



BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 119 Autumn 2022

£1



*Boscastle's own Ben Nicholls took a musical trip to Nashville recently
see page 8 for more photos and full story*

Also inside: Shanty Festival page 11 The Reading Room page 30 Useful Numbers page 38

Unusual Visitors to our Garden

(Always have your camera ready!)



I have always had an interest in and love of birds. Each home over the years has brought with it different visitors. Some more surprising than others.

Early one morning In June, as I turned the corner of our bungalow, I was greeted by a large black and white bird waddling towards me. I stepped back out of its path, it looked me up and down and proceeded down Potters Lane in the direction of the harbour. It was a Guillemot....

Only later, when telling others, did I wish I had photographic evidence.

Lesson learnt, when these two brown Jackdaws

appeared in August I was ready. They are always together and are almost certainly siblings with a condition called Leucism.

They visit the garden throughout the day along with the black and grey members of their 'Clattering'. (Exactly the noise they make on our bungalow roof whilst waiting for meal worms.)

Recently their plumage has changed and they are now displaying darker heads and upper bodies. As with all Jackdaws they are fun to have around, vocal, intelligent and amusing.

Leucism occurs when the cells that carry melanin are absent from the body, which results in a lack of dark pigments. This means that their feathers appear paler or sometimes, white and can range from affecting just a few feathers to the entire body. It is a genetic condition and doesn't affect the bird in any way.

*Rosemarie
Tamplin*



Gig Club News

Our regatta was due to take place in July at Boscastle. The fundraising committee worked very hard to make the event our best yet, but unfortunately, the weather Gods were against us, and the racing was abandoned after just two races due to dangerous sea conditions. The decision was made to all turn up on the Sunday, despite the poor weather, to sell the cakes to passing tourists. This was very successful and resulted in a healthy profit for the club.

We said a fond farewell to life-member of the club Nick Holmes. Nick dedicated many years to gig rowing and harboured a huge passion for how the sport could change people's lives for the better. The proud owner of his own Cornish Pilot Gig Golden Gear, he was fond of a sea shanty and always ready with a yarn; he will be missed by us all. A beautiful memorial service was held on the harbourside at Boscastle and was attended by Nick's



We can only hope that on next year's regatta date, the weather will be favourable.

At the end of August, the club attended Clovelly regatta, always a great day out. We achieved some amazing results, with wins for our Ladies B and Ladies Vets crews. We came 2nd overall against strong opposition, which was very pleasing. Two club members were also in the winning Barbarian team which determines the order in which boats are taken off the beach. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

sister and brother-in-law from New Zealand, as well as many friends from the Gig rowing community.

Following the service, Nick's ashes were rowed out to sea by a crew of long-standing members of the club and scattered, just as he had wanted. This part of the proceedings was accompanied by Shanty singing by members of the Cobweb Crew and the Bencoolen Wreckers. It was a very fitting tribute to a lovely man who loved Boscastle and who gave so much to gig rowing. Rest in Peace Dear Friend,

Wendy Millar

Boscastle Late Night Shopping Bingo and Christmas Lights

Save the date: Saturday 3rd December

The Christmas Elves of the Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce are in planning mode to bring some festive cheer this Winter. The number of people who turned out for the Late Night Shopping last year - in the wind and rain - was totally amazing! BCTC hope to encourage residents to shop local again this Christmas. The shops in Boscastle will be open longer on Saturday 3rd December and then everyone is invited to gather around for mulled wine, mince pie and carols with Boscastle Bouys. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 6.15pm. Get your 'Shop Local' bingo card before the evening and visit the shops open on the night to exchange for free wine and pies!

Can't get down the hill? No problem - the community minibus will pick up for free from the bus shelter at 5pm, then drive down Green Lane,



lobsterpot tree from 2021

Pentargon, Trefleur, past Langfords Meadow, right into Potters Lane and down New Road to the village. The route will be repeated at 5.30pm and then a return journey will be made at 7pm (carpark back up to the top).

Your CIC parking permit is about to expire!

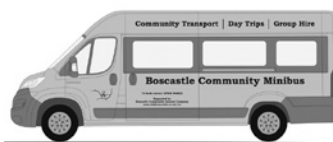
Another year goes by and so too does another permit colour - beautiful blue is soon to be replaced. We really hope that the permit has enabled you to access your local businesses easily. We are grateful that you have supported the scheme on the basis of fair use and long may it continue.

Nearly 300 permits

have been issued in 2022 and a new batch are on the way.

If you wish to continue using the parking bays, you will need to apply for a 2023 permit. From 1st December, you can apply online on the CIC website or collect a paper application from Simon and the team at Cornish Rambler shop at the Bridge (open 10am - 4pm everyday).

For more information and online renewals, see www.boscastlecic.co.uk



Minibus News

The CIC are looking for a minibus manager

Do you have some spare time you are willing to give back to your community?

Our minibus manager Claire is moving on so the CIC are looking for a replacement to handle the bookings, liaise

with the maintenance managers and organise community excursions. Claire is on standby to offer a transition to ensure a smooth handover. If you would like to know more about the role and responsibilities, contact Claire on the minibus phone 07506944622 or email boscastlecic@gmail.com.

Fundraising Success

Well done to everyone at The Napoleon Inn, to all the staff, volunteers, cake bakers, raffle prize givers and to everyone who supported this year's fundraising 'World's Biggest Breakfast' at the Nap.

The amazing total of £1511 was raised at the event for MacMillan Cancer Support.



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News from the Lookout

For the first time the Lookout had to report a boat sinking – right in front of the station! One August afternoon a local boat out towards Short Island capsized and started to sink and the two crew ended up in the water. The watchkeeper contacted Falmouth Coastguard, and the Port Isaac Lifeboat was tasked with the rescue. A nearby kayaker was first on the scene, followed by two other vessels who were able to get the casualties out of the water and wait until the lifeboat arrived and took them back to Boscastle. The boat – it sank!

This summer has seen a couple of notable visitors to the lookout. Clive Pouncy, NCI's new Chairman, has set himself the target of visiting all the NCI stations and he visited all the Cornwall ones in July.

September saw a visit from Andrew Williams, the High Sheriff of Cornwall, who similarly decided that, since he is a keen supporter of NCI, he should visit all the Cornwall NCI stations during his year of office.

We are quite used to seeing gigs emerge from the Harbour, but they don't usually turnabout and come to a stop – whatever the weather or sea state! It didn't take long to realise that they were scattering ashes on the water (it turns out they were the ashes of Nick Holmes, a Life Member of the gig club). Our respects were paid and it seemed appropriate that one of the two watchkeepers on duty was one of our newest members - the Rev Richard Ward-Smith.

You won't be surprised to know that there is a lot of equipment (wind turbine, solar panels, various aerals, anemometer, flagpole etc) mounted on the roof and that, from time to time, someone has to climb a ladder, to go up there to repair things. However, you might be surprised to know that it isn't a flat roof. It is a "valley" roof, which isn't ideal for securing

those installations and makes it a decidedly unsafe place to work in. We are currently in the planning stages for work to install a flat roof which make it safer and more weatherproof, however from ground level it will look no different. This will be the biggest project that the Station has undertaken since the initial work to create the NCI station twenty years ago.

This summer has seen the welcome arrival of some new recruits and three other members who joined earlier have now become fully qualified watchkeepers, nevertheless, we are still looking for more members. We have managed to man three four-hour watches every day since Easter, but these have mainly had just one watchkeeper on duty and experience tells that we really need two. If you are interested have a chat with a watchkeeper or contact Chris Evans, the Station Manager on 01566 781449.

Phil Brown

Panto 2023

Well yes it has started all over again. What?...oh no!...that's great...that's worrying I hear you say. Yes, you are right, the next panto for 2023 has gone into rehearsal. Well Philippa did say 'write something to get us excited' so I have given it my best shot!

Enough of that, I know you will all want to know what delectable experience we have in store for you. Well, the panto is 'Aladdin and Alisha Baba' and the script is the normal panto plot with a few Boscastle twists - as you would expect. There are the normal heroes and villains' (I wonder who they are and who will play them) as well as a return of not one but two dames!

At present we are working towards our normal five performances between the 25th and the 28th of January 2023. There will be an afternoon performance on the 28th. I hope tickets will be on sale from the beginning of December at Boscastle Nisa, Boscastle Premier and the National Trust. I would expect the price of the tickets to remain the same as last year.

So did I fulfil my brief and produce excitement amongst the readership? I do hope so and look forward to seeing you all in January. *Mike Parson*

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Dave Ferrett retires as Community Centre chairman



Snooker Club committee members, Fred Gurton, Malcolm Biddick, Bob Bickle and Dave Ferrett stand in front of the Men's Club.

This photo was on the cover of Blowhole issue 25 in Spring 1999.

When Dave Ferrett stepped down, on 17th August 2022, as Chairman of the Community Centre, he had filled the role for 21 years. Dave was involved from the moment the idea of a new Community Centre/Sports & Recreation Centre was conceived and put to the village. The existing Boscastle Working Men's

Club had hosted Parish Council meetings, snooker, whist drives and dances for a great many years, but alas, due to the dilapidated condition of the building, by the mid 1990's, it was beyond repair. Since the Village Hall was unable to accommodate extra bookings, it was considered that a new building was needed to replace the

Working Men's Club. The proposed building would be a *'project to celebrate the Millennium'*.

The village supported the proposal and a committee was formed. Since Dave had been a long serving member of the Men's Club, he became one of the committee members. In the early stages of the undertaking, his role was Project Manager. The Community Centre project was five years in the planning and building and, according to Malcolm Biddick, the chairman of the committee, Dave gave *'a tremendous amount of time to the job'*.

At the opening ceremony, on 28th April 2001, before the 200 people crowded into the building, Dave, as *'the longest serving member of the Men's Club was invited to declare the centre open'*. Over the years he must have had much

satisfaction knowing that Malcolm Biddick's words at the opening ceremony, were taken to heart by the community – *'This superb facility is for you all. Please make use of it and support it in any way you can'*.

In the twenty-one years it has been open and Dave has served as Chairman, he has seen the Community Centre host Art courses and Reiki courses; for the energetic - Snooker; Table Tennis; Short Mat Bowls and Badminton and there was an Exercise room. The 'Popin' served teas and coffees (with cake) twice a week, it was somewhere for the community to meet and catch up with village news; during the Food and Craft week, the Centre was full of crafters and, after the Flood, the Centre was the focal point for the Environment team. Dave's Archives room, in the Centre, is a great source of interest. He has spent a large amount of his time gathering, organising and cataloguing a considerable collection of artifacts and old photographs, recording the history of Boscastle. (Dave opens the Archives Room during Bank Holidays and is willing to open it at other times, for any interested people.)

Although Dave is stepping down as Chairman, he will remain on the committee. After years of service and commitment, resigning from the Community Centre's committee, would be too much of a wrench.

GQ

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New Logo

The Parish council having set up a new website felt the council needed a more descriptive logo. Printed above in greyscale, in colour it is in shades of blue, green and black. It shows on the left the Forrabury element of castle/lookout on a hill by the sea and on the right the Minster element with the church in a valley and green fields. The date is the date the Parish of Forrabury and the Parish of Minster were combined.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator outside the Nisa store has been in place since 2005 and, whilst still functioning, is in need of some repairs. The Parish council are considering the benefits of repair against replacement.

However, whichever route the council takes the device will need a monthly visual inspection. The

Parish council is seeking a volunteer Guardian to keep an eye on the device and report back to the Council as/if necessary.

Playground repairs

Replacement of the swings and seesaw is due to take place at the beginning of December. The existing swings will be removed ahead of the new installation. Your patience whilst this work is being undertaken. The Council is bidding for additional funds to replace/repair some of the other equipment, but this is in the very early stages.

Static Speed sign

The speed sign was moved from Tintagel road at the end of August where it had been for the previous few weeks. The data captured during that period showed incoming (towards the sign) 9225 vehicles with an average speed of 22.22mph,

one vehicle passed the sign at 53mph and on each day at least one vehicle passed the sign exceeding 37mph.

The sign was relocated to the junction of Mount Pleasant at the beginning of September and from 10th to 23rd Sept the data captured showed incoming (toward the sign) 9583 vehicles with an average speed of 23.67mph; one vehicle passed the sign at 60mph and on each day at least one vehicle passed the sign exceeding 43mph.

The data captured can be used to as evidence to reinforce the need for enforcement cameras to be randomly set up by the Police or other authorised agency.

Paradise Triangle

The Parish Council is considering clearing some of the shrubs and trimming the trees on the triangle at the Tintagel end of Paradise. The council have asked nearby residents for their views which those who responded supported this proposal.

County Bridge Closure

Works are booked to commence 3rd January 2023, with an anticipated completion date of 10th March 2023. They are to be carried out in three consecutive phases, which will include traffic lights, and some temporary road and footway surfaces being put in place. This does extend the duration of the works, but it avoids the need for a full road closure, and reduces the level of disruption to residents and businesses.

The works have been planned for this time of year to avoid disrupting the village and everyone's lives, though it is not ideal for weather conditions. Waterproofing and surfacing need specific conditions & temperatures. If it's consistently very wet, or cold, things could be delayed until conditions improve. However, with luck it may be a shorter programme. It is hard to predict and give exact dates, but we will do our very best to keep disruption to a minimum.

Lindsay Opie

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Boscastle Community Christmas Lunch 2022



The Riverside is hosting an over 70s Christmas community lunch from 12pm until 3pm on Monday 19th December.

There is no charge but donations to Cornwall Air Ambulance are welcome. Lunch will be a traditional affair with all the trimmings, catering for vegetarians too. To book simply call on 01840 250216 with your name, telephone number & any dietary requirements.

There will be mulled wine and a non-alcoholic punch but feel free to bring your own drinks. The CIC's community minibus will be available to pick up

and drop off if required, please let us know when you book.

Looking forward to celebrating together!

RY

Used Postage Stamps

Another shoe box is almost ready to send off to the RNIB - which means they will receive £40 from the buyer. Collections, however small, are of value so just put them into the surgery collection boxes here and in Tintagel and in my front porch at 8 Pentargon Road. It's important that at least a centimetre or half an inch of paper is left round each stamp. I am always happy to receive unwanted albums or collections. Thank you.

ML.



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tranquil sea, photo by Chris Key

Myrna's Chuckle Corner Wotsit Mean?

Isolate - Missed My Train

Skylark - In-Flight Party

Infringement = Claudia's Hairstyle

Cappuccino = Tan-Coloured Jeans

Inscape = Break into Jail

Refined = Caught Speeding Again

Metronome = Goblin on a Tube Train

Decorum = Done to Apples before Making Pie

Likelihood = Good Chance of Becoming a Criminal

Bonaparte = Description of Ribcage

Physiology = Effervescence

Rainfall totals measured in millimeters in Boscastle SX 09697 90138



| | July 2022 | August 2022 | Sept 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Days with no rainfall | 21 | 19 | 11 |
| Max daily rainfall in mm | 5.4 | 6.6 | 32 |
| Monthly total rainfall in mm | 19 | 37 | 142 |
| Total rainfall same month in 2021 | 72.6 | 99.8 | 102.4 |

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A CORNISHMAN LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM



Over the last year, I have been very fortunate to play in a band for a Country-Pop artist based in Bristol, known as 'Danny McMahon'. We've played some amazing venues and travelled to some jaw-dropping places, but this trip back in September... was out of this world (quite literally - to me anyway).

For two weeks, I was surrounded by honky-tonk girls, cowboy hats, steak and pancakes for breakfast and not a diet

coke in sight... The home of country music itself, Nashville, Tennessee.

This was my first long haul flight (unless you count the trips some of us here in Boscastle used to make when we went to Cork in Ireland). My adrenaline was pumping, the nerves were kicking in, but I was ready for what was to come. After recovering from the jet lag, there was so much to explore, so much to see and gigs that we had to play.

We did all the tourist-y must-do's such as visiting The Ryman (the Original Grand-Ole Opry), as well as The Grand Ole Opry (the new one!) where we watched a live gig, Studio B (Where the likes of Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton recorded most of their music) and more.

But beyond the sightseeing, beyond the 12-inch hot dogs and the dangerous amounts of bourbon, we were there for the gigs that were booked. We played at some of Nashville's most notorious events and venues. From Whiskey Jam to The Tin Roof on Broadway itself! The music is just another level, it's everywhere you walk, everywhere you look, all day and every day.

When I was asked to write a piece for the edition of the Boscastle Blowhole, I panicked. I thought, how on earth am I going to talk about the two weeks of all the whiskey drinking, the people I met, the experience I got and the things I saw, it just wasn't going to be possible. The best to describe the whole trip was "Overwhelming", but not in a bad way. Again, I can't describe it all. The only thing that wasn't quite so good was that I had to work the next day severely jet-lagged once again but I knew that it was worth it - So I say that now.

Needless to say, it was my first trip, but won't be the last. A Cornishman in Nashville. Now that sounds like there could be a song in there somewhere.

See you all soon. X

Ben Nicholls



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The Wonders of Qigong

Qigong (pronounced more like 'Chee-Gong') is one the oldest and most popular exercise systems in the world. Originating from ancient China over four thousand years ago, Qigong is a system of physical exercise through mindfulness. With its foundations rooted in the principles of Taoist philosophy, Qigong is a holistic exercise system which is built on the idea of restoring and enhancing good health and fitness by utilizing one's own internal energy, or life energy ('Qi'), to achieve a greater oneness a person.

Far from being an isolating activity, Qigong uses the Taoist principles of connecting with the natural world in the correct way to achieve proper wholeness. Many of the Qigong exercises take their inspiration from patterns in nature, such as the movement of water, or the movement

of the clouds across the sky. Currently, one of my favourite Qigong exercises is called 'Moon over the Lake'. There are also many Qigong exercises which take their inspiration from animals such as the tiger, the crane, the bear, the monkey and, of course, the legendary dragon.

One of the translations of Qigong is 'vital energy cultivation', or the skill (gong) of regulating life energy (Qi). There are very many different Qigong exercises - it's said that every village in ancient China had its own unique Qigong exercise; but there are some key core principles that run through all Qigong exercises, with a shared goal of achieving balance and harmony.

I've been practicing Qigong for almost thirty years, initially with the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Great Britain, and then with Erle Montague's World Taiji Boxing



Association. More recently, I tend to cherry pick my preferred Qigong exercises from some online teaching - some amazing teachers like Lee Holden and Brother Man Tue - and learn these exercises and incorporate them in my Qigong sessions.

I began teaching Tai Chi in 2006. Over the last few years, I've switched to leading Qigong only sessions, as it's much simpler than the Tai Chi form, and can be followed in real time without prior knowledge. This means that, if you're coming along to my Qigong sessions, you can drop in and out of them week to

week, or even join in to a session that's been running a year or two, and still jump straight on board and gain the benefits, which are both immediate and progressive - you get more benefit as you learn the movements in more depth. In my current sessions, by request, we do ten minutes of Tai Chi towards the end of each session, Tai Chi being a complex moving Qigong in itself.

I currently run Qigong sessions in Tintagel (Mondays) and Crackington (Thursdays). I'm looking to start new sessions in Boscastle, Bude and Wadebridge. If you're interested in joining either of my current sessions, or if you're interested in one of my new sessions, please have a look at my Lifestyle Qigong website and contact me for more information: <https://keironc.wixsite.com/lifestyleqigong> 07581 388768

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NEWS FROM A SMALLHOLDING

Does anyone remember our article from a couple of issues ago? You know, that one where we said that by the end of the Summer we'd like the vegetable patch finished, the compost bins in and one of the sheds partially re-built? Well, maybe we were a little too optimistic!

The vegetable patch, in fairness, has come along in leaps and bounds. We have a polytunnel, and a shed and seven out of nine borders in place. All of the borders have been wonderfully productive and not only have we had oodles of fresh produce but we've also had enough of certain crops to freeze, jar and dry. The patch has been designed for longevity; the raised borders are made from oak railway sleepers, all pathways are covered in membrane and as level as possible and water points have been strategically placed with underground piping so that nothing freezes too easily in the Winter months. This has taken a lot of heavy lifting and digging. It takes four of us to move a single sheep due to their size

so that means moving can only happen when everyone is around...this in itself can be a challenge! One part of the patch is still undeveloped and so this year we've let the pumpkins go mad in it, we love a good pumpkin and enjoy seeing how they grow and work their way into the neighbour field!

On the compost bin front, we have made some very small progress. We've managed to clear the area and the bank behind them, remove some small trees and also pile all the blocks near the site of works. This has gone on hold as we need to work out ground levels as there is a definite slant to this area and we may need to build the bins in a stepped fashion. The jury is still out on how many we need, but we reckon it will be about eight as we do produce a lot of compostable waste!

On to the shed! Actually, no. Forget the shed. We don't know how it is still standing and right now we're going to leave it be as there is work to do elsewhere.

The lambs that were

born this year have grown like little woolly weeds and are looking wonderful; they are now bucket trained and have put on enough weight that squeezing under gates isn't nearly as much fun as it used to be. We have a new addition to the flock; a rather handsome ram named Russell. Ewan is very unimpressed at this new, slightly larger chap but in the coming weeks they will slowly be introduced to each other to see if they can come to some accord and become field mates. We're still unsure about lambing next year as the girls are very much enjoying the break and if we don't have to be midwives it means we should (in theory...) be able to focus on getting more work done and on top of the infrastructure-type jobs. In more woolly news some of this year's fleeces have been sent off to the mill so in the coming months we should have our very own Merino yarn which is incredibly

exciting! It was quite a job to sort through them all and work out which fleece was best suited to which yarn, but definitely worth doing.

The next few months are going to be a bit boring for the chickens. It is only a matter of time before there is another Chicken Lockdown due to bird flu and we are preparing for this. We've got a good supply of debris mesh (the sort that goes on scaffolding) to cover the hen patch with; this will let them roam outside but will mean that other birds (and their poo) can't get in. If we don't lamb the ewes we will also be able to make the sheep shed a chicken-spa so that they can dustbath and scratch on wetter days until their lockdown is lifted. Our continued work with Tintagel Pantry means that the chooks get a steady supply of slightly-wibbly fruit and vegetables every week which really does help to keep them happy when they are locked in and not allowed to roam around

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HETAS  Follow Us  

the fields. We collect left-over fruit, vegetables and bread from the Pantry every Friday and it is available for those who need it at our egg point on Saturday mornings. Any donations we receive go straight back to buying what the Pantry needs to continue helping people out. We've also joined forces with another smallholding near Widemouth to reduce waste even further! Once we collect from the Pantry we pop the good food out for people, anything that isn't taken is then divided up between our chickens (and sheep if there is something they'd like in there) and their chickens, ducks and pigs. This means that there is zero waste other than any food wrappers and we're really chuffed with this!

So, at the risk of setting ourselves up for another fall, what do the next few months have in store for us? Hopefully a finished vegetable patch and compost bins, and an awful lot of gardening, pruning and tidying!

Lara Pollard-Jones

Boscastle Shanty Festival 2022: 11th to 13th November

This year, amongst many others, we lost two of our best loved characters in the village: Chris Edwards and Ivor Bright both had a love of singing, fund raising and all it involved!!! So to celebrate their lives in the best possible way, a Shanty Festival has been organised at the Cobweb in their honour to raise funds for charities close to their hearts. There will be back to back performances throughout the day and evening, with each evening ending in a roof-raising 'Shanty Shout' in true Cornish style.

FEATURING: Boscastle Buoys, Cobweb Crew, Cousin Jack, Bencoolen Wreckers, Barrett's Privateers, Port Isaac Gulls, Mel Babb, Bow Movement, Harry Glasson, Stun'ls, The Countrymen, Wadebridge Shipwrecks...and more!

On Friday 11th at 7pm **The Boscastle Buoys** and **Cobweb Crew** will kick off **Boscastle Shanty Festival 2022**.

Saturday will start at midday with performances until 10pm. Sunday will also start at midday then



at 4pm **The Countrymen** will perform bringing the festival to a close and leading the final shout.

We are accepting donations for prizes for the raffle, which will be held over the weekend. Any

donations can be dropped into the Cobweb.

All funds raised over the weekend will be donated to Kennedy's Disease UK and Forrabury Church Internal Work.

Adrian & Tracy Bright

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Battle for Trevalga

They talk about the Trevalga magic. It's not something which can be explained. You have to experience it for yourself. Stroll through the village and sit for a while in lovely little St Petroc's Church (its door is always open) and you'll start to realise you've found a precious oasis amid all the madness that has engulfed so much of coastal Cornwall in recent years.

If you had £15.75 million you could buy it for yourself. And that's the tragedy of this story because the Trevalga magic is priceless and the last "Lord of the Manor" Gerald Curgenvin never intended it to be sold to the highest bidder. His will trust states that he wanted it "preserved, improved and as far as possible not broken up". It remains to this day a unique place with no streetlights, holiday homes, Air BnBs, tea rooms, gifts shops and all the paraphernalia that accompanies Cornwall's unbridled tourist industry.

And at its heart lies a close-knit community – local residents whose names have suddenly started appearing in the UK's biggest national newspapers after they went into battle with all the ferocity and courage of a pride of lions, fighting to protect everything they hold most dear.

There's campaign co-ordinator Serena Partrick who's worked tirelessly to mobilise and motivate the Battle of Trevalga troops since the estate was put up for sale in June and marketed as an ideal commercial development opportunity.

Aptly dubbed the "pocket battleship" by local councillor Barry Jordan, Serena is terrified of doing media interviews but time and again she goes on television and talks to newspaper journalists. And she does it expertly, not because she's had any media training but because she's given her heart and soul to saving Trevalga from the very real threat of commercial exploitation.



Serena and Kizzy

Her many ardent supporters include her mum, Lyn Lockyear, who runs the Boscastle playgroup and who has lived in Trevalga for more than 40 years. Serena's sister Kizzy lives in a remote corner of the estate with her 10 year old son Reuben. She's spent thousands of pounds renovating her home and creating a beautiful garden – a safe and calm space for Reuben whose autism means he needs stability and certainty in his life more than most children. It's the only home he's ever known and he's spent years creating the most extraordinary model train world in his bedroom. He's already becoming anxious about what would happen to his magical locomotive land of escape if the sale of Trevalga leads to the loss of his beloved home.

Like many residents, Kizzy invested money in her home after being assured by the Trevalga trustees that it would be hers for life. Many residents say their requests for essential repairs to be carried out have been ignored over the years by the managing agents, Savills, who are also now handling the proposed sale of the estate.

Artists Chris and Ros Thomas have lived in an old stone cottage in the centre of the village since 1972. Theirs is one of only two homes covered by protected tenancy agreements. Other residents have shorthold tenancies which means they could be evicted

with just eight weeks' notice. As Chris points out, if their friends and neighbours are all forced to leave to make way for newcomers and second homeowners, everything that's special about Trevalga will be lost forever. Ros is critically ill with stage 4 lung cancer and is spending what little time she has left wracked with worry over the future of the village she's loved for so long.

Chris says: "If the sale goes ahead, it will destroy this community we have spent 50 years with. Our children grew up in the village with our friends' children. We all shared our joys and sorrows over the years."

Local residents fearing eviction know there's little hope of finding other affordable homes in the local area and perhaps not even in the whole of Cornwall.

Jess Frohlick grew up at St Petroc's in the centre of the village and left when she was a teen. A few years later, as a single mum with two children living in a run-down flat, she was desperate to return to Trevalga to be near her father after he was diagnosed with cancer. She wrote to the trustees and was overjoyed when they agreed to give her Channel View Cottage where she raised her children for the next 18 years.

Her message to Blowhole readers is: "Trevalga needs to be saved not



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Chris and Ros Thomas

just for the residents already living there. One day your children or grandchildren might need somewhere to live in this area, to be near their families especially in times of crisis, and there won't be anywhere they can afford because of all the second homes. It's already happening. The way things are going, soon there won't be any Cornish people left in Cornwall.

"Trevalga saved me and I want to save Trevalga to help other local people who desperately need a home. Gerald Curgenven never intended it to be a Cornish version of Love Island!"

Gerald's body lies beneath an unassuming stone in St Petroc's churchyard, a few yards from where the ashes of Kizzy and Serena's sister Netha are buried. She died last year of ovarian cancer.

The small, simple headstone with Gerald's name on it speaks volumes about this kind, decent and generous man. He didn't want an elaborate, marble angel watching over him. He just wanted the Trevalga magic to be preserved for future generations.

He's surely turning in his grave right now.

Battle basics

In 1959 the last "Lord of the Manor of Trevalga" Gerald Curgenven died and instructed in his will trust that the village should be preserved and managed as it was in his lifetime

with yearly donations made to his old school Marlborough College.

Attempts by the college to sell the estate in 2010 were blocked after a successful challenge by local residents, supported by top legal experts. In June 2022, the estate's trustees informed residents that Trevalga – with six farms and 17 homes – was being put up for sale again. The 1,200-acre estate is currently being marketed by property agents Savills. Residents are fighting to get the charitable terms of the will trust changed to reflect the clearly stated intention of Gerald Curgenven that Trevalga should be preserved to provide affordable homes for local families and to benefit future generations.

Find out more

Full details about the battle, including its history, are available online at: battlefortrevalga.co.uk. Two eminent lawyers, barrister Barbara Rich and top legal commentator Joshua Rozenberg, have both written detailed blogs about the legal aspects of the campaign. You can find them online by searching their names and Battle for Trevalga.

How to help

- Sign the petition, a link is on the website battlefortrevalga.co.uk.
- Display a poster (see the website)
- Order Percival T Cory's book about the Manor (contact Serena Patrick via the facebook group,

suggested minimum of donation of £6 including p&xp)

- Order a "where there's a will there's a way" T-shirt (again via Serena)
- Write letters/emails, eg to your MP, local councillor, the Charity Commission, Marlborough College, the Duchy of Cornwall
- Follow the campaign on social media: Twitter: @Battle4Trevalga / Facebook: Battle for Trevalga

Trevalga Fête 2022

Hundreds of people came to support a fundraising fête held in the village in September, to help raise funds for legal costs in the fight to halt the proposed sale.

The event included a host of old-fashioned fun and games, reminiscent of Trevalga's annual fêtes over the past decades. Splat the rat, ladder tossing, hoopla and name the sheep (Gerald of course!) were among the activities which, together with a raffle, raised just over £5,000. Campaigners want to send a huge thank you to the many local businesses and individuals who donated a fabulous array of prizes for the raffle. Thanks also to people who bought tickets and everyone who came to enjoy the fête.

Ann Knight

Communications consultant

As the Blowhole goes to press, a potential buyer has met informally with tenants to discuss his aims and ideas. For the latest news, follow the campaign on facebook or twitter.



Ben, Tim and Ali enjoy a burger at the fête

photo Mark Yeomans

INDOOR PLANTS

I've had some disappointing results in the vegetable garden this year, including several batches of runner beans refusing to germinate so I'm going to use this space to write about some successes with my indoor plants instead: namely geraniums, orchids and citrus.

Grown outside as bedding plants, geraniums are often thrown away at the end of the season, but they are true perennials and with care can last for years. I used to lift mine each year and wrap the roots in damp newspaper, stored somewhere dry and dark, but I now grow deep blood red zonal pelargoniums (which we like to call geraniums) all year round in my conservatory. They get a lot of attention in spring when I feed and repot them, and in autumn when they get a general tidy up, removing dead leaves and flower stems. Like all Mediterranean plants they'll survive drought with ease, but not frost, so if you grow them outdoors bring them indoors before temperatures drop. I

take cuttings in spring or autumn, just poking three or four healthy green shoots into a 3" pot and they'll be rooted within a month. Two dozen plants all in glorious flower makes a spectacular addition to the conservatory and that brilliant red display goes on most of the year.

Another plant that gets thrown away after the flowers finish is the moth orchid (phalaenopsis). They're among the most widely sold flowering houseplants and are available from many outlets, including garden centres and supermarkets. With their long, arching stems topped with elegant, exotic blooms, moth orchids are popular and easy-to-grow houseplants, but they do need consistently warm conditions all year round and bright but not strong light. We all buy orchids in flower, but all too often they're the last flowers we see, as once the flowers have finally faded, most people throw them away. However, it is possible to make your orchid flower again, not



only in a few months' time, but for many years to come. Overwatering is the most common reason that orchids die. If your moth orchid has a transparent pot, look at the roots. Don't water if they are green - wait until they look silvery. Allow water to drain out the bottom of the pot - don't allow the plant to stand in water. I feed occasionally with a garlic wash, again allowing it to drain through the rooting material. In the wild orchids grow in the air, their roots do not need to sit in soil (and will rot if you use anything like compost for example). They do best in bark chippings and once you have found a place in your house where they are happy, with deep green healthy foliage, they will remain in flower for months. So, if you have an orchid that is ailing, you now know how to help it - or you can give it to me instead of throwing it away

and I'll try to nurse it back to life for you.

A couple of years ago I bought a lemon tree. The instructions were to try to imitate conditions in southern Europe where rainfall is often sparse - so I let the little tree dry out completely. Then, trying to emulate the occasional summer storm, I drenched it. Within a week all the leaves and baby lemons fell off in shock and I feared I'd killed it. Luckily the lemon tree and I have now developed a much more understanding relationship - despite the advice, I now do not let it dry out completely and have never tried to drown it again. It regularly gets a weak citrus feed and just enough of a drink to stop it being thirsty. And when I counted yesterday, it was bearing nine baby lemons. Gin and tonic anyone? After all that slice of lemon is part of your five-a-day.

Pat Thorne

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MARGERY WEBBER

28/07/1934 ~ 05/07/2022



Margery "Molly" Webber sadly passed away at her home in July, aged 87 after a short illness. Molly was born at Rock in 1934, one of ten children to Mary and Archibald Luke and attended the local school at Tredizzick. Molly left school at 15 to take her first job at W.T. Tucker coal merchants and then to the offices on the Harbour Quay in Padstow. Molly's long association with Boscastle began aged 18 when she began working for the local butcher Bob Cowling at Myrtle Cottage in Fore Street. Her main role was doing the meat and milk deliveries in and around the village.

Following Bob's death Molly and husband Michael Webber were offered first refusal on the cottage and the business.

They moved in with daughters Shirley and Gillian in 1971 and Molly became the village butcher for a number of years until eventually retiring. The shop was then rented out to John and Belinda Adams who continued the butchery for many years.

Molly was always known as a hard worker and through her various jobs in the village, helping Michael run the harbour car park, delivering goods for the local shop, primary school cleaner, bar maid at the Cobweb Inn, running a crab sandwich bar out of Gaviotas and working in

the Pixie Shop alongside Trixie Webster she always proved she had bags of energy.

Molly remained at Myrtle cottage for over fifty years and it was very much a hub for socialising and meeting with friends. She would later describe the cottage as "not just a home but an extension of herself. Molly ran Myrtle as a guest house for a while inviting people from all

given at a charity benefit hosted at the Cobweb Inn. This enabled her to pay for the adaptations needed so she could return home. She had to take her life a bit slower due to being wheelchair bound but this didn't stop her enjoying her life. She loved to spend time in her garden sat at the front of the cottage in the sun, sharing a drink with numerous friends and family and waving and



over the world. Molly was famous for her dinner parties; delicious roast dinners and these social gatherings were known locally as 'Myrtling.'

Following the loss of her leg Molly was delighted to receive a monetary gift from local people generously

chatting to people as they passed by.

Molly will be greatly missed by her family and all of the people who knew her. Molly was one of the great characters of the village and I'm sure many will agree it won't be the same without her.



Wendy Brewer Odette Fearnley Molly Robbins Gail Rush Jean Nichols
The Last Carnival Queen 1957.

National Trust

During the summer we were busy keeping all our footpaths clear, and this year the drought may have done us a favour by stopping things from growing so much! With greater footfall, we have been seeing more erosion on our footpaths in the last couple of years, which means more maintenance. Keeping on top of this can be a challenge, we do some of the work ourselves, but also work with Cornwall Council and other contractors to keep access clear and safe.

On the Nature conservation side of things-late summer and autumn is a busy time. We cut and rake all our hay meadows, orchards, and any other bits we have left for the summer as habitat for wildflowers, birds and bees. We have volunteers who help us with this and in some places, we are spreading wildflower seed to improve plant diversity. To help monitor improvements in biodiversity we also do plant and butterfly surveys in our meadows. Monitoring butterflies is particularly

useful as butterflies are an indicator of how well other insect species are doing. Butterflies are much more visible and easier to identify than other insects, so most people can survey them with a little training. At the other end of the scale, some insects need a microscope to be identified, so only experts can identify them properly. Doing these surveys means we can get a good idea overall how the insect population is doing nationally, and what we can do help improve their habitats.

Winter work: With Ash die back still affecting Ash trees in this area, we did surveys monitoring this in the summer. And we are currently doing our tree safety surveys for other tree species growing over footpaths and roads. Work on any affected trees will be done through the winter, so please stay a safe distance, keep dogs under control and follow instructions from us if you see us out clearing trees.

*Best wishes
North Cornwall Ranger
team.*

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Boscastle Blowhole Team

The editorial team reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication. The views expressed in the magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the team. The editorial team are:

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

The next Blowhole will be published in Winter.

Copies of the Blowhole are available by post at a cost of £14 for the year:
to subscribe go to www.visitboscastle.com/blowhole or phone 01840 250685

Communications to the Blowhole can be emailed to boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk

The Blowhole is published quarterly and printed by:

Easyprint of Stratton telephone: 01288 381700 email: easy.print@btconnect.com

Boscastle is represented at Queen Elizabeth II's Funeral

Did you watch Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, Dear Reader? Did you see our Boscastle representative? No, he was not queueing to view the state 'lying-in' and no, he was not camped out with all the people waiting for a glimpse of the coffin. He had a much more important part to play that day. Boscastle's very own Royal Marine Commando was amongst the marching troops taking part in Queen Elizabeth's funeral procession.

As soon as the news of the Queen's death was announced our 'Royal' and his troop were dispatched to Portsmouth. For many days, they marched 25 miles a day, in training for the day of the funeral. When that day dawned, the 'Royals' were awake at 3.00am in preparation for their duty on the Long Walk at Windsor. In their No. 1 dress uniforms, pith

helmets and shouldering their serious looking weapons, they stood to attention for 4 hours. (No.1 dress uniforms are only worn on ceremonial occasions.)

Personally, I was impressed with the troops' smart uniforms, their stamina and the precision of their drilling and I felt proud to know that Boscastle was represented by such a sterling young man.

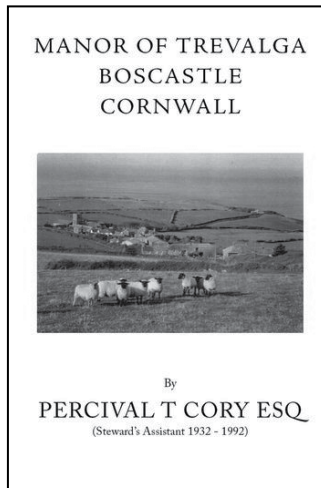
In the words of the song – 'Nobody does it better'.

Stay safe Marine – 'Per Mare, Per Terram'.

GQ

Manor of Trevalga by Percival T Cory

The 'Manor of Trevalga' booklet is full of interesting information on Trevalga's history; the cottages; the surrounding farms and their tenants. Reading it, I almost felt that the writer was acting as a tour guide, as I was led around the village and introduced to the various tenants and owners of the properties.



Some of the names of the villagers were familiar, which gave a sense of continuity to the life of the village. As I read it, I felt an urge to set off to rediscover this ancient Manor and try to imagine village life as it had once been.

GQ.

The manor booklet is an A4, 28 page limited edition reprint of a local history written by Mr Cory, who was the Manor Steward's Assistant for 60 years.

For details of how to obtain a copy, see page 13. If you do not use facebook, email the Blowhole, or ask a team member and we can pass on your request.

Editorial News

You may remember that in the last edition I announced my intention of leaving the Blowhole team at the end of this year. We asked for offers of help to enable the Blowhole to continue, or whether people thought it has had its day.

Prior to our last editorial meeting, we had just one couple who expressed an interest in finding out more about how we go about producing the magazine. They attended the meeting, and have written an article for this edition.

It will be nearly November when you read this, the Autumn Blowhole. We do intend to produce a Winter edition before the end of the year, (or in early 2023 if things go pear-shaped). In order to have plenty of content to fill it, please get doing interesting things and writing about them!

Oh, and we still need help if there is to be edition 121.

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MY COUSIN RACHEL

"Can I have a glass of wine?" I asked. "What, didn't you bring any, then?" So replied my cousin Rachel (she's actually called cousin something else, but I have changed the name to protect the guilty because, if by some chance, she read this, she might never forgive me and, for all her faults, I sort of love her, dearly),

This was at a "party", the kind where guests, clearly, were expected to bring their own vittles. I remember as a child one never kept alcohol in the house, except for special occasions. My cousin clearly adheres to that tradition. Now I am very fond of wine, so much so I carry a spare bottle wherever I travel so was able to remedy the deficiency. I suppose the alternative would have been (yetch!) a cup of tea.

My cousin Rachel is proudly, Cornish, to her roots. Her favourite author, as expected, is Daphne du Maurier. When I mentioned I was reading a biography of hers by Margaret Forster, she inquired, "Have you finished it?" "Yes." "Right, hand it over."

Rachel lives in a big detached house she inherited through her parents. Typically, following the native desire to retain everything within the family, granny also left her a farm and forty acres of building land, so complains the demands of probate, inheritance tax, the paying of outrageous lawyers' fees, and so forth has much engaged her time, poor thing.

The point being she is hardly hard up, as demonstrated by her fondness for foreign cruises. Despite a perfectly respectable career teaching and presumably retirement on an occupational pension, Rachel's recipe for a Cornish pasty begins – "First, borrow a pound of flour..." Outside her front gate windfall apples are offered at 20pence a bag. She visited me once in hospital bearing a vase



Daphne du Maurier

with flowers, at which I remarked, how pretty. "Never mind, it's cracked." She rarely lights fire in the parlour before November and then only with branches gathered from woods, old copies of the West Briton, none of this modern fad with lighters, or central heating, for that matter. Overnight guests are tolerated rather than welcomed, and as the springs in the old mattresses actually bow upwards in the beds it is an experience one doesn't fancy more than once which is the intention I reckon.

Of course Rachel hails from the days when the Cornish were stone poor, life was hard, socks were darned, collars and sheets were turned, make do and mend. They had a utilitarian attitude to luxury: "If you can't grow it, sell it or eat it, t'ain't no use." Despite a gradual growth in prosperity old habits persist. "He'll go down to the Royal Cornwall Show and drool all day over combine harvesters that cost thousands and thousands, "one farmer's wife confided to me, "but I have to buy my dresses at jumble sales."

We grew up together as girls and have always got on well together. On second thoughts, perhaps if she read this article she would laugh. Perhaps. Old age, like for us all, has softened Rachel. She recently spent a lot on private treatment having a replacement hip, because the NHS could promise nothing for years. Reality is dawning, life is for living and you can't take it with you. There are no pockets in a shroud.

AR



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Update from school

We got off to a flying start here at school since coming back in September; with trips out and about and the School Council Elections. We've also welcomed parents and governors into school to share the work we're doing in reading, spelling and maths. The after-school clubs are also up and running again with Cooking Club, Football Club, Bikelights workshop, Lego Club and Robotics Club all taking place run by staff.

A note from the Governing Body

Following the resignation of Dawn Conjoyce at the end of the summer term, the Governing Body and the Local Authority worked to fill the position of headteacher at Bosccastle. Sara Haden, who has taught at the school for the past 15 years, has stepped into the role of Acting Headteacher and we

feel confident that this will enable the school to move forward effectively and ensure continuity within the current staff team, who all know the children and parents well.

*Kind regards Matt Jollye
(Chair of Governors)*

St Nectan's Glen Trip

We all had a lovely day out in nature; walking along to the waterfall, through the Nature Trail and everyone enjoyed a talk about bees (and the chance to sample the honey!

The children have come back to school full of ideas on how we can develop our Wild Valley area; building bug hotels, a bird hide and cloud



watching frames for starters! As always, the children were a credit to our school in how well they engaged with the activities. Several members of the public commented to staff on how well behaved the



children were and on their good manners, which is always lovely to hear and makes us proud.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Matt Jollye (our Chair of Governors) who very kindly lent us his van to transport the Bikelights 'campervan' to Wadebridge and Bude. Thanks also to Elanor and Chris Roff-Conway who were the drivers on both days of the weekend. We really

appreciate your help and support in making this happen.



St Endellion Book Festival

Year 6 had a great day out at the St Endellion Book Festival, where they took part in author workshops. 'The book festival was amazing! Everyone got a book token to buy a free book, it was super fun and one of the best trips I've ever had!' Miriam

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School Council Election Day: Well done to everyone (36 children in total!) who put themselves forward as a candidate and gave a speech to their class.



Congratulations to the successful candidates: Year 1: Molly & Bella, Year 2: Willow & Nalah, Year 3: Elyza and Lucas, Year 4: Willow & James, Year 5: Isla & Alec, Year 6: Theo & Miriam and Deputy Year 6: Delilah & Jake.

The children in Class 3 have been learning about democracy in Britain and finding out about the history of democracy and the importance of the Magna Carta in 1215.

Brilliant effort from the Saturday morning Working Party!

Thank you to all the parents, children (including ex-pupils) and staff who came along to help out. The outdoor areas look so much better; two of the playground boards which had peeled were reversed and painted with blackboard paint and



the children are really enjoying creating pictures on these during playtime. Other jobs done were: cutting back of overgrown shrubs/ trees, sweeping playground areas, cleaning of steps up to the library, window cleaning, sorting and cleaning Class 1 free flow outdoor area, the whiteboard was fixed onto the wall, playground construction equipment was cleaned and sorted.

Our piano has arrived

We took delivery of our new piano which was very kindly donated to us by the Haddy family. As you can

see it arrived in style on the front of a John Deere tractor! Thank you from all of us at the School.



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PETER STEDMAN

3 JAN 1924 - 21 MAY 2022

Peter (Gordon John) Stedman was born on the 3rd of January 1924 to Francis Lilian and Wilson Stedman, the family lived at Otterham Station. His father was a lieutenant in the Tank Corps during World War 1.

When he was born an Aunt said he was so small he could have been put in a wash jug - just like Peter Pan. The names stuck and he became known as either Peter or Paa, short for Pan.

Peter had three brothers Geoff, Derek and Lesley and one sister, Margaret. The family then rented The Butts from the Boscastle Manor Estate and paid the princely sum of £12.10s a year.

He attended Boscastle school and then Sir James Smith's Grammar School Camelford. At 17 he went to enlist with the Fleet Air Arm but sadly he was too short, he was only 5ft 3 ½ inches tall. He then joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. After extensive training he became a navigation officer on Motor Torpedo Boats, operating in the English Channel. Peter was an accomplished Navigation Officer, he boasted as soon as the first torpedo had been fired, he could sleep in an empty torpedo tube as there was more room than in his bunk. Curiously the commanding officer of his fleet was Sir Peter Scott, the great naturalist, who

was christened Peter after his godfather, J M Barrie, who was the creator of Peter Pan.

Peter suffered the real horrors of war when he saw action during and after D-Day around Arromanche and its Mulberry Harbour in Normandy. He said, each time they heard an explosion, the 17-year-old radar operator on his MTB would dive under the console with his bum in the air! Peter also saw naval service in the Far East.

After the war, Peter admits that he "ran wild for five years"! At the Castle Hotel in Tintagel in 1948, he was hired as night watchman; he was bored and despite strict instructions not to, he let the boiler go out and for devilment would swap around guests' shoes when they had been left out at night for cleaning. He was sacked after three weeks.

In 1952 he studied accountancy in London. He would travel back and forth from Cornwall on a BSA Bantam with no crash helmet and wearing an army greatcoat that hardly kept out the cold. Five years later he was employed by a firm of accountants in Newquay but hated the regime so set up a sole business in Camelford, Stedman & Co. Also in 1957, he splashed out 500 guineas on the purchase of the rented family home,



The Butts, his forever home.

In the early 60s he started his long affair with sports cars and bought Triumph Spitfires, his first Spitfire was Registration number 99 RAF and chassis number 5 and the second one 99 WAF. Peter always believed that the first four Spitfires that came off the production line never actually made it to the road. As a member of the Camel Vale and North Cornwall Motor Club, he was navigator for local driving ace Don Statton and helped founder Nick Garbutt with race organisation.

Peter went on to build two Lotus Elans from kits with help from his Cousin Fred. Meanwhile back at home, Peter acquired

an Accountant partner, Dennis Hardman; Peter needed to free up some time for his yachting and Butts gardening. At one time Peter owned two yachts, both moored at Golant, his little hideaway for when life was too demanding. His second yacht, Demara, was built in Poole. When he took delivery of Demara the yacht builders asked if he would take two prospective clients for a test sail, his two onboard guests were Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and singer songwriter Peter Skellern.

Eventually Peter stopped sailing and gave the Demara to his niece and her husband. Much to Peter's pride and joy, they bravely took the 32' yacht around the world. Peter

was very proud of and displayed a photograph of Demara sailing past the Statue of Liberty.

Peter is listed in Debrett's, his interests were yachting, beekeeping, bird watching, breeding ornamental water fowl and peacocks. Peter treasured his letter announcing his inclusion in the Bible of British Gentry – it seems the Stedmans were descended from the Dukes of Norfolk - Peter actually wrote a comment: "Perhaps what distinguishes me is my immaculate dress sense and highly polished shoes – or would it be beer consumption?"

In the spring of 1969 Peter received an invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, he attended on 17th July 1969. He never did reveal the reasons behind his invite.

Many locals will remember Peter's Gander "Lucy". The Gander became the bane of passers by as they walked the public footpath. Peter even received visits from the local Police regarding wounds and distress that Lucy had caused. Eventually locals could relish "Lucy" sandwiches in the Welly Long Bar.

During 1974 (and until 1986) he owned the Wellington Hotel. The fruit machine was his "best friend". He enjoyed Christmas Day, he would relieve some older generation locals of the £10 the government gave them for Christmas and he would collect them in his car, bring them down to

the Welly and they could have sherry on arrival, wine with their meal and port or brandy to finish up, then he would drive them home. As a respected customer of St.Austell Brewery Peter thoroughly enjoyed his visits to the brewery and wine tasting, a dedicated driver needed that day for sure.

Peter loved to take his inflatable dinghy out of Boscastle mackerel fishing, he knew of course the dangers of the rugged coastline from his navigational skills and mishaps as a child. Peter had many fond memories of canoeing both in the harbour and out to sea, he also had a small rowing boat, old photos show this upside down in front of Cyril Biddick's pigsty. Peter said if we catch a conger we cut the line, if a conger is coming into this boat I'm getting out! Peter adored dogs, he was never without a dog, we even have photographs of Peter canoeing in the harbour with his dog on top of the canoe!

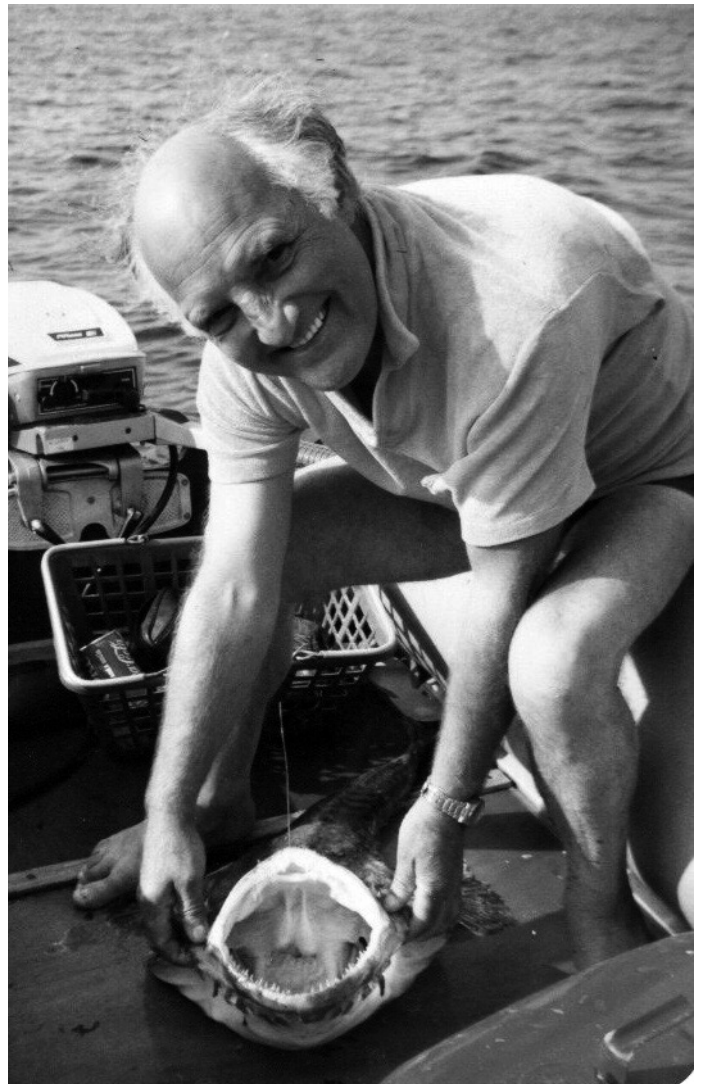
Peter was a very successful apiarist, working hard to feed the bees when necessary and then working even harder to harvest the honey, sold to passers by on the public footpath. Peter attributes his ripe old age to the consumption of honey and good wines.

As Peter's age increased, he was heard to have said "old age doesn't come alone" eventually ailments set in and in recent years he received

help from some local people we all know and respect. Peter never wanted to leave The Butts. The situation was very difficult, however Peter's wishes were

adhered to, and, as he had instructed, he was laid to rest in his beloved garden to commune with nature for eternity.

Katie Young



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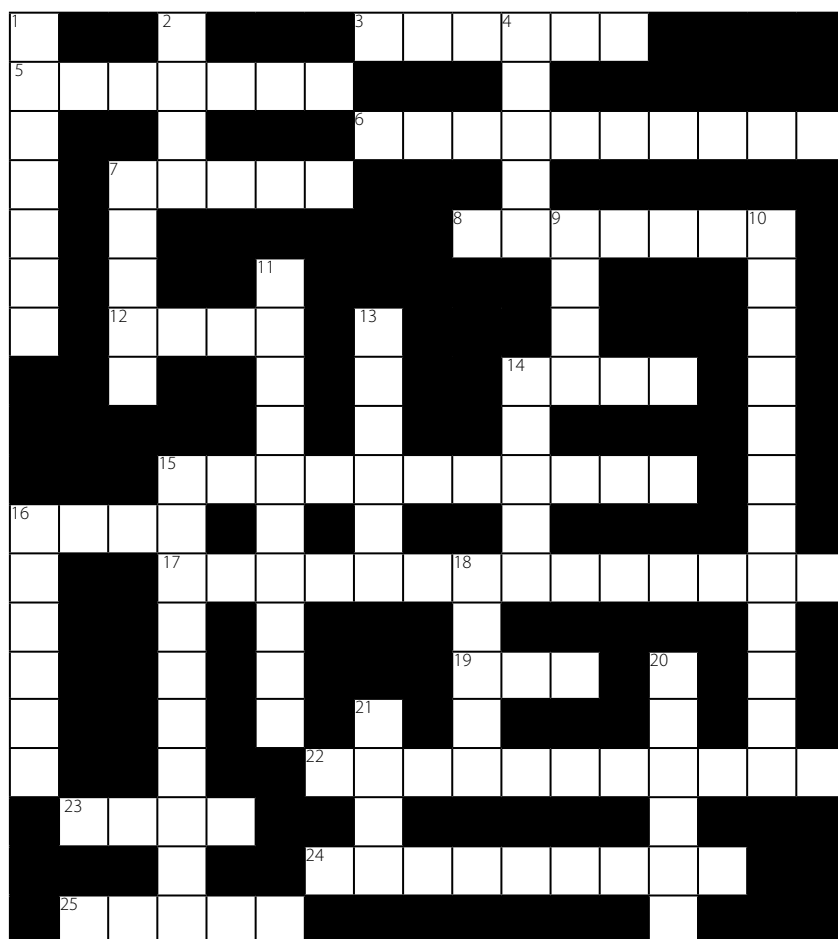
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Steve's Fruity Crossword



Across

- 3 Of wrath (6)
5 Travel to Capri! (7)
6 Beatles' fields (10)
7 Anagram of 14d, a right one! (5)
8 Nothing muttered on the stage (7)
12 Go jittery inside (4)
14 Sub departs from beautiful origin (4)
15 Apple of farrier's mum's mum's eye? (6,5)

- 16 It's gone the wrong shape? (4)
17 Cockney rhyming slang for stairs (6,3,5)
19 Great expectations for this seedy character (3)
22 Sounds like the Brit's rock (11)
23 Lump around for ideal (4)
24 Certain end without last muddled (9)
25 Calendar for romance (5)

Down

- 1 Strong emotion (7)
2 Ready to eat around pier (4)
4 Beautiful shot, not cheap (5)
7 Fisherman got inside (5)
9 Said to be unattractive (4)
10 Shun electricity on the radio (12)
11 Panpipe Les gets jammed (10)
13 Order in Northern Ireland (6)
14 Keith is fruity (5)
15 Figure part re-ordered (10)
16 Hooray Henry says "Dad, Dad, yes" (6)
18 Fruity iPad (5)
20 Start 1980's female pop group (6)
21 Wow at the centre (4)

crossword answers on page 36



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Funny Honey

Dear Blowhole

If you found my article in the last Blowhole about cheap supermarket honey interesting but somewhat disturbing, please read this request I received from The British Beekeeping Association:

[Please]...*"support our new honey petition which calls on the Government to change the Honey labelling rules so consumers can easily recognise all countries of origin of the honey contained in a jar sold here in the UK.*

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/624402/>

... "this is the second honey petition in our efforts to maintain pressure on the government to address this important issue. If you signed the first petition, please be sure to sign this one too.

"The important underlying issue here is 'Funny' Honey - i.e honey that has not necessarily involved a honeybee collecting nectar, processing and storing in the hive. Supermarket own-label honey can be bought for as little as 69p a jar. Although supermarkets say every jar of honey is "100% pure" and can be traced back to the beekeeper, there is no requirement to identify the countries of origin of honey blended from more than one country. We want consumers to start looking at the labels when buying honey – does it clearly state the country of origin? If it seems cheap compared to the other honeys on the shelf, ask themselves why?

"We kindly ask all members to share the petition link with family and friends and on social media to help us reach our goal of 100,000 signatures which means the Government must consider the issue for debate in Parliament. The support of the general public and not just the beekeeping community is essential to achieve this result..."

I hope we can add more signatures to this petition.



Kind regards,
John Maughan

WHAT TIGGERS LIKE BEST



Those who read Winnie-the-Pooh as a child will know that Tigger, after many tastings, decided that he loved Extract of Malt the best. A friend came round for a cuppa and natter, and along with my husband we started reminiscing about what we were given as children in the way of medicines, dietary supplements and cures for all manner of childhood ailments. No visit to the doctor unless it was a dire emergency, just good old-fashioned remedies, usually handed down from mother to daughter (and probably from grandmother in the first place).

Extract of Malt was the first that came to mind: my eldest sister could eat it all day and in later years had a jar in her stocking as a Christmas present. What about *Cod-liver Oil*? our

friend said. When she was younger there was a time when she could drink it straight out of the bottle. Well, rather her than me! We were always given it on a Friday evening at bedtime, revolting stuff, (well, no medicine could possibly be effective unless it tasted foul, could it!); presumably it was given as it contained Vitamin A to aid in general health.

A dose of *Milk of Magnesia* was an infallible aid to those suffering from constipation; or worse still, Senna tablets.

A mixture of warm *Honey, Lemon* and something called *Ipecacuanha wine*, was my mother's tried and trusted remedy for chesty coughs and croup. (My husband, with his medical hat on, reminds me that *Ipecac. Syrup* has been widely used in A&E Departments as an emetic to encourage overdose patients to regurgitate whatever they had swallowed!)

Friar's Balsam added to hot water in a basin and with a towel over your head, eyes watering and

hair curling, was another tried and tested recipe for stuffy noses.

A favourite of mine was plunging my feet into a basin of hot water with mustard added, to help with chilblains (something which plagues me to this day!). It really soothed the itchy sore toes. However, Vitamin D tablets are apparently today's recommendation (I think I prefer the mustard bath).

Haliborange tablets were a real favourite and *Lucozade* was a real treat when you were ill. It still can be bought today though I doubt it would hold the same attraction as it did then.

Going back even further, what about a *Kaolin Poultice* to draw out infection. I only ever made one on one occasion when I had just started nursing; a nightmare to make and apply but very effective.

Of course, the remedies of yesteryear reach much further back in history than our mothers and

grandmothers. Devotees of Georgette Heyer's Regency romances will have encountered possets, thin gruel, cataplasms (poultices), hartshorn and cupping (bleeding the patient, which probably made him feel even more unwell!) to name but a few. I'm tempted to try the application of crushed strawberries to improve my complexion (but what a waste of a lovely fruit).

It's easy to make fun of these old nostrums, and undoubtedly most were merely fashionable, eccentric or just plain bonkers. But not all – who would have thought that leeches and maggots would have found a place in mainstream medicine today?

I could go on ad infinitum but it's time for my peppermint tea to aid my heartburn, so hope this article has stirred up some either good or bad memories for you, depending what you were given.

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What Watt?

These days we're all looking at ways to save energy (and costs). I imagine you've seen many recent articles on the topic, and you may have already started using some of the suggestions I offer below, all of which are based upon my direct experience and energy saving methods, all adding up to a 20% reduction in our electricity consumption.

Smart Meters

Although these meters have had some bad press, they do provide a good way to monitor energy usage, so we can adjust our habits and reduce energy bills, and, the cost of installation is zero. The meters are provided with what is known as an In Home Display which displays real time and historical energy usage information. Although some energy providers also offer their own apps to further assist consumers with understanding their energy consumption "habits", from my experience, these apps offer limited information as compared to the FREE app from Loop Energy, which provides



easy to understand energy usage graphs in 30 minute increments with historical data available going back to the day my Smart meter was installed 18 months ago. This allows me to easily compare month by month my Kilowatt Hour (kWh) usage this month, as compared to the same month a year ago.

Phantom (aka Vampire) Device Loads

We all enjoy the convenience of modern technology in our homes. I for one have multiple Alexa enabled music players around my home and enjoy music most days all day. I did wonder what these players were costing me to operate, so I purchased an energy monitoring plug to measure the cost. It turns out that these players were each costing me about £20/year, whether they were playing music or just sitting plugged in awaiting

an Alexa request. I have since purchased a Smart Plug for each player. These Smart Plugs turn off power to the players every night and turns power back on in the morning, saving me 40%. Of course I could go around the house every night and every morning turning the outlet switch on or off, but I'm OK with the 40% savings while maintaining convenience. A friend recently asked whether her kettle was still consuming power when plugged in with the outlet turned off... answer, NO.



Energy Efficiency

Other than electric heating, refrigerators are our second largest energy consuming devices in our homes. We have recently considered purchasing a chest freezer to give us more freezing capacity. Looking on ebay, Facebook Marketplace, or Nextdoor, there are many used refrigeration appliances at very fair prices. However, when considering such a purchase, it is very useful

to look at the energy consumption of such bargains, which may turn out to be not such a bargain in the long run. I am all in favour of reducing waste, but at what long term cost?

Lighting comes in third as the next largest energy consumer in our homes. I cannot stress enough that replacing all existing incandescent, fluorescent and CFL bulbs with LED bulbs today, will save their cost within ONE year. A conventional 40 watt incandescent bulb run for 6 hours each evening costs about £30/year. An equivalent LED bulb costs less than £3/year. The LED bulb will most likely never require changing again in your lifetime. DO though be careful when purchasing LED bulbs to make sure they offer the light features that you want...Are they dimmable? Are they warm white (3000-3500K) light colour temperature, which is closest to our favourite old incandescent bulbs, not that bluish tint often found in LED bulbs. Focusing only on bulb price may not give you what you want, other than operating cost savings.

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Peeps into the Past

28 APRIL 1826

SLATE OUT OF BOSCASTLE

A vessel from Clovelly "The Narrow Escape" was completely wrecked in a creek near Tintagel, but the crew escaped to the shore. Just before it happened it had just been loaded with slate at Boscastle from Messrs. Sloggatt & Co. [who] owned the Nth Delabole slate quarry as well as a large part of Boscastle from where their produce was shipped.

18 SEPT 1829

GALES ON THE N. COAST

A severe gale along the North coast brought disaster to many ships. The "Hector" of Sunderland went ashore at Pentire Glaze, the "Francis" of Torquay at Padstow, the "Atlas" of Fowey at Portquin, the "Sprightly" of Padstow near Bude and the "Mary" of Plymouth at Padstow. Altogether 25 vessels were exposed to the fury of the gale.

5 OCT 1838

A CRAZE FOR HOOPS

In Truro a new craze for boys is hoops, but many of the people said it was an inconvenience in the streets and pavements. If they were used on pavements the constables took them away for good.

7 JULY 1843

A GATHERING ON BODMIN MOOR

A large meeting of teetotallers gathered at Roughtor with banners & flags & a multitude of wagons & carts and bands of music. Besides coffee etc. there was also beverages of

another kind was available.

The meeting opened with singing and prayer.

The following summer a second meeting was held attended by 10,000 people, not all teetotallers, the "enemies" introduced wrestling, donkey racing, drunken dancing & singing far into the night. Close at hand a black flag flew on the place where murdered Charlotte Dymond was found & penny subscriptions were taken towards a memorial.

8 JAN 1847

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Richardson's Rock Band & Chinese Steel Band gave a morning and evening performance of sacred & classical music. The 'music' was played on pieces of rock from Cumberland cut into different lengths and also steel plates struck with small mallets, the audience at the Assembly-Room at Truro enjoyed the brilliant overtures, quadrilles etc.

15 JAN 1847

THE MERMAID'S VENGEANCE

The port of Padstow has a good natural harbour as rocky area goes but is getting choked up with drifting sand hills. A peasant gave a story that once a "merrymaid" who cared for the port was shot by a young man and before she died she vowed henceforth that the harbour should be desolate.



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Church and Chapel

A Methodist Minister's View

I was recently in a three-way conversation which evolved into us talking about the World as we are experiencing it at the present time. At this point one person left us saying that he finds the current situation too depressing to talk about. A number of other people have expressed the same sentiment to me in other situations.

I fully understand such feelings amongst people as we daily learn of the continuing conflict in the Ukraine and suffer some of the consequences of it in the rise in the price of our fuel be it electricity, oil, gas, coal or logs. Added to this are the increasing prices in our shops as a direct consequence of the energy prices and shortages of some products.

Most of us are worried about the increased costs

and being able to meet them. These costs, but other factors as well have led to the on-going strikes action by our railway staff and postal workers. What is more is that other employee groups are considering strike action causing all of us to wonder where it is all going to end. All of the above is happening around us as we approach our annual Remembrance Weekend when there will be acts of Remembrance on Friday, 11th November, and Sunday 13th November in various locations. It is important for all of us to use these opportunities to 'Remember' the sacrifice of so many in various conflicts which enables us to live with the relative freedom which we have.

What is of concern to me in all of the conflicts be it between countries, or employing bodies and employees is that we hear

very little about peace making initiatives. As I was thinking in these terms, I recalled one of Jesus' statements in what we know as the 'Beatitudes' which can be found in Chapter 5 of Matthew's gospel, where it reads 'Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be call the children of God'.

The same phrase in the Good News version of the Bible is 'Happy are those who work for peace. God will call them his children; the same verse in 'The Message' translation reads 'You're blessed when you can show people how to co-operate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.'

This is how God wants us to be – the 'Be Attitude.' As we ponder the current conflicts and Remembrance Weekend

there is food for thought and action in Jesus' statement. Please pray for peace in all the conflicts and be a peace maker.

*Every Blessing,
Bryan Ede*

Introducing the Rev Steve Swann

During this last summer I have moved into the manse in Tintagel to take up the post of superintendent minister of the Camelford and Week St Mary Methodist Circuit along with my wife Julie. I will be looking after the coastal side of the circuit and Julie will be Pastor of the inland churches. I thought it may be good to say a little about myself.

I was born in Preston, Lancashire and brought up in Castle Gresley (South Derbyshire) where most of my family were from and Moira (NW Leicestershire), I married



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Julie (who was from Coalville (Leicestershire) in 1982. We have two children, Samantha was born in 1985, she currently lives in Bognor Regis with her partner James and their children Joey who is 10 years old and Isabella who is 5 years old. Our son James, is married to Katy and they live in Tangemere near Chichester and have two children, Ethan who has just turned 9 and Jacob who is 6 years old.

We are both cat lovers and have two cats,, they are a 11 years old brother and sister called Sandy and Pebbles.

Work wise I have been involved in the manufacture of industrial latch needles, I worked underground in the mining industry for 13 years, have been a part-time fire-fighter, lorry driver, shelf-stacker, conveyor belt repairer, warehouse man, storeroom manager, and for a time, I had my own business selling and servicing fire extinguishers, this also included a time training water board workers to work in confined spaces!

From 1997-2009 I was a Children, Youth and Families Worker in Lytham St Anne's, Keresley in Coventry and finally in Felpham, West Sussex, apart from an 18 month spell when I worked for a joinery firm in Preston where I was involved in creating a stores system as the company grew into new premises.

In 2009 I entered Queens College in Birmingham for training

before being stationed in 2011 to the Lizard and Mounts Bay circuit in Cornwall where I had responsibility for 7 chapels including Britain's most southerly at Lizard Point; Julie was Children and Families Worker across the circuit which had 22 churches.

In 2016 we moved to Colchester where I was to take up a pioneering post on the West Colchester development and, due to the death of a minister, I was asked to move and fill a gap in Banbury Methodist Circuit in 2018 where I remained until the move to Tintagel.

I have been a part of the Greenbelt (Christian arts festival) fire crew over the last 30 or so years and we both also love to attend Christian festivals and conferences and encourage others to do the same.

Both Julie and I are lifelong Methodists and believe in living out our faith both within the church and the community through Mission and evangelism. Though the Church faces some great challenges (as do many sectors) in the next few years we have a great opportunity to join God in his mission to a rapidly changing world!

In my spare time I love to paint, write poems, and do DIY.

I look forward to sharing this journey together as we work in communion with one another. may God bless us richly as we seek his way.

Rev Steve

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FLO GAS



The Reading Room

As winter approaches this year, we meet it with more apprehension than usual. Not only is the world politically unstable but also the extremes of climate are bringing unwelcome trepidation. In addition, we face strain from the rise in the cost of living. Many people will be confronted by unimaginable financial choices to make and there will not be a single person unaffected by these issues. We will all be looking for ways of conserving energy and cutting our spending in general. I have found the use of a slow cooker or crock-pot of great value. I'm sure I am not alone but for those of you who haven't tried them yet, here are some books that will give you some encouragement. Although they cook slowly for several hours, they use very minimal electricity and are perfectly safe to leave unattended all day or overnight.

THE SLOW COOK BOOK
by Heather Whinney.
[published by Dorling Kindersley]

**GOOD FOOD EAT WELL:
HEALTHY SLOW COOKER
RECIPES** by Good Food

Magazine.

TRY IT! SLOW COOKING
by Dorling Kindersley
publishing.

**THE COMPLETE SLOW
COOKER COOKBOOK** by Cara
Hobday.

SIMPLY NIGELLA by Nigella
Lawson also contains some
noteworthy slow cooker
recipes, as do many online
cooking sites, some with
demonstration videos.

There are also some
very helpful books on ways
to save money and cut
household spending.

THE MONEY DIET by Martin
Lewis

MONEY SAVING BOOK [every
day saving hacks for a happy
life] by Holly Smith.

**THE NO-SPEND CHALLENGE
GUIDE** by Jen Smith.

I cannot end this list
without mentioning what
could be the one book that
really could change the life
of 51% of the population.
Women of the peri-
menopause, menopause
or post-menopause ages.
Being strong and fit
enough to cope with life at
the moment is what we all
pray for. I watched Mariella
on TV and it moved me to
want to spread the word.
CRACKING THE MENOPAUSE
[while keeping yourself

together] by Mariella
Frostrup and Alice Smellie.

Whilst the above books
will be helpful, they should
not replace reading for
pleasure. Real books do not
use up electricity or fuel and
all you need in the evening
is the light from an eco-
friendly bulb and a cosy
blanket or sleeping bag and
perhaps a hot water bottle.
With the correct choice of
book to suit your taste I
can guarantee you will not
feel deprived of pleasure or
warmth.

Join us now in The
Reading Room to share the
views of the bookworms.

ONE NIGHT IN AUGUST by VICTORIA HISLOP

Victoria Hislop is a
frequent visitor to the book
shelves of the bookworms.
She is married to Ian
Hislop, well-known for his
T.V. appearances on 'Have
I Got News for You' and his
role as editor of the satirical
magazine 'Private Eye'.

Victoria has had
her books successfully
published since 2005
and has had many best
sellers, many of which
we have reviewed in The
Reading Room in the
past. All of them are set in
Mediterranean regions and
her love of the area and
particularly Greece shines
through in her writing.
Her books are noted for
thorough research and
often first-hand experience
of the cultures she is
portraying. She has now
bought a home on Crete
and spends half her time
there. She has become a
Greek Citizen and is an

active member of the
community. She is the
Patron of The British
School at Athens, The
BSA, which is one of the
premier archaeological
sites in Europe. On
the site is a hostel, a
research library and the
Stratigraphical Museum
with working spaces for
the study of archaeological
material and storage for
on-going excavation and
survey projects. There is
also an historic collection
of materials from past
excavations.

In her spare time, she is
a superfan of Strictly Come
Dancing and, as a Greek
celebrity, she was invited
to be a contestant in the
Greek version, 'Dancing
with the Stars'. Her partner
was Telemachos Fatsis, a
young man whose mother
was younger than Victoria.

'One Night in August'
revisits the story of her
first best seller, 'The Island'
which tells the story of how
the island of Spinalonga
became a Leper Colony.
Victoria has also written
a children's version of the
story of Spinalonga told
through the eyes of a girl
called Maria. It's called
'Maria's Island'. Victoria
became motivated to write
it after conversations with
teachers on the Island of
Crete.

'One Night in August'
is about the night of August
25th 1957 when the Leper
Colony was finally closed:
a cure for the disease had
been discovered and the
colony was free of leprosy.
Victoria paints a beautiful
picture of life in Crete and
Greece. The environment

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comes alive as the traditions, saints' days and customs of the islanders form an integral part of the story. The characters are well described and convincingly affected by the unfolding events.

One bookworm had difficulty engaging with this book finding it lacked colour and left the reader feeling like an outsider. Most of the bookworms found it a light, easy read but felt the storyline was undeveloped. It could have gone into more depth and the plot lines could have been expanded. They enjoyed it but it gave an impression of being too condensed. The characters were well written and the descriptions were delightful, especially the ship building section which was really interesting and transported the reader totally. We all agreed the ending came as a shock. We think fans of Victoria Hislop will find it an enjoyable read.

Storyline 8

Writing Quality 9

REDHEAD BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD by ANNE TYLER

Anne was born, the oldest of four children, in 1941 in Minnesota to Quaker parents. They then moved to the mountains of North Carolina in 1948 to settle in a Quaker Commune in Celo where she grew up. The Celo community included many conscientious objectors and members of the liberal Hicksite branch of the Society of Friends. She didn't attend formal

school but was educated by a correspondence course. Her first memory of her own creative story-telling was crawling under the bed covers at the age of three and telling herself stories to get to sleep. Her first book at the age of seven was a collection of stories and drawings about 'Lucky Girls' who got to go West in covered wagons. Her favourite and almost only book as a child was *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton. It had a profound influence on her. She said it showed '...how the years flowed by, people altered and nothing could ever stay the same.'

This early perception is a theme that reappears in many of her novels, decades later. She also read 'Little Women' by Louisa M. Alcott twenty-two times as a child. She was eleven years old before she attended a school or used a telephone. She believed her unorthodox upbringing enabled her to view the so-called normal world, with a certain amount of distance and surprise. She always felt she was an outsider at school and in later life, believing that it contributed to her becoming a writer. Wikipedia is a rich resource of information about her life and it is fascinating to read. Her interview with Mark Lawson on BBC Radio in 2013 is also worth a listen.

She married Taghi Modarressi in 1993. He was ten years her senior and had left Iran and his family as a political refugee

at the age of 25. He was an Iranian writer and a child Psychologist. They had two children before he passed away in 1997.

Anne now lives in Baltimore, Maryland and tourists can take an Anne Tyler tour of the area where most of her novels are set.

Two of our bookworms didn't enjoy this book. They found it mundane, tedious, slow moving and ordinary. They preferred a faster paced plot and disliked the minute detail of the descriptions, even though they admired the keen observations of the author.

Others enjoyed the way the descriptions brought vivid depictions of middle-class America, which were very informative. Her writing created a real page-turner where her characters came to life. Ordinary people were described in such a perceptive and interesting way that they became people you cared about. Her prose was deceptively simple but her character study of an eccentric stuck in his ways and the awkwardness he felt was portrayed brilliantly. The plot was not complex but Anne skilfully

peels back layers to reveal an ordinary life showing universal truths behind it. It had a good flow and the way she paints pictures of her characters shows precision observation of unremarkable lives. They were interesting and believable.

The title confused us, we kept looking for the redhead by the side of the road who didn't show up. That was frustrating. Some bookworms also felt the ending was unfulfilling. It gave no resolution. Everything was left unresolved but was a touching and humorous story which we thought was well worth reading.

Storyline 6

Writing Quality 7.5

*Thank you for joining us
once more. Stay safe and
happy reading until
next time.*

Yours truly

The keeper of the Key

P.S. We now meet in the Snug at The Wellie so if you fancy joining us, we'd be delighted to see you. We have two new members so you would not be the only newcomer. Check the time and date on 01840 250661.





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Trevalga ~ a Personal Reminiscence

I was working as a potter's assistant for Roger Little when Colin Frohlick popped his head around the door. "There's a cottage come up for rent in Trevalga, if you fancy it." So I rang the Steward of the estate, Claude Peter, of Peter, Peter & Sons Solicitors, who invited me in for a chat. There's a long waiting list, he warned me, but whatever I said must have impressed because a letter arrived a few days later offering a tenancy, in those days a permanent arrangement. The agreement I signed, apart from the usual conditions, advised against the installation of "garden gnomes, pelicans and the like." I never figured out what prejudiced Claude against pelicans. Otherwise, he was a gentleman of the old school, quite happy to drop by for a cuppa, and discuss tenants' problems, so that one could amiably agree or disagree on future plans.

That was around 1979, the rent was £16 a month which gradually, by the end of my tenancy, some fifteen years later, was £300, not bad for a four-bed detached property. At the time I was living on, pre-minimum wages acts, £5 a day from Roger, some part-time teaching fees at Plymouth College and the takings from the bric-a-brac section of the pottery. I scraped by, like so many young Cornish, relying on the kindness of local garage owner Frank Bridge, who maintained my old car, George Richardson who ran the local auction house, and others who shared the same boat. Cornwall, then and now, was amongst the poorest counties in the United Kingdom.

So what was Trevalga like? Set on the cliffs between Boscastle and Tintagel, even by Cornish standards, a spectacularly beautiful location. You forget how dreary most

people's surroundings are by comparison. Sometimes I spotted the odd visitor, puzzled by this time-warp hamlet, composed of obviously desirable properties with no signs of doing up or gentrification, no SUVs with top boxes parked outside, so who could possibly live here? Percival T. Cory, in his *Manor of Trevalga*, puts it best: 'You find you have time to stand and stare and enjoy a bit of old England untouched by modernism'.

We were uniquely fortunate, enjoying the security of knowing the estate primarily existed for our benefit, understanding that low rents meant that there were limited funds for repairs and improvements – that was the deal, administered fairly under Claude Peter's benign trusteeship. I remember we all attended an anniversary party at the Wellington to celebrate the first sixty years of service by the above-mentioned Percival Cory, the estate accountant, although he always modestly titled himself, Steward's assistant. He was anxious to point out that that had not been his only job.

Shrub Cottage faced the sea squarely, a magnificent view but, with a view comes wind. And I don't mean a stiff breeze but a howling blow-you-flat deafening roar. Draught proofing was always a challenge and our winter heating bills enormous. A large garden meant we could keep chickens and a horde of cats. One day a white hen mysteriously appeared and took up residence. We guessed she had escaped a battery farm somewhere and as she seemed lonely and forlorn we ill-advisedly put half a dozen fertilised eggs, supplied by Jill Pethick, underneath her. The result was three chicks. I witnessed true happiness when Tictic, as we christened her, taught her children (the Meeps) to scratch and peck. Then someone dropped off some Leghorns. We wound up with thirty odd hens, chicken roosts built from old wardrobes and cockerels who insisted on sleeping overnight in apple trees. Foxes and badgers caused mayhem of course.

People were always dropping things off. One rainy night a young girl arrived by motor bike and

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produced a bedraggled kitten from inside her jacket. The result was the first of many pregnancies and variously adored cats, usually a dozen at a time, as we took in old moggies from a care home when their owners had passed on.

We had room to breathe, plenty of space, gardens and fields, so that we and our neighbours Colin and Linda, might experiment, not always successfully, with goat-keeping and Indian Runner Ducks

As well as a collection of odd bods like myself the mainstay of the village were the farmers, the Pethick family and others, who all worked ferociously hard, and every year galvanised the village into organising its famous fete. We all had to contribute, the implied threat, or else, and in a few hours raised surprising amounts of money in order to maintain the village hall.

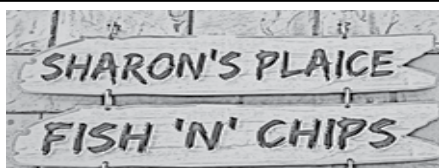
Occasionally I go back, always with a pang of regret. But after Claude Peter died there was a change in the

atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. The final straw for me was when I asked the new Steward if I could, at my own expense, install central heating and move the bathroom indoors from the lean-to extension. Came the cold reply, there was no intention to spend a penny on the property.

Finally appointed to a full time post at St Austell College I was able to buy a cottage in Boscastle. While this had the merit of freeing up a property in Trevalga for someone else, it gave me freedom of choice.

Attending the last fete, I wandered through the village. There is now a spanking new barn conversion opposite where I used to live, but the village hall where refreshments are served appears sadly neglected, in need of maintenance. All signs of the times no doubt. That is the land of lost content, the poet A.E. Housman recalled, the happy highways where I went, and cannot come again.

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ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

On a beautiful, cloudless February day, the views from the platform at the top of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco seemed to go on forever. The air was cool and still, the sky a lovely blue, the traffic on the Bridge tiny, hundreds of feet below. Hundreds of feet below that the chilly waters of the Golden Gate strait between San Francisco Bay and the Pacific. Way below us the island of Alcatraz with its infamous jail.

My brother-in-law, Seng, is a civil engineer who a few years ago worked for the Golden Gate Bridge Company. A cool job for someone with a good head for heights, something I don't possess. I was clutching rather tightly to a guard rail as I peered over the drop to the road and the water below. How long would it take for someone to fall from here and hit the water? God, I wish I didn't have these thoughts!

Seng had invited Brona and I for a guided trip up to the top of the Bridge pillars. We were given passes, hard hats and hi vis jackets and then Seng led us onto the bridge and up to the first of the towers. Although most people probably never noticed it, there was a door into the tower which he opened for us and closed with a final sounding clunk behind. Inside the tower a small, 2 person lift. Seng and I



entered, the cables seemed to give a bit as they took the strain. The door shut and the lift slowly ground its way up, up and up. My brother-in-law was relaxed



and chatty as we made the ascent, I was monosyllabic through gritted teeth. Hard not to make eye contact when we were inches apart, but I mainly managed.

After a long and occasionally clanking rise the lift came to a halt and Seng opened the lift door, then the outer door onto the viewing platform and, OMG, we were so high. Of course I knew we would be, but seeing it was something else. Then the lift was sent back down for Brona and my sister, Joyce to join us. "No, it's fine Seng, I'll just wait here until they have arrived, doesn't seem right to see it all before they do". Breathe, yes, remember to breathe, that would be good.

They arrived, and we ventured out onto the viewing platform. It was truly wonderful. We were

so high, the iconic bridge being just there, the Bay and sky so beautiful and the traffic tiny, colourful, snaking both ways. The drop to the road was over 500 feet, the water another 220 feet below that. I thought of those who had worked on the Bridge, so brave, without the benefit of lifts and viewing platforms and in many cases safety nets.

Afterwards, in the apparent safety of the descending lift I began to get quite chatty and rather hungry. At the base of the pillar, we emerged from our very own platform 9 ¾ back into the land of 'civilians', several of whom were very surprised to see us emerging from the giant 'lamp post'. A hearty lunch was in order, having for obvious reasons skipped breakfast.

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COOKERY CORNER

MEMORIES OF SPAIN

Earlier this year we escaped the mist and grey skies of wintry Cornwall and caught the ferry from Portsmouth to Santander. We then travelled slowly down through Spain to Cadiz where we enjoyed twenty eight days of clear blue skies and glorious unbroken sunshine. We lazed on our rented balcony in the sun and wished we'd brought more short sleeved tee shirts with us, and every day we went to the market and bought fresh fish, and ripe strawberries, and tomatoes to die for. Influenced by our surroundings and needing to cook something just as easy, quick and fuss-free as simply frying fish, I made a one-pot casserole which used local produce all of which is also easily obtainable here. My chicken and chorizo is one of those miracle dishes, which - in common with Irish stew - actually tastes better than the sum of its parts. This is not just food - this is comfort food.

Ingredients:

400g boneless chicken thighs cut into chunks
100g Spanish chorizo sausage, sliced (I like to remove the casing)
Two or three floury potatoes peeled and cut into chunks
100g button mushrooms
1 large onion chopped
Couple of cloves of garlic bashed to remove skin and chopped
2tbsp tomato paste
1 or 2tsp smoked paprika

Pinch chilli flakes (optional)
Olive oil
Chicken stock – home-made if possible, or use a stock cube dissolved in boiling water
Salt and pepper to taste
Crusty bread, to serve

In a pot heat olive oil then brown the chicken pieces. Remove chicken from pot and set aside. Using the same pot add more olive oil if needed, sauté garlic and onions, once onions are soft add chorizo and cook for 1 minute. Then add the potatoes and stir before putting in the mushrooms – whole if small, halved or even quartered if large. Cook until mushrooms wilt a little then add the chilli flakes, a good teaspoon of smoked paprika and the tomato paste then cook for another minute. Give it a mix then put the chicken back in and stir in the chicken stock to cover. Carefully bring up to a boil then simmer in low heat for 25 minutes. I like to start off in a casserole on the hob and finish off in the oven, but it's just as easy to cook it entirely in a saucepan. Check for liquid level once in a while and add water if necessary. Taste, then season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Serve with crusty bread.

Enjoy your meal – or, as they say in Spain Buen provecho!

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A Brush with Danger: Part 2

To continue the topic 'Interesting Lives' suggested by Mr Rodda

As the daughter of an Army officer, my secondary education was fractured – two years in Newtown Grammar School, Powys (where I was privileged to hear the visiting Hallé Orchestra, conducted by Sir John Barbiroli); followed by one year in Caernarvon Grammar School (where the annual Speech Day was conducted entirely in Welsh and the guest speaker was Lady Megan Lloyd-George) and the next year in The Mary Erskine School for Girls in Edinburgh (where I expected to see Miss Jean Brodie appearing around every corner).

My fifth and final years of education were to be on the island of Malta and I had been looking forward to this promised, foreign adventure for some time. As our Scottish bard put it, *'the best-laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft agley'*. The 'fly' in my 'ointment' was Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister of Malta. He wanted decolonisation from Britain and strongly objected to the British military being on the island, with the result that political unrest

ensued. (My late husband happened to be on the island at this time. He was one of the Naval patrolmen defending their position.) The War Office (so called then) decided that it would be politic to extend the term of duty of the resident regiment until the situation settled down and to post my father's regiment to Pembroke Dock. Such a disappointment! Although, I expect my mother was relieved, as Pembrokeshire was a safe, rural Welsh county, where no harm could come to us – or so she thought.

Pembroke Grammar School was a modern, two storeyed building with a flat roof. It had a wide driveway sweeping gently down to the hollow, in which the school was situated. The school was surrounded by fields and trees, with glimpses of the lower town of Pembroke, and its medieval castle, which was built in the 11th century. Unfortunately, after struggles between the Royalists and the Roundheads, in 1648 the castle was ruined on the orders of Cromwell and was never restored.

The married quarters, where we were billeted, were a short distance from the school. A walk down a leafy lane, with farm building to one side and cattle grazing in the fields, on either side of the lane, which took you to the main road. On sunny, summer days, with the scent of pervasive honeysuckle, it was pleasant to stroll down the lane to school, feeling at one with your world and thinking of nothing in particular. The whole scene was a rural idyll.

On one such Monday morning I arrived at school to find my school friends buzzing with excitement. Rumour had it that a man had broken into the school at the weekend and had found his way to the roof. I was told his intension was to shoot anyone or everyone coming down the drive. I couldn't believe such a thing; it couldn't be true; they were making it up. For years I put it from my mind, thinking 'rubbish'.

Then along comes social media with the result that I was contacted by an ex-pupil. Did I want to go to a class reunion and did

I have any memories of school life that could go into the school's online magazine? Seeing this as an opportunity to verify the truth of the 1950s rumour I asked him if it was true. He confirmed that it was, telling me that the man, in question, was an airman, whose parents lived in Pembroke Dock. He had shot both his parents before making his way to the school, where he had then broken in and gained entry to the roof. Here he had lain in wait, for anyone coming down the drive, with the intension of shooting them.

Fortunately for us, he had forgotten that it was Saturday so, no one came down the drive. With his plans thwarted, he turned his weapon on himself, taking his own life. Since he was dead, I suppose the police could only surmise his intentions, from the scene on the roof. Although I have tried to research this incident, I can find no information other than the basics provided by my school friend. Danger lurks in unexpected places. Brush with Danger to be continued

GQ.

Crossword Answers:
Across: 3 grapes, 5 apricot, 6 strawberry, 7 melon, 8 rhubarb, 12 goji, 14 lime, 15 granary smith, 16 pear, 17 apples and pears, 19 pip, 22 pomegranate, 23 plums, 24 nectarine 25 dates
Down: 1 passion, 2 ripe, 4 peach, 7 mango, 9 ugli, 10 blackcurrant, 11 pineapples, 13 orange, 14 lemon, 15 grapefruit, 16 papaya, 18 apple, 20 banana, 21 core

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Harbour Master's News



The warmest summer since 1976. The water temperature in the harbour was regularly at about or slightly more than 20°C and fine settled sunny days made for lots of swimming paddle boarding and kayak use. Bit crowded at times and by way of caution, we do get some contamination from run off after rainfall. The surfers against sewage do have a point.

Falmouth Coastguard rang me on Monday 8th August following the capsizing of a sixteen-foot boat off Short Island. The cause of the incident remains a mystery as it was a flat day but the two in the boat ended up in the water after the craft went down and had to be rescued by the Port Isaac Lifeboat. A brave kayaker stood by. Unlike the commercial boats which are subject to quite rigorous MOT like tests pleasure boats are unregulated and can be very dangerous when not properly maintained.

The fishing was good for lobster and spider but poor for mackerel. It does

occur to me that the days of huge mackerel shoals have gone the way the herrings disappeared a century or so ago. We saw a few bass towards the end of the season and Pablo Hughes caught two large rock huss off the caves at Pentargon (see photo above). These fish were turned into fish stock at the Rocket Store. I know Malcolm Biddick had a good season with two old pots he worked around the shallow water near the Beenys Sisters.

The bird flu was about and rather sadly I have seen many sick and dying gannets and I do worry for the other species many of which have migrated by the time I write this.

As the summer came to a close and on the 23rd September, being the Autumn Equinox, I took my boat Rene to her mooring on the river at Rock and most of the remaining boats will be out by the 8th October when a crane is coming to lift them onto the side and or onto the trailers.

Chris Key



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Police Station: For non-urgent issues: 101

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

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

Local Hospitals:

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

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

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

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

NHS Emergency Dental Service: 0333 405 0290

Local Churches:

Church of England 01840 250359

Methodist 01840 779339

Catholic 01840 770663

Harbourmaster: 01840 250200

Parish Council:

Chairman: 01840 250529

Clerk: 01840 230609

email: clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk

website: www.forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk

Minibus Bookings and Enquiries: 07506 944 622

Community Centre Bookings: 01840 250987

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

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999

Cornwall Council one stop shop: 0300 1234 111

Environment Agency: 0800 807 060

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

South West Water emergency: 0344 346 2020

SWW leak reporting 0800 230 0561

Highways: 0300 1234 222

Western Power emergencies: 0800 365 900

Village Hall bookings: Julie Potter: 07828 824951

Village website: www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk

HARBOURSIDE HAPPENINGS

Whilst sat on the rocks in the intense sunshine, I overheard a couple exclaim that they have been “lucky” for they have paid to be here in Boscastle with scorching sunshine. Having only just set up my towel on the rocks, it made me think.

During lockdown Boscastle became deathly still. No cars. No tourists. Just a few weary locals with masks over their face, like some sort of weird dystopian sci-fi film. Our screens were telling us we were in crisis. Awkward zoom calls, daily death counts, worried relatives all made it feel surreal, even a year later.

Yet in our small fishing village in North Cornwall, it was like the outside world didn't even exist. Nature started to reclaim the streets, instead of cars we saw deer, instead of horns we heard birdsong. In our small little world we became isolated. Suddenly our busy streets became deathly still, and our village-turned-tourist hotspot teleported back 100 years into a quiet little fishing village tucked away

in a picturesque Cornish valley.

We ventured out for walks, for drinks outside with friends and dips in the Atlantic Sea. While the rest of the nation became couped up in their city flats, Boscastle and the Cornish coast became beautiful places of refuge. Not tied down with tourists or work, we were able to explore and enjoy this amazing part of the world all to ourselves. Now we have opened up again and gone “back to normal”, I have realised I never truly appreciated just how lucky I am to live here. In this age of endless entertainment, lockdown made me stop and look around at where I actually live.

This summer we got together with friends, had a barbeque on the harbour wall, (which quickly turned into more barbeques). Some of our friends had never been in the harbour in 10 years!. We spent those hot summer nights watching the sun set behind the Cornish cliffs and cooling off in the sea.



The harbour was filled with likeminded individuals every night; busier than I have ever seen it. Kids were doing backflips off the harbour walls; families were paddling on boards, and locals were lining up the hill to sunbathe and watch the gig regatta. It was magical. (Even with the tourists!). Now autumn is here and it is getting colder, we are looking forward to long walks on the coastal paths.

I have realised now that Boscastle did not “become” magical in lockdown. It was always so, I just never looked up from daily life long enough to see it. I now know that when I turn off the TV and go outside, I am no longer worrying about this-or-that crisis, or this-or-that political scandal. I know that I live in one of the most incredible places, and I am now eternally grateful.

Thomas Watkinson

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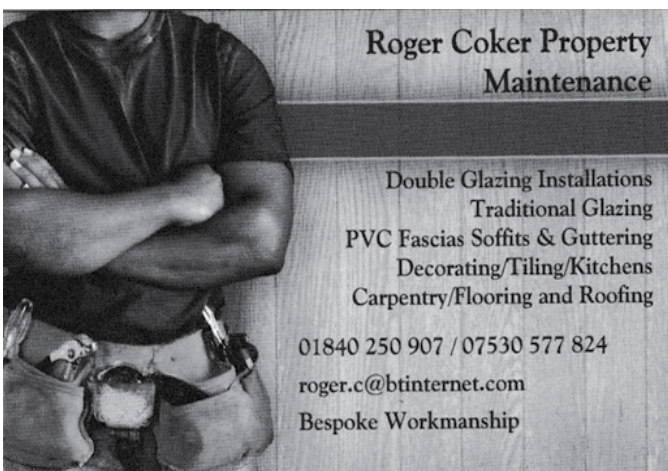
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Bikelights 2022 in Wadebridge & Bude



It was great to have Bikelights back on again this year. The light parade, organised by Wadebridge Creative Hub, is an opportunity for children at local schools to get creative and ride together through Wadebridge, and this year for the first time, also in Bude.

This year's theme was 'The Atlantic Highway' so the older children shared their ideas and worked in collaboration with local artist Reg Payne, to design and create a campervan which was constructed from willow and tissue and then built around a tricycle. Class 2 teacher, Mr Rix, was the pilot along with children, parents and staff, who all rode their decorated bikes in the parade. It was brilliant fun and we look forward to joining in again next year!

