

BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 117 Spring 2022

£1



*The Boscastle Panto Group cast of Beauty and the Beast are pictured above
back row: Liam Templar, Julie Potter, Fitzzy, Emma Harvey, Robert Iles, Lara Pollard-Jones,
Zara Templar, Sophie Edwards, Don Lyle, Dawn, Bob Harvey; front row: Aaron World, Enya
Beckham, Steve Simmonds, Brona Simmonds, Rob Williams. Missing from picture, Maddison
Underhill, Laurence Eagle, Dorian Giddings, Phil. Review and more photos on pages 20 and 21*

Also inside: Jubilee Celebration Plans page 6 Hacked page 16

Eggstravaganza page 18

Ros Eastman Art Exhibition page 22

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Useful Numbers page 38

Changeover at Boscastle Spar Shop



There are new faces behind the counter of the Spar grocery shop. Brothers-in-law Mukesh Maher and Himalaya Gordhansa have just taken over ownership of the store.

Both came to UK from India some years ago as young men. Himalaya married Mukesh's sister and now has a two year old son Ayush. Temporarily, they have left their wives in Yorkshire to wind up their retail business while they organise the changeover in Boscastle.

Researching future business opportunities online, they spotted the shop for sale in Boscastle, a place where they had previously spent holidays so had first hand knowledge of the area.

It is early days, but their immediate intention is to expand the range of goods on offer. Having previously run an off-licence, they are keen to expand the range of wines and spirits for sale.

They intend not only to compete with larger supermarkets on price, the emphasis will be on personal service - grocery and newspaper deliveries, and even provide personal shoppers with back to home assistance. The sign will soon be changed as Boscastle Spar is to become Boscastle Nisa.

Like all newcomers, they are still finding their feet in the village; we welcome them and wish them every future success in their new enterprise.

Parish Council Website

www.forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk

As reported in the last Blowhole, the parish council now have a new website. Councillors hope it will augment the information available to the public and promote the work and policy of Forrabury and Minster Parish Council.

The council want people to engage with and use the website and welcome suggestions about its development.

If you have any ideas to submit, please contact the Clerk, his contact details are on page 38.

Try Something New in Twenty-two

How about starting 2022 with learning a new skill. Meeting new people and going new places!

Why not learn a musical instrument? You're never too old or too young. It's good for your physical and mental health and wellbeing. Secretary of the band, Heather says she learnt to play trombone in her 60's!

Playing an instrument.. from a cornet to a Horn to Euphonium or Trombone to Bass will improve your breathing, your concentration, memory and your stamina. It will

also help reduce stress and anxiety.

St Gennys Silver Band is a small friendly group that meets every Wednesday evening and can provide instruments and tuition to anyone who is interested.

You will be helping to keep a Cornish tradition alive. As some readers know, there used to be a Boscastle Band but it amalgamated with St Gennys many years ago.

For more information contact the secretary:

Heather Smith
01840230976



Photo top: Boscastle Band leading the Flora Dance down Fore Street 1954

above: Boscastle Band outside Turners Garage (now Boscastle Rocks and Landmark), reproduced thanks to Boscastle Village Archives

Theatre in the Hall

At the end of April there will be a short one act play playing at the Village Hall.

The play, "The Chip Van Plays Dixie", is a poignant comedy set on a bench where two strangers meet. Gary is a local man who has lost his wife and Babs, a woman escaping who feels she has lost everything - but in the end they find they share more than they would have expected, including a love of chips, real chips.

Fran and Robert, who are celebrating a year living in Boscastle and who were recently involved in the village panto, will be putting on the play, which Robert wrote. They are keen to discover whether occasional theatre would be welcomed in the village. The play has been performed in pub theatre in London and in play festivals, where it has won numerous awards, as well as in a number of clubs across the UK.

Fran and Robert are members of PostScript Theatre, which is a distributed theatre

company formed in 1997, with a small band of members spread over much of the South, who come together to produce entertaining plays at venues across the UK.

Performances will be at 7.30pm on 29th and 30th April. Tickets (£5 adult/£2.50 under-16s) are available on-line and on the door. Information and tickets at ukt.co.uk/chips

see also flyer on page 24

Used Postage Stamps

Thank you for continuing to save any stamps you receive and for dropping them into the collection boxes in Tintagel and Boscastle surgeries or popping them through my letter box at 8 Pentargon Road.

Another box worth over £40, has been sent off to the RNIB so do keep on saving. Every day another 100 people in the UK begin to lose their sight, for a variety of reasons so demand on the RNIB for help and to aid their continuing research is constant.

Myrna Lester.



Lego League Challenge

Congratulations to our team from Year Six who took part in the Lego League Challenge virtual regional finals on 10 February. Building up to the finals the children were busy learning how to code the robots they built to complete a series of missions. They also had to give a presentation based on a transport problem and present their solution to the judges. We are delighted to announce that Boscastle School came 3rd in the regional finals competing against other primary and secondary schools in the county.

Following on from the regional finals the winning teams were invited to take place in the National Finals in Harrogate on

Saturday 26 February. Mrs Haden along with 9 team members and some of our parents travelled north on Friday and took part in the finals at the Harrogate Convention Centre. It was a great experience for the children and a 'full on' day. All the children got involved and gave 100% competing against lots of other schools, mainly secondary school teams. It was a great experience and they learnt lots that they can share with the other children in preparation for next year's competition. The team represented Boscastle with enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and real resilience to keep on improving. We are now Lego Mad!

*Jeanette Perrett
School secretary*

More News from School on page 19



Have your say; voice your ideas or concerns.
For more information on joining or to see what Boscastle has to offer, see our website

www.visitboscastle.co.uk

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Castle Site AONB Presentation 23rd April



In the last edition of Blowhole (Winter 2021) there was news of the current bid by Cornwall AONB to obtain Lottery funding in order to help protect and promote sites at risk across Cornwall, including the Bottreaux Castle Site.

Nataly Haly, Project Manager of Cornwall AONB's Monumental Improvement team, will be attending a meeting at the Community Centre at 11am on Saturday 23 April to present her ideas for future enhancement of the Castle Site and to update us on the progress of the

application, hopefully a successful one.

In its support Cornwall AONB have recently produced a film of the project, which has been circulated to parish councillors and made available via the AONB website.

It is hoped work will begin later this year. All interested members of the public, along with parish councillors are cordially invited to attend to show their support for the project and contribute their own ideas and suggestions at the meeting.

CR

Community Interest Company News

CIC to support the green revolution

Even before the price of oil topped \$125 and everyone began to question the cost of their diesel and petrol, the CIC has been looking towards supporting electric vehicle (EV) charging in Boscastle for residents and visitors. Electric car sales are booming in the UK with new EV registrations over 75% higher in 2021 than the year before. The government is currently on course to ban the sale of new cars and vans powered entirely by petrol and diesel by 2030 and ban the sale of new hybrid vehicles by 2035. However, the charging infrastructure to power these vehicles needs to continue to develop in order for the green revolution to become successful and we hope Boscastle can support that.

The CIC has identified that not all residential properties in and around the area will have opportunities for EV charging. In addition, for Boscastle to continue to be a tourist destination, visitor range anxiety needs to be alleviated so that

Boscastle is still reachable. Whilst Cornwall Council have recently secured £3.5M of funding that will be used to install 150 EV charging units across their parking estate within the next 18-24 months, Boscastle is not certain to be successful within their project. Therefore, the Council has agreed for the CIC to step in to provide the infrastructure - which the CIC hopes to provide at speed for Summer 2022.

Whilst the CIC continues to talk through the legalities with the Council, it hopes that three charging stations offering 22kW (3x more than the usual 7kW home install) will be installed into the lower car park within the next few months. We have also challenged the Environment Agency to try and think outside of their policy box - the CIC is hoping to provide EV charging right next to a source of hydro kinetic energy...now you do the thinking regarding that opportunity!

For more information on the work of the CIC, see www.boscastlecic.co.uk

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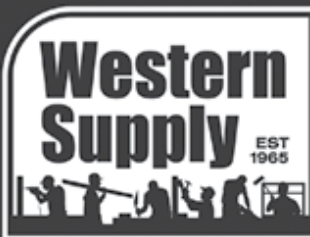
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Could your garden grow great donations?

Did your garden become your sanctuary during the pandemic? Did you spend many hours pruning and potting during lockdowns? If so, Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) is looking for people to open their gardens this year to help raise funds to run its local children's hospice; Little Harbour in St Austell.

Little Harbour costs more than £3 million a year to run and supports over 140 children and families from across Cornwall and Plymouth. The majority of these funds are raised through voluntary donations by the local community.

Alice Merrett, Area Fundraiser for CHSW said; "Gardening became incredibly popular during the pandemic as people spent in more time at home and their gardens. If you are interested in opening your garden to celebrate your hard work and help raise funds then get in touch. Whatever time of year your garden will be looking its best we would be more than happy to

support you with opening it as a fundraiser."

The gardens at Little Harbour children's hospice are always a firm favourite for the children and families visiting. Providing space to run around, let off steam or ride bikes, accessible play equipment that children can enjoy with their siblings, sensory gardens to explore and quiet corners for storytelling or bird watching, the hospice gardens have something for all members of the family to enjoy together.

If you think you could help by opening your garden to visitors and asking for a donation to enter, or by raising funds with refreshments, please get in touch with Alice Merrett on 01726 871800 or email alice.merrett@chsw.org.uk

You will be raising vital funds needed to provide care to local children and families that are supported by Little Harbour.

For more information visit www.chsw.org.uk/open-gardens

*Caroline Thompson
Media Officer / CHSW*



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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2th - 5th June

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, 70 years of service to Country and Commonwealth. There will be year-long celebrations across the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June. This will be a long weekend, from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th with the Thursday and Friday being Bank Holidays.

Many events are being planned over those 4 days including The Queen's Birthday Parade on Thursday, the lighting of beacons nationwide on Thursday evening, a service of Thanksgiving at St Pauls on Friday, a live concert from Buckingham Palace on Saturday, and a Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday.

Local communities throughout the country will be arranging their own events, lighting beacons, arranging choral singing, bands, concerts, and street parties. There will be bunting, Union Jacks, fancy dress, and much jollity. We

reported in the last issue of the Blowhole, that the parish council offered to help set up and coordinate community activities for the Jubilee 'long weekend'. Since then, a group of local people have been meeting as an informal Events Committee to help plan and progress the activities in Boscastle. Organisations represented on the Committee include the Parish Council, the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Forrabury and Minster PCC, the WI, the Primary School and the National Coastwatch, as well as private individuals.

Much work still needs to be done, and the goodwill and involvement of others will be needed, but the basics are shaping up for the 4 day celebrations as follows. Please note the timings are approximate and will be confirmed nearer the time.

A traditional Boscastle Flora dance?

The Events Committee is hoping to stage Boscastle's historic Flora Dance down Fore Street, Dunn Street and Old Road to the Harbour. This will be

open to all who wish to join in. There will be optional themes, such as: 1950's, and Kings & Queens.

At the time of writing, the Events Committee is still trying to find a silver or brass band to lead the Dance. This is proving challenging, as some bands have either disbanded or are already booked for their own local events. One option might be for the Boscastle Band to reform for the event. Would any local musicians be interested in being part of this piece of Boscastle's history?

Thursday 2nd June

The Boscastle Buoys will be singing in the lower village. The Official Proclamation will be read by Town Criers across the UK at 2pm, and we have our own Town Crier volunteer lined up to do this. The Buoys will singing free of charge and ask for donations to their chosen charity, the Cornwall Hospices.

Forrabury Church and the Boscastle Beacon

In the evening, Forrabury Church will be illuminated from all sides and bunting will have been wrapped around the tower. People will be invited to gather on the Stitches by the Church wall from 9:00pm to witness the lighting of the Boscastle Beacon. The Church will be open and available for refreshments, and shelter if wet. There will be a portaloo by the path up to the Stitches.

The beacon, situated at the Coastwatch lookout will be fuelled by gas to avoid the risk of flying embers or spreading fire, and to ensure it can be lit whatever the weather. A runner will carry a torch from the Stitches up to the lookout for the beacon to be lit at 9:45pm, the officially designated time, as part of 1500 beacons being lit across the UK and Commonwealth.

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Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Laser Light Show

Once the beacon has been lit, there will be a laser light show, choreographed with music relayed on the Stitches. This spectacular event will be visible from miles around and last around 45 minutes. A laser light show has been preferred to fireworks, due to concerns over the noise, pollution and litter associated with fireworks. The light show will emanate from the Coastwatch Lookout roof, an iconic building which can be seen from many areas in Boscastle.

Friday 3rd June

Free Day – celebrate in whatever way you like!

Saturday 4th June

All day 'Harbour Happenings' style event, with craft stalls along the riverbank and on Jane Castling's lawn (Valency House), BBQ, Refreshments, China Smash stall, children's entertainment etc.

cllrsimmonds@forraburymminsterparishcouncil.org.uk

Sunday 5th June

Valency House Lawn:

- Morning, Combined Churches to 11:30am.
- Afternoon, from 12:30pm – Boscastle Picnic on the Lawn

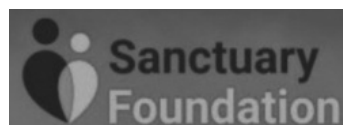
Tables and chairs will be available from 12:30pm for a 'street party' picnic on Jane's Lawn. People are invited to come along, bringing their own food and drink. Please be prepared to take any rubbish/empties away with you afterwards to help with the clear up.

Street parties are also likely to be held around the village.

The Events Committee will need help with running and marshalling events, and the involvement of the whole community to celebrate the best of Boscastle in the Jubilee. There will be other events over the long weekend run by businesses and voluntary groups.

Anyone wanting to get involved and be part of this can find out more by contacting the chair of the Events Committee, Councillor Steve Simmonds:

by phone 01840 250284
or email:



The Sanctuary Foundation brings together a number of charities who are currently assisting with supporting refugees in the Ukrainian crisis. The link to the foundation website is below. There is a short and very informative video on the link which explains how individuals, groups and communities can help. It's not just about providing accommodation, it's about offering neighbourly support for refugee families with some of the basic things they may need help with when coming to a new country and settling in to a new community.

Being the immensely caring place that Boscastle is and has always been, it too has pledged its support with the Foundation.

We do not know yet whether we will have refugees arriving here in the village or what help they may need however we want to put the support in place should it be called upon.

Sarah Cook is coordinating the village response. She is the community link with the Sanctuary Foundation who will contact her should any assistance be called upon locally.

Any request for help will be communicated through our local community groups and local media.

<https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>

Sarah Cook contact number 07803 628594

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News from the Lookout

Just as the first daffodils are beginning to show there are signs that life is intent on flourishing at the Lookout as well as posters announcing our latest recruitment drive are beginning to appear in local shops, pubs and on notice boards. This is always a serious issue for us as we can't draw on any major urban centres, awash with people looking for an alternative to golf or gardening, excellent as those pastimes are. It could well be a serious issue this year as we have lost members through ill health, job changes and the complications of Covid, and we are all hoping for a rise in visitor numbers this summer. You'll find more

details at the end of this article.

We didn't have to wait long for our first serious incident of the year. On 10th January the duty Watchkeeper heard on the VHF a sailor reporting that he was "lost in fog and scared to death" and gave an estimated position. Anyone with any experience of sailing a small boat when fog comes down will know just how disconcerting it can be when the horizon vanishes and your level of vulnerability is immediately apparent, no matter how experienced you are.

HMCG responded directly and then contacted Boscastle NCI to confirm the weather and sea conditions in the area, as visibility was less than 500 m. Half an hour later the yacht advised that it was making for Padstow and Boscastle relayed the message to Falmouth Coastguard who had already tasked the Padstow All Weather Lifeboat to assist. With visibility

improving the Station was able to report that the yacht and Lifeboat were now visible 2.5 nm distant, en route to Padstow. On this occasion we could have changed our mission statement from "Eyes along the Coast" to "Ears along the Coast"

With an interesting collection of named storms in recent months the county has taken a bit of a battering, however, exposed as we are on the headland, even Storm Eunice left us unshaken, if a little stirred. Thanks to the expertise of our team and the resilience built into our systems neither the building, our self-contained power systems nor our communications were affected.

We had something else to look forward to as we held the first Annual Dinner and Presentation Dinner since 2020 at The Wellington Hotel on Tuesday 1st March, when the long service of some members was recognised including awards for 20 and 15 years of Watchkeeping.

In this Jubilee Year the Palace has requested that as many NCI stations as possible should light a

beacon on the evening of Thursday 2nd June as part of the 4 day Bank Holiday Celebrations. Our intention is to light a gas-fired beacon around 2145 on 2nd June and we are liaising with Forrabury and Minster Parish Council to integrate our efforts with other local plans, with particular reference to the safety of spectators in and around Willapark. Further details will be available when the plans are confirmed.

Once again this will require a team of willing volunteers, so this is the ideal opportunity to start your training and play your part in this unprecedented event.

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

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

Martin Wilson

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COOKERY CORNER

Chicken and Yoghurt Curry

There are times at the end of a busy day when all you want is something quick and easy. When you come home tired and lacking in inspiration, all you want to do is reach for the frozen ready-meal so that you can have dinner on the table within half an hour or so.

I'm a big believer in cooking your own food but I do sometimes want instant (or nearly instant) gratification. So here is one of the most delicious ways to cook chicken, which you can have on the table inside 30 or 40 minutes. I like to cook pieces on the bone but it does take a little longer and I know most people prefer boneless chicken. You can of course make it with chicken breast but I'm going to make a plea for chicken thighs as they have a better flavour.

This is one of those easy, foolproof dishes that works every single time – adapted from a recent article in *Observer Food Monthly* – and you can of course enjoy it with chutney, any flatbreads or with rice.

Natural yoghurt 200ml

Salt 1 tsp

Garam masala 1 tsp

Ground turmeric ½ tsp

Chilli powder ½ tsp

Garlic 2 cloves finely chopped

Knob fresh ginger (about the size of a walnut) finely chopped

Chicken thighs 600g,

boneless, skinless, cut into 3cm pieces

Sunflower oil 2 tbsp

Cumin seeds 1 tsp

Tomatoes 2, thinly sliced

Coriander leaves 20g, finely chopped

Serves four

Mix the yoghurt, salt, spices, ginger and garlic together in a bowl. Add the chicken pieces and turn until well coated in the marinade. Let the chicken marinate while you prepare the curry base.

Heat the oil in a pan and add the cumin seeds. Once they start to sizzle, add the tomatoes and cook over a low to medium heat for 5 minutes until they start to soften.

Add the marinated chicken with any excess marinade and mix well, then bring to the boil. Cover and cook over a medium to low heat for 20 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through.

Sprinkle with the coriander and serve with chapattis, naan, or rice.

Enjoy. Lean back, give a contented sigh and enjoy the rest of the evening. What's on the telly tonight?

Pat Thorne

Dog Warden

The council have been delighted that the previous dog warden has reconsidered and will hopefully take the role back on. The council will title the role as Environmental Officer and they will start on 1st April 2022.



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Woodland and Wildflowers

Cannegos is one side of a steeply sloping hill, the top of which is currently used for openly grazing sheep. As the hill slopes east, the ground is more sheltered and becomes willowy and brambly scrub, eventually becoming naturally regenerating young woodland. On the steepest decline is native broadleaved woodland and a stream covered in bright green mosses and lichen, which runs into the river Valency. In 2018/2019 we agreed to plant a eucalyptus plantation in one of our very steep and scrubby fields. I'm hugely interested in planting trees to help to reverse climate change. Eucalyptus can be beneficial to the environment because it is fast growing, quickly capturing carbon as well as being a brilliant source of extremely dense timber. At a eucalyptus plantation nearby, trees are planted in neat rows, each around 3 metres high. But it is dark beneath the trees with very little vegetation on the forest floor.

I now realise the trouble with trees. They are well researched for carbon capture, but often rough grassy areas are seen as needing to be 'restored' to woodland rather than applauded for being busy ecosystems in their own right. An ecological survey for the land by Lawrence Sampson from FWAG (*Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group*) helped me understand the land,

highlighting important wildlife areas, where no changes should be made. The diverse grassland beneath the eucalyptus is a County Wildlife Site (CWS). This type of rare grassland hasn't been changed for centuries, and the many different flowers support a wide range of mammal, invertebrates and threatened species. Prior to the survey this area had been seen as 'just scrub' a misconception I had fallen for.

A strategy to keep this grassland preserved is to trial grazing livestock beneath the trees. Creating a variety of grass heights in the plantation would encourage the growth of so many different species, and the stock could help fertilise the ground below. The far reaching benefits of agroforestry and silvopasture (essentially grazing under trees) are not widely recognised, the sheep are not able to go into the eucalyptus plantation if we are to receive our grant. I'm currently speaking to the Forestry Commission to see if an exception can be made. Their concerns are overgrazing, which can be a problem for new trees (as well as species rich grassland). Trialling small areas and keeping sheep in for short period will mean overgrazing is unlikely. The forestry commission are also concerned about the sheep browsing on the leaves, which are already out of their reach.

Another part of my plan



eucalyptus trees casting shade (photo not from Cannegos)

is to create more sheltered, wooded grazing areas for the livestock. Thanks to a generous grant from the Tree Council and National Rail, this is becoming a reality. We are about to plant over 2000 native trees in clumps dotted about in our lowest, flattest and least diverse paddock. Our land is coastal, constantly suffering strong salty winds. Sheltered grazing can dramatically increase the survival rate of lambs, as well as boosting the growth of grass by up to 20%. In this location native trees will achieve my goal of increasing wildlife and capturing carbon. Breeding birds, sheep and grassland will all benefit from the

trees protection.

Learning to manage land effectively for wildlife, biodiversity and carbon as well as meeting the demands of grants has been a challenge. I cannot remove the eucalyptus, but managing the area in a way that would preserve this scarce grassland would be no small feat. It has been a learning curve and I now feel confident about planting the right trees in the right places. It is thanks to the knowledge from the amazing team at FWAG, Tree Council, and research by Jodie Hession that we can create this haven for wildlife.

Assisi Jackson

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BOSCASTLE PREMIER SHOP

On my way to Boscastle Premier shop the other day, I passed several villagers all of whom had nothing but praise and gratitude that once again we have a shop at Boscastle's 'Top Town'. When Ann and Aubrey left Boscastle and their shop closed, the residents in this part of Boscastle felt the loss immensely. Now, the Boscastle Premier shop has more than filled the bill.

The shop opened in early February. The staff are helpful and friendly and the shelves are filled with everything you might need for the week's groceries. Wherever possible, Deepak and Deborah plan to sell local produce. I discovered (and bought) 'Boscastle Made' marmalade - I will have to try the 'Whisky Marmalade' next. If there is anything you particularly want, that is not on the shelf, Deepak will be more than pleased to seek it out for you - just ask.

One benefit, which

may be overlooked, is that here you are likely to meet (and chat) with friends and neighbours. The large car park means shoppers can take as long as they like without worrying about parking charges and it is only a short walk for most 'Top Town' residents.

I wish the Boscastle Premier shop very best wishes for the future and, from a grateful 'Top Town' shopper, thank you for opening the Boscastle Premier shop.

GQ

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The Trials of Storm Eunice

Technology drives us mad but we can't live without it!...or can we?

Well, during Storm Eunice most of us discovered just how much we depend on it, especially for communication. And some of us re-discovered resources we hoped we'd never need again!

We drove back from visiting our family in Essex on the Friday when the South-west was blanketed with red weather warnings: call us mad but we did it, to find slates from the roof on our drive, no power, no heating or hot water, no phone and no internet. Add to this no functioning network on either mobile so how to contact anyone especially the family? After much fruitless scrolling through settings, connections etc. Mike discovered that he could still send SMS text messages on his pay-as-you-go "emergency" phone, so thankfully we were able to reassure our nearest and dearest that we were not after all lying in our

wrecked car under a fallen tree! I had recently taken possession of a spanking new phone but could I find how to send texts through SMS? Not on your life! My signal did come back eventually however, so we could at least communicate with the outside world once again.

We have a static caravan in our garden which has an ancient gas stove in it and it still works. During the evening and the following morning, it was to and fro between bungalow and caravan, boiling up our state-of-the-art whistling kettle (remember them?), filling flasks and hot water bottles and cooking a meal (courtesy of M&S.) Meanwhile I lit our coal fire, and how grateful we were for that, and rounded up a couple of battery-powered lanterns to give us at least some illumination. Plus, we had some battery-powered Christmas lights which, draped around the mantelpiece, gave us a wee bit more light and made things more cheerful and even a bit festive, as though our very subdued lighting was actually by design



unlike computers, typewriters still work in candlelight!

rather than enforced.

No TV or radio, light too poor to permit reading comfortably, and the lounge the only warm place in the bungalow, it was an early retirement to bed with hot water bottles, bed socks, and warm jumpers. It also helped having an additional source of warmth in the shape of Danny, our cat, who snuggled down between us: think he was cold too!

Thankfully, power restored by Saturday afternoon, and grateful thanks to all who worked in what were very dangerous conditions to restore it. We weren't so lucky with our

telephone or broadband which only returned on Wednesday. How I used to wish, sometimes, for the telephone to stop ringing, and for the incessant blizzard of tedious e-mails to cease. When this wish was actually granted, it was bliss to begin with, but it didn't take long before the sense of being cut off and isolated set in. Similarly, we too easily take for granted hot water, heating and lighting. Standing in an icy cold bathroom, washing with just a small amount of hot water from the kettle, took me back to a childhood in which the only heating at home

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The Trials of Storm Eunice, continued

came from two coal fires and an ancient boiler in the kitchen.

It's been very interesting sharing with friends their own experiences and discovering how very enterprising they have been. Wood burner stove tops have proved very useful in boiling water and one enterprising friend even cooked jacket potatoes and fried eggs on it, though she does feel her skills in this direction need some refining as the potatoes, though very tasty, had shrunk to minute proportions. Candles have been used widely, and at least one resourceful lady employed her husband's headlight for navigating around the house at night, during the blackout. Old games have been dug out and played and couples have actually found themselves talking to each other instead of watching TV, playing games on the computer or staring at their mobiles. Of course, old habits die hard, and some will go to extraordinary lengths to find a mobile signal, even so far as walking up to

the church porch to get a signal or holding their mobile phone pressed up against the one upstairs window where a faint signal could be found. But how frustrating to have followed the advice of relatives to get one's mobile topped up before the storm came, only to discover it had all been for nothing!

Storm Eunice certainly tested us all and I am well aware that in certain areas things have not returned to normal yet. I am very grateful though to return, as one friend put it, back to 2022.

SV

Community Centre Bookings

There is a change of contact for booking the Boscastle Community and Recreation Centre. After nearly 20 years service, Mary Dummett has handed over the keys.

Many thanks to Mary for arranging bookings for the centre since 2003. The person you now need to contact to book the centre is Keith Bedford, on 01840 250987.

Wildflower Seed

In the winter edition of the Blowhole we reported that wildflower seeds had been given to the village by CCllr Barry Jordan and that they would be sown on the castle site.



In fact, the seeds are of red, white and blue poppies, chosen to mark the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They are to be planted by the entrance gateways to Boscastle (around the slate signs) and on the Castle site to the rear of the War Memorial.

Rainfall

Whilst the named storms may have been fierce, dislodging slates and roof tiles, smashing greenhouse glass and knocking trees about, the strength of the wind has tended to keep the rainfall down. This is the rainfall for Boscastle on the named storm days so far this winter:

Arwen 26/27 Nov 2.6mm
Barra 7/8 Dec 10.4mm
Corrie 30/31 Jan 1mm
Dudley 16 Feb 1.8mm
Eunice 18 Feb 4.4mm
Franklin 20/21 Feb 5.2mm

Here's hoping that it is a long time before Gladys rolls in.

Rainfall totals measured in Boscastle 			
SX 09697 90138			
 Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	
Number of days with no rainfall	8	15	5
Max rainfall on one day in mm	13.4	10.4	16.8
Date on which max fell	28 th	7 th	12 th
Monthly total rainfall in mm	118.8	53.6	118.6
Total rainfall same month last year in mm	238.4	115.6	219
Total rainfall same month 20 years ago	186.2	197.8	118.6

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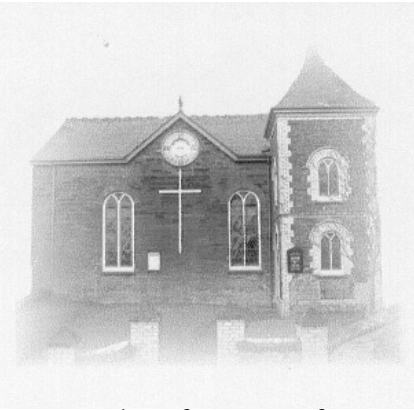
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Church and Chapel



Dear Readers

A few year ago, I had to go into hospital for a heart operation and was told afterwards that I should try to take some exercise several times each week. As a result, I endeavour to walk up private road, down Penally Hill, round the car park and then out to the mouth of the harbour to see if the ocean is flat, before finally returning home for breakfast. By doing this, apart from having time to think, one also sees changes in the seasons.

Recently, I have heard the woodpeckers drumming in Penally House woods, seen the daffodils and primroses start growing and now am seeing the new leaves of the wild garlic. All of this shows that spring is on its way, with all the good news of new growth and life. It is then difficult to come home and have to listen to

the latest news about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and all the death and suffering that causes.

The problem then arises is how does one attempt to reconcile these two extremes, one of life and hope as opposed to that of death and despair? There is of course, no easy answer although as a follower of Jesus Christ I know, that as we travel towards Easter, it is through the death, suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ that each one of us can have a new relationship and life with God. Through His death we might have life.

To me that relationship is one of hope and love. It is not imposed, but rather a life which we can each determine for ourselves, whether to follow the way of good and love rather than that of a life of hate and selfishness. Someone

said to me today 'how can God allow what is happening in Ukraine' but if we have the privilege of self-determination then it is us rather than God, who allows these awful things to happen. All I can hope and pray for is, that just as we see the new life with the coming of spring so also we see there is love, kindness and care for each other such as the response of the rest of the world to the awful violence and destruction that is happening and perhaps, from this, learn how to live in peace and love.

Rev Michael Parsons

A Methodist Ministers View

As I write this article the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been under way for two weeks. One thing which struck me is how things have changed for all of us in that short

period of time from experiencing increasing prices for petrol, diesel heating oil through to responding to the appeals for money, clothing and other essentials. The response to these appeals has been phenomenal with the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal reaching £100 million pounds within 4 days, as well as people setting off from different parts of the country with van and lorry loads of the goods which are needed.

As we face such a crisis many of us feel helpless other than responding by giving. Some have said that they only watch the news bulletins once a day because they feel so distressed by the situation.

Within 24 hours there were responses from the Church Leaders in this Country with the organisation of Prayer

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Vigils on Tuesday, 1st March, and the writing of special prayers. On a Radio programme that we were listening to the story was told of a Ukrainian young man who said to the Bishop of Europe that the people of Ukraine 'felt the power of our prayers, don't stop praying for us.' In response to this I encourage you to pray for the situation. Below is the prayer which was written for use in our Methodist Churches and members of our congregation, but it can be used by everyone.

As you receive this article in print the Easter Celebrations will be very much on your minds,

although we may find it difficult to celebrate as we normally would with the Ukrainian situation as it is. However, the Message of Easter of God's Love for all people and the hope which it brings is still the same. As we remind ourselves again of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, we celebrate the joy of the new start and new life, which it brings, with the peace which ensues from it.

Amidst all that we are experiencing continue to pray for the Ukrainian situation, and open yourselves to the hope, love, joy, and peace of Easter.

*Every Blessing,
Bryan Ede*

Holy and Gracious God.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace. We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord have mercy, Amen.

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Forrabury & Minster PCC Upcoming Events

Eggstravaganza

Easter Monday 18th April

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Egg decorating competition
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in St Symphorian Church, Forrabury
Hard boiled hens egg, use any medium –
paint, sequins, ribbon, etc

Three age categories with Judging at 2pm
Egg race - starts at the church gate
immediately after egg decorating
competition – bring your hard boiled egg
Egg Hunt & Old fashioned games –
for all ages

Football pitch, Green Lane
after the egg races

* Raffle * Light refreshments *

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A chance to show off in style

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Sunday 5th June at 10:30am

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Forrabury & Minster PCC

HACKED AND FUMING!

Hacked! I've been Hacked! I am mortified! I want to shout a warning to everyone; I want to get my hands on the 'Father Unknown' Hacker. Most of all I want to kick myself for panicking. All it took was a moment of panic and the Hacker had access to all my contacts and, in my name, sent them emails asking for money. Just a moment of inattention or panic and you have clicked on the wrong email and opened the door to a Hacker (I can't say it often enough - take warning). The email appeared believable, well it would, wouldn't it.

Some days before-hand, Yahoo had emailed me saying they were making changes to my account with them (something to do with being bought out or taken over or some such). This opened the door to the Hacker, who was out there waiting for just such an opportunity to dupe me. Some days later, when I received an email, purporting to come

from Yahoo, saying 'all old accounts would be closed' and I needed to 'upgrade', I believed it. My email account is vital - for keeping in touch with family, friends and for online shopping - so I clicked.

Disaster!

Almost immediately, my landline rang:

"How are you? What help do you need?" a friend asked. "What do you mean?" I replied. "Your email said you wanted me to do you a favour." "I haven't sent you an" A loud **BONG** as the penny dropped.

The phone didn't stop ringing all day. At one point I had the landline in one hand and the mobile in the other, as people tried to contact me. Fortunately, callers knew the email hadn't come from me - they said it didn't sound like me - they were just checking I was alright.

Dear Daughter said "I knew it wasn't you. You

never sign off 'Gloria' it is always 'Mum'." Huh, not as clever as you thought you were, Mr Hacker.

With a great deal of time-consuming help from my Techie Wizard, the door was closed to the Hacker and normal service was resumed. The nightmare was changing all my essential passwords, every change accomplished with the Shakespearean 'a curse on ... your houses'. That Saturday night I felt as if someone had 'thrown me under a bus'.

When North Cornwall Glazing, the company who fitted my new doors, opened their emails on Monday, they too had received an email from me, and also an identical email from a customer in Liverpool. The Nigerian Hacker had been busy over the weekend (yes, my Techie Wizard discovered Nigeria was where the Hacking came from). Hopefully, the Liverpoolian's contacts were as 'savvy' as mine. When I stopped cursing and calmed down, I had a laugh with a friend when I told her that I had spoken to more people that day than I had in the previous six months.

Thank you, friends, for taking time to call me and for being concerned about my welfare and very grateful thanks to my Techie Wizard.

GQ

Boscastle School Photos 1961

The Blowhole team were delighted to receive the photos opposite, kindly sent to us by Mrs Jackie Semmens, née Tonge. She writes:

In those days, I was a newly qualified teacher and this was my first teaching post. In 1960, Boscastle School had 3 classes, Infants, Juniors and Seniors with pupils from 5 to 15 years old. This was because the secondary school in Camelford did not open until September 1961. This meant that my post was only temporary and I had to leave in July 1961 and move to another school.

Though it is now 61 years since I was there, I still remember most of the faces in the Junior class photo, and have often wondered what happened to them, though most of them will be around 70 years old now.

*Jackie Semmens
then Miss Tonge*



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Boscastle infants 1961

Top row: Charles Spettigue, Michael Yeo, Phillip Collet, Mark Berry; Middle row: Vivian Berry, Stephen Foster, William Philp, Jenny & Marilyn Symonds, Colin Biddick, Philip Yeo; Front row: Pepe Young, Veronica McDonald, Anne Bottomly, Angela Ferrett, Elizabeth & Carol Parsons, Melanie Bluett, Janine Fearnly



Boscastle Juniors 1961

Top row: Trevanion Biddick, Martin Caswell, Ian Young, Jonathan Mills; Middle row: David Yeo, David Bluett, Tony Seldon, Billy Gatward, Frank Bottomly, Trevor McDonald, David Scott, Gale Rush; Front row: Odette Fearnly, Alison Symonds, Linda Parsons, Sandra Fry, Barbara Yeo, Linda Ferrett, Beryl Biddick, Sandra Knight, Pat Greenwood

Let Me Cheer You Up

Seventy years a queen!

Imagine being in the same job for seventy years without a break, and with the eyes of the entire world's press upon you. Fortunately for you, unfortunately for them, you didn't put a foot wrong. "Unfortunately" that is for the journalists, unable to use their extensive negative vocabulary so being obliged to dig into their frustratingly limited range of positives. Our Queen, has not made a mistake, shows no sign of frustration, and is endlessly cheerful, interested, concerned and popular. Unlike a good many journalists, I imagine.

However, although we do hear a good deal about how hard life is for people in this country, relatively little attention is paid to those who constantly live with poverty, illness, injustice with no hope of positive change. I am really trying to think of something cheerful to say - honestly - but when you hear on the news that people have been forced to cancel their holidays in Bermuda, well, what hope have we left.

We have had seventy years of peace and growing prosperity. When I look at the turbulent world today I thank heaven our history taught us the danger of being governed by military dictators or religious fanatics.

The British love to complain, all the time about many things, but do not fear secret police breaking down their doors or being hauled off to jail if they dare express their opinions in public. Almost every law passed since this dear Queen came to power has been to protect the vulnerable, improve the lives of ordinary people and spread the doctrine of fairness for all.

"Granny" said Alice, then a small child, "were you born in the olden days?" Yes, my dear, I was. She visited me the other day, now grown up, smart and ambitious, talking about recent holidays to America and Amsterdam but, like most of her generation, experiencing the vicissitudes of competing in our modern society. Let me assure you, things could be a lot worse.

Ann Rodda



Mowesi Marshgate

The Internet is a wonderland of shops, schools, clubs, romance, information, pictures and films, but it is also a dark forest where the unwary wander at their peril...where pwners and phishers can snap up the unwary and crime lurks in dark corners.

With cybercrime fast taking over from the old-fashioned crimes like robbery and burglary, the Government has classified it as a level one threat to the country on a par with terrorism and war, as Mowesi Marshgate heard at their March meeting. Knocking over a post office is a high-risk, low reward crime, so more and more bad guys are opting for low-risk, high reward crimes online.

Former City of London DI Grahame Mace now works for the South West Regional Cybercrime Unit, and one of his jobs is to visit clubs, groups, companies and schools to warn of the ever increasing threat posed by cyber criminals, who can

empty your bank account if you fall for their horribly ingenious tricks.

Graham showed the members and several visitors how to create a high-strength password they could remember without writing it down, which might take a hacker years to decode, and said strong passwords and being aware of the giveaways in phishing mails were the two most important factors in staying safe. Always check a mail that demands money, especially if it urges haste, and always, always report a cybercrime, he said.

At February's Annual Meeting the Mowesi re-elected their President Liz Long for another term, heading up a committee of six ladies. The coming year's programme includes bead necklaces, a lifestyle coach, a talk on the British Army and a presentation on the Mayflower, the ship that took the Pilgrim Fathers to America in 1620. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month: see our Facebook page for details.

Wendy Trevennor

Editor's note: Wendy assures me that pwner is a proper word now. I do not recommend googling the meaning!

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Class 1 have been enjoying completing their Wild Challenges for the RSPB Wild Challenge award. They have set up a compost area, used their senses to explore the outdoor environment and completed a Bio blitz.

They are excited about celebrating Chinese New Year next week and have begun preparations to decorate the classroom. They will be sharing a Chinese dragon dance and making some Chinese food.

Class 2 have been busy learning about their new topic, the Vikings. As well as learning all about the Vikings, they have written Viking poems and made Viking longships. The children have also been designing and building Viking long boats, where they looked

at the engineering process and tried to make the most effective boat with the available materials.

Science has been focused around rocks; they have enthusiastically recreated the rock cycle out of chocolate. Netball club has started and all involved are eagerly preparing for a match against Port Isaac Community School!



This term the children in Class 3 are busy working on the Lego League Challenge. We received Lego kits, kindly donated by the Institute of Engineering and Technology and the children are using the the Lego app to help them construct and programme their Spike Prime Robot to do a series of Missions. They also have an Innovation project where they have to think creatively about a problem- this year's theme is Cargo Connect. Students will present their work to a panel of judges at the regional finals, alongside their robot design, as well as demonstrating how they've met the Lego Core values.

Many of the children are also enjoying the after school Lego Club, kindly run by our parent volunteers, Frances Edwards and Polly World.






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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Once again producer Jo Kent has given us a Pantomime that delighted and was uplifting. The first night of *Beauty and the Beast* was well attended. Half of the Blowhole team were there with one member, Steve Simmonds, performing in the main role of 'The Beast'. At the eleventh hour the role of Belle's father had to be recast and was played by understudy, Phil. His relaxed, polished performance proved he was no novice.

I doubt that Disney would have recognised the script, but it allowed new characters to be introduced into the plot. Singing by *Snivel* (Emma Harvey) and *Snide* (Fitzzy) of the 'Ebay' song and 'Hookey Street' (the song at the end of 'Only Fools and Horses') was loudly applauded and they have to be congratulated for remembering the very long list of goods in the 'Hookey Street' song.

It was enjoyable to recognise some 'old stagers' but for me the stars of the show were *Simples* (Aaron World) and *Dimples* (Rob Williams). The casting of this pair was inspired. Their performance was dynamic and



dazzling, as were their costumes. The whoops, whistling and appreciative applause from the audience said than any words from me.

Space does not allow me to report on all of the cast or the backroom guys, suffice to say they all were amazing and have to be admired for their performances, for memorising so many lines and for giving of their time to entertain us.

One comment from a member of the audience was 'It is good to have something to laugh at'. I am sure we all agree and we look forward to having a laugh at next year's Pantomime.

GQ

Unfortunately, the Saturday performances had to be cancelled due to a number of Covid cases within the panto team. Those performances, (matinee and evening) have been rearranged for Saturday April 23rd, and all tickets for March 12th will be honoured at the April 23rd performances. If anyone cannot make use of their tickets on April 23rd, refunds will be available in the Spar shop and they will be resold.

Matinee performance: doors open 1:30pm, performance 2:30pm. Evening performance: doors open 6:30pm, performance 7:30pm. Refreshments and raffle available.

There are still about 15 tickets available for the Saturday matinee.

Due to the level of demand, there will be an additional performance on Friday 22nd April and tickets for this will be on sale soon in the Spar shop, National Trust Shop and Premier Stores.

many thanks to Carolyn Edward for these panto photos





Ros Eastman Exhibition

April 30 - May 9

Ros Eastman has painted with seriousness and curiosity, love and passion, all her life. After a degree in Fine Art from Reading University, she won a Royal Academy David Murray Landscape Painting scholarship in 1969 which brought her to Cornwall. The subject matter of her painting (and drawing) ever since has been the landscape of Cornwall and the people, creatures and plants she has shared her life with. She lives in Trevalga, and its the wild seas and skies, the tough gorse and cattle, the bays and boulders of North Cornwall that are celebrated in her work.

More than a decade ago, we worked together on the Poetry Society Centenary project, *The Great Trees of Cornwall*, visiting Dizzard Woods every month for a year. I sat tamely writing notes for poems in a small notebook, on a slumping piece of land beneath ancient twisted oaks, while in front of me her entire body wildly gestured, apparently directly onto

paper: the results were astonishingly good. Her physicality is, for me, one of the strengths of her painting, that and her honesty. She has always grown food for the family, and that closeness to and understanding of the landscape from the rock and earth up informs the paintings - and provides additional subject matter, whether her own fat pumpkins, or Pethick's fat lambs. She returns again and again to the same challenging subject matter, constantly demanding more of herself - and of those around her. Her beach paintings contain the most profound meditations on rock that I know; in fact her painting of anything seems to seek out the essence of the thing, a fearless facing of what is actually there.

She has largely worked outside, carrying small (and large, ever larger!) boards onto the cliffs, braving wind and rain; her attic studio, with its new huge Velux windows, gives wonderful views

Rooted in North Cornwall
Paintings by Rosalind Eastman 1960-2022
 Open daily 11am - 4pm
30th April - 9th May

The Barn, Glencove, Dizzard, St Gennys, EX23 0NX



Prices will range from £5 unframed small drawing to £500 large framed painting

The exhibition supports three Cornish charities:



St Petrocs (Cornish homeless)



Invictus (teenage mental health)

Cove Macmillan, Royal Cornwall Hospital (cancer care)

A39 to Wainhouse Corner, turn to Crackington, then take right turn to Dizzard & Millook, follow coast road for 1.5 miles, Glencove is on the right (signed to Trengayor & Glencove)

contact: rosalindeastman@btinternet.com 01840 250670 0781 5501846

from Trevalga to the sea. Alongside her painter husband Chris Thomas, she raised three wonderful children who grew with creativity and love. All her work has been achieved alongside the demands of family, and the need to earn an income - from portrait commissions, from teaching and latterly, after three years of Art Psychotherapy training at Goldsmiths' College, London (with its long commutes), from work as an art therapist within Cornwall. She, and Chris, were part of the North Cornwall Seven, a glorious and diverse group of painters, from 1993, she's been a member of the Cornwall

Watercolour Society, as well as exhibiting in group and individual exhibitions around North Cornwall, Falmouth Art Gallery, Truro City gallery, at the Burton Gallery, Bideford, Saltram House Chapel Gallery, the Glastonbury Festival, and the Galerie in der Gartenhouse, Rheda-Weidenbruch, Germany.

This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to see work from across her entire career, with a sweep in time from 1960-2022. Pencil and charcoal drawings, acrylic, oil and watercolour paintings, framed and unframed. This is a feast of painting with the artist present from 11.00-16.00 each day.

Helen Wood

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SPRING SOWING

I usually clear the raised vegetable beds in late autumn, spread a layer of compost (or even cardboard and compost if a few perennial weeds have set up home) and leave the weather to do the rest. By spring I'm all ready to start sowing. But some years I have overwintered a few vegetables that are easy to grow whatever the weather - garlic, salad rocket, spring onions and maybe broad beans - they resist moderate frost and are low to the ground, so do not get blown over. These will need some protection though and my favourite trick is to make a fleece tunnel using flexible



pipe lagging for frames

pipe lagging (Trago Mills sells lengths of exactly the right size) held in place with short lengths of bamboo cane stuck in the ground and then covered with fleece. I like to use fleece for extra warmth, but

if there's likely to be much wind, fleece supported on hoops can be damaged by wind getting underneath it when it will act like a sail. I'm glad I was a bit slow in getting my act together this year and didn't build my fleece tunnel before the gales in February.

I try to avoid sowing plants out of season, which only gives you extra work in trying to protect them, and usually end up sowing rather late. For example, I tend to sow tomatoes around the middle of March rather than in January or February, and runner beans perhaps as late as May. Remember the old saying, that later sowings in spring always catch up, as days grow longer and warmer. It's the opposite to autumn, when you need to be timely to make full use of the shortening days. But we don't need to think of autumn just now when we've got the whole glorious growing season ahead of us.

This summer I'm going to try Mexican sunflower. I saw it growing in a London park last year and loved



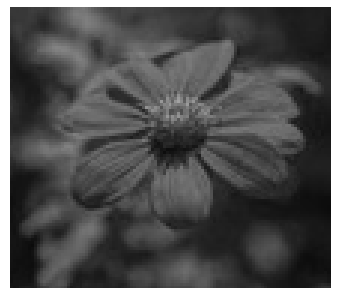
photo above and at the end of the article Mexican sunflower (tithonia rotundifolia)

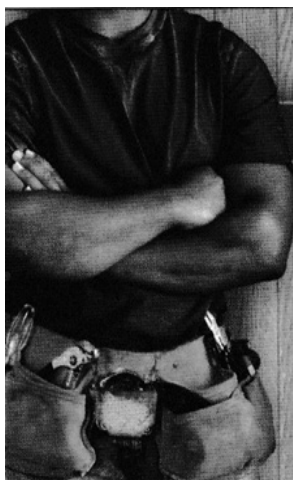
its bright orange flowers. I've been told my garden is too cold but I'm going to give it a go. I really like the dark blue or purple/bright orange combination such as marigolds grown with purple salvia Amistad, or brilliant Californian poppies contrasted with Cerinthe major. Some of these varieties are going to be sown this month.

Seeds like to be damp, but they don't need watering or feeding. What they really like is to be kept warm and that's why you'll see a sunny windowsill or conservatory mentioned in the sowing instructions. Some even like to start life in the warmth and the darkness of an airing cupboard.

Seedlings, like all babies, need gentle handling and don't like sudden changes in temperature, or to be cold. They need to be held very gently when you are transplanting them (never by the stem), give them room to grow, keep them safe from late frosts, get them gradually used to the great outdoors, and then they will grow up to be big, strong healthy plants. So, let's all grow something new from seed this year - I'm going to.

Pat Thorne





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News from a Smallholding

In our last article we wrote about The Bank and our great plans - we can proudly say that The Bank is now in place! It needs a little refining, the gates adding and planting across the top but it is there and the grass has already started to grow. The ground around it is... muddy, in fact if we were mud farmers it could be classed as an excellent yield that exceeds expectations. Even the sheep won't cross its squishy expanse, and that is saying something.

Work has begun on the new vegetable patch and this really is a mammoth task as there are no excavators or dump trucks involved; just us, a couple of wheelbarrows and an array of digging tools. At the moment the main project is to get the polytunnel up; it is currently in bits in the sheep shed and we're going to need the shed for lambing next month! There has been a lot of digging, filling and levelling but we are nearly there. Once it is up we'll be moving on to yet more levelling (we really underestimated how hard it would be to make a flat bit out of a slope), then we can do the fun

bits; sleeper borders, paths and THEN maybe some planting if we're lucky.

We decided to get ahead of the game this year and plant beans in pots in a cold frame. The idea was that we'd be able to plant these out once the patch was ready, and we all know what happens to the best laid plans! Yes, mice nibbled the shoots, dug up the beans and decimated 120 sowings. There were a few choice words and we're coming up with a Fort Knox level cold frame for the next sowings.

On the bright side, the sheep are getting on rather well. We have some rotund looking ewes; one of which (named Hazel) looks just like a child's drawing of a sheep - a massive ball of fluff on spindly legs. She tends to have twins so we are making sure she is well fed so that she has enough energy to feed herself and the lambs. Ewan and the bachelor boys have learnt to climb one of the boundary banks so they can Hoover up the lambs' sugarbeet. They obviously weren't too impressed by their diet. Working rams lose weight very quickly

while they are busy (if you catch our drift) but the bachelor boys don't. They are the sheep equivalent of couch potatoes, focusing only on their fleeces and their stomachs. Needless to say when the bucket of food doesn't stop at their gate they shout relentlessly at whoever is carrying said bucket. The lambs aren't too fussed by the shenanigans of the boys, though they have also discovered that banks are fun. We had a bit of emergency fencing to do as a result of this! Their little fleeces are growing very well and hopefully we'll be able to make some fantastically soft knitwear in the future with their help. (Not the knitting, the growing - they can't work knitting machines!)

The chickens are still on Chicken Lockdown due to Bird Flu. They aren't too impressed but have been coping by dust bathing in the sheep shed and chasing cabbages and bananas around their patch. We've started working with the Tintagel Pantry to help distribute and use food that isn't collected from them on a Friday. Anything that isn't up to scratch goes to the hens and things that

can be used are collected from us or we make them into products that go back to the Pantry. It has been a real eye opener to see how much food is going to landfill and equally how many people need a little extra help. We're very privileged to be able to help out; so if you ever see something non-seasonal in our little egg sales point (such as watermelon!) please feel free to help yourself. We have a little slate up so you know what is grown by us and what is from the Pantry. Any donations given go straight back to the Pantry so that they can help our community.

In the coming weeks we're hoping to buckle down and throw ourselves into more outside work as the weather permits. As usual, we have grand ideas and a small workforce! By the time Summer is in full swing we are hoping to have the vegetable patch up and running, a new compost bin and shredding area built and one of the sheds partially dismantled and rebuilt. We're going to need a few cups of tea and a lot of biscuits!

Lara Pollard-Jones



THEATRE IN THE HALL

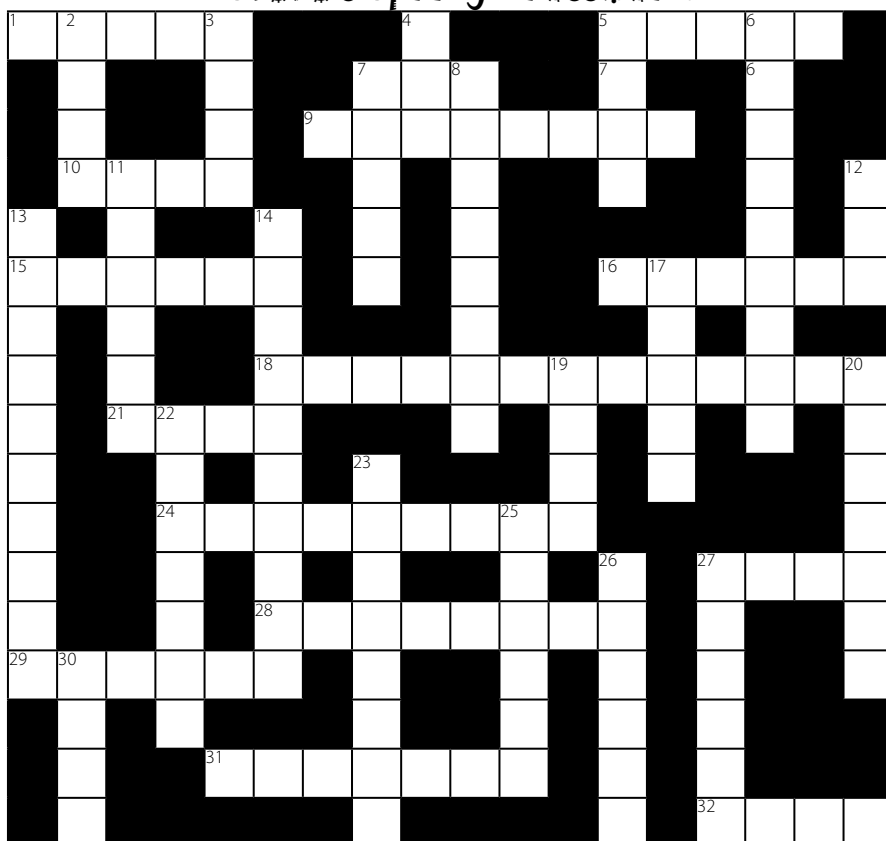
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Fri 29th / Sat 30th April 2022 at 19:30

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Steve's Spring Crossword



Across

- 1 Tired and out of pocket (5)
 5 Room for the stars (5)
 7 She is back to find the way (3)
 9 Periodical for guns (8)
 10 Unsolicited messages for tinned meat (4)
 15 Rodent and that woman together, somewhat (6)
 16 Drink for a racket game (6)
 18 Top politician for Amazon? (5,8)

- 21 Plane chocolate (4)
 24 Stand to this and pay it (9)
 27 Unpleasant sounding chicken (4)
 28 Leaving out, nothing before impossible film (8)
 29 Bar for a car (6)
 31 Downloads running water (7)
 32 Cards for lending assistance (4)

Down

- 2 Discharge cat (4)
 3 Shop around for transport (4)
 4 Newspaper for cleaning up (3)

- 5 Sounds like something fragrant posted (4)
 6 Shortens agreements (9)
 7 Month for army manoeuvres? (5)
 8 Historical hobbies? (8)
 11 Two ladies in tandem, losing first time, takes the shine off bronze (6)
 12 Tree remains (3)
 13 Sounds like appropriate entrance for breeding plants (10)
 14 Ratio for a meal (10)
 17 Rapid and clever (5)
 19 Flatten metal (4)
 20 Deliver back to be hated (7)
 22 Alien to reform for joy (7)
 23 Bring about construction (8)
 25 Knowing these might make you cry (6)
 26 Serious camping? (6)
 27 Polish but not polish (6)
 30 Axe left inside for rotation (4)

crossword answers on page 33

					5			
		6	4					
	9				1		3	
	7					2		
								6
3		8					4	7
			9			7	2	3
		5			7	6		
				6	4	9		5

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INSPIRING WOMEN

The ladies of Boscastle WI are pleased to announce that the new defibrillator is in operation and linked to the Ambulance Service. It is on the wall between Bottreaux Garage and the new Premier Store at Doctor's Hill, on the Camelford Road.



Several members of Boscastle WI raising a toast to the news that the defibrillator is in operation and to the newly appointed Committee.

Julie Potter, President, said, "We are proud to have brought this life-saving service to the top end of the village and very grateful to the financial sponsors that helped to make this happen. Sincere appreciation to Frank Bridge and Tim Glover for the placement of the unit and Simon Biddick for installing the defibrillator."



The defibrillator (pictured above) is extremely easy to use and has both voice and video prompts.

However, we understand that it's easy to be afraid and have questions if we've never used a defibrillator before. To assist everyone

in the community, the WI group is sponsoring an Open House session when members of the Ambulance Service will demonstrate how to help someone who has collapsed and stopped breathing. Included will be how to use a defibrillator and how to give CPR. If you miss this, send us an email and we'll send to a couple of links to very helpful videos. It's important that we all understand what to do in case we find ourselves with someone who collapses and isn't breathing.

Remember, if you think someone has had a heart attack, first check if they are breathing, call 999 and then have someone go to get the defibrillator.

Boscastle WI has several opportunities every month to meet up with other area women, learn what is going on, hear from an interesting speaker or learn a new craft/artform, go out for coffee or visit area gardens

The WI sponsored phone box between the Bridge and Wellington Hotel funds defibrillator maintenance & WI events from donations for used books and DVDs.
Illustration: Hatty Halstead



and learn gardening tips. We've got a lively schedule of programmes set up all the way till March of 2023.

Second Tuesday of the month, 2:00pm Village Hall: Member meeting and guest speaker or craft leader.

Third Monday of the month, 10:00am unless otherwise notified: Garden Club.

Fourth Tuesday of the month 10:30am, location varies: Coffee morning.

The Annual Meeting was held on 8th February

and the new committee of ten includes the following officers: President – Julie Potter, Vice President – Heather Colne, Treasurer – Claire Hewlett, Secretaries – Carol Keightley & Gillian Schultz.

To learn more about Boscastle WI or to join our group, contact boscastlewi@westcv.co.uk or call Gillian at 01840 250762.

Gillian Schultz

10 Years Ago in the Blowhole

Off to London

Bosccastle & Crackington Haven Gig Club is delighted that Torrent has been selected to take part in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. The Cobweb will be hosting live coverage of the Thames River Pageant and hopefully, live tracking of the gig and music.

Correspondent Needed

Since Daphne Rogers left the village, the Blowhole no longer has a regular correspondent reporting on Parish Council meetings...it would be great if someone was willing to attend meetings as a member of the public and take notes of points of interest.

Harbourmaster

This has been a quiet winter down at the harbour with all the boats out save for Scott Washer who risked the groundsea but had few if any days of winter fishing with his boat "Autumn Rose".

15 Years Ago in the Blowhole



Visitor Centre

The new £200,000 Bosccastle Visitor Centre opened its doors just before last Christmas two and a half years after the original building was devastated by the flood. Part of the new facility will be developed as a local history resource room and there is an Internet access point as well as toilets available to the public.

NCDC report

In January, the County Council voted to put in a bid to the Government to become a Unitary Authority. This would mean the end of District Councils and one overall authority for Cornwall. North Cornwall Councillors felt that this was not the best way forward for Cornwall.

25 Years Ago in the Blowhole

Home Farm

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

Music Hall

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

Bosccastle Chronicle May 1986

New Headmaster

At the beginning of the new Summer term, pupils, staff and parents of Bosccastle County Primary School welcomed the arrival of Mr Neil Young, who has taken up the position of Headmaster.

Tintagel Choir

This month, Tintagel Orpheus Male Voice Choir and supporters will be going on a continental singing tour. They will be singing in Vitznav and Lucerne in Switzerland, then onto the White Horse Inn in Austria and in Stuttgart, Germany.

Car Parking Charges

What can 50p buy? Well, a whole day in Bosccastle for sure. A touring family can arrive in our village at, say, 9.00 in the Morning, park easily, explore the Harbour - have lunch in one of our hostelrys, wander through lovely Valency Valley and circumnavigate our village! And if there's time, shoot off to another NCDC car park in the vicinity with the same ticket. Heaven help you if you don't display your ticket or overstay your time. A massive £20 penalty will be incurred.

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The Reading Room

Yet again Nature warns us to tackle climate change now. To postpone will be to our peril. Television and social media show examples of the effect of it worldwide. This time storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklyn brought it to the UK to wreak havoc.

In Boscastle, we suffered loss of electric power, phone signals and wi-fi. Whilst in Bude, they suffered the loss of the iconic Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus Macrocarpa*.) This seemingly robust tree on the Triangle in the town centre, was uprooted and toppled. Fortunately, there was no loss of life. However, a local landmark which had existed for more than a century was taken. A place where many of us have made very special memories. I recall as a teenager sitting beneath it on a summer's evening to eat fish and chips bought from the lovely Mrs Darch's shop. Later, maybe stealing a kiss or two from my later-to-be husband. Sadly, the chance to make new precious memories beneath it has gone.

As we have mentioned previously in the Reading Room, this changing, unstable world finds more of us seeking the company of books for solace and inspiration. We can learn how our forefathers coped with the challenges sent to test each of their generations. We are now being faced with situations which haven't been seen for a generation. We pray for the people of Ukraine.

I recall a quote from Martin Luther King Jnr.
*'Darkness cannot drive out darkness.
Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate.
Only love can do that.'*

The key to change, I believe, is Education and books are vital in that process. If you enjoy reading you have an open door to as much knowledge as you want. You also have access to a wealth of enjoyment. Come and join the bookworms as they reveal the worlds they have entered recently.



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THE SIGHT OF YOU by HOLLY MILLER

The author has been an avid reader since she was a child and she developed a passion for writing at an early age. She grew up in Bedfordshire and eventually studied Creative Writing at what is now, Norwich University of Arts. After graduating she was employed as a magazine editor, marketer and finally as a copywriter. She lives in Norfolk with her husband and their rescue Border Collie. She is now a full-time writer and is in the process of editing her second novel and planning her third. The idea for 'The Sight of You' came whilst she was having dinner with a group of friends and discussing whether they would like to know the date of their own death.

The bookworms were impressed that this was Holly Miller's first book and overall they enjoyed it. They thought it was well written and the poetic descriptions of ordinary

things were highly original. The characters were well drawn and robust. The narrative was driven by Joel's dreams which kept up the tension, making it an emotional page turner. The story delivered unexpected twists making it a compelling read.

One bookworm liked both the clarity of the chronology and the clarity of whose voice was narrating each chapter. Another bookworm tired of personalised chapters and found parts of the story predictable.

We all agreed we would recommend this book.

Storyline 9

Writing Quality 9

THE HOLDOUT by GRAHAM MOORE

Graham Moore was born on October 18, 1981 in Chicago, Illinois, US. His father, Gary Moore, is an attorney and his mother, Susan Sher (née Steiner), now works for the University of Chicago. She was formerly the City of Chicago's chief lawyer



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and First Lady Michelle Obama's chief of staff. His parents divorced when he was young. They both re-married.

Moore graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools in 1999 and also, in 2003, received a bachelor of arts degree in religious history from Columbia University. He began his writing career working with childhood friend Ben Epstein. One of his earliest Hollywood jobs was on the writing staff of a short-lived television series.

Moore is now a New York Times bestselling novelist and Academy Award-winning filmmaker. His screenplay for *The Imitation Game* (2014) won the Academy Award and WGA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay and was nominated for a BAFTA and a Golden Globe. His novels, *The Holdout* (2020), *The Last Days of Night* (2016), and *The Sherlockian* (2010), have been published in 24 countries and translated into 19 languages. All three were New York Times bestsellers.

'The Holdout' is about the disappearance, after school, of a fifteen-year-old girl, who is heiress to a billion-dollar real estate fortune. Her teacher Bobby Nook, is the prime suspect after the discovery of an illicit text message on her phone. The book is centred around the theme of murder. It explores details of the crime and follows the details of the trial through the eyes of the jurors.

The book has two distinct narratives. The past murder from fifteen years before and the present investigation into a subsequent murder. This was confusing to some bookworms however, others thought it added mystery and suspense. The book was exploring truth and lies which some bookworms thought built tension in a very engaging way whilst others thought the subterfuge was implausible and far-fetched.

We all acknowledged that there was cause for concern that jurors did not receive all the information and that information was seemingly amended and even that evidence was manipulated. It was quite an eye opener to how things can go wrong.

Each of the closing chapters were devoted to individual jurors. Some bookworms found them tedious and the others felt the information in them would have served the book better had it been sprinkled amongst the earlier text.

All the bookworms scored it well although they had to make an effort to finish it. A 'lone' bookworm thought it was an easy and compelling read.

Storyline 7

Writing Quality 7

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

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EV or not EV?

My old buddy and ex-colleague David would not object to being called mildly eccentric. He collects Rupert Bear annuals but is mad keen on technology. Someone who laces his speech with “Good oh, “Blow me down” and “what a jolly wheeze” powers his farmhouse outside St Breward from a massive electric storage battery and is currently on his third EV. Both he and wife Anna shares his adoration for an MG SX with swish interior, silent and swift.

Stunned by the sudden rise in fuel costs, like so many I am asking: is electric the answer?

I sought David's advice. Charging, overnight on Economy 7, is peanuts. But to buy electric is not, think north of £30,000. No engine, gearbox or exhaust, fewer moving parts so maintenance is easier, and no road tax or congestion charges, and of course, less pollution. However not all are enthusiastic. “Which” magazine reports that electric vehicles are the least reliable, largely owing to software complications.

By contrast, electric-hybrid vehicles are the best.

Chief drawback: range anxiety. David reckons to halve manufacturers' claimed figures and expects still less in the cold, or if towing a load. There is a woeful national shortage of charge points. It took him careful planning to achieve a 1300-mile round trip to Northumberland, greeted at each charging point by other intrepid travellers. Wisely Anna keeps her petrol car in reserve.

The main element of the EV is the battery, weighing over 300 kilos and costing £6,000 for those models with highest mileage range. Ignoring, for arguments' sake the environmental impact of extracting “rare earth” minerals – lithium, cobalt and nickel – then refining, transportation and manufacturing costs, battery technology has still not developed sufficiently to power ships, planes or heavy goods vehicles.

Are you hoping to drive abroad?. The AA urges careful forethought as Europe won't convert until 2035, five years behind us. Factor in that each country has different charging arrangements.



The decision to buy an EV is probably a foregone conclusion. The idea has gripped governments just as surely as medieval societies sought the philosopher's stone or perpetual motion. All citizens will be forced to conform.

Eventually, economies of scale will reduce vehicle prices, there will be a roll-out of charging stations across the UK, including rural areas, and somehow home charging issues will be sorted.

Dinosaur petrolheads will be increasingly hammered by increased fuel costs, road taxes, congestion charges and emission controls. Their

only consolation: there is no such thing as a free lunch. The fuel taxes they once paid – 57p per litre of fuel and 20% VAT, adding up to around £60 billion a year – will now have to be recouped elsewhere. Guess who pays. The motoring journalists I contacted admitted there may be an “adjustment” of VAT rates on electricity but the more likely outcome is drivers will be directly taxed via usage charges or road tolls. However you propagandize the green revolution, it isn't going to save you money.

Waiting in the wings is research into sodium or hydrogen technology. Lithium-ion EVs may have had their day, plausible but ultimately unworkable, displayed alongside steam cars and hovercraft and Concorde in the Museum of It Seemed A Good Idea at the Time...

CR

Myrna's Chuckle Corner - Wotsit Mean?

Polynesia = Parrot With Memory Loss
Depend = Where To Find Diving Boards
Carpe Diem = Daily Parking
Announce = 28 Grams
Psychopath = Mad Cyclist
Vaccine = Display Of Hoovers
Sycophant = Poorly Elephant
Spectate = Teeny Tiny Art Gallery
Concur = French Horse Chestnut
Somewhere = Contents Of Wardrobe



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WHERE DO YOU PUT YOURS?

We all purchase various liquid drinks like fruit juices, milk alternatives, long life milk and soups for example, which today are most often packaged in what are known as Tetrapak, Elopak, or SIG containers. You'll know you have one, just look at the bottom of the container. These containers provide us all with great convenience. I'm going to use the term "Tetrapak" to cover all such containers, regardless of the manufacturer, because Tetrapak is the main player in the industry.

These composite packages made up of wood fibre, polymers and, aluminium linings provide us all with far longer shelf life for our favourite beverages, and appear to be environmentally friendly, depending on your definition. Tetrapak alone supplies 60,000 tonnes of packages every year in the UK. I have wondered for years just how these containers provide us sustainable packaging, and, how exactly they are recycled?

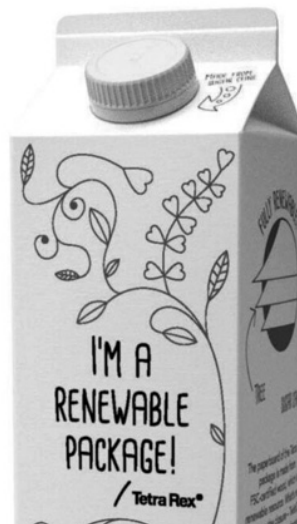
The industry group funds a company called Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE), which co-ordinates Tetrapak

recycling. This operation includes just one facility located in the UK, in Stainland, West Yorkshire, and that is only capable of recycling up to 40% of all such cartons used in the UK every year. So where do the other 60% go?

Of the 14 household waste recycling centres in Cornwall, you can only deposit your Tetrapak cartons for them to be recycled at 10 of them. The closest centre to Boscastle is at Tiscott Wood near Bude. So, unless you're already going to there, you'll need to make a special trip, which hardly seems sustainable. Cornwall's Tetrapak recycling locations can be found using an online search for 'Tetrapak recycling Cornwall'.

ACE does in fact facilitate kerbside Tetrapak collection in half of the UK. So, what about Cornwall?

According to 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' editor Jacqui O'Brien, "Since 2006, Tetrapak have offered advice and financial support for councils to initiate recycling schemes, so your local council don't really have any excuse for not recycling them!"



Cornwall Councillor Barry Jordan has explained the Council's current position:

"There is no kerb side collection of tetra packs because we cannot recycle them due to their complex makeup, I will forward you a list of the HWRC's that do collect, but they have to be taken to Halifax which is the only tetra recycling facility, we encourage the message of asking people to consider buying the product in a more recyclable material like glass or plastic, although the containers are not that environmentally friendly the contents such as almond milk isn't either given the footprint of almonds! We do not currently have any plans to recycle them as it would mean either adding them to the cardboard bag and

then sorting at the MRF or having another bag!"

Maybe ACE could/should do more. For instance, providing drop off bins for Tetrapaks at every supermarket? What if every supermarket selling these packages took the drop off bins of empty Tetrapaks back to their central warehouses for ACE to pick up? Maybe ACE could set up logistics to transport these bins by rail to their recycling facility? What would happen if ACE provided Tetrapak drop off bins in every village?

Should we as consumers insist that packaging manufacturers for products we purchase be held accountable to provide simple recycling for their packages?

Incidentally, Cornwall Council published recycling figures for 2019/2020 show that only 33.3% of all its collected kerbside waste is recycled, lower than the UK average. So where does the other 66.6% of all our kerbside collected waste end up in Cornwall?

Lastly, here's an article on the subject for thought from 2009!!

<https://myzerowaste.com/2009/03/tetrapak-recycling-in-cornwall/>

Jack Schultz



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National Trust

It's been an interesting few months since Christmas, and we've been busy as usual around North Cornwall.

This year we've had a lot of tree work related to Ash Die back to do, as the disease has finally made its way across the country to us. We had tree surgeons helping us do the trickier trees, such as those next to the garages by The Cobweb, and trees that were overhanging buildings. The rest has been done by the Rangers, where the trees are over the footpaths and posed a danger to walkers.

Just as we'd finished this work, Storm Eunice came along and created yet more for us to clear

up; so we have been very busy in the woods this year, clearing footpaths, and marveling at the power of nature. It's not all bad news, in places where trees and branches have blown down, clearings are made and light can get through to the forest floor; enabling regeneration of the forest and allowing saplings to grow up through the bramble without being nibbled by deer. We have also been able to use some of the timber for edging paths which are narrow and close to steep slopes, we hope this will make it easier and more level for walking on.

Down in the harbour the shop and café are open as usual. Please check

our advert or website for opening times. The visitor centre, as it was, is now being partially used as retail space, with some of the information boards remaining, and our team are happy to answer general queries about Boscastle. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/boscastle

Boscastle & District Branch RNLI Update

We are pleased to announce that after an AGM on the 24 February, a new committee for the Boscastle & District RNLI branch was elected with Andy Teague as the new Chairman. We would like to take the opportunity to formally thank the previous Chairman Nick Spurdens and his team for all the hard and excellent work they have put in over many years.

As a new committee, we are now in the process

of restarting collections etc after all the restrictions and issues presented by the Covid pandemic and we have already collected over £760 for this great cause.

We have also set up a Facebook page called Boscastle & District RNLI and our branch now has a helpline number 07908 738230. If you would like to arrange for a charity box or charity box collection, please give us a call or send us a text. Alternatively, you can email us on boscaslernli@gmail.com.

Looking forward, we are starting to plan fundraising events and will announce these in due course.

In the meantime, thanks so much for your support and donations.



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www.wellingtonhotelboscastle.com



Clearing up after Storm Eunice



Skylarks

Skylarks have suffered huge losses in this country but we still have some using the stitches. Skylarks generally make 2-3 nesting attempts in the same area of farmland during a long breeding season. Autumn sown cereals are too tall and dense to allow skylarks to raise more than one early brood, whereas Spring-sown cereals, such as the crops at Forrabury, allow skylarks to make later nesting attempts. Skylarks nest on the ground, in vegetation which is 20–50 cm high. This vegetation must be open enough to give the birds easy access to the ground.

Skylarks advertise their territories by a spectacular song-flight, during which the bird rises almost vertically with rapid wing-beats, hovering for several minutes and then parachuting down.

It doesn't matter how gentle or well-trained dogs are, they will prevent ground-nesting birds from nesting if they are allowed to run free.

Skylarks need to make two or three nesting attempts between April and August to sustain the population so please keep dogs on a lead during the summer and avoid walking along the strip boundaries.

Crossword Answers:
Across: 1 spent, 5 space, 7 map, 9 magazine, 10 spam, 15 rather, 16 squash, 18 prime minister, 21 aero, 24 attention, 27 fowl, 28 omission, 29 saloon, 31 streams, 32 hand
Down: 2 puss, 3 tram, 4 rag, 5 sent, 6 contracts, 7 march, 8 pastimes, 11 patina, 12 ash, 13 propagates, 14 proportion, 17 quick, 19 iron, 20 reviled, 22 elation, 23 engineer, 25 onions, 26 intent, 27 french, 30 axle



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Correspondence

Thank You

The Boscastle Chapel members thank everyone for donations so kindly given. We invite you to our services which are held on the second and fourth Sunday each month at 11am.

Traffic

Dear Blowhole

I have been concerned for some while at the holdups to traffic that occurs in Fore Street alongside the Primary School at morning drop-off and afternoon collection times. Some parents seem to feel it is OK to stop their cars directly outside the school gates waiting for their children to appear, resulting in a serious traffic queue.

The melee of children and parents is an obvious hazard. Kids run up the sides of the road, some of the smaller ones below the driver's line of sight. I hate to think of the possible consequences. On a lesser note, poor delivery drivers

and others pressed for time have their schedules interrupted.

Could I ask parents to act thoughtfully by parking elsewhere and collecting their children without impeding others?

CR

Train

Dear Blowhole

We are continuing to make good progress for the return to steam of locomotive No 34039 "Boscastle".

After major work on the frames of the tender and the manufacture of a brand new tank, the frame was re-wheeled and the new tank lifted into place at Loughborough Locomotive Shed. Work on the boiler is continuing and it is hoped to put it back on the engine frames by the middle of this year.

The "Boscastle" website is regularly updated with more information.

www.boscastleloco.co.uk

Philip Herrick

Thank You

Vivien Hircock and her family wish to thank all the people, who gave donations to the Cornwall Air Ambulance charity at Mike's funeral and subsequently. She wishes to let the generous donors know that the final total was £799.

Thank You

Dear Editor

Via the Blowhole, I wish to thank all my kind friends, who gave me presents, flowers, cards, good wishes and helped celebrate my Significant Birthday. Bless you all, I value your friendship above everything.

Gloria Quinlan.

Local history

Dear Blowhole

I moved to Cornwall from Essex in 2004 and lived in Port Isaac overlooking the Sea. Living in such a beautiful place I became fascinated by the history surrounding the village as well as the rest of Cornwall. Port Gaverne with its background of slate and fishing was a rich source

of fascination. I collected a few second hand and new books and as the winter months were quiet, they allowed time for reading. This also led to exploring the places I had read about. Most of the slate that was being shipped out of Port Gaverne came from the Delabole Slate Company, and the money must have been good as the properties associated with the shipping of slate were larger than from fishing.

After many years in the hospitality trade, I had the opportunity for a change of tact and began working for Trebarwith Stonework's. An entire world of Granite and Marble opened up to me, as well as reigniting my interest in slate from both near and far. Originally the land was part of the much larger workings of the Prince of Wales Quarry we could glimpse the engine house sticking above the trees. The views overlooking Trebarwith strand were spectacular, and the wildlife never seemed to be bothered by our presence. Once again, the history of the surroundings became a fascination and



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Correspondence

as you learn more you begin to look at things in a different light. You become more observant as you walk or drive around the little lanes. I found myself asking what was it used for? Why is it here?

Redundancy was a bitter pill to swallow but again would go on to provide new opportunities. Including working in Boscastle for the first time with the team at Cornish Rambler. More outdoor clothing meant more walking and exploring. As well as the history of another area to discover.

In August 2021 I began working at Trebarwith Road Rustic Quarry. Here I learned about slate and its many uses as well as the history associated with the Quarry.

When Geoff Provis book came out (Delabole at work and war) I purchased a copy and its lovely to see the local knowledge and history put down on paper before it may be lost

as we lose those who can tell the tales. This has got me to thinking about the History of Boscastle and looking on the internet to find out what I could. Some information is there but I was wondering if there were any books that I could read which would give me more information.

Beth Haddow

The editorial team recommend 'The Book of Boscastle' by Rod and Anne Knight and the website

boscastlevillagearchives.co.uk

There is
no poop
fairy



pick up that poo!

Dogs doings

The following is not a 'letter to the Blowhole, but was posted on social media. We have the Peter's permission to print it here. We implore all our dog owning readers to pick up after their canine pals whether at the castle site, the stitches or on any public space... in fact anywhere the dog decides to do its business. There are several dog waste bins in the village so you do not need to carry it too far, or you can put the bagged waste in your own dustbin.

We did the first grass cutting on the Bottreaux Castle site today [16 February]. Unfortunately there was at least a dozen piles of dog mess again. Andy got plastered in it because he was strimming and I had to clean loads out from the lawnmower when I was finished. Nothing has changed from last year and we're both completely fed up with this now.

This has to be a local person with a medium to large dog. Whoever it is, is letting their dog poo here probably daily and not clearing it up.

If things don't change then this will be the last year for us here because we are risking our health to keep this site looking nice. I would happily pay £100 to anyone who can film this person and their dog as long as it leads to them being prosecuted.

Had enough

Peter Culver

Valency House Lawn Charity Events 2022

Sunday April 17th Nowzad

Sunday May 1st Air Ambulance

Sunday May 15th Marie Curie/Macmillan Trust

Sunday May 22nd Women's Institute

Thursday June 2nd -

Sunday June 5th Platinum Jubilee celebrations (see article on pages 6 & 7) *

Sunday June 12th Castle Goff Cat Sanctuary

Sunday June 19th Merlin Trust

Sunday June 26th Duck Race Day**

Sunday July 3rd The Donkey Sanctuary

Sunday July 17th Moorland Ponies

Sunday July 31st Coastwatch

Sunday August 28th Combined Churches***

* contact Steve Simmonds 01840250284 or 07768701994

** contact Sarah Costello at School 01840250329

*** organised by Combined Churches

For information about other Lawn events, please contact:

Jane Castling 01840 250046 or Chris Rodda 01840 250012 or 07855310610



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Another Reflection on the Power Cuts

The recent power cuts brought back memories of my Scottish childhood - the unheated bedroom with ice on the inside of the windows; attempting to dress whilst still under the bed clothes and jostling, with the rest of the family, for space around a small coal fire in the kitchen (the only room in the house to be heated - if you could call it heat!).

The power cut also reminded me of the Three Day Week, which began on 1st January and ended on 7th March, 1974. Throughout the week, in homes and businesses, electricity was turned off for several days (Wikipedia tells me it was three consecutive days and that it was to conserve coal supplies. It is all very political so I won't bother you with it.).

I became expert in cooking over an open fire, a skill I recently discovered I retain. (Obviously, somewhere in my DNA

lurks a Stone-Age ancestor.) However, my cooking was not appreciated by certain members of the family.

Daughter: "Mother, what are these black bits on my poached egg?"

Mother: "It's just soot, scrape them off and eat it."

40+ years later, dear Daughter still reminds me of the 'Sooty Egg' and NO I didn't poison her. Hardly surprising that, after her Egg-perience, she decided to train as a Chef - and married one. No more Sooty Eggs for her!

Shopping was done by torch light, since the town's small supermarket was in darkness. (Wikipedia also tells me Supermarkets were exempt from power cuts - *not the one in my town!*) We overcame most of the difficulties, caused by the lack of electricity. Unlike today, we did not have all the modern paraphernalia which is dependant on electricity. The reduction in my husband's wage

packet was the one thing we could not overcome. I can't remember Family Income Support or any other Government benefit being publicised, as they are today. In any case, we were unaware of benefits, we 'tightened our belts' and coped.

Where I was living there were few kindly neighbours

to check if I was alright. This time, however, friends and neighbours were quick to knock on my door to check all was well with me and to offer to heat food or fill flasks with hot water.

I send grateful thanks to all my kind neighbours for their concern. It shows that whatever life throws at us, our community will always be there to help.

GQ.

As crisis follows crisis it's . . .

ALL BAD

NEWS

As the Prime Minister prepared to address the nation in a TV broadcast tonight this was the picture (like afternoon in crisis-hit Britain).

- Miners reject peace plan
- Another huge trade deficit
- Ministry for rail travellers
- Power cuts expected tonight

Miners continue overtime ban

By the F.A. industrial correspondent.
The miners' overtime ban has gone on. The union insisted that the ban be extended to cover the night shift. The union also insisted that the ban be extended to cover the night shift. The union also insisted that the ban be extended to cover the night shift.

Massive trade deficit again

By the F.A. economics correspondent.
Britain's trade deficit with the rest of the world is expected to reach a new record this year. The trade deficit is expected to reach a new record this year. The trade deficit is expected to reach a new record this year.

• But there's one bright spot

Open air Christmas trees were lit after all - despite the power cuts. The power cuts were not as bad as they seemed. The power cuts were not as bad as they seemed. The power cuts were not as bad as they seemed.

All Bad News - headline from December 1973 - the 'one bright spot' was that the government had announced that open air Christmas trees were allowed to be lit for 3 days

Crackington Farmer's Market

A Farmer's Market will be held in Crackington Institute on the 3rd Sunday of every month from Easter Sunday, 17th April, from 10am-12noon.

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A Long Way from Farm to Plate

Cornish cauliflowers travel up to two hundred miles before arriving in Cornish supermarkets. With that in mind I thought this article would interest Blowhole readers.

Most farmers would prefer not to supply supermarkets, and see better opportunities for their own livelihoods, protecting nature, and connecting with their local communities elsewhere, a new survey has found.

A poll by sustainable food alliance Sustain of 500 farmers across England and Wales found 86% were currently supplying a supermarket or large food processor, but only one in five would 'prefer' to continue doing so.

In a representative sample of small to medium farms, including arable, livestock, dairy, horticulture and mixed, the survey found the top three preferred places to supply food were a food hub (55%), direct sales such as through a veg box scheme (36%), and the eating out sector (29%). The reasons cited for why farmers preferred these options were a better price,

business stability, more control, direct links to customer, and supporting climate and nature ambitions.

The report also highlighted case studies of supply chains that are working well for farmers, such as the Helston Local Food Hub in Cornwall, which works with thirty Cornish food producers and where 80% of each £1 spent by the consumer goes back to the farm. Another example showed how Manchester-based Organic North, part of the Better Food Traders network, can keep its prices affordable while paying staff and producers fairly because they are a co-op without shareholder pressure.

"We would like to see all our produce being sold to local consumers who would be able to appreciate better its provenance as a result of seeing the system in operation on some of their favourite countryside walks," one farmer responder wrote.

Half of those asked, said lack of access to affordable finance meant they couldn't switch markets, alongside



lack of time to research, plus no local customer base.

Sustain said the new data provides a "valuable picture of how and why farmers want to access better and fairer supply chains". The survey also highlighted the need for local infrastructure like veg box schemes, auctions and markets and social networks, to allow this transition to happen. Currently, infrastructure like grading, storage, packaging, distribution and trading of food is highly centralised, large scale, and suited to complex and long-distance supply chains.

"In a general sense, the results reveal that farmers want to shift away from the dominance and reliance of supplying supermarkets

and large manufacturers, and instead, have a much greater diversity of market outlets like food hubs, box schemes and independent retailers which they can access" Sustain said.

"The data also provides insight into why farmers want to make those changes. This includes fairer pay and more direct relationships with customers, as well as being rewarded for environmentally friendly farming and building more resilient businesses."

This article, by Nina Pullman, was published in Wicked Leeks, the on-line magazine published by Riverford, on sustainable food and ethical business. www.wickedleeks.com and is printed here with their consent.

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== CORNISH SHOWCASE ==

See some of the very best produce from our Cornish stockists. For instance, The Cornish Larder's beetroot chutney with Davidstow cheddar! Best sandwich!

Opening Hours and Useful Numbers

NatWest Bank

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

Boscastle Spar (Nisa)

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Cash machine during business hours

Post Office facilities

Shop open daily at 6am

Cornish Stores

Open every day 9am to 6pm

Home deliveries available

Tel: 01840 250344

Boscastle Premier Stores

Open Mon-Sat 7am to 7pm

Sunday 8am to 6pm

Tel: 01840 250100

Mobile Library

0800 032 2345 or 01872 272702

Visits every fourth Friday:

Boscastle, Paradise Road 10.20 -10.40

April 22nd, May 13th, June 10th

Camelford Library and Information Service

Town Hall, Market Place, Camelford, PL32 9PD

Tel: 0300 1234 111

Mon & Tues: 10am - 4.30pm,

Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am - 1pm

Library renewals line: 0845 607 6119

camelford.library@liscornwall.org.uk

Waste Tip, Bowithick Quarry

Sanding Road, Tintagel, PL34 0HH

Tel: 01840 770778

Open Friday to Monday: 9am – 4pm

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

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Local Hospitals:

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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

Harbour Master's News



The fisherman will hold annual general meeting in March, and I am aiming to start fishing commercially in April. Like all the small ports in North Cornwall the commercial fishing is in decline. Ten years ago, we had 5 active boats registered but are now down to just two. My godson Trehane Drayson was on a big Padstow boat for two years and has qualified for a Skipper's Licence; he hopes to come home and fish at some point.

Chris Key

Boscastle harbour in 2012 with many commercial boats and tied down the punts and I see some damage to one of the breakwaters. I also heard on the radio and in the newspapers that they are having real trouble with the breakwaters at



lobsters caught in January

Port Isaac with a huge bill being anticipated for repairs. Here the breakwaters are owned by the National Trust, and we had a lot of work undertaken about four years ago. The current obvious damage is on the eastern wall particularly with some of the iron work which has come away. The old wall has withstood centuries of pounding.



Romy in the harbour, January

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Two views of the harbour, taken by Chris Key. The one above , with swelling seas, was taken on 18th February 2022, the day Storm Eunice was battering our coastline. The one below was on a calm February day in 2021.



Boscastle Blowhole Team

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

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

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to subscribe go to **www.visitboscastle.com/blowhole** or phone 01840 250685

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