

**Health** The NHS has taken over from Dr Martyn but residents have to go outside the parish. There are Doctors and Dentists surgeries in Saltash and Callington and , a small hospital in Saltash St Barnabus and a range of NHS and private facilities in Plymouth.

**Leisure Facilities** After more than thirty years of work by successive Parish Councils at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century a Recreation Field was opened. There were planning conditions which had to be met including screening so a team of volunteers took on the job of planting the necessary trees and the Sports Committee has worked with matching funding by the Parish Council, to provide equipment. Unfortunately the lease on this is soon to terminate so a replacement is a priority in the Parish Plan. The hunt is on preferably for a permanent field or at least a really long lease. The only other facility is Moditonham Quay where people to go to fish, bird watch, picnic or just sit on the seat provided and enjoy the tranquillity. This is part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which extends into the centre of Botus Fleming village. When the quay was restored in 1977, as a Silver Jubilee project, it was done entirely by voluntary labour , donations in kind , gifts of money and a house to house collection,

Voluntary work plays a big part in other parish activities too and people are willing to work to preserve what they value as well as providing new amenities and hopefully this will continue especially now that the Parish Plan Questionnaire indicates so much interest in a wide range of activities . Other voluntary work has included the restoration of the Parish Pound. This project was initiated by a parishioner and carried out aided by funding from Caradon District Council.

Unlike the Parish of the past with its church, chapel and four ale houses now although the church survives the chapel has closed . However after death of the Rector in 1969 the parish was merged into the United benefice of Landrake with St Erney and Botus Fleming and the Rector lives in the Vicarage at Landrake while Botus Fleming Rectory was sold off for private occupation. Just two of the licensed premises survive- the Hollands Inn at Hatt and the Rising Sun in Botus Fleming Village.



The Rising Sun



The Holland Inn

8



Roadside daffodils



Hatt shop/Post Office

Other organisations include a Women's Institute and the Bohatus Club for older residents although there are no specific age restrictions and the Bell Ringers continue to flourish. After the school was closed it became a church hall and was used for various social events until it was replaced by the present purpose built Church Hall which has recently been refurbished thanks again to a lot of voluntary effort.



St Mary's Church Botus Fleming



The Church Hall

9

## The Parish of the Future

This section is entirely based on information supplied by residents who returned the questionnaire drawn up by the Parish Plan Steering Group. Topics were listed under the headings of Environment, Housing and Planning, Leisure and Social Facilities, Policing and Public Safety, , Highways and Public Transport and Education and ample space was left for residents to raise any other topics they wished . The full results of the questionnaire have been displayed on both Parish Notice Boards and the Parish Council holds a copy. The priority topics which emerged have been included in the Parish Plan and in each case the proposed action is stated.

### Environment

**Issue.** The most important issue was Greenfield Sites with 91% in favour of them remaining intact.

**Action.**

- 1.The Parish Council to act on this when making recommendations on all Planning Applications
2. The attention of Cornwall Council to be drawn to the strength of feeling this has generated
3. All other Parish organisations will be asked to take this into account when they respond to consultations on Structure Plans etc.

**Issue.** Arrangements for collecting recyclable and non-recyclable waste in the Parish. A substantial majority of residents were satisfied with the present arrangements for collecting both recyclable and non-recyclable waste but 56% would like to see more actual recycling opportunities within the Parish

**Action**

1. The Parish Council will resist any attempts to reduce these services
2. All residents are urged to make full use of these facilities.

**Issue.** Bins for litter and dog excrement. 69% would appreciate more bins.

**Action**

1. The Parish Council will supply more bins when finance allows and negotiate with Cornwall Council about servicing them.
2. All residents are asked to respect and make use of them.

**The Big Houses** The big houses are still there and occupied but provide much less employment. Hatt House is still the home of the Symons family as it has been for over 450 years while Moditonham House has had much more varied ownership until the last private owner, Mrs M E Bullock donated it to the National Trust in 1978.



Moditonham House



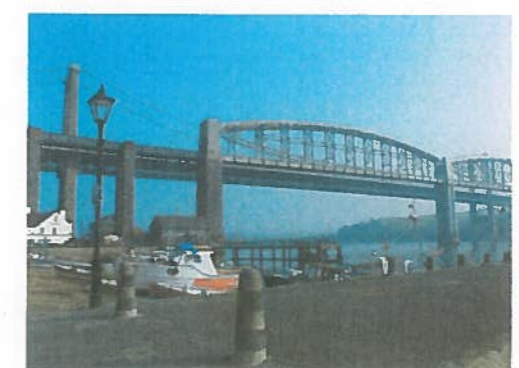
Hatt House

**Education.** There is no longer a school so all the children have to go outside the parish and attend various schools mainly in Saltash, Callington and Plymouth which are all served by school buses.

**Transport .** The second big breakthrough for transport in and out of Cornwall came in 1961 when the road bridge over the Tamar was opened and replaced the Saltash ferry. Going for the ferry had involved getting up very early now this was no longer necessary but many of the older growers never lost the habit of early rising. Public Transport to and from the parish now consists of a bus service to Plymouth and Callington otherwise most people use private cars cycle, or walk.



Farm Transport



Brunel bridge and road bridge

## The Parish of Today

**Name and Population.** The name has now evolved into Botus Fleming and there are a lot more people and a lot more houses in the parish - 310 households and 650 names on the electoral register. Most of the new housing development has taken place on the Hatt side of the A388 on the Sunnybanks Estate while on the Botus side there has been a certain amount of infill plus some barn conversions and the stables and coach house at Moditonham, the Chapel and the School have also been converted to private houses . A limited amount of development is ongoing.



Andrews Way Hatt



Stable conversion

**Occupations.** Most people now work outside the parish and so have to travel to work commuting to Plymouth or other places in Cornwall and Devon or further afield but there is still a strong agricultural influence. All the land is put to good use and old methods are mixed with more modern ones so we see sheep in the fields with their lambs as they always have been but now they are guarded by alpacas. There is little evidence of 'The cherry village' as the trees have lived out their allotted span and most cherry blossom now is purely decorative .



## Housing and Planning

As well as the 91% of residents who wish the green field sites in the Parish to remain intact 83% feel that the present housing density is appropriate for the Parish , 77% would like more opportunity for public input when the Parish Council considers planning applications and 67% consider that the Parish does **not** need more social/affordable housing.

### Action.

The Parish Council will take these findings into account when they make recommendations on planning applications and make Cornwall Council aware of these views at all times and ask all other organisations to do likewise.

## Leisure and Social Activities

### Main Issues - Top Priority

**Issue.** The only issue in the whole survey to which there was no opposition was the statement 'The Shop/Post Office is an essential amenity' - this received 99% support with the other 1% ;no opinion'

### Action.

1. All organisations and residents are urged to support this enterprise where ever possible. **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

**Issue.** 84% agreed that 'St Mary's Parish Church is an essential part of the Parish and has a social and historical part to play'

### Action

1. The main action for this has to come from the Parochial Church Council

2 The Parish Council will take this into account when it is relevant

3. Residents are also asked to support where possible.

**Issue.** The need for a permanent sports/recreation field' was also highly rated with 84% support. Leases on the existing recreation area have only ever been available for a maximum of five years at a time.

### Action

1. The Parish Council already has this in hand and is pursuing every possible opportunity

2. Residents are also asked to contribute help, information and support.

### Issues with Smaller Majorities

There is a need for:

a) More leisure and social facilities for young people and adults

**Action.** Encourage individual groups to set up initiatives

b) A website to facilitate communication about matters of local interest

**Action.** This is already an ongoing Parish Council project but also needs input from Residents with relevant skills.

c) An allotment site.

**Action.** Action by the Parish Council has already started and is ongoing

### Extra Social and Leisure Topics

In the questionnaire as well as listing specific topics spaces were available for residents to make their own suggestions. With specific reference to social activities 68% of replies either left this space blank or mentioned issues already covered. Among the remaining 32% 10.5% suggested a village hall, preferably at Hatt which is the main centre of population and other suggestions included social, cultural and sporting events should be organised for young people and adults and a 'green' area to sit, chat and take dogs should be provided.

#### **Action**

The hall is a long term project, particularly at the present time of financial stringency, for the Parish council and all other groups and individuals. Meanwhile use of the recently re-furbished Church Hall in Botus Fleming is to be encouraged. However the Parish Council is continuously looking into the possibilities for this project.

As the other activities are only supported by a small number of people they could be organised by individual groups.

**Health** There was no National health but some people cared. Dr Martyn who purchased Churchtown in 1706 was genuinely concerned about poor people and gave a lot of help to sick people in the parish. But his real concern was that poor people were 'spending too much on their kinsfolks graves' so he set an example by decreeing that he should be buried 'at the highest point in the most barren field of his estate. When he died in 1762 his wishes were carried out and there his grave remains to this day.

### Social Life .

As in many villages the main social centres were churches and chapels and the ale houses. Again Mr Charles Carpenter was a benefactor and made a generous contribution towards a Methodist Chapel giving £100 and allowing it to be built on his land and so in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the parish acquired its second place of worship. There were already four ale houses.

In general there was not a lot of social life for most residents and entertainment was rare but as we have already said Waterloo was well celebrated Mrs Carpenter invited everyone in the Parish to Moditonham House where as well as the meal there were sports and competitions with generous prizes. The half guinea for the jingling match and another half guinea for the sack race were small fortunes for the lucky winners. The old and the young weren't forgotten either or large ladies presumably as the first prize for one race was a Holland chemise of large dimensions The second and third prizes - a pair of stockings and a pair of red garters - actually sound like an incentive not to come first!

**Food** Food was almost entirely locally grown and produced. Fresh meat was scarce so the roast beef dinner Mrs Carpenter gave to the poor to celebrate the victory at Waterloo was a rare treat. Probably much more unusual than the hedgehogs she included for the gypsies. But pigeon squabs were a delicacy reserved for the big houses. The birds were encouraged to breed in the dovecote at Moditonham in recesses in the wall - genuine pigeon holes - and there was a ladder going up the middle of the structure so that estate servants could climb up and collect birds from the nests when required. But Botus was best known for its cherry orchards which lasted until after the second world war and for many years it was known as 'The Cherry Village'



The entrance to the Pound



Moditonham Dovecote

**Transport** As well as horses and carts access to transport by water was a valuable asset. Up to the late eighteenth century the water came up as far as the grounds of Moditonham House but the smell of the mud was unattractive and the owners began damming it back which did not please the residents who then had further to take their produce. However when Mr Charles Carpenter came in 1799 he was more conciliatory and in exchange for damming back the water he provided a road and a Quay so barges from Plymouth came in loaded with 'dock dung' (Plymouth road sweepings) and paid a shilling to the landlord of the Pineapple Inn for the privilege. Then they left again loaded with either stone from the quarry or fruit and vegetables. The first big breakthrough in transport came in when Brunel's bridge was opened and brought the railway to Cornwall but all the market garden produce still went to Plymouth market by water. With the coming of other transport at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century most of it went by the Saltash ferry and Moditonham quay gradually fell into disuse. However to Celebrate our Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 Moditonham Quay was restored by public subscription and volunteer labour.

## Policing and Public Safety

88% of Residents who returned their questionnaires felt the Parish was a safe place to live but raised the following issues:

**Issue** Parking, speeding and petty crime - Residents would welcome a more visible police presence

**Action** The Parish Council will refer these findings to the local Police Authority and liaise with them

## Highways and Public Transport

**Issue** There was a 65% response in support of measures to ease the flow of traffic at the entrance to Vollards Lane

**Action** The Parish Council will refer this to the Local Police and Cornwall County Highway Authority

**Issue** 50.2% do not find the current Speed Limits acceptable but a significant number of other people pointed out that while in theory they were acceptable they were regularly ignored

**Action** Refer to Local Police Authority

## Education

**Issue** Small majorities - 53% favoured a pre-school group and 58% were interested in Adult Lifelong Learning facilities in the Parish.

**Action** These majorities were too small to merit inclusion in an official plan but interested individuals/groups will be encouraged to research possibilities

## The Parish as it was

### Other Topics

The final box on the questionnaire was left blank for residents to put in any comments they wished which were all read and taken into account along with any letters that were enclosed.

65% left this box blank and 6% made general comment mainly commending the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Steering Group for setting up and organising this initiative.

The remaining 10% raised additional issues including:

**Environmental** - Opening up footpaths and bridleways, making arrangements for green composting, planting cherry trees and encouraging tree preservation.

**Transport** A few people wanted a cycle track / hoppa bus to Saltash

**Communications** included better internet access for all and

**Community Interests** centred on nurturing Community Spirit

**Specific Area Interests** included dangerous pavements, 'right to light' problems and barking dogs .

As these are all minority interests primarily it is for individuals and relevant groups to pursue them with backing from the Parish council when this is appropriate.

**Name** The Parish was called **Bothflumet** in Oct 1259 when Bishop Bronescombe rededicated St Mary's church and the earliest monument still in existence is the Crusader's Tomb although no one is sure of the Crusader's identity . These are far and away the earliest Parish records and more than 750 years later in the Parish Plan questionnaire 84% of responses still agree that 'St Mary's Parish Church is an essential part of the Parish and has a social and historical part to play'

By the 1600's mapmaker William Kip called the Parish **Blofleming** and by 1836 on Thomas Moule's map it was **Botesfleming**

**Population** And not only the name changed over the years predictably the parish also grew although slowly at first . The adult population in 1641 was approx. 164 and by the 1851 census it had only grown to 170

**Employment** The big houses, were the main employers of both indoor and outdoor labour but there were other occupations including some metal mining from Wheal Sophia at Moditonham. In fact the 1851 census listed 14 other occupations plus a sailor's wife and 6 paupers.

**Water Supply** By the nineteenth century in addition to individual wells there was a public water supply which came from St Mary's Well in the middle of the village

**School** The school was next door. It was a church school and the first mention of money spent on it comes in the Churchwardens' accounts for 1813 . By 1899 there were 36 children attending but as families grew smaller the number of children declined and finally when a large family left the parish it closed

**The Pound** The pound was- and still is -a bit further up the hill. Straying cattle were 'impounded' and their owners had to pay to retrieve them .

**The Big Houses** There were, and still are, the two main 'Big Houses' . Moditonham House which has seen many owners while Hatt House has been in the Symons family for over four hundred and fifty years. They were both enlarged in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and their appearance remains much the same today.

## Introduction

When a Parish Plan was first suggested a small ad-hoc committee was set up under the aegis of Botus Fleming Parish Council. The first task was to find out whether residents wanted a Parish Plan so with financial support from the Parish Council an open afternoon was held in the Church Hall to publicise the proposed initiative. There were display boards telling the story of the Parish past and present, representatives of Parish organisations were there to describe what they did, there was entertainment for all ages, tea and time to socialise and a suggestion box for ideas for the Parish of the Future. This event was very successful and confirmed positive support for a Parish Plan.

The next stage was to set up an elected committee whose role was to prepare a questionnaire which included the suggestions collected at the open afternoon and to deliver this to everyone listed on the Electoral Register. The replies have now been analysed and everything in this Parish Plan is based on the results of the questionnaire so the Botus Fleming Parish Plan genuinely belongs to the Parish and reflects the wishes of the people who live in the Parish

## Conclusions

The issues raised at the launch of this initiative and all the other questions included in the questionnaire covered a wide range of issues relevant to the Parish. The statement that 'the shop/Post Office is an essential amenity for this Parish' got 99% support and the remaining 1% 'no opinion' but other than this every one of the other thirty one topics had residents in favour and residents against but it has certainly raised awareness.

It is encouraging that a large majority consider the Parish of Botus Fleming a safe place to live and want to keep many things as they are. However there are extra facilities that would be welcome. It has not been possible, particularly at this time of economic stringency, to address every issue and the priority issues outlined in this plan have been based entirely on the amount of support they received but the Parish Council will keep this Plan under review and when they feel it is necessary it will be updated.

Meanwhile official Council action is not the only way forward. Many community activities can be run on a small scale by individuals or groups which would promote community spirit and involvement in a shared interest. There are residents who would be happy to share their skills and knowledge. **Botus Has Talent - let us all share and use it!**

## Acknowledgements

Financial and practical help is gratefully acknowledged from:

Botus Fleming Parish Council  
Saltash and Torpoint Community Network

The Local Action Group for Rural Communities

Cornwall Council

Hatt Post Office and Store

Mills Milk

Tamar View Fruiterers

Tamar View Pet Shop

Tamar View Nurseries

Sleep and Hill Motors

The Pasty Shop

Waitrose

Saltash Co-op

Cornwall Cllr Olive Eggleston

Julian Langston

Carole Reid

Tony Morby

Jack Billing

## Steering Group Members

Ron Adcock Chairman

Jacqui Keverne Secretary

Brian Cooper Treasurer

Rosemary Jeffery Publicity Officer

Carolyn Brown

Malcolm Fletcher

Margaret Mathews



## Contents

Introduction

The Parish as it was

The Parish as it is

The Parish of the Future

Conclusion

Acknowledgements







# Botus Fleming Parish Plan



Researched and Prepared by Botus Fleming Parish Plan Steering  
Committee and Botus Fleming Parish Council