



# BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 116 Winter 2021

£1



*photos above and of the illuminated tree on page 2 courtesy Claire Bailey*

## *From Lobster Pots to Festive Finery*

*Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce enlisted the help of some fishermen and some elves to create a fabulous alternative tree in the Cobweb Carpark. See more inside on page 2.*

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**Also inside:** News from the Lookout page 7    Angels page 15    Useful Numbers page 23  
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**Boscastle's Alternative Christmas Tree!**

A huge thank you to all of those who ventured out to support Boscastle's late night shopping and Christmas tree light switch on. The weather

settled briefly to allow the Boscastle Buoys to lead a series of carols with a crowd outside near the new Christmas "tree". An amazing number of



*photo courtesy Lauren Edwards*



*Season's Greetings from Gloria Quinlan  
I wish all my Friends in Boscastle  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
For the fourth year running I will not be  
sending or giving Christmas cards.  
Instead, I will donate the money, usually  
spent on cards and postage, to charity.*

hardy shoppers strolled with their stamped shop local bingo cards in hand and there was a lovely sense of community and Christmas spirit.

*But there is no tree?*

Eagle-eyed residents noticed the week leading up to the evening that a structure was being placed in the car park and dressed with what looked to be Christmas lights. Both the playschool and primary school children created wonderful decorations that were hung and strapped on tightly. The hour arrived, the switch flicked, and 'ta dah!'

Efforts all week concluded to show that members of the Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC) had created a Christmas tree out of lobster pots.

Each year, members of the BCTC pay for trees around the village to bring some festive spirit in the run up to Christmas. In



years gone by, the large Christmas tree in the car park is often battered by the winter storms and does not make it to the big day.

Last year, there were only a few needles attached after the first storm. In 2019, the tree was left in darkness after water saturated the electrics, and, during a storm in 2018, the top of the tree caught light when high winds broke the electricity ring. A new sustainable solution was needed if the car park was to continue to have a "tree".

Well done to everyone involved in the bringing the idea to fruition!

## **New Parish Council Website**

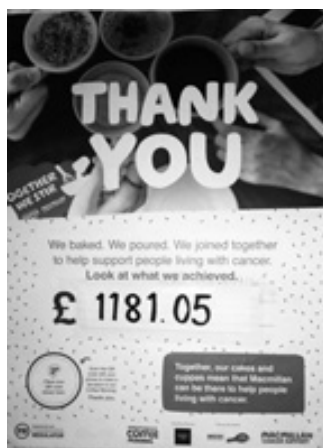
[www.forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk)

Over the Autumn, a new and dedicated website has been created to help improve the information available to the public and to promote the work and policy of Forrabury and Minster Parish Council. As the website begins to take shape and becomes populated with relevant

information, parishioners are welcome to view and engage.

Councillors are keen to introduce a 'house brand' logo or image to the website and to council documentation. If you have any ideas to submit, please contact the Clerk by email:

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



OMG you beautiful people!!! Thanks to all your support once again this year, the total for the Macmillan breakfast/coffee morning and quiz night at the Napoleon Inn is an AMAZING..... £1181.05!!! BIG LOVE to all who made this possible: Sharon and Ron for letting it all happen at the Nap, Juls Kitto Smith for cooking the best brekkies Matthew White & Joe for kitchen help, Laurissa Giddings, Ollie Beaumont for serving, Williams Butchers, RD Johns and Westcountry Fruits for donating the food and to everyone who gave raffle prizes, baked cakes, bought raffle tickets, ate brekkie and came to the quiz (hope I haven't forgotten anyone)

See you all again next year THANK YOU

BD

## First Aid Training

Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce are looking to host first aid training courses again in the village for its members and extend the opportunity to the public in the new year.

'First Aid at Work' is a three-day course that comprehensively covers the practical skills by first aiders in most workplaces. It meets the standards required to help comply with Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations. However, if your risk assessment indicates that first aid training covering emergency protocols only is sufficient for your workplace, 'Emergency First Aid at Work' is a one-day course will help you meet your regulatory requirements. Successful candidates receive a certificate valid for three years. Both courses includes basic defibrillator (AED) training.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the secretary, Claire, at boscastlechamber@gmail.com or pop in to Long Dog Pet Supplies on Bridge Walk before the end of the year.

## Gig Club News



Boscastle and Crackington Gig Club have continued to attract new members, and have enjoyed taking part in their first regatta at Brixham last month. Three crews travelled to the South Devon coast to take part in this event for Supervets (over 50s). For some members, it was their first experience of competitive rowing and a great fun day was had by all.

The club would also like to congratulate one of their lady rowers, Frances Baker, on her

remarkable achievements at the National Swimming Championships. She came home with not one medal, but three golds, a silver and a bronze. We are very proud of you Fran, an inspiration to us all. (*read more on page 20*)

The club is in the process of selecting crews based on their fitness, rowing skills, coach ability and availability. It is hoped to have crews in place so that vigorous training for the World Championships on the Isles of Scilly next year, can begin.

Wendy Millar

## 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

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## Support Needed



Boscastle Methodist Church (the Chapel) is a Grade 2 listed building, built in 1825. It stands on Fore Street opposite the Primary School.

Over the years many services, christenings, weddings and funerals have been held in this Church. However it is facing closure due to lack of finance for its upkeep. Because of covid we have not been able to raise funds from the usual coffee mornings, fetes etc.

Any support or donations will be most gratefully received. Donations may be made to Boscastle Methodist Church c/o The Treasurer, Mrs B Johnson at Chy Men, Fore Street, Boscastle or to any Church member.

We always welcome anyone who would like to join us.

*June Mugford*

### *A little history of the Chapel*

Between 1784 and 1793 Methodist services were held in an old barn in Boscastle. In 1793 a licence for a preaching room was granted and in 1801 the first chapel was erected on the current site in Fore Street. This building was financed by John Rosevear, a general merchant and ship owner. One of Mr Rosevear's ships had been chased by a French privateer, but eluded capture when the captain steered the ship into Boscastle harbour, the entrance of which is hardly distinguishable at sea. Rosevear was so overjoyed that the ship, crew and valuable cargo were safe that he decided to build the chapel as an offering to the Lord. His son Thomas

Pope Rosevear rebuilt and enlarged the chapel which was re-opened and dedicated on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1825. He records in his diary that the day was 'uncommonly wet' and that the preacher for the evening, a Mr William Beal, arrived on a horse having travelled all the way from Liskeard.

Datestones from the other converted or demolished chapels in Boscastle and Treworld have been reset externally on the Methodist church tower. These comprise the foundation stone from the Wesleyan Ebenezer chapel of 1837, now a private dwelling in Dunn Street; the datestone from the Bible Christian Siloam Chapel of 1859 now converted to a flat and garage at the the cross roads of Paradise Road and High Street and the datestone 1838, from the Bible Christian Chapel at Treworld in Lesnewth Parish.

The Methodist circuit in Boscastle was formed in 1803, the Bible Christian Mission in 1818 and the Bible Christian Mission in Treworld was founded in 1821.



Last year during lockdown Music North Cornwall produced a CD of songs from local artists. The idea was to help local musicians a little through lockdown, when they were unable to perform and earn.

Fifteen musicians/bands each provided a track: the Boscastle Buoys, Ben Nicholls, Callum Flew, Harry Glasson, to name just a few. The tracks were compiled into a cd which went on sale for £10 plus p&p. All the profit from the sales will go back to the musicians.

We sold a lot but unfortunately, with all the restrictions, not all of them. Cornish Stores has them on sale for us, or they can be collected or even delivered in the local area as well as being available by post. Email [musicnorthcornwall@gmail.com](mailto:musicnorthcornwall@gmail.com) to order a copy and for payment information

*Graham and Cerie Palmer*

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## Thank you from Vivien and family.

Vivien, Teresa and Anthony wish to Thank all the people who have been so kind after Mike's passing. The kindness has been overwhelming.

Thank you also for the donations received for Cornwall Air Ambulance, which to date amount to £754.

## New Interest in Bottreaux Castle

The parish council have supported a bid by Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for £400,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help protect and promote 40 sites at risk across Cornwall. Included in their list is the Bottreaux Castle mound, where invasive vegetation growth threatens the site.

If successful, funds would be made available to remove areas of vegetation which have encroached onto the site over recent years. In addition, there would be opportunities for local community involvement in developing an 'interpretation plan' and assisting with a trial excavation. It is believed

that there are remains of physical structures, such as walls, below the surface of the mound. Cornwall AONB would provide training, support, and guidance to those who wish to get involved.

Natalie Haly of Cornwall AONB recently visited the Castle mound with parish councillors to discuss the possibilities for the site. Councillors also raised the possibility of creating a new path to link the site up with the main footpath network.

Natalie said "At Bottreaux Castle, we would like to ensure the site is better understood and interpreted by local communities and visitors. Through offering a bespoke activity for Bottreaux to include archaeological training events, teacher training and school visits, as well as activities which will encourage visitors to view the site in new ways through observational drawing and pottery classes, we hope we will be able to achieve this".

A decision on the grant application is due to be made soon and it is hoped the work can begin in 2022. (photo page 38)

## Oh Yes It Is

*well, that is if we are allowed...*



I am sure that from the title you will realise that Boscastle Panto is about to re-emerge from lockdown. This year we are rewriting the story of Beauty and the Beast. Rehearsals are now in full swing with many new, as well as the good old tried and tested jokes, situations and songs.

For those who don't know the story it is about a handsome if a little arrogant prince who lives in a palace (you can still find the remains below Minster church) in St Peter's wood. Predictably a nasty wicked witch puts a spell on him and to find if or how he escapes from this spell you

will need to come to see the panto.

Performances are from Wednesday January 26 to Saturday 29 January at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm) and a matinee performance on the Saturday at 2.30pm (doors open 1.30pm). Tickets can be bought at the usual places: the Spar and the National Trust shop. Ticket cost £7 for an adult and £3 for under 12.

All profits from the pantomime go towards the running and upkeep of the hall and so allows us to let it out to organisations at a reasonable rate – so thank you for your support.

*Mike Parsons*

## Your CIC parking permit is about to expire!

Firstly, thank you for your positive feedback regarding the CIC parking permit scheme. We really hope that it enables you to access your local businesses easily. We are grateful that you have supported the scheme on the basis of fair use and long may it continue.

Over 250 permits have been applied for - sadly not all of these were collected - which is an unnecessary cost of the CIC.

If you wish to continue using the parking bays, you will need to apply for a 2022 permit. Apply online on the CIC website or collect a paper application from Claire at Long Dog Pet Supplies along Bridge Walk (open 10am - 4pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and 11am - 2 pm Sunday).

For more information and online renewals, see [www.boscastlecic.co.uk](http://www.boscastlecic.co.uk)

RY



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## Boscastle's Buzz of Beekeepers

There is a now Buzz of Beekeepers in Boscastle which is very heartening. Twenty years ago, as far as I am aware, there was just Pete Steadman and me. Now we have several in the village, others in Treworld, Beeny and Welltown Manor. We have a useful WhatsApp group where it is possible to ask for help or to find homes for unwanted swarms. There has been mixed success this year, some produced a lot of honey from a small number of hives while others, myself included, produced little honey from many hives. However, I have never known my bees so gentle. I can inspect a colony with little or no smoke. Smoke triggers a feeding instinct (an attempt to save the resources of the hive from a possible fire), making them less aggressive, and obscures the pheromones the bees use to communicate and is often essential for inspecting a hive. My bees have more or less ignored me even when their hive is completely dismantled making the experience very enjoyable.

Honey bees store honey and pollen to sustain the colony through the winter. The queen stops laying eggs in late autumn and the colony shrinks, keeping warm by clustering together in a big huddle like penguins when the temperatures plummet. This is known as social thermoregulation. The eggs that the queen is laying in autumn will hatch into workers in about three weeks and those workers will survive for about six months to carry the colony through the winter. The poor workers hatched at the beginning of summer have to work much harder and only last about six weeks. It seems they are programmed to fly about five hundred miles. Winter bees do little flying but summer bees are constantly on the go.

Returning bees perform the waggle dance to show the others where to find nectar or pollen. This dance was discovered years ago but, aided by technology, new discoveries abound. Researchers from Royal Holloway University of London and Virginia Tech

have found that bees in agricultural areas travel further for food than those in urban areas. You might be surprised by their conclusions. Published in the Journal of Applied Ecology, they showed that bees in urban areas have an average foraging distance of 492 metres, whereas bees in agricultural areas have to travel 743 metres for the same result; a very sobering thought.

The researchers concluded that cities provide diverse, plentiful and reliable forage nectar and pollen and that conservation efforts should be directed towards increasing the amount of non-crop flowers in agricultural areas

There is a growing trend of planting wildlife strips around the borders

of monocrop fields and research continues to minimise the effects of pesticides. We can all help by shunning pesticides in our gardens, planting insect friendly flowers and providing solitary bee hotels and areas of jumbled rotten wood and organic waste where beetles and worms can find nourishment and shelter.

*Quote from Winnie the Pooh by AA Milne:*

"Well," said Pooh, "what I like best," and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called.

*John Maughan*

### Myrna's Chuckle Corner - Wotsit Mean?

Catkin = Uncle Tom & Aunt Kitty  
Al Fresco = Italian Painter Decorator  
Meander = She And I  
Napkins = Grandparents Having A Snooze  
Pine Tree = Weeping Willow  
High Spirited = Drunk Up A Lamppost  
Flamboyant = Ostentatious Young Insect  
Incandescent = Tinned Perfume  
Frogspawn = French Pawnbroker  
Poly Tunnel = Parrot's Escape Route



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## News from the Lookout

When the formal, regular rituals of life begin to take priority it has to be a sign that normal service is being resumed. This was certainly the case when we held our first AGM since 2019; certainly there had been an Annual Report in 2020 to record key matters but Covid had stopped proper procedures with Officers and members in attendance. More importantly, with no regular meetings for months at a time, the AGM was the ideal opportunity for members to get together and share experiences, an essential benefit of any volunteer group.

It has been a busier year than expected and with our Watchkeeper numbers down by 25% compared to 2020, we owe a great deal to those who stood extra watches to ensure we maintained our position as an integral part of the UK SAR capability.

Special thanks must go to our Fund Raising Officer



and his stalwart group of regular helpers who have proved to be worth their combined weight in donations this year. Covid placed its own restrictions on face-to-face collections but the pioneering work of our team in using a remote card reader and a pole has been so successful that it will soon be seen at other stations.

Training and Maintenance schedules were complicated by current restrictions. Thanks to a grant from the Cornwall Community Trust and a share in the legacy left to all Cornish Stations by a colleague at St Agnes, repairs were completed and equipment updated and replaced.

Training was particularly compromised by Single Manning but during the course of the year three new trainees and one Assistant Watchkeeper gained their final qualifications.

The emphasis we place on training was more than justified one evening in September when a solitary kayaker found himself in difficulty. He had become separated from his craft close to the rocks in Western Blackapit and because of his position he was unable to contact the Coastguard by radio. Fortunately the Watchkeeper on duty heard the Mayday call and passed the details to MRCC Falmouth. He quickly established a visual link with the casualty and from then on kept him informed of progress and relayed information as Padstow Lifeboat and Boscastle Coastguard Rescue Team were tasked to carry out the rescue.

This was only one of nine major incidents this year and we were proud to receive a letter of thanks from Falmouth Coastguard for assisting in saving the gentleman's life.

As usual we would be delighted to welcome you as a volunteer Watchkeeper or as part of our fundraising team. We are beginning to get our training schedules back on track but there are still so many variables to take into account until Covid retreats.

However, if you would like to find out more or join our team our Manager, Chris Evans, would be delighted to hear from you on 01566 781449.

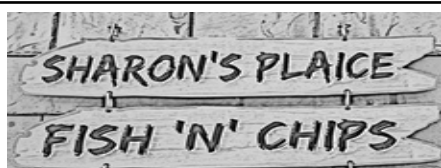
*Martin Wilson*

## Used Postage Stamps

Many thanks for continuing to donate your used stamps to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Collections from Boscastle and Tintagel surgeries have enabled me to send off another filled shoebox and half fill another.

Do keep up the good work and, with Christmas approaching, perhaps I'll be able to send it off in the New Year. I am always happy to receive old albums and unwanted collections - these can be placed in my front porch at 8 Pentargon Road or I can collect - just call me, Myrna Lester, on 01840 250520.

ML.



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## The Reopening of the Garage Shop



*Deborah and Deepak*

The rumour that the Garage Shop would be reopening went round Boscastle's 'Top Town' residents like wild fire. The burning question (excuse the pun!) was - 'When will it open?' So, to answer this question, in late November, our dear editor arranged a meeting with Deborah and Deepak, founders of the company D&D Stores Ltd. and the forward-looking couple who have taken on this project.

Deborah and Deepak are a friendly and enthusiastic couple, who first met when they both worked in retail, in Kent, eleven years ago. Like many of us, one visit to Cornwall,

with its magical allure, was enough for them to decide that this was where they wanted to be. With all their wealth of experience in retail; four and a half years ago they opened Tintagel's Premier Stores, their first joint venture.

The Tintagel store, being such a great success, (especially during the 2020 lockdown) they then looked towards Boscastle for a new project and contacted Frank Bridge to ask his permission to reopen the Garage Shop. Frank was only too willing to allow the scheme to go ahead and so the next stage was to contact suppliers.

This would not be a

quick fix, since fridges and freezers take twelve weeks to be delivered. Nevertheless, fitters are booked for late January, interviews of local employees are taking place at this time and local produce is being sourced. Their ethos is to use local produce wherever possible and to employ local people.

When we spoke to them, the couple spoke enthusiastically about the project. They said village shops have a reputation for prices being dearer than the supermarkets, but they are determined to keep their pricing on a par with these outlets, where possible. They are hopeful that you will do your weekly shop at the Garage Shop, with no noticeable difference in price from the supermarket shops. The bonus is that you won't have to travel out of the village. They said that should a customer require a special item of food, which is not on sale in the shop, Deborah and Deepak will try get it in

for them. They have many ideas on the produce which will be on sale, one such, is garden plants that will survive the North Cornwall salt winds.

So, what is the answer to the question - 'When is the Garage Shop opening?' - it is estimated to be opened in the first week of February 2022.

Many thanks to a delightful couple and to Frank for reopening a much-missed shop at 'Top Town'.

GQ

### **Job Vacancies**

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## NEWS FROM A SMALLHOLDING

In true Binty's Farm form we had planned the coming months carefully, allowing us time for (paid!) work, keeping our stockists well stocked and making a start on some larger jobs on the smallholding. Then October happened and now it is November. All of a sudden those planned jobs are on the radar and coming up fast.

In our last article we wrote about how some jobs appear to be quite small but in fact are multi-faceted. We're facing one of these this weekend! We are constantly trying to improve the holding both in productivity and aesthetics and the latest addition will – hopefully – allow us to do this.

It started off with a simple idea; let's put a bank around the orchard. The trees would benefit not only from the additional shelter but also from not being mauled by sheep at every given

opportunity. The family was in agreement, so we started planning this. Then we decided that, actually, it would make sense for our bee-patch to be included in this area. A bank would give the bees shelter and we'd be able to position the hives without the worry of the wind causing them any harm. This would also mean that we'd be able to remove some rather over-the-top fencing which (you guessed it) was designed to keep the sheep away from the hives. While sheep see beehives as a very good scratching point, bees do not like sheep at all. In fact, if you approach our hives after handling sheep you are more than likely to be chased off by some rather unhappy guard bees!

A-ha! We thought, a fantastic bank idea! This will now mean we can take the slightly wonky fence between the orchard, bees and arboretum down without our woolly horde



escaping. Another tidying success, and more poles and wire for our emergency fence collection. Then we realised...in order to put this bank in we're going to have to take down some existing stock fencing. If we take out this fencing, it will remove the tension from some key pieces of fence line, this will mean that those bits will need re-tensioning and new sections and straining posts putting in. Cue a collective sigh, Binty making another pot of tea and Pops disappearing in to the pantry to find more biscuits.

fence line back in... or we could just extend the bank! It'd stop the wind whipping up the fields and it would provide more shelter for the sheep in the lower fields. This would benefit them both in the depths of winter but also in lambing time when the ewes come closer to the sheds. After a little deliberation it was agreed that this was the plan we would move forward with; a 60m long bank turned in to a 160m long project in the space of two pots of tea but we had a plan and it was a good one.

Aside from the obvious heavy machinery, banks require a lot of earth to



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#### CHRISTMAS OPENING...

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build. We realised that this was not something we had an excess of, but we did have some. You see, our vegetable patch is a strange height, it is like a miniature Bottreaux Castle on a mound at the edge of the field. In fact, it's a spoil heap from previous building work, covered with potatoes, fruit bushes and our borders. It is also a nightmare to get a wheelbarrow up (if you don't get a good run up, you're not going to make it) and to get anything heavy out of (don't slip, whatever you do). In terms of useable land, we have been doing our best but it is very awkward. Much to Pops' dismay the logical way forward was discovered to be using the vegetable patch (sans top soil) to build the bank. This meant that all the fruit trees needed to be dug up, along with any root vegetables and plants we wanted to keep. The fruit cage and interior fencing (yes, for the sheep...) needed to be dismantled, the railway sleeper borders needed to be removed and all the stone paths we'd laid had to be raised – unless we wanted them in our top soil. But once THIS was done the bank could go up. Well, once all of the fencing was also removed as the digger can't actually access some places while it is still in situ.

As we don't have a digger on site, we were on a waiting list for a local contractor. This worked in our favour as we needed time to sort all of this out

as well as shuffle the sheep around to free up the lower paddocks. Then the best and worst thing happened in one phone call. The contractor was able to come early. A fortnight early. We now had less than 5 days to complete the work. While this article is being written, the remaining members of Binty's Farm are digging, hauling and re-locating everything that needed to be moved.

For the next few weeks Binty's Farm is going to be a muddy mess – even if it doesn't rain. But at the end of it we will have The Bank. Aside from benefits to the smallholding, the bank will do a lot for our wildlife population. The whole length of it is going to be planted with edible hedgerow which will benefit many different birds and animals (and maybe us if we're quick enough!). The lower slopes will be planted with spring bulbs; Pops wants to get some daffodils in from Cornish suppliers. The 160m bank will also join the two outer hedge boundaries of our land so, with any luck, it will provide a new highway for little creatures who may not have been too keen to cross the open expanse of field. Finally, the vegetable patch will get a new lease of life which will also mean that the rabbits can look forward to some fresh snacks come the growing season.

And that is the story of how a simple idea turns in to a mammoth task on Binty's Farm!

*Lara Pollard-Jones*

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# MICHAEL SYDNEY HIRCOCK

9<sup>th</sup> July 1937 - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Mike was born in Poplar on the Isle of Dogs, within the sound of Bow Bells. Many of you will be unaware of this, possibly thinking he was a true Cornish man considering the length of time he had lived in Cornwall.

At the age of 2, Mike was evacuated with his parents to Buckland St Mary in Somerset where they settled. Mike's early childhood was spent helping his parents with the garden and chickens where he developed a love of growing vegetables. When he was 7, his sister Margaret was born, completing the Hircock family.

After leaving school at 15, Mike served his National Service locally and then took an engineering apprenticeship at Marshalsea's. During this time, Priscilla Hilton was working as a nanny for

a local family, and it was an off chance that her sister Vivien was visiting from Boscastle for few days. Mike, by this time had taken to riding a motorbike around Somerset lanes and spotted Vivien out and about and took a fancy to her! A long-distance relationship developed with Mike travelling to Boscastle in his old Morris, down the old A30 to visit Bill and Mary Hilton's daughter Vivien. Mike got on very well with Vivien's parents and after a while they gave their blessing for the couple to marry. In March 1963, on a freezing cold day, they married at Forrabury Church with a reception at Welltown.

They lived in Taunton at Laxton Close, Vivien working at the National Provincial Bank and Mike as an engineer. In 1965 Teresa came along and after a couple of years

they moved to Boscastle, first renting the cottage at Welltown before moving to Mount Pleasant which they rented from 'Fount' Miss Fountain who lived next door. During this time, Anthony arrived, a brother for Teresa.

For many years, Mike worked for Harry Bray, specialising in plumbing and heating, he soon had enough experience to set up his own business. Mike worked all hours, sometimes worked even on Christmas day - once a customer called to say the Rayburn had gone out and how were they going to cook the turkey! Mike never let them down.

The cottage was a very happy home, with dogs, cats, fish (a passion of Mike's) and even bees and stick insects - a home full of laughter and a sense of family, where the kitchen table became the centre of everything. During the 70's Vivien and Mike

took in Swedish students, which meant Teresa had to give up her bedroom for 6 weeks of the summer holidays. This led to an invitation to visit Sweden, many happy memories were created on this holiday. Holidays in the Isles of Scilly became an annual event for the couple until Mike was

unable to walk very well, due to back problems.

Living in Boscastle, Mike was very much 'part of the community' and took an active part in village life. For 37 years he was Chairman of the Parish Council, whenever he tried to leave, he was always voted back on! Mike was also on the District Council and was a school Governor at Boscastle Primary School. Eventually he stepped down from all these roles to concentrate on his beloved vegetable garden, where he spent many hours come rain or shine, tending his plants.

Mike was a very caring and kind man, who would do anything for anybody. With a dry sense of humour and a love of Morecambe and Wise (his family would often joke that he looked like Eric!) Mike would jiggle his glasses to make everyone laugh. He will be sadly missed by family and all his friends.

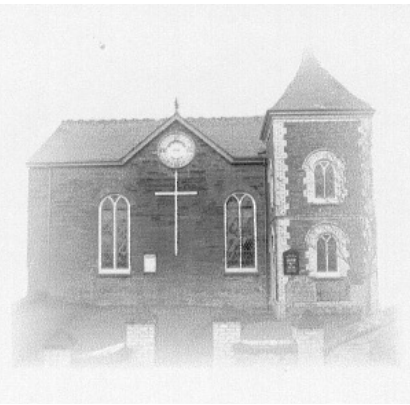








# Church and Chapel



*A Methodist Ministers View*

I am writing this article in early November. From early in October, we have seen television programmes in which new books written by some of our celebrities have been promoted as well as new recordings by some of the 'pop' artistes. All of this publicity is of course intentional for the Christmas gift market. In fact, there have been references to people who have completed their Christmas shopping, and it may well be that you know someone who has written all of their Christmas Cards.

In many areas of life, we seem to mask the original ideas or celebrations with commercial ventures that become the 'must haves' or 'must do's' for the seasons. Someone commented to me how Hallowe'en Celebrations have grown

over recent years for instance. Christmas celebrations have altered a great deal over the years too. However, we can trace meanings to many of the traditions and decorations associated with our modern-day Christmas celebrations.

Christmas has been celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> since the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century after some work undertaken by Pope Julius I to fix the date of Jesus' official birthday. There is still debate about the date, but it has now been celebrated for some 1670 years on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Associated with the celebration of Christmas are the singing of Christmas Carols, and some of our well known and most popular carols come to us from the 1700's. The carol 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night'

from the pen of Irishman Nahum Tate dates from that time. 'O Come all ye faithful' was translated from a Latin version in 1740 whilst 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley as a hymn for Christmas Day. Hence, we share in a long worldwide tradition in our Christmas Celebrations. The well-loved carol 'Silent Night' comes to us from Austria where in its German form it was sung in 1818.

At the heart of Christmas is the story of the Birth of Jesus, God's Son, who was born into our World in humble circumstances to enable the transformation of the lives of individuals and communities by acknowledging our need to allow God's love to work amongst us thus becoming aware of God's way for us.

The message of Christmas still inspires

people. In a quite modern Carol written in 1991 we find the words: -

Beneath the paper wrappings,  
There's an open stable door,  
Beneath the fir tree trappings,  
There's a welcome and there's more.

Beyond the tinsel fairy  
Is a presence that's divine,  
There's a Child to change the future,  
Turning water into wine

*Claire Stainsby*

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*Bryan and Sue Ede*



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## And suddenly there was a multitude of the Heavenly Host....!



What better way to look forward to the birth of Jesus than to have an Angel Festival, seeing that it was an Angel who brought the news to Mary that she would bear a son, and angels who came to the shepherds in the fields over Bethlehem the night He was born.

This Angel Festival was the brainchild of Rev. Heather Aston, and it was intended for last year until Covid intervened. Thankfully this year it came to fruition and Forrabury

Church is indeed full of the 'Heavenly Host'. The popular idea of an angel all in white with wings is only one of many images, which can differ markedly from one another, and there are various forms to be seen in the church as well as traditional ones.

Lots of fascinating information too, all compiled again by Rev. Heather.

Did you know that angels are ranked, some having greater powers than others? Top of the



tree are the Seraphs who are caretakers of God's throne. Lower down are the Archangels, Gabriel, Raphael and Michael, who are God's messengers.



On one of the information boards is a reproduction of a painting titled 'The Wounded Angel' by Hugo Simberg, which was named Finland's national painting in 2006. It's a very powerful image and you can almost imagine that one of the stretcher bearers is looking accusingly at you and saying: "you did this!"

A big "thank you" to all who contributed with their offerings of angels, with special thanks to the children of Boscastle School for their exhibits, which demonstrate remarkable creativity and imagination. (photo, p39)

We are also hugely indebted to all who gave up their time to help put this exhibition together at quite short notice, especially the acrobats and gymnasts who risked life and limb while suspending angels from the ceiling! Thanks also to those who provided refreshments and stewarding throughout.

To those who braved the elements (which were

not encouraging), thank you for your support. The pictures, taken, do not do it justice.

The weekend was rounded off on Sunday afternoon with a service in Forrabury Church, including hymns which featured angels, and a short talk by Worship Leader Dru Pratt, who over the years has made a study of angels and has collected many photos.

Some of the exhibits, including the ones hanging from the ceiling, will still be there over the Christmas



period so please come and have a look or maybe join in one of our Christmas services listed below. You would be so welcome.

*From us all at Forrabury and Minster Church, wishing you all a very Happy Christmas*

### Christmas Services:

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

7pm Carol Service Forrabury Church

#### Christmas Eve

10.30am Eucharist Minster Church

3pm Crib Service Tintagel Church

11.30pm Midnight Mass Forrabury Church

#### Christmas Day

10.30am Trevalga Church

#### Boxing Day

10.30am Tintagel Church



# DAVID WHITAKER

1931 - 2021

he took other children – including Sue and Simon Webster, Roo Davison and Kenny Hawker – out on adventures. David's daughter Jane later came to live here with her own children, who were also educated locally. He bought The Ship, in Valency Row, and then with his wife Maggie moved to Harbour Terrace.

Happily, the family was treated as honorary locals. But David's other life was in London. He joined the family firm after university. It had been founded in the mid 19th century and was best known for *Whitaker's Almanack*, that great annual reference book. But their main business was in supplying business information and

bibliographical data to the book trade: publishers, booksellers and libraries worldwide.

It was then a fairly primitive world. Most publishers were family firms. Computers had not yet arrived. But they were on their way. David had the vision to see the potential benefits, and the energy to galvanise the trade. He led the development of the ISBN - the unique number that identifies every book - in the UK and internationally. The ISBN, along with computerised tills, enabled electronic ordering from bookshops and the gathering of accurate sales data. This small family business was at the centre of almost all book trade developments

David Whitaker died aged 90 in Boscastle on 4 August, at his home in Harbour Terrace.

The Whitakers had been connected with Boscastle since the 19th century through the Hawkers and the Dinham: his great uncle Cuthbert Whitaker had married Ella Dinham of Penally House.

He and his mother, grandmother and two younger sisters lived in the village during World War 2: safer from the bombing in London. David never tired of telling people that he and his friend Roy Pickard had been on the lower bridge the day war was declared: as nine-year olds they had agreed that perhaps it was a serious matter. He had fond memories of local life and friendships, a very happy free-range childhood, and went to the village school before going on to boarding school, national service

in the army and then to university in Cambridge, where he took up rowing.

Those happy childhood memories inspired him to bring his own children on holiday to Boscastle and, like the pied piper,



*the Blowhole's cover picture of Autumn 2007, walking from front door to front door*

in the UK and overseas for many decades. David also led the launch of Public Lending Right, the scheme that pays authors for loans from libraries and that gives the book world a better understanding of what people borrow from libraries.

When he retired as chairman he began a new life. Freelance travel journalism combined his love of writing, travel and walking. He wrote on travel for *The Times* and the *Sunday Times* and was proud that his pieces often sold out the holidays he had reviewed. With his wife he travelled widely - always walking - in the UK, France, Italy, Spain and South Africa.

He was passionate about the theatre and theatrical history: researched, wrote and presented a programme on his great hero, the 17th century actor James Quinn and he spent more time around his traditional old London clubs, when he would change his tie according to where he was lunching or dining. He led the restoration of the library at London's Garrick Club, which owns one of the world's most important collections of theatrical books and art.

Closer to home, his old friend Michael Turner, of Paradise House, devised Boscastle's "Cave of Harmony", a mini theatrical extravaganza recreating old-time music hall in the village hall; David played the Chairman. It ran for ten years from 1997, launching

the career of the singing coalman, Roger Nicholls, and involving many other villagers.

After the flood of 2004 a local Cornish pilot gig club was formed and he became passionate about this form of rowing at sea, rather different from the river rowing he had known as a youngster. He launched its first gig, "Torrent", and loyally followed the club's progress at the annual world championships on The Scillies.

When he was almost 80 he left his front door in north London, with a pack on his back, and walked home - mostly off road along canals and footpaths and then via the south-west coastal path - to his front door in Boscastle. It took him five weeks.

David was a big man, with a wide range of interests and a love of Boscastle and its community and values, a generous host who loved feeding people around a full table lit up with debate and laughter. He was grateful for the wonderful care he was given by this community when his end was coming. When the tides and sea conditions are right his ashes will be rowed out of the harbour on a gig and scattered onto the Atlantic.



*logo of the Cave of Harmony*

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# WONDERFUL POTATOES

Ah, the humble potato. Fried, mashed, roasted, baked, or boiled and served with a knob of butter, spuds are the ultimate comfort food. Some gardeners might question whether growing this cheap and plentiful crop is worth the hassle, space, time, and energy required, especially as our own local farmers here in Cornwall grow some of the finest spuds in the UK. But while it's true that growing your own potatoes comes with its challenges, there is nothing better than a freshly harvested spud.

When choosing which variety to grow its worth remembering that different varieties have different amounts of starch in them, as well as varying levels of sugar. It's the level of starch which determines whether the potato is floury or fluffy and breaks down upon cooking, or remains intact with a firm, moist, waxy texture. The higher the starch content, the more the potato will break down when it is cooked. Potatoes that are high in starch are therefore absolutely perfect for baking and mashing, or

for making wedges or fries, whilst waxy varieties are perfect for keeping their shape in a potato salad.

Earlies are planted, grown and harvested before midsummer, when the warm weather that encourages blight arrives,



*potato Vitabella*

so you have more chance of a clean crop and, once they're lifted, the space is freed in good time to plant out courgettes, squash or whatever other crop you love instead. Early potatoes are also the most expensive to buy. Grow them at home and you can choose varieties that have the finest flavour and texture – and you get them cheaply and for little work. Growing predominantly earlies gives you the best of all worlds.

Over the years I've grown a few different early spuds, some more successful than others. Varieties I was a bit disappointed with include International Kidney (supposedly Jersey Royal but not as I remember the taste); Home Guard, and Sharpe's Express. None of them tasted like the new

is useful over its long harvesting season, and is especially good to eat. Another second early is Vivaldi, recently gaining the reputation of having an excellent flavour according to the readers of *Gardener's World* magazine.

Now's the time to look through the garden seed catalogues and get your order in for potato seeds for delivery in the New Year. If you are keen on organic varieties and like to support a local business Tamar Organics near Launceston ([www.tamarorganics.co.uk](http://www.tamarorganics.co.uk)) has a nice selection, including Vitabella. And for an easy recipe idea to celebrate the ever-versatile spud, look no further than Cookery Corner on page 35 in this issue.

*Pat Thorne*



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# THINGS

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Debbie and Geoff

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## Boscastle School Remembers



On Armistice Day, the school went to the War Memorial to remember those lost in the two World Wars and join in with the two minutes silence. Class 3, also spent some time down looking at dates, the names of those who served and sacrificed themselves for us all and discussing the significance of special places where people go to remember.



Friends of Boscastle School

Fundraising has provided a selection of books for each class.



Many thanks, as always, to those who generously support our fundraising events.

## HALF ACRE SCULPTURE GARDENS VISIT



Sam and Phoebe welcomed the children to the studios when each class visited back in October. The children enjoyed exploring the gardens, looking at many sculptures created by Carole Vincent. They also had the opportunity to have ago at drawing some of the sculptures on display in the studios.



**BODMIN & WENFORD**  
RAILWAY

Whole school trip to the Bodmin and Wenford Railway, kindly funded by the Wadebridge Creative Hub.





I have been asked to give a report on my Masters swimming events since the Covid restrictions have been eased. Masters swimming is for the over 25's in five year age groups, (60-64) unfortunately is me. The races are organised so you race against people with a similar entry time not age, with the results then produced by age group.

the harbour and also did a 5km swim from Charlestown across to Polkerris, followed by the Rock to Padstow charity swim. Open water events are not only organised in the sea but also in lakes, reservoirs and rivers. The race I was preparing for was the national GB Masters championships which this year took place in Wales at the Llandegfedd Reservoir where I swam in the 3Km race and had a great swim

During lockdown, despite hating running, I took on the couch to 5km challenge as a way of exercising and when I finally got back in the pool I discovered that the running had done me some good so, despite still hating it, it's now part of my training schedule. I joined the Camelford up and running group which I can recommend to anyone who is thinking of starting to run and I completed a half marathon with them prior to doing the virtual London marathon along the Camel Trail.

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200m Individual Medley which is 2 lengths each of Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Front crawl in that order and I came second. On Saturday I had the 200m Backstroke, swimming better than anticipated and beating my entry time but only coming third. On Sunday my only event was the 400m Individual Medley which is not for the faint hearted and I surprised everyone including myself by winning.

November brings the inter-counties where the Cornwall masters team come together to compete against Gloucester, Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire, where we came 4<sup>th</sup> overall but it was good to see old friends again.

*Frances Baker*

**Stop Press:** At the end of November, Frances swam in the Welsh Open Masters held in the Newport International Sports Village. She entered 9 events and came away with 5 golds and 4 silver medals. She was also presented with an award from her swimming club for being their outstanding performer of the year. On top of all that she has just been informed from Cornwall Swimming that she broke the 50m Breaststroke record for her age group at the inter-counties gala held earlier this month.

*What an outstanding achievement.  
Congratulations and well done, Frances*



*Frances wearing her medals from the Welsh Open Masters*



*Cornwall Team*



# Harbour Master's News



I took Rene to the estuary at Rock in late September where I have use of a mooring close to the pontoon and Graham Garrod and Ian Young took their boat to Padstow on the same day; They have a space in the inner harbour. I saw dolphins again close to Moulds Island and managed to take a photograph. Michael Parsons came with me for the ride and hooked and released a sea trout on our way up the river.

The rest of the boats came out of the harbour on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and I attach a photograph of Three Jays being swung up over the quay. So, another

season draws to an end.

My records show that I went to sea 41 times over the season and landed 340 kilos of lobster all of which were sold through the Rocket Store. Mackerel were scarce all year, but we did see good runs of bass towards the end of the summer and Michael was pleased to land a really good specimen on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. So now it is boats laid up and gear to repair for next year.

The Chamber of Commerce has asked to borrow some pots to make a Christmas tree – the thinking being that this is perhaps better for

the environment than cutting down. I still have the little yellow launch (named Romy after my youngest granddaughter) on the harbourside and a pair of pots ready. This is in case we get a really calm spell and I can try the pots close by in the fragile hope of lobster for Christmas Day and in anticipation of the threat of a shortage of Turkey coming to pass.

*Chris Key*



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**Boscastle, Paradise Road 10.20 -10.40**

**Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, March 18<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.

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**Launceston Community** 01566 765600  
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**Stratton Community** 01288 287700  
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**Village Hall bookings:** Julie Potter: 07828 824951

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



## Boscastle WI

We're pretty sure that everyone's experience of emerging from Covid-19 lockdown restrictions has been different. Overall we are thrilled to be able to meet up again regularly and in person. As recently as the middle of November, we still felt a bit like schoolgirls being let out for a special date when we met up.

Over the last three months we've enjoyed some great talks and crafting sessions, ranging from working in the National Health Organization for over 45 years to intrepid travels through Guatemala, making a collection of costumes for the British Museum and making angels and Japanese style notebooks.

We've jumped in cars to visit area restaurants for our monthly coffee mornings and most recently we piled into a bus for a special trip to Higher Trevibban Farm, St Ervan, Wadebridge. Why there? As sponsors of our WI Recipe Book *"Eat, Drink & Be Merry ... with a touch of Mother's Ruin Cocktails"*, Tarquin's Cornish Gin gave us tickets for members to have a tour



*WI members warming up to the Tarquin's Cornish Gin tour with a lovely G&T before heading out to the distillery, then learning about botanicals that create unique flavours and tasting the various blends. Thanks again Tarquin's – we learned a lot, had loads of fun and highly recommend it to others.*

of their distillery, which is located at Trevibban Farm. We highly recommend taking a tour – it's fascinating and the gin tasting is exceptional.

However, we are very conscious of the fact that coming out of lockdown hasn't been the same for everyone. Some of our members still need to be very careful, are isolating or have just become more cautious about life in general. The imposed restrictions really knocked the stuffing out of some people and our hearts go out to everyone who is still

missing the one-on-one camaraderie and caring that comes with face-to-face gatherings.

Zoom still features in our lives and it does provide an excellent way to still meet, albeit not in person. During the "horrid weather" days of the Winter or if several members are unable to go out, we imagine that we'll be using it again. We remember the positive aspects of Zoom, not least of which included no walking or driving in rotten weather conditions and being a bit more casual in our clothing choices.

December is traditionally a no meeting month because people are tied up with holiday activities. However, we are all looking forward to a jolly good Christmas lunch together at The Napoleon.

On the subject of Christmas, our Recipe Book makes a great stocking stuffer or gift for a friend. It's packed with a

wide range of recipes and the cocktail section from Tarquin's includes twelve delicious recipes made from their gin, as well as their Pastis and Twin Fin Rum. The book is available at the Cornish Stores or you can email [boscrow@westcv.co.uk](mailto:boscrow@westcv.co.uk).

The telephone box by the Bridge continues to prove a success for people looking for used books and for raising funds to support the defibrillator



*Congratulations to Helen Hunt, who won the Howard Newton Perpetual Challenge Cup, awarded to the WI member gaining the most points in the Open and Floral Art Classes at the Cornish Winter Fair on 20th November at the Royal Cornwall Showgrounds.*

which will be located at the top end of the village. After much to-and-fro we are delighted to say it will be attached in a very visible spot which is highly accessible and has parking – between Bottreaux Garage and the new shop opening soon in the old Bottreaux Stores'. Look out for announcements in local on-line media when it has been installed and is set up ready to use.

Our next evening social

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will be open to all women in the area and will be sometime in February – keep your eyes open for details. Of course, if you'd like to join us regularly, send an email for more details.

Till Spring, our very best wishes go to everyone in the community. May you enjoy a blessed Christmas and welcome in the New Year with health and joy.

*Gillian Schultz*

### Mowesi Marshgate

The healing magic of horses and their effect on people with disabilities in North Cornwall was the subject of a talk given to Mowesi Marshgate for their October meeting.

Lakefield near Camelford is one of four sites across the Duchy where handicapped and disabled children and adults can get into the saddle and experience a freedom and sense of achievement that is sometimes difficult for them to find in everyday life. Lakefield has three horses, all chosen for their quiet natures and ability to cope with people who may need help from staff and volunteers to stay in the saddle, said county instructor Mark Cunliffe, who had arrived at Otterham & St Juliot Hall with slides of the organisation's work.

Mark explained how the charity helps local people, and how it can then send them further. It also operates dressage sessions so that the clients can experience a further level of achievement. But

volunteers are needed to help RDA continue its work.

We ladies love our bling, and eyes were popping when local jeweller Les Freke, who has created pieces for the House of Garrard and Asprey London, arrived to speak to Mowesi Marshgate at their November meeting.

Les has made jewellery his life since he created his first pieces at the age of 17 and ran a business from his kitchen table. But his career was largely spent in London, where his commissions included creating 40-setting solid silver dinner sets for a customer in the Arab Emirates – one for each of his four palaces!

Les now lives in North Cornwall, and before he retired he ran The Silver Tree jewellery shop in Tintagel, as he told his audience in Otterham & St Juliot Hall. He brought with him a selection of the jewellery he has given his wife over the years – lucky lady! – including unique artisan pieces inspired by the sea and incorporating silver, gold and gems, and sometimes items like shells and semi-precious stones.

Mowesi Marshgate are a North Cornish WI who meet on the second Thursday evening (afternoons in winter) of every month. We are a friendly bunch – why not come and meet us? Call Wendy on 07795 524694 for details of our meetings, or find us on Meta: Facebook.

*Wendy Trevennor*

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## Problems travelling to Hospital?

We are lucky to live in a beautiful part of the country well away from the bustle of cities and their sprawling suburbs, but there are some downsides and these become clearer as we age.

We are a long way from any hospital, approximately fifty miles from The North Devon District Hospital, The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and The Royal Cornwall Hospital.

Public transport is out of the question in such a rural area and a car is essential for hospital appointments. People with serious medical conditions are often unwilling or unable to drive fifty miles in very heavy traffic and finding alternative transport is not easy.

**Transport Access People (TAP)** was set up in Truro under the Umbrella of **Age UK** and provides an affordable service. Last year volunteer drivers provided 120,000 journeys to medical, social and educational appointments in Cornwall and South Devon

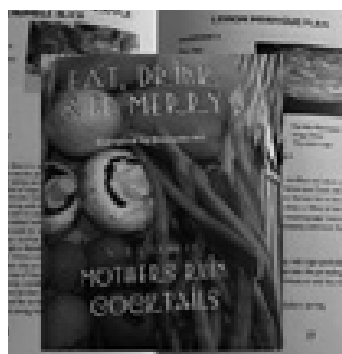
Most volunteer drivers are retired and, like all businesses, the workforce

has been depleted by the ramifications of Covid 19. TAP is still providing full service for dialysis patients and cancer patients but is struggling to find enough drivers to cover less life-threatening conditions.

If you have some spare time, a car and enjoy driving, meeting people and exploring new parts of Cornwall you could apply to become a driver for TAP. You can do as much or as little volunteering as you want. Mileage expenses will be repaid at a rate of 42p per mile (currently under review). This includes your whole journey travelling to the person's house, to and from the appointment and your journey home. You would be providing a vital service and helping isolated and vulnerable people get to where they need to be.

Drivers must make sure their cars are fully roadworthy and will drive a short journey in Truro with a member of staff from TAP to check driving ability. They will also have an enhanced DBS check, provide references, and have some safeguarding training.

If you are interested in volunteering please call 01872 223388



*Eat, Drink & Be Merry ... with a touch of Mothers Ruin Cocktails – how perfect is this for a very merry Christmas Season and New Year? Buy yours at the Cornish Stores or call one of your WI friends.*

GS

## Transformational Wellness Sessions

The Holistic Wellness School, nestled in the heart of Boscastle, has been offering wellness sessions on Thursday mornings and Tuesday evenings from the Boscastle Community and Recreation Centre since September 2021. We are delighted to be working on physical, mental, spiritual and emotional wellness with our class members. We have seen a strong commitment from the members who participate. Each person, without exception, has experienced increased focus and enhancement to their own personal development, wellness, happiness and hence healing. Our methods are particularly useful to people suffering with PTSD and CFS/ME. Each session is gently designed to assist with targeting stress, trauma and emotional issues as well as enhancing physical fitness by working with disciplines such as meditation and relaxation, Hatha Yoga, Pilates and Transformational Dance. The sessions are open to everyone age 16 upwards and we promote acceptance of each individual,

validation of their experiences, and keep the doors open for a sharing circle and social experience at the end of each session. Our facilitators are highly qualified, insured and registered to assure you a safe and nurturing space.

For further information please contact Lorraine Gibson on 07595831267 or visit our website [www.theholisticwellnessschool.com](http://www.theholisticwellnessschool.com)

Wishing you all the very best for the festive season 2021 and a happy and prosperous 2022

Lorraine Gibson

## Boscastle Oil-Ordering Group

The next ordering date for oil is March 2022 for a delivery in early April. If you are new to the village and have moved into a property with oil central heating you can ring me on 250520 to check if your property is already on the register and you just need to inform the oil company of change of ownership. As a member of the group, you qualify for a discount of at least 2 pence per litre.

ML



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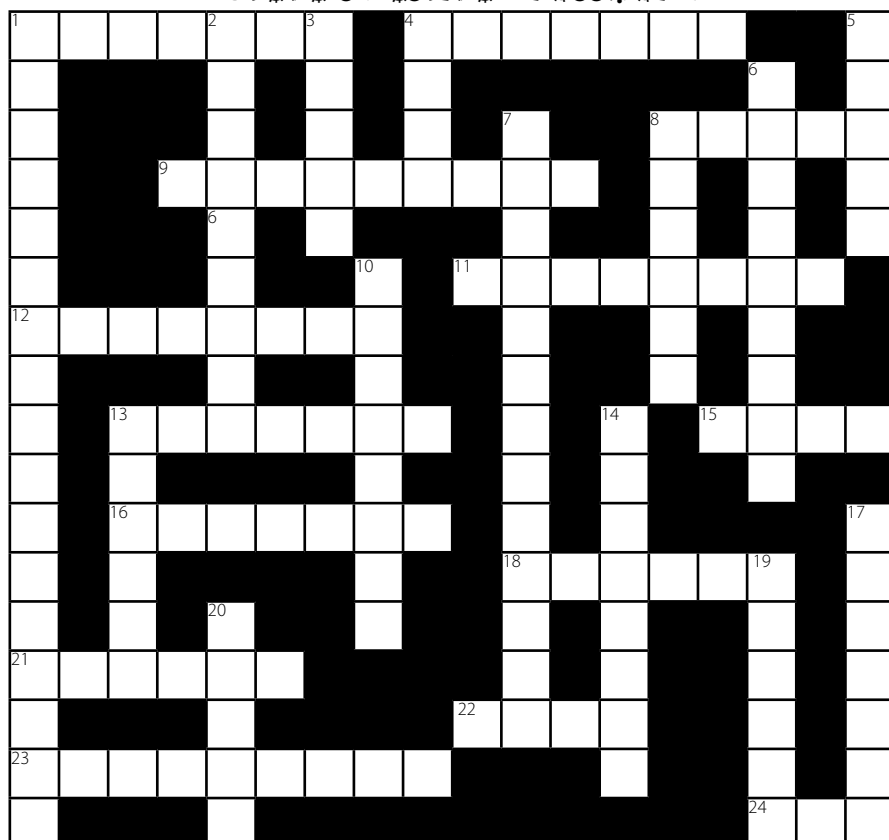
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**email: [simonbiddick@btinternet.com](mailto:simonbiddick@btinternet.com)**



## Steve's Festive Crossword



### Across

- 1 – Chocolates for pressing (7)  
 4 – Here for a gift (7)  
 8 – Cut down to be put up (5)  
 9 – Good King who looked out on the Feast of Stephen (9)  
 11 – Do this to avoid shortage in suspenders (8)  
 12 & 7d – Joining in with the show (8,13)



- 13 – Very cold white males (7)  
 15 – In a cracker but often not a cracker (4)  
 16 – Red nosed reindeer (7)  
 18 – Silent about Christmas decoration (6)  
 21 – Overdoing this causes belt tightening (6)  
 22 – How many upon a time? (4)  
 23 – Seven dwarfs looked up to her (4,5)

24 – Star is our Universal partner (3)

### Down

- 1 – Upcoming Boscastle Panto (6,3,3,5)  
 2 – Panto reply to “oh no you don’t” (2,3,2,2)  
 3 – Portion of cake (5)  
 4 – Eating all these can lead to inflation (4)  
 5 – Beast upset to keep turkey moist (5)  
 6 – Where it always is in Pantoland (6,3)  
 7 – See 12a  
 8 – Country food (6)  
 10 – Wendy’s panto friend (5,3)  
 13 – One of these from Brussels (6)  
 14 – Sounds like it is wet darling, for Santa’s transport (8)  
 17 – Panto with a lamp (7)  
 19 – Sets fire to Christmas decorations (6)  
 20 – Tin Tin’s dog (5)

answers on page 32

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# The Reading Room

As I walk along these beautiful cliffs, I pause to reflect on how fortunate we are to live here. As winter approaches the final visitors can be seen leaving for their homes. It is as if the village exhales and relaxes. The hustle, bustle and excitement of the tourist season is over for another year and my goodness, what a year it has been. We are living in a very stressful time. Of course, each generation has their challenges, whether it is devastating disease or horrendous, terrifying conflicts. The challenge to face our generation is unique and unparalleled. We are tasked with pulling our planet back from total disaster brought about by our own actions. It is an overwhelming situation but people are rising to this challenge across every sector of society, from Prince William launching The Earth Shot Prizes to school children clearing

plastic from our beaches and countryside and people of all ages taking to the streets to campaign for action.

We must all face the challenge and take responsibility for making changes in our own lives. The time has gone when we could leave it to someone else. Can you change and use more environmentally friendly products? Are you prepared to examine more carefully the cost to the planet of the food you eat? How can you travel without polluting the atmosphere? Are you giving nature and wildlife a helping hand? It is imperative that we find ways to 'do our bit'. Flora, fauna and future generations are depending on us.

To discover what you can do, you could turn to books. There are many books around with excellent suggestions and stories to inspire you.

'The Sustainable (ish) Living Guide' by Jen Gale  
'How to Break Up with Fast Fashion' by Lauren Bravo

'Turning The Tide on Plastic' by Lucy Seigle

'The Garden Jungle' by Dave Goulson

Many of our farmers are adopting more sustainable methods and have written books telling some inspiring stories:

James Rebanks has written two books describing life after inheriting his family farm. They are 'The Shepherd's Life' and 'English Pastoral'. He changed his approach to farming.

'Wilding' by Isabella Tree. This book is about an unprofitable, failing farm that was brought back to productivity by having the courage to change the way they farmed and by letting the land go back to nature.

It never ceases to amaze me how much we can learn from reading about the lives of others.

The bookworms are always eager to share with you what they have been reading.

*The Recovery of Rose Gold*

by Stephanie Wrobel

Stephanie Wrobel was brought up in Chicago but has lived in London for several years. She moved there when her husband decided to study at The London Business School. They married in Stephanie's favourite country which is Italy.

She loves to travel and to have cultural experiences. She has witnessed many including: The Chiang Mai Lantern Release in Northern Thailand; Shark cage diving in South Africa; Hiking The Inca trail, in Peru..... to mention only a few. She owns a Cockapoo named Moose Barkwinkle and says it's the best thing about her. Before writing full-time she was a copywriter. She moved back to Boston in 2016 to take an Art degree and during this time she wrote this novel. It is her first and it was published in US and Canada under the title of 'Darling Rose Gold'.

The Recovery of Rose Gold is a thriller taking you on a rollercoaster of psychological horror and emotional manipulation. It is based on a true story. The bookworms found this a hard and difficult book to engage with. It is about Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy which is a powerful and uncomfortable subject. One bookworm was unable to bring herself to finish this book and another only completed it because it was a Book Group choice. Another bookworm hated the book and found the style in which it was written, with dated chapters, was annoying.

One bookworm enjoyed the build of the story and the exploration of the characters. She found it a page turner which kept her guessing with all its twists and turns. She found it compulsive and read it



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quite quickly. However, she thought the ending was a disappointment which didn't do the rest of the story justice. For that reason, she wouldn't feel inclined to recommend it. The bookworms gave it quite low scores.

Quality of Writing 5.5  
Storyline 5.0

*American Dirt*  
by Jeanine Cummins

Cummins is an American author who was born 6th December 1974 in Rota, Spain. She is white but her grandmother was born and raised in Puerto Rico. Jeanine Cummins publicly identified as Latina when publicising *American Dirt*. Her husband was from Ireland and was an undocumented immigrant in the US for ten years.

The book tells the story of Lydia and her son Luca as they flee from drug traffickers who had killed their whole family. The title of the book is based on the fact that getting to American soil, (dirt), means everything. It was selected for Oprah Winfrey's Book Club and it became a New York Times best seller. It became a movie called 'ENDURrun' in 2019. During the story we become familiar with 'La Bestia'. This is a network of Mexican Freight Trains that immigrants risk life and limb to climb onboard to travel to the American Border. La Bestia is also known as 'El Tren de la Muerta' or 'The Death Train'.

The bookworms all

agreed that this was an interesting and memorable book. It was traumatic and a difficult story to absorb but it was written in an emotional and thought-provoking way. One bookworm found it kept her on the edge of her seat, her stomach actually churning with fear at times because she strongly identified with Lydia and Luca. The characters were written with depth making you feel you knew them and you really related to them. The role played by The Bookshop at the start of the story was really enjoyable but as the story unfolded, they had tremendous hurdles to get over, never knowing who to trust. It made all of us look at refugees with new eyes. It is a book that changed us and one we will not forget. We scored it as follows.

Quality of Writing 9  
Storyline 8.5

We hope you have enjoyed our thoughts.

Stay safe and well and keep reading!

*Yours truly*  
*The Keeper of the Key*

P.S. The Bookworms have continued to meet mostly, (but not exclusively), via Zoom throughout the Pandemic. If you would like to join us, please drop me an email at wendyblunty@gmail.com

You can try us out and if you like it, we'll love to have you aboard.

*Yours truly*  
*The Keeper of the Key*



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# LINDA MARGARET FROHLICK

18<sup>th</sup> July 1952 ~ 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Linda was born in 1952 in Trethevy, where she was welcomed by her parents Arthur and Margaret Parsons and her sister Cath. The Parsons farmed land at Trethevy, fields in Boscastle and on the stitches. The family moved to Boscastle where her sisters, twins Liz and Carole and later her brother David were born.

Linda was happy to be a farmer's daughter and from an early age had a deep love of animals, gardening, the countryside and the wildlife around her. She attended Boscastle Primary School and then went on to Sir James Smiths.

Linda had a strong creative streak; her first job was in Tintagel pottery, she went on to work at her uncle Leonard Knight's pottery, also in Tintagel, and later at Boscastle

pottery, working for Roger Little. Her love of creating with clay remained throughout her life.

In 1970, Linda moved to Reading, to work as a nursing assistant in the pottery department of a hospital for severely disabled children and adults. Whilst there she met staff nurse Colin Frohlick and a relationship developed. Linda and Colin married in 1972. Linda, always being alternative in nature, wore a green dress with yellow marigolds in her hair. They returned to Cornwall where their daughters Jessica and Jodi were born. During their early family life Linda and Colin also fostered 5 children with challenging behavioural problems.

The Frohlicks moved to Gloucester when Linda

and Colin took on a joint position at a Home Farm Trust, again working people with severe learning difficulties. They were both passionate about child development, the benefits of art and music therapy and creating a stimulating environment for those in their care. They always strived to bring out the abilities in people with mental and physical disabilities, being aware of the negative effects of being institutionalised had on their residents. This was often met with resistance from higher up.

Next they returned to Cornwall, to Trevalga, where Linda's maternal grandparents had also once lived. Their son Tobias was born, and a few weeks later Linda would take hosting birthday parties for Jess and Jodi with a house full of 17 children plus parents in her stride, babe in arms. Colin worked as a psychiatric nurse in a local hospital whilst Linda devoted her time to running a busy household.

Linda had such a love of animals and the cycle of life, from incubating eggs and hand rearing chicks and ducklings. She had many different breeds of dogs, as well as cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and goats all of which she would let breed, but mostly she found companionship with her much loved Bernese Mountain dogs.

She loved the seasonal traditions but not the consumerism. In particular she loved Easter and the celebration of spring, re-growth, daffodils and wild primroses, the joy of young lambs and rabbits, Easter egg hunts for the grandchildren and homemade Simnel cake.

Linda and Colin attended Quaker meetings, the principles of Integrity, Equality, Community and Stewardship of the Earth resonating with them both. As pacifists, they started a local Peace group and were passionate campaigners against the threat of war and nuclear arms. Family weekends were often spent attending peaceful protests outside of military bases. Linda was proud to have been at Greenham Common Women's Peace camp in Berkshire in the 1980s.

Colin and Linda ran a small antiques business. After Colin passed away in 1999, Linda concentrated on her pottery.

Linda was always an avid reader, and enjoyed live music and visiting art exhibitions. A keen organic gardener, she was always thinking of the next planting season, taking cuttings, collecting seed heads to sow the precious seeds the following spring and seeking out recipes for concocting organic fertilisers. After many years of back breaking gardening she was recently very excited to discover, plant and harvest from her first ever "No dig garden beds".

Linda was a prolifically creative woman, whether making celebration cakes beautifully decorated with intricate sugar flowers, plaster-casting moons, suns, frogs, mirrors and Buddhas, knitting soft toys, clothes, baby blankets and tiny hats for premature babies to donate to hospitals or foraging fruits from hedgerows to make wines, jams and chutneys. But it was her lifelong love of working with clay and her enchantment with the science and alchemy of glazes and temperature changes, where no two of her firings would ever come out exactly the same, that would fascinate her. She was always experimenting and learning. Linda loved the art of Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with gold, a metaphor for embracing our flaws and imperfections.

Linda's favourite quotes were: "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor" and the words of a song by Leonard Cohen "There is a

crack in everything...that's how the light gets in".

Linda's sudden death has shocked her family and friends. Her smile, warmth, giggle and genuine compassion for all will be so greatly missed. She adored, and was adored by her 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and was so proud of them all.

Jess, Jodi and Tobias would like to thank their beautiful mother for her unfaltering devotion and age old wisdom.

#### *Jess writes:*

We had an idyllic childhood, growing up in beautiful Trevalga. Mud pies, dens, good neighbours, home cooking and the love of two parents.

Mum was a wholesome woman. You would only ever find brown bread and brown sugar in our house. If we complained and asked for white, she would say "I'm not buying that rubbish, there is no goodness in it". Even though now I agree, I used to look forward to staying at my friend's house where

we would eat all the things we weren't allowed at home. Simple dinners like egg and chips or pizza at their house and when invited back to our house the menu would often be things like lentil bake, seaweed or blackbean stew. I didn't really like or appreciate those 'made with love' dinners back then, but I certainly do now.

Mum used to run a Peace group from our house. Once a week her hippy friends would gather in our front room and discuss things like nuclear weapons and what to do if there was an attack. There would be lots of CND and peace dove badges, banners and protest talk. Also a few bottles of homemade wine would usually make an appearance.

Mum knitted beautiful baby clothes with bright colourful wool, hooded jackets and blankets all made with love. She even went through a stage of knitting adult hats with built in beards. I remember once a knock at my door. I opened the door and

didn't know who it was for a minute. It was mum standing there in a knitted hat and big beard, laughing her head off that I had obviously fallen for it.

Mum always liked a festival. We used to go to Elephant Fair when we were kids and in more recent years she enjoyed Womad and Beautiful Days festivals. She was thrilled to see Toots and the Maytals and Richie Haven perform live.

She had a great sense of humour. Even in Bristol hospital she was making the doctors and surgeons laugh.

Thank you mum for giving me the best start.

Thank you for showing me how to be a parent.

Thank you for teaching me the importance of peaceful protest and for standing up for what you believe in.

Thank you for being a soul sister to others.

Thank you for being our shelter in a storm.

You will always be...

Such a beautiful woman.

Fly high, mum, & be free.



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# National Trust

We have finished cutting and raking the Valency meadows and grassed areas in Boscastle harbour, which has enabled this year's flowers to set seed, and will add to the wildlife on display next growing season.

Out on the coast path we've been making some improvements including a new fence line on Pentargon cliffs and installing new kissing gates in four locations. One of

softwood gates and stiles they have replaced.

We have started our coppicing of riverside saplings in the Valency valley. This helps to keep taller trees away from the river edge, which is part of the flood alleviation scheme for the village.

Wintertime is when we carry out our tree safety surveys. This includes checking trees that show signs of decay and deciding if any work is required



**After** (Credit Guy Manning)

trees have the possibility of developing a natural resistance.

We also carry on with the 'day job' of cutting back vegetation on paths, clearing trees pushed over in winter storms, replacing

steps, gates and fences, painting signs, picking up litter, which all helps people to get out and about and enjoying the outdoors.

Festive wishes to all  
National Trust Rangers

[Boscastle@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Boscastle@nationaltrust.org.uk)



**Before** (Credit Guy Manning)


them, at California Quarry (south of Forrabury, Boscastle) had an awkward step up to the stile but with the new gate there is now level access. The gates are made from oak, which will last longer than the

on safety grounds. This year's survey has included looking for signs of Ash die back. This disease is present in many of the ash trees we surveyed though we are only intervening where needed so the remaining

**Crossword Answers:**  
Across: 1 Buttons, 4 Present, 8 Trees, 9 Wenceslas, 11 Stocking, 12 & 7d Audience Participation, 13 Snowmen, 15 Joke, 16 Rudolph, 18 Tinsel, 21 Eating, 22 Once, 23 Snow White, 24 Sun  
Down: 1 Beauty and the Beast, 2 Oh yes we do, 3 Slice, 4 Pies, 5 Baste, 6 Behind you, 7 See 12a, 8 Turkey, 10 Peter Pan, 13 Sprout, 14 Reindeer, 17 Aladdin, 19 Lights, 20 Snowy

## Rainfall totals measured in Boscastle

SX 09697 90138

	Sept 2021	October 2021	Nov 2021
Number of days with no rainfall	12	10	5
Max rainfall on one day in mm	34.2	30.6	11.4
Date on which max fell	26 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
Monthly total rainfall in mm	102.4	191	65.2
Total rainfall same month last year in mm	71.2	172.8	115.2
Total rainfall same month 15 years ago	63.6	163.2	214.5



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## Nostalgic memories of a Childhood Christmas

This time of the year always starts me off remembering what Christmas was like in my childhood and I like to think, at least in our family, we have carried on some if not most of the old traditions. Perhaps when you read this it will bring back some memories for you too.

Take the Christmas Pudding recipe, given to me by my mother, who was handed it down by hers: nothing written down, just lodged in the memory by years of repetition, but it turns out so well year after year; steamed for eight hours and another two on Christmas Day itself, with plenty of barley wine and brandy in the mixture itself to help it slip down a treat. All the family having a stir and making a wish.

The Christmas Cake, never bought, but made in September and left to mature till it's time for icing a few days before Christmas. Same decorations on top of it, a rough snow scene in Royal icing (no ready to



roll fondant icing here!), a robin, Holly and a Father Christmas in a sleigh. How I remember licking the scrapings of the bowl after it was made!!

Our Christmas tree, a real one, was brought home by my father in the week before Christmas. No decorations were allowed up till then, though we did spend time making them from crepe paper and, of course, paper chains. We had a very old china fairy doll which was always placed at the very top and put away very carefully after Christmas for the next one. Certainly not one to be played with ever!

Shopping for the turkey from our local butcher,

who had them hanging up in the front of his shop; the greengrocer where we brought not only the vegetables but tangerines, and nuts, all special treats for Christmas. I remember the old fashion nut cracker we had which only Dad and Mum could use.

On Christmas Eve Mum would cook a vast turkey (there were seven of us children!), mince pies, sausage rolls and a huge trifle. The aromas coming from the kitchen could be smelt all over the house. Those who were deemed old enough were allowed to stay up and go to Midnight Mass, the rest of us packed off to bed to await Santa's arrival.

No stocking on the end of the bed but a large pillowcase which miraculously got filled with lots of goodies by the morning! Being such a large family, we didn't have all the presents that children get today but Mum and Dad always made sure we had one very special gift. I remember getting my first watch and a Brownie box camera, not forgetting a doll with lovely long hair that I could brush into all kinds of styles. Always there was a tin of toffees, crayons and books along with sensible things like a new toothbrush and hair comb.

We were allowed into our parents' room to open all our pressies and what a mess we created at 6 am! Looking back, I don't know how my parents survived the day having not got to bed till late and being

woken so early.

Most of Christmas Day itself was taken up with playing with our new toys, eating Christmas lunch (including one hated Brussel sprout, which had to be consumed, or No Christmas Pudding!), then sitting down in front of the fire to watch Billy Smart's Circus and the pantomime that always came next, to be followed by the cutting and eating of the Christmas Cake.

Boxing Day, it was always cold turkey, ham and chips for lunch, my favourite Christmas meal to this day.

Decorations and tree stayed up till Twelfth Night and were always taken down straight away afterwards as it was deemed very bad luck to keep them up for longer.

Did it snow? Yes, we certainly had some White Christmases, which always put the icing on the cake. I remember coming out of Midnight Mass and being pelted with snowballs by my brothers. We lived on a very steep hill and many a time we were woken to the sound of cars colliding with one another as they tried to negotiate it in the treacherous conditions.

One memory stands out of the Church bells ringing as we came out of the service and on Christmas morning itself. You could always hear them so clearly.

So, there you have it, a nostalgic look back at the past, hopefully with not too rose-coloured tinted spectacles.

Happy Christmas everyone.

SV

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We are still operating our free delivery service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call us to place and order or use our website to make your basket.

# Correspondence

Dear Blowhole,

Thank you for the fascinating article "Neighbours" in the Autumn '21 edition. As another of the seven Fore Street and Dunn Street properties that had changed hands at that time (hopefully we're not the cause of everyone moving away) and with long involvement in pub, competitive and amateur theatre, we thought we'd throw our hats into the ring - or on to the stage!

We run the UK's oldest theatre website, UK Theatre Web (UKTW), where we provide "what's on" listings across the UK, information we also supply to the amazing Whatsonstage website. Shortly celebrating its 27th birthday, the site usually has listings for over 15,000 events as well as providing links to tickets from nearly 30 different suppliers. We also publish reviews and are now enjoying the

offerings to be found in the South West, large and small, which enables us to feed our hunger for theatre most weeks.

Moving into the village during lockdown meant it was hard to meet people, but we've found everyone we have met very welcoming and are delighted to be involved with the village panto (oh yes we are)! This is definitely our full-time home now and our four Tonkinese cats have settled in and are loving their new country life and the freedom it gives them. Meanwhile we are enjoying running here now we have adapted to the hills, and the fabulous and ever changing views more than make up for the mud!

Looking forward to our first Boscastle Christmas - health and happiness to all!

*Frances and Robert (Iles)*

*Editor's note: we are pleased you enjoyed the article and wish you a long and happy time as residents of Boscastle.*

Dear Blowhole

Recently I had an urgent telephone call at 4.30 in the morning from an elderly neighbour and friend whose husband has Parkinson's, that he had fallen out of bed and she was unable to lift him back. Fortunately I was able to assist and afterwards telephoned 111 for advice. Once they ascertained he was not in danger they contacted Boscastle surgery to arrange a medic's visit the next morning.

Maybe in panic neither my neighbour or I thought clearly through the situation. My chief concern is, that at present, there appears no-one locally available to provide help in emergencies.

Boscastle once had a First Responder service, but this is no longer available. Again I remember there were once paramedics based in Camelford and the 999 service was able to alert the nearest possible source of help. I have contacted the Practice Manager at the surgery asking for information on the subject and am currently awaiting a reply.

We do not need reminding how remote Boscastle is from hospitals or, given the makeup of its population, with a higher than average complement of senior citizens, how much more in need of emergency services.

If anyone is able to provide more advice or guidance I would be grateful to hear from them.

*Chris Rodda*



Dear Readers,

The Blowhole team would like to thank you for reading this! We really appreciate your support of the Blowhole magazine.

Especially thanks to those who contribute articles, place adverts, deliver copies to residents and to the businesses who sell copies for us. Without you all there would not be a Boscastle Blowhole.

Season's Greetings to One and All and every good wish for a Happy 2022.

*best wishes*

*The Blowhole Team*



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## SPUDS WE LIKE



The reputation of the humble potato has suffered recently, being condemned in trendy paleo and keto diets. But I say whether baked, fried, or boiled, it can be one of the most delicious and versatile of ingredients.

The potato is actually a nutritional wonder. A single potato contains about one third of your daily fibre, triple the potassium of a banana, and 45% of your daily vitamin C. They're full of antioxidants, and have magnesium (good for blood pressure and bones) and vitamin B6 (which helps your nervous and immune systems). All this for about 250 calories.

In truth, the potato is one of the world's superfoods even though it's not exotic or trendy. Unlike avocados, they don't have to be shipped in from abroad, and neither are they responsible for deforestation and water waste. Furthermore, they are a pretty complete nutritional source.

The best part is that you can grow them just about anywhere on the planet, including in your own garden. If you're eating potatoes, you can generally eat local, healthy, and dirt

cheap. So here is my take on potatoes, roasted in their jackets, and baked to crisp perfection. I've deliberately omitted quantities, as something should be left to your own genius. Spud U Like? Absolutely!

Medium to smallish

potatoes washed but not peeled

Cold pressed rapeseed or olive oil

Finely grated parmesan

Garlic cloves, pressed or finely chopped

Salt and Pepper

Preheat oven to 200C/180C.

Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with cold water. Season with salt. Bring to the boil and cook until just tender. Drain in a colander, covered with a clean tea towel. Place potatoes in a roasting pan. Now you can use the palm of your hand to squash the potatoes so that they split, or like me use a potato masher - you are aiming to smash just enough for the edges to crisp. Drizzle with oil, seasoning, and the crushed garlic. Sprinkle with parmesan. Roast until golden and crisp - this can be up to 40 minutes, depending on the heat of your oven.

*Pat Thorne*

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# Wildlife Friendly Farming

I began my farming journey this autumn with 30 Exlana lambs (it was meant to be 20!). At 29, I come from a generation disconnected from farming and food production. I quickly realised farming cannot be anything except political. Owning land, and learning to care for it is empowering, but confusing. What did this farm look like a few generations ago and which habitats belong here?

Cannegos is marginal land on around 60 acres with stony soil, on a steep hill and has been carefully managed by Harold and the Hancocks for generations. It is part pasture, thorny scrubland, and some woodland with a stream. We also have an area of around 5000 trees we planted 3 years ago. Initially I became fascinated by the concept of 'rewilding' the land, leaving grass and shrubs to take over and keeping large herbivores in small numbers. Weeds taking over would be inevitable, but they would in turn attract large numbers of rare insects which feed on their nectar. This would create an inviting habitat for unusual birds, such as herons, nightingales,

lapwings and skylarks.

Some believe rewilding is the only method for meeting the government's climate commitments, sequestering carbon and increasing biodiversity. But one has to wonder, where does that leave the people who have been farming their land for generations? Can we replicate ancient habitats through abandonment? Farming is part of people's lives, and if we hand all the land over to the conservationists, we are faced with new problems, such as how we feed our growing population. This would lead to many small-scale farmers without employment, as well as wiping out ancient and essential land management techniques passed down generations like stone-walling and hedge laying.

Small scale farmers aren't going away anytime soon, so another way to help wildlife flourish on a large scale is to practice nature friendly farming. Although it is a total minefield of information, improving soil health seems to form the basis of many of the approaches. Intensive and pesticide-fueled farming has distracted us

from noticing the health of the soil. For too long now farming has slowly been cutting back hedges, 'improving' thorny scrub and ultimately squeezing nature out.

Rotational grazing is one technique which would simultaneously improve soil health, increase biodiversity and produce more grass to feed my sheep, which feels like it could be a viable alternative to rewilding. This involves splitting land into smaller paddocks, moving sheep regularly from paddock to paddock and leaving grass to recover for months at a time. Thick, long, luscious grass has time to grow, with the additional benefit of capturing and storing three times more carbon from the atmosphere in the ground. Meadows provide habitats for insects and small mammals which in turn attracts other predatory and ground nesting birds. Rotational grazing replicates ancient grassland and restores an important ancient habitat so that insects, birds and wildlife

can thrive in harmony with livestock. We can welcome back the farmland birds, like curlews and yellow wagtails, linnets and twits.

This paints a very attractive picture and seems like a viable option for those who want to see more diversity as well as productivity on their farms, with less reliance on supplementary winter feeding. The phasing out of the basic payment scheme incrementally over the next four years has made me wonder how smaller farms will manage without a huge shift in attitude. This is an opportunity for farmers to become the pioneers of a new nature driven system. This has to be accompanied by a sense of understanding from the consumer, that buying meat from small farms cannot compete with prices in the nearest supermarket. My dream of a local farmers market isn't yet a reality. But once the grass begins to grow again in spring, I'll be out there herding sheep and trying to save the planet.

*Assisi Jackson*

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## Parish Play Area Improvements



Forrabury and Minster parish council have committed to a series of improvements at the play area by Under Road. Recent work has included cutting back the hedge between the play area and the road to stop this protruding into the play area and re-laying the path between the play area and the road. Rubber matting has been pinned in place on the path which had become very slippery in wet weather.

Councillors check the play area and its equipment each month to ensure all is safe and to undertake minor repairs if needed. In addition, an annual inspection is carried out by

RoSPA Play Safety.

A programme of further maintenance and improvement is planned, starting with the replacement of the perimeter fence. Following receipt of 3 tenders, a contract for the work has been awarded. Over the years pickets have been broken, leaving jagged edges and protruding screws, and some posts have become loose. Much of the wood is deteriorating due to its age and exposure to the elements.

The decision has been taken to replace all 90 metres of the fencing rather than continuing to patch here and there. Damage

has been particularly bad at the end by the practice goalposts, and the football club have agreed to move the posts to avoid damage to the new fencing. The picket fencing will have rounded tops for improved safety and appearance, kickboards along the bottom, and oak posts. All wood will be tanalised and treated. Work is due to start on 4<sup>th</sup> January and take a few days. It is hoped

to keep the play area open during the work.

The parish council has agreed to a comprehensive refurbishment of the play equipment over the next 12 months. Councillors are considering a range of options and are keen to bring further improvements while ensuring value for money for their parishioners.

SS



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*FMPC at the castle site with Natalie Haly*

### Wildflower seed

County councillor Barry Jordan has presented a personal gift of a £100-worth of wild flower seeds to Fred Hockin, Chair

of the Parish Council. The seeds will be scattered over and thus gloriously carpet the grounds of the castle site next year.

## Cornwall Air Ambulance Your charity, saving lives

[cornwallairambulancetrust.org](http://cornwallairambulancetrust.org)

Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust is the charity that fundraises to operate the helicopter emergency medical service for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Every year the crew are called to around 1000 emergency calls for help and is on-scene at an incident in an average of just 12 minutes. The helicopter can reach patients in any part of Cornwall, significantly reducing the time taken to get seriously ill patients the treatment they need – in hospital or on-scene. It costs just under £5m per year to operate this service, and with no National Lottery

or direct government funding towards running costs, the charity relies on the generosity of the people and businesses of Cornwall.


Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December, any donation made to Cornwall Air Ambulance will be tripled, thanks to two generous match-funders who are matching donations made during this two-week period.

You can donate online (*web address above*) by calling 01637 889926 or by cheque posted to Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust, Trevithick Downs, Newquay, TR8 4DY.



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**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
**during Anti-Bullying Week 2021**

# Odd Socks Day



The children took part in Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week, the aim being to help children and adults in the school environment think about, identify and celebrate what makes us all unique. This year's theme is 'One Kind Word', in assembly we discussed how everyone can impact positively on those around them by saying something that is welcoming, kind or helpful.

Year 5 and 6 had a CBBC live lesson in which included definitions of bullying and what they can do if they are being bullied as well as ways to help others



*pictured right and below are some more of the Angels from Forrabury Church; there was no room - not at the Inn, nor on the head of a pin, nor on page 14 so they came to rest on this page.*



*Photo above left: the Rev Heather Aston leads the Service of Remembrance in front of the War Memorial  
 above right: Boscastle WI President, Julie Potter descends the steps after placing a wreath on behalf of the WI*

*photo courtesy Gillian Schultz*



# BOSCATTLE SCHOOL WOWED BY CONCRETE!!



On Monday  
1st November,  
Boscattle co-  
mmunity pri-  
mary school  
took a trip  
to local art  
gallery, Half  
Arc Studios.



circle. To her delight, she  
was awarded a bronze  
medal for it. Carole once  
did an art class as well.



One of her students grew  
the slate  
signs on  
the way  
into Bosca-  
stle when  
Chelsea flower show held  
in London in 2001. The  
garden was named the  
blue  
circle be-  
cause  
it was  
designed  
to have  
blue tiles  
as per the  
garden's  
and was  
shaped  
like a  
the bud-  
story of  
Half Arc



Half Arc Studios were found-  
ed by Carole Vincent (1939-2019) up to care-  
Carole designed and created  
the amanda deal in Plym-  
outh and the Bude light.  
She also designed and cre-  
ated a garden for the  
Chelsea flower show held  
in London in 2001. The  
garden was named the  
blue  
circle be-  
cause  
it was  
designed  
to have  
blue tiles  
as per the  
garden's  
and was  
shaped  
like a  
the bud-  
story of  
Half Arc

Looking at the  
artwork

studios was very interest-  
ing for me, announced fur-  
ther, another yr6 girl from  
Boscattle school.

The children were  
learning a lot about the



small  
busi-  
ness in  
the  
morn-  
ing, and  
just by  
lunch, they walked  
up one. Spect, over the  
crossroads and then  
up high street and  
then left onto Mount  
pleasant.

After their trip,  
they



spent  
a lot of  
time in-  
tending  
newsp-  
aper  
reports  
and re-  
ports  
on their  
trip. The  
it on

their trip, they learnt that  
the school badge, the one that  
they wear on their jumper,  
was designed by Sam  
Halsted's grandma.



Boscattle school were  
wowed by the concrete  
because of the used  
colorful printers to make  
her scripture's spectacul-  
ar!