

computer to help in her studies towards what we hope will be a rewarding career.

The Landlord and Landlady of the Royal Oak for their offer of accommodation and food without charge for members of William's family and finally to Ella Dodds who despite her own grief following Jim's death, took the time to write to me a long letter of sympathy:- something I was unable to do for her even though William had expressed a deep regret at being unable to attend Jim's funeral.

Many will be aware that Wendy and I have now gone our separate ways. These incidents are not related and Wendy tried ceaselessly to lift me from the anger and grief that overwhelmed me at William's death. I miss her terribly but wish her well and hope to remain her sincere friend.

To finish on a brighter note and more positively, I would like to let all know that Shaune Peters, William's elder brother who now lives locally is more than willing to take up any plumbing work required by William's old customers in the area. He is an excellent plumber with even more experience than William and is gas registered.

Also my younger son John is also retraining as a plumber and should be able to take up work by the end of the year. Until Shaune and John can put together an advert for the newsletter they can be contacted through me on 810462.

I thank you for your condolences and hope the new year brings good luck and opportunity for all.

Yours Bill Butler



## THE NATIONAL TRUST

Well, that was a chilly start to the year. On some of the days we found our team confined to our workshop in Kingston. Driving through the farm yard and the roads out into Kingston was treacherous but once we were back out it was full steam ahead.



With this cold snap we had to make sure that our population of Cirl buntings were managing to find food. Cirl buntings are quite rare in the UK and can only be found along the south Devon coast.

In these extreme cold temperatures we gave them a helping hand by spreading bird seed. The seed is supplied by the RSPB, who like us, want to ensure the birds have enough to eat. Why not take a walk along the coast path around Wembury Point and keep an eye out for these special little birds?

Along with the birds we needed to check all our herds of ponies had water available. With the help from some local volunteers, we were able to regularly go out and brake the ice in the troughs. We also found a burst pipe in the bowser ( a large plastic water store which sources a trough) at Wembury Point which we were able to quickly fix. All in all we managed to come out of the cold snap relatively unscathed.

If anyone is interested in learning about green woodworking then we are running a 2 day event at Noss Mayo woods on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. It is a great opportunity to have a go at working with wood; making items like hurdles and rakes; and try your hand at wood turning. Cost is £20 per person. For further information and to book please call 01752 346585.