Rubbish

Always contentious subjects, rubbish (domestic and commercial), recycling, dog mess … it has all littered the pages of *Trio* over the years.

UNTIDY STREETS

Copies of the following letter have been sent to: Gerry Neal, M.P. for North Cornwall, The Highways Department of Cornwall County Council, The Environmental Department of North Cornwall District Council, The District Councillor for this Parish, and St. Endellion Parish Council:

Port Isaac is looking shabbier and dirtier than I can remember it. Even in the nineteen-fifties there were men who kept the weeds down and the streets and alleys tidy all the time. Now we seem only to have a picker-up of litter part of the time, apart from a mechanical sweeper which sweeps the main road and tries to do the same in the narrow and irregular Fore Street. The machine cannot even enter the many side lanes and pathways which will become filthy unless they are regularly and properly swept.

At a recent Parish Council meeting a question was raised about the weeds growing at the sides of the streets and alleys in the village and we heard that the County High-ways Department are no longer able to do this work because of new 'government accountability' which restricts the use of manpower for this and involves the officers and their staff in much more control work. Can you explain what this means - and why we do not pay any lower rates as a result of the reduced service?

Robin Penna.

June 1989

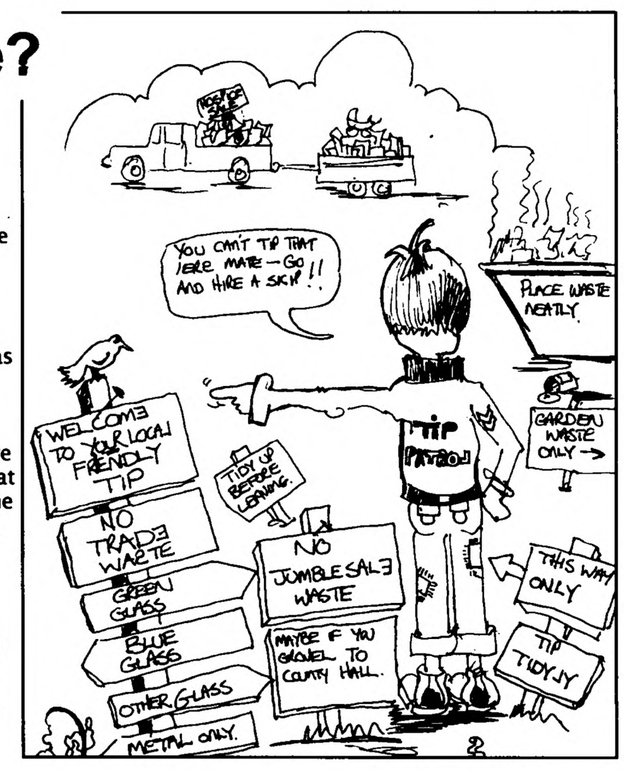
Dear Sir, I have been following the saga of weed-filled and dog-fouled pathways in Port Isaac for some time and, contary to many opinions, I hold the view that N.C.D.C. are doing an extremely efficient job. My wife and I (one can immediately tell that this a high class letter) own two properties in Port Isaac, one occupied by an elderly relative and the other used for occasional weekends during the year. We are soon going to swap and I shall have a boundary with a public footpath some fifty metres long. During the Spring holiday I cut our hedge - as I should - then became incensed by the state of the path. I shall call it Dr. George's Field, but it could be any of a dozen. It took almost two hours to clear the weeds, cans, crisp packets and sundry other canine items which I am too polite to mention. On reflection four points came to mind: 1. The Council doesn't pay anyone to clear the paths. 2. I clear the paths outside my property - and I don't come cheap. 3. The Council charges us the equivalent of two Community Charges to use the facilities they provide for about six weeks in the year. 4. The Council now charges me to take away their weeds.

It appears to be a war of attrition on the Council's part - which they have won as far as I am concerned. If nothing is done for long enough then aesthetes such as I are forced to do their work. But it is cost effective! Think of the money that could be saved if the whole of North Cornwall was declared a zone for visitors and short-stay property owners only! I cannot give my name, or the Council may trace me and charge me for stealing their weeds.

Name and address supplied.

June 1991

Holding a jumble sale? Then hire a skip!



Did you know that if you organise a jumble sale or similar event you should include in your expenses the hire of a skip to dispose of all the goods left at the end?

Amazing as this may seem this is just what we were told when we took the stuff that was left after the Hospice Sale to Trebarwith Tip. We were told that we couldn't dump it as it was not household rubbish (I can't think where they thought it had all come from!).

Anyway, to cut a long story short, after much persuasion we were allowed to dump the rubbish - just this once. So, what happens to everyone else in a similar situation. We took the matter up with Cornwall County Council, with Mrs Stedwill, the Principal Waste Management Officer, to be exact.

It seems that the 'skip hire' information we were given is basically correct. However, organisations holding fund raising events can telephone Mrs Stedwill to ask for special dispensation to use a CCC refuse site - although how anyone is supposed to know this is anyone's guess. It certainly wasn't something that the man at the tip seemed to know about either.

Mrs Stedwill wrote to us that 'CCC, in its role as a waste disposal authority, has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to "provide places at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste …" This is interpreted literally as each individual householder taking their own household waste to a site. It is impossible to set policies or guidelines which cover every eventuality. However, the Waste Disposal Authority wishes to do all that it can to encourage and facilitate community recycling and re-use initiatives such as jumble sales (and we thought we organised such things purely as a way to raise money for good causes!). For this reason we try our best to exercise sensible discretion and are pleased to hear from event organisers to advise on the services we can offer, and those we are unable to.'

Make of that what you will. But remember, as soon as you give something you don't want to a jumble sale or similar, it miraculously turns into trade waste. Perhaps it's a miracle of modern science?

April 2002

Rubbish and recycling

Just to remind you that rubbish is now collected on Tuedays and recycling is collected alternative Tuesdays (see Diary Dates section).

A huge thank you to Councillor Fletcher who finally managed to persuade the recycling boys that the bottom half of Trewetha Lane does exist and for making them bring their large lorry down to collect our month's worth of recycling. Fingers crossed that we don't fall off their sat nav radar again next collection!

March 2012

Refuse Collection

Wheelie bins are to be installed in the container over the leat at the slipway before Easter. Mark Provis complained that the builder employed to do the job hadn't even wanted to do the work which was disgusting with so many who would be glad of the work. He continued that the design could be much improved. As it is, the lids are too high for people to operate and need some system of pulleys or counterweights to hold them open while rubbish is tipped in. The District Council must be contacted to do something immediately otherwise the mess at Easter would be indescribable. David Phelps said the design was a travesty but could be improved if the construction

April 1993

Rubbish Collection at Weekends

David Phelps proposed that the Clerk should write to North Cornwall District Council after receipt of a reply to an earlier letter from Compass Contract Services which indicated that they would be happy to provide a weekend collection if so instructed by the District Council. The Parish Council indicated full support to District Councillor Dawe in his efforts to implement the collection.

The situation is serious. At present there is a six-days a week collection for six months and a three-days a week collection for six months. With the half-term holidays and Christmas and New Year holidays, there is a need for better facilities to keep the village clear of rubbish. 'We want the holiday makers here – we want their money.' Local traders are also thought to be abusing the system by filling the bins with fish heads and bones making the situation worse while not apparently realising the damage this can cause to the holiday trade. The Council would like to see the District Council taking prosecution action against defaulters.

The proposal was carried and the clerk will write to the District Council stressing the need for more refuse collections in Port Isaac.

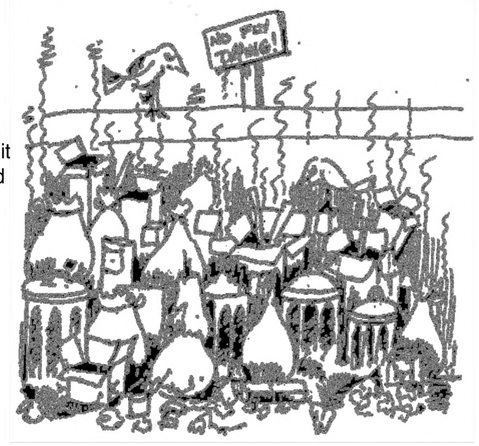
November 1997

YOU are responsible for YOUR rubbish

Enforcement Officers from Cornwall Council's Community Protection team have been working with Cory, the Council's waste contractor, to give members of the public advice about putting out and protecting their rubbish. Advice is given to residents in person or by letter however, where the problem persists and a resident's rubbish continues to cause a litter nuisance, there is the option of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice for £80.

Cornwall Council cabinet member for homes and communities Geoff Brown said: "We must all share responsibility for keeping Cornwall tidy and this includes putting rubbish out on the correct day and making sure it is protected. It's important to remember that residents are responsible for their rubbish until it is collected. This means that all household waste, including that already placed out for collection, **remains the responsibility of the householder until the waste is collected by the Council.** Our team of enforcement officers have been giving out advice but if that advice is not taken on board, then fixed penalty notices will be issued."

- Rubbish should be put out by 7am only on the day of collection.
- Port Isaac's collection day is Tuesday morning.
- The rubbish needs to be in bags and needs to be protected from interference from birds and animals.
- This could be a blanket or tarpaulin over the bags of rubbish or you can put the bags into a bin or seagull proof sacks. Following a successful trial in five areas in Cornwall the seagull proof sacks, which hold around three black sacks of rubbish and have a weighted base, a secure Velcro fastening and a tie at the back to stop them blowing away after collection, are now available to buy from the Council's one stop shops at cost price; £3.50 each.



August 201

Rubbish, rubbish, rubbish

We are assured by NCDC that four additional rubbish collections took place between Christmas and New Year, yet the amount of rubbish that greeted New Year's Eve revellers does cast some doubt on this. There was an awful lot of rubbish. However, whether or not these collections took place is now immaterial. What seems very important to local people is that the Parish Council liaises with NCDC and makes sure that in future, particularly over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, Port Isaac has daily rubbish collections from the Platt and other public rubbish bins.

leaflets don't seem to work

Additionally, householders need to be made aware of the weeks when the bin men aren't coming. How to do this another matter. A leaflet left at every house by NCDC, notices in the Cornish Guardian and the Trio did not get through to everyone this year. Rubbish was still put out on the Thursday night of Christmas week and true to form was scattered around the

(Continued on page 4)

February 2001

Rubbish!

Anyone who goes out into any of the streets of Port Isaac first thing on a Friday morning will know that we have a rubbish problem. It is a problem that is easily solved by putting out refuse in gull proof containers and not black bags which they rip open and strew the contents around the streets - not only unsightly but unhygienic too.

Of late the problem has got worse because rubbish is being put out at all times of the week and can sometimes be awaiting collection for six days. The problem seems to be particularly prevalent in the Rose Hill area which resulted in Bob Bulgin of Jessamine Cottage arranging a special meeting with representatives of North Cornwall District Council Technical Services Department, District Councillor Bill Dawe, Parish Council Chairman Bryan Richards and local residents to see the problem first hand.

Bob writes to Trio on the problem:

'Following Easter and now with the holiday season underway, the mounting problem of refuse storage and collection once again raises its ugly head.

Householders in the middle section of Rose Hill are frequently faced with the onerous task of cleaning up the litter and unmentionables that lay strewn down Rose Hill and in particular along the pathway between Chigago House and Jessamine Cottage leading to Middle Street. Plastic bagged rubbish starts to appear all week along the flank wall of Jessamine Cottage, often days before collection that now takes place on Fridays. Within hours these tempting targets to seagulls, cats, dogs and rats and any other passing predator are ripped open, the contents picked over and blown in all directions not only presenting an obscene litter problem both to residents and visitors but also a serious health hazard (one should see the contents - unbelievable!!).

Letters of complaint have been received by District Councillor Bill Dawe and the outcome of this was a meeting between executives of North Cornwall Public Cleansing Department, Councillor Dawe, Parish Council Chairman Bryan Richards and local residents on

At this meeting it was agreed there is a serious problem which must be addressed - not only at this location but elsewhere in the village and it is thought there is a case for ALL rubbish awaiting collection to be enclosed in a bin with a firmly fitting lid. NO PLASTIC BAGS. The NCDC will be circulating a letter to householders to this effect.

With regard to the refuse collection point in Rose Hill it was agreed this is to be a 'Restricted Point' at which 'named' refuse bins (no plastic bags) will be collected for Chicago House, Vine Cottage and Jessamine Cottage only. A suitable notice will be fixed to the wall at this point and action will be taken against future dumping of bags or fly tipping. It should be noted that the lower village refuse collection point is at the Harbour Slipway.

The NCDC officials were asked to review the possibility of refuse collection taking place on Tuesday instead of Friday which would help in clearing rubbish from holiday lets.

I am sure that we who live in Port Isaac are committed to maintaining its undoubted beauty and those who choose to come here on holiday, many from overseas, be it for a week, a day or an hour, come here to enjoy what is a unique living village. This is not enhanced by lack of thought in refuse storage and disposal which calls for responsible attention by all concerned.'

During the meeting NCDC was invited to use Trio as a vehicle to get their message across. The Technical Services Department has issued this statement,

'There has been an increasing amount of problems associated with the refuse collection in Port Isaac. Therefore, I would request your co-operation in the following:-

- The collection day is Friday and no refuse should be out prior to the night before collection.
- Please place the refuse in the containers provided on the Harbour Quay.
- Would holiday homeowners please make arrangements to ensure refuse from their property is put out on the correct day ONLY and in the correct place?
- If you have a kerbside collection and refuse is placed

container is suitable and will withstand attacks from animals and birds, thus preventing litter problems.

Failure to comply with these guidelines could lead to the Council taking legal proceedings against offenders under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the maximum fine being £1000.

I do appreciate that the majority of residents act in a responsible manner and will take the necessary preventative measures in order to maintain the appearance and cleanliness of Port Isaac.'

In addition NCDC has written to all households in the worst hit areas outlining the problems and requesting that rubbish is not put out earlier than the night before collection and ideally in a suitable container with a secure lid to prevent animals and birds gaining access to the contents. It also asks that this container be removed from the highway as soon as possible after it has been emptied.

July 2000

Public Discussion

Peggy Richards said that in future, as the police had no facilities for dealing with stray dogs, she would ask the dog warden to take them in and the owners would have to pay the expensive fees to get them back. She queried the need to change the refuse collection system in the village. Car parking needed to be provided to avoid cars having to park along New Road and Trewetha Lane as far as the playing fields.

Robin Penna said wheelie bins trundled from the Platt to half way up Fore Street made a lot of noise, waking our visitors up – who had come here for a restful holiday – at 7.00am. The road sweeper does an excellent job as specified by 'Compass' [District Council refuse collection contractors] but that elsewhere weeds and overgrowth made the village look dreadful and actually made some of the narrow lanes impassable much of the time. He suggested that the council could look into the feasibility of appointing a warden to keep these parts of the village clean and tidy and to discover whether funding could be obtained via the parish precept.

September 1996

Collection of Rubbish from the Platt

Having received the copy of a letter to Compass Services at last month's meeting the item was put on this month's agenda. The Council learned, however, that the situation had improved and Mr. Penna confirmed that a smaller vehicle was now being used which could drive down to the Platt. [This obviated the need for the wheelie bins to be trundled up and down Fore Street to a larger vehicle parked in the wider part of Fore Street.]

July 1997

Richard deserves a medal!

Everyone must have noticed the huge improvement in the cleanliness of our Village during the past few months. This is thanks to just one man – Richard the Roadsweeper. He's been out there every day in every sort of weather methodically working his way round the village doing all the things that have never been done before. And it shows. So many people have noticed.

This is just to say a public thank you Richard. We do appreciate all that you are doing.

and on the same subject

Dear Trio

I would like to publicly thank our road sweeper for the excellent work he is doing in the village. Having lived here for 25 years it is an absolute delight to see the changes he is making.

Every day the cleanliness of the village seems to get better and better. We'll soon be able to enter the 'Best Village in the County' competition. Thank you so very much.

Molly Farmer, Port Isaac

so what's going to happen over Christmas?

Following the dreadful mountains of rubbish in Port Isaac last Christmas and New Year, NCDC have made special collection arrangements for the village as follows:

Christmas Eve, Monday December 24th - Normal collections.

Christmas Day and Boxing Day - NCDC's Technical Services Dept and the Parish Council will monitor the situation. Limited resources will be deployed on Boxing Day. A team of cleansing staff will be on standby for any emergencies over the holiday period.

Thursday December 27th - Monday December 31st - Normal collections.

New Year's Day: Limited resources will be deployed.

January 2nd onwards - normal collections resumed.

'Normal collections' are now daily for all premises from the Post Office downwards. Remember, the rubbish storage bins on the Platt are now out of use and no rubbish should be left there.

Regular collections for the rest of the village will be on Friday December 21st, Saturday December 29th and Saturday January 5th. Any problems call 01208 2658000.

December 2001

This was given to me by a dog just outside the Post Office, I think it's for Trio, Tony Collins.

Dear Sirs, It's all very well for Mr. Cleave to go on about the non-fragrance of Rose Hill due to dog mucks: I dare say Mr. Cleave has a nice low level flush job to go to, upstairs, downstairs and for all I know one out the back as well (No, there isn't room out the back). When you gotta go, you gotta go, and it doesn't matter if you're taking your owner for a walk or not. I don't think Mr. Cleave realises the inner tension it causes when you have an owner following you with a plastic shovel. Can Mr. Cleave say that he would perform up to scratch in the absence of his flush job if he was followed by an owner with a plastic shovel? It ain't on, and its a sure recipe for ill health if its brought in as a bye law. I don't reckon dogs will change, or their owners. How about getting it cleaned up by a man from the Council, who could also clear the rest of the rubbish that gets up and down the opeways at the same time? A couple of thankyous - I'm particularly fond of the nice smells from the heap of rubbish outside the Fishermens' Stores, which gets bigger and better, and the nice lamp-post at the Post Office, very comforting.

Yours, Rover.

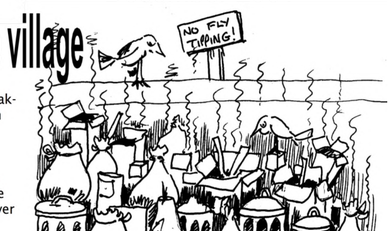
Not having a strong stomach, it

Jon Cleave's letter, drawing attention to the fact that Rose Hill is more redolent of dog mess than roses, deserves the sympathy of all, dog and non dog owners alike. It is a paradox that people care for the condition and health of their dogs but appear to think it quite reasonable to allow them to mess in public areas, then leave it for someone else to step in and/or clean up. The general purpose in taking a dog for a walk is to induce it to mess on someone else's property, and those responsible should carry implements with them to remove the offending mound to a place of proper disposal. I live now in the Netherlands where care lavished on a neat and clean environment is entirely offset by the multitude of dogs that foul parks and pavements making any walk an obstacle course. I remember Rose Hill as a hill of flowers, particularly Miss Hoare's rock garden just below the entry to Valencia House with the notice: 'I planted these seeds, watered these plants, tended these blooms. Please do not steal the flowers'. Ewart Worden kept a large number of free range chickens, who considered Rose Hill their domain. Neighbour, Harry Oaten was induced to raise the matter at a council meeting. 'This Is Rose Hill', he declared, 'but if things don't change, it will have to be renamed 'Chicken Shit Hill'.' The chickens are now gone, but the dogs appear to have taken over.

James Platt.

May 1991

Kerbside recycling comes to the village



The first kerbside recycling collection in the village has taken place and whilst the roads were not overflowing with bags for recycling a fair few remembered to put their recyclables out.

This new service is called 'In the Bag' and is run by NCDC in partnership with the Cornwall Paper Company. A wide range of recyclables will be collected every two weeks from wherever you put your normal refuse out for collection.

The scheme has already been operating in the main towns in the area since June and about 50% of these households are now recycling some of their rubbish.

NCDC has delivered a supply of coloured recycling bags to every household in the village. The system is quite straightforward – different coloured bags for different types of rubbish. Initially sorting your rubbish takes a bit of getting used to, especially bearing in mind how little storage space a lot of us have, but once we've all got into the habit it should become second nature like it is in lots of European countries.

Blue bags – newspapers & magazines; catalogues & brochures (but not the plastic wappings or brown envelopes); junk mail & stationery; BT & Thomson telephone directories (NOT Yellow Pages)

Clear bags – drinks & food cans (washed first!); aerosol cans; plastic milk bottles (but not other plastic bottles); foil (put in a carrier bag first)

Red bags – clothes & accessories (not torn and dirty clothing or odd shoes); household textiles (not rags or damp items)

Glass bottles and jars, with the tops and lids removed, should be put out in a separate supermarket carrier bag

Cardboard boxes, packets (not drinks or milk cartons) and brown envelopes should be flattened and boxed or bundled up

A recycling box is available by calling 01209 212294. Ring the same number for further supplies of recycling bags.

Items not mentioned above cannot, at the present time, be recycled. Remember, 'In the Bag' is an extra service and will not affect the weekly refuse collections.

Garden waste can be taken directly to Bowithick Tip at Trebarwith (tel: 01840 770778). Alternatively, garden waste sacks can be purchased from NCDC, priced £1 each, and these will be collected with your weekly rubbish.

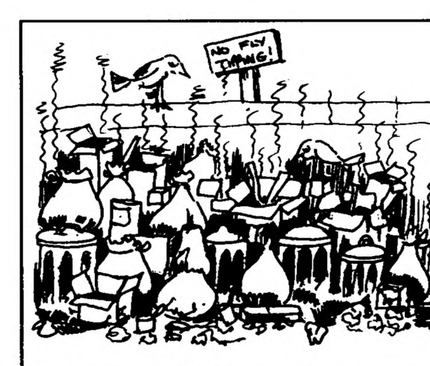
Recycling collection days – put your bags out before 7.00am - for the rest of this year are:

Monday October 7th
Monday October 21st
Monday November 4th
Monday November 18th
Monday December 2nd
Monday December 16th
Monday January 6th 2003

NCDC is committed to looking after the environment and is currently, in conjunction with Restormal DC, building a recycling depot just outside Bodmin. This state-of-the-art plant will hopefully be operational by next summer and will include a visitor centre. A major plus will be a free service for small businesses who will be able to take their recyclable rubbish directly to the plant.

Any questions about recycling, call 01209 212294.

October 2002



'The pilot rubbish scheme will be starting soon' said Mike Beckett, NCDC's Procurement Officer at the August Parish Council meeting.

The plan is that the village road sweeper collects daily the rubbish from houses and businesses at the bottom of the village in a three-wheel pick-up.

The rubbish will then be taken to the top of the village for collection by a larger vehicle.

The delay has been mainly because the Environment Agency questioned parts of the scheme. However, the vehicle, necessary manpower and bulk sealed storage containers have been sourced so things should start soon.

The bulk storage bins are to be temporarily sited in the top car park near to the toilets but if the pilot is a success then a permanent site will need to be found elsewhere.

Rubbish

September 2001

Trial rubbish scheme

Mike Beckett, NCDC's Procurement Officer, has come up with a possible solution to the rubbish problem down at the Fish Cellars.

He has suggested that the village street sweeper be provided with a three-wheel pick-up to collect waste from households and businesses at the bottom of the village on a daily basis. The rubbish would then be taken to the top of the village for collection by a larger vehicle.

He has proposed a three month trial period after which, if successful, the scheme would be introduced permanently. During the trial the doors to the slipway rubbish collection point will be locked.

The Parish Council has approved the trial so as soon as all the arrangements are in place and all households and businesses have been advised the rubbish situation should start to improve.

Mr Beckett should be applauded for taking our major rubbish problems on board and trying, in a positive way, to solve them.

August 2001