen - Trewellard and Carnyorth - grabbed the front headlines, and when, for just a week, St Just and Pendeen came together to make it a time to remember. For this purpose, an extraction from the special souvenir programme at price 10 pence is interesting to recall:

Wed: 1st June '77

Crowning of Pageant Queen
Jubilee Carnival Queen 7pm by Mayor of St Just (T McFadden)
Children's Fancy Dress up to 5 years
Talent Competition - 11 and over.
Music and sing-a-long by Pendulum - Compère D. James
Admission: Adults 20p - Children 10p

Thur: 2nd June '77

Concert at Trewellard Chapel Sunday School 7:30pm
Artists: Elvia Elbro (organ)
Pendeen Junior Band
Performance by children of Pendeen Primary School & St Just Free Church
Adults 20p • Children 10p
Disco - to Music Explosion 8pm
Church Sunday School Hall Admission 20p

Fri: 3rd June '77

Bingo W.I. Hall 7.30pm.
Film Show 7pm.
Full Length double feature Adults 30p Children under 16 free
Target & Clay Pigeon Shoot 7pm (organised by Mr. A. Matthews) in the field adjacent to the Football Field Pendeen
Disco 8pm St Just Town Hall (organised by R.OAB.)

Sat 4th June '77

Judging of Pageant/Carnival 4pm
Presentation of prizes
Pageant Procession 6pm led by Pendeen Silver Band, extended to Botallack
Pageant Dance & Barbecue 8pm at Geevor Social Club- Bar in Marquee.
Disco to Music Explosion 8pm Church Sunday School Hall admission 20p
Opening of Art & Craft, Photographic Exhibition at St John Ambulance Hall
- for one week admission 5p.

Sun: 5th June '77

Combined United Service - Open Air
11am in Pendeen Primary School playground - Silver Collection

Evening Concert - St. Johns Church

- Artists: Organ, Eleanor Waters
- C. Nicholls. Cornet
- Contralto, Jean Geach
- Reader, John Guy
- Soprano, Rosemary Davey
- Baritone, Douglas Roberts.
- Admission by ticket.

Mon: 6th June '77

Exhibitions 2pm by Lanner Gymnastics

Country Dancing

Judo Exhibition by Newlyn Club

Six-a-side Football 5.30pm Proceed to bonfire on the Carn

Pendeen Band attending Fireworks display

Jubilee Day 7th June '77

Short Service at St Johns Church 2pm

Children's Sports - Field next to Radjel 4pm

Presentation of Jubilee Mugs - followed by Children's Tea Party

Entertainment by Pendeen Silver Band 5pm

Public Tea 20p 6pm

Open Sports 7pm

Draw for raffles and Grand Draw 8pm

Disco - to Music Explosion at Sunday School Hall - admission 20p 8:30pm

Older Generation to support the Ball at St Just Town Hall.,

This was a full week and it is good to remember that it was not a week to make money. It was done to enjoy. Nevertheless at the end of celebrations we audited our expenses and income and arrived at a surplus of £515.06. From this amount we gave £100 to Penwith National Appeal Fund (Prince Charles Trust), we gave, Pendeen Horticultural Society £30 to start them off and £5 to Pendeen Silver Band (Junior Band).

This account was published in the Cornishman, July 1978. The profit of £381.06 was then allocated by public general agreement to the Leat Project and a small sub-committee was set up to endeavour to bring such a project to fruition.

I am sure if the truth was known, knowing now how much labour and cost for material it has taken for this project, it would never have got off the ground. It has been a time-consuming project over these years for the few. When we started each one of us was working for a living and work could only be done in the summer evenings and on Saturdays or weekends. So the development of the project was done in many stages throughout the years, each stage improving it continually.

Looking back it still seems a daunting task that we undertook. The whole area was just a wasteland - a quagmire of mud and silt with all good water draining away into the adjacent fields with the roadway side of the Leat also in disrepair.

The first job that had to be done was to divert the overflowing water to enable the pond to be dug out and at the same time lay a new pipeline ready to deliver into a new pond.

The digging out was done by Geoff Hoad and took 2 full days to complete with the pond needing to be lined, the overflow system installed and the walls re-built.

With this first stage completed we left a small island in the centre where our first tree was planted. The next step that was taken was to lay a new pipeline from the old collecting chamber to the edge of the new pond excavation. Also at this stage a new inspection chamber was constructed.

With this stage completed, we were now ready to divert the water into the pond and test for leakages and the strength of its walls. Once this was satisfactory there was a need to fill in the edges of the pond, fill up the holes and strengthen the edges of the pond.

This was the time that Mr H Trevorrow, Headmaster of the Primary School, brought over twenty children from the school with wheelbarrows and spades to help do this work and at the same time plant the reeds and bullrushes around the edges of the pond.

The levelling and the continual picking out of all stones was an ongoing operation continually throughout the years until completion.

At this particular time our original committee was down to five members - Mr Trevorrow left Pendeen in 1981 and was followed by Rev. Howells. It must be remembered also that in these initial stages we had some assistance from M Trembath, D Palk, B. Matthews and particularly from young Nigel Honey.

Over the years the continual improvement in landscaping and tree and shrubbery planting continued and one seat was installed.

In 1981 we entered the project in the Village Venture throughout Cornwall competition. We came third and won £50. This also led to entry into the National Village Venture for which I provided plans and sketches and photographs together with the relevant information. The result was we won and it was publicly announced at the Rural Voice-Rural Self Help Conference on 8th March 1983 at Caxton Hall. London.

We received a cheque for £75 plus a plaque which now stands embedded in a large Cornish granite rock on the site of the completed project.

It was about this time when we had installed two more seats and used great quantities of grass seed that we were sad at the loss of two people who had always shown much interest in this project - they were Mrs Williams and Bob Mason.

There was much to do yet, but because some of the stalwarts were getting older and could not cope so well we were able to harness the Penwith Community Programme and their men. The programme was as follows:

1. Tidy up and repair where necessary the bank walls.
2. Level and tidy triangular area to the rear of the main area and construct walking ramp up to the pond.
3. Re-build Cornish hedging to ht. 2'3" to the minimum 2' wide at top soil in the middle.
4. Level/grade areas with soil excavated from pathways.
5. Reinstall gravel pathways.
6. Construct plinth for commemorative plaque.
7. Re-seed disturbed areas.
8. Install stone kerbing stones to corner of the road.
9. Insert wooden stake fence to keep vehicles off the area.

During this period we imported 25 tons of gravel, donated by Geevor Mine (K. P. Williams), 15 tons of top soil, 10 cwt of cement and 1.5 tons of sand. The work of Penwith Community Programme extended over a period of 13 weeks. They did a wonderful job and are to be commended. After an exercise of re-siting and arranging the three seats, we had the pleasure of receiving two picnic tables from Penwith Council and more shrubbery from Penwith Parks management. At this stage over 200 fish were introduced into the pond.

The problem now was the upkeep - especially the cutting of the grass. It was proving too much for

any of us to do this regularly and was too expensive to employ someone. This led to asking the Council if they would take on this duty now that it was finally created as a village amenity - picnic area. It was pointed out that in emergencies this project ensured a source of fresh water, this was proved during the long weeks of the water strike! This duty was accepted by Penwith Council after a site meeting with Mr Anthony Holman, Mr Ernie Dymond and Mr John Daniels. These three councillors had given great support throughout the creation of this project. This acceptance was published in the Cornishman and at that time received £100 towards the cost of grass cutting.

During the creation of this project a total of £1,013 was raised and used. Any surplus when finalised will go to Pendeen Band and Pendeen St John Ambulance.

The last act we performed was to have a plaque made to insert into the Granite Rock which is on site bearing the plaque we had from London. This new plaque is inscribed with 'Pendeen Silver Jubilee Project 1977' a fitting completion to do this work.

This short resume of the Project will not be final unless I make a personal tribute to the few who have done so much - they are deserving of mention.

No one could have done more than Cyril Honey, Arthur Matthews, Douglas Westfoot (Treasurer), Geoff Hoad, Ben Matthews, the only lady on the committee, Marlene Hoad, who did so much in fund raising, and finally many thanks to Billy Trenoweth for his fund raising with the rattles, and to those of the village that supported our fund raising events

I am sure that it is the wish of the committee and of myself that this area is not vandalised in any manner and it is hoped that it will be treated as a place to relax and enjoy.