

# BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 115 Autumn 2021

£1



## *Cornish Shanty Singers the Cobweb Crew and friends*

*From left to right, on steps: Vernon Bright, Tracy Bright, Adrian Bright, Bob Harvey with collecting bucket; at the front: Philip Albon, Granville Jones, Bob Franklin, Julie Pugh, Steve Winchester, Lily Bright and Julian Waring from the Fishermens Mission.*

*Martin Pethick also sings with The Cobweb Crew but is not on the photo. See inside page 5.*

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**Also inside:**    Minibus News page 2    Coastguard page 7    Garden Club page 10  
Defibrillator page 21    Correspondence page 34    Useful Numbers page 38

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## Beep! Beep! Your community minibus is off out and about

Boscastle CIC has restarted the minibus community trips out and about. Whilst there are a few trips listed below, you can always check for extra trips at the minibus noticeboard on the Boscastle Gateway building. Alternatively send a text message asking about trips to 07506 944 622 or email [boscastlecic@gmail.com](mailto:boscastlecic@gmail.com) and we can let you know.

Hartland Abbey & Gardens Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Plymouth City Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Local Shuttle For Boscastle Late Night Shopping & Christmas Tree Lights Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Fowey Christmas Market Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Exeter (Cathedral Christmas Market) Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Truro City Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Handmade Fair (Par Market & Food Hall) Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December

+ more trips might be added subject to demand.



Spread the message far and wide that your community minibus is back in action and jump on board!

### Keep Boscastle Tidy

Residents and visitors alike have cause to thank Uncle Paul, who, voluntarily, on his walks around the area, takes a litterpicking stick and a bag to collect rubbish he sees along his way. Of course, he would prefer to return with an empty bag - we could all help by trying our utmost not to discard items other than in rubbish bins.

Despite there being several dog waste bins in the village, some dog owners are still resistant to picking up their dog's poo. Even worse are the culprits who bag their dog's poo and then abandon the bag or hang it on a branch. Yuk.



**THE NAPOLEON INN** invites you to join us once again at our **ANNUAL MACMILLAN BREAKFAST/COFFEE MORNING** on **SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> & SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER** from **10AM**

We will be serving our fabulous full english breakfast, bacon/egg/sausage sandwiches, tea & coffee...

### BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW

There will be a **CAKE/BAKE STALL**...please feel free to bake us something

**RAFFLE TICKETS** are on sale now from the bar .... any prize donations will be gratefully received and can be popped in to the nap whenever you like

Thank you all for always supporting this event we look forward to seeing you again this year.



*Martin Pethick delivering Trevalga potatoes to Boscastle. He has many other valued customers in the village, but Sharon's Plaice was his destination when I saw him.*

## 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, Heather Colne, Gloria Quinlan, Chris Rodda, Sue Viner, Steve Simmonds, RY

The next Blowhole will be published in December 2021, copy deadline circa end of November.

Copies of the Blowhole are available by post at a cost of £12 for the year: to subscribe go to [www.visitboscastle.com/blowhole](http://www.visitboscastle.com/blowhole) or phone 01840 250685

Communications to the Blowhole can be emailed to [boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk) or posted c/o Jonhurst Cottage, Boscastle, PL35 0AW

The Blowhole is published quarterly and printed by:  
Easyprint of Stratton telephone: 01288 381700 email: [easy.print@btconnect.com](mailto:easy.print@btconnect.com)



## New Community Space

As part of the Boscastle CIC's proposal for community parking, Cornwall Council agreed to the CIC making the area where the household recycling stood transform into a community space. This includes the provision of seating and planters made from recycled plastic to provide the benefit of a long life, resistance to salt water and reduced dependence on maintenance. It has been suggested that a large boat planter could be a centre piece to offer some colour and bloom. Volunteers will be sought to help maintain the planters. If you can help, please contact [boscastlecic@gmail.com](mailto:boscastlecic@gmail.com).

## CIC parking permits

Thank you for all your feedback regarding Boscastle CIC's parking permit scheme. We hope that you are making use of the 20 minutes free parking to access local businesses. The 2022 permits will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. More information will be contained in the Winter Blowhole.

## Sail Britannia...via Boscastle!



Eagle eyed residents may have seen that, for a few months now, a regular sight on a Tuesday afternoon is Britannia sailing past Boscastle. Hosting up to 4324 passengers and over 1000 feet long, she has been offering 3 night sailings from Southampton around the Cornwall coast offering an 'incredible seacation' as many countries abroad are out of bounds.

*photo courtesy Peter Templar*

## Boscastle Late Night Shopping, Bingo and Christmas Lights

*Save the date: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November*

The summer sun has only just left us behind but Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce are already planning some festive cheer this Winter. They are encouraging residents to shop local this Christmas with the Boscastle shops open until 7pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November and then to gather around for mulled wine, mince pie and carols with the Boscastle

Buoys. The lights will be switched on at 7.15pm.

Grab a 'Shop Local Bingo Card' before the evening and visit the open shops on the night to exchange for free wine (or alternative) and pies!

Need transport down the hill? No problem - free of charge, the community minibus will pick up from the bus shelter at 6pm, then drive down Green Lane, Pentargon, Trefleur,

past Langfords Meadow, right into Potters Lane and down New Road to the village. The route will be repeated at 6.30pm and then a return journey will be made at 8pm (carpark back up to the top).

Planners are mindful that should it be horrendous weather, there is plenty of time to squeeze it in before the big day. Keep an eye out for more promo over the next few months.

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## News from the Lookout



Not a usual Summer at all, the weather has behaved in a very odd way and Covid still governs the way we run our Watches. However, it's not all about the use of hand-gel, wiping down between Watches and deciding if you want to single or double man.

One of the most obvious changes to us is the way it has changed our relations with the rest of the world.

Although it is never allowed to interrupt our primary duty of acting as Eyes Along the Coast, we were delighted to interact with visitors from all over the globe, whenever possible.

In the last seventeen years our Visitors Book

has recorded comments from all over the globe. As you'd expect, our European neighbours have topped the poll with Norwegians, Belgians, French, Spanish, Polish, Czech, Dutch and Germans, who seem to take a particular pleasure in the

Coastal Path, featuring on a regular basis. There have been Canadians and Americans, Australians and New Zealanders looking into their family heritage in the County.

All of them fascinated by what we do, the history behind the NCI and surprised to learn that we are an entirely voluntary organization, with no national or local funding.

Mostly we miss all the children who took their first look through a pair of binoculars, saw their first Admiralty Chart and discovered how Radar and AIS could show them the shipping along our coast.

Recent incidents we have dealt with include responding to a call

about a visitor who had collapsed on the Coastal Path. We contacted the Ambulance Service and HM Coastguard who tasked the Cliff Rescue Team. Fortunately, she had recovered enough for her friends to take her back to her holiday accommodation.

We were alerted to two people cut off by the tide and HM Coastguard alerted the Cliff Rescue Team and the Inshore Life Boat. One person made it back to safety but there was no sign of the second. The All Weather Lifeboat from Padstow was tasked to join the search but was eventually stood down.

The Cliff Rescue Team were tasked with searching for a downed Kite Surfer and we were able to advise that it was in the same location as a ghost net, the name for drifting, abandoned nets, so the team was recalled.

Fortunately, these all came to a satisfactory conclusion, but they all had the potential to develop into major incidents if we hadn't been around.

As usual we would be delighted to welcome you as a volunteer Watchkeeper or as part of our fundraising team. In case you have any concerns about joining us we would like to point out that Tim recently resigned after 12 years' service and rejoined after just three days while Jane decided she'd had enough after a mere 17 years as WatchKeeper and Social Secretary!

It will take time get our training schedules back on track but if you would like to join our team our Manager, Chris Evans, would be delighted to hear from you on 01566 781449.

MW

The Parish Council are looking for land for a graveyard for Forrabury Church, as it is nearing its full capacity.

If anyone can help, please can you contact our clerk, Adrian Prescott via email (*email address at bottom of this column*) or by telephone on 01840 230609

*Chair & vice chair, FMPC*

[clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk)



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Howard Baker spotted the caravan in the photo above, in an rather awkward position on Dunn Street. The driver had evidently ignored the sign at the top of Fore Street, or perhaps forgot they were towing?



### Boscastle Archives

The archives held in the Community Centre on Fore Street will be open on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 12 noon til 6pm.

### RE-WILDING?

Cornwall Council is pleased with its decision to leave road verges untouched in order encourage wild life, it says, omitting to mention that last year it had already been decided to reduce the number of cuts in order to save money. What some might call a virtuous error.

Similarly, since acquiring the Castle Site in 2015 the Lower Jordan Valley, about a quarter of the area, has been left untouched and impenetrable. Gunnera and the detritus from fallen trees now provide a blanket haven for badgers, foxes, hedgehogs, bats, butterflies, wild flowers and insects. On 21<sup>st</sup> August some parish councillors carried out what they termed a familiarisation exercise of the site.

CR

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## The Cobweb Crew



There's a new shanty group in Boscastle who sing mainly shanty and Cornish songs.

Just before the Autumn lockdown last year a group of 6 singers decided to bring traditional singing back to their local, The Cobweb Inn.

In the 1960s and 70s locals and visitors could be heard singing along to Beatrice on the piano who played seven nights a week. Inspired by the memory of Beatrice, the love of singing and wanting to entertain locals and visitors the group got started and called themselves 'The Cobweb Crew'.

They can be heard at The Cobweb most Sundays from 5pm unless they are performing at a festival. Recently they were at Fowey and Weston-super-Mare and will soon be heard at Port Isaac, Mevagissey and St Ives.

As the crew sing

seafaring songs they chose Fishermens Mission as their charity.

Since April they have raised £2000 and recently presented a cheque for £1500 to their chosen charity who provide welfare and pastoral support to Fishermen and their families.

### Boscastle Oil-Ordering Group

Our next delivery slot is early October so please place your order by the end of September to secure your top-up or refill.

If you are new to the village or have moved into a property with an oil burner and want to check if your address is already registered, please ring, Myrna Lester, on 01840 250520, Group members receive a minimum of 2p per litre discount on all orders. Our next date for ordering is March for delivery early April.

ML



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## A Hoghaven and Beebombs

It is 4.57 in the morning. The street lights are still on but the Eastern sky is a soft apricot colour with brush strokes of pale grey clouds across it. All is peaceful and quiet in the village. I breath in the scents of the cool, early morning and view the colours of the foxgloves, snap dragons and geraniums in my garden.

I debate with myself whether it was too early to replace the cage protecting the birds' ground feeder from the Raucous Crows. I nightly remove the cage having found, on one occasion, that a hedgehog managed to squeeze himself/herself through the small openings. (I had visions of a Pooh Bear scenario with the hedgehog struggling to get out of the cage, after filling up on sunflower hearts.) It is providential that my decision needed more than a few moments thought before the deed, because suddenly a small hedgehog appears and sits in the feeder, tucking into his supper. Hedgehog finishes his/her meal, takes a long drink of water, from the

dish provided, and toddles into the hedgehog house I had placed in the flower border some months previously.

Wow, what a surprise and how exciting, I am landlady to a hedgehog - but wait, how worrying! A week earlier I had cut the grass close to H's house. Now I have visions of H. storming out of the house and with furious scowl, hands on hips, shouting **'Keep the noise down. Some of us are trying to sleep here!'** Should I now let my back lawn go the way of the front one?

You see, Dear Reader, I had read an article by the RSPB saying 'since the 1930's we have lost 99% of what are called 'unimproved grasslands and those that are left are fragmented'. The RSPB pointed out that grass cutting benefits no one. No benefit to us - just another chore to take care of - and no benefit to the bees and mini creatures, since we annihilate the clover, dandelions, daisies and, in the case of my lawn, 'self-heal'. These are all wild flowers on which



*a pause during mealtime, August 3<sup>rd</sup>*

mini creatures depend. The article suggested keeping part of our gardens, however small, as a 'wild garden'. 'Give your mower a rest' says the RSPB.

My front garden would be perfect as a 'wild garden', since already it has more weeds - oops 'wild flowers' - than grass. All that is required is to stop cutting it and I have my wild meadow. My next move is to enhance the flowers already growing, by planting 'Beebombs', which a company in Dorset produces. No, they do not explode when a bee lands on them, they are hand-made clay pellets in which there are several varieties of native wild

flower seeds - Yarrow, Common Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw and Rough Hawkbit etc on which bees, moths and other mini creatures depend.

So, my apologies to my neighbours if, as a result of my wild flowers seeking new territory, it means extra weeding for you but even the smallest patch could benefit the wild creatures, which in the end may benefit us.

Thinking of the snoozing hedgehog - I now want to shout at the cars, lorries and motor bikes that noisily zoom up the Tintagel Road - **'Keep the noise down, there's a hedgehog trying to sleep here'**.

GQ



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## Boscastle Coastguard update

Half way through the year it is looking like it will be our busiest yet, totalling 30 callouts to date in 2021. These have all been very varied, luckily only a handful of dogs over the cliffs!! Although we're seeing the numbers falling, we are still asking people to ensure they keep dogs on leads anywhere near the cliff paths as it only takes a split second for a dog to fall over.

Some of our shouts include: 22-7-21: the team were paged at 1050 to reports of a male with 2 twisted ankles on his way to Strangles. Once the team arrived and administered first aid by isolating the ankles, it was deemed a stretcher carry would be the best method of recovery. As it was a long and steep climb, we requested assistance from Bude CRT to assist with the carry out. Whilst we were waiting for Bude to arrive, the team started the long carry to the car park. With Bude then arriving swiftly, the teams worked well together, using many techniques to get the

injured male to an awaiting family member to take him to the nearest A&E to be assessed. We urge people whilst walking the coast path to equip themselves for the terrain they are walking, as well as having a means of calling for help if needed.

09-08-21: the team were paged at 1127 to reports of a female falling off Boscastle harbour wall. On arrival two of the team made their way to the casualty who had fallen approximately 25ft onto the beach below. Once initial casualty care was given, and the arrival of paramedics, it was deemed that a stretcher carry was not possible, and the coastguard helicopter was needed. Once Rescue 924 arrived on scene, they sent a winchman down to assess the female and package her into their own stretcher for recovery. We then cleared the cliffs for the helicopter to recover the lady and transport her to hospital. It was later found out that, amazing, she only suffered minor injuries and was discharged the same evening. We would like to thank all involved in this multi-agency rescue, Port



*photo courtesy Tracy Bright*

Isaac lifeboat, South West ambulance service. Bude CRT and the coastguard helicopter.

Although I have only mentioned 2 of our call outs, we have had a vast amount of stretcher carries, and search jobs. We still urge people to ensure they have the correct footwear on, and have a planned route of where they are going. If you are on your own, please do let someone know where you are going, and what time you are likely to return. Remember if you see anyone in danger call 999 and ask for the Coastguards.



HM Coastguard

## Used Postage Stamps

I continue to collect stamps that have been left in the boxes in Boscastle and Tintagel surgeries and those that have been dropped off in my front porch.

Thank you for your continuing support which is an excellent and free way of making contributions to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. 100 people each day start to lose their sight for a variety of reasons and the RNIB work and research is vital. RNIB is paid £20 for every kilo of stamps received so don't throw them away!

ML

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# Wingers and Stingers

Swifts usually arrive in the first week of May to herald the start of summer. Initially, there were less swifts this year than usual, but more arrived in the following weeks and raised their young. By mid-July, there were too many to count and by the end of that month I reckon the colony at Corentin was over one hundred strong. It's weird and wonderful to think that they had not touched down since they left us nearly a year ago, feeding, sleeping and drinking on the wing. They are not mature till they are three to five years old. The adolescents return each year slightly later than the adults and spend their time cruising, checking out possible future nest sights and possible mates. My nest boxes under the eaves of our house housed an electronic device that played rather cacophonous swift nesting calls to attract them. They clearly heard the calls (as did our very tolerant neighbours!) and frequently flew close by, but we don't know if they explored them further. We hope that this year's

adolescents may remember the boxes next year and take up residency.

The swifts left en masse around 7<sup>th</sup> August although I saw a solitary swift on 11<sup>th</sup> August and a fairly big flock in Bude on 13<sup>th</sup> August. I look forward to the welcome sight of a swoop, a box, a flock or a drift of swifts next year.

Think "wasp" and you'll immediately picture something black, yellow and annoying that threatens to invade your picnic or barbecue armed with its sting. As a beekeeper, I find it rather sad that wasps have acquired such a bad reputation as this much-maligned species is equally important for our eco-system as honey bees. The common wasp, *Vespula Vulgaris*, is one of nine species of social wasp in the UK. Living in colonies, they build architecturally impressive nests and have fascinating social lives. They use their stings to immobilise other insects, spiders and caterpillars. It is believed that our social wasps take around 14,000,000 kgs

of insect prey in the course of a single summer, which is pretty impressive pest control employed by many farmers. Most of this huge quantity of food is fed to their larvae who secrete a sugary liquid that is lapped up by the adults. As summer draws to a close, the queen wasp stops laying eggs, but not before she lays a special batch

of eggs destined to become queens. They hibernate through the winter, often in our loft spaces, ready to start new colonies next year. Unlike honey bees, wasps have no food store so cannot survive the winter as a colony.

I wonder if people have noticed how few wasps are around at the moment. Last year, wasps were proliferating. We have a grape vine that produces several kilos of black grapes.

Last year, we had no harvest because the wasps invaded in in their thousands and guzzled them all while still green. This year, the grapes are almost fully ripe with only an occasional wasp in sight, and no damage.

Honey bees sacrifice their lives when they sting as the stings have tiny barbs that hook into the skin. It's somewhat brutal as when the bee withdraws, the sting remains attached to the "stinger" and it



*wasps devouring grapes in 2020*

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*this year's grapes*

disembowels the bee. Wasp stings are smooth like a needle that can easily be pulled out by the insect and used repeatedly. You are most at risk if you are close to a nest because wasps will see you as a threat.

Many stings happen because we unintentionally start crushing a wasp that we haven't seen. Sadly, towards the end of summer, wasps develop a craving for sweet things. They love rotting, fermenting fruit which unfortunately contains alcohol and, much like the human drunk, they do things that they would never dream of when sober.

*John Maughan*

## Five ways to wellbeing

Introducing the five ways to wellbeing into your life can positively impact your mental health and wellbeing. Doing these daily or weekly will help you to feel good.

1. Connect with others
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For more help you can:

Call the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly 24/7 mental health response line on 0800 038 5300. Support is available to anyone, regardless of age, all day and every day.

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Call 116 123 to talk to Samaritans or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) for a reply within 24 hours.

Search online for 'mental health Cornwall' to find advice and support.

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## A Garden Club for Everyone

During the first lockdown, millions of people turned to gardening and started growing not just flowers for the front border, but at least some of their own vegetables. So much so, that at one time many varieties of seeds, and accessories like cell trays were out of stock in store and online. Although many people started gardening because they had so much extra spare time, a recent study has shown that gardening has the same impact on health as regular vigorous exercise such as cycling or running. Gardening just two or three times a week also leads to feelings of wellbeing and lower stress levels. The study, published in the journal *Cities*, surveyed more than 6000 people and results indicate that those who garden every day have wellbeing scores 6.6% higher and stress levels 4.2% lower than people who don't garden at all. So, it's no surprise that there's a pretty

healthy group of gardeners in this area of North Cornwall who love to get together once a month to talk about their triumphs and disasters, listen to interesting speakers, and arrange occasional outings to get inspiration from places like RHS Rosemoor.

Over the past year or so we missed those regular get-togethers when all sorts of clubs and societies had to close their doors, so it's good to report that Juliotter Garden Club is now back up and running with a full programme of interesting speakers arranged for the rest of this year. Our gardens represent every size and condition in the area; from neutral to acid soil, right through to dense alkaline clay. Some have small, manageable gardens around new build homes; others have traditional plots with mature trees that were originally planted in Victorian times; and still others have created large gardens from what was



once a field. Some of us live at sea level, others have made a garden hundreds of feet up on the edge of Bodmin Moor. Some of our members have knowledge gained from a lifetime of gardening, and some of us are new to the whole business of sowing, pruning and planting. But all of us are united by our love of gardening in this wild and wonderful part of Cornwall. So do come along and join us on the fourth Tuesday of the month, either as a guest or a new member. You'll get a warm welcome and a chance to meet some enthusiastic gardening addicts. Just to tempt you, here is our programme for

the rest of this year:

28<sup>th</sup> September - Jamie Langore, tree surgeon on Trees and Hedges

26<sup>th</sup> October - Amelia Lake on Organic Vegetable Growing

23<sup>rd</sup> November - Ricky Hoskins talks about Dahlias

All meetings take place at Otterham Village Hall at 7.30. For further information please phone Pat Thorne on 01840 261237, or Email patthorne4@gmail.com, have a look at [www.juliottergarden.club](http://www.juliottergarden.club) or see our Facebook page (Juliotter Garden Club) for the latest news.

*Pat Thorne*



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## A BOSCASTLE 'ROYAL'

When James left Boscastle, with his dream of becoming a Royal Marine, he could not have imagined, that several years later, he and his fellow Marines would provide welcome assistance to the NHS. A strange concept when you consider the Royal Marines training programme, which is one of the longest and most physically demanding specialist infantry training regimes in the world. It tests the strength, fortitude and stamina of the would-be Marine and is miles away from the mundane but essential tasks of NHS nursing staff.

During the Covid19 crisis, having James and his fellow 'Royals' relieve the nurses of their routine duties (such as stacking shelves, fetching and carrying items and turning over bed-bound patients) was greatly appreciated by the nursing staff of the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Although necessary, all of these chores take time away from valuable, specialised nursing. James told me that, due to the influx of Covid19 cases, even Surgeons (obviously, not when occupied with

operations) had been called in to assist in turning patients - a very important task. Thus, painful bed sores with all the necessary and prolonged treatment required, would be prevented. James was also involved in removing from the wards, patients who had died as a result of the Virus. Sometime later, both the NHS and the Military considered this duty to be ill-advised, since there was the chance that the 'Royals' could themselves become infected with Covid19. (This assistance from the Marines, to remove deceased Covid19 patients, was eventually discontinued.)

The Marine's motto - 'Per Mare, Per Terram' (By Sea, By Land') would appear to hold true, since James, with his fellow 'Royals', are prepared to meet all challenges on land or sea, however dangerous - the seen (the foe) and unseen (the virus). I wish James and the 'Royals' the very best of Luck and Stay Safe 'Per Mare, Per Terram'.

*NB. The Royal Marines have several nicknames, one of which is the 'Royals'.*

GQ

## Myrna's Chuckle Corner - Wotsit Mean?

Subdues = Calm down and pay up!

Chinchilla = Feeling after shaving off beard

Bilingual = Double Dutch

Gargoyles = Remedy for sore throats

Noble = Farm which keeps only cows

Nitrous = Chastity belt for evening wear

Lady of the Lake = A mere woman

Hypotenuse = Upstairs toilet is occupied

Forlorn = Suitable for grass

Vaccine = Display of Hoovers

Onomatopoeia = Untrained house pet

Pensive = Utensil to write with while straining potatoes



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# The Reading Room

I am sitting on the cliffs gazing at the horizon just as people of this village have done throughout history. My thoughts wander to what lies beyond that horizon and I am struck by how much we know today about the world out there. The ancient art of storytelling would have played an important role years ago. How exciting it must have been to welcome ships into our harbour and hear the tales of foreign lands and their people. The art of storytelling has always been a vehicle for entertainment as well as a way to communicate news and propaganda. It survived initially in its original form of listening in groups gathered round the 'spinner of yarns'. Gradually it began to evolve and today we enjoy it in many guises.

We all, as readers, love books. Some of us enjoy reading them ourselves, but sometimes it is a joy to have them read to us, especially when we are young. Nowadays with modern technology we can listen to audio books wherever we want to. Live theatre has always existed in some form for the dramatization of stories and of course, we now also have cinema and television to watch. During the pandemic I have been motivated to watch more films than ever before. I do not think I am alone in this. Films, just like books offer us a glimpse in to the lives of other people, other cultures and other eras.

They provide us with both escapism and education.

Four of the films I have watched recently have stayed with me for various reasons.

**'The Dig'** is based on the novel of the same name by John Preston. It is set in the late 1930's in England and tells story of a wealthy landowner who hires an amateur archaeologist to investigate the mounds on her property. It is based on a true story.

**'The Two Popes'** is a biographical drama adapted by Anthony McCart from his play 'The Pope'. It stars Anthony Hopkins. A fascinating story of an unlikely relationship developed out of a need to support their shared faith.

**'The Pianist'** is an extraordinary true story of the survival of a Polish, Jewish musician in Warsaw 1939-45. It stars Adrien Brody and Emilia Fox.

**'Yesterday'** is a musical romantic comedy by Danny Boyle based on the music of The Beatles in a world that does not know them.

I do not pretend to be a film connoisseur and I rarely go to the cinema so if anyone reading this feels like writing some film reviews for the Blowhole, I for one would be extremely grateful!

## ***Back to books now!***

We would love you to join us in The Reading Room to hear our thoughts on our latest reads.



**THE WILD SILENCE**  
by RAYNOR WINN

In 2018 Raynor Winn, a long-distance walker wrote her first book *The Salt Path*. It turned out to be a bestseller. At the same time as Raynor's husband Moth was diagnosed with the terminal illness, Corticobasal Degeneration, they became homeless following a bad investment. They handled this unexpected situation by deciding to walk the 630 mile South West Coast Path. When she noticed Moth's memory failing, she decided to keep alive the memories of their walk by writing about it. This book for Moth became 'The Salt Path'.

'The Wild Silence' is a memoir written as a sequel to the million-copy bestseller 'The Salt Path'. After the healing effect of nature during their walk along the coastpath, the

couple rent a converted chapel in Polruan. Moth, decides to undertake a degree course but his health deteriorates. At the same time Raynor is faced with losing her mother. The couple decide they need to once again confront a challenge like the one nature gave them in *The Salt Path* but how? The story unfolds in Raynor's second book.

All the bookworms thought this book was not at all embellished. It was written from the heart in an open and honest way. The connection to nature and the need to be out in the fresh air resonated with many of us. The book was a real page-turner and gave a very interesting glimpse of their life after 'The Salt Path'. The descriptions of the effect of re-wilding the land was inspiring and the descriptions of the farmhouse and wild life were evocative and well crafted.

We would recommend this book to anyone with a love of the outdoors and who admires determination and strength to overcome life's greatest challenges.

Quality of Writing 9  
Storyline 7

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## THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY by MATT HAIG

Matt Haig is an English novelist. He was born in 1975 in Sheffield, later growing up in Newark. He studied at Hull University and Leeds University. After running his own internet marketing company and working for a nightclub in Spain, he became a full-time writer. He is married to Andrea Semple, also a writer. She is the author of some of the best 'chick-lit' such as 'Ex-Factor' and 'The Make-up Girl'. They live in Brighton, Sussex with their two children whom they home-school.

Some of Matt's books are inspired by the mental breakdown he experienced when he was 24 years old. He still suffers from anxiety from time to time. He is an author of both fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. His bestselling children's novel was 'Father Christmas and Me' and it is being made into a film. His adult novels are often dark and quirky takes on family life.

'The Midnight Library' was released in 2020 and is about a girl called Nora. After attempting to kill herself, she ends up in 'The Midnight Library' which is a library between life and death. It is full of millions

of books that are filled with the stories about what her life would have been like if she had made different decisions along the way. She tries to find the life in which she is most content.

It has been adapted for radio and was broadcast in ten episodes on BBC Radio 4 in December 2020.

The Bookworms found this an interesting concept which was written in manageable short chapters and well-paced. It was a real page turner and the idea of somewhere between life and death was clever. It did lead you to dark places but there was also resolution. The librarian in 'The Midnight Library' was well chosen and very poignant. As the story unfolded, we came to realise 'regrets' are not possible. Life is complicated and it is not always obvious what else is lost just by altering a single action in your life. Haig's touching narrative tells of the joys in living and it reminded one old bookworm of the old film 'It's a Wonderful Life'. We felt it was a fitting book for lockdown and possibly would have helped some people cope with hard experiences. We would certainly recommend this beautifully nuanced book.

Quality of Writing 8  
Storyline 8.5

Please join us again next time, we always enjoy your company in The Reading Room!

*Yours truly*  
*The Keeper of the Key*



## Volunteers Needed

Both Marie Curie and Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) are looking for people with some spare time to join their volunteering teams in Cornwall.

Marie Curie provide free care and support to terminally ill people and their families in the county. Team Marie Curie Cornwall has 12 fundraising groups and is now looking to plan events and collections in local communities.

CHSW runs three children's hospices across the southwest, our closest being Little Harbour in St Austell which currently supports more than 140 children with life-limiting illnesses and their families. Little Harbour offers emergency stays at the hospice, virtual contact, support at home, end of life care and bereavement support.

Volunteering is fun, rewarding, flexible and a great way to make new friends whilst helping making a big difference in the community. Zoe Partridge of CHSW says "We have a range of tasks that you could do either from home or within your

local area...From collecting collection tins, attending cheque presentations and supermarket collections, representing CHSW at local events or even doing research for us from home, there are lots of options and we would love to hear from you if you are interested. There is no pressure and you don't have to commit to a certain amount of hours each week, it can be on more of an ad-hoc basis...It is an opportunity to give your time to a cause that offers care and support to children and families from your local area".



To find out more about volunteer opportunities with Marie Curie please contact Lynda Thomas on 01872 260500 or email [Lynda.Thomas@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:Lynda.Thomas@mariecurie.org.uk)



If you think CHSW is something you would like to assist, please contact Zoe Partridge on 07500 081 971 or email [zoe.partridge@chsw.org.uk](mailto:zoe.partridge@chsw.org.uk)



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# Church and Chapel

*Dear all*

Due to the lockdown earlier in the year, and the need for continuing caution, the Boscastle Group of Churches was not able to hold our usual 'Harbour Happenings' on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday.

However, we did hold an outdoor service on Jane's lawn and it was wonderful to be able to gather together in the fresh air to sing on a gloriously sunny day. Very many thanks to Jane Castling who is always so generous with her lawn. At the service we were able to display the new altar frontal which has been made using squares of fabric decorated by children from the schools in this Benefice.

Last Christmas you will remember that we had the figures of Mary and Joseph, and the donkey, travelling around our communities, and again we told the Holy

Week and Easter Story using more figures which were displayed in various places.

Their creator (Hannah Clifford), who is a Worship Leader, then decided to hold a Noah's Ark Service in St Gennys church on 22 August to celebrate the emerging of the animals from their 'lockdown' in the ark. She invited all 5 schools in our Benefice to contribute squares of fabric, in the colours of the rainbow, to be used to make a new altar frontal to be used in all of our 12 churches when appropriate. Archdeacon Kelly Betteridge came to dedicate it, and contributed a square of her own. Mr and Mrs Noah, and a selection of animals also joined us for the service on Jane's lawn.

We continue to hold a service in Forrabury Church on the second Sunday of the month at



10.30am; this service is also available via zoom, please contact me for a link ([heathersolo@msn.com](mailto:heathersolo@msn.com)).

The service on 2 October will be our Harvest Festival service.

At the end of November (26-28) we will hold an Angel Festival in Forrabury church - we are wondering how many angels we can fit into a small stone church. Does anyone know what the Guinness Book of Records has? If so please let me know as we relish a challenge.

Please keep safe during these continuing difficult times.

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

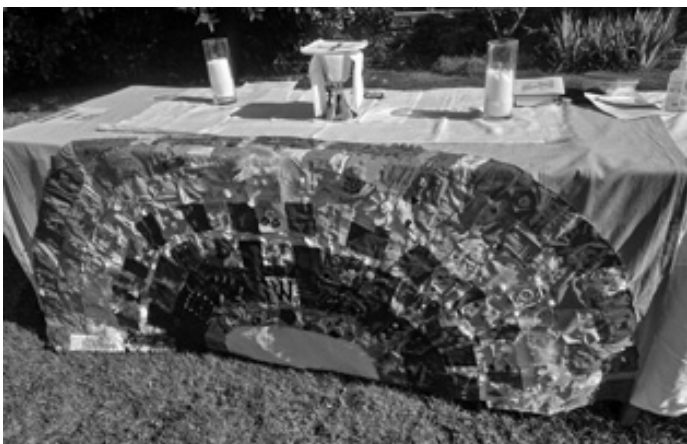
*God bless  
Heather*

## *A Methodist Minister's View*

As we move into the month of September, the conversation in agricultural circles will include the topic of harvesting with all of its variety of comments and hopefully celebrating the season.

Recently I read an article about ploughing with horses. Apparently, there are now only three teams of Shire horses in Cornwall which undertake some work for farmers as well as competing in ploughing matches and doing displays. Shire horses are now so few in number that they are monitored by the Rare Breeds Trust.

I remember sharing conversations with a resident at Eirenikon in Tintagel some years ago who could recall using horses on a farm and ploughing an acre a day. Of course, for many years now we have been in the tractor



era and can only marvel at the 'advancements' in technology in the agricultural industry.

However, it is salutary to remind ourselves that 'advancements' are raising other issues particularly that of the insect life of many countries – our pollinators. Newspapers and magazine carry articles about the need to develop wild plant areas in the countryside, at the edges of fields and in our gardens to encourage the development of the insect life. Without 'pollinators' there are no crops to harvest. I think that this is a reminder to us all not only to encourage wildlife but that all 'advancement' is not necessarily good in the long term.

However, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for as we work with 'creation' and the creative processes which bring about the advancement from which we benefit. The question is 'how do we celebrate our gratitude'. The Harvest Festival celebrations in our Churches and neighbourhoods have a long tradition and are the means of celebrating and giving thanks for the harvest. If you look in your Bible at Exodus 23 verses 16 and 17 there are references to celebrating 'Harvest' on two occasions each year, coinciding with the Mediterranean grain harvest in May/early June – which coincides with our Pentecost or Whit Sunday – and the fruit harvest in the autumn know as the 'Festival of Shelters' to the Jews.

How do you celebrate

all that you benefit from? I can only encourage you to share in your local Harvest Festival celebration to show your thanks our Creator God.

*Every blessing,  
Bryan Ede*

David Whitaker has died recently. Our condolences to his family and friends. A celebration of his life will be held at Forrabury Church on Wed September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of David Fletcher, also known as College, who has died aged 58.

A talented jazz pianist, he lived in the village for some time and was lauded for his quick thinking in warning people in the Wellington Hotel of the imminent danger of the building flooding, due to overload of the culvert in August 2004.

He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Netha Islam who died this summer. A celebration of her life will be held at Trevalga Church in September.

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## Minster Community

### Fellowship Raising the Roof

*On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 we did indeed Raise the Roof!*

It was a lovely afternoon, the sun shone, the Rectory Garden looked very pretty and Neil Kristopher sang his amazing and varied repertoire to the enjoyment of all who were lucky enough to attend this event. It was so lovely to be able to see one another in person and to hear Neil's voice for the first time in public since lockdown.

A staggering amount of £2067 was raised which will go towards the very necessary roof repairs and other running costs at Minster. The silent auction also helped with raising extra funds, so thank you to all who contributed to that - especially Bill and Liz Foster who have since returned to the USA.

Very many thanks are due to Neil for his superb voice at this event. Also, thank you to Heather for letting us use the Rectory Garden, her kitchen and especially for the essential use of her loo!

Thanks also to the very kind people who stepped in and helped with gazebos, tables, chairs and for their help on the day and for helping to clear up afterwards.

#### ***The Singing Coalman***

And on to our second event of the year on the 4<sup>th</sup> September. Once again, this was held in the Rectory garden



*the audience enthused at Neil's performance*

which has been, and will continue to be, a space for community events.

This time, we were hosting the great Minster stalwarts - The Boscastle Buoy, but also highlighting one of the gang, the exceptionally talented "Singing Coalman" - Roger Nicholls.

The first set was down to Roger and, despite his warning, he played all the right notes - and very much in the right order! It began with the Elton John classic "Candle in the Wind" and ended, in a nod to the late and great Stewart Biddick, with the hilarious "Side by Side."

The Buoy have emerged from lockdown in fine form and their performance of favourites such as "Cape Cornwall", "Cousin Jack" and "South Australia" was greeted enthusiastically by the large audience.

Roger's final set was accompanied by a display of new wave ballroom

dancing techniques by Bob Harvey and (a very sporting) Lindsay Aldred

The programme ended with a rousing performance of "Trelawny" - a moment of raw emotion after all these difficult months.

But, of course, there was an encore - Roger's lovely rendition of that great Vera Lynn classic: "We'll meet again" And so we shall...

Huge thanks to Roger and the Buoy for their steadfast support for Minster. Thank you, once again, to Heather for the use of her garden, to Jack Evans for donating his painting of Minster for the silent auction and the MCF team and good friends for making this happen. And, of course, thank you to all who came along for your support, your generosity with the readies and, most importantly, your generosity of spirit.

*Malcolm Baker*



*Roger leads a rousing rendition of Trelawny*

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## From the FMPC minutes Website

10/06/21: A report was circulated, and discussion took place about the work that had been done, develop a new website, rebranding etc. Thanks were expressed to John Wakelin for the work he had done on the existing website, investigations into website developers and the new site will be the 'Forrabury and Minster PC' with links to other groups in the community.

12/08/21: The Clerk reported each councillor had been allocated a unique email account for use as a councillor. Cllr Simmonds proposed all councillors to have their new email account set up by next meeting on 9th September. Seconded by Cllr Edwards-Symons. All in favour. Cllr Yates proposed the clerk review the existing website particularly the Councillors page as it was out of date. Seconded by Cllr Simmonds. All in favour.

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

12/08/21: Cllr Bridges reported someone was interested in getting involved. Cllr Simmonds advised that most of the work for the evidence base had been completed. The Council discussed the formation of the NDP and felt it best to wait until the main holiday season is finished. Cllrs Edwards-Symons and Yates would meet with Cllr Simmonds to better understand exactly where the project is at. NDP documentation etc. will be passed the clerk for safe keeping.

## Cornwall Councillors Report

12/08/21: CCllr Jordan reported Cornwall Council is planning to sow seeds which flower as red, white and blue plants to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

'20 is Plenty' the Camelford Community Network Panel are seeking where parish councils feel 20mph is required in their area.

# JUNE SIFORD

## 1924 - 2021

June Grace Siford was one of those rare persons in that she could truly be called a Cornish girl. She was born in 1924 in Marhamchurch but moved with her parents to Boscastle while she was still a very young child. As with all the Boscastle girls at that time, she was educated at bottom school in Old Road while all the boys went to top school. In 1938, she left school and went out to work locally as a cleaner with one of her main places of work being the Napoleon Inn.

It was because of the war that, in 1942 at the age of 18, she joined up and went to serve with the RAF and was stationed at an air field in Stafford. This was a life changing event for June as it was while she was serving in Stafford that she met a young man called Fred, also serving with the RAF. June was packing wooden crates with various air supplies while Fred was a carpenter making the crates for June to pack. It was just after the war that June and Fred got married in 1947.

After the wedding, June and Fred went to live with Fred's parents at the Red Lion pub in the Cotswolds. June's earlier experiences at the Nap probably came in useful as, while Fred continued with his skill as a carpenter, June helped out in the pub. In 1949, after Les had been born, June and Fred moved out of the Red Lion and into a home of their own. Once she was able to June found employment as a cook at the local grammar school.

It was in the 1970s that June was able to return to her roots when she and Fred bought Sunnyside in the harbour in Boscastle. Together they ran the house as a bed and breakfast, although Fred continued as a carpenter/builder working on Sunnyside and also on many of



the properties in and around the harbour. He could often be found in the harbour working with Bill Perry and it was not unknown for June to have to go rushing out to find them to let them know that there was a coastguard call out.

During this time June met many happy guests at Sunnyside and had many adventures. Not least of these was the flood in 2004 and experiences with television crews filming 'Changing Rooms' in their house and also Fred's involvement with Seaside Parish and other media events in and around the harbour.

It was some time after this that June and Fred decided it was time to retire so Sunnyside was sold to the National Trust and they moved to Capri in Tintagel. June stayed here until she had to move to a care home in Launceston.

June was a caring person who loved her family, her grandchildren and friends, was interested in all that was happening around her; enjoyed being outside and in her garden and really enjoyed a quiet half hour in front of the telly watching the latest happening on a soap opera!

She will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved her.

## ABSOLUTELY PICKLED

My friend Alan grows the most delicious little cucumbers, and when they are in season he brings me several at a time. Now as you know, this watery little vegetable has a limited life, even in the crisper drawer of your fridge, so one way of making it last a little longer is to prepare a simple pickle.

I cut my cucumbers in half lengthways, and use an apple corer to remove the watery seeds. Then I slice it on the diagonal and sprinkle on a good teaspoon of salt, leaving it to drain in a colander for about twenty minutes or so. Then I give it a good rinse, and pat it with kitchen paper. Meanwhile, I put half a pint of distilled white vinegar, half a pint of water, 3oz sugar, and a few slices of a medium chilli (jalapeno) in a pan and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Pack the sliced cucumber into a preserving jar and cover with the pickling liquid, let it pickle overnight and you're good to go. Really tasty with mackerel pate or cold pork and like all light pickles needs to be kept refrigerated. One of the really excellent things about a nice boiled and roasted ham I find is that you never

get tired of eating it. I often serve mine with homemade piccalilli, but recently I've taken to using these Italian pickled vegetables:

Pint cider vinegar

Pint of water

1 tbsp salt

3 tbsp Demerara sugar

1 small cauliflower, sliced;

1 large pepper, seeded & sliced;

2 small courgettes, sliced;

2 small carrots sliced;

¼ lb fine beans; 7 shallots, peeled & halved

2 cloves garlic, 2 sprigs

thyme, 2 bay leaves, 12

peppercorns, 1 red chilli,

sliced into rounds

Virgin olive oil

Bring the vinegar to the boil in a large saucepan with pint of water, the salt and the sugar. Add all the remaining ingredients except the olive oil and simmer gently for a few minutes. You want the vegetables to remain crisp, not to cook. Strain the vegetables and discard the pickling liquid. Divide the mixture between your jars and cover with the olive oil. Screw the lids on tightly and leave to cool. Keep the sealed jars in the fridge for up to four weeks. Once opened, use within a week. You can pay anything for olive oil from eminently



reasonable (in Lidl or Aldi) to more than an expensive bottle of wine and you wouldn't want to use the precious expensive stuff in this recipe.

Pat Thorne



The paperback version of *The Coven* by Lizzie Fry is published this September. 'Lizzie' is Devon's Lucy Hay, crime writer, script editor, screenwriter and online blogger

*The Coven* is set in an alternate version of our world. Witchcraft is real, only women are born as witches, but they are reviled, pursued, incarcerated and executed. Devon teenager Chloe Su comes into her power unexpectedly and what follows is a breathtaking chase as she and her father Daniel flee The Sentinel, a CIA-like agency that scours the globe and

I tend to use supermarket own brand Spanish virgin olive oil and console myself with the fact that, once the vegetables are used up (also delicious in salads by the way, or with pates, not just with ham), I strain off the sediment and reuse the oil for salad dressings or even for the next batch of pickled vegetables. I say, satisfaction guaranteed.

hunts witches. They make a break-neck adventure across the West Country and then the world. Chloe is a witch unlike any ever seen before - a witch who can potentially free all her sisters.

Lucy says: "I hope the book will appeal to different tastes. You can see it as a chase thriller, full of action and epic battle scenes, in the vein of Marvel or *Mad Max: Fury Road*, but it's deeper than that too. I have always been fascinated by witches."

Lucy was inspired by the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic at Boscastle, as well as the atmospheric harbour set in a wild and craggy valley.

She said: "It's very dramatic there and I have been visiting since I was a teenager. The museum was very helpful, with images of witchcraft and historical research."

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Dave Ferrett has several editions of the Boscastle Chronicle. The ones in the photo above are the first two editions, dated February and March 1986, and he has kindly lent them for me to peruse. Desktop publishing was still a fairly new thing in 1986, making the editor, Mick Quinton, who lived at Hilldene, a publishing pioneer.

Issue 1 ran to 8 pages, with the main news being the proposed closure of the last bank in the village, the other one having closed in 1985. Advertisers included John Adams, Family Butcher and Ron Hart's South West Adventure climbing school. Madam Butterfly made her debut, giving help to fashionistas wanting to

sport 'The Boscastle Look', trousers, t-shirt, jumper and wellies. John Burns provided the Bo'Castle cartoon strip.

The Chronicle sold for 10p and was a success. Issue 2 was 14 pages. You could read an introduction to the history of Boscastle written by Roger the Potter. Kevin Sellars, sub-postmaster, was promoting the free banking services of the National Girobank.

The editorial description reads: 'No sensationalism, no wild speculation, no thrill seeking - just an honest approach to matters relating to our village; our success depends on news, views, events and, yes, wit. Let's have all of these.'

A fine ambition.

PA



Chris and Ann Rodda with Ann's cousin, Susan at Chris' 78<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> August at the Horseshoe Inn, Tresparrett. It was attended by family, friends & an amusing hat.

photo courtesy Pat Codack

## BELLA CIAO

Amongst all the newspaper coverage of English fans before, during and after the European Cup final not much was made of the Italians who, in London at any rate, were quite numerous. They sang their great footballing anthems like *Volare*, of course, and *Bella Ciao*, which I had never heard of.

It turns out to be an international hymn of freedom. A musical crossover of intense jazz rhythms and quiet lament it commemorates the sacrifice of a young resistance fighter against

the German occupation of Italy during the Second World War.

He asks to be buried beneath a flower so that passers-by will notice and comment on its beauty.

It lifts the spirit to hear youngsters of every country join in the song's choruses: "O bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao, ciao/O portigiano portami via/Che me sento di morir" – Goodbye my darling, my darling goodbye, goodbye, goodbye/ This is the flower of the partisan who died for freedom."

They feel things differently, Italians.

CR

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# Churchwarden Retires

When Percy Nicholls died in 1973 his son, Arthur, was asked to take on Percy's duties as Church Warden at St Petroc's Church, Trevalga. Percy had been attending St Petroc's Church since the age of 18 and, with this strong family connection, Arthur did not hesitate in agreeing to become Church Warden. In the spring of 1974 Arthur began the first of 47 years of conscientious service as Church Warden to St Petroc's Church, assisted by his wife Mary. Mary has been his wife and support for the past 56 years. The Church also lost an organist when Percy died and it was Maria Nicholls, Arthur's sister-in-law, who filled this role and has done ever since.

Together, Arthur and Mary have assisted in keeping the Church in good order, ensuring that all services can proceed in the knowledge that everything is in place. To this end, Arthur said 'it takes several hours' to put out the accoutrements and 'hangings' required for the altar and then return them (carefully, 'to prevent creases') to their place of storage. The colour of the 'hangings' depends on a particular time in the Church's calendar and Arthur and Mary always ensure that the correct colour has been laid out.

Some years ago, the Church had a break-in, fortunately, there was nothing for the thief to take, as Arthur and Mary keep all precious items

safely, away from the Church. The chalice is one of the Church's precious items and is a replacement for another, whose hallmark dates from the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1. After many years of use this chalice had become somewhat fragile and is now on loan to the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro. The replacement is a modern silver gilt chalice commissioned in a limited edition by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey to celebrate Queen Elizabeth 11's Silver Jubilee. It was purchased in 1999 from a bequest

given by the late husband of Maggie Kirby, a former resident of Boscastle and is amongst the items that are kept secure.

The Church, which has been in existence since 1173, has seen many special annual services over the years, such as the Easter



*Arthur and Mary at Trevalga Church*

service, with its garden of three crosses, primroses and moss; the Harvest Festival; Christmas and its tree decorated by Angela (the wife of Bob Pethick, the other Church Warden) and, in 2020, the Carol service. On this occasion, the service could no longer be held in the Village Hall, as it had been in previous years. All of these events have been thoughtfully arranged by Arthur and Mary with the help of the Church members.

Over the years, they have welcomed visitors from far and near - such as Bossiney Back Lane and the camp site visitors. However, visitors, now coming from 'upcountry', or farther afield, who are hoping to attend services

at St. Petroc's Church, may be disappointed. Lately, there have been no regular services and, due to the virus, only two in the last eighteen months. One couple, from Bossiney Back Lane, who regularly attended St Petroc's Church were Elizabeth and Michael Davy. Elizabeth ran the Sunday school and had plans to produce a wall hanging for the Church. After her death, Michael found the unfinished work and felt it should be completed. This was accomplished by the efforts of several of her friends and now you can see it hanging in the Church.

Unfortunately, over the years, numbers in the congregation have diminished and it is now

down to five stalwart members - the oldest being 92 years of age and the youngest 75. Arthur told me that these days the village has 'no annual fête' (this was an occasion that brought people from the surrounding villages to Trevalga) and 'no village hall' (it is no longer usable). As costs have risen and the congregation has

with the running of the Church, assisted as always, by Bob and Angela.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 a Commemoration of Arthur's 47 years of service as Church Warden at St Petroc's Church, Trevalga was acknowledged and Arthur and Mary were presented with a silver rose bowl and a silver



*the hanging started by Elizabeth Daly*

dwindled, the fate of the Church is in the balance and Arthur's retirement from Church Warden duties leaves Bob Pethick as the only remaining Church Warden. However, Arthur and Mary are still helping

picture frame. Arthur and Mary wish to say 'a Big Thank You' to Brother Nicky for all the help he has given over the years for minor repairs, also a Thank You to David and Peter for their help and support over the years'.

GQ



**Crossword Answers:** Across: 5 firewood, 10 curious, 11 bookworm, 12 nose, 13 shelter, 16 crossword, 19 pat, 20 spectacular, 22 tart, 23 maintenance, 28 appreciate, 29 sold, 30 pressed, 31 manx  
**Down:** 1 dick, 2 common, 3 adze, 4 rhuabarb, 6 eponymous, 7 quire, 8 right, 9 joining, 14 locale, 15 moot, 16 coastguard, 17 duck, 18 stun, 19 probe, 21 engineer, 22 treats, 24 trips, 25 amend, 26 cream, 27 xerox

## Every Second Counts

### Do you know the location of your local AED?

'Quick, run and grab the AED!' If the letters A-E-D do not immediately trigger an image of a defibrillator, then there is a good probability that you are unaware of where your local Automatic External Defibrillator or 'defib' is housed. Treatment within the first few minutes of cardiac arrest can save the person's life. Once requiring extensive medical training to use, recent developments in these miracle machines along with public accessibility has shown that deploying a defibrillator within 3-5 minutes of a collapse can produce survival rates as high as 50-70%.

Running up the street to the Boscastle Spar in an emergency felt like the furthest it has ever been! We were fortunate that out of everyone nearby, a lady came rushing over and said, "I am an off-duty paramedic, can I help?" Whilst several of us are first aid trained along Bridge Walk, the relief that a professional paramedic was on hand ensured that the casualty was in the best position of help being offered. The wait for an ambulance on blue lights was agonising.

The use of a defibrillator is crucial to be able to have any chance of bringing someone back following a cardiac arrest. Effective CPR helps circulate the blood, keeping the heart and brain sufficiently



*defib outside the Spar shop*

oxygenated. The AED is necessary to deliver the shock hopefully returning the heart to a viable rhythm. Most AEDs are automatic - it tells you exactly what to do even to the point that it will not work of your casualty does not need it. All you need to do is know exactly where yours is!

At the time of writing, there is an AED outside Boscastle Spar. The Boscastle WI have recently fundraised for the purchase of another AED to be installed by the Village Hall (see page 24). Keep an eye out for them when you are out and about since you never know when you might be called upon to get one. Every second counts.

**To access the AED, call 999 and ask for Ambulance.**

RY



## ROBIN HOOD SPOTTED IN CARDINHAM WOODS

Many of you will know Enya or remember her as Robin Hood in the most recent Boscastle pantomime (oh yes you do...). Along with classmates at Sir James Smiths School, Enya is working her way through the Duke of Edinburgh's awards. She has recently completed her Bronze Award and is now looking forward to starting her Silver Award later this year when she moves into year 10.

The Duke of Edinburgh awards are made up of four sections: Volunteering, Skill, Physical and Expedition. One of the first three must be done for 6 months, the other two for 3 months each. The Expedition section is a team exercise at the end. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are open to those aged between 14 and 24 years old.

For the Volunteering section, Enya spent time helping her grandparents at home, doing shopping, cleaning etc. The Skill she developed was her singing, working hard to improve on her already



*photo courtesy Mark Dolan*

rather impressive voice. For the Physical section, Enya committed to going out on an hour's walk every day, for 6 months. Participants set their own development goals, how they will be supported and assessed.

They work on their individual challenges, but also take part in a team challenge, an 'Expedition'. This is a group exercise, which tests orienteering skills, carrying heavy packs containing food, water, camping equipment, survival bags, first aid kits and tents etc., a 16km walk, putting up tents and

camping overnight before packing up in the morning and then another 16km walk back to base. Enya's team were dropped off in Cardinham Woods having surrendered their mobile phones and any other useful technology, and had to make their way across Bodmin Moor to camp at St Breward. The next day they had to pack up, clear the site and find their way back to their school.

The pupils are very much left on their own during the expedition, which challenges not only their orienteering skills, but also their ability to work together as a team, especially when they are tired and hungry. There are checkpoints along the way, where teamers (responsible adults) keep an eye on progress and make sure everyone is okay. Teamers also hide at various points along the route just in case their help is needed. The teams must plan, organise and train for their expedition. They produce their own 'Expedition menu' and are responsible for preparing and cooking their own food. They take part in a team debrief at the end of the expedition.

Enya said she enjoyed working with others on the expedition, "It gave me a chance to work with people I didn't really know well before, it brings you all closer". Is she looking forward to the next panto? "Oh yes I am".

SS

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## A PROPER PUB



Just a couple of miles away from here off the beaten track exists a proper pub. Once a pair of cottages, then a general goods store it now constitutes the heart of the village.

Formerly from Boscastle, proprietor Pete and partner licensee Pat have for the past sixteen years kept alive a tradition of hospitality devoted to the welfare of locals. Despite the exigencies of lockdown they continued providing without charge hot meals to some of the village's older inhabitants for whom the pub was a literal lifeline – both socially and spiritually.

While not hostile to tourists, all are treated equally courteously, they are not encouraged, locals take priority.

Raising money for good causes is an important part of their endeavour. By the main entrance are racks of vegetables provided by a local couple from their overflowing poly tunnel. The honesty box reads, "Take what you need, pay what you can."

Wednesdays is fish 'n' chip night straight from the van. There are darts competitions, fund raising nights and music but the focus is on remaining a quiet retreat where you can sit comfortably by a log stove surrounded by polished brass enjoying a satisfying menu. Ann and I had the chicken madras and cleared our plates.

Note I have neither mentioned name nor location, which is how they like it. As the saying goes,

"If you don't know where you are, you've no business being 'ere."

Lately we listened appreciatively on a Sunday afternoon to Steve Winchester's folk ballads. "For this is my Cornwall, this is my home."

CR

## LOST IN LA LA LAND

Having been re-elected as a parish councillor on May 6<sup>th</sup>, I was somewhat miffed to get a letter from Electoral Services on June 11<sup>th</sup> informing me that, since I had not returned my Electoral Expenses, I "must not sit or vote in any parish/town council meetings. If you do so you are liable for a fine of £50 for every day you sit or vote."

Golly. As a well-known incompetent I had been relentlessly chivvied by three colleagues to submit expenses totalling £27, so I was quietly confident in reminding Electoral Services of this by letter.

No reply.

So I wrote again, this time by recorded delivery,

enclosing a duplicate expenses claim.

Still no reply.

Finally I rang the office and spoke to a young assistant called Louise. Yes, she confirmed she had received the duplicate. The former, she explained, might mysteriously have got lost between council offices at St Austell and Truro.

"Well, don't you confirm receipt?" I inquired. "Oh no, that would mean sending out two thousand letters." So how would I know whether I was legally entitled to sit or vote, what about the threat of a fine in the warning letter?

"Don't worry about those," she trilled, "We only send them out because the government says we have to."

In the background I could hear the thwack of a racket and applause from a crowd.

"Are you watching Wimbledon?" I asked.

No reply.

CR

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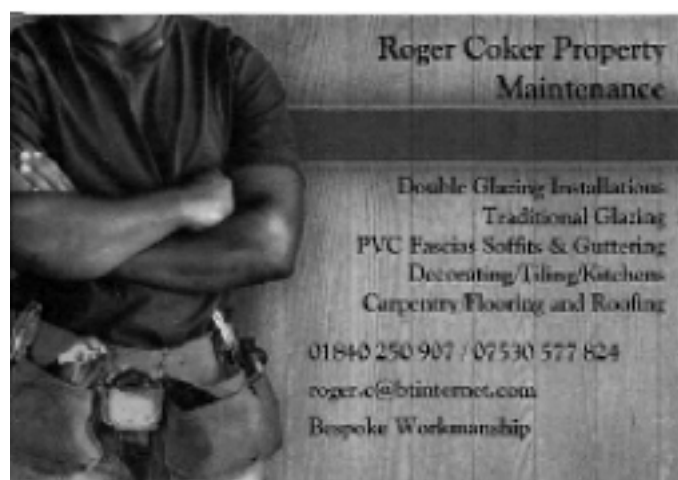
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## Telephone Box Book Shop

One of Boscastle WI's primary focuses in 2021 has been the addition of a vital, lifesaving defibrillator in the upper village, accessible to residents and visitors of all ages. To fund this, WI purchased the decommissioned telephone box down by the Bridge and put out a call for donations. With tremendous gratitude, WI received three substantial donations from the Blowhole, the Parish Council and Gloria Quinlan in memory of her husband, Len, as well as numerous donations from other private individuals.

We are pleased to announce that the defibrillator will be located on the outside wall of the Village Hall which is well known and easily described to visitors. Our hope is that this vital life saving device will be in operation within a month. The location is in keeping with the Village Hall's mission to provide a location to serve the community.

The telephone box was in poor condition, with failed hinges and rotted door surround, it also had safety issues. WI volunteers cleaned, sanded, painted

and repaired the phone box over several weeks and then added shelving, a cash box, books and DVDs. The phone box will also serve to commemorate 2021 as the 75th Anniversary of Boscastle WI.

The Bridge phone box was in sorry shape, a bit of an eye sore and unsafe until WI took it on. The cost of materials needed to make it safe and beautiful were provided by WI from the first month's income from the sale of used books as well as by donations from members Heather Colne and Helen Hunt. All further income will be used to support the maintenance costs of the WI sponsored defibrillator as well as guest speakers for the WI.

The fully restored telephone box, in glorious high gloss Post Office red, complete with gold crowns, shelving and stacked with books and DVDs, opened as a used book shop on 31<sup>st</sup> July and has already attracted a lot of attention both because of its iconic beauty and also because of the books that are available. You can find a wide variety of used books for both adults and children, as



well as used DVDs. We recommend a donation of 50p per book and £1.00 per DVD.

The story behind the iconic British telephone box is an interesting one. The K6 kiosk is identified as Britain's red Telephone Box and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V in 1935; in fact, eight kiosk types were introduced by the General Post Office between 1926 and 1983. There is a lot more interesting information about the history and you can read this inside the WI phone box.

Please stop by, peruse what is available and buy a book or DVD to enjoy over the upcoming cooler weather.

If you have used books or DVDs that you would like to donate, please either drop them off in the box provided inside the phone box or contact Gillian Schultz at [boscrow@westcv.co.uk](mailto:boscrow@westcv.co.uk) or 01840 250762 and we'll arrange collection.

*Gillian Schultz*

## GALLSTONES

Surprisingly, the article on gallstones I published in the last edition of Blowhole prompted several inquiries.

First of all, I am not a medical practitioner so any comments are just observations. I was lucky enough to be in hospital as the result of an attack and got treatment because I more or less refused to budge.

Gallstones problems are treated as non-urgent so both my next door neighbour and daughter in law (both in their 40s) were sent home from A&E advised to take painkillers. Fine, they received powerful opiates in hospital which relieved the agony, but they weren't given any to take home so had to rely instead on pharmacies for relief, which didn't solve the underlying problem.

One can manage without gallbladders, tonsils and appendixes all potential sources of infection. My neighbour after suffering for months went private, for a simple and quick operation. Daughter in law has gone the same route. The difference to general well-being, joie de vivre, is palpable.

I am not commenting on the present state of the NHS but there is apparently a waiting-list of five and a half million - or seven years' worth - of patients queuing for "non-urgent" treatment. That's a long time to wait in discomfort inconvenience and pain. If you get a loan for a car or new kitchen you can afford to "jump the queue" and be treated quickly.

*CR*



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## Re-set with Relaxation

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I have had great feedback and interest in relaxation classes so I have booked Boscastle Village Hall for an initial couple of sessions.

As we come out of the restrictions placed on us due to Covid, it is evident that our collective mental health has suffered alongside the physical concerns the pandemic has presented. Learning some simple but highly effective techniques which can easily reset our systems from the fight, flight, freeze response back to a state of rest & digest (as it's known) could prove all the maintenance you need to enable you to keep living life to its fullest. Isn't that what we all want?

The misconception is often that starting a relaxation practice means you have to stop doing the things you enjoy. In fact, the opposite is true; a regular relaxation practice recharges you so you can continue living the life YOU choose. Taking time to look after ourselves is more important than simply a nice extra in life. You wouldn't expect your car to work without regular

servicing, topping up fuel and oil etc. You wouldn't expect a dog to be ok if you only fed and exercised it once a year and never took it to the vet? Yet we regularly expect ourselves to keep going through stress, crisis, trauma and tiredness only taking time to reset and recharge ourselves once a year on holiday or waiting for illness to strike so we have permission to stop.

Come along and see if learning some easy to practice relaxation techniques can help recharge you too.

Taster Sessions: Tuesday  
19<sup>th</sup> October 6:45-7:45pm  
& 8:15-9:15pm, £5 per session

Booking is essential as I am keeping numbers low so everyone can feel safe.

To reserve your place, please phone me on 01840 250814 or email [sallybiddick@btinternet.com](mailto:sallybiddick@btinternet.com).

**Reminder!** *This is not a yoga class. You will not be asked to move, speak or do anything you are not happy with...simply come along and see if it is for you.*

*Sally Biddick*



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## Boscastle WI

After over a year of providing meetings and speakers only via Zoom, Boscastle WI continued to host a wide range of speakers on fascinating subjects. These included: May-Ancestry/Genealogy; June-Hedgehog rescue; July-Laughter Yoga.

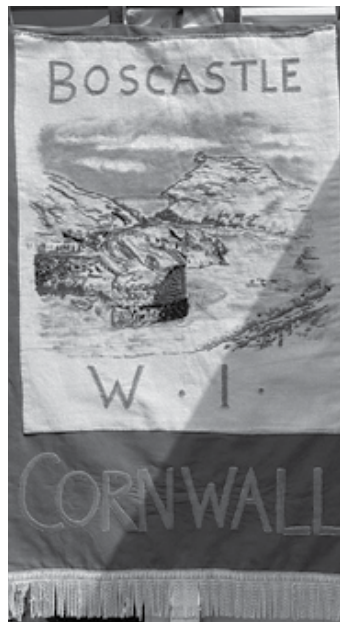
As restrictions permitted, WI has been able to schedule several in person gatherings, which included coffee mornings in member gardens in June and July and an afternoon garden tea party in August at the Village Hall (see photo below).

2021 is Boscastle WI's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary hand crafted banner was carefully dismantled, cleaned and

edge stitched in gold by Mary Shepherd (photo right). Its first reveal was in August at the garden party.

The organization offers a Garden Club to all members and has a strong core group who have also continued meeting via Zoom, with super narrated videos of member gardens, discussions and helpful hints, many of which have resulted in plant improvements. A regular feature is members' "most exotic plants". Ornamental ginger was a big surprise in Gillian Schultz's garden, producing huge flower heads on the end of spikes in September. Each year more blooms appear.

Upcoming meetings: **Round the Fountain with Rahere...** Some memories of 45 years in the NHS 1975 - 2020. 12<sup>th</sup> October. Open to non-members – contact WI for details.



**Tour of Tarquins Gin.**  
November – members only.

A quote from one of our new members: "I joined Boscastle WI because of the wide range of activities that the group creates as well as to meet other interesting women."

Local women may join Boscastle WI to meet other interesting women and participate in activities.

For details contact Gillian Schultz: [boscrow@westcv.co.uk](mailto:boscrow@westcv.co.uk)

GS

## Marshgate WI

Marshgate WI held their annual meeting by Zoom recently. President Liz Long spoke of the need to have a new start after the long Covid-led separation which has sadly seen membership

fall significantly.

Cornishwoman Liz proposed that the WI name be changed to Mowesi Marshgate, making the group the first to have a Cornish name. The institute includes two Cornish speakers, who advised on the name. Mowesi (pronounced Mo-wezzy) means Girls, and the new monicker is in line with other Cornish WIs who have jazzed up their image by choosing imaginative new names, such as Betjeman Belles, Bodmin Gaolbirds, Week St Mary's Bonaventures and St Minver's SeaGirls. The change of name was agreed unanimously.

Liz, President for the last three years, was re-elected unopposed to lead a committee of five, and has already planned the annual programme into 2022, with speakers, demonstrators and a garden party to celebrate the institute's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Meetings are held at Otterham & St Juliot Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm (2pm in Dec/Jan/Feb).

For further details please contact: Wendy Trevennor on 07795 524694 or [marshgatewi@btconnect.com](mailto:marshgatewi@btconnect.com)

WT





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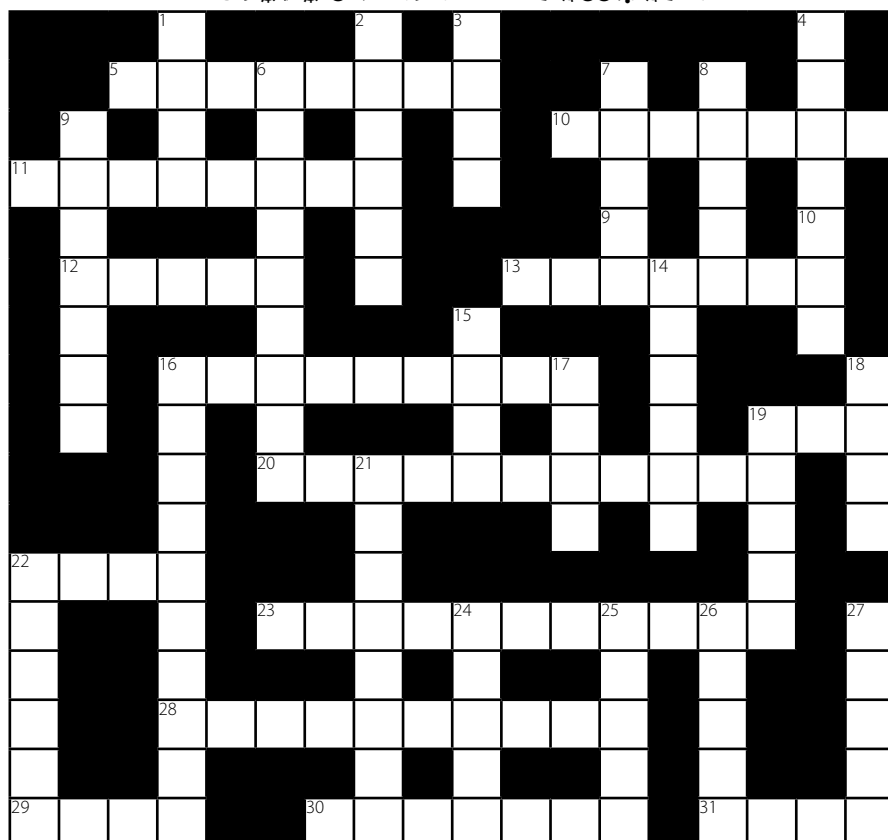
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## Steve's Autumn Crossword



### Across

- 5 Fuel for a burner (8)  
 10 Strange, being this might kill a cat (7)  
 11 Avid reader and novel invertebrate (8)  
 12 Overly curious parker (5)  
 13 Take cover here (7)  
 16 An angry puzzle? (9)  
 19 Tap dancing lady (3)  
 20 Dramatic and beautiful (11)  
 22 Provocative pastry (4)  
 23 Payment to ex-spouse, for preservation (11)  
 28 Grateful for increase (10)  
 29 Talked into and exchanged for money (4)  
 30 Ironed and pushed (7)  
 31 Tailless cat, sounds like it's from Manchester (4)
- 9 Signing up (7)  
 14 Pub with ecstasy in the area (6)  
 15 Suggest a meeting (4)  
 16 Emergency service on the edge (10)  
 17 Dodge this bird (4)  
 18 Shock about nuts (4)  
 19 Investigate space vehicle (5)  
 21 Bring about or call one out for repair (8)  
 22 Negotiates for pleasure (6)  
 24 Falls for outings (5)  
 25 Alter (5)  
 26 First or second on a scone? (5)  
 27 Rank copier with kisses at each end (5)

*answers on page 21*

### Down

- 1 Little Richard (4)  
 2 Shared grazing land (6)  
 3 Woodwork tool sounds extra (4)  
 4 Actors mumble for fruit (7)  
 6 Pony and Mouse mixed, meaning of a person giving their name to something (9)  
 7 Quantity of paper sounding like a singing group (5)  
 8 Starboard is correct (5)

### Apologies

The Summer Blowhole featured the new bus shelter. No mention was made of Peter Culver and Andy Pearce who reconstructed the shelter after it had fallen into a sad state of disrepair. They also provided the council with technical help and advice and the council minutes record a vote of thanks for their efforts, which came in at a cost of £1000 less than their competitor. Apologies for the omission, but this information was not received until after publication.



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# MICHAEL WEBBER

30/11/1936 ~ 17/08/2021

Michael Richard Webber was born at the Royal Devon Exeter hospital on 30 November 1936 to Norman and Esther Webber, his sister Trixie followed in February 1938. Michael recalls being sent to his aunt and uncle John and Trixie mills at Stoneycombe Quarry in Torquay to stay and on returning to Boscastle was introduced to his new baby sister. Michael would love to antagonise Trixie and recounts when he threw a firework in her dolly's pram and caught her doll on fire. Trixie reminded him of this event in his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday card so clearly, she hadn't forgotten it.

Michael attended Boscastle primary school under Mr Fradgley and he and Basil Snowdon were best friends, sharing a love of all things mechanical. They would find old pushbikes and motorbikes and spend hours in Norman's garage building and repairing them. They bolted two bikes together

with steel rods and linked the handle bars together so they could steer and would hurtle down Penally Hill at great speed. They built rafts, and dammed the river to float them, then attached a sail and mast to sail on the high tide in the harbour. Once they got taken out by the tide to the outer pier and had to be rescued by Roy Pickard in his rowing boat. Michael recalls building sledges and Norman would tow him and Trixie with his car, Michael says he remembers overtaking Norman's car at around 30mph down Penally Hill.

Michael's first motorbike was one found in the attic of the building that would later become the Pixie Shop. He paid Gil Biddick £3 for it, a Federation 250 and so began his love of motorbikes. Michael was still riding his Suzuki 200 right up to his death. His father Norman was a speedway rider at Exeter in 1929, so perhaps Michael inherited the love of speed



from him. Michael had many adventures with his cousin Nicholas Garbett who was bike mad as well. Nicolas later worked for Lotus as a racing driver and mechanic, sadly he died from a boating accident in 1965, in the same storm that sank the Torrey Canyon; this effected Michael a lot as they were extremely close.

Michael left school and joined his dad at the garage at the Bridge working as a mechanic until he left for national service in 1954. After initial training he was first posted to Malta for a week and he recalls upon hearing that Brian Beare was on the decoy destroyer moored in Valletta harbour, Micheal hired a local boat and rowed out to surprise Brian. Alas, once boarded, he was told Brian was off training on another boat so Michael didn't get to see him.

Michael completed his national service in Benghazi Libya repairing centurion tanks, he recalls they had a 12 cylinder engine same as used in the spitfire and Lancaster bombers, but his love

of music and water was still with him, he joined the Corps of Drums as a bugle player and was soon promoted to solo bugle player, he also played with the camp dance band, and he joined the local sailing club.

After national service, he arrived in to Bude train station and in his words "I stepped out on to the platform and heard the Porter whistling R B Halls march 'Death or Glory' and my heart lifted. The march was a favourite with Boscastle band, I was home".

He resumed his job at the garage and ran the car park, initially with his father and then took on the license from the National Trust. Michael's working career was vast and varied, he did an apprenticeship with Pearn's, boatbuilders at Looe, worked at Westerly boatbuilders in Falmouth, was a carpenter on Boscastle bridge, damaged in the 1960 storm, delivered coal for the co-op, bridge building at Altarnun, carpenter on the new secondary school Sir James Smith at



*Four generations of the Webber family,  
the baby is Michael*



Camelford, music teacher at Kelly college, fisherman, the list goes on.

Michael married Margery in 1960 and Shirley and Gillian followed in 1961 and 1963. Their family life was spent in Gaviotas on the harbour which Michael had renovated, next Penrowan on New Road and then at Myrtle Cottage where they ran the butchers and milk round.

As well as running boat trips and playing in the band, Michael continued to pursue his other interests from the parish council to the restoration of the water wheel. Michael was a member of the coast guards, completing 29 years' service, retiring in 1992.



Michael loved the sea, his mother was a Haskins from a seafaring family in Fowey. He acquired his first rowing boat for £10 and saved for an outboard motor which cost him £32. This gave him the freedom to explore the coast and the caves. By 1975 Michael was working 100 lobster pots from Boscastle to Millook in a 3 metre Orkney dorey. In 1978 he purchased the boat Lucky and ran pleasure trips out of the

harbour, sadly this boat was wrecked on the harbour side by Hurricane Lily in December 1996.

Michael started playing the cornet in Boscastle Silver Band in 1946 aged 11 years and was involved with music for most of his life, also playing cornet for bands in Bodmin, St Gennys, St Austell, Launceston and Torbay. He also played the trumpet with both Launceston and Bude orchestras. He loved all things musical, whether a cornet, accordion banjo or piano: if it could be played Michael would master it. He also sang with Boscastle and Tintagel Orpheus Male voice choir.

Michael's love of photography and history is evident in his vast history

collection. His grandfather, Richard Webber, was the village photographer and sold an extensive range of local postcards called the Webber series. Michael collected these to add to his history collection over the years. He spent hours talking to the older generation, writing down their stories. He climbed inside Ward's store when it was being demolished to salvage any historic items, and people entrusted



items to him for their preservation. Michael has left all his history collection to his daughter Gillian, who will maintain it for future generations.

In 1995 Michael married Debbie and they moved to Darley Cottage in Torquay, a beautiful thatched property left to Michael by his uncle Richard. Michael joined the band, worked as a crewman on the ferry in the summers and also completed a 2 year course at south Devon college and qualified as a sign writer whilst living there.

Michael and Debbie moved to Launceston in 2004, sadly Debbie passed away in 2014 and this was a huge loss to Michael as their time together had been extremely happy.

However, Michael continued to keep himself

busy and purchased a Renault Camper and spent hours refurbishing it, he enjoyed time away visiting churches and historical places, always keen to add to his history memorabilia. Michael finally retired from brass bands in 2016, but enjoyed following and listening to them with John Collins and Freddie Angove, recreating "Last of the Summer Wine", eating pasties made by Fred's wife Shirley out of his camper van. Michael always said Shirley Angove made the best pasties.

He started painting in oils again and Shirley and Gillian have some beautiful pictures of Boscastle painted by him.

Michael lived a full and rewarding life, his legacy will live on.

*Taken from the eulogy by Shirley & Gillian.*

# Memories of Laurie Lee

In the Reading Room in the summer edition of the Blowhole the Keeper of the Key mentioned one of their favourite books 'As I walked out one Midsummers Morning' by Laurie Lee. The Keeper says they would have loved to have met him.

Well, reader, I'm happy to say that I did – on many occasions, and a wonderful, charming, flirtatious man he was.

A former colleague was, at the time, the tenant of The Woolpack, featured in the book 'Cider with Rosie'. I called in one night to say 'Hello' to my friend and there was Laurie and, lucky old me, a seat available beside him.

We chatted a lot. I was studying with the OU at the time and Laurie was very encouraging and approving. He challenged me to learn a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'God's Grandeur'. It was rather difficult and I can still remember a lot of it.

When we both stood up to leave, he realised how

short I was and promptly named me 'Portable Pam', saying that his ideal would be to have a woman in his life small enough to fit into his pocket so that he could take her out wherever he was and whenever he felt like female company! Did I mention that he was an incorrigible flirt?

Kathy, his wife, was very aware of this and said that he would be attracted to me because of my 'Mediterranean looks'. A clever way of letting you know that she was aware of his antics.

My friend David has a boat and sometimes took Laurie out with him. They phoned one day whilst out and Laurie asked why I wasn't out there with them as he'd been having 'Portable Thoughts'!

Kathy was a clever, erudite lady herself, of Italian extraction, stunningly attractive with wonderful copper coloured hair, she more than held her own in conversation. Laurie, though, wanted no

competition and if she was getting too much attention for his liking, he'd send her back to their cottage, just behind the pub!

Laurie liked to meet publishers, people who wanted to interview him, journalists, fellow poets and friends in The Woolpack, so that when he'd had enough he could just walk home and leave them to it – easier than trying to oust people from your home.

Laurie could tell many stories, many against himself. He had restricted vision and used a white stick. One day in Stroud, he'd paused, by chance near a zebra crossing, deciding where he needed to go next. His tale was that 'two nubile young ladies' offered to take him across the road, though he didn't need to be on the other side. 'Well' he said 'one has to make use of one's infirmities', accompanied by a wicked grin!

Laurie could tell so many tales against himself. On one occasion he was sitting outside The Woolpack when two young ladies who failed to recognise him asked if he knew where Laurie Lee was buried! 'Well' he answered

'most days he's buried in the pub!'

Kathy was very young when they married, she about 18 and he about 35. They'd met when she was dancing with friends down through a village in Spain and Laurie was hooked by her grace and stunning good looks. Photographs of her in her earlier years show a wonderfully good-looking woman.

My daughter, Rachel made Laurie the subject of her dissertation when at university and had an enormous amount of help from Kathy, who said she was happy 'to keep the memory of the Old Boy going'. Kathy was so kind, making photos and books available to her, which Rachel found invaluable.

Two books I found on Amazon by Valerie Grove, 'The Well loved Stranger' and 'The Life and Loves of Laurie Lee' tell a lot about Laurie for anyone wanting further reading.

I met Jessy a few times too and I remember a very attractive woman who'd inherited her mother's hair and her father's mouth. A good combination!

*Pam Smith*

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## A Perfect Evening For Flying

After taking a couple of half hour pleasure flights from Bodmin Airfield last year I became totally hooked. To me there is no better way to see beautiful Cornwall than from the air. Returning from one of those flights I saw the Super Decathlon in the hangar and I knew that I had to have a flight in it. It's a stunning plane previously owned by James May with the registration G-OCOK! While house-sitting for friends in Boscastle this July I took the opportunity to book up a flight in it.

We arrived early and sat outside the clubhouse watching the planes coming and going and was soon befriended by Egla the airfield's black cat. After filling in the required paperwork my pilot Andy asked me where I wanted to fly. I had booked an hour this time so had plenty of options available to me. He asked if I fancied doing a loop the loop over the airfield on returning, well that was a chance I certainly couldn't refuse.

It was a perfect evening for flying, cloudless blue sky and very little wind. Sitting behind Andy meant I had windows both sides. One of my passions is taking photographs so this was perfect for me.

Take off felt much faster than my previous flights in a Cessna. Soon we were airborne gazing down at the patchwork fields of the Cornish countryside. We first headed to Colliford Lake to see the new stone labyrinth. Next we flew over Restormel Castle then on to Fowey. I could see all the boats lined up in the harbour, Ferryside, where Daphne Du Maurier once lived and the ferry to Bodinnick. We then flew over Gribben Head lighthouse with its distinctive red and white stripes. These were all recommendations from Andy who knew the best spots for photography.

Next was the Eden Project; I could see the domes glistening in the sun from quite a distance away.



It looked amazing from the air and showed the sheer scale of the project. We then headed across to the North Coast and flew up the Camel Estuary passing Wadebridge, Rock and Padstow. The colours in the water were absolutely stunning. We passed Polzeath and the Rumps before heading to Port Isaac. Seeing all these places I knew well from the air was thrilling. I have been visiting Cornwall for many years, especially the North Coast. We followed the coast to Trebarwith where it was time to head inland back to the airfield.

I was soon told to hold on tight to everything as Andy was going to ascend to start the loop the loop.

After contacting the control tower at Bodmin we started to climb. Speed needed to be gathered first and we had to climb to 2000ft. We then started the loop by dropping at 140mph. It was an amazing experience. All of a sudden, I realised I was upside down looking at the fields below through the window in the roof. We did this twice before landing back at Bodmin.

This has given me a taste for aerobatics so hopefully the full aerobatic experience will be my next adventure. I thoroughly recommend pleasure flights from Bodmin Airfield. They are a friendly team who make the experience memorable.

*Claire Morgan*

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## Cornwall Councillor Barry Jordan writes

We are making plans this year to deliver wheelee bins or protective sacks to 270,000 households across the Duchy. Residents will receive information about the change in service in due course and do not need to take any action. The provision of bins will contain rubbish and stop animal attacks leaving litter in the street. "The new fleet of more efficient collection vehicles also provide bin lifts which will reduce the need for manual handling and improve health, safety and wellbeing for the staff. In the meantime, we can all recycle more – there is no need to wait. Currently around one third of the contents of the average black bin bag in Cornwall is made up of food waste. If we all shopped smarter and used up leftovers, that could make a big difference.

I have recently contacted all 213 Parish and Town Councils with a 'questionnaire'. We want their views on planning and how effective it is and if they think they are being given a voice. Housing is also a big problem and we

are going to build council houses, some land has been bought and we want more, if you have or know of a land owner who would like to help, please let me know. I have had a large number of responses and many complaints about our roads, potholes are filled fairly quickly but the major projects seem to be well behind schedule, the pandemic has been a large factor in this, hedge cutting and gutter clearance is also a problem but it will be done in due course. The last 18 months have been testing for all and it looks to every-one that nothing is being done, but it is, just not here at the moment.

The Conservative administration have agreed that we will be building Council Houses, housing for local people at an affordable rent; many of the houses being built by developers for social and affordable rent are being bought up by private individuals and the rent is not affordable for local people. That's something that has to be stopped, there are 1,000s of houses empty in Cornwall, another issue that is being dealt with by the Empty

Housing Group, to bring them back into use. There are many acres of land which are earmarked for housing but being held by private developers who are just sitting on the land waiting for the price to rise. We all know that we need much more affordable housing, either to rent or for first time buyers, this is a priority.

We are working very hard with our officers to get Cornwall where it should be, leading from the front, but we need your help. We need your input/comments as we are custodians of your Cornwall. Help me to put your views forward. Email is best or write to me as then I have a record.

*Barry Jordan*

cllr.barry.jordan@  
cornwall.gov.uk

01840230048 or  
07799790813

4 Haven Road,,  
Crackington Haven,  
Bude, EX23 0PD

## Gig Club News



The Boscastle and Crackington gig club have been taking full advantage of the recent good weather. With two boats on the harbourside plenty of crews have been able to enjoy the fantastic coastline. There have been a wonderful variety of wildlife spotted and one crew has rowed up to Crackington Haven for an ice cream stop before rowing back to Boscastle.

In early September, the club were able to launch their new wooden gig Torrent, for the first time. A club racing day, using 3 boats was enjoyed in the harbour with 4 very competitive races. New Torrent reigned supreme, winning 3 out of 4 of her races. Club members, old and new had a great fun afternoon and over £200 was raised by selling cakes and garden produce to passers-by.

Club chairman Phoebe Millar was delighted that the afternoon went so well and that everyone was able to take part.

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# National Trust

We recently heard from a farmer that this has been a good 'growing year'. And we'd have to agree - many people point out to us that cutting back our footpaths is like painting the Forth bridge! this year it certainly seems to be the case.

We mentioned in the Spring edition of the Blowhole about the pressure on the network of footpaths around Boscastle. Alongside this we have noticed quite a few extra paths developing on Forrabury Stitches over the last 5 years, and this is having a negative impact on the meadows.

In response to this we have re-routed the path

near Willapark and moved the gate onto the coast path. We would really appreciate it if everyone stayed on the paths, not only in this area, but all over the Stitches. As a reminder, there is the circular path around the edge, and only one path through the middle from the field gate entrance next to the church, out to meet the circular path overlooking the harbour.

We have now started our hay cuts on bits of meadows around Boscastle to help improve their biodiversity, and we will be doing more work on the footpaths around the Stitches in September.

*Best wishes*

*National Trust Rangers*  
boscastle@nationaltrust.org.uk

## The Holistic Wellness School



Lorraine Gibson has been a natural healer since 1998 and a Fitness Professional since 2005. She settled in Boscastle in 2019, moving from Bude, where she ran a busy ladies gym and fitness classes for 17 years. The Holistic Wellness School brings together her passion for Wellness, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Lorraine has spent decades studying and qualifying in spiritual disciplines as well as physical fitness and healing methods. She completed her Ecstatic Awakening Dance qualifications this year & has been delivering this dance method at Festivals and Wellness Fayres this year.

Lorraine aims to help you become the best and brightest version

of yourself. She has combined physical fitness disciplines, meditation and mindfulness techniques with her work as a lifestyle guru and Reiki healer creating a safe environment for individuals and groups to explore and improve their physical, mental, and emotional wellness. She offers one-to-one mentoring and coaching as well as group sessions, events, workshops and retreats. Disciplines include, pilates, yoga, dance, reiki and more.

From 14<sup>th</sup> September, she will be holding weekly Wellness sessions, the Freedom Valley Project, at Boscastle Community and Recreation Centre, on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

To find out more about the Holistic Wellness School and for full details about the local classes, please visit the website:

www.  
theholisticwellnessschool.  
com  
or you can contact  
Lorraine on 07595831267  
or by email lorraine@  
theholisticwellnessschool.  
com

LG

### Rainfall totals measured in millimetres in Boscastle SX 09697 90138



	June 21	July 21	Aug 21
Days with no rainfall	15	15	14
Max rain on one day	32	13.2	8.8
Daty when max fell	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
Monthly total	63.4	72.6	44.8
Total rainfall same month last year	163.2	44.2	99.8

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# Correspondence

## Thanks

Dear Blowhole

We are writing to the Blowhole to ask you to print this message to Ross and all the staff at the Riverside.

Thanks so much for the roast service every Sunday, come rain or shine during the lockdown or during the busy times now, never letting us down.

*best wishes*

*Barb and Les Hopkins*

## Starlight ceiling

Dear Editor

I wonder if any of your more mature readers could possibly help me with a little mystery which has been bugging me since I stayed in beautiful Boscastle again last week.

Many years ago, possibly in the mid 1970s, on one of my many visits to Cornwall I stayed as usual at Bossiney House Hotel, when it was run by my friends Michael and Sonia Williams. One day I walked into Boscastle and recall buying a number of copies of The Countryman magazine which were wrapped in brown paper for me. On my walk back I called in somewhere for a drink but cannot now recall the name of the place. However, having just reread in Michael Williams' book "Tintagel to Boscastle" mention of the Rocky Valley Hotel, I am wondering whether this was the place I visited.

The reason that it has stood out in my mind all these years is that the

owner was kind enough to show me his restaurant, the ceiling of which had been drilled with dozens of holes into which had been inserted small lights. He had done this work himself and I think he called it the Starlight Restaurant, or some such name.

Am I completely wrong, or does anyone remember this?

Congratulations on a fascinating magazine. Although I have lived near Penzance for over 30 years my heart really remains in North Cornwall.

*Kind regards,  
Malcolm Sutton*

PS: By the time I came out of the hotel it was raining heavily and by the time I arrived back at Bossiney house my books were a soggy bundle!

*Editor's note: I remember the Rocky Valley Hotel, and have contentedly supped a pint or three there, but my memory doesn't include gazing at the starlight ceiling. If you can help, we will pass on any information or can put you in contact with Malcolm.*

## Hello from Polrunny Farm

Dear Blowhole

We are Adam and Melanie and we moved in to Polrunny Farm in February and would like to introduce ourselves to you.

For those of you who don't know it, Polrunny Farm is a 13-acre site way up the hill that goes past The Nap. The farm consists of a courtyard of four holiday cottages, our house, fields and two

enormous portal sheds that must surely be visible from the moon.

On the day we moved in, as we lugged our mismatched furniture into the house, we kept stopping to admire the breath-taking views down the valley to the sea. And then on our first evening, the wind picked up, the windows rattled and the fog moved in...and didn't lift for a week. Welcome to Cornwall!

We'll whisper it quietly, but we moved here from London. Like many others, we re-examined our life plans while suffering from working from home-induced cabin fever during lockdown. We were bored with our work; we fancied a new challenge in the countryside; and our 3 kids were each off to a different University. So we decided to up sticks and move.

Before we got here, we did have a slight fear we would feel like outsiders. We needn't have worried about our welcome though. Everyone has been really

friendly. Our neighbours baked us a cake to welcome us. On our first walk in to Boscastle a local builder gave us a potted history of the area as he leant on his front door, passing the time of day with those who ambled by. Even our German Shepherd, Albus, made friends as he walked through the village.

We chose Boscastle precisely because we could sense its community spirit. The scarecrow competition, the phone box bookshop the local farmers and the fantastic local pubs are Boscastle through-and-through. We are thrilled to have moved to such a lovely village.

The six months since we moved in have been a busy time for us. We have spruced up Polrunny Farm's already lovely holiday cottages, we have been sampling the food and drink that Boscastle's fantastic hospitality industry has to offer (all so that we can tell our holiday-maker guests all about them!), and we have

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# Correspondence

joined the Boscastle and Crackington Gig Club. The rowing is good exercise, the beers and occasional pizzas are most welcome, as are the new friendships we are forging.

We are looking forward to meeting more of you over the coming months. And if you want to get in touch with us, feel free to email us at [stay@polrunnyfarm.com](mailto:stay@polrunnyfarm.com)

*Adam and Melanie*

Dear Blowhole

A local resident observed that there have been several complaints about 'the Wall' but no mention of the benefits of the pavement.

Now, when out for a walk or going to the surgery, the Nap or to see Tim at the garage, we are no longer in danger of being flattened by passing traffic.

So, Hurrah for the Pavement.

*best wishes  
from a happy pedestrian*

## A Well Deserved Thank You

Dear Editor,

I wish to send special thanks to all the Organisers and all the Helpers of the Boscastle Buys evening, on 4<sup>th</sup> September and to Vicar Heather for allowing us all into her garden. The singing was first-rate; the food was tasty; the drinks were thirst quenching (with a complimentary Pimm's for starters); the weather was perfect and the warmth of the Boscastle community spirit that surrounded us, just added to a perfect evening.

I came away from Vicar Heather's garden wishing for more events like this. It gave us the chance to, at last, meet up and chat with so many friends and neighbours.

Thank you all for a delightful evening. Give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back.

*Gloria Quinlan*

Dear Blowhole

Inglorious Wall Victorious. Some good news - if you happen to be a prospective developer trying to save a few bucks that is. A new precedent has now been set: it seems you no longer have to apply for planning consent for an unsuitable erection in Boscastle Conservation Area. Cornwall Council says so! You heard it here first.

Having investigated itself for 8 months, the Enforcement (should that read Complacency?) Department of Cornwall Council has decided that it has done no wrong. The unlawful wall will stay. After all, as the Council states that though, 'technically, the discharge of condition application should have been submitted to the Planning department also but this was omitted ...and whilst appearing quite prominent in the street scene at present, this composite stone will weather, much like the sides of railway bridges.

Concern is expressed that it does not blend into the Conservation Area, however, there is more recent development in the immediate vicinity and, the wall is not with the historic heart of Boscastle.' Definitely some useful tips there for any developer's political playbook.

The Council did not even inform the Parish Council and other objectors of the result of its marking of its own homework.

Cormac (presumably proficient at designing railway bridges) approved the design. Has it now become the arbiter of design in Historic Environments? Though to be fair, even Cormac advised that planning consent would be required.

I shall now retire from this particular battlefield. Perhaps I should put away any expletives and start researching retirement homes; I hear Cormac run some. At least the drives should be tidy!

*Alex Stewart*

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## NEIGHBOURS

Is Boscastle about to be invaded by thespians? Since Christmas seven properties have changed hands in Fore and Dunn Streets, three alongside: Nicola and Barnaby (opposite), Ben and Sarah (next door), Bibo and Will (over the stream), plus children, assorted relatives and pets.

I fell in love with Nicola in *Last Tango*, where she struggled single-handed to run a rackety Yorkshire hill farm. No-one, I swear, can play fed-upness as well.

Five series on location honed her appreciation of farming life. "When the stunt girl hesitated" she smiled, "I could reverse a vintage tractor and trailer through a farm gate".

She also got into character for her latest role in *Annika* as a DCI heading up a Marine Homicide Unit by gaining a powerboat certificate on Glasgow's river Clyde and Loch Lomond. She recalls it as a weird experience: strict Scottish lockdown meant that neither in town or on water lurked a soul.

If cast or crew are found Covid positive the whole shoot is suspended. This

limited her contact with Boscastle. The advantage of location work means home can be almost anywhere but you are often absent for months. She first saw the Boscastle property in August last year, not again until this March.

Husband Barnaby has been responsible for outfitting the property, fortunately tying in with his career as a script writer. From a theatrical family, he has a successful record with the RSC along with numerous stage appearances, television and radio. One unexpected bonus working from home: "Boscastle's broadband is brilliant."

Before the war his family owned Port Quin and surrounding farms. The village itself fell into disuse not, as legend would have it, the male population having gone fishing on a Sunday – traditionally unlucky – being caught in a storm and all drowned, but because the pilchard shoals disappeared and therefore means of earning a living, so they moved inland or dispersed elsewhere.

Barnaby brought Nicola twenty five years ago to visit his mother who occupies



*Nicola and Barnaby*

the White House, their relationship culminating in a honeymoon suite at the Wellington which, almost uniquely at the time, was dog-friendly. They now have a son, Harry, 14, very much into wake boarding, and Dora, a friendly Red Fox Labrador

In the late '40s the Port Quin estate was put up for sale. There were two contenders: the National Trust and Billy Butlin. Even though they were the under bidder the family preferred the Trust. The mind boggles at the thought of the headland dominated by swings and roundabouts and the strains of "hi-d-hi!"

The house next door

was a holiday let for twenty years so I am unused to neighbours, but Sarah cordially introduced herself well in advance, seeking advice and help.

She recalls Wendy Blunt as her head teacher at Jacobstow Primary, then Budehaven, before the bright lights of London and theatrical career. Now connected to LAMDA she advises and supports theatre productions across the West Country, most recently with the Minack reopening this season at Porthcurno.

Her father, Robin, is emeritus vicar of Week St Mary, rural dean for the Stratton group of parishes and sometime canon at



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Truro Cathedral. Her sister lives in Bude, and her granny in Widemouth celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> next month.

So really it was only a matter of time before she returned to her spiritual birthplace “When we got the keys to the house and walked in the door it was the happiest day of my life.”

She and Ben met as house sharers, he at the time completing his doctorate in music. After Oxford he lectured for a short while but sadly realised the future was more golden in finance. Until June this year he worked for Deloitte, one of the “Big Four” accounting organisations until its business support arm hived off to become Teneo. As senior managing director Ben is pleased that so far it has had a 90% success rescuing ailing businesses.

The trend towards home working has been accelerated by the pandemic. Although Ben is based in Covent Garden, like most in the financial sector, he communicates



*Ben, Tobias and Sarah*

with clients and colleagues mainly on line and by video conferencing, his actual presence at head office limited to a few occasions a year.

Freedom to choose where one works and avoiding long commuter journeys inevitably mean places like Boscastle will become more sought after as residential communities, not just holiday destinations. This should provide greater financial prosperity and stimulate the area as a whole.

Sarah and Ben intend that eight year old Tobias will finish primary education in London

changing to a Cornish school at secondary level, steadily extending their time in Boscastle as circumstances allow.

What do you think of Cornwall? I asked him. A pause – “A..Maz..Ing.”

Will and Bibo (across the stream), black lab Bojo and family hadn’t far to move this time, just over from Tintagel. Their new house begged for occupation, sadly empty for years it needed some serious refurbishment but has now gained new vitality, its charming terrace looking over the castle woodlands. Will, again, is used to working away from home as a location TV cameraman, at time of writing on a three month shoot in Alaska

Bibo is currently writing a novel based on her early

experience growing up as one of the original “Foot’s Barn children” that phenomenal troupe of travelling artistes that began in Davidstow in the 1970s before being whisked along with her parents pursuing a whirlwind peripatetic life over five continents, before finally settling in La Chaussee in France. After all that, Boscastle provides a welcome relief, and return to her roots. Her sons Tom and Otis are currently at Sir James Smith’s.

I am hoping this little vignette of three families will reassure some who fear Boscastle will become overrun by strangers. They share several things in common: they have strong local connections; they are relatively young, active, fun and interesting; they have children who will grow up in the village; and they want to be part of the community.

*We shall not cease from exploration*

*And the end of all our exploring*

*Will be to arrive where we started*

*And know the place for the first time*

*TS Eliot, Little Gidding*  
CR

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# Opening Hours and Useful Numbers

## Boscastle Spar

**Tel: 01840 250419**

Cash machine during business hours

**Post Office facilities**

**Shop open daily at 6am**

## Cornish Stores

**Open every day 9am to 6pm**

Home deliveries available

**Tel: 01840 250344**

## Mobile Library

**0800 032 2345 or 01872 272702**

**Visits every fourth Friday:**

**Boscastle, Paradise Road 10.20 -10.40**

**October 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

## NatWest Bank

The NatWest Mobile Bank visits the car park every Friday between 1.45pm and 2.30pm.

To ensure that social distancing can be maintained, there is now a policy of only one customer inside the van at a time.

## Camelford Library and Information Service

Town Hall, Market Place,  
Camelford, PL32 9PD

**Tel: 0300 1234 111**

Mon & Tues: 10am - 4.30pm,

Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am - 1pm

Library renewals line: 0845 607 6119

camelford.library@liscornwall.org.uk

## Waste Tip, Bowithick Quarry

**Sanding Road, Tintagel, PL34 0HH**

**Tel: 01840 770778**

**Open Friday to Monday: 9am – 4pm**

## Emergency Services:

Coastguard, Fire, Police, Ambulance: **Dial 999**

**Police Station:** For non-urgent issues: 101

**Bottreaux Doctors' Surgery** and out-of-hours emergency doctor: 01840 250209

**NHS Advice** : If you are feeling unwell and need a telephone health assessment, please call freephone 111

## Local Hospitals:

To access the Minor Injuries Unit at any of these hospitals call 111 or online at <https://111.nhs.uk/>

**Bodmin - East Cornwall** 01208 251300  
X-Ray department every day 8am until 8pm.

**Launceston Community** 01566 765600  
X-Ray department Mon to Fri 8.30am - 5pm, Sun 9am-5pm

**Stratton Community** 01288 287700  
X-Ray department Monday to Friday 9am until 5pm

**NHS Emergency Dental Service:** 0333 405 0290

## Local Churches:

Church of England 01840 250359  
Methodist 01840 779339  
Catholic 01840 770663

**Harbourmaster:** 01840 250200

## Parish Council:

Chairman: 01840 250529  
Clerk: 01840 230609

email: [clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk)

website: [www.forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minibus Bookings and Enquiries:** 07506 944 622

**Community Centre Bookings:** 01840 250442

**British Divers Marine Life Rescue** to report concerns about any marine animals: 01825 765546

**RSPCA:** 0300 1234 999

**Cornwall Council one stop shop:** 0300 1234 111

**Environment Agency:** 0800 807 060

**Floodline:** 0345 988 1188

**South West Water emergency:** 0344 346 2020

**SWW leak reporting** 0800 230 0561

**Highways:** 0300 1234 222

**Western Power emergencies:** 0800 365 900

**Village Hall bookings:** Julie Potter: 07828 824951

**Village website:** [www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk](http://www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM A SMALLHOLDING

A couple of weeks ago we were swimming in the harbour, watching washing dry in a matter of hours and worrying about whether or not the sheep were overheating. And then, just like that, Autumn seems to have set in! Running a smallholding makes you acutely aware of the weather and the seasons; your jobs' list can be curtailed by heavy rain or sometimes brought forward because last night's wind took down an old tree in one of the fields. It is safe to say that whatever we have planned needs to be as flexible as possible!

We have a big, black book that lists all of the things that need doing on the holding; some of these are the daily tasks of animal checking and feeding, others are weekly mundane jobs such as recycling and the remainder are more involved. For example, "Remove shed and replace with smaller shed and veggie patch" may sound like it would take a week or so with the whole family on it. However, the shed in question is 60 feet long, 20 feet wide and contains all of our equipment. The task of removing a shed is overshadowed by having to find storage space and, inevitably, having a good rummage and clear out! And then there is the adventure of dismantling something that was second-hand 40 years ago...

While we are looking at what needs to be done in the coming months the local wildlife is a few steps ahead of us. The swallows that have spent the summer swooping and diving across the fields and rearing chicks in our garage, have started to think about migration. Instead of chittering and chirruping from their usual perch on the fence, they are now high above on the telegraph lines; the little feathery family being joined by others preparing to fly to warmer climates. The rabbits that live in our banks are doing the rounds of the vegetable gardens again. They did a wonderful job of clearing out

all of our young plants, followed by a second planting and finally a third earlier in the year. At that point, we gave up and focused on things that are staples for our cooking: onions, garlic and potatoes. The remainder of the vegetable patch was put aside for borage and comfrey - the bees certainly enjoyed it! Rabbit-proofing is another job for Autumn/Winter and will be done at the same time as fertilising and covering the beds.

We've had a hedgehog house in the main garden for about two years now but for some reason, the local hog population just don't like it! Our wildlife cameras have shown many viewings of this fine property, but not one taker! Slightly disappointed about our lack of hedgehogs, we carried on as normal. Around a fortnight ago there was a rustling in the dag (reject wool) bag in the sheep shed. We keep these fleece offcuts for putting on the vegetable borders as a weed suppressant and they work a treat! Naturally, any rustling in a



*the fleecy hog nest*

bag in a shed is greeted with great suspicion, a little apprehension and a stick to poke things with. When we carefully raised the edge of the bag a little face peered up at us, followed by some tiny snuffly noses. The Hog House was obviously not in favour as



*the comfrey and borage patch*

it was lacking wool insulation! Lady Hog had created a nest and had her babies in the most snuggly place she could find. Of course, this meant that all plans for bringing sheep into said shed for their normal maintenance have since been put on hold! We've had the wildlife cameras set up so we can watch the comings and goings of this little group and they are keen adventurers. It isn't unusual to find one snuffling around outside the shed of an evening when we put the hens away, and we have to make sure that the shed lights are put on before we go in at night, just in case one of our prickly friends is having a wander around.

One of the (many) things we love about the smallholding is that we are custodians of the land. On paper, it may belong to us, but in reality, it belongs to all the animals that live within its boundaries. The rabbits and hedgehogs are more permanent residents, the swallows come and go, and occasionally - when we are very lucky - we get to see a stag and his hinds walking through our top fields. Whatever the season, and however long the jobs list may be, we always find time to stop and watch them and their world go by.

*Lara Pollard-Jones*



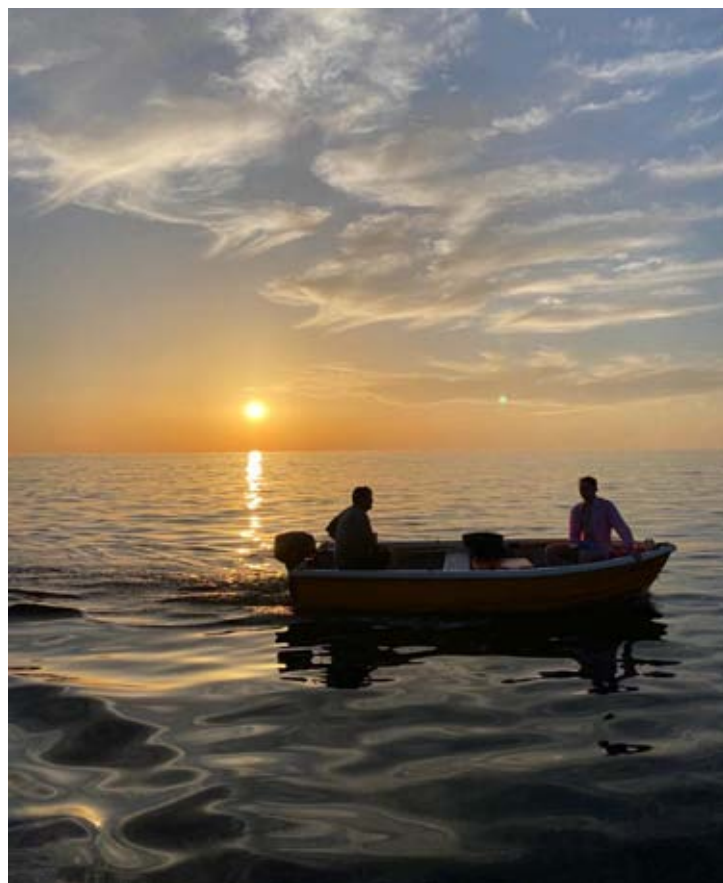
## Harbour Master's News

A mixed summer. Bad weather in May made for difficult fishing and although we saw an improvement in June and July early and mid-August were unsettled. Plenty of boats in the harbour but mackerel have been very scarce this year and looking at my lobster returns I am down on last year despite working a few more pots several of which were lost in May and had to be replaced. More were wiped away in early August. Rene and Onward are now the only two remaining registered commercial fishing boats left in the harbour.

With Rene I sell all the catch through the Rocket Store. So far Onward has spent more time on her mooring this year than off. She does have a licence to take bass so hopefully with these more plentiful she may be doing a bit more fishing in the Autumn. I caught a large bass in early August adjacent to

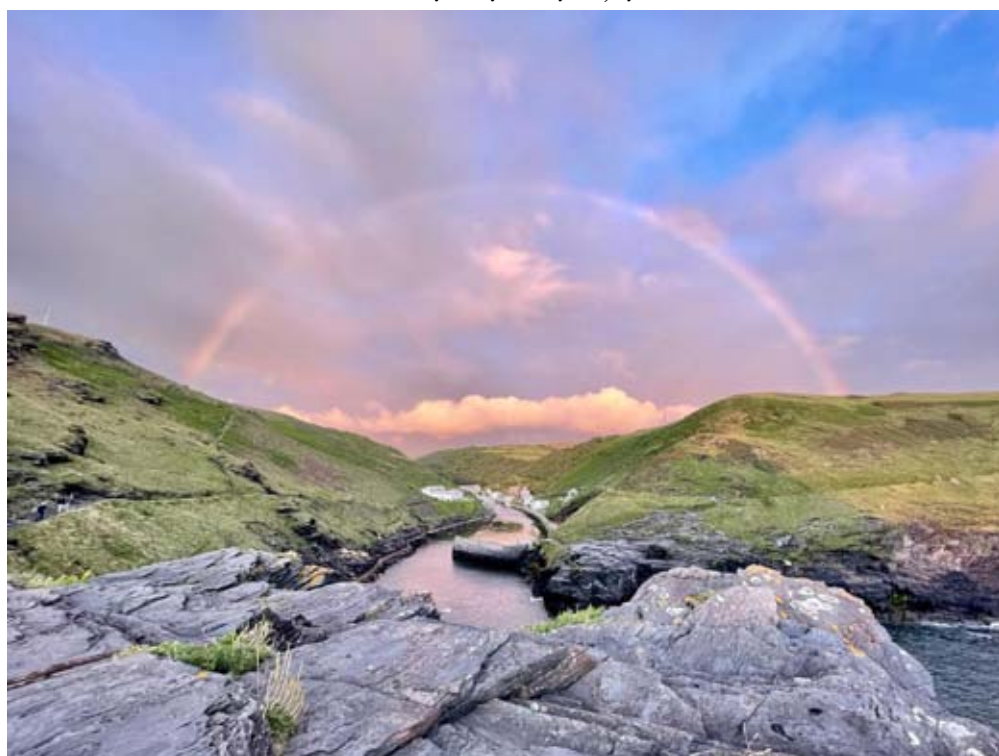
California Quarry on a Yo Zuri lure but then managed to cut my hand rather badly getting the hook out. I am very grateful to the nursing staff in the surgery who saw me immediately on landing and patched me up. Mark Brown had a more serious problem in May when he broke his right arm on a winch and could not work for six weeks. Occupational hazards in fishing.

Two Boscastle/Treworld boys, Trehane Drayson and Paddy Mills are currently working on Delta Dawn III out of Padstow. Earlier in the year Delta was working 1800 pots between Pentire and Crackington but they have now moved off north of Lundy and are fishing for crab. They do trips of 4 to 5 days and readers may have seen the boat anchored in Bossiney where they are often overnight. They both say they really enjoy



their work despite the long hours and sometimes very rough conditions.

The flat spells in June and July made for some really hot and lovely days and I attach two photos. I particularly like the one of the rainbow over the harbour which was taken in July by my daughter-in-law Becky. The other is of



Ben Hughes and Dan Galvin in the little yellow harbour boat fishing off the Meachard after a picnic on Bossinney.

August 9<sup>th</sup> saw an incident when a visitor slipped fell off the old Harbour Wall onto rocks below seaward side. Coastguard and Ambulance were called who then summoned a helicopter. With the tide rising and a very stiff breeze I watched the helicopter circle and then try to hover over the casualty at least three times before, on the fourth occasion, the stretcher was eventually winched up and the lady taken to Derriford. Thankfully she was discharged that night without serious personal injury.

Padstow lifeboat was in Boscastle on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept to rescue a kayaker who was swept out of his craft onto rocks at the Western Blackapit. Kayaking in heavy seas is very dangerous. The man was experienced but was still caught out and was lucky not to have been lost.

*Chris Key*