



Gudgeon, the huge cave at water level on Pitcairn's southern coast

UCKLUN TULL UN DEM TULL

Pitcairn News

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KARI ORN PITCAIRN TULL: September is behind us already, and we are counting down to Christmas and New Year and school holidays. It seems like we only had a five minute winter, the cold evenings came and went in a flash, and September has been quite mild, and at times hot. The flies and bugs that spoil many a summer evening have persisted through our winter time, and will be even more of a curse than before. We have not been blessed with much rain either, unlike other winters, so if another drought hits us this coming summer, we might have problems.

The Henderson project continued, the Claymore brought several tourists on its multiple rotations from Mangaeva during September, and we enjoyed new faces for a while. Otherwise life has gone on as usual, lots of handline fishing and trolling for big fish, gardening (what an abundance of cabbage!), Council and political meetings, public events like fish fries, Gaither sing-songs and café openings. We thank Terry Young, Brian, Desmond and Terry Dawson for pictures in this issue.

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: Weekly meetings over several months have resulted in our final strategic plan for the period 2011-2016 being sent off to Her Majesty's Government and to DfiD. The following areas were highlighted as essential for Pitcairn's future, and Council and community members will be working on these:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Accessibility | Aquaculture |
| Beautification | Rebuilding the Square |
| Private enterprise | Governance |
| Tourism | Windmills & Harbour |
| Health | |

HOPE RADIO STATION: Pastor Ray has already set up dish etc at Ship Landing Point for "catching" and broadcasting Hope TV Channel to Adamstown, and now we got the additional Hope Radio broadcasting on FM Radio 24/7. First time ever we have radio around the clock - music, radio plays, discussions and news.



During September the Bounty replica visited several coastal towns in Norway, and spent ten days in the capital Oslo. My family there visited onboard, and sent this picture of some of my cousins, the stern of the Bounty and the Oslo Town Hall in the background. The Bounty got a lot of press coverage wherever she turned up.

PIPCO dispatcher Charlene reported that 391 250gr jars of Pipco honey were counted and packed by Pipco members in time for mail day. That is almost one hundred kilos of honey! We can send mail only every three months so there is a big rush those hectic days prior to Postmaster Dennis closing the mailbags. Pipco is a Co-Operatives of islanders (not all) founded some years back.

MARKET DAY: A market day was arranged one morning while we had some tourists on island, and islanders set up shop at The Square to tempt with t-shirts, carvings, jewelry and other handicrafts. Around \$1000 was donated to our “X-ray Fund”. Our annual budget had been exceeded by the necessary replacement of the old broken x-ray machine, and people contributed generously.



Traditional shareout at the Square after ship’s visit.



We thought that Desmond’s picture of a public dinner at The Square from the faraway 1950s was appropriate to put in here, to compare with the other more recent pictures from The Square. The church building is the same, but the old dispensary and the post office were separate buildings, and later put under the same roof. Some of the people are the same, but most of them are gone for good. A couple of years back a permanent roof was erected over the whole Square.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN: In the wake of our Constitution being put in place just over a year ago, it became necessary to go through our laws and ordinances to check if they were all aligned to and supported our Constitution and our newfound Human Rights. Led by Simon, a group of islanders have together gone through the following ordinances, consulted with Human Rights lawyers through the Commonwealth Foundation, and presented the finished product to Council for approval. From there it will go to our Attorney General, who will execute the necessary amendments in our law book.

Election Ordinance

Ombudsman Ordinance

Immigration Ordinance

Freedom of Information Ordinance

Land Tenure Reform Ordinance

Marriage Ordinance

Land Court Ordinance

Wills Ordinance

Pitcairn plants and trees, how many can you identify? Answers on back



1)

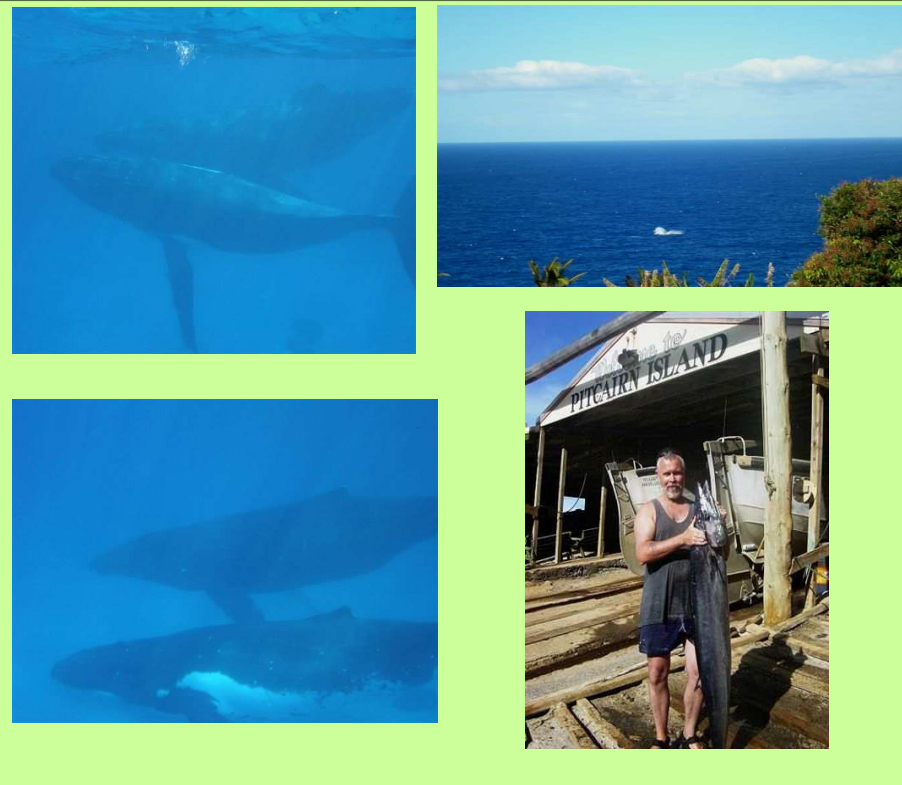


2)



3)

PROFESSOR DAWSON'S MARINE PROJECTS: Terry Dawson was here for ten days in December last year, and returned for another ten days in September with another marine expert and diver, Robert, on a grant from his University in Dundee, Scotland. He is doing research on our marine resources, preparing a proposal for preservation of our coastal marine life. Most of his time was spent in the water along our coast with diving tank and camera, recording our fish species. These two underwater pictures show his and Robert's swimming companions one day outside the northern coast, the two whales were close enough to touch them. The other picture shows Terry's catch, an huge wahoo, after an hour's trolling in the canoe. Just "another day at the office" on Pitcairn!!!



It has been a season of lively whale activity. There seems to have been at least three whales hanging around the island for long periods of time, and they willingly entertain us watching from shore, with acrobatic flips and fountains of water blown up in the air. Sights like this are common now. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night when all is quiet except for the sharp and piercing sounds from out there - like gunshots. It is the whales putting on a show, slapping their tails and hitting the water, and even though I can't see them, it is a wonderful experience just listening to them and knowing they are out there.



Darralyn graduated in September with her nurse qualifications from Unitec in Auckland after two years' studies, and will return to Pitcairn on our December ship. Well done and congratulations, Darralyn!!!!



PUBLIC PARTY FOR EMILY AND PASTOR RAY: Olive and Nadine invited everyone to a public dinner at Big Fence to celebrate Emily's and Pastor Ray's birthdays. Emily is already eight years old, and we won't reveal Ray's age. His wife Anne had to travel to New Zealand for medical care, but will return on the December ship.

HENDERSON PROJECT

Henderson Island, 120 miles to the northeast and an area of 37km² (compared to Pitcairn's barely 5km²) has an ecosystem practically intact and considered the best example in the world of a raised coral ecosystem. Scientists say she was inhabited by Polynesians until 1500s, and no permanent settlement since. In 1988 Henderson was designated a World Heritage site. During the Sir Peter Scott Commemorative Expedition of 1991/92, scientists identified nine plants, four snail species and one butterfly species endemic to Henderson, one tree found only on Henderson and Rapa, apart from the already known four land birds endemic to the island. The Henderson crane or rail (flightless bird), the colourful Henderson fruit dove, the Henderson warbler and the Henderson lorikeet are only found on Henderson, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) made it their mission to eradicate the rat population on the island.

Sir David Attenborough, who was also the patron of the 1991/92 expeditions, pledged his support for the Henderson Island World Heritage Site in July 2010 at an event hosted by Mr Henry Bellingham, minister for Overseas Territories, and RSPB: *"All of these birds are under threat because of the Pacific rats, one of the few human legacies. Rats simply cannot resist eating a fluffy day old petrel chick.....we now have an opportunity to rid Henderson forever of the rats and ensure the island remain a jewel"*. Up to 95% of petrel chicks (15.000 a year) were being killed by rats.

A ship with helicopter was chartered to bring equipment and crew to Henderson, and the helicopter dropped poisoned rat bait over every section on the island, as the interior is almost inaccessible by foot. But first the team had captured almost a hundred rails to keep safe in cages until all the bait had been eaten, to protect the species from becoming extinct, and the situation will now be monitored for another couple of months before it will be safe to release the rails again. The rat eradication was projected to cost 1.7million pounds, but turned out to be slightly less costly, as the ship charter was combined with another Pacific Project.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Julie, Kari, and Tim,

I congratulate you on this wonderful newsletter, which I was fortunate enough to stumble across. The articles are very interesting and the pictures are beautiful. I am very sorry about the loss of Terry Young. I had heard of that earlier and was shocked and saddened. I have been a fan of Pitcairn ever since my father told me how fascinated he had always been with the story of the mutiny and the settlement on Pitcairn. I was a teenager then; years passed, and I am a grandmother now.....I cannot say what is the **most** interesting in the Dem Tull!!!! I must congratulate Tim for his historical articles, though! My hat is off to the three of you for a great job. And thank you for making it available to the public for free. - Sheila, Kansas, USA

Dear Kari en Julie,

WUT-A-WAY YOURLEY First of all congratulations to both of you and to all of your writers and photographers who join efforts to issue UCKLUN TULL UN DEMTULL. Lately, I visited Herstappen the smallest village of Belgium (80 inhabitants) and the Bounty II who was anchored in Ostend harbor for a few days(300 000 visitors). These visits woken up souvenirs. In 2005, I had been in charge of organizing the 3rd (Tahiti) and 4th (Brussels) OCT forums on behalf of the European Commission. It's there that I met the representatives from Pitcairn and actually got some few information about your island. Actually, my intention is to trace a parallel between 2 events that happened in 1789 at two ends of the world : the French revolution and the mutiny of the Bounty. There are surprisingly (?) very many common reasons, events, political developments, before and after 1789 ... if you apply the rule that : *it's not the historical veracity that is important, more the manner you tell it !* Would you believe that, for example, only 2 movies were made over the French revolution while 5 retraced the story of the Bounty ! Your journal and the site of the Pitcairn government have been fantastic sources of information. Very Thankfully yours, Jean J. Dubois, Oostende, Belgium.

DEM TULL HALL OF FAME: SAGAFJORD/SAGA ROSE

When looking back on the many passenger vessels that have visited Pitcairn Island, few (if any) could equal or better the *Sagafjord*/*Saga Rose* in the memory of the Pitcairn people of the last several decades. It was the intention last year to give her the first induction, but at the time her fate was not certain (hence, the *Remuera* became the first inductee vessel). Now, with confirmation from a couple of contacts, the induction of *Saga Rose* into the “Dem Tull” Hall of Fame can proceed.



Sagafjord in her original livery going through the Kiel Canal (photo courtesy of www.simplonpc.co.uk).

The idea of the *Sagafjord* was conceived in the late 1950's/early 1960's by the Norwegian America Line. The contract for building her was performed by the “Société Nouvelle des Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée” (La Seyne sur Mer) who would close down a year after building her. The keel was laid on June 19th, 1963, and work commenced on hull number 1366. She was launched less than a year later on June 13th, 1964. On September 18th, 1965, she was christened the *Sagafjord*.

She began her illustrious career by sailing from Oslo to New York, and soon proved to be a popular ship. This popularity would never truly wane, and so many people all over the world would view the ship with a special fondness.

The first time that the *Sagafjord* visited Pitcairn Island was on February 10th, 1967. When she visited Pitcairn in 2004, during a presentation to the captain, the then-mayor of Pitcairn, Steve Christian, remarked that *Saga Rose* was a loyal friend to Pitcairn Island ever since she first appeared as *Sagafjord*, when he was “knee high to a grasshopper!”

In 1980, following a refit, both the *Sagafjord* and her “little sister” *Vistafjord* were put under Norwegian American Cruises (owned by Norwegian America Line), although there was little change. However, three years later in 1983 things changed when Norwegian America Line was taken over by Trafalgar House (basically, Cunard). *Sagafjord* received a small overhaul by having her funnel change to the traditional Cunard colours of Cunard red and black topping, not to mention the Cunard sign on her forward superstructure. However, she retained her name, which she would



Sagafjord in Cunard colours at Antigua (photo courtesy of www.simplonpc.co.uk).

hold still hold for over another decade.

Pitcairn Island honoured *Sagafjord* with a \$1.80 stamp release on June 17th, 1991 (in a set which included *Europa* (now *Bleu de France*), *Royal Viking Star* (now *Black Watch*) and *World Discoverer* (now wrecked)).

From 1996 until 1997 she was chartered to Transocean Tours for six months. Her funnel was recoloured to fit the company's symbol, and for the first time her name was changed. For the short time she was with Transocean Tours she was called *Gripsholm*. She did not last long under them, and was damaged by fire. So six months after she began as *Gripsholm*, she was sold in



The short-lived *Gripsholm* era at Guanabara Bay Rio de Janeiro on January 18th, 1997 (photo courtesy of www.simplonpc.co.uk).

1997 to Saga Shipping.

Once Saga Shipping took over she received her largest change in appearance. She was refitted, and recoloured. While previously she had always sported a light-coloured hull she was now given a deep blue colour, reminiscent of the traditional liner appearance, which flattered the venerable vessel. Her funnel was coloured yellow with a dark topping. Many have argued that this was



The two sisters, *Saga Rose* (background) and *Saga Ruby* (foreground) at the QEII terminal in Southampton on April 26th 2007 (photo courtesy of www.simplonpc.co.uk).



One of the first visits of the ship as *Saga Rose* sometime after 1997 (photo from the Terry Young collection).

perhaps her best appearance in her career. But her greatest change was her name. Discarding the *Gripsholm* name she partially reverted back to her original identity but with a new twist to it. She was renamed *Saga Rose*.

The *Saga Rose* held her own against newer ships, and became a favourite for many a passenger, and also carried several Pitcairners to and from the island. She still visited Pitcairn often, and the bond between Pitcairn and the ship became stronger with each passing year. For some it felt like the ship herself had become immortal and would always be around. As the new SOLAS 2010 regulations began

looming ahead, and many grand vessels were retired and mostly scrapped, there were hopes by many that the *Saga Rose* would at least become a floating hotel and be enjoyed for more years to come. Sadly, fate had other ideas.

The *Saga Rose* left on January 9th, 2009 in her 44th and final world cruise. With the completion of this world cruise she would have undertaken more



On her final visit, trading was brisk as passengers and Pitcairn Islanders intermingled (photo courtesy of Brian Young).



A last, sad farewell to the Sagafjord/*Saga Rose*, February 7th, 2009 as she sits just off Pitcairn Island (photo courtesy of Brian Young).

world cruises than any other liner (as of 2011), exceeding even that of the QE2. As would be

expected, she also paid her final visit to Pitcairn on the cruise. She stopped there on February 7th of that year. It was very calm and sunny weather and there were gifts and presentations to mark the occasion. She sailed away, never to return.

After the 44th world cruise she was retired from service, due to her not fulfilling the requirements of the SOLAS 2010 regulations, which ended the career of many other ships as well. She sailed to China and in May, 2010 she sailed up the Yangtze River and docked at her final destination, the Changjiang Ship Recycling Yard. There were speculations that she was to be upgraded to fit the new regulations, or that she would become a floating hotel, but despite these speculations, I received word from a couple of sources that by the middle of this year everything was gone.

The *Sagafjord/Saga Rose* was a friend to Pitcairn Island for well over 40 years, surpassing that of the S.S. *Remuera* in the first half of the 20th century. Her "little sister" *Vistafjord/Saga Ruby* still operates (as of 2011) and still visits Pitcairn, but as the late Terry Young stated, "she jes ain't the same as when we orn *Sagafjord!*"

Special thanks goes to

Mr. Ian Boyle, and his website: <http://www.simplonpc.co.uk/Sagafjord.html> for permission to use several pictures, and some of the information.

Herb Fords book "Pitcairn: Port of Call" for information on some of the earlier Pitcairn visits by the ship.

Terry Young and Brian Young for some photographs and information. The two of them and myself were constantly trying to keep up with news of her after she retired from service, and sadly Terry Young passed away a week before I got confirmation that she had finally gone.

And the deepest, heartfelt thanks and bon voyage to the lovely and elegant *Sagafjord/Rose*.

Previous Hall of Fame Inductions and larger pictures can be found on:
<http://www.demtullpitcairn.com/>

We have a correction from August issue, - there actually was a ship with a helicopter that landed here in 1994 or '95 sometime, but nobody has been able to give us a date.

Some people here were not happy with the reporting in August issue of the longboat engines breaking down, where it was mentioned that there were no oars or life vests onboard. We apologize. It seems there were oars onboard, but they can't be used for rowing anyway - the longboat is too heavy to be maneuvered by oars. It also seems there are life vests in the box in the stern. Three people I talked to, did not know there were life vests onboard, but now we know. If there is an accident, though, things could happen fast, and there might not be time to start distributing life vests to children and others. Whenever we travel in cruise ships' tenders, we are obliged to put on the obligatory life vests like all the other cruise ships passengers have to, regardless of good or bad weather.

Our law book states that when travelling inter-island (to Oeno or Henderson) minimum requirement is one life-jacket for each occupant of the boat. There is no such requirement for longboats going out to ships. It says males of 13 and 14 may go out to ships outside school hours, but "any child may visit any such ship in such boat", provided they have the consent of the Mayor and the longboat captain. Considering the tight laws and regulations we have put in place for protecting children in all other areas, this is an area that might need some tightening to keep children safe.

FROM COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2011

Subject to the approval of the Governor and the Attorney General, Council unanimously voted on 4th September for the right of those who have completed prison sentences to be eligible to stand for the office of Councillor and for the role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. There is no restriction placed on eligibility rights of those with criminal convictions from standing for public office in the UK once sentence has been completed, and the proposed "waiting" time for Pitcairners in the same situation was not seen as fair.

The recent Child Safety Review was regarded by Council as overall positive, though there are still certain restrictions in place for children coming to the island. "... all of the off Island professionals indicated that overall they believed the children currently living on the Island are safe, or at worst that they are as safe as in any other country or jurisdiction." But there are no government policies to keep children from visiting any of these other countries or jurisdictions, nor is there a warning on the official websites of these countries or jurisdictions that that country may not be a very desirable place to visit, like we had on our government website for several years.

In regard to the budget overspending on the new and very essential x-ray machine, Councillors were upset when told to find funding for it within the existing budget, and indicated "that HMG is failing in their obligations to provide adequate healthcare" according to the World Health Organisation. The Govrep informed that "HMG spend in the region of Pnds 40,000 per head of population of UK taxpayers' money to fulfil its obligations in areas like health, education and welfare".

There has been a rush of applications for full British and British Overseas Territories passport lately. "Concerns were raised as to the status of the Pitcairn community in the event that Pitcairn was depopulated. The Governor advised that HMG had obligations to the community in this regard, but hoped on the back of a more sustainable economy this worst case scenario might be overcome."

The much planned and delayed projects for wind power and the alternative harbour in Tedsid were said to be back on track and moving ahead, which they have been for close to five years now. Some of us can't see the necessity for them, others do.

ANSWERS for quiz on page 2

- 1) Roti flower
- 2) Indian shot
- 3) Roseapple flower

HART'S ALL. EF YORLY WUNT TO TULL, TULLA JULIE IN NEW ZEALAND ORN Julie@customcredit.co.nz OR KARI ORN PITCAIRN ORN uptibi@hotmail.com

