



BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 97 Spring 2017

£1



copyright photo courtesy David Flower

This year's pantomime production was Peter Pan. The cast are pictured above on stage at the Village Hall prior to the Dress Rehearsal. Standing, left to right: Sophie Edwards (Myrtle), Michael Parsons (Tiger Lily), Don Lyle (Starkey & Mr Darling), Dawn Garrod (Mrs Darling), Charlotte Eagle (Wendy), Jo Kent (Peter Pan), Emma Goreham (Captain Hook), Laurence Eagle (Nana) and Bob Harver (Crocodile); Front: Star Isabella Trick (John), Keely Christie (Tinkerbell) and Betty Sellars Page (Michael). Missing from photo: Jeff Metters (Smee). Panto review inside on page 20.

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JOIN US OR WAVE US GOODBYE

Blowhole team members were dismayed when, at the planning meeting for this edition, our Treasurer, Gloria Quinlan, announced that she intends to stand down from the Editorial team at the end of this year.

Replacing her will not be an easy task - as well as keeping the accounts for the Blowhole and dealing with all financial matters, Gloria also runs the advertising for the Blowhole, with a bit of help from yours truly.

Furthermore, she deals with sales via the lovely local businesses who allow us to sell copies to visitors, meaning that she keeps an eye on where copies are needed and tops them up on a regular basis.

Gloria, ably assisted by Heather, also coordinates the distribution of Blowholes to the kind volunteers who pop each edition through your letterboxes.

If that was not enough, she is scribe for the WI

and we usually twist her arm (pen?) to write a feature or review or two for each edition. I expect all long-term readers will remember Kendra's Diary, her tales of hazardous journeys undertaken via public transport, the joys of Osprey watching and many more interesting and frequently amusing exploits.

So, who fancies following in her footsteps and helping to ensure that the Blowhole

survives beyond its silver anniversary?

Don't worry if you don't think you can fill all her roles, that would take another truly exceptional person (though that person may be you, dear reader); but if anyone would like to volunteer to take on some of them, the team will welcome you with (metaphorical) open arms and Gloria will be happy to pass on what tips and knowledge that she can.

Thanks, Philippa

Boscastle Blowhole Team

The editorial team reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication. The views expressed in the magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the team. The editorial team are: Philippa Arthan, Arthur Bannister, Heather Colne, Audley Jarvis, Gloria Quinlan, Ann and Chris Rodda.

The next Blowhole will be published in June 2017

Items for inclusion can be emailed to boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk

Please also use this email address for advertising queries

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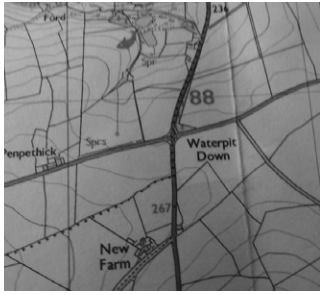
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New Bollards at Waterpit Down

Hopefully, drivers using the junction on the B3266 at Waterpit Down will have noticed that new illuminated bollards have been installed on the minor road. This will mean that traffic travelling from the east or the west of the junction will be more aware of its presence.

Boscastle Oil-Ordering Group

A reminder to place your next order by 31st March for a delivery first week of April. Do you have oil central heating? Would you like to receive a 2p per litre discount on every order? To join the group register telephone Myrna Lester on 01840 250250. Have you moved to a property which has oil central heating? Ring to check whether the previous owner was a member of the group and let us know if you would like to arrange a name change for your address.

ML

Summer Fête Date

This year's annual Summer Fête at Boscastle Methodist Church will be held on Saturday, 24th June, starting at 2.30pm. All are most welcome.

Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre

Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre will shut down on Friday 31 March 2017. Since Monday 27 February referrals have not been accepted.

The centre opened in 2006 in a modern purpose built hospital. It has been run for a number of years by Ramsay Health Care on behalf of the NHS to carry out the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of conditions on a day care basis.

Juliotter Garden Club

The club meets every fourth tuesday at Otterham & St Juliot Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee is served and there is a regular raffle.

The meetings focus on topical subjects with advice on how to make your garden grow! Membership is £12 annually or guests £3. For more information contact Alan Green on 01566 781559 or Paul Greatorex, 01840 269178.



Bus Shelter

The parish council plans to erect a new bus shelter for school children on the open plot of land in Tintagel Road nearly opposite its junction with Paradise Road. The shelter will be sited roughly half way between the wooden seat adjacent to the substation and the point where the footpath comes out from Clover Lane Close.

They are also going to cut more vegetation from the land around the substation which is now exposed.

Parish Councillor resigns

Mark Smith has resigned from Forrabury & Minster Parish Council. Members decided not to hold a by-election and the seat will remain vacant until the local elections on 4th May 2017.

Come One and Come All

On Saturday, 24th June 2017, between 10.30 – 2.0pm, Boscastle WI will be holding their annual Coffee and Light Lunches morning in the Village Hall.



The event will be in aid of the Cornwall Hospice Care and Boscastle WI Funds.

There will be the usual handi-craft, home baking and bric-a-brac stalls. We hope to see you there.





Ruth Puddick

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Parish Pump

by Aeolus

On reflection

The parish council asked County Highways if it would be possible to install mirrors at road junctions such as that with Potters Lane and Forrabury Hill. They replied as follows:

“The current policy is that mirrors should not be located within the limits of the highway as although a mirror may seem to be a positive help, they present an hazard to the driver passing on the main road especially after dark when the sudden appearance of reflected headlights can cause the driver to take dangerous and unnecessary avoiding action.

Although we do acknowledge that there are a number of mirrors located on private land across the network we do not provide mirrors for the above reasons . However if such mirrors were installed on private land it is unlikely that that we would take any action”

Planning 1

Oakford, Forrabury

The parish council objected to the application PA16/10068 regarding Oakford: (details appeared in the Winter 2016 issue of the Blowhole). However, the planning officer is mindful to approve the application and protocol means he has asked the parish council to 1) agree with this decision 2) agree to disagree or 3) maintain their objection.

The parish council were all in favour of maintaining their objection.

Tour of Britain cycle race

The council has been asked if it would support an application by a third party to Cornwall Council to request a stage of the Tour of Britain cycle race be staged in Cornwall. Without full details the councillors felt, in principal, this would be a good opportunity.

Planning 2

Proposal to install 21kw of roof mounted PVC onto the South facing roof slope. Resubmission of PA13/09275 at Boscastle Farm Shop, St Juliot, Boscastle, PL35 0HH. For Robin Haddy.

Forrabury and Minster parish council supported this application and Cornwall Council have approved it.

Planning 3

PA17/00694

Outline proposal for four new dwellings on land at: Trerosewill Farm, Boscastle, PL35 0DP for Steve Nicholls

It was proposed that the council support this application on condition that 50% of the development be starter homes. Six councillors voted in favour and one against.

(see also Chris Rodda's article on p18)

Precept 2017

The council felt that the precept would have to be increased to cover any possible shortfall. After much discussion an increase of £2750 was proposed.

Crackington Institute Film Club

March 26th: Le Concert
A French Comedy Drama from 2009. Golden Globe winner Best Foreign Film. In French with subtitles.

April 9th: Chinatown

An American neo-noir mystery film directed by Roman Polanski and starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway.

April 30th: Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Follow up to the successful first film. A host of stars. Sonny (Dev Patel) opens his second hotel as the first one is full.

May 14th: Central Station

Brazilian/French drama film set in Brazil tells the story of a young boy's friendship with a middle aged woman. Won Academy Award for Best Actress.

May 28th: The Big Short

Comedy drama, a dramatic retelling of the 2008 financial crisis. A riveting world of chaos, corruption and misfits.

All films start at 7.30pm. Entry, £3 refreshments available.

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Fly-Tipping ~ a Shameful Eyesore



Whoever FLY-TIPPED on the road to Minster Church should Hang Their Head in Shame.

The walk to Minster Church and then down to the Valley is heartening. At this time of year Spring is making herself known to the sunny hedgerows, awakening snowdrops, daffodils and primroses. Birds are more tuneful, having survived the battering winds of winter. The cooling sea scented breezes are welcome to the heated walker, who feels all is right with her world and then - her equilibrium is shattered! There, lying against the hedgerow is **Fly-Tipped Rubbish.**

From the picture you can see that it is not commercial rubbish; it is not industrial rubbish; it is not agricultural rubbish

and it is not visitor's rubbish – I doubt visitors would have packed two old, plastic plant containers as part of their luggage. It *was*, however, a **Shameful Eyesore.**

It is inconceivable that anyone living in such beautiful surroundings should think it acceptable to dump their rubbish in this way. What do they think is going to happen to it? There are more adequate ways of getting rid of rubbish than laying the onus on our Parish Council who, fortunately, was swift to remove it.

It may have been a small heap of rubbish but the next time you – whoever you are - have to dispose of your rubbish, use the proper services and **Don't Fly Tip in Our beautiful Countryside.**

GQ

Ian Nicholls' Marathon

However committed people are to running the London Marathon for charity, places are not easy to attain. Ian Nicholls has successfully achieved a place in the April 2017 London Marathon, when he will be running for the National Osteoporosis Society and Lupus UK charities. Both of these charities have significance for him as his Mother, Cheryl, suffered with both ailments most of her life. Ian says 'I am running the London Marathon on 23rd April 2017 in memory of my lovely Mum (Cheryl Nicholls) who died unexpectedly on 27th April 2016.'



Cancer Ward at Treliske Hospital, Truro. Now, ten years on and despite his own health problems, he has been in training for 23rd April for some months and would very much appreciate sponsorship money.

You can donate by going to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ianwnicholls or donations can be given care of Steve Nicholls, Trerosewill Farmhouse, Paradise, Boscastle.

Grateful thanks are sent from Ian to all donors.



TINA JENKINS

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Are you surviving or thriving?

In collaboration with Mental Health Week, 8-14 May, join us at **Boscastle Village Hall** on **Saturday 13th May** from **1pm** for an afternoon of awareness raising, education and entertainment and to help prompt a national conversation about what we can do as communities, schools, families and individuals to move from survive to thrive.

The Mental Health Foundation has hosted Mental Health Awareness Week in the second week of May since 2000. In previous years the week has focused on how mindfulness, anxiety, sleep deprivation and relationships can impact our mental health. This year the theme is 'surviving to thriving'.

Too many of us experience daily life as a battle. Emotionally, our heads are only just above water. Holding onto our jobs, managing our family life, paying our bills sometimes threaten to overwhelm us.

Increasing numbers of us have accepted that experiencing high levels



of anxiety, stress and depression are the price we have to pay for keeping our lives on track. But this Mental Health Awareness Week, we want to set out the real scale and cost of being stuck on survive, to our health, relationships and future options.

A guest speaker from the Invictus Trust, a small charity which aims to support and offer services to teenagers who are suffering from poor mental health and associated issues, will be talking about their work.

A full line up of speakers, workshops and entertainment will be publicised over the next couple of months. For more information and if you would like to get involved Please contact:

Christina Whitaker-Jones, on 07870 671522 or email christina_232@hotmail.com

Council Elections 4 May 2017

Notices for parish council elections will be displayed on the parish notice boards from 20th March.

Candidates can obtain information packs (which contain required forms and guidance on the election process) from the Electoral Services office in St Austell (address below) either in person from the office, collected from a one-stop shop by prior arrangement or posted by Royal Mail Special Delivery which has to be signed for and the cost charged to the candidate.

Completed nomination papers must be returned by the candidate in person to the appropriate Deputy Returning Officer as stated in the nomination pack no later than 4pm on 4th April.

It is advisable that nomination papers are returned as soon as possible before that date in case any corrections need to be made. The electoral office will be operating an

appointment system for those who wish to have their nominations checked.

Should there be more nominations than the ten vacancies for Forrabury & Minster Parish Council then polling will take place between 7am and 10pm on 4th May.

Electoral Services
Cornwall Council
Room 11, 39 Penwinnick Road
St Austell, PL25 5DR
Tel 01579 341234
Email dholwill@cornwall.gov.uk

Elections for Cornwall Councillors will also take place on May 4th. Our current Councillor, Glenton Brown, is standing down - read his column on page 38 of this edition.

The Blowhole would like to thank Glenton for all the hard work he has done for our community during his years as representative for the Tintagel Ward, and wish him well for the future.



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Dog Fouling

Dog fouling in certain areas of the village has become a serious problem which, sadly and surprisingly seems to have got worse over the winter when there are very few visitors.

As well as the obvious mess and smell Dog faeces are dangerous and can carry various unpleasant diseases which can be harmful especially to children, eg:

- Whipworms
- Hookworms
- Roundworms (Toxocariasis)
- Tapeworms
- Parvo
- Corona
- Giardiasis
- Salmonellosis

Apart from the list above dog faeces are also a danger to livestock carrying:

- Neosporosis – which can cause abortions in cattle
- Sarcocystosis – which can cause neurological disease and death in sheep

The law is quite clear: if you have a Dog then you must clear up after it.

Fines and criminal offences: Cornwall Council introduced a Dog Fouling Order to ensure all areas of Cornwall have the same levels of enforcement for dog fouling.



Please clean up after your dog

Failing to clean up after your dog has fouled can result in a **fixed penalty** being issued - **£80** (reduced to £50 if paid within 10 days) or prosecution where, if found guilty, you could face a **maximum fine of £1000.**

Whilst Cornwall Council only have a limited number of Dog Welfare and Enforcement Officers in Cornwall, there are a number of other officers who are able to issue fixed penalties (many of whom are not uniformed officers) as well as most PCSO's. This means that there is a relatively high chance that you will be caught should you not clear up after your dog has fouled.

As a village we have numerous Dog Waste Bins which are emptied regularly. They are situated

in the following locations:

Paradise Road, Green Lane/Forrabury Lane junction by the Football Field, bottom of Old Road, Harbour Slip (c/o National Trust) plus several positions around the carpark, so there's really no excuse.

Incidents of Dog Fouling can be reported to:

- Cornwall Council via their website www.cornwallcouncil/report-it then scroll down to Environment and Click "Dog Fouling"
- By Phone 0300 1234 212 and choose option 4
- Email the Parish Clerk forminpc@gmail.com and it will be forwarded on to the relevant authorities.

Please give as much information as possible – Who, When, Where etc plus photos if possible.

The Dog Welfare and Enforcement officers are aware and will be carrying out spot checks and surveillance around the village in the coming months. We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful place please lets keep it that way.

Thank You, David

The Blowhole Team would like to thank David Flower for the many photographs he has allowed us to print - (and we sincerely hope he will allow us to use more of them in the future!)

David attends a wide variety of local events taking photographs, and also has a website www.tintagelweb.co.uk which has a wealth of local information. Do have a browse.

Thank You

Shirley and Arthur Bannister wish to thank all their many friends for the best wishes and love sent to them on the occasion of their 65th wedding Anniversary.

Shirley wonders which of the two is more deserving of the Long Service Medal!!

A Bee Fact

Bees have smelly feet! They leave a temporary scent behind on the flower they have just visited. Other bees use these scent marks as cues to avoid landing on a flower which has no nectar left in it. These efficient foragers are also able to figure out how long the nectar takes to refill and associate this with the strength of the scent on the flower – meaning they don't waste any precious time!

THE HARBOUR LIGHT

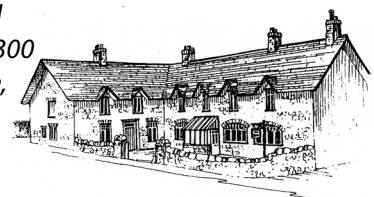


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A local charity breathing new life into Camelford's disused NatWest Bank building

The old NatWest Bank building in Camelford has been rented on a five year lease as a community hub for a wide variety of events and activities; read on to find out more!

Managed by a group of local trustees, the Old Bank hosted a number of public meetings to explore what events and activities people are interested in. The trustees have done their best to deliver these - and continue to plan even more. Visit the website to see what's on offer, e-mail us (*contact details at end of article*) to join something, to volunteer to help us or to run an activity, to rent the space, or to suggest new ideas.

The Old Bank is currently only open when there is an event or activity on so if you'd like to look around, please e-mail to arrange a visit. At the time

of writing, early March, this is our programme:

Monday:

12.00-12.45 weekly Zumba Gold class

19.00 fortnightly Model Making alternates with Camelford & District Photography group

Tuesday:

19.00-21.30 weekly untutored Life Drawing group

Wednesday:

19.00 fortnightly Language Club (with on 5 April a guest speaker talking all things French) which alternates with Wind Band

Thursday:

14.00 weekly Camelford Walkers

19.00 weekly Games Night in the meeting room (bridge, chess, other games of your choice)

19.00 weekly Youth Café in the main room

Friday:

15.00 weekly You & Me Café starts 28th April to introduce you to the Old Bank, have a chat, support you if you're going through a tough time, and introduce you to others.

19.00 Book group on 2nd

Friday monthly (there could be an additional afternoon group)

Saturday:

14.00 Children's film club 2nd Saturday monthly

19.00 Film Night for adults 2nd Saturday monthly (Twelfth Night April)

Sunday:


19.00 Sunday Night Live 2nd Sunday monthly starts soon: guest speakers share knowledge and enthusiasm, and lead discussion with us over a glass of something.

There have been a number of successful one-off events including the Christmas Craft Fair, a Model Railway Show, a concert by Blackweir Brass (5 students of the Royal Welsh College of Music) and still to come, on Sunday 3rd April, T S Eliot Poetry Prize winning Jacob Polley reads from Jackself and discusses his work prior to running a sold-out poetry workshop on Monday 4th April. On

Sunday 15th October, Liz Berry, winner of the Somerset Maugham Award and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection in 2014 reads from her work.

We'd like more live music, stand-up comedy, some practical art activities, perhaps you could approach us with some amazing proposals? We're hoping to house a local branch of Cornwall's Credit Union, maybe visiting Citizen's Advice Bureau and other advice and advocacy groups.

Although Camelford suffered the loss of all three of its banks in 2015, it has fought back, as it always does, and all three banks are, or soon will be, in use. The old Lloyds Building is being used by the Camelford History & Archive Trust to exhibit its collection of documents, photographs and other items relating to





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 around. You are most
 welcome to join us!

*Helen Wood
 for the trustees, Old
 Bank, Camelford*

Sharon's Plaice on the Mend

Just a little update for you all. Sharon's Plaice is now on the mend as many of you will have seen.

Dan Roots and his team are doing a fantastic rebuild and we will be up and running in time for Easter so keep your eyes peeled.

Thank you all again for the support, we look forward to once again serving you all the best fish n chips around (plus more).

BD



Contact Details:

The oldbank
 24 Market Place
 Camelford
 PL32 9PD
 Website: www.
 theoldbankcamelford.org.uk
 Email: theoldbankcamelford@
 gmail.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.
 com/theoldbankcamelford
 Twitter: twitter.com/
 theoldbank24

Once again the Napoleon Inn held their annual New Year's Eve party in Boscastle village hall and a great deal of fun was had by all! Music this year was from the fabulous Mike Fox (pictured below right), you can catch him regularly in the Nap during the year. Check our website (see ad below) for details. Hosts Sharon & Ron and their team definitely know

Another Fantastic New Year's Eve Party



how to put on a good party!

Thank you to everyone who helped set up, worked and came along to enjoy. I'm sure there were a few sore heads but nothing the Nap's hangover cure brekkie didn't solve on New Year's Day!!



Looking forward to this year's party....watch this space.

BD



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Thanks for the Festive Fun

The harbour area was full of festive feeling on Friday 9th December as the Bosccastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC) held its annual carol singing for the village. Providing both Christmas trees and with donations of mulled wine and mince pies, Morwenna Gee splendidly organised some of her younger students in entertaining a waiting crowd with some pre-carol singing. This proceeded with carols led by Michael Parsons and Maria Nicholls with a jubilant crowd showing that Christmas was underway in the village.

Our gratitude extends out to all those who gave time and goodwill in supporting this event including: Robin Haddy for sourcing and transporting the trees; Paul Stedman, Geoff Beszant and John Forde for erecting, decorating and dismantling the tree; the school for filling



the baubles to decorate the tree; Sue Webster, Becky Harrison and Iain Lewis for supplying the electricity; Morwenna Gee for organising the children and pre-carol singing; Michael Parsons and Maria Nicholls for leading the carols; Tracy and Adrian Bright from The Cobweb Inn for the mulled wine; Paul Langford from Cornish Stores for the mince pies; and to all those who attended or supported the event to make a lovely community evening.

Anyone wishing to join in funding, organising, erecting, decorating and disposing of a larger tree that we can currently provide for our village, please do contact the BCTC before our meeting on the 12th September as additional help is always welcome.

DB

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Pete's Peeps at the Past



9 NOV 1874 THE GROWING PORT OF FOWEY

The S.S. "Wilkinson", 850 tons, came into Fowey on Friday afternoon for iron ore for Middlesboro', and was loaded and stood out to sea the following day. Great activity prevails in the shipment of china clay, and not the slightest delay takes place in the loading of the vessels.

20 OCT 1873 A VILLAGE OF CORNISH MINERS

Up to Thursday last over 900 picked miners had left Cornwall to supply the places of the locked-out colliers of one coal mine in Lancashire. The executors of the late Mr. John Hargreaves, aided by their active agent, Mr. Waddington, have made Burnley a village of Cornish miners.

20 DEC 1811 WRECK AT PADSTOW

In a gale H.M Brig "BLOODHOUND", Lieut: Bray, ran on shore in Harlyn Bay by mistaking Trevoze Head for Stripper, the western entrance to Padstow harbour, where she intended to go, and lost 11 lives. This proves the great necessity for a lighthouse at

Trevoze Head. [The loss of this vessel is commemorated in the name of Bloodhound Cove in Harlyn Bay.]

4 MAR 1831 COAL DUTY ABOLISHED

The duty on coal was discontinued and was now selling for 8d a bushel a reduction of 2d. Cornwall had petitioned for many years on this because of its importance to their industry.

9 SEPT 1831 REPEAL OF SALT TAX

There was a repeal of the salt tax and enabled the poor people to save fish at a cheap rate. Before foreign salt was increased from 3d to 2sh a bushel and pit (Liverpool) salt reduced 15sh to 2sh.

6 FEB 1824 TREBARWITH SANDING-ROAD

A public meeting was held within the borough of Camelford to consider the best plan for making a new sanding road from Trebarwith Beach in Tintagel to Condolden-bridge in St. Minver. [Sand and sea-weed for manure was brought over steep cliffs on horseback. The new road cost £2000 but was recouped by a toll-gate.]

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Boscastle Short Mat Bowls Club win Cornwall Northern Area Championship

Boscastle Short Mat Bowls Club has won this year's Northern Area Bowls Championship, run by Cornwall County Short Mat Bowling Association.

This is a major achievement by Boscastle SMBC. The Club won last year's Second Division Championship by a large margin, and had been newly promoted into the Premier Division this year. To win both Championships in successive years is a unique achievement.

Not only did Boscastle SMBC win, they have performed consistently well throughout the season. Out of the 16 games they played, the Club won 11, drew 1, and only lost 4. On their home mat, they remain unbeaten. None of the other Clubs in the Championship came close to matching that record.

Club Captain, Mike Lawrence said – "I am delighted that Boscastle has won the Championship. We had set our sights on consolidating our promotion to the Premier League, but our teams have been outstanding in their match play and this has been a deserved, if hard-fought, outcome to the season. Well done to everybody!"

Boscastle SMBC welcomes new members to short mat bowls. No experience or special equipment is needed – the Club can provide everything to start you off



Left to right – John & Shirley Wakelin, Dave "Two Shirts" Ferrett and Mike Lawrence, (Home match against Wadebridge A)

– and you can have a chat, a cup of tea and at the same time enjoy a sport in the warm and dry. We meet at Boscastle Community & Recreation Centre, in Dunn Street, on Monday evenings at 19.00, and again on Friday afternoons at 14.00. There is no age limit – we have members ranging from 12 to 90 – so do come and have a go!

Telephone Roy (Christie) on 01840 250602 or Mike Lawrence on 01840 770256.

And follow us on Facebook at @boscastlesmbc

The club has also invested in new shirts. These have green collars for club colour, yellow piping and black to represent Cornwall colours.



Left to right – Mike Lawrence, Bob Banks, Sue Dundon and David Topcliffe, (Home match against Blisland)



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If you go down to the woods today.....

“...Tomorrow afternoon will see persistent and widespread rain across the south west...” the weather forecast said the evening before we were due to rebuild the wooden structure that stands in the Valency valley. Rain was not a major problem but it would make the whole project a little more difficult. At 9:30am the following morning a dedicated team of National Trust volunteers would be waiting to get stuck into the build. To call it off was not an option. Anyway, how bad could a bit of rain be?

At 9.30 the mizzle fell but the rain had not yet arrived. On approaching the old structure with the volunteers it was plain to see why it was in need of re-building. The uprights and crossbeams were either gone or in a poor state, slowly decomposing or removed since installation in 2011.

Our volunteers (*pictured above*) set to work with characteristic gusto dismantling the old structure while a smaller group went up into Minster wood to collect the new pieces of timber. These had been cut from nearby trees which had recently been felled to help diversify the age structure of the woodland, thus increasing the biodiversity whilst also building the woodlands’ resilience against pests, diseases and climate change.

The new uprights, measuring around eight foot long, had to be carried by hand down into the valley, across the river and up to the build site. It wasn’t easy but the volunteers managed admirably.

Back down in the valley the old structure had been dismantled and the new mapped out on the floor. Three holes had been dug, so there was no going back, and in the face of intensifying and unrelenting rain, three of the new timbers were put

into place. With everyone soaked to the bone, and at a safe stopping point, the decision was made to finish for the day.

A week later a return visit was made to complete the build. The day was completely different, the sun shone, there wasn’t a breath of wind and it was warm enough for butterflies to come out of hiding and investigate this new feature in the woods. Soon the new structure had risen, finishing touches were made and all stood back to admire a fine day’s work.

The new structure commands a greater presence in the meadow

and, thanks to the size of the oak timbers used, it should stand the test of time. The structure is a space built for the enjoyment of everyone to use and visit, so please go and have a look.

Richard Nokes
volunteer ranger

What’s on this spring?

Tuesday 4th April, 10am-4pm, Boscastle harbour spring clean up

Let’s get the harbour ready for Easter! We will be doing various bits of spring cleaning and improvements around the harbour, including litter picking, clearing vegetation back, cutting the grass, and maybe even installing some new benches nearby. Meet in overflow car park Boscastle, (GR: SX100 913)

Sunday 21st May, 10am-4pm, Strangles/Trevigue-bracken management and more!

We have several jobs to do on the undercliff at Strangles. Bracken and ragwort both need managing to keep them under control. New signage also needs to be installed to help visitors plan their day out. Meet at Strangles car park. (Grid ref: SX135 952) EX23 0LQ

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National Trust

Tuesday 6th June, 10am-4pm, and Sunday 18th June, Himalayan Balsam pull, Valency Valley

Balsam season starts again, so help us remove this invasive weed to allow our native plants and wildlife to flourish. Bring wellies. Meet in overflow car park Boscastle, (GR: SX100 913)

For more information: **01288 331372** or northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Endelienta Events, at St Endellion Church & Hall

Exhibitions: these are held in the Hall and are open at weekends between 11.30 and 16.30, entry free:

22 April – 7 May David Marl: Pilgrims

Stunning evocative small acrylic paintings exploring the magical reality between dream and belief.

20 May to 18 June Paul Jackson ceramics & Mark Cullen textiles

Exquisite pottery and colourful hand woven rugs are juxtaposed in this gorgeous exhibition

Music:

Dutch Serenade: A choral journey by Kamerkoor Collegium Utrecht Friday 28 April, 7.30pm

This mixed chamber choir from the Netherlands take us on a journey from sacred to secular and romantic to minimalist, connecting different times and places.

Misbehavin: Elemental Saturday 20 May, 7.30pm

Endelienta's favourite jazz foursome returns with with new songs and instrumentals inspired by the elements. Fiery, virtuosic playing and sumptuous, earthy vocals. See www.misbehavinjazz.

The Corineus String Quartet & guests: A Concert for Summer Friday 2 June, 7.30pm

The programme includes Dvorak's String Quartet in G Major and the Cornish première of Jeffrey Joseph's Colloquy.

Concerts £10 (free for accompanied under 16s) available from:

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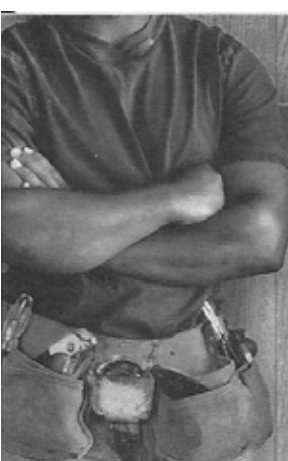
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Do insecticides harm our honeybees?

Local bee-keeper John Maughan discusses the harmful effects of some insecticides and pesticides:

Many people are aware that bees, butterflies and moths have suffered massive declines in recent years.

Currently, honeybees cannot survive without beekeepers because they are carrying a parasitic mite called varroa, which quickly overwhelms a colony living in the wild. The varroa mite arrived in England in 1990. It looks like a tiny crab and sucks the body fluids from adult bees. It also feeds on bee pupae. As a relative size comparison, a varroa feeding on a human would be the size of a rat.

At first treatment was easy in the form of plant-derived pyrethrums that killed most of the mites but not the bees. Within ten years, the mites developed a resistance to pyrethrums and beekeepers now have to use a large box of tricks to



outwit the mites. There is a possibility that honeybees could evolve, in time, to cope with this mite, but evolution is a slow process.

Butterflies, moths and most insects are also in steep decline but are not affected by varroa. Much of this decline is a result of a changing environment. Since the invention of DDT in 1939, gardeners and farmers have relied more and more on insecticides, herbicides and artificial fertilisers to control unwanted pests, weeds, and improve plant growth. It is clear that many insecticides are bad for bees and other pollinators.

Neonicotinoids are a relatively new class of insecticide that share a common mode of action,

affecting the central nervous system of insects, resulting in paralysis and death. The German company Bayer, is the main producer of neonicotinoids. These pesticides have been implicated as a key issue in pollinator declines. When exposed to neonicotinoids there are many immediate bee deaths, but a sub-lethal exposure can seriously impact bee reproduction, navigation and foraging. Manufacturers are responsible for the safety testing of their products but are not obliged to declare all their results. They are able to edit their results to their advantage.

Several countries have already banned these chemicals but not the UK. Aldi has now decided to remove neonicotinoids and some other pesticides from its food sales in the USA. These include thiamethoxam, deemed “moderately hazardous to humans” by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; chlorpyrifos, which has been linked to several autoimmune disorders; and cypermethrin, which the Environmental Protection Agency has cautioned poses an acute risk to honeybees, as is the case with many neonicotinoids. Other pesticides on the list include

clothianidin, deltamethrin, fipronil, imidacloprid, and sulfoxaflor. Let’s hope our supermarkets follow Aldi’s lead in recognising the dangers.

Health Canada has also announced a special review of clothianidin and thiamethoxam and a recent publication from the Canadian Government concludes - “Following a recent evaluation, the current use of imidacloprid is not sustainable, and the levels of this pesticide found in waterways and aquatic environments are harmful to aquatic insects.”

Bayer is said to be “extremely disappointed” by the decision. My sympathies are with the insects, particularly bees, moths and butterflies. Please check the details of any of your garden shed insecticides to see if they contain any of the products mentioned, and remember not to spray when plants are in flower.

JM



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<https://ico.org.uk>

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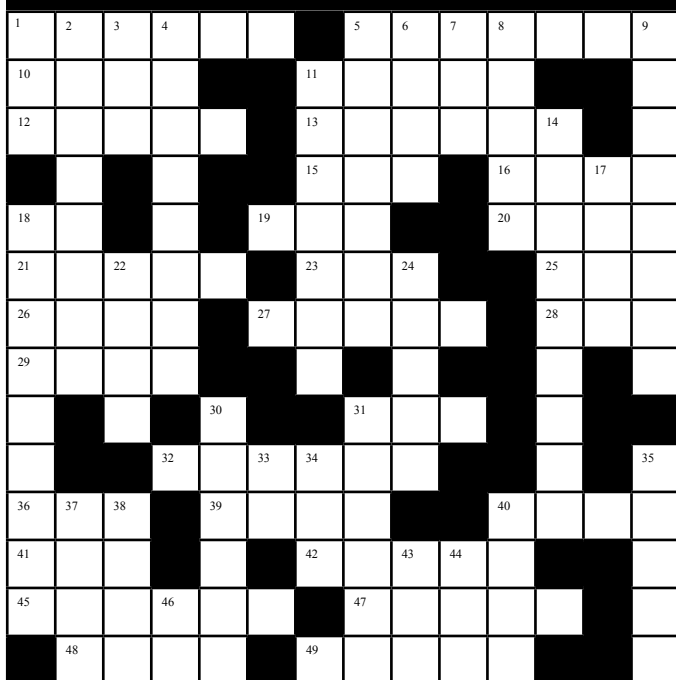
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Moira Hart's Fiendish Crossword



Across

- 1 fruit
- 5 inhabitant
- 10 nurse
- 11 iris
- 13 Asian country
- 15 use
- 16 man's name
- 18 musical note
- 19 aged
- 20 cab
- 21 religious leader
- 23 fish
- 25 expire
- 26 combination of groups
- 27 boredom
- 28 man's name
- 29 unpleasant smell
- 31 urge on
- 32 stupid
- 36 insect
- 39 kiln
- 40 consider
- 41 drink
- 42 nest
- 45 enlarge
- 47 duck
- 48 incline
- 49 fossil resin

Down

- 1 small buoy
- 2 tractable
- 3 chart
- 4 trefoil
- 5 type of china
- 7 parasite's egg
- 8 small island
- 9 ignorant
- 11 abundant
- 14 get rid of
- 17 plant
- 18 manufacture
- 22 South African Dutch
- 24 thrust
- 30 overflow
- 31 respect
- 33 thank you
- 34 country
- 35 vacant
- 37 subsequent
- 38 art gallery
- 40 animal
- 43 bone
- 44 fish
- 46 printing measure
- 46 speak
- 47 regarding
- 48 result

answers on page 32

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Harbourmaster's News



Well it has been a long winter and as I write this the boats Beeny Black Jack and Rene are still high and dry on the harbourside with a little winter work to complete before they go back into the water this spring. Over the last few years several members of the Fisherman's Association have kept their boats here at Boscastle rather than running to the relative safety of the boat yards at Rock and this is really on the grounds of cost and convenience. Having said that we get very little sunlight on the quay side

of the harbour during winter which makes it cold for repainting and general maintenance. It is also very damp and salty causing corrosion to the metal parts and all the engines and hauling equipment need plenty of attention before ready to work again.

Looking at the outer breakwater we seem to have suffered some storm damage again to this which I know is of great concern to the harbourside property owners as the structure does help to stop storm surge and restrain

flooding. Of course the cost of maintaining the harbour structures is huge and often overlooked by casual users. Although it will not go very far we are introducing a launching fee for kayaks this year which although I am sure will not be popular is in line with most other private harbours around the coast.

Cotton, who worked Sheila Pat for many years, and looking fit as a fiddle tells me he is now 84 and intending to keep a few pots again this year. I wish him good luck and I know that he knows all the best spots between here and Crackington.

I was lucky to spend some time in Brazil again this winter and I even had ago with one of the



The annual general meeting was held in the Cobweb on the 27th February and I was very pleased to see some old members including Roy

throwing nets that the fishermen there use. I took some photos and they can catch quite well in the shallows.

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BOHO

The newly launched Boho “Folksy Bohemian Style” shop in Boscastle under the management of Vanessa Percival is a stylistic rebirth of the former Boscastle Artists Co-Operative.

One of the Co-Op’s original exhibitors, Vanessa set up her own successful online business Mini-Things.co.uk in 2000. It displays an eclectic range of miniature dolls house furniture, tiny, exquisite models, sculptures and figures, a rustic farmhouse



table groaning under the weight of country produce, the interior of Tudor kitchen, an extraordinary confusion of pheasants, hares, kestrel, larks, sides of beef and deer carcasses, pewter tankards and copper jelly moulds.

Vanessa is also on Facebook. Amusing asides include a scavenging seagull attacking a discarded carton of fish n chips or, a particular fondness of Vanessa’s, mad March hares in variety of poses. A not-for-the-squeamish tableau features the contents of a traditional butchers, the delicatessen theme continental sausages, hams, pies, cheeses and fruits, and for

the taxidermist country beasts, fowl and fish even a ptarmigan and extinct dodo, under glass. All these moulded in meticulous detail hand painted, just one-twelfth life size.

A self-taught artist, Vanessa began a career in hairdressing, interspersed with a spell in dog-grooming when she swapped hair salon for poodle parlour. Now nine years in Cornwall she operates

out of Hendraburnick Farmhouse at Davidstow, which she occupies alongside her equally artistic daughters Chloe and Madeleine.

Boho remains true to its philosophy of exhibiting and showcasing the work of some twenty local artists, in paint, sculpture, ceramics, folk art, textiles and jewellery. Visitors will appreciate the range of styles exemplified by Vanessa’s own contributions including her amazing macramé dream catcher and signature version velveteen hare.

CR

Bats in the Belfry



Minster Church is home to the largest greater horseshoe bat maternity roost in Cornwall, and one of the largest in the UK, but it is still a small population. Monitoring records show that the highest number recorded has not exceeded 200 during the last 9 years. This colony, sustained by the high-quality habitat in the Valency Valley, is also limited by its boundaries.

Greater horseshoes have suffered more than most other bat species from human activities. Changing land use, loss of woodlands, diminished insect resources, disturbance and destruction of roosts plus human persecution and ignorance have resulted in dangerously low numbers. The British population is estimated to have declined by 91% since 1900 and this once widespread species is now confined to South-West England.

Greater horseshoes are one of the largest British bats with a wingspan of between 14 and 16 inches. They can eat up to 3000 insects a night - a third of their bodyweight. Bats in general have suffered huge declines and churches provide important safe spaces for nine species to shelter.

This species is listed as a rare and threatened species, which means that landowners are not allowed to disturb the animals, even if they wanted to. Steve Coom, of the church’s fellowship committee, said: “They’re very messy but we do co-exist. When we have a service or a function we have to go in and wipe the poop away.”

The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently pledged an initial £3.8 million funding for the five year “Bats in churches” partnership project, bringing together wildlife and heritage conservation and church organisations to save bats and protect churches. Mike Symes, a Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project advisory officer, said: “This funding announcement is fantastic news, it will complement the important work that we are already doing here in the South West to help protect one of the UK’s rarest species.”

The most immediate outcome is developing proposals for 100 churches in England to put in place solutions to protect resident bat population while preventing further damage to the buildings.



DANGLING THE CARROT - NEW HOUSING IN BOSCASTLE

In Autumn 2006 a developer called Belsham Court Properties applied to build fifteen houses on the Bottreaux Garage site. The proposal aroused a good deal of controversy and local objection but was eventually passed with the proviso the development included three "affordable" dwellings. Whether or not this was a factor, to date no houses have been built.

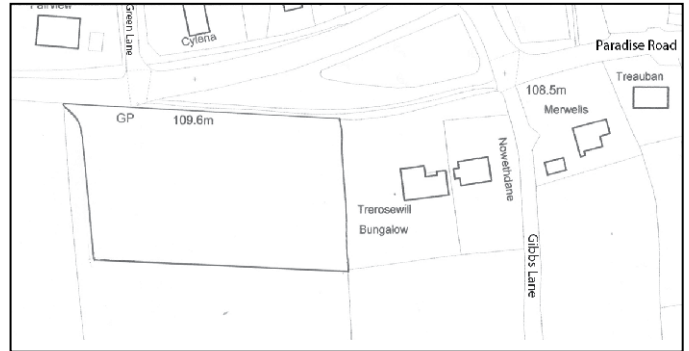
Cornwall Local Plan stipulates that developments should contain a proportion of affordable housing, (in Camelford area 30%) but where five houses or fewer were proposed a cash contribution (under Section 106 of the Housing Acts 1990/2004) towards other housing developments or community projects was an acceptable alternative.

At present the Camelford area is projected about 625 new homes of which only half are either built or planned leaving a significant shortfall for developers to exploit. Normally these would be restricted to brownfield or infill sites or within community "rounding off" curtilages. Later proposals not currently planned are variously labelled "windfall" sites. Camelford Town Council has long protested that the town neither needs or wants such a large increase in housing within the town, giving some leverage for those who seek development outside its boundaries.

Apart from the Belsham development there has been little proposed expansion in Boscastle, most applications confined to single owner-occupiers, and almost no proposals for affordable dwellings. In the Parish Plan response to the question of new homes was overwhelmingly in favour of those aimed at low income families.

Recent statistics: 27,000 on the waiting list for social housing in Cornwall, the proportion of owner-occupation in the UK fallen from 73% in 2007 to 67% today, point to a worsening situation for the average buyer, especially as the definition of "affordable" is up to £250,000, a fair whack by Cornish standards.

Where large-scale development has occurred, in Bude, Wadebridge and elsewhere desirable, a worrying number of new homes have been purchased as buy-to-lets or holiday homes. While rents of a three bedroom social housing property are typically under £400 a month, private tenancies are twice that, so that the intention to provide reasonably priced starter homes for young families has been circumvented. The barrier to buying is two-fold, the high mortgage cost beyond average local income and the size of deposit required. While varieties of shared ownership schemes are theoretically available these have not effectively solved



this particular problem.

Re-inventing the wheel, some companies now sell prefabricated off-site properties, which is a part solution, not however reducing the cost of acquiring land. Farmland is about £10,000 an acre, as building land many times that, hence the thrust to acquire planning permission. Even so, developers are accused of land banking, deliberately hoarding sites for future profit.

It will be quite interesting to see what developers propose next for the coastal strip between Bude and Port Isaac.

For interests' sake readers might look online at the lengthy application regarding PA17/00694 Outline Planning Permission with matters reserved for up to four new dwellings on land West of Trerosewill Bungalow (location plan shown above) provided 50% were designated starter homes which was granted consent at the Parish Council meeting 9th February.

CR


(Planning applications that have been submitted to Cornwall Council can be found online at www.cornwall.gov.uk and then follow the links to planning).

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Council Offers Exemption from Council Tax for Anyone Providing Evidence of Dog-Owners Failing to Clean up after their Dogs....

Sadly, not Boscastle or even Cornwall Council, but Liverpool's Mayor has made the offer to anyone supplying tip-offs, photos or video evidence, leading to the conviction of irresponsible dog-owners or fly-tippers. The Council will also send out undercover staff with video equipment after a tip-off from the public.

Many areas of Boscastle, have suffered a steep rise in dog faeces deposited on its roads and pavements and The Blowhole has frequently covered this persistent problem. It has become clear that the dogs in question must belong to residents, not visitors, because the problem is constant in the same areas, even in winter.

Some public-spirited resident has been conscientiously raising Cornish flags next to each offering to warn the public and shame the dog owners. Sadly, the owners appear to have no conscience.

Potters Lane seems to be a favourite dumping

ground, where a walk in the dark is likely to result in fouled shoes. Children use the road and pavements to practise skateboarding etc and a fall on fouled tarmac could have serious consequences for them.

There appear to be three different types of dog owner. Those who clean up, those who don't, and those who do, only to throw the non-degradable plastic bag into the bushes as soon as they are sure that no-one is watching. Environmentally, the third type is probably the worst.

I am not sure how to cure the problem at a local level but I think it is time the Government re-introduced the dog-licence. Now that dogs are micro-chipped, it would be easy to apply a substantial fee. This may deter impulse buying, thereby reducing the number of dogs on the streets. It would also transfer the huge cost of dog-waste collection from general taxation to dog owners, which seems very reasonable.

JM

Ten Years ago in the Blowhole



construction work continued around the village

Food & Craft Festival 2007 Cancelled

The Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce have, following a members meeting on 7th February, regretfully decided not to hold the Food Arts and

Craft Festival in the Car Park this year.

Bus Shelter 2007

No decision has been made, but it is expected that the cost of a shelter would be in the region of £2,000.

Twenty Years ago in the Blowhole

Millennium Project

Members of the Snooker Club have been busy behind the scenes working on the details of the proposal for a new Community Venue.

New Hosts at the Nap

Richard and Sherry Claridge have become tenants of Boscastle's famous Napoleon Inn on the retirement of Ivor and Vera Bright.

Home Farm

The National Trust confirmed that it was their intention to purchase Home Farm. The plan was to let the farm to a local person so that traditional farming could continue. The purchase would enable the Trust to create a new footpath from Minster Church through Minster Wood. And it might be possible to link up with the knoll above the Wellington.

Parish Council News

The Clerk has requested that District Cllr, J Lugg should try to arrange a collection in Boscastle of plastics etc for recycling.

Music Hall

The Blowhole produced a splendid, full colour centre spread to celebrate Boscastle's first music hall. The audience was taken back to 1897 and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year. Twenty-eight talented artists backed up by a team of almost as many backstage and front of house.

Plans for School

Village School to get much needed improvements...a new classroom building, a library and the outside toilet block will be demolished [so no more] cold damp sojourns for staff and children in winter days!



Boscastle

Chamber Of Trade & Commerce

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Boscastle Pantomime 2017: Peter Pan

We are very fortunate in Boscastle to have talented people, willing to give up their time to entertain less theatrical villagers - like myself! Rehearsals began in September last year for this year's Boscastle Pantomime of 'Peter Pan' (with the usual humorous local references and apologies to the author). The first of five performances was on 25th January, so with high expectations and my ticket in hand, along I went - and I was not disappointed.

We were introduced to Peter Pan (the talented and musical Jo Kent) in Mr and Mrs Darling's home. The scene then moved to the Neverland Forest where the irrepressible Tiger Lily (Mike Parsons) introduced us to some of the 'Indians'. I am sure Native Americans would have wondered at the phonetic and imaginative spelling of their tribes names - 'a patchee' (Apache?); 'poor knee' (Pawnee?) and 'shy Ann' (Cheyenne?). The scene then shifted to the Pirate Ship where Peter Pan's arch-enemy Captain Hook (Emma Goreham) bullied pirate Smee (Jeff Metters) unmercifully; he soon gained our sympathy for having to deal with such a scary (??) boss.

The main characters were ably supported by the other members of the cast, particularly the children. Tutored by Morwenna Gee and



Keely Christie played Tinkerbell
copyright photo courtesy David Flower

despite anxious looks on some of their faces, the children went through their synchronised 'paces' perfectly. An annual visit to Boscastle's Pantomime reminds us how fast these children are growing up. (We know how versatile and talented they are, since twelve of the children joined the Tap Dancing World Record attempt at the end of November 2016, helping to raise £271.86 for Children in Need.)

The 'backroom girls and boys' provided a seamless programme and

they and the cast have to be applauded (and were!) for their enthusiasm and memory - we were not reminded very often that Sue Digby was 'Prompt'. As in past years, the colourful backcloths were skilfully painted by John Blunt. Presiding over the mouth-watering refreshments were Carolyn Edwards and her helpers. On the night I attended, some of the refreshments had been provided by



Tiger Lily, Mike Parsons
copyright photo courtesy David Flower

Mandy Washer and were selling like the proverbial 'hot cakes'.

The evening was enjoyed by all the audience and an astounding £2159 was raised for the Village Hall funds, over the five performances. So a well-deserved 'Congratulations' to everyone involved.

GQ

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*Emma Goreham (Captain Hook), Jeff Metters (Smee),
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The New Team arrives at Forrabury with Tintagel Benefice

The arrival of meteorological spring, this year coinciding with the start of Lent, heralded a new start for Forrabury with Tintagel Benefice. New Priest-in-Charge Heather Aston has arrived to live in the Boscastle Rectory, whilst part time Assistant Priest Paul Spreadbridge has moved into the Priest's house in Tintagel in readiness for their joint Licencing Service at St Materiana church, Tintagel, on Sunday 26th March. They will jointly celebrate their first service in the benefice, a group Holy Communion at St. Materiana, Forrabury, on the following Sunday, April 2nd. All are welcome to attend.

The departure of Rector Robert Thewsey and Curate Paul Beynon, combined with the retirement of Assistant Priest Mike Parsons last summer, left the benefice without any clergy attached to us. During our interregnum we have had superb help from Rural Dean Tony Windross and retired priest Rob Yeomans, but it will be good when Heather and Paul take up their ministries with us. Heather and Paul will be spreading their activities throughout all the parishes in the benefice, with neither taking special responsibility for any of them. Both are very outgoing and eager to meet all in the area, not just 'churchgoers'.

Many will have noticed the extensive works carried out at Boscastle Rectory

over the past months. As with all Church of England properties in the Truro Diocese, the Rectory is owned and maintained under the direction of Church House in Truro. On Robert Thewsey's departure a full evaluation of the building was carried out and it was found to be in need of serious refurbishment.

The prime concern was the kitchen, where hazardous asbestos was found in the floor and in 'boxing' cladding pipe runs to the ceiling. This also continued in the room above. A specialist team was called in to remove the asbestos safely, after which the kitchen had to be redecorated, re-floored and new units fitted. In all other rooms plaster was found to be suffering from major cracks and bulges on one or more of the walls, necessitating re-plastering and redecoration.

It would have been good if local tradesmen could have carried out the work, but Church House in Truro lacks the staff required to project manage, solicit and review tenders for every work package required on the many properties that it administers. After a competitive tendering process some time ago a single company was appointed to project manage all works in church properties in the diocese, and that company has its own team of tradesmen, who carried out the works at the Rectory.

The end result is a Rectory that is safe and fit to live and work in. We hope that Heather, and all Priests and their families that succeed her, will find it a comfortable home, which is also suitable for all the many church activities take place there.

To conclude we wish Heather and Paul long and happy ministries with us, and hope that all living in the benefice will enjoy their fellowship.

*Trevor Lloyd
Church Warden
Forrabury and Minster
(Heather and Paul
introduce themselves to the
Blowhole on p22 & 23)*

Bottreaux Surgeries Patient Participation Group Update

Dr Paul Abbott is leaving the Practice at the end of March 2017 Dr Rebecca Walker is due to join the Practice in April 2017.

The new dispensary at Boscastle surgery has increased work & storage space which should improve service to patients. There will shortly be a card payment system in place for patients to pay for prescriptions & other items by debit card.

The Practice holds funds of £1,445 received in donations which are at the disposal of PPG, to be used for the benefit of patients. Plans include a re-vamp of the waiting room, removing the brick benches, a general re-organisation & creating a space for wheelchair use.

Patients' Queries include:

*When a patient phones for a GP appointment, could a nurse 'call back' be carried out to see if they, rather than a GP would be appropriate. Mathew Gibbons (MG) – no slots available for nurse call back. Receptionist maybe trained as 'clinical navigators' in case a nurse

rather than a GP could help.

*Dropped kerb for wheelchairs often blocked by parked cars. MG – Car park to be refurbished & remarked.

*Patients need to be advised as to procedure for prescriptions after seeing GP. Do they sit & wait or knock at pharmacy. Some confusion exists at present. MG to check with pharmacy staff.

*A handrail would help along the steep part of entrance for patient access walking down the hill?

*Handrail also needed in patient toilet. A raised toilet preferably as disabled facility is not good. Soap is not easily accessible.

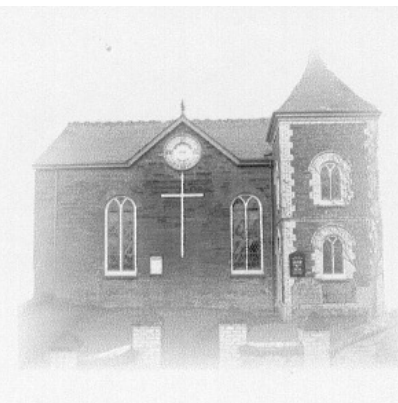
*Are diabetic blood testing sticks available in Cornwall? MG to check.

For information about PPG or to pass on compliments or information about procedural problems to the surgery, see www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk/ppg/ppg.htm

You can also contact **John Wakelin 01840 250314** or **Janey Comber 01840 230497**



Church and Chapel



A Methodist Ministers View

Although you will be reading this article in early April I am actually writing it in early March on the day that has been marked as World Book Day, an annual event which is marked in Bookshops, Libraries and Schools. The discussion on our local radio breakfast programme was about favourite books. One person, a retired clergyman, phoned in to say that his favourite book was 'The Bible', a response that you would naturally anticipate.

The Bible is really a library of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Some of you may remember a hymn which has the line 'God has given us a book full of stories...'. These stories and writings tell us of people's experiences of God and his inspiration of them over some 2,5000 years, and its themes are relevant for 21st Century living having inspired many people across the world over many years.

The Bible stories and messages reach their climax in the events which we Celebrate at Easter – the Crucifixion of Jesus, God's Son on Good Friday, and his Rising from Death – the Resurrection – on Easter Sunday, leading to God's power through the Holy Spirit being experienced by the early followers in the following days and weeks, and still experienced. We celebrate these events with Holy Days – Holidays, and mark them as we eat Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs. As we celebrate we are celebrating as millions have in years past, and still do across the world. These events bring to life some of the words of Jesus when he

said such words as: -

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are my friends" (John 15:12 & 14)

"I have come in order that you might have life- life in all its fullness" (John 10:10).

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may.... have eternal life" (John 3:16).

There is much for all of us to take to heart for our own living from the Bible, and the Easter Story. We need to ask questions of ourselves about these eternal truths for our everyday living.

*Every Blessing at Easter.
Bryan Ede*


Dear Blowhole Readers

I am delighted to have been appointed as Priest in Charge of the Boscastle and Tintagel Group of Parishes. I am to be licenced on Sunday 26 March in St Materiana, Tintagel at 18.30. The Reverend Paul Spreadbridge will be licensed as Associate Priest for the benefice at that same service and I hope you will be able to come to celebrate that occasion with us.

Although Paul will be living in Tintagel and I will be in the Rectory at Forrabury, we will both be ministering across all four parishes in the benefice, taking services, visiting people and getting involved in village and parish events. Please feel free to contact either of us as necessary, and do introduce yourselves when you see us out and about.

I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. After leaving school I spent twelve and a half years in the Women's Royal Naval Service, leaving in the rank of Second Officer WRNS. I then worked for British Aerospace in Lancashire, and studied part time to gain a Master's Degree in Business Administration. I went to work as an NHS manager first in South Staffordshire and then in South Birmingham, before taking up an NHS management post in Cornwall in 2007.

During this time my parish priest, Canon Pat Robson, persuaded me that God was calling me to the ordained ministry. I trained with South West Ministry Training Course for three years and was made Deacon in June 2013. I was sent to



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"YOUR LIGHT WILL BREAK FORTH LIKE THE DAWN"
Isaiah 58:8

the Meneage benefice, on the Lizard, to serve my curacy and was ordained Priest in June 2014.

I have a 31 year old son called Ben who lives and works in Dahab, South Sinai, but when he is in the UK he lives with me. My two sisters and my father (who will be 90 in September) live in the Midlands and so I travel to see them on a regular basis. I am in the third year of studying part time for a Master's degree in Christian Liturgy with Sarum College in Salisbury, which should be completed in September this year.

I look forward to meeting you all and to working with you in the benefice in the years to come. Please pray for Paul and for me as we begin our ministry with you, as we indeed will pray for you.

*God Bless
Heather*

A first message from Paul for the Blowhole



Hello. Good to be with you after some waiting following the interview in November. It is actually a well known process of discernment by both the parish and the priest, but it is good to be with you at last and both my wife Alison and I look forward to getting to know you and the area in the coming months.

My journey to being a priest, I believe, started when I was small when as an altar boy my parish priest said 'have you thought about being a priest?' Not bad when you are aged 10! But then followed a varied and exciting life for having joined the Royal Navy aged 16 I stayed for a full career serving on different ships at home and abroad.

I have also had other jobs including the police when I learnt much about working with many different and interesting people, both young and old, rich and poor and many with big problems. This community role, and a spell of self-employment in between, drew me to being considered for training for ministry as I responded to the call and after the usual long training I was ordained a priest at Rochester cathedral in 2003.

Since then I have served at three different parishes in Kent with my last appointment being in the Truro diocese which was a very happy time and to which I am pleased to return. I say that, because we went to live at Plymouth after retiring last year, but the pull of vocation is strong and can't be ignored - at least not for long!

Now here I am and as a priest have a joyful and committed job trying to bring God's love and the uplifting message of healing and forgiveness of Jesus to those I have been called to serve in this beautiful, rugged and historic benefice of eight churches.


The challenge may be big, but I am not alone as I feel your good will is with me and together with Heather as your new priest in charge we can achieve great things in God's name.


Along with my wife Alison, who is also a priest, and to whom I have been happily married for a long time, I bring myself along with plenty of hope and positivism to help grow the church numerically and most importantly spiritually.

I like visiting and pastoral outreach and meeting people and look forward to getting to know you and learning more in the time ahead.

My prayer is 'Lord work through me and what lies ahead. With your guidance together our endeavours will be blessed'

*Love to all
Paul & Alison*

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Welcome to our Spring update. I can remember when I first started teaching (many, many years ago) that this was the term when 'we got things done' as there were fewer celebrations and events. Nowadays the whole year is packed full of exciting happenings.

It seems to be part of our tradition that our Years 5 and 6 complete their Bikeability training in the depths of winter. They spent two days with Tony

Walters in the playground and then around the village – well wrapped up against the elements and, fortunately, mainly dry. Bikeability is the modern equivalent of the cycle proficiency course. The children improve their bike handling skills enormously and learn a great deal about road positioning for left and right hand turns, negotiating junctions that are both uphill and downhill and how to navigate their way around the village safely. Tony always makes a point on complementing our children and saying how much he enjoys working with us.

Mr Rix took a group of girls to a football festival last week. We have had a girls football club at lunch time for quite a long

time now and this was an opportunity for the girls to train with other schools and to play some competitive games. We won three of our six matches with the girls learning quickly and finding entertaining ways of celebrating goals.

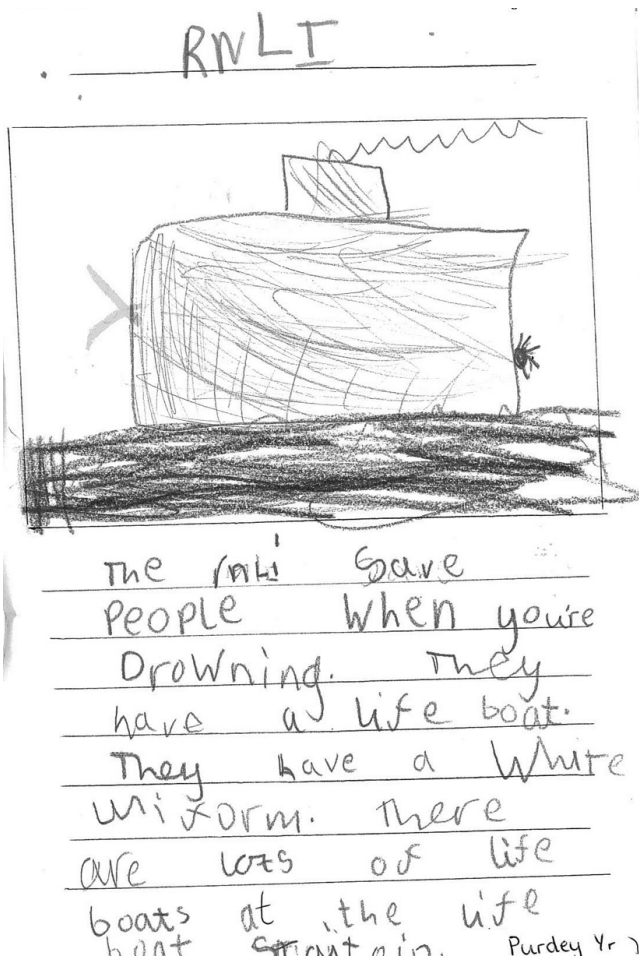
Class 1 will be visiting the Lifeboat station at Padstow next week as part of their project on the emergency services. They have been writing fact books about people who help us and I have enclosed some examples of their writing.

Class 3 have been stretching their imagination and enjoying communications with the beings on the planet Zog. There has been a number of letters winging their way back and forth with the descriptions about life in Boscastle and all of the peculiar things we Earthlings do. Star's writing has been included for you to enjoy

You may remember that at the start of the year we visited Truro Museum

to participate in the Bloodhound workshop. This was to learn about the vehicle that will try and break the land speed record and will be completing some testing at Newquay. This term as a continuation of this we have entered the Bloodhound race along with most of the other schools in Cornwall. We were given five foam 'brick' kits to shape to make an aerodynamic car. A team of five children will take our cars along to Stratton School where they will be fitted with a rocket, secured to a wire and blasted down a race track. All cars will be timed with the winners representing Cornwall in the regional finals. We think our cars look very sleek and are hopeful that we will do well.

It is the time of year that Janet and I don our running gear and spend an hour or so after school on a Friday with our cross country runners. We always have a good proportion of children joining this club. It is one



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Thankyou comrades on Planet Xogg for your excellent feedback about my first report. I will do my best to give you a detailed and descriptive report about one of the small people. For some time I have been observing one of the earthlings who goes by the name of Clark Smith.

I have seen Clark coming to school wearing the same clothes every day which are a navy blue jumper, black trousers and black rubbery shoes. He is the same size as one of my younger comrades which I guess is a good height.

He likes to play games and read stories with his friends like we do on Planet Xogg. I have seen water running down Clark's face and it is from his eyes. This is something called sadness when you show a negative emotion, no Zogon would understand what this is. When I asked him why he was sad he just simply walked away from me.

When out of school I have realised that

this particular earthling loves to ride his bike on something called the Camel Trail with his mum and dad. He has another great hobby, he plays basketball on a day of the weekend called Saturday.

Going back to the topic of school Clark loves English and Maths but hates Science. He has got two good friends called Sam and James who have known Clark for many earth years. The good thing is that Clark has a good time at school and he has lots of other tall and small earthling companions.

I hope my report is satisfactory and that you now have enough information to decide whether or not relocation on Planet earth is something we will attempt. Let the stars of the galaxy guide your decision.
Yours Sincerely
Captain Meteor of the Solar System

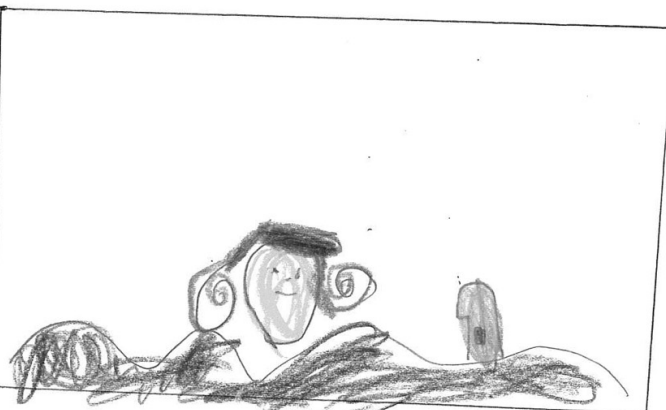
STAR TRICK

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out sea.



of my favourites as we have a great mixture of children and not always those that you would expect. What generally happens in training is that Janet and I trot along at a steady pace, some are far too fast for us and lap us quite regularly and others adopt a more walk and chat then sprit style! Our first race is a Landrake which, if the weather is bad can be epic with a various slopes, some with ropes to slide down, a marsh. An enormous ditch and something the height of Mount Everest at the

end - a least that what it feels like to me!

By the time you read this we will be near our Easter holidays and two thirds of the way through the school year already! I wish you sunny Easter and look forward to reporting on our activities next term.

Best wishes, Sarah Duffy



Literacy Tuition

There are quite a few adults out there who are not confident of their reading and writing skills, but they are understandably shy about coming forward.

Being retired, and having the skills, I would like to offer private tuition to such people, free of charge and in strictest confidence. Just give me a ring on 01840 250186 to see what we can arrange.

ERIC LESLIE GILL, 12 DEC 1940 – 18 DEC 2016



had such good times meeting other locals and having a joke and a jar of ale. He and Val enjoyed great sing-a-long nights in those early days. The Cobweb was such a great place.

In 2015 due to Eric's ever continuing bad health, Eric and Val sadly, decided to move to be

Eric joined the Metropolitan Police Force in 1963 and retired in 1991 with ill health after 28 ½ years serving in various districts of London, having walked the beat for the first 2 years, with an old time copper showing him the ropes, as they did in those days. Eric always said that during that time on the beat, he never got wet or cold on a rainy day or night, hmmm! Wonder where he went? 2 years on the beat was enough, so then he applied for the C.I.D. where he loved working. After a few years he moved on yet again to Diplomatic Protection, where he was an armed officer on a motor cycle, racing round the capital doing his duty.

Eric passed his Class 1 Police Car Driver course in 1975 and went into Traffic Division TDS North London. He experienced many horrific road traffic accidents during that time. He passed his police

sergeant's exam and so moved on again to Kings Cross police station, a very busy and stressful place to work. Next he decided that a more leisurely position would serve him to the end of his time, that was to be in charge of the central London underground car parks where the public's cars were taken when removed from the streets on parking penalties. Well, he thought it was to be less stressful, but there he had to deal with irate drivers who wanted their vehicles back. However, Eric always said that he enjoyed his days in the Met.

Eric and Val moved to Lesnewth March 1992. Eric settled into gardening vegetables and renovating the house using his carpentry skills that he obtained on leaving school after a five-year joinery apprentice.

Over the years Eric's health declined even more until he could no longer do physical work. Eric

loved Lesnewth and the characters who lived in the area and yes, they were characters, very individual people, some lived there to get away from the hustle of daily city life and others who had lived there all their lives, with many stories to tell of years gone by. Eric loved listening to them. Most of all was The Cobweb at Boscastle, Ivor and Vera were then the landlord and lady. He

closer to services, hospitals etc. Neither really wanted to leave Lesnewth but it was just too far from hospitals. So it was to be St Dominick in the Tamar Valley where they made their new home but never forgetting the friends they left behind at Lesnewth and Boscastle.

Eric passed away peacefully at home after a battle with pancreatic cancer, nursed by Val.

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January mists crept across Bodmin Moor, muffling sounds and softening the view, the day Boscastle WI members visited RAF Davidstow Moor Memorial Museum. With such a desolate aspect, it was difficult to imagine the noise of aircraft and vehicles and the comings and goings of service men and women on the Moor in the 1940's.

The dedication that David Keast and his wife Pat have bestowed on the creation of the Memorial Museum and their cataloguing of the history of RAF Davidstow, is impressive. David's passion for the history of RAF Davidstow Moor Coastal Command is evident in his presentation of information, photographs, uniforms, old style technology and other interesting objects

RAF Davidstow was an operational station opened in October 1942, where aircraft flew daily, carrying bombs and depth charges. It was also an important base for search and rescue



missions by aircraft, looking for aircrews ditched in the English Channel and the Bay of Biscay. The airfield was multi-national, having American, Canadian and Polish squadrons flying in and out or being stationed there.

Whilst many items in the Museum were familiar and brought back memories to the older WI Members, one surprise was a tiny chapel dedicated to the RAF. Tucked behind a curtain and having a small strained glass window, it was a place for prayer and contemplation.

The Museum is free to visit and open 10.30am-4pm from Easter to the end

of October. It is full of information and there is so much to absorb that one visit isn't enough.

On Jan 24th, the Coffee Mornings met at Boscastle Farm Shop, where they indulged in delicious cakes and snacks –it is always a favourite café with the members.

Our February meeting focused

on nominating a committee for 2017 - one new face was added to eight re-elected members. There is no speaker when arranging a new committee so, as it was St Valentine's Day, a quiz followed the business of the day focusing on all things romantic – and your writer's team won!

It was agreed that the Coffee Mornings will attend the Otterham and St Juliot's Hall Pancake Day on 28th February, where there will be a raffle, books and bric-a-brac on sale.

Our members are all looking forward to the return of speaker Lynn Gould in March. Lynn was one of our memorable speakers in 2015, when she led us though 'Daphne du Maurier's Cornwall'. This time she will talk on 'The Life of Kenneth Grahame' and his book 'Wind in the Willows'. Although Kenneth Grahame was born in Edinburgh, he spent his childhood years in Cookham Dene, with his Grandmother. It is believed that the setting for 'Wind in the Willows' came from his association firstly with the river Thames, which flows passed this 'rural idyll', and his Cornish holidays at Fowey, where his marriage took place, with Elspeth Thomson on 22nd July, 1899.

Should you be interested in joining us at any of our meetings, we are a friendly group. We get together every second Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 2pm, come along and get to know us. You may even know some of us already.

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The Reading Room

The time has come for me to, once more, open the door of The Ancient Reading Room in our little Cornish Fishing Village. The sense of history always surrounds me and I call to mind the traditions which are embedded deep in Cornish culture.

Cornwall is rich in Celtic myths and legends and Cornish Folk are born storytellers, it is part of their inheritance. In bygone days, stories would have been told by wandering 'droll' storytellers, sung in ballad form by Balladeers, and then told by folk around a fire on a winter's night. They would be welcomed by villagers and given friendship, a meal and a bed in exchange for their stories and perhaps a chore or two. Of course these travellers became a source of information about the people of the neighbourhood. Such folk had largely disappeared by the middle of the nineteenth century but one of their obvious descendants survived until 1974. A certain Bill Chubb

of Liskeard got a pedlar's licence in 1907 and travelled the countryside as umbrella-man and knife grinder. He became well known for his songs and stories. He was also a well-known seer but his credibility deserted him when his prediction that the world would end in 1968, failed! Oral storytelling is as one of the most ancient art forms. Passed on by word of mouth, long before reading and writing became commonplace. It served as a means of communicating news, teaching moral principles and tribal law as well as explaining the origins of life and the universe.

It encompasses a vast heritage of love, myths, epic tales, folk tales and traveller's tales. Tales of the creation of the world, its destruction, sagas of Gods and men from around the world- brought to our shores by visiting traders and seafarers. Each storyteller's interpretation is unique. It can inspire and change lives.

Luckily such storytelling can still be experienced!

What's more one such event is going to happen on our doorstep!

The event is on May 30th 2017 – June 1st 2017 at TINTAGEL CASTLE between 11a.m. and 5 p.m. If you would like more information or tickets phone 01840770328. Be prepared to be spellbound by traditional tales of Arthurian folklore and take part in medieval games and role-play.

Or step inside a book or two with the bookworms in The Reading Room!!!

The Code Book: The Evolution of Secrecy from Mary Queen of Scots to Quantum Cryptography by Simon Singh.

Simon Singh was born in Wellington Somerset in 1964. His parents emigrated from Punjab in India in 1950. He is the youngest of three brothers. He graduated from Imperial College London with a degree in Physics and later achieved a PhD in Particle Physics at CERN in Geneva.

He taught for many years but then joined the BBC where he produced and directed 'Tomorrow's World' and 'Horizon'. He became famous when he won a BAFTA for his documentary 'Fermat's Last Theorem'.

This book was highly recommended to us by another bookworm. We were all grateful to have had it placed in front of us and also for that bookworm for explaining the essence of it to us all. The text has clear technical and mathematical explanations and portraits of the remarkable personalities who wrote and broke the world's most difficult codes. He is a very readable writer:

'Code-breakers are linguistic alchemists, a mystical tribe attempting to conjure sensible words out of meaningless symbols'

He attempts to chart the evolution of codes and also to demonstrate how the subject is more relevant today than ever before.

Most of the bookworms did not manage to read this book for themselves even though it truly fascinated us all. I found it was well beyond me! I got through it but I skipped a lot of 'stuff'. However, I also found bits interesting, well written and fascinating. Every so often I was forced to stop as my brain hurt! I took solace from Simon Singh himself who said:

'The only people who are in a position to point out my errors are also those who are not at liberty to reveal them'.

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The Reading Room *continued*

Cutting for Stone
by Abraham Verghese

This is a novel written by an Ethiopian-born medical doctor and author. It is a saga of twin brothers, orphaned by their mother's death at their births and forsaken by their father. It is a book full of medical jargon which can be confusing to the layman and difficult to understand at times. The book enlightens the reader on Ethiopian culture and the living conditions. It highlights the lack of medical care available to the majority of Ethiopians and how they live in daily fear due to the level of corruption which is rife.

The bookworms all agreed the book showed beautiful descriptive writing but all had some reservations. It took about four hundred pages to 'get in to' the book which was a waste of about 20% of the book in our opinion. The description, though well-written, were very detailed and the medical ones could also be too gory. One bookworm suggested that the style of writing perhaps reflected the culture – examining the minutia of life and taking joy in detail.

Most bookworms found

it hard to reconnect with the story after leaving it for a while. One bookworm suggested there is such a contrast between their culture and ours that it affected how much we could retain the characters enough during a gap away from the story.

Some bookworms found it good after the initial slow start and felt several felt a real connection with the main characters. One bookworm felt it was the best book she had read for a long time. If you like a challenge, most bookworms felt this book was a worthwhile one.

Storyline: 8.5

Quality of writing: 7

The Outrun
by Amy Liptrot

Amy Liptrot was born in 1982 on Orkney where her parents ran a sheep farm and this is where Amy grew up and spent her early life. She went to University in Edinburgh where she became editor of the student newspaper. She also wrote for the local newspaper at home, 'Orkney Today'. Later she had her work published in various magazines and journals as well as blogs. She also became a regular columnist for 'Caught by the River'. This was a website

that began life just over nine years ago. It allowed stressed urban dwellers to appreciate pleasures of the countryside and to re-engage with nature. It has since expanded to encompass a magazine, book publishing, a record label, live events and now boutique festivals.

The *Outrun* is the author's first book and it was published in 2016 when Liptrot was aged 34. It is a memoir about overcoming addiction whilst exploring The Orkney landscape. It blends an evocative account of her life on the edge and sublime nature writing.

Will Self said, in his review for *The Guardian*, Liptrot: "writes extremely well about this voyage into the Stygian, obsessive-compulsive depths-she has a sharp eye for social detail and is ruthless in dissecting her own pathology."

A unique feature of this memoir is the author's obsession with the digital world. Even on the remotest island she needed to know she had a broadband connection. She used an online app. on her phone to track the routes she uses

to explore the island. It also allows her to identify changes in her walking pace indicating her walks were becoming slower and more contemplative. The juxtaposition of the online and natural worlds is at the heart of this book and of her impulse to write. She also believes Broadband might be a force against depopulation of the islands.

Her writing is a mix of clear-eyed insight and a poetic heart. Amy Liptrot welcomes her readers by describing the scene of her mother being wheel-chaired from a small plane flying into Orkney after giving birth, prematurely, whilst her father is being wheeled to the plane in a straightjacket following a manic episode of his Bi Polar disorder. He meets Amy for the first time as the wheelchairs pass.

She is desperate to leave the isolation of the islands and moves to London at the age of 23. Life unfolds and she becomes torn apart by drink and drugs. She, eventually, decides to leave behind the chaos of her metropolitan life and return to Orkney, knowing there

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The Reading

Room *continued*

was a hard challenge ahead to regain her sobriety.

Several bookworms found this book repetitive. One bookworm found it tedious and one found it self-indulgent. Most bookworms admired her ability to have clarity of thought and of having depicted so well the issues she deals with in her writing. She was very honest about her dilemmas. Many bookworms found the story absorbing and well written. It gave a sense of place, describing Orkney with true understanding. It gave an insight into the communities on the islands and how they each differ. It was interesting to witness someone getting to know, as an adult, the place they knew as a child.

Several bookworms admired the ability to write such beautiful prose. Liptrot has undoubted power as a writer and I, for one feel she is a real find. A writer whose voice seems fully formed on the page.

The majority of bookworms would recommend that you read this book.

Storyline: 7.5

Quality of writing: 7

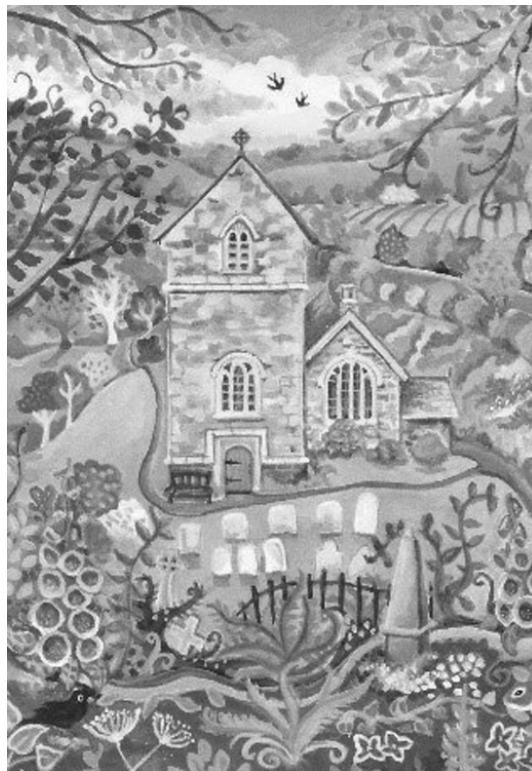
We hope you have been inspired to pick up one of these books and we hope you will join us next time in The Reading Room.

Yours truly

The Keeper of the Key



Minster Community Fellowship – Spring 2017



Since the last edition of the Blowhole, we can confirm that £2,875 was raised in 2016. Once again, a big thank you for all your support with concerts, donations and the purchase of merchandise last year. Fundraising will continue in 2017 and will hopefully involve another fun evening of entertainment.

From these funds we have now paid Minster insurance costs of £1,119 and approximately £200 is required to fund the materials needed by the Minster Muckers to replace the existing steps leading to the spring. These are much needed works and will improve access for visitors to Minster.

The major expenditure for 2017 continues to be the window renovations which will start early this year. Since the information boards were put up at

a whole/part window or a single pane of glass. Information on how to donate can be found at Minster, Facebook or contact Malcolm Baker on 01840-250482.

Now spring is upon us we are still selling our Spring cards (*pictured left*) by artist Kirsty Hosking and via Harbour Lights, Cornish Stores, The Picture Parlour, The Farm Shop or by contacting Liz or Garry on 01840-250466. These are perfect for Easter and all profits go towards Minster.

Minster Muckers will again be busy with the spring tidy up at Minster, so if you would like to be involved please contact Andy Humpreys at The Old Forge Gallery by phone 01840-250588 or email theoldforgegallery@yahoo.co.uk

We are always looking for new members, or if you just want to help in any way please contact us by Facebook, website (*contact details below*) or by phoning Justine Chater (new Chair Person) 01840-250677.

JC

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VICTOR TOBUTT

12TH OCTOBER 1944 -10TH APRIL 2016

Landlord of the Wellington Hotel 1986-2003

Many Blowhole readers will remember Victor and will have been saddened to hear he passed away last year in France. A church service was held in the village of Cadillon and he was cremated in Pau surrounded by close family and friends. A service of thanksgiving for Victor took place back in his home country of England at the church of St Oswald, Cheam in October.

I would like to focus on his time in Boscastle. He had led a very busy life before moving into the Wellington Hotel in 1986. Victor and his lovely French wife, Solange, were a great team and easily adapted to their new lifestyle. I thought of him as larger than life as, according to the Cambridge dictionary, 'If someone is larger than life, that person attracts a lot of attention because they are more exciting or interesting than most

people,' - an appropriate epithet for Victor.

The Wellington Hotel was a real hub for village life and Victor was a great promoter. He thoroughly enjoyed the folk sessions, welcoming everyone in with an expansive grin like a landlord in a Hogarth painting. Pool, darts and charity nights were other highlights. He relished his golf and walking on the coastal paths with his dog, Murphy. He also sat on many committees and trade associations and was a Parish Councillor.

I have many memories of Victor, notably our Silver Wedding in 1995. Our son, a regular player at the music sessions, asked us if we were going to celebrate. I jokily replied that I thought the children usually arranged something. His solution was to ask Victor if he could hold a special music night at the Wellie to

celebrate, but to keep it a secret from us. Victor agreed wholeheartedly and said he would spread the word. We arrived at there for the extra music night to find it packed and then it slowly dawned they were all friends and family. It was amazing and utterly unexpected. Victor and Solange had organised a wonderful buffet on the house - and a champagne toast. Such a generous gesture demonstrates his thoughtfulness as a family man.

Victor loved his family and family gatherings and he enjoyed entertaining, being a great raconteur. Sharon, his daughter, often visited Victor and Solange at the Wellie, regarding it as her sanctuary - even if she

did lend a hand behind the bar, chambermaiding and waitressing. It was obvious she had a special bond with her Dad and was very proud of all his achievements, as he was of hers!

He was a great husband, friend, soulmate and the love of Solange's life. She has wonderful memories of their time together both here and in France. Victor embraced the French rural life, and was adopted by Solange's family and the local community. The Mayor raised a Union Jack flag in memory of Victor at last year's celebration of Armistice Day on 8th May.

Everyone who knew him will also have very special memories of a very special man.

Cheryl Maughan

Jane's Table Top Sales Valency Lawn 2017

These will begin on Sunday May 7th. Thereafter (weather permitting) on May 28th, June 11th/25th, July 16th/28th, August 13th and 28th. Proceeds towards Macmillan/Marie Curie, Air Ambulance, Last Chance Hotel, Moorland Ponies, Castle Goff Cat Sanctuary, Coastwatch, Merlin Trust and Nowzad.

Given the location (by kind permission and support of Jane Castling) there is a constant stream of passersby and interested locals so an ideal location for getting rid of preloved items and raising money for good causes. New faces and goods welcome!

If interested in either a regular or one-off stall, please contact Jane on 250046 or Chris Rodda 250012

CR

Boscastle School Duck Race Day - JULY 2nd!

You can look forward to the human-fruit machine, cake stall, Treasure Hunt, Hoopla and Tombola, coconut shy, face-painting, a bouncy castle, a skittles alley and numerous booths that sell cakes and other food, drinks, bric-à-brac and toys.

Race for Life

Boscastle school will be holding a Race for Life Event (for cancer research) on 9th April at the Football Field. The race is divided by ages and open to ALL! On the day you will find a tombola, a great cake stall and other opportunities to spend your money for a good cause! Pre-registration for runners is preferred, contact Julie Potter on: 01840 250488 or via www.facebook.com/events/133929490463684

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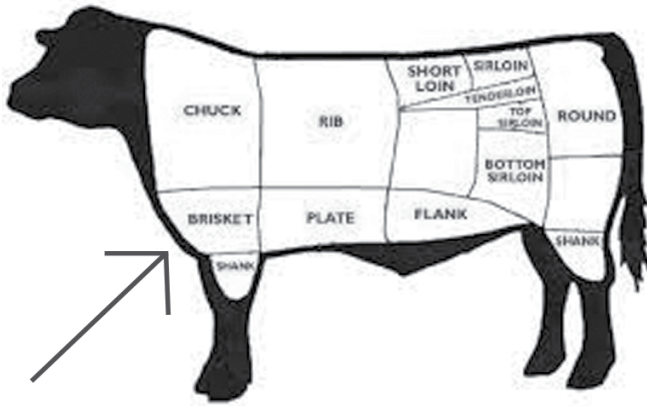
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PAT'S COOKERY CORNER



In praise of brisket

I'm a big fan of the cheaper cuts of meat. I think long slow cooking produces lots of flavour but in truth it probably all goes back to my childhood when the casseroles and stews of our weekday meals were all based on what we could afford and that meant rabbit, pork bones or beef shin with lots of home-grown vegetables from the garden. And at weekends we'd have a joint of brisket, another cheap cut which comes from the side of a cow's ribcage so it's naturally tough. This is not an excuse to buy the mysterious shrink-wrapped package from your supermarket's selection of half-price meats. But do the right thing and buy from one of our excellent local butchers. I recently bought superb brisket at around £5.50 a kilo from Button Meats at Michaelstow. Yes, it does need long, slow cooking but there the advantage is that it will do most of its cooking in a cool oven whilst you can go away and do something else. Give it a good sear to start with to develop some flavour, add carrots, onions, celery, seasoning then braise until meltingly tender. Brisket's

open-grained texture, generous fattiness and deep flavour make it perfect for slow roasting, as well as boiling. Ask your butcher for the thick end of the brisket, boned and rolled, and make sure he doesn't trim off the fat.

The following recipe provides lenty for four to six people and you ought to have some over.

3lb piece boned, rolled beef brisket

2 or 3 garlic cloves, bruised

2 or 3 carrots cut into chunks

2 celery stalks cut into chunks

2 onions peeled and quartered

Couple of sprigs of thyme

Olive oil

Black peppercorns

Wine or beer or stock

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6. Put the brisket in a large casserole pot. Tuck the garlic and thyme inside and under it. Pour over two to three tablespoons of olive oil and massage into the meat, then season well. Add the chopped carrots, celery and onion. Put the meat in the oven for 20-30 minutes, then remove it. Turn down the oven to 130C/250F/

gas mark 1/2, cover the meat with stock, beer or wine and return to the oven for three hours. After this time, the beef should be very tender. Remove the lid, baste it with its juices and turn up the heat to 170C/325F/gas mark 3 and cook, uncovered, for another forty minutes or so. You can serve the hot beef in thick slices now with potatoes and the reduced cooking juices, or leave it to cool in its liquid until the next day. Again, slice thickly and reheat in its cooking juices. Some claim it is better left overnight like this although we like to eat it the day it's cooked.

Last week I had enough silky brown brisket for the next day, which I pulled

into rough strips and tossed into a crisp salad made with iceberg lettuce, radish, cucumber, baby plum tomatoes and red onion slices. I dressed it with a mustardy vinaigrette and, if anything, it made even better eating than having it hot – the soft beef soaks up some of the dressing and was so moreish that there and then we polished off the lot.

Pat Thorne.

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Thank you very much for continuing to bring your stamps to the surgery or through my letterbox at 8 Pentargon Road. The sales from the group I work for raised over £26,000 for the RNIB last year so keep them coming!

ML

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 Across 1 damson 5 denizen 10 amah 11 orris
 12 Nepal 13 pestle 15 use 16 Eric 18 fa 19 old 20 taxi
 21 abbot 23 eel 25 diee 26 bloc 27 ennu 28 Ian
 29 reek 31 egg 32 obtuse 36 ant 39 oast 40 deep
 41 tea 42 aerie 45 extend 47 elder 48 tend 49 amber
 Down 1 dan 2 amenable 3 map 4 sharmrock 5 Dresden
 6 Erse 7 nit 8 islet 9 nescient 11 opulent 14 eradicate
 17 ixia 18 fabricate 22 Boer 24 lung 30 abound
 31 esteem 33 ta 34 USA 35 empty 37 next 38 Tate
 40 deer 43 rib 44 ide 46 en

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News from the Lookout



At least this year didn't start with the bang of the lightning strike that heralded the arrival of 2016.

But we have had strong winds in plenty, some even powerful enough to bring one of our Watchkeepers to his knees on his way up to the Lookout. In the best traditions of the Bond films, although he was shaken he wasn't stirred to resign.

Some of you may have noticed that when the winds are at their strongest we don't fly our flags but a traditional Storm Cone, point up for a gale from the North, point down for a gale from the South. Unfortunately this quite a heavy piece of kit that has put a major strain on our mast and halyards and

so we are investigating a simpler flag that will convey the message without the drama.

However, the winter weather did give us the opportunity to enjoy our new integrated heating system which removed the ever present risk of scorched trousers that we suffered if we stood too close to its predecessor.

Even though we have more really local members than we have ever had, both as Watchkeepers and Supporters, it's still a surprise to find that some of our number come from the other side of the A30 and live closer to Tavistock than Boscastle.

There's got to be something that keeps them coming, whatever the weather. Knowing that you are doing something that could help others is obviously one reason, particularly for those of us not cut out to help in a Charity Shop, but it might also be the company.

We have people from every background from engineers to educators, from pilots to policemen, artists to advertising and so there's never a shortage

of advice when it's needed and we had the chance to catch up with people we don't share a shift with at our annual Christmas dinner. This year it was at the Wellington and 31 members and guests had a most enjoyable evening. Some half a dozen members also attended last November's Remembrance Day parade.

Three of the Boscastle Cliff Rescue team, made an impromptu visit to the watch which gave us an opportunity to demonstrate out our facilities/capabilities, including our dedicated VHF channel. Channel 65 was awarded to the NCI last year and



a national campaign is under way explaining its purpose to professional and recreational sea-goers alike.

We expect it get a lot more use as the summer begins in earnest.

Remember you don't have to walk up to the Lookout to help our cause, we are always happy to welcome volunteers as fund raisers to keep the station going.

So if you, or any one you know, would be interested in spending a few hours each month looking out for others, then call our Manager, Chris Evans on 01566 781449

Have a good season
MW

 Rainfall totals measured in Boscastle  SX 09697 90138			
	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017
Total rainfall in mm	65.2	101.2	91.8
Max daily rainfall in mm	15.8	19	19.4
Date on which max fell	10 th	6 th	1 st
Number of days with no rainfall	11	12	8
<i>Total rainfall for same month in previous year</i>	<i>180.8</i>	<i>196.8</i>	<i>122.2</i>


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North Coast Harmony

A new and exciting venture for Boscastle and the surrounding area!

We are a new, all female contemporary vocal group, for ladies with or without singing experience, meeting at 7pm in Boscastle Village Hall on Monday evenings, starting on the 8th May. And we'd love for you to come and join us!

Having a fair bit of knowledge in these things, and having moved in to the area from another part of the county (well, one of us anyway!), we came to the conclusion over the winter that we really missed the sound of ladies group harmonies. "What shall we do?" we asked "Start a vocal group!" we replied (we don't often talk to each other in unison, but hey, we were excited). And so, North Coast Harmony was born.

So, why do we sing, and why do we want you to come and join us? Not

only is it sociable and fun, many experts and studies agree there is a benefit to you physically and psychologically; it's an easy aerobic exercise, benefiting your heart and lungs. It's also been shown to help your body release natural chemicals that promote happiness, and reduce anxiety and stress. But more than that, we love meeting and spending time with ladies who love to sing, helping them to grow in confidence and develop their voice, and we love when it all comes together and some amazing harmonies are created.

"How do I get involved?" We hear you ask. It's simple really; come to the Village Hall on Monday evenings and sing (no need to book, just turn up). You don't need to have done anything like this before; all you need is to be a lady over 16, who loves to

sing... in the shower, in the car, to your dog, wherever takes you fancy! Anyone can do it, and everything you need to know you'll learn with us in a supportive and friendly environment, with likeminded ladies. Our Director is skilled and knowledgeable; she's an accomplished singer, specialising in female vocal harmonies, and experienced in working with ladies who have little or no musical background. We'll provide you with all the resources you'll need at home; recordings of the songs we're learning and copies of the sheet music (don't worry, you don't have to be able read music, just the song words). There is no extensive homework, and all you need to do is listen to the recordings whenever you can find time.

The evening will be structured to allow plenty of time for vocal warm ups (very important to get the best out of your voice), for learning songs and for a tea break. It's as much about catching up with old friends and new friends, and enjoying yourselves, as it is about the music.



We really hope you'll come and join us, and as your first week is free, you've got nothing to lose. Why not come along and see what we're about?

If you want to know more, please do get in touch on the details below, or just feel free to turn up on the night. We look forward to meeting you!

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Melanie & Sian



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The Museum of Witchcraft and Magic

The Museum has been closed for several months but we will re-open on April 1st and remain open daily until October 31st. Our 2017 exhibition is called "Poppets, pins and power: the Craft of Cursing" and explores the dark side of magic and the human instincts that inspire people to make dolls for cursing. This features dolls from Britain, Africa and the Americas (including Peru, Haiti and New Orleans).

Over winter, we have also revamped quite a lot of the displays including our Images of Witchcraft gallery which now has a section on "famous witches" such as Mother Shipton, Circe, Medea, Joan of Arc and Morgan le Fay. Our upstairs gallery now includes a detailed look at the life and work of "The Great Beast" Aleister Crowley which features the relationship between the Museum's founder, Cecil Williamson and Crowley. They seem to have known each other quite well and Cecil's notes suggest that there was more to each man than their public, media representations. We have also taken a lot of objects out of the Museum's store

to create a new display of "Charms, Talismans and Amulets" from around the world. In our gallery on witchcraft today, we have created two new sections to reflect recent donations to the collection: one on Shamanism (in a nutshell, the magical practices of indigenous peoples) and the other on The Northern Tradition (the use of Runes, the worship of Gods and Goddesses such as Freya and Woden, and the importance of trees to magic). Outside the Museum, we have created a fantastic wishing well to raise money for Cornwall Air Ambulance and we have also extended our herb garden to make it more of a feature and to teach people about the symbolism and folklore of plants.

We have lots of events coming up in 2017 and have created a special events leaflet to help people keep track of what is going on. Please come and pick one up free from the Museum at any time. Coming up soon is a workshop on the Folklore of Magic and a Straw Craft day. On the weekend of May 6th-7th, we will be hosting an academic conference on

the theme of cursing at the Wellington Hotel. We will also be having late night, candlelit evenings on the following Saturdays: April 15th, 3rd June, 22nd July, 5th August, 26th August and 28th October (also the date of our All Hallow's Eve dark happening).

On June 24th, we will be holding a Midsummer Celebration with Merv

Davey, the Cornish Piper and Grand Bard where there will be traditional Cornish dance and folk music. Another busy year ahead at the Museum and we hope there will be something to intrigue and entice everyone to visit! More dates for this year's events in future edition of the Blowhole.

JH

Kindred Spirits Tickets Selling Fast!

This year's Kindred Spirits festival will be held over the weekend of 27/28 May at Waterloo Farm in North Petherwin. The site is in flat pasture surrounded by rolling hills and ancient woodland, creating a beautiful natural amphitheatre for the festivities to take place.

The line-up so far includes six-piece Plymouth groovers *Land of the Giants*, legendary party DJs *Hong Kong Ping Pong* as well as a long list of quality acts including *Dusk at Dawns*, *Innereyefull*, *Ten Bob Notes* and *The Countrymen*.

Kindred Spirits prides itself on being a family-friendly festival with plenty of things to entertain children as well as adults. The campsite is on flat

ground and amply serviced by running water and toilets. The on-site catering, offers a choice of mouth-watering meals and snacks to keep everyone fuelled through the weekend and the licensed bar has a range of real ales, lagers, wines, spirits and soft drinks.

Adult tickets are £60 per person, accompanied children 10-17 £30, under 10s free. The price includes two nights camping and all entertainment. Day tickets are available via the website - £20 for adults and £10 for children. For more details, or to book your ticket go to www.kindredspirits.co.uk or check out the festival's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kindredspiritsfestival

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AJ

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Paul Tamplin

GETTING READY FOR SPRING PLANTING

It always amazes me how the time seems to slip through your fingers between the itching-to-get started period around the beginning of January and the rush of better-get-it-done-this-month by the time you get to March. I thought I'd got off to a pretty early start by sowing my tomato seeds in the propagator in February and was impatient to see the first true leaves appear so that I could pot them on. It's been windy and wet all week and I put off going out into the greenhouse and now they really do look leggy. I shall have to brave the wind and rain and get the job done today, holding them by their little



tomatoes ready to pot on

cotyledon leaves so as not to damage the stem, and burying them up to their necks in order to encourage a good strong stem and root system. Having experienced two successive years of crop failure with the heritage and beefsteak strains, I'm going for Sungold this year – a delicious heavy-

cropping sweet cherry type and I am sticking with the San Marzano plum tomato as a good cooking variety for making and freezing my own passata.

The seed potato order arrived last month and I set them to chit in egg boxes in my bright, frost-free conservatory. I saw a programme about Mayan Gold last autumn and have been lucky enough to get some from Marshall's seed catalogue. A mid-season/main crop variety, they will roast, chip or mash and have a glorious deep creamy yellow colour.

Best of all, they are said to be delicious. I'll report back later in the year on my success or failure, provided I can keep them clear of the dreaded eel worm. The other variety I am planting is Pink Fir Apple, a late maturing salad variety that

has an exceptionally good flavour though it *is* very knobbly and not the most beautiful tuber to look at. It's said to be susceptible to blight (I've just learned) so I could be in for yet another disappointment. But that's gardening for you, mostly it's just a hostage to fortune, or in my case – the weather. I might also give them a go in plastic sacks or potato grow bags. That will give me an early crop and this is a useful and successful technique if you have a small veg patch, or a persistent pest problem, such as eel worm, wire worm and slugs, all of which can make potatoes ungrowable on some soils. Even if you have no garden, just a balcony or yard, you can still get a good crop of potatoes like this. Plant 2 tubers in an inside-out compost bag in the greenhouse in March (or in August if you want potatoes for Christmas). I will roll down the sides of the compost bags to about half their height, make a few holes in the bottom of the



chitting potatoes

plastic for drainage and fill the bag to about the depth of six inches. I mix soil from molehills, John Innes and compost about a third of each. Then I bury two tubers per bag the soil/compost mix and back fill another three or four inches on top. Water in well and leave the sacks in the greenhouse or somewhere bright, frost free and a little warm. Within 3 weeks or so, they begin to shoot, move them outside before the bag gets too heavy to move and keep topping up as the plants grow. You should reap the reward of a good, clean, early harvest.

I also gave the raised beds a jolly good going-over in the autumn and tipped a couple of wheelbarrows-full of compost over each one. Now that the winter weather has done its job I've raked the soil and covered each one with black plastic to warm up ready for the main sowing season. I

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broad beans in root trainers

sowed my broad bean seeds in root-trainers in January and they are nice strong plants ready to go out in the next couple of weeks. I love the whole bean family but broad beans are my favourite; they are so versatile in the kitchen and so well-behaved in the freezer. During February I also dug a couple of deep trenches to bury kitchen waste ready for the sweet peas and the runner beans. It was only after I'd lifted two whole rows of soil, painstakingly filled them over the weeks with

and have been planted up in big terracotta pots. I chose this method last year and managed to keep the fruit away from the slugs, though sadly the crop was disappointingly meagre, partly compensated by the fact that the fruit was absolutely tasteless anyway. This year I have chosen Mara des Bois – a cross between a wild strawberry and a commercial variety with an absolutely delicious flavour. They do not crop heavily, but they do crop all season long and I take the view



newly planted Mara des Bois

that a handful of delicious strawberries is worth a bushel of boring ones. The days are getting longer now; it's nearly the equinox, and there really is a tad more warmth in the sun on still days. The snowdrops are over, the clocks go forward at the end of the month, and the daffodils in the wild flower meadow herald the spring. So I say let's get going in the garden!

that a handful of delicious strawberries is worth a bushel of boring ones.

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there really is a tad more warmth in the sun on still days. The snowdrops are over, the clocks go forward at the end of the month, and the daffodils in the wild flower meadow herald the spring. So I say let's get going in the garden!

Pat Thorne

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**Cornwall Councillor,
Glenton Brown writes:**

Cornwall Council met in Full Council on Tuesday 21st February to debate and approve the Annual Budget, and I expect you have heard that the Council Tax has gone up yet again. The increase of 3.99% Council Tax rise has been approved for this year and probably will be put for approval again in the next financial year as well, this budget will release over £3m extra for Cornwall social care work. The Council has been on a cost-cutting saving exercise for the last three to four years and has managed to make savings of £136m, although over the next three to four years there will be increased costings of £12m to £13m to be met, and so the Council will still face a funding gap.

No one is in any doubt that the NHS and social care budgets are creaking to breaking-point throughout the whole country and whilst it may be right for the Government to examine costs and make certain cost savings to enhance the service, nevertheless the money that the Government proposes to invest in the NHS is far from adequate, and there must be more funding given.

Cornwall should have had clearance of all its

business tax by now, but now it's not looking like it will be until 2021. There is also talk that we might get Council Tax money as well! However, I fear that there could be a sting in the tail in all this, because although we want to have devolution powers and freedom to manage some of our own business within the County, I can foresee Governments saying to Cornwall Council, "well now look, you have business tax and council tax, and you must balance these budgets yourselves" and we know what that would entail.

Cornwall's car parks have come out OK this year with no change in the set charges. I believe our approved budget now takes us to a figure of something like £260m per annum to have to administer. It may also interest you to know that since the year 2000 Cornwall has 48,000 more residents within the authority.

I would like now to make some reference to the STP (Sustainability and Transformation Plan) meetings and discussions that have been held in recent months and the wonderful public response. It is now reaching the point where all the health, social care, foundation, NHS partnerships and the Cornwall Council will have to come together to analyse very carefully and come forward with recommendations that they can put to the Government and demand the Governments full co-

operation, and I believe these meetings will be chaired by our Cornwall Council Chief Executive which I think is very fortunate. There is every optimism at Council that together, an exemplary model system of leadership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly can be achieved, and spurred on by a shared mission to improve health and wellbeing of our local population as well as achieving financial stability across health and social care, and this really is a most demanding situation that must be resolved to the benefit of the population of Cornwall.

Locally it would just be unthinkable of no local hospitals at Bude, Launceston and Bodmin. I still believe that the wards in our local hospitals are not being filled to the level they need to be, that it still allowing some space for emergency transfers from Plymouth or Truro hospitals to come in at any time. We must use our local hospitals to the utmost.

The Council, in its deliberations, also voted through the new number of Councillors there will be from 2021 onwards

that that figure will now be 99 instead of 123. This would involve the Members and network areas endeavouring to work in a more serviceable order. I note by new figures for Members to serve their electorate will mean just over 1,000 extra constituents per division, but with the reduction of seats I rather foresee our own Camelford Network Area will drop from three members to two.

Another point of interest, you may have been listening or reading to the suggestion of the City of Truro being a City of Culture in 2023, and this has caused considerable controversy as it is generally believed that however good that may be, we are not in a financial position to spend £5m to just start it up, and the more millions of costings that will have to be found to bring it to fruition. It is of course not just the City of Truro, but the whole of Cornwall that this would serve and where it is already established there are, I believe, some modest progress. Liverpool, I believe, seems to be suggested as an outstanding example of

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Cornwall C'Ilr, Glenton Brown continued:

the benefits of being a City of Culture. Truro City Council at their recent meeting approved this forward move by one vote! Also it was suggested that private money should be put up to promote this, and not burden the taxpayer any more at this particular time of restraint.

I now come to the point where I would like to say thank you for all your co-operation and friendship to me, not only over the life of this Council, but also the last 20 years I have been Member for the Tintagel division. I have reluctantly come to the decision that it is time for me to stand down as I will be getting a bit ancient by 2021! My health is not so good as it was, and I think my wife deserves a little more of my time.

Nevertheless I shall miss the work at County Hall, meetings and case work at home very much. I have made many friends over the years and I hope not too many enemies! It is not easy, or in fact should I say it is impossible to please everyone all the time! Again, many, many thanks for your support and understanding.

Needless to say, if you require any help I am still around until the end of April so you can contact me: gbrown@cornwall.gov.uk or on 01840 770302.

Scott Mann, MP



I was delighted to join my neighbouring MP Geoffrey Cox to meet with farmers from Devon and Cornwall recently for a Q&A session on agriculture and Brexit. Understandably, this is a challenging time for farmers and it's important that local MPs including Geoffrey and I take feedback from farmers to give to the ministers and provide assurances wherever we can.

Farming is one of three Brexit priorities for me as North Cornwall's MP, the others being fishing and regional funding. The EU's one-size-fits-all Common Agricultural Policy has hindered farmers and I am lobbying for a domestic policy for both farming and fishing which puts Britain first and promotes our fantastic produce.

I just recently met with the Taiwanese Ambassador to the UK to discuss amongst other things how important farming and fishing are in Cornwall, and I hope Taiwan is a country we can build trade links with in the coming years.

I am saddened to hear, however, that NHS Kernow and Ramsay Health Care have been unable to reach an agreement on continuing non-emergency treatment services at the Bodmin Treatment Centre.

I am seeking assurances at present about ongoing

treatments, as it's vital that all patients are now referred to other facilities as soon as possible to ensure that they get their treatments as originally planned.

I know that this will be a blow for people living in North Cornwall and I will be writing to the KCCG to highlight the importance of services at the centre and to ask whether they can be moved to Bodmin Hospital or if some services can be provided at GP's surgeries. I also held a public meeting where constituents were able to raise their concerns

I visited the centre only a few months ago and I witnessed a very good level of care being provided. I hope that this is just a short term measure and that NHS treatments can be re-introduced in the near future. I have meetings with NHS Kernow on a regular basis and I will raise any concerns with them which have been expressed to me by constituents.

In Parliament I recently took part in the Second Reading debate on the Bus Services Bill, which will pave the way for Cornwall

getting a much better bus network. The Bill will introduce new partnerships for local authorities and bus companies, as well as an option for local authorities to have franchising powers if they need them.

The Cornwall Devolution Deal includes these same franchising powers, and by the mere fact of Cornwall being given the permission to use them, we are seeing better cooperation between Cornwall Council and bus companies. If the bus companies can deliver on giving us more buses, more services and better integration with other public transport, then the franchising powers will not need to be used, and the Transport Secretary recognised this positive step in the debate.

It has been hard to deliver quality public transport in rural North Cornwall, and I'm looking forward to seeing the contents of this Bill coming to fruition on the ground to provide better services for us all.

SM

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Community Centre Bookings: 01840 250442

Cornwall Council One Stop Shop: 0300 1234 111

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Village Hall Bookings: Jo Kent: 01840 250879

Village website: www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk