

## Most of scheme ready for Easter

**Most of Boscastle's new flood defence scheme will be completed by Easter as scheduled. Delays caused by recent heavy rain and other factors mean that some work remains to be done.**

Stonework facing to new concrete retaining walls along the riverbanks in the harbour area has to be completed which will take about four weeks.

Our contractor Carillion had planned to finish stonework along the north bank but was frustrated by high river levels and high tides caused by westerly gales earlier this month. The gales were strong enough to move the portable toilets out of position in the contractor's compound.

Once the stonework is completed, Carillion will finish the last of the roadworks by laying the top surface along roads on both riverbanks.

The high water levels also delayed removal of the old Lower Bridge. The work was due to be carried out as this newsletter was being printed.

The old bridge has already been fully recorded by

archaeologists and they will also be there when it's removed to see if there are any archaeological remains on the site.

The infill will be removed from the bridge, leaving the arch. A special 'crash deck' will be laid under the arch to catch the masonry and stop lime mortar falling into the river and making it too alkaline. The National Trust will save stone from the old bridge for reuse elsewhere.

Railings have been installed on the new bridge and kerbs will be laid before Easter.

Work on the sewerage scheme for South West Water has ended following removal of the old sewer pipe that formed a weir across the river.

To make way for the Easter influx of visitors, no work will be carried out on the flood defence scheme between 21 and 30 March.

If you need to contact someone urgently about the flood defence work over the Easter break, please call Colin Mitchell on 07803 263489 or Cris Peck on 07803 262490.



*Old and new: The old Lower Bridge is about to be removed to reduce flood risk in Boscastle – its new replacement can be seen behind it with the handrails in place*



# Car park finished in time for visitors

**We have finished work for North Cornwall District Council on the main car park and the new upper car park. Both are fully open for Easter as planned and provide 240 parking spaces, as many as the old car park.**

In the August 2004 flood, dozens of parked cars were swept away by water several feet deep. There is now less risk of flooding to the car park because the level has been raised and adjoining flood defences have been improved.

We have carried out substantial landscaping on the car park over recent weeks, including planting several hundred metres of hedging to divide the car park into areas. Flower beds have been laid out and young trees planted.

Work on managing trees in the Valency Valley between New Mills and Boscastle has been completed for this year.

As part of the tree management plan for the valley, carefully selected trees have been coppiced or felled and woody debris has been cut into short lengths.

The work is designed to reduce the risk of trees and debris being swept downstream and blocking the bridges, increasing flood risk to the village.

More tree management work will be carried out every other year for a period of six years, but only after a thorough visual assessment to see what needs to be done.

## Progress on scheme in pictures



**Above:** *Concreting the road by the Youth Hostel*

**Top left:** *Concrete is poured on to the road by the new Lower Bridge*

**Bottom left:** *Ryan Parks smoothes concrete near the car park entrance*



**The Boscastle flood defence scheme is being carried out by the Environment Agency working with Cornwall County Council, Forrabury and Minster Parish Council, National Trust, North Cornwall District Council and South West Water**

