

HELFORD

Voluntary Marine Conservation Area

Newsletter No. 38 Spring 2009

CWT Pinger Project Plans

Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been campaigning for protection of our dolphin populations for many years and is happy to announce that it has recently received funding from the DEFRA Fisheries Challenge Fund, and an extremely successful public appeal to proceed with their pinger trial.



Bottlenose dolphin, Photo: Fiona McNie

Pingers are acoustic deterrent devices that emit a signal audible to dolphins that alerts them to the presence of fishing nets. They have been shown to effectively reduce accidental entanglements in certain fisheries, such as those using fine monofilament nets, which dolphins and porpoises often don't see. This has been a problem in Cornwall for both harbour porpoises and common dolphins and the fishing industry is as keen to find a solution as the Trust.

Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee (CSFC) is working in partnership with Cornwall Wildlife Trust on this project and has already found five fishermen who are willing to take part in the trial, two of which are

based in the Helford. The trial aims to prove the effectiveness and practicality of pingers on smaller inshore vessels, up to 12m in length.

CSFC Senior Fishery Officer Simon Cadman says "No-one, including fishermen, wants to see these animals caught in nets and we hope the pinger project will prove beneficial in demonstrating a practical solution for preventing accidental cetacean bycatch".

Cornwall Wildlife Trust aims to start this project in Mid April and run the trial for a whole season. This is a fantastic opportunity to work closely with the fishing industry and we have had great support from the fishermen involved and huge support from the public.

Tom Hardy, Marine Conservation Officer for CWT



Common dolphins, Photo: Fiona McNie

Aim: To safeguard the marine life of the Helford River by any appropriate means within its status as a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area, to increase the diversity of its intertidal community and raise awareness of its marine interest and importance.

For further information relating to the Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Area please contact

the **HVMCA Group Co-ordinator:** Rhiannon Pipkin, 9 The Crescent, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3ES

Tel: 07710956734. Email: Rhiannon@helfordvmca.co.uk **Chairman:** David Muirhead

Design: Sheila McCann, Cornwall Wildlife Trust **Illustration:** Sarah McCartney, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

HMCG Summarised Annual Report

April 2008 – mid March 2009

ADVISORY SECTION

The HMC Group was delighted to welcome Rhiannon Pipkin, née Mather, as the new co-ordinator in May. Her hectic start included moving back to Cornwall from Liverpool and her marriage to Simon. Close co-operation between Pamela and Rhiannon ensured a smooth changeover over several months.

The main theme of "Community, Commerce and Conservation" continues to be a significant aim of the Helford MC Group in order to improve and raise awareness of the marine wildlife and biodiversity of the Helford River amongst the widest possible circle. The sustainable use of this sensitive environment has been a main topic for discussion amongst an average of 18 members and associates of the Advisory Section at each quarterly meeting. In particular, representatives of statutory and related organisations welcome the opportunity to seek the views of local river users and focus on areas of mutual concern. Specialist speakers have come to exchange valuable ideas through informal discussion on relevant topics such as scalloping, local mussel-farming, lobster-tagging and landings, Oyster Farm demarcation zoning, razor-shell collection on Bar Beach, cetacean strandings in the SAC, Helford woodlands, emergency beach access, recreational boating and the progress of the Marine Bill through Parliament. Local businesses, such as Cornish Sea Salt, Helford Moorings, Duchy Oyster Farm and green tourism in hotels beside the HVMCA, have figured on the agendas. Contacts have been maintained with educational establishments, particularly involving older students.

Detailed reports of HMCG meetings have been circulated widely on request to update recipients giving them an opportunity to respond although

being unable to attend meetings regularly – total 60+. The overall number of Planning Applications, which could have an impact on the marine wildlife of the river, received via Kerrier District Council for comment by the HMC Group, has fallen. However, updates on the long-standing proposals for an improved Helford Community Quay and Gweek Quay infilling have been received regularly.

Observations on bass, eelgrass and other species have been reported regularly as well as reports received from the marine section of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee, Natural England, and the Environment Agency. Numerous telephone or email enquiries ranged from anxiety about local activities by the shore to national legislation, lecture bookings to national petition requests, media enquiries to student projects. We have been very fortunate indeed that the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has been so supportive of the administrative effort needed to keep things going.

Links with other VMCA and the marine sections of other organisations has continued, in particular the Cetacean Stranding project and the Seasearch divers' recording scheme. The VMCA designation arose from the concerns of marine biologists thus marine recording wherever possible has been warmly welcomed.

EVENTS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

An imaginative range of monthly events included seashore activities, snorkelling, a wildflower walk and dawn chorus vigil, as well as talks on Cornwall's Shellfisheries, Wildlife Trust Marine Conservation, Seahorses, Helford Birds and Seacore Ltd. Once again the Annual Conservation Cruise

enjoyed sunshine! Unfortunately a visit to the Duchy Oyster Farm had to be cancelled but all the other meetings were well supported and a photographic competition highlighted the beauty and interest of the area. In October people associated with the Group from its inception and other long-standing supporters joined in a very successful 20th year celebration.

Altogether the events programme has attracted over 700 participants who were able to enjoy and learn about this very special place, the Helford VMCA!

Spring and Autumn newsletters contained a wide variety of articles on species, people and projects. More colourful leaflets are in the pipeline to add to those on Woods, Oysters, Eelgrass, Bait-digging and Birds and we are grateful to the sponsors, namely the National Marine Aquarium Grants Ltd. The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty project has kindly supported the production of the events programme. We appreciate the generosity of The National Seal Sanctuary, Gweek, which has continued to offer storage space for our equipment. Thanks are due to Kerrier District Council for generous grants for the purchase of equipment to enhance meetings which are in hand, namely data projector, screen and a portable information panel.

HELFDORD VMCA WEBSITE

Jayne Herbert has continued to service the HVMCA website, initially on a rather restricted budget. More recently, funding has become available and some significant improvements are in hand thanks to Cornwall AONB and other sources. These will soon appear at www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk and www.helfordvmca.co.uk.

PROJECTS

Derek Goodwin's Helford juvenile bass investigation begun in 1994

had been limited by poor weather in 2008. However, his HVMCA observations and his similar work on the Fal, confirmed that 2007 had been an excellent year but 2008 was not so good and the poor autumn and cold winter weather did not augur well for the survival and growth of those juveniles that were present. He thanked all his netting helpers, particularly K. Bennetts, B. Bowden, N. Hatton, N. Knight, S.&B. Mynett, P. Noonan and P. Woodward.

Trigging studies have continued on the Good Friday cockle collection activities.

A national interest in UK eelgrass beds was focusing attention on the HVMCA subtidal beds and volunteer diver Tony Sutton's reports and projected survey were highlighted. He had also been checking on the progress of a large and rare Fan Mussel *Atrina fragilis*. The small patches of intertidal eelgrass observed by Pamela Tompsett on Bar Beach, Helford Passage in 2006 had not become established as hoped but observations would continue. With her biological recording hat on she and a colleague had updated the marine section of the 1996 Red Data Book for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly which included information on the rarer flora and fauna of the

Helford VMCA. The new edition was due in the late spring.

THANKS

The coming year will see several changes and some members will be taking a less prominent part in the Group whilst still remaining on hand to be called on when needed. Thus it is time record deep appreciation of the long-standing efforts of these members who include Margaret Burford, Leslie Collins, Keith Davie, John and Joyce Froggatt, David Nightingale and Prue Towner.

THE FUTURE

The Members' Section is providing a significant input to the working of the whole Group particularly for the events and joins the

Advisory Section in its aim to continue the networking and public awareness role. Support also comes from various sources such as local businesses, user organisations and the statutory bodies.

This means that the efforts of the existing members and the many volunteers who have given so generously of their time and expertise will be strengthened for the foreseeable future for the good of the whole Helford VMCA and its important marine wildlife.

Pamela E Tompsett and Rhiannon Pipkin (Retiring and New Co-ordinators for 2008-9)



HMCG Advisory Group in October 2008. Photo: David Chapman

The Helford River Advisory and Management Committee

In response to the ever increasing demands upon the river and its users, a group of business owners and club committee members have come together to reform an advisory and management committee to be a central calling point for the river.

The Helford River Advisory and Management Committee last sat in 1985 and was used as a vehicle to help manage the river and liaise between the Duchy of Cornwall and river users.

The present committee does not include a Duchy of Cornwall representative but the committee have an open line of communication with them. It is expected that communication between the various business' and sailing and yacht clubs will be improved.

The committee will actively discuss the management

of the river and will be a calling point for the various environmental bodies associated with the area as well as liaise with the Truro Harbour Authority who will be organising the speed limit control as well as being the new licensing authority for commercial boat use within the river.

The HRA&MC, as the group will be known, will work alongside the Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Group as well as all the other associations and groups interested in the Helford River and it is thought that the committee will represent almost all the river users.

Simon Walker acts as a central point of contact for the group (01326 250749 or simon@helfordproperties.co.uk)

Seahorses: the enigmatic fish

Following a recent fascinating talk by Doug Herdson based on his knowledge and experience at the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth, I have endeavoured to make an extract of his background information as requested, for people who missed this delightful talk.

Relatively few people will have seen the exotic seahorse in its watery environment but the stickleback, which is a far more familiar fish, shares a direct evolutionary link. Along with the Seadragons and Pipefish, seahorses belong to the family *Syngnathidae* and their scientific genus *Hippocampus* is from the Greek meaning "horse - sea monster". Their characteristic shape has even generated the name for the hippocampus at the lower centre of the human brain.

Mythology

Based on vague drawings, the ancients thought that seahorses were the young of the full-sized horses that pulled the mighty chariot of Poseidon (or Neptune) around the seas. However in New Zealand, where there were no horses before the arrival of the Europeans, the Maori name for seahorses is Kiore-moana or sea rats. Interestingly, in an 18th century classification, seahorses were first considered to be insects!

Life-style and Locomotion

Seahorses are unusual in appearance with a horse-like head, neck, prehensile tail, chameleon-like eyes and insect-like body armour, but they are, nevertheless, a species of marine fish equipped with a backbone, gills (unusual grape-like), swim bladder and fins. The scales of the seahorse have over time fused to form the locust-like exoskeleton.

Their only form of propulsion is the dorsal fin that flutters at 35-70 times per second. The earlike pectoral fins control balance and steering. They are poor swimmers, often being killed in heavy storms. To compensate for their poor swimming ability, they have developed a prehensile tail which allows them to grip the eelgrass which in Britain forms one of their preferred habitats.



Pendennis seahorse and diver. Photo: P. Lockley

Each adult Seahorse will consume between 30 and 50 mysid shrimps per day but the Seahorse fry eat up to 3000 very small crustaceans per day (this is why they are so difficult to keep alive). Food is sucked through their snouts and disintegrates as it enters. They have no teeth to chew the food. Their gill pouch is specially adapted to increase the power of the suck. They do not have true stomachs, just a digestive tract through which the food passes. As it goes through, it is only partially digested — another reason why they are so hard to keep.

Life-history

The male occupies territory at the centre of a female's 5 sq.m. territory and they may pair for life. It is the male that goes through a pregnancy as he fertilises eggs which the female places in his special pouch, the lining of which provides food for the young which can number between 7 and 1572 young in a brood.

These are carried for between two to seven weeks in his pouch before he gives birth to live young which are perfect replicas of the adults. These drift around in the plankton layer for up to 5 weeks; after which, if they survive (only 1 in a 1000 do) they descend to the sea floor and establish a territory. After 4-8 months of growing up, seahorses are ready to mate.

Adult Seahorses have very few enemies, it is the youngsters who take a place in the food chain being more vulnerable to predators (that is probably why so many are born).

Species Diversity

Seahorses are found in every ocean of the world except the Arctic, from the tropics to the cold of the North Sea. There are about 45 species of seahorse, ranging in size from the smallest Pygmy Seahorse *Hippocampus denise* — less than 2 centimetres fully grown, right up to the Big-bellied Seahorse *Hippocampus abdominalis* at an impressive 35 centimetres. Two new species were discovered in 2003.

Britain has just two species, *Hippocampus guttulatus* — the Spiny or Maned Seahorse, and *Hippocampus hippocampus* — the Short-snouted Seahorse.

Habitat

Seahorses live among sea fans, reefs, weed and especially in seagrass. They can camouflage themselves in two ways, firstly by changing colour, and secondly by growing appendages on their bodies to make themselves look very weed-like, but their main defence is keeping still.

Loss of habitat is one of the major threats to sea horses. In Britain this rich, but easily damaged habitat, so important for a large number of important species such as juvenile fish, cuttles, seahares and the snapping prawn, is receiving special attention and includes those within the Fal and Helford.

Man and the seahorse

Each year an enormous number of Seahorses are taken for the aquarium pet trade and many perish within six months. However under well-regulated breeding

programmes such as at the National Marine Aquarium, some seahorses have survived for over six years. The adults have a hard skeleton that looks like bony plates. This skeleton is their downfall - when dead they still retain their attractive shape. One million Seahorses per year are dried into shapes, deliberately killed for the curios trade.

At least twenty million Seahorses are taken for the Chinese medicine trade (£250 a pound) each year to be used as a general tonic, aphrodisiacs, cures for baldness, sore throats, etc. They may have some medicinal properties but this trade is unsustainable.

The export of seahorses, seadragons and pipefishes from Australia needs special permits and in the states of Victoria and Tasmania they can only be caught under permit.

Each year the numbers caught are dwindling and many species have become rare and endangered.

Their future is in our hands!

Doug Herdson formerly of the National Marine Aquarium, Pamela Tompsett

Helford Marine Conservation Group Chairman's report and newsletter

The Membership Section.

Although the HVMCA working group always had a substantial input from statutory and non-statutory people and organisations directly involved with the River, it was recognised that there was a need to widen the circle. This, combined with many requests from interested people within the local community, prompted the formation of the Helford Marine Conservation Society, composed of people who are interested in and concerned about the Helford River and its very special marine wildlife.

On Wednesday, 20th March, 2002 at a meeting of 30 people in the Helford River Gig Club, chaired by Leslie Collins, it was formally agreed to establish a new conservation body called the Helford Marine Conservation Society, now called the Helford Marine Conservation Group Membership Section. I took over chairmanship of this Section in 2003.

The main object of the group is to promote the knowledge and understanding of marine conservation in the Helford estuary and to be closely linked to the HVMCA group (now known as the Advisory Section). Communication between the two sections is achieved by representatives from each section attending the others committee meetings.

Awareness and the importance of the Helford River by the local public was dramatically enhanced by the appointment of Ruth Williams in 2002 as Education Ranger and the enlargement of the annual programme of events leaflet produced by Pamela. Paul Garrard of the Members Section committee has now taken over the responsibility for the planning, printing and associated costs of these leaflets.

The members annual subscription has remained unchanged at £5 since 2002. Each year we have to budget for inevitable increases in the costs of the service we provide. These include; hire of venues, speakers or leaders at some of our events, insurance, events leaflets,

newsletters, administration etc. We are planning to mount a sponsorship drive this year, led by Charles Richardson, in order to cover our expected future expenditure and ability to support the HVMCA group finances.

Increased costs have fortunately been covered, to a considerable extent, by the increase in our membership; from 30 at our first meeting to 270+ today. It is a pleasing expansion, not only to improve our income but, more importantly, to reflect a continuing and growing interest in the Helford River.

Pamela has of course been the mainstay and driving force of the Helford Marine Conservation Group for the past 20 years. She had also attended most of the Members Section committee meetings but since her retirement Rhiannon Pipkin has taken over her role. This current year will see considerable changes to the Membership Committee as six of us are retiring; Prue Towner, Margaret Burford, John and Joyce Froggatt, Keith Davie and I are all leaving at this AGM. We have all been on the committee since 2002. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for supporting me and for their dedication to the work they undertook over the years. I would like in particular to thank Keith Davie for his meticulous dedication as treasurer and membership secretary and to Paul Garrard and his team for the excellent current events programme. All of us, the retirees, have agreed that we will continue to assist the committee with whatever may be requested.

I am certain that our new committee, which I hope you will endorse, will ensure that the HMCG develops and progresses in the future. Our proposals for officers are; David Thomson, Chairman, Martin Rule, Secretary, and Ian Jakeways, Treasurer. Committee members proposed are; Paul Garrard (events co-ordinator), Charles Richardson (funding) and Jenna Gendall (publicity)

Lastly, I thank you, our members for your support in helping to safeguard our lovely river.

February 2009.

(almost) all change on members committee

Several months ago, things were looking a bit negative on the Members Committee, with the growing realisation that many long-standing committee members planned to retire at the March AGM.

In fact, a total of 6 people, all founder members from 2002, are stepping down. The great service these people have given to the committee, to supporting the work of the Advisory Committee and protecting and promoting the Helford Estuary – why we are all here – has been highly significant.

David Nightingale has proved to be a fine chairman, very ably assisted by Margaret Burford, who has also taken charge of refreshments at our popular indoor events.

Keith Davie has kept the finances in excellent order throughout as well as keeping closely in touch with the members as membership secretary. Prue Towner previously acted as membership secretary, as well as providing a link to Pam with newsletter items. Joyce and John Froggatt performed their pivotal role of booking Gweek Hall, being there to open up and set out chairs, screen etc, all critical to take the stress off our guest speakers in plenty of time!

All these people epitomise what the Membership Group was formed for – to enable local people who feel passionately about the Helford to become actively involved in its conservation. We have been very fortunate to have worked with these people in the last seven years, and are equally fortunate that all are willing to still help us where they can – we are very grateful for that.

We plan to mark their retirement with gifts of a mounted bird photo each from Adrian Langdon, a recent speaker at our February event. A further photo will be given to Jenna Oakes, the other founder committee member, who retired only last year as Schools Liaison officer.

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new people onto the committee who come with their own ideas and enthusiasm. The future looks brighter after all! Full details of the new committee will be announced at the AGM, but anybody is welcome to get involved with our work at any time - please contact myself or Rhiannon.

Martin Rule, Secretary, Members Committee
Telephone: 01326 561 952

Falmouth Biathlon – Running and Swimming for the Helford!

This year I am organising as part of my Marine Leisure Management degree at Falmouth Marine School, Gylly Beach Biathlon 2009 to be held on 9th May. The Biathlon will include a 200m swim off Gylly Beach and a 5km run around Pendennis Head. The proceeds from the Event entrance are to be divided between two local organisations namely Helford River Marine Conservation Group and Helford River Childrens Sailing Trust. This is looking like being a really good day and I can only hope for weather like we have had over the past week.

Sponsorship and prizes for the event is taking shape and includes

Skinners, Gylly Beach Cafe, Pure Blue, Falmouth Marine School, and Helford River Expeditions. Prizes include a canoe/kayaking expedition for two on the Helford River to take in the sights and sounds of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Categories will include: + 40's category, +20's category, +16's category, TAG TEAM EVENT (1 x swimmer ; 1 x runner)

Organising this event is a mammoth task and I would welcome any support or assistance that anyone may be able to offer, or advice and suggestions! Entrance to the event will cost £20 in advance or £30 on the day. The prize pot makes

it well worth entering and the atmosphere will be great. The event is limited to 200 participants.

Please contact me on 07968024457 for any more information or suggestions you may have. The website will be live very shortly and a video of the course can be seen on the Gyllybeachbiathlon Youtube channel.

I will send out more updates in due course and would like to thank all for their help and support in making this Event take place.

Howard Jackson

Members of the Helford Marine Conservation Group would like to offer their sincere condolences to the Vice-chairman, W L Collins, on the recent loss of his wife. Jerry had been a stalwart supporter of the Group from the very beginning, both as wife of a very active chairman and hostess to the survey team in 1985. Her assistance to the HVMCA at public functions and innumerable committee meetings for over 20 years has been greatly appreciated.

Pamela Tompsett

Seacore Ltd – from Gweek Quay to Far-off Seas

The boardroom at Fugro Seacore in Falmouth was packed as 40 members squeezed in to hear John Gleadowe's re-scheduled talk. Seacore began in 1976 as the concept of two CSM mining engineers to develop underwater drilling equipment for tin exploration off the north Cornish coast. A prototype was tested in a creek in Zambia. However, the original tension leg design was replaced by a jack-up rig and the company gained its first contract, drilling in the Shetlands. Success led to more contracts and Seacore grew steadily, building up a reputation for innovative solutions and its ability to deliver results on time. To amusement, John said that in the early stages there was an element of "scrap heap challenge" as the company designed and constructed rigs to fit on a variety of vessels. But the experience helped towards developing modular rigs in which the components could be packed as, or into, containers and hence transported anywhere in the world. With all activities on one site – design, manufacture and drill operatives – there was rapid feedback when equipment needed modifying.



A Seacore platform. Photo: Fugro Seacore

The work became increasingly varied. Geological and geotechnical investigations, foundations for bridges, offshore wind farms, nuclear coolant outfall, and sampling underwater 'black smokers' have been among the contracts. The sites, near-shore and offshore, have literally been worldwide, from both poles to the equator. Seacore now owns a range of jack-up platforms and barges, including walking rigs, plus large diameter drills capable of drilling up to 7m diameter holes and marine drills that can be mounted on sea-going vessels that are dynamically positioned via GPS. With a staff of some 250, of whom 25% have 15 or more years of experience, the company is one of the world leaders in marine drilling and has built an enviable and justified reputation for inventive and speedy operation and successful results. About 3 years ago it was taken over by Fugro, the Dutch drilling conglomerate.

John's talk was followed by refreshments and then a tour of the workshops, where all were impressed by the welded heavy steel frames in course of construction.

This evening will long be remembered, an excellent, highly informative and well-illustrated talk plus the bonus of a workshop visit. The HVMCA is extremely grateful to John Gleadowe and Fugro Seacore for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Fugro Seacore are keen to obtain any photographs of Seacore related vessels, such as their rigs on the Helford, dating back to the company's formation in 1976. If you have any such photographs, please send them to the HVMCA Co-ordinator Rhiannon Pipkin either via email at Rhiannon@helfordvmca.co.uk or by post to Rhiannon Pipkin, 9 The Crescent, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3ES.

Paul Garrard

Future events

Have you any special requests for events linked to the marine conservation of the HVMCA that you would like to be included next year? If so please contact either Paul Garrard on 01326 341030 or Rhiannon Pipkin on 07710956734. Alternatively please email or post suggestions to Rhiannon@helfordvmca.co.uk or Rhiannon Pipkin, 9 The Crescent, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3ES.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at this years wide ranging events programme! The next event is on Sunday 19th April, 'Dawn Chorus beside Polwheveral Creek' with local bird watcher Martin Rule (01326 561952). Meet at 6.00 a.m. at Goongillings Farm, 1 km south of Constantine (SW 735 283).



Male blackbird. Photo: David Chapman

Helford Community Quay Update

The Helford Marine Conservation Group are disappointed to hear that the proposed plans for the fisherman's community quay will not currently be going ahead. The quay was turned out of the High Court in March due to a technicality, having been fought by the Helford Preservation Society. The quay has had support from many local residents and the Parish Council.

Members of the Helford VMCA Group have always strongly defended the concept of the 'Working River' whilst encouraging the conservation of its special marine wildlife. The current use of the Helford by the local fishing community serves a traditional and well-recognised economic activity. This verdict means the fishermen will now have to endure another period of hard labour at the end of each day, offloading their catches in the dinghies, ferrying them ashore, and man-hauling them up to their vans.

The quay will be of great use and benefit not just to the fishermen but also the whole community. The ferry across the river will be able to operate more efficiently; passenger boats will be able to drop off and pick up passengers, providing disabled access; and pleasure boats, motor and sailing, will be able to use it.

The main assets of the Helford River are its relatively unspoiled beauty, its recreational facilities and in particular its unusually diverse marine wildlife, which we feel should be available and appreciated by the widest possible range of people within the community, not forgetting the future generations as well as visitors. Nevertheless, it is a working river and the local fishing community plays a significant part in this economically sustainable activity.

Article by: David Muirhead, Pamela Tompsett, and Rhiannon Pipkin

Helford River Photography Competition Results

Many in October 2008 enjoyed the Helford VMCA 20 year celebrations, with a large number of people taking part in the Helford River Photography Competition. Entries were placed into 3 classes of physical features; biological; and human activities. Excellent entries were seen in all, with judging kindly provided by Gayle Hensley, to which the Helford MC Group would like to express their sincere thanks.

Best in show was awarded to Jo Penn for a fantastic entry in the human activities class of Durgan Regatta which can be seen in this newsletter. Full results of the competition were as follows:

Physical features:

First: Helen Oakes, Second: Jenna Oakes, Third: Dee May and Roy Symes, Special: Jenna Oakes, David Thomson, Jim Coupar, and Cath Hodge.

Biological:

First: Pamela Tompsett, Second: Roy Symes, Third: Jo Penn, Specials: Cath Hodge, Helen Oakes, Pamela Tompsett, Ann Coupar, and Prue Towner.

Human Activities:

First: Jo Penn, Second: Helen Oakes, Third: Jim Coupar, Specials: Pamela Tompsett, Jenna Oakes, and Cath Hodge.

Many thanks to Prue Towner, Helen Oakes and Jenna Oakes who all helped to arrange the competition, and to all of those who took part, making for a wonderful 20-year celebration!

Rhiannon Pipkin



Best in show photograph at the HVMCA 20-Year Celebration, entitled Durgan Regatta. Photo: Jo Penn

