



# BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 118 Summer 2022

£1



*photo Sarah Costello*

*To the delight of residents and visitors and to the absolute joy of Boscastle Schoolchildren, Duck Racing returned to the Harbour this year*

*see inside page 3 for full story,*

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**Also inside:** News from the Lookout page 8   FMPC page 13   Jubilee Celebration page 20  
No Dig Gardening page 24   Reading Room page 26   Useful Numbers page 38

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# Editorial ~ Situations Vacant...

Over the winter of 1992/93, the idea of the Boscastle Blowhole began, springing from a collaboration of CRCC's Five Villages Project, the WEA and hopes and aims of a group of enthusiastic villagers. An editorial team was formed, and, with the expert guidance of Yvonne Ayling, in Spring 1993 the first edition of the Blowhole was published. Little did I think then that nearly 30 years later I would still be part of the editorial team.

Since the Summer 2004 edition I have been editor/compiler of the Blowhole. Over the last few years I have said on several occasions that I want to step down from the role but, with no-one available to take on the job, I have continued - with a bit of moaning. I have now decided that it is time to be firmer in my intentions and have told the team that I am leaving at the end of this year - or sooner if someone is ready to take over. The skills required are some knowledge of DTP and photo software - I am entirely self taught,

learning as I go along. Also useful is some degree of dogged persistence and a modicum of tact.

If you want to talk informally about the role, you can phone me, my number is in the phone book. Please leave a message if there's no reply and I will get back to you. Or email the blowhole at the address at the end of Ross' piece.

Thanks for reading and continuing to support the Blowhole.

*So long, and thanks for all the fish*  
Philippa

The Blowhole has evolved over the past 118 editions. More so has the world that we live in and the editorial team are at a crossroads as to where the publication should go next - or even at all? The team are keen to hear views of the readers as to where they believe the Blowhole should go next. Over the past few years, the team has sometimes struggled to get relevant material from the community as much of it is available elsewhere in other formats, eg on social media. Printing

costs have increased but our subscribers have fallen. Our wonderful advertisers keep us going financially as many believe in supporting a community asset - for that we are truly thankful.

Has the Blowhole come to the end of its run? With the delivery of community news now on social media, our publication does crystallise the happenings of the village and provides a permanent record of events. We are paper based but are there opportunities to digitise and reduce the printing costs? We currently deliver free of charge to Boscastle addresses but does everyone want a copy?

The team would welcome your concise views on the future direction you think it should take. Contact us by email


boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk

or join us for an informal coffee morning at the Village Hall (date to be arranged).

However, even more important is the mission is on to find a new editor and compiler and some new editorial team members to replace those who are retiring after the Winter edition of 2022. If you want to find out more, please get in touch!

boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk

## Rainfall totals measured in Boscastle SX 09697 90138

	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022
days with no rainfall	22	13	13	18
Max daily rainfall in mm	21	14.4	8.2	14.4
Monthly total rainfall in mm	59.6	48.6	61.8	81.6
Total rainfall same month in 2021	43.8	8	154.8	63.4

## Boscastle Blowhole Team

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

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

The next Blowhole will be published in Autumn 2022.

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

Communications to the Blowhole can be emailed to [boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk)  
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## Ukraine Fundraiser



*Mark at the refuge*

On Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May we held a hugely successful fundraiser. This was to primarily raise funds to contribute to an ongoing mission of building a refuge for those fleeing the Ukraine in Poland.

Mark Smith witnessed this in person on a previous trip when he was helping with a supply run and vowed to return as soon as possible.

The fundraiser raised an incredible £6300. This has made a huge difference, in fact £2500 was spent on food and medical supplies

before Mark had even left the UK! Mark had a second successful trip, with Chris Gregson in tow and there are many photos and videos uploaded to Facebook, so please do take a look.

The refuge is coming along nicely - next step is the tiling; Mark is currently making plans to return to help with that.

However none of this could have been possible without some special people and local businesses. These include: Jackie and Robin, Boscastle Farm shop; Nat and

John, The Toby Jug Cafe; Davidstow cheese factory; Healys Cider Farm; John Heard, Tintagel Brewery; Dan Hirst, Portlloo hire; Music from Steve Welford, Cobweb Crew, Jo and Lawrence, Steve Winchester and Steve Alexander, Neil Morris and those who joined in on the night; Budehaven school for their own fund

raising efforts; everyone who helped make the night a success - the bar team, those who cooked and the food servers!

Finally the biggest thanks to every single person that bought tickets, came along and most importantly dug so deep it humbles!

**THANK YOU!**

*Lee Lockyear*

## Duck Race Day 2022



Following two years of being unable to hold our event, we were so incredibly excited to bring back this wonderful tradition again this year.

The Duck Race is the School Associations biggest fundraiser of the year. It's a day to come together with the local community, have fun, share entertainment, and of course raise essential funds for the pupils and school.

After such a long break we considered this year to be a stepping stone to getting back into the swing of things - and showing all the parents that had never attended a duck race what it's all about.

We were blessed with

gorgeous weather and an amazing turn out from both locals and tourists. Our barbecue was a sell out and all our stalls and sellers were buzzing with customers. The children entertained us throughout the day with their various skills in Boscastle's Got Talent, and the crowds watching the race itself were enormous!

We couldn't have asked for a more successful day, raising the fantastic sum of £3,136.69!!

To everyone who helped and supported us, to those who bought tickets and to everyone who came along on the day: THANK YOU SO MUCH!

See you next year!

*Sarah Costello*



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## Boscastle Coastguard

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June this year 200 years of history came to an end.

For the last 200 years, all activity on a Coastguard Station was logged in a book called the CG19. If a Coastguard Officer was on station for some reason (vehicle maintenance, cleaning, equipment checks, letting contractors in, etc.) then it was logged in the CG19.

All training was also entered in this book detailing the type of training and who did what.

Of course one of the key functions of the CG19 was recording of all incidents attended by the team. Looking back it is quite eye opening to see how the number of incidents has increased and the variety and types of incidents has also increased.

At midnight on the 30<sup>th</sup> June the last entry was made in the CG19 and the page ruled off. From the 1<sup>st</sup> July the CG19 has

gone electronic, which will improve the quality of the data we record and make it more accessible to HM Coastguard. By doing this we can use it to constantly look at ways we can improve all aspects of the service we provide.

200 years of history have come to an end in our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday year. Whilst it will feel strange for some time that we aren't filling the "19" in, the electronic version will bring significant benefits to HM Coastguard.

Remember, in an emergency at sea or on the coast, or if you think someone may be in difficulty, always call the COASTGUARD by dialling 999.

The Coastguard was formed in 1822 by the amalgamation of three services set up to prevent smuggling: the Revenue Cruisers, the Riding Officers, the Preventive Water Guard. For two hundred years HM Coastguard has been working to keep people

safe, saving lives along the UK coast and at sea, as well as coordinating rescues for those in distress in international waters.

In this time, HM Coastguard has gone from strength to strength. Now there are 310 Coastguard Rescue Teams – made up of 3500 dedicated volunteers – and using 10 search and rescue helicopter bases.



HM Coastguard

## Boscastle...the Locomotive

Readers of Blowhole last year may remember the story of No 34039, a steam locomotive called "Boscastle", which is being returned to running order on the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire. This work, which started in 2001, was to be completed in 2023, for the 50th Anniversary of its arrival on the line and 30th Anniversary of its first return to steam in preservation. Work on the repaired boiler was going well and the tender was just receiving the finishing pipework so completion,

within 18 months was increasingly probable.

Sadly though, this is unlikely to happen as, on July 2nd, there was a break in on the GCR and thieves have stolen approximately £50,000 worth of brass, copper and machined steel parts from the locked steel Boscastle container. Needless to say, the restoration team are devastated. The scrap value of this metal is in the order of £100s but the cost of replacement will be many £10,000s, not counting the extra time to manufacture replacements.

Obviously, the police were informed and CCTV footage examined, but there has been no sign of the thieves or of the stolen items.

There is more information on the "Boscastle Locomotive" website (boscastleloco.co.uk) together with pictures of some of the stolen items.

Despite this, the team are determined to get the locomotive finished and steaming again so that once more "Boscastle" will be hauling trains, looking and sounding magnificent.

*Philip Herrick*

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## Bosccastle Walking Week 2022

After the disappointments of the previous two years of lockdowns and social mobility restraints, with the current unpleasantness in eastern Europe and fuel shortages here at home, we were finally able to drag some goodness into our little world and enjoy a wonderful week in Bosccastle for BWW2022.

The weather was Ah-maze-ing, Dahling! Fabulous sunshine on all but one day meant that those waterproofs were kept firmly in the drawer and it was short trouser order for many!

The week began with a gentle but very effective beach clean held at Widemouth Bay and organised in conjunction with Surfers Against Sewage, the marine conservation charity. There were several walkers there and we were even helped out by visitors to the beach with many children contributing to our efforts and dropping rubbish into the collection sacks. The morning event was followed by a lovely, flat ground (well, flat for

Cornwall), walk along Bude Canal and over towards Crooklets beach.

As the week progressed the walks got more strenuous. We visited St Materiana's Church and took a walk along to Treknow and back for pasties and coffee in Tintagel. Sally led a very interesting walk from the Old Rectory down the Valency with regular pauses for poetry and prose readings. A full day out in the middle of the week took us, using the community minibus, to Polkerris from where we walked all the way around Gribbin Head to Readymoney Cove and back across the Saints Way. A stop at a hostelry en route back home made the perfect end to the day.

Then on Friday, as is now nearly a tradition, we ended the walks with the most strenuous, Bosccastle to Crackington Haven. Thank Goodness for the Haven Cafe at the end.... it certainly took the strain out of climbing down and up Pentargon!

The Friday Night Supper at the Wellington and the quiz to follow provided the perfect end to a fabulous week. Huge



Congratulations to Gerry & The Pacemakers team who won the quiz. Given that they are from Bristol & Liverpool and that the quiz was all about Cornwall, their victory was very well deserved. Huge thanks must go to everyone who attended and helped to raise a staggering £100 for The DEC Ukraine fund. Our hearts go out to all those currently suffering through this terrible time of war.

The whole week was rounded off with a Saturday morning leavers (or survivors!) breakfast at the Bosccastle Farm Shop. Always a treat and a very hearty start to the day for those who were wending their way back 'up country' to their various locations.

All in all, a wonderful week of walks, meals, socialising and enjoying the company of friends in a stunning setting.

There are so many people to thank so I will list them all here and hope I don't miss anyone out. Thanks to all the walk leaders, both those local to the village and those who live away and took the time to visit and plan and prepare their walks from afar. Thanks also to Sharon & Ron Muffett (&

Lee the chef) for a superb welcome meal at the The Napoleon Inn; thanks to Ross Yates at the Riverside for an equally superb 2 course meal; further thanks to Jon Scott & his team at the Wellington hotel and to Tamsyn for preparing an excellent quiz; Claire Bailey for the unlimited use of the community minibus which we were able to utilise to get to some of the out of village walks and finally thanks to Jackie Haddy and her team at the Farm Shop for a truly gut-busting breakfast menu.

Posters will shortly be going up to advertise next year's Walking Week, which will run from Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023. I am always looking for new walk leaders and indeed participants, so if you have a favourite walk in or around Bosccastle, or even further afield, that you'd like to share with others then please get in touch with me at bosccastle.walkingweek@gmail.com or come and see me when I'm home in the village. If you would prefer to just take part in a walk, keep your eyes peeled on the visit Bosccastle website for details, which again, will be up soon.

*Selena, Gard Cottage*



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## Boscastle Royal British Legion

Having been a while since I last posted a piece in the Blowhole, I thought it time I update the village on our small, yet enthusiastic arm of the legion.

After the retirement of long-standing secretary Peter Hancock and the installation of a new committee headed by ever present chairman Bob Pethick, we soldiered through the pandemic and came out the other side ready to re-ignite the pride in Boscastle's past and present soldiers, sailors and airmen and women.

In autumn of last year, after a couple of covid cancellations, we finally held a highly successful quiz night hosted by the team at the Napoleon Inn. This went fantastically well and raised £395 along with the raffle. Thanks again to Ron and Sharon for supporting us.

We must also thank John from the Wellington who has kindly given us the use (with no charge) of the meeting room at The Old Mill to conduct our four yearly meetings.

The club took it upon



themselves to revamp the war memorial this year with volunteers washing, scrubbing, and repainting the lettering. Fred Hockin took the gate home and gave it a new coat of paint, Rose and Paul Tamplin have tasked themselves to maintain the gardens following an initial spruce up, and along with Mark Dolan, gave the memorial a good clean ready for the

painters. Tim Sprake and I completed the task of refurbishing the lettering - a steady hand being the most skill required. Whilst working there myself on a quiet Sunday morning a woodpecker sat in the tree behind me not five meters away tapping away. It really is quite a tranquil spot to spend a moment or two almost unnoticed from Fore Street.

Although all our members are in support of our armed services, what also inspired me to become branch secretary was the risk of Boscastle branch folding and having to retire our standard flag paraded every year and Remembrance Day. Once a legion club folds, the standard is retired and cannot be bought back to parade. This has happened in many small towns and villages surrounding us.

We though are fortunate be in an advantageous position at present - the people of this village have donated over £4,000 to our legion and poppy appeal over the last year which is a fantastic amount.

If you wish to join and support the continuation of this great institution and join our small but social circle, or if you have or know anyone from the area, past or present military, and in need of any help, that ultimately is why we are here. Contact me Neil Costello (club secretary) 07970742816. Thankyou

P.S. The club would also like to thank Roger Ferrett's family for his long-lasting support over the years.

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## Heard of Money Laundering but...Honey Laundering?

Honey is made from nectar that bees collect from flowers. Pure nectar has a high water-content, quickly fermenting if it is not processed. Bees process the nectar using their honey stomachs to concentrate it, until its water-content is no higher than 20%.

Mankind has developed many methods of doctoring nectar and selling it as honey. Professional beekeepers in China remove the fresh nectar from the hives as fast as their bees collect it and send it to large industrial processing plants where it is concentrated by industrial de-humidifiers.

Value of the nectar/honey can also be increased by adding cheap sweeteners derived from sugar cane, sugar beet and even potatoes. As tests have been introduced to detect sugars in honey, criminals have become more scientifically adept at using sweeteners that cannot be detected by traditional methods. There is a continuous battle between the testers and the counterfeiters. Liquid chromatography/elemental analysis and isotope radio

mass spectrometry have all been used to detect illegal sweeteners.

"Designer" syrups are readily available on commercial websites, with adverts describing the tests that these syrups will pass.

In 2002 it was found that Chinese honey was contaminated with chloramphenicol antibiotic. The EU and the US then banned Chinese honey. We then started importing lots of honey from Vietnam and Singapore only to find it was also contaminated with chloramphenicol antibiotic. It was Chinese in origin but had been re-labelled. This practice still goes on and in 2013, a legal case exposed high levels of honey laundering in the US and a number of importers/exporters were convicted.

**The UK is the biggest importer of honey in Europe.** 47,000 tonnes of honey come into the UK each year, **30,000 tonnes of which comes from China.** The wholesale price of this honey was 43p per pound in 2021. Beekeepers cannot produce real honey

for the price of supermarket honey.

Research was commissioned into "own-brand" honey from UK supermarkets in 2018 and 2020. This scientific testing found evidence of adulteration in every sample tested. A jar of own-brand honey was sent to a Trading Standards Office. This sample also failed. However, no action was taken. Results were dismissed by the British Retail Consortium who said that "UK retailers tested their honey using "officially recognised" methods and found no issues".

Research by van Ruth *et al* (2017) indicates that the UK is an ideal environment in which honey fraud can thrive, as there are opportunities, motivation and a lack of monitoring and enforcement. This is not just a bee-keeper issue – consumers are being defrauded every time they buy cheap honey.

**TAKE ACTION NOW!** Spread the word and sign the petition: <https://bit.ly/3D0axmM>

*John Maughan*



## Postage Stamps

Since the last issue of The Blowhole another 2 kilos of used stamps has been despatched to the RNIB – worth £40 to them. So thanks again to all those who save stamps and then pop them into the surgery collection box or put them in my porch at 8 Pentargon Road.

The RNIB is the leading sight-loss charity offering information, support and advice to anyone with a sight problem. They also campaign to eliminate avoidable sight-loss and support research into sight-loss and eye health issues. They can raise money from any British or overseas new and used stamps. They also collect first-day covers, presentation packs and albums. Any of these can be left in my porch or I can collect.

ML

## Boscastle Oil-Ordering Group.

Next ordering date is from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September for an October delivery.

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## News from the Lookout

For the lookout, the arrival of summer means two things: the start of evening watches and the start of fundraising; which, in turn, means that all our members have to do that extra bit. This is a challenge even in normal times, but post covid, like so many voluntary organisations we are lower on numbers than usual, which means some are, in addition to their usual weekly watch, are doing a couple of extra watches or one or two fundraising sessions. If you are interested in joining us, contact our Station Manager, Chris Evans (on 01566 781449) to arrange to visit to see what is involved.

John Davis has recently completed 20 years with NCI Boscastle; he was not only one of the Station's founder members but was central to the design and doing the "sleeves rolled up" work of reconverting of the folly back to being a lookout. For a long period he was Station Manager and after that, our Treasurer. He is one of the very few members who has always been able to walk from his home to the lookout and, over the years, has meant, he has often been the man to turn to when things have needed fixing.

The Jubilee celebration in June saw a beacon that was lit next to the lookout and a spectacular laser display mounted on the lookout's roof. It's probably best not to ask how the last equipment got up there – and even less so about how it was got down – in the dark! The clear night resulted in the unexpected treat of being able to see other distant beacons at Hartland and Lundy. One

of our members has made a video of the evening and it can be viewed online at [https://youtu.be/30iX8xPpx\\_M](https://youtu.be/30iX8xPpx_M)

We are pleased to report that, after a frustrating period where we could hear vessels calling us on Ch 65 (the dedicated NCI VHF channel) but not reply to them, the problem has been resolved and we can now respond to any requests for radio check or to boat owners letting us know where they are going and when they expect to return.

Given that we are always careful about spending the money that we raise, it might seem rather odd to announce that soon we will be installing an item of equipment that we hope will never have to be used – a defibrillator. Be assured that this has not been prompted by the average age of the watchkeepers.

Incident wise we only had a few minor involvements so far this summer, but a couple

illustrate how being the local "eyes and ears" of the coastguard sometimes involves the Coastguards asking the lookout whether we can see something that has been reported to them. In one case it was a "suspicious floating object" reported by a member of the public, which we identified as a mat of seaweed that we'd logged earlier and in the other it was a girl with a broken ankle somewhere on the coastpath south of the lookout, which, despite a search with our giant binoculars, we couldn't spot.

By the way did you know that the walk from Tintagel to Crackington Haven is the equivalent of climbing (and descending) Ben Nevis? Neither did a group of walkers who, on a very foggy day, had walked from Tintagel and who told the duty watchkeeper that they were walking to Crackington and were planning to walk back too. Perhaps the advice averted an incident.

*Phil Brown*

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# National Trust

## Plants, plants and plants

For the Ranger team the past few months has been mainly about managing plants to benefit people and wildlife.

We've been helping people get out and about in the area by cutting the vegetation on the paths, even with a dry Spring/Summer the grass still seems to grow on the paths in the parish.

In the harbour, we have surveyed the areas of grass being managed for wildflowers and they are showing an increase in their diversity, this year we've seen hay rattle, birds foot trefoil and knapweed in flower. By continuing with a hay cut in the Autumn the number of native wildflowers will increase over the years.



*Birds Foot Trefoil*

We've also been surveying our larger plants, ash trees to be precise, for signs of ash die back disease. The survey looks at trees that might fall or drop branches over paths, roads, car parks, gardens or buildings. Most of the work will be scheduled for winter, though early signs are it will involve less work that last year.

There are also plants that shouldn't be there and need some control otherwise they can smother the native plants. We've been removing Himalayan Balsam the along the river Valency and removing Crocosmia (or Montbretia) from the Stitches and edges of the harbour area. Both plants are invasive and can form carpets of not much else, which doesn't help the rest of the plants and animals that ought to be there.



*Knapweed*

### In other news:

We've been continuing with upgrading the waymarkers that guide people out and about on the paths, as well as replacing steps, gates and posts when needed. Much of our work is ably assisted by our group of volunteers who join us each week to help with the never-ending list of tasks to do.

The wind vane on the Penally headland, given the exposed position it sits, is not surprisingly showing signs of wear and tear. Over the next few months it will be refurbished with a coat of specialist paint, any rusted parts replaced and cables restrung.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/boscastle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/boscastle)



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## Yin Yoga & Yoga Nidra Classes

### Bosccastle Village

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Yin Yoga is a passive style yoga. Stretching and targeting the deep connective tissues between the muscles and fascia throughout the body. The aim is to increase circulation in the joints and improve flexibility & mobility. It helps us regulate the body's flow of energy.

Yin Yoga is a 'listening' practise that helps heal our hearts and minds. It allows us to be with ourselves, to be still and notice what the body and mind are telling us. Yin poses are typically held for 3 to 5 minutes in a steady hold, allowing the tissues to yield.

Yin Yoga is amazing for opening our hearts, calming our nervous system and providing space for the body to deeply relax. It allows us to nourish ourselves, wash away fears and cultivate compassion and love for ourselves.

We learn to listen to our bodies, slowing everything down. Recognising and experiencing our thoughts and being in the present

moment, practising gratitude, slowly bringing us closer to our authentic self.

As we hold the pose, the drama peaks, it gets harder to ignore the monkey mind and we start wanting to leave the pose. Yin teaches us to find a place of comfort in a not-so-comfortable place and observe our thoughts and reactions from a perspective of calmness. You will leave the session a lot calmer & open to the day ahead.

### Yoga Nidra

Yoga Nidra is one of the least known and under appreciated yoga practises. The practice is about doing less. Releasing the struggling and striving to get somewhere. It is an experience of feeling held. We learn to relax as deeply as in sleep while remaining awake. We go through breath, body & awareness techniques (guided relaxation) to help move you into a state of non-doing. The body and mind can disappear for a time. The benefits include deep restoration, better sleep, profound peace and rejuvenation to the body so you feel nourished &

restored. All we have to do is breathe, relax and let it happen.

If you are wanting to deeply relax from the stresses of the world, please join us on Wednesday mornings. If there is enough interest, I could possibly hold an evening class. You are welcome to come along, sample a class and see if the practise is for you. All ages & abilities. Simply an open mind and heart 🤍

Contact: Mandy at

[mandyasymons@gmail.com](mailto:mandyasymons@gmail.com)

07930 277442

### Dear Blowhole Team,

It has been wonderful to see Forrabury Churchyard looking so beautiful this year with a variety of wild flowers allowed to bloom. Churches across the country have realised that graveyards can support masses of wildlife if they limit the mowing/strimming and allow pollinators access to flowering plants. It also saves money and energy.

Our village green spaces also look much more colourful this year, probably because our PC is cutting the grass less frequently. As I write in early July, they are sporting a mass of yellow hawkbeard flowers, clover and plantains and earlier in the year were bright yellow with birds-foot-trefoil and dandelions; so much more interesting than close cut grass.

These spaces help to compensate for some of the old hay-meadows that have been lost to silage. July is the month when our honey bees make most of their honey, mainly from clover and blackberry.

We could all help nature in the same way by letting our gardens and lawns support wild flowers. Bernice, in Trefleur Close, started cutting her lawn just twice a year. It is buzzing with bees, butterflies, hoverflies and grass-hoppers, providing food for swallows, house martins, swifts and many other insectivorous and seed-eating birds.

*Kind regards,  
John Maughan*

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## A Brush with Danger

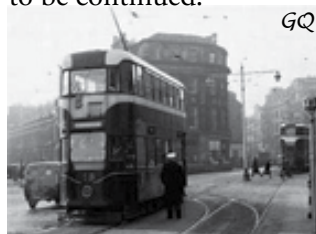
At our last Blowhole meeting it was suggested that most people have had something interesting happen in their lives. The Oxford dictionary defines 'Interesting' as intriguing, gripping and entertaining. Whether the following story (the first of three) will fulfil those expectations is up to you, Dear Reader.

For the first 10 years of my life, I lived with my Grandparents in the City of Edinburgh. I grew to know the city very well as, often on my own, but sometimes with a school friend, I would set off to explore. If I timed it right, when I visited Edinburgh Castle, with its Bloody History, (you didn't have to pay to enter the Castle in those days) I could watch the 'One O'clock Gun' being fired, then visit St Margaret's tiny chapel (circa 1130) and also read the names of the Regimental Mascots in the Dog's Cemetery. I haunted the city museums, where there were shrunken heads; a leather shroud (which still bore the shape of the body buried in it) and diagrams showing the engineering behind the building of the Forth Rail Bridge. The city gave me a love of architecture and history. It was my playground, where I had freedom to roam and felt safe and secure.

Until one day, when I was about 8 years old. I had decided to go shopping in the nearby Woolworths. The shop was a tram car ride away from my Grandparents' home

and so, having a purchase in mind, I hopped on the tram, alone. Once at the shop, in no hurry to make my purchase, I browsed around the various counters. Suddenly, a complete stranger, a lady holding the hand of a little girl, spoke to me. 'Are you on your own?' she asked. In those days all adults were *persons of authority*, so, I replied that I was. 'That man over there has been watching you,' she said pointing across the counter. I looked, but couldn't make out any man in particular. 'Where do you live? Do you get the tram?' she then asked. I told her and she walked me out of the shop to the tram stop. She got onto the tram with me (I don't remember if she paid the fares for all of us). When the tram reached my stop, I got off and she stayed on, never to be seen again.

It seems strange, in hindsight that she didn't see me to my home or tell my grandmother what had happened. I certainly wasn't going to tell anyone as, even at 8 years old, I **knew** that if I told anyone, that would be the end of my freedom. This strange encounter with the woman, has always been an unexplained mystery to me, but the next two stories are no mystery ..... to be continued!



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# Parish Council News

clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk

## 20mph speed limits

Work has begun by Cornwall Council to implement a new 20mph speed limit on roads in Boscastle. Originally 30mph, the new speeds mean fewer serious accidents and can also help improve air quality.

It is considered that implementing a reduced speed limit (20mph) on roads within rural areas will make a major contribution towards improving road safety, especially for vulnerable road users, or traffic using these roads. This, in turn, will aid in the achievement of the Cornwall Council's 'Vision Zero' goal – working towards the prevention of all fatal and serious injuries on the county road network. The wide roll-out of 20mph speed limits is also likely to reduce noise and air pollution, via the removal of any need for motor vehicles to

use harsh braking and/or acceleration; providing additional positive health benefits for both visitors and residents alike.

The imposition of 20mph speed limits in the pilot locations of which Boscastle is one, should also improve the amenity of these areas and assist in encouraging a transition towards individuals using active travel, particularly for local journeys, resulting in increased journey time reliability and healthier communities. Severance by traffic will also be reduced, facilitating a greater use of local community facilities and enabling more liveable streets. As well as encouraging more social interaction, this should also be beneficial to the local economy.

The Parish Council supported the implementation to 20mph following numerous correspondence from

residents. It has reached out to Cornwall Council and given feedback on the initial signage as some Councillors thought that the added posts and signage was unnecessary. The evaluation of the first phase will be presented to the Council's Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee to then consider the potential for 20mph to become the default speed limit for residential roads in Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Police can and will enforce 20mph speed limits. Forrabury and Minster Parish Council have purchased a radar activated speed sign. The sign is intended to be mobile

and will be positioned at varying times and durations on the three roads into the village. The sign will advise motorists of their speed and message "THANK YOU" if their speed is appropriate. If necessary, it will flash a "SLOWDOWN" or "TOO FAST" message when speed is exceeded. Also, the sign will gather road use data which if appropriate can be used as evidence for targeted enforcement.



## The Monumental Improvement project is coming to the Castle Site!

The Castle Site, a scheduled monument site listed as a motte and bailey castle on Fore Street is listed as being at risk from being lost so without intervention it could be lost forever. Cornwall AONB is focusing on sites of national archaeological significance. This project is really focusing on trying to raising awareness of the sites, documenting their history and stabilising as many to continue to of benefit to the community for the future. For more information on this, see the Council's website and select green spaces.

## Waterproofing works to County Bridge

Cornwall Council Highways team have advised that the Boscastle County bridge needs to



*Since the article was submitted the sign has been installed and is now in use*

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## Parish Council News continued

have re-waterproofing work carried out in January 2023. The intention is to carry out the repairs in two or three consecutive phases, moving from one side of the bridge, across to the centre section, then over to the other side. That way, traffic flow can be maintained and the road should only need to be closed for a short period for the final resurfacing. At that time of year, it's likely that the project will take six to eight weeks.

### Traffic Regulation Order Outcome

Cornwall Council have published the consultation for the traffic regulation orders for the village. It notes that overall, there was a mixture of responses to the proposals, with some support and some objections. All comments received were considered carefully before their final decision was made. A summary of the decision for the proposal can be found on the Council's website. Please note that any new parking and speed restrictions will not come into effect until all the necessary works have been carried-out on site. Further information on construction timescales, when they become available, can be found on the Roadworks section of Cornwall Council's website at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/roadworks/>

*Adrian Prescott  
Parish Clerk,*

01840 230609

## Wingwalker

Everyone who knows me knows how much I love flying. I have been lucky enough to fly in hot air balloons, helicopters and small 2 seater planes but this would be very different. I decided to try wingwalking, which meant I would be strapped to the top of a biplane while the pilot did various manoeuvres to include steep banks and drops at a maximum speed of 140mph and height of 800ft. I wasn't sure how I was going to feel when up in the air.

I decided to take the opportunity to raise funds for Kennedy's Disease. Sadly our friend Chris who had suffered with it passed away before I got to do it so I did it in memory of him.

My flight was with Aerosuperbatics a very experienced team based at RFC Rendcomb near Cirencester. Royal Flying Corps Rendcomb has been there since 1916 and was originally a WW1 training aerodrome. It has a big grass airfield with no runways.

On the day of the wingwalk the weather was perfect. Lots of sunny spells and light winds. I had to attend a safety briefing before the flight then put on a flying suit. I was the first to do it out of three of us. Strangely enough I wasn't at all nervous just excited. I had to climb up on top of the plane (no mean feat) and then Kirsten, the professional wingwalker strapped me to a seat with a tight harness. I had goggles and earplugs to wear. Shortly the pilot Dave taxied to the end of the field before taking off.



Despite there being not much wind on the ground the pressure of the wind up there was immense. Raising my arms to wave at my friends and family below was quite an effort! The views were spectacular and we did low fly pasts over all the spectators sometimes with smoke trails. At times it felt like we were going to fly straight into them but at the last minute would soar above the buildings.

We landed after about 10 minutes in the air. It was such an exhilarating experience and it felt like I had done a full body workout but I had loved every minute of it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated

to my fundraising page. I have raised over £1100 for Kennedy's Disease. Chris gave us many hours of pleasure singing with the Boscastle Buoys and I was thrilled to have raised so much for such a deserving cause in his memory.

*Claire Morgan*

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

Veneer = Flemish Painter of Furniture  
Laburnham = French Barbeque  
Barcode = Poem for Dogs  
Bratwurst = Naughtiest Kid  
Campaign = Result of Sleeping in Tent  
Sombre = Dreary Latin Dance  
Fondant = Affectionate Insect  
Mutilate = Cat Calling All Night  
Buttresses = Bottom Hair  
Warranty = Afternoon Break for Rabbits  
Romantic = Italian Bug  
Gargoyle = Remedy for Sore Throat

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# IVOR BRIGHT

13 SEPTEMBER 1929 - 12 MAY 2022



The funeral has taken place of one of Cornwall's longest serving and most popular pub landlords.

Ivor Bright, who has died at the age of 92, had run the Cobweb Inn at Boscastle for 50 years, but had worked there as a barman before he bought the premises near the famous harbour.

The celebration of his life at Forrabury Church was filled with music, humour and friendship - just like the hostelry he had been in charge of for so many years. He had first worked in the Cobweb as a part time barman for Buster Beadon, the owner at the time, then leased it for a year. Then in 1969 the owner wanted to retire and suggested to Ivor that he should buy the Cobweb.

At the time Ivor thought, that as a married man with three children, working by days as a driver-salesman for a Camelford hardware shop, he could only raise "shirt buttons."

However, as friend Martin Pethick said in his eulogy, he got the money together and it proved a wise move for a man who loved a pint himself and, with a warm and cheery greeting for both local regulars and visitors he was a natural behind the bar. He was known for remembering what his customers drank. It was said that someone could walk into the Cobweb years after their last visit and Ivor would be pouring their drink before they reached the bar to order it.

He also maintained the Cobweb's reputation as the home of local folk music and dance which had been enjoyed for generations in the area such as The Broomstick, The Muffin Man and Boscastle Breakdown. The rafters rang to local lady Beatrice banging out tunes on the piano and the voice of farmer Charlie Jose leading the entertainment

The Cobweb also in times gone by had a reputation for "lock-ins" with customers drinking into the early hours. When Ivor rang the police to report an overnight break-in a police officer told him "Ivor, we didn't think you closed long enough for anyone to break in."

Ivor met his ideal partner in the early 1970s when Vera moved to Boscastle with her daughter Jane to work at the nearby Wellington Hotel. She went for a drink at the Cobweb and before long, with Ivor's three children - Vernon, Adrian and Gillian - she was a part of the Cobweb team.

With Vera in charge of the kitchen and Ivor behind the bar it was an ideal partnership. Ivor also encouraged sports both inside and outside the pub, with pool, darts and billiards as well as supporting a cricket and rugby team and the Boscastle Football Club which he supported and sponsored for over 40 years.

In 1992, so that son Adrian could gain more experience of running the Cobweb, Ivor and Vera accepted the invitation of St Austell Brewery to take over

the running of the Napoleon Inn at the top of the village. They soon built up the trade at the Napoleon and it also became known for the singing of Cornish songs. Ivor and Vera decided to step back to a more peaceful life after four years, leaving Adrian Bright as landlord of the Cobweb, a role he has continued with success.

Ivor suffered tragedy in 2012 when Vera died but he continued his life among friends in the village, walking his dog, joining the Boscastle Indoor Bowls Club and making regular visits down to the Cobweb for a pint.

He leaves four children, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The celebration of his life was conducted by the Revd Heather Aston, with Mrs Maria Nicholls as organist. After the eulogy came the 'Ode to Ivor Bright' written and sung by his elder son Vernon, followed by a poem, 'The Family Tree', read by his daughter-in-law Tracy and a tribute by Adam Luck, of St Austell Brewery. Ivor's grandchildren spoke of their memories of their grand-dad, the congregation joined in 'Cornwall My Home' and the Boscastle Buoys sang 'The White Rose'.

The hymn 'How Great Thou Art' was followed by the commendation, farewell and the Celtic Blessing while the closing music was, appropriately, 'Always Look On the Bright Side of Life'.

Donations were in aid of the Cornwall Air Ambulance and Parkinson's UK.

# BLACKCURRANT BLISS

*Preserve the taste of summer: vitamin superstar Blackcurrants*

## Blackcurrant jam

We always have two jars of sharp-sweet home-made preserves on the table for our breakfast toast: Seville orange marmalade and blackcurrant jam made with our own blackcurrants. It was a joyful pleasure to sit in the sun recently picking juicy fat blackcurrants and knowing we would go on tasting their tart goodness for the rest of the year. The easiest way to pick the fruit is to choose the oldest branches and cut them off at the base. Then you can easily strip the ripe fruit straight into your container. And it has the virtue of pruning out the old wood, as the best fruit grows next year on the slender green branches that are left behind. Aim to cut out about a third of the bush in total. Weigh out 2lb of fruit and wash in cold water to remove dust, leaves and any strings still attached. Drain well. I then put the fruit into my maslin pan and add 3lb sugar. Stir gently and then leave overnight. I do not add water. Next day I heat the pan gently on low until all the sugar is dissolved, then I boil rapidly to a set. "The ripe currants are full of pectin so setting point is usually reached within five minutes - 104f if you have a sugar thermometer, or, if you don't have a thermometer, a simple test on a cold

plate will demonstrate that a teaspoonful will keep its shape without running all over the place. Take the pan off the heat and leave it for about 20 minutes, by which time a little skin may be forming. Give it a stir to distribute the fruit evenly and then pour into clean sterilised jars. This will make about seven jars (I save Bonne Maman jam jars which hold about 325ml or 11oz). We use at least a jar a month so I make two batches and store them somewhere dark and dry.

## Cassis

Last week I picked more blackcurrants than I needed for jam and decided to make a blackcurrant liqueur, or cassis as it's known. You'll need 1lb blackcurrants, crushed. Put them in a screw-top jar and add about a pint of vodka. Screw the top on really tight and leave in a dark place for about two months. Strain the spirit and then add about 6oz sugar to each pint of liquid - again I like to put this in a screw-top jar as I can more easily stir to dissolve the sugar over the next two weeks. Finally pour into bottles and keep for several months to mature. You've just about got time to have it ready for some very acceptable Christmas presents, although I shall be keeping mine to mix with dry white wine next summer for a classic Kir, or even with some bubbly for a Kir Royale. Cheers!

*Pat Thorne*

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## Volunteer & Help Your Community When They Need You The Most: Become A Community First Responder For Boscastle and Tintagel

South Western Ambulance Service are once again able to recruit volunteers in the Boscastle and Tintagel area to become Community First Responders (CFRs).

CFRs are dispatched to a wide range of 999 emergency calls, and play a vital role in helping to save people's lives. Because they respond in their local community, CFRs are often first to reach emergency scenes, are able to start lifesaving treatment, begin clinical care and provide reassurance to patients and relatives before the arrival of an ambulance.

No previous medical training is required. SWAST currently has a whole host of people available to save lives in their local community, including retirees, engineers, postal workers, teachers.

You do need:

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the ability to observe and accurately record details;  
the ability to take the lead and remain calm in pressured situations;  
level of fitness to deliver cardiopulmonary resuscitation as a sole responder;  
ability to complete theoretical training to the required national academic level (level 3).

Further information is available on the South Western Ambulance website/Community First Responders welcome to SWASFT - (swast.nhs.uk)

Vacancies will be advertised from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 via NHS Jobs and you will need to complete an online application form. Training is generally held over five days, which will include two weekends 22-23 October and 5-6 November 2022.

Previously Boscastle have worked hard to provide the community with this valuable role, but due to the increasing population and number of calls, they urgently need new members.

We will be holding an awareness session this summer with further details posted via social media.

*Charlotte Hicks,  
Paramedic*

### Thank you

The family of Roger Ferrett, who passed away in March 2022, would like to thank everyone who phoned, sent cards and letters expressing condolences.

Roger would have been 'gobsmacked' to know so many of his old and young relatives and friends were moved to share their thoughts and memories in this way. The funeral service, especially the singing, was a fitting tribute to his life - lived in Boscastle from 1927 to 2022.

Thank you all.

*Marion Ferrett*



Fundraising in aid of the RNLI

Just a quick update on the Boscastle & District RNLI Branch. Since we restarted the branch in late February this year, we have collected over £4600 for the RNLI and the team would like to express our sincere thanks for all the local businesses that have supported us and everyone who has donated, it's a fantastic amount for such a great cause!

The committee has been meeting most months to discuss progress and organising cover for events/ collection and we now have a good range of affordable, quality RNLI merchandise and these will be on sale at various events throughout the coming months

We are still in need of help in terms of collections so if anybody could spare an hour or two of their time, or you would like to arrange for a charity box or charity box collection, please give us a call or send us a text on our helpline number 07908 738230. Alternatively, you can email us on boscastlernli@gmail.com.

*Neil Bridges*



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## Finally it's the 2022 Panto again!!!

By the time you read this we will hopefully have decided upon the panto for 2023, but for now I am reporting on the 2022 production of Beauty and the Beast. I suppose it could be summed up as 'now you see it and now you don't but don't worry you'll see it again'. After selling all the tickets in record time the show went ahead as advertised on Wednesday 26 January. On the Thursday night there were a number of cast changes as covid had raised its ugly head. By the Friday it was even worse so by Saturday as we were afraid of being a 'super spreader' and the decision was made to cancel the show and to start again at a later date. On the 11 March we reopened the show with some trepidation as we were not sure if we would have an audience. However, we should not have worried as Boscastle did us proud. The performances on both Friday and Saturday were sell outs!!!

I would like to thank the community for their massive support, which made the panto such a success. Also a big thank you to all who so willingly took part these extra performances. As a result the panto was not only a huge success in the numbers of people coming to see the show but also made this show a record in terms of financial success. It is this income that the hall receives from the panto that allows it to be maintained to such a high standard. During the two years of covid although many hall and social building received government funding, Boscastle Village Hall did not qualify for any funding so the panto income was especially welcome in allowing us to balance the books over these difficult years.

So finally thank you all again for all that was done to make this show such a success and we look forward to seeing you all again in the 2023 show.

*Michael Parsons*

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## LET'S KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

How many residents and visitors to Boscastle descend the hill towards the hairpin bend above Home Farm, cast their eyes to the left and take in the amazing view? How many have then stopped and taken a quick photograph? I know that I have. Laid out before them is a splendid vista – one of the most beautiful parts of the North Cornish coastline framing the village of Boscastle and there, like twin jewels, are the Coast Watch Lookout and Forrabury Church. Both buildings have close ties with the needs of our local communities: one providing support to our fishing and coast travelling populations, the other providing spiritual leadership and comfort to those in the village and surrounding farms. Today, in addition to their prominent location, both buildings share something else – the need for charitable support from the local communities to survive. More on this and how it relates to Forrabury Church in a minute.

Although they share a long history of service to the community, their paths have been somewhat different. The Coastwatch Lookout (Willapark) was originally built in the early 1800's as a summerhouse for a local landowner and later repurposed, first as a sentinel to keep an eye out for smugglers, and then, until the 1970s, as a lookout for the Coastguard. More recently it was maintained

as a folly by the National Trust before being leased to the NCI in 2002. Forrabury Church on the other hand has existed at its current location since Norman times. The porch dates from the 1520's but the majority of the church was rebuilt and extended in 1867 - in response to an expanding congregation! For hundreds of years the building has looked down over the village of Boscastle whilst its inhabitants have looked up to it to provide a spiritual purpose to their lives and a place to meet to celebrate births, marriages and lives well lived.

So back to this charitable bit....

"What", I hear you ask, "aren't the Church of England one of the richest institutions in the country? Why do they need my charitable support?" Well, the Church of England does own land and has a fairly hefty endowment which generates a not inconsiderable yearly income, so a good question. However, a little-known fact (and I asked many of my friends in the village – who had no idea) is that unlike churches in Europe, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) receive no government or specific funding from the Church of England to maintain or staff our churches. This falls on this small congregation. Without adequate local funding we would lose our vicar which would lead to the eventual closure of the church

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## LET'S KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

*continues*

and the need for the Cornwall Council to take over the entire responsibility for maintaining the churchyard.

Although some in our village still attend church, there is no doubt that, in common with much of the country, our church-going congregation has dwindled in recent years. This is partly generational – as our generation are less religious than our parents' generation and our children are less religious than ours. It is also a function of mobility – the ubiquitous family car has provided us with a means to travel away from the village and attend church services more in tune with our individual expectations and family status (child friendly). Then, of course, there was Covid...the church doors closed and although we were able to continue services through the wonders of the internet, we lost our access to visitors. Although it was a wonderful temporary solution, there are signs that not all those who switched to 'Zoom Church', or simply stayed away during the pandemic, are returning to our churches as restrictions have been lifted.

In short, we are facing a financial crisis. Our congregation on an average Sunday may number 20 souls, all approaching, or in, the golden years of their lives. With one or two exceptions, all are retired, and most were not born here. We are fortunate to have a few benefactors, both in the village and outside of it, who support the church financially but who do not regularly attend services. Without them, things would be far worse. We are not alone in this predicament and the Methodist Church on Fore Street faces similar problems.

St Merteriana's Church (or Minster as it is locally known) forms part of the collective responsibility of the PCC. It has a long and interesting history that was instrumental in galvanizing local support in the form of the Minster Community Fellowship (MCF) that has secured funding to support considerable repair work on the church building (costs are shared 50/50 with the PCC). Although both Minster church and Forrabury church are administered as one, this funding cannot be shared. Unfortunately, although Minster is now



*Forrabury Church bedecked with Jubilee bunting*

*photo Gloria Quinlan*

in a better state of repair than Forrabury it is not used for regular church services owing to its remoteness and difficult access for the elderly. Shortfalls on our financial calls have resulted in many needed repairs and upkeep items being delayed and this is contributing to the accelerated deterioration of Forrabury Church. Already we have netting up in the ceiling to prevent rotting plaster falling on our congregation. A new roof is seriously overdue, but since the cost will likely exceed £100,000, it is beyond our reach for now.

So where does this leave us? I would argue that the life of a Cornish village was traditionally centred around three buildings – the Church, the Pub and the Shop. Failure of any of these institutions would have been deemed a travesty by previous generations. We must ask

ourselves if we are going to let any of these fail on our watch. I'm not from here, I was not married here, and generations of my family are not on the church register or buried in the churchyard. But I would feel a sense of loss if I crested the hill and saw a ruined church by day and a dark spot at night. If this sad prophesy is to be avoided, we need to come together as a community, as the villagers of Boscastle, to find a way to support all our institutions. We also recognise that this is not a one-way street and that, as a Church body, we need to find a way to make the Church more relevant to you. We hope over the next few months to reach out across the community and get your ideas of what you want the village Church to be.

*Andrew Stephens*

## "It takes a village"



Boscastle kicked off the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in great style on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June with a fantastic synchronized laser light and music show. Over 800 people went to Forrabury Common (aka the Stitches), to watch the lighting of a beacon at 9:45pm at Willapark beside the Coastwatch tower and then to enjoy the show.

Winners of the raffle to light the beacon were Boscastle couple Guy Steeds and Fiona Brayshaw. A rather stunned Guy said, "I never win anything, so it came as a complete surprise to hear the announcement that Fiona and I had won. We were thrilled. Then standing up on the cliffs, with the sun setting on the horizon and lighting the beacon together, we recognized that this was a once-in-a-lifetime event, a great honour."

Members of St Symphorian, commonly known as Forrabury church, were prepared with a refreshment gazebo. It was a great idea and clearly well received because there was a long queue of people ready for something to keep them going. (see photos page 29)



*John Dunwell runs with the torch from Forrabury church to the Lookout.*



*The Committee gave a specially designed souvenir mug to each of Boscastle Primary School's pupils.*



*photo Mark Yeomans*

The sky was magnificently clear with a beautiful sunset. Villagers and visitors gathered with chairs and rugs or stood in groups on the fields of the Commons. Getting close to the longest day of the year meant that it was not perfectly dark at 10pm when the laser show started but it was never-the-less wonderful and it got better as the sky got darker and finally was accompanied by a bright white, clear crescent moon.

The laser light show, put on by Lumatecvisuals was fabulous but, like a film with no sound, without the music it wouldn't have been so special! Our swinging DJ was Boscastle local Andrew Leeds, well-known as maestro and events organiser for the Kindred Spirits Festival near Launceston and other music events locally and around the country.

The rest of the Jubilee weekend brought very mixed weather, with some strong winds and torrential downpours. However, the 'Party on the Lawn' was able to go ahead on Saturday and Boscastle WI provided homemade cakes, biscuits





photo Mark Yeomans

marshalling of the cars; Laura Leeds, Braelen Leeds, Aaron World, Liam Cutler and Pam Clarke for marshalling at the event; Forrabury church for refreshments & power for the music; Jane Castling for her lawn for events by the harbour; Mark Dolan, design of the souvenir flier; Sarah Cook and team for delivering the flier; Boscastle Coastguard, Geoff Pollard for chiming Forrabury church bell and Mark Yeomans,

and beverages. On Sunday 'Music on the Lawn' brought a terrific mix of talent from John Maughan (the Boscastle Busker), The Nap Jammers, Neil Kristopher and Maria Nichols and people sung along, danced and brought their own Jubilee party refreshments.

Organising an event of this scale is no small thing. An Events Committee met over several months to plan the events. It included members from the WI, school, church, Coastwatch, as well as businesses and individuals from the village and was overseen by Steve Simmonds of the Parish Council. The 4-day holiday weekend was a great success because a small group of dedicated individuals were committed to making it happen, supported financially by the Parish Council, Cornwall Council, private donations and raffle ticket sales.

Special recognition goes to: Chris Evans, NCI Station Manager; John



Dunwell, torch bearer; Fiona Brayshaw and Guy Steeds, lighting the beacon; Robin Haddy, use of the land for parking space and siting for the portaloos; Boscastle Football Club, parking space; Brona Simmonds, Jack Schultz, Andy Templar and Andy Humphries for masterful

photographer, for giving his services for free. Thanks also to Jeff Cherrington from the National Trust for giving us permission to use the land and for encouragement of the events.

The phrase "It takes a village" originates from an African proverb and conveys the message that it takes many people ("the village") to provide a safe, healthy environment for children. It is also the title of a book written by Hilary Rodham Clinton which tells the heartwarming and universal story of a diverse community coming together to make a difference. All kinds of people working together, playing together, and living together in harmony makes a better village and many villages coming together can make a better world.

*Gillian Schultz*



photo Steve Simmonds

## Boscastle WI

Boscastle WI is thrilled that two of its members' entries won prizes in the 2022 WI Royal Cornwall Show competitions.

Helen Hunt won first prize for her flower entry into "Going Green" and the group entry into the category "A Family Celebration" received third prize. The group chose a wedding celebration as their theme and the five components included a backdrop, designed and painted in oil by Harriet Halstead; a decorated cake, baked and iced with roses by Julie Potter; a corsage, created with white roses by Mary Shepherd; a wrapped

gift, with knitted roses, created by Julie Stephens and an invitation, hand written and painted in watercolour by Gillian Schultz. The team was led by member Sue Kittle.

Conditions in the Cornwall Federation of WI tent over the hot and humid weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June were far from ideal for flowers, cake decorations and other delicate materials. However, at least judging was within a few hours of set up on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and all entries had the same issues.

Boscastle WI has several opportunities a month to meet, for a variety of activities. For more information about joining us, contact [boscastlewi@westcv.co.uk](mailto:boscastlewi@westcv.co.uk) or call 01840 250762.

GS



*Helen Hunt, Going Green*



*Group entry, A Family Celebration*



*Ron 'Nobby' Mason cuts the ribbon to open the kiosk at Tresparrett - see opposite page*



## Mowesi Marshgate

There's a little bit of magic in every box, they say...but when the WI is involved, you can bet your dialling finger on it.

Our iconic red telephone boxes are being decommissioned across the country as more and more people carry a mobile phone. The kiosk in Tresparrett was bought by St Juliot Parish Council for £1, but has stood for several years gathering dust and cobwebs.

Then Mowesi Marshgate decided to take it in hand, and now it stands gleaming and decked with bunting, a pleasure to the eye and a resource for the community.

The kiosk project was the brainchild of WI secretary Jenny Metters, who grew up in the village, and was sad to see the familiar box standing derelict. She approached the Parish Council and asked permission for the Mowesi to adopt the box and give it a makeover – they said yes.

Jenny organised members to clean and rub down the kiosk, then it was repainted in the correct colour and shelves were fitted inside. It now operates as a book swap shop for anyone walking by, and includes seed packets, plants, DVDs, jigsaws,



*Mowesi Marshgate members at the opening ceremony,*

magazines and children's books, which are all free to all comers.

The box was ready just in time for the Queen's Jubilee, and a grand opening was held, with Tresparrett's notable citizen Mr Ron "Nobby" Mason cutting the ribbon and tea and cakes being served to visitors.

The ladies of Marshgate Mowesi WI left Otterham and St Juliot Hall with glorious handmade fabric trinkets. Pat Mallett came and gave a brilliant explanation for all of us on how to make beautiful necklaces and bracelets with fabric – the mantra for the evening was 'Does that make sense?' The room was fairly quiet whilst we all beavered away endeavouring to make

these unusual wardrobe accessories and yes it did all make sense! We thank Pat for bringing a selection of gorgeous Liberty fabric and plenty of pretty beads to make these distinct adornments and for her excellent demonstration.

After our crafting activity we met to discuss WI Business and also agreed to try out two new ventures – a book club meeting every 6 weeks or so and also a Cinema / Theatre Club – visiting local and not so local venues as and when something that appeals is showing.

*The Myths and Mysteries of The Mayflower* was the incredibly interesting talk from Mike Harwood enjoyed by the ladies of Marshgate Mowesi WI at a

recent meeting. Mike is an internationally renowned artist with a reputation as a marine and portrait painter as well as being an authority on the Mayflower. Mike explained the history of Catholic and Protestant religions during the 1600s and how many of the passengers were trying to start a life to get away from these religious issues. He also described how the settlements were started, but that parts of the area in North East America had already been named, this is known from a map dated 1614. Throughout the talk Mike displayed his fantastic paintings on screen showing various stages of The Mayflower's journey. Mike has some of his paintings housed in a Gallery in Plymouth, Massachusetts which has further records of The Mayflower on display.

Mowesi Marshgate WI meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7.00pm at Otterham and St Juliot Hall - why not come along and join us? Call Wendy Trevennor on 07795524694 or Liz Long on 01840 259686 or e-mail [marshgatewi@btconnect.com](mailto:marshgatewi@btconnect.com)

WT

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# THE NO-DIG GARDEN

There's been a lot of talk lately about the plants we grow and their relationship with beneficial mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. The word "mycorrhiza" comes from the words myco, meaning fungus, and rhiza, meaning plant. The benefit to plants include increased resistance to drought; better ability to absorb nutrients; improved stress resistance; and stronger seedling growth. There are many different types of mycorrhizal fungi including microscopic ones but they all have long filaments that resemble roots, they grow near plants with which they share a beneficial relationship and they are naturally present in the earth. A plant would soon exhaust its small area of surrounding soil of nutrients, but with the help of mycorrhizal fungi, plants benefit from nutrients and moisture found further from home. In addition, the fungi produce glomalin, a glycoprotein that helps stabilize the soil. The good news is that unless you are using sterile potting compost, it exists as a natural element in your ordinary garden soil. You can pay a lot of money for commercial mycorrhizal powder, (typically between £6 and £8 a pop) and there's a lot of sales patter about how amazing the results will be by adding small amounts to your planting regime. I admit a couple of pinches really can help with potting up a summer container using sterile compost, but I don't believe it's necessary in properly cared-for earth outside in your garden.

There are a few things you can do to help and encourage mycorrhizal fungi activity: for a start, stop using phosphate fertilizer which has an adverse effect on it; avoid overwatering the garden;



enrich your beds regularly with organic matter, such as compost and leaf mould; and above all stop digging the soil - it damages its structure and releases carbon. I really do believe that we are ruining the soil by digging and applying artificial fertilisers.

I am a convinced disciple of Charles Dowding, the no-dig guru. This is what he has to say about making a no dig bed of any size you like and at any time of year. Mark out your bed on an uncultivated patch of ground - we'll say it's covered in coarse grass and weeds. You might cover it with some soil as a bottom layer just to make it level. A layer of cardboard follows when you have a lot of weeds to smother, because it slows down weed regrowth, then a good thick top layer of compost. This compost can be of any type including your own, or old manure, or compost you buy, but keep the finest compost as your surface layer. This means you can easily make a bed, sow and plant straight away, in other words, all in the same day. A few more details are that if the weather is dry, it's worth watering the cardboard before you put compost on top. If your bed borders onto grass and weeds, it's good to lay a piece of wood along the edge as a temporary border to contain the compost. Later you can remove that wood as the compost settles. Depth of compost depends on how

much you can obtain, how quickly you want to plant, and what your soil is like underneath. If covering a lot of weeds, use 7 to 15 cm compost or 3 to 6 inches. Now you are ready to sow, plant and harvest. Every year after that, you simply lay another thin layer of compost and never have to lean on a spade again. Your back will thank you for it, you'll have a garden full of healthy flowers and vegetables, annual weeds pull out easily, and you will have done your wonderful, individual best for the environment by being a carbon hero. You can spend many a happy hour watching Charles's videos on YouTube. I do.

*Pat Thorne*

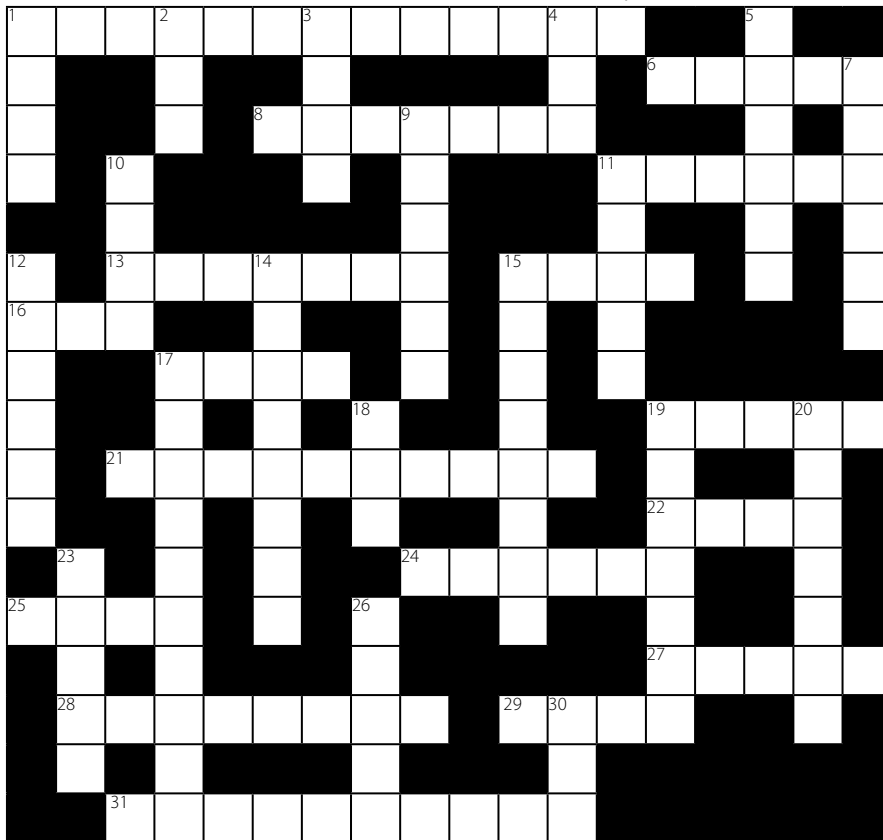


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## Steve's Summer Crossword



### Across

- 1 Showing how to protest (13)  
 6 For gambling with fish? (5)  
 8 Manipulate figures (7)  
 11 In a daze about Proust (6)  
 13 Insistent first-born worker (7)  
 15 Money sounds instrumental (4)  
 16 Manage exercise (3)  
 17 Secure place for phone? (4)  
 19 Platform for judges and press (5)  
 21 Expired campanologist looks very similar (4,6)

*crossword answers on page 36*

22 Sudden change of mind initially with man (4)

- 24 Push left for a spade (6)  
 25 Union agreements (4)  
 27 Spoils archaeological site (5)  
 28 Diamond firework (8)  
 29 Cakes, ignore return (4)  
 31 Singular footwear 'barred' here (10)

### Down

- 1 Stoop to go out for nothing (4)  
 2 Strange nothing comes before theologian (3)  
 3 Mate confused side (4)  
 4 Born with endless need (3)  
 5 Fastener on the fly (6)  
 7 Prime address for downing alcohol (6)  
 9 Put an end to whisky (6)  
 10 Intend to be average (4)  
 11 Buys grasses (5)  
 12 Transvestite Welsh symbol? (6)  
 14 Lose temper dropping cheese on toast! (8)  
 15 Cut through by US car park for the Knight (8)  
 17 Inexpensive fish for miser (10)  
 18 Groovy joint (3)  
 19 Hats for cricketers (7)  
 20 Staying outdoors sounds intense (7)  
 23 Gently move for 300 miles round Cornwall (5)  
 26 Strict at the back of the boat (5)  
 30 Run about for tea container (3)

Dear Blowhole Readers

In the last issue we announced that we would be doing a one-act play at the Village Hall in April. We're happy to say that we were actually able to get 'The Chip Van Plays Dixie' onto the stage there to a couple of small, but highly appreciative, audiences. Our thanks go to the panto crew who were able to leave the staging and came to dismantle it after the show, to the hall committee, to those who helped front-of-house (particularly the bar!) and to those who came to support us.

Promoting the show to ensure that everyone who would have wanted to come knew about it proved harder than we expected, none the less, we consider the evenings to have been successful after discussions with the audiences, many of whom stayed behind after the show to chat.

Over many years doing festivals and pub theatre with PostScript Theatre and Flat Four we have always strived to put on as professional a show as we can, believing that 'amateur' just means 'unpaid'. We are now hoping to do more at the Village Hall but in future involving local talent on and off stage.

Once we know the schedule for the next panto we will see when we can fit in rehearsals for an evening of two one-act plays and will be looking out for people wanting to act and help. Once we have a plan we'll put out a call on social media so keep your eyes open! We have a couple of plays in mind for the first outing but can adapt depending on who is interested. Hopefully we can get something regular (even if not frequent!) started.

Thanks again to all who made it, or wished us luck ... here's to the next one!

*Kind regards  
 Robert & Fran Iles*

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# The Reading Room

At last, I am able to pen some words about more uplifting events than in recent times. Many, many concerns still exist of course, but life has begun to look slightly more hopeful. All those who are suffering will still remain in our hearts and prayers.

We have had two events to celebrate with our many friends all over the globe, each of them being like 'marmite'. You either hate them or adore them, but no-one can deny that they give us a good excuse for communities to come together and be happy for a while.

In May the 66<sup>th</sup> edition of the Eurovision Song Contest took place in Turin, Italy. The atmosphere was joyful and electric. After twenty-five years the UK regained popularity and the lovely Sam Ryder, with his song Spaceman, scored 466 points giving the UK second place. We were all delighted to see Ukraine come first with 631 points. It wasn't a sympathy vote either. Stefania, performed by Kalush Orchestra was

great. It was the third time Ukraine had won the Eurovision Song Contest.

The first weekend in June brought our communities together with the whole country and the Commonwealth to spend four days in celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Boscastle opened the celebrations with the lighting of the beacon, joining the chain of 3,500 beacons being lit in unison across the UK and the Commonwealth.

The Jubilee weekend was full of events where villagers came together for fetes and street parties. It lifted our spirits and made us grateful to be living in such a close-knit, caring community. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

The bookworms joined everyone else and raised a glass of bubbles to toast our Queen who has been a faithful, constant figurehead for seventy years throughout many good times and bad.

Come and join us now in the Reading Room as

we open the pages of some more books to share with you.

## Remarkable Creatures Tracy Chevalier

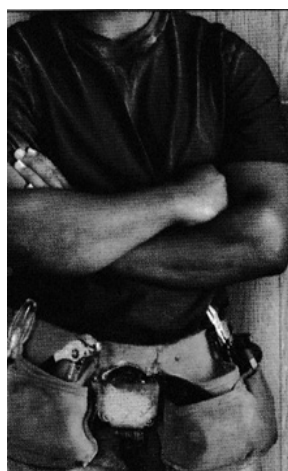
Tracy Chevalier has been a favourite amongst us bookworms, enjoyed equally by all. She has written ten novels so far and is now writing her eleventh. Her second novel enjoyed so much success that she was able to write full time from then onwards. Chevalier immerses herself in the environment and the activities she intends to write about and tries her hand at the tasks her protagonist would be doing. Occasionally, she will write at the British Library but she does most of her writing in a small study at her home. Its walls are lined with cubbyholes where she displays things that she is fond of, often treasures from research she has done. She says, '...I like to look away from my writing and let my eyes fall on things that bring me joy.'

She admits she falls victim to procrastination and often has to work hard to block out distractions and begin writing in

earnest. She says, 'When it does work what I say and how I say it merge..... it is deeply satisfying.'

'Remarkable Creatures' tells the well-known story of Mary Anning, the pioneering fossil hunter and palaeontologist. Tracy Chevalier tells it through the eyes and voices of two heroines. The author manages to weave together historical figures and events in to a compelling story. She has taken the true histories of Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpott, and moved by a visit to the Dinosaur Museum in Dorchester, she has woven a very moving and informative story.

The bookworms really felt a connection with the two main characters. We cared what happened to them and many of us built strong visual images of them in our minds. Chevalier used dialogue skilfully to reflect the personality of the main characters, especially Elizabeth, Mary and Molly. Only a few words were needed to identify which one was talking. The story was written chronologically which was a good choice. It brought to life the general



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knowledge most of us had about this subject and expanded on it. We were left more intrigued and interested than before. Some bookworms had visited the Jurassic Coast and highly recommended exploring all it had to offer.

We would all recommend this book and we scored it highly,

Storyline 9

Writing Quality 9

*Waterland*  
Graham Swift

Graham Swift was born on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1949 in South London, where he was brought up. He described his mother as, 'a great bringer up of children'. His father was a wartime fighter pilot who became a clerk in the National Debt Office. His parents struggled to make ends meet but they gave him a secure childhood which caused him to crave adventures. He had an older brother Peter.

He has been with his partner Rodd, for thirty years, after meeting at university. They married in February 2000. He describes himself as a self-confessed quiet and private person.

*Waterland* was written in 1983. It was his third book and it won him the Guardian Fiction Prize and it was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 1992 it was adapted into a film of the same name starring Jeremy Irons.

It is set in the low-lying region of eastern England known as The Fenland. The

plot recounts the plights of two intertwined, yet dissimilar families. Swift paints complex, thought provoking characters and describes their inner struggle to steer their life through their awkward past and present in an unpredictable terrain. His storytelling draws on history, mystery, incest and tragedy. He evokes the unique atmosphere of the Fenlands, making it seem eerily like another character in his story.

He claimed he didn't know the area he was writing about, which shows the extent of his research. Some bookworms felt the place was brought alive in the book and they didn't want to leave. Others struggled to follow the multiple threads which were not delivered in chronological order. However, we all enjoyed it enough to recommend it.

Storyline 8

Writing Quality 9

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

The bookworms would like to dedicate this piece to the memory of Thelma Stewart, a dear friend and valuable member of our book group. She will be greatly missed but will always be thought of as part of The Reading Room and forever in our hearts. R.I.P.

*Yours truly*  
*The Keeper of the Key*





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# Church and Chapel

## *A Methodist Ministers View:*

As I sat down to write this article the news came through that there were 26 Ambulances at our Treliske Hospital in Truro waiting to admit patients. This is not a new phenomenon but has been ongoing for many months but despite all the discussions about it the situation does not seem to be improving. It is not just locally that we have this problem but the same is happening at most hospitals in the South West and beyond.

One article which I read on the issue stated that over the past years some 25,000 hospital bed places have been taken out of service across the country. The current estimate is that our hospitals need an extra 16,000 beds to be able to meet the demands of the present time. It seems to me that somewhere

along the lines there has been a miscalculation in the business plans for our Health Service. I am assuming that somewhere there is a business plan in the relevant government departments.

Part of this debate hinges on the work within government departments anticipating future needs. 'Anticipation' is a basic human skill which is taught in various ways. For some 25 years I was involved with young people pursuing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, when in the expedition training, we encouraged participants to 'anticipate' the likely outcome of their decisions and to plan accordingly. We all in various ways are people who 'anticipate.' Some people are currently anticipating going away on holiday, whilst those people who run holiday

businesses have been anticipating their need for staff and provisions. For those in business not anticipating future needs well has the potential for the loss of profits and embarrassing situations as well as the consequences for the customers.

As I started thinking along these lines, I realised again just how our creator God anticipated the nature of us human beings, who are created in his image, and

planned accordingly in his love, care, and concern for us. His answer was to send his Son, Jesus, amongst us to suffer in the way in which he did to enable us to be reconciled to God from the potential mess of our lives. His anticipation had costly consequences, perhaps all situations of anticipating correctly do. Food for thought and action for all of us.

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## Refreshments to feed the masses!

Members of Forrabury church, pulled together with homemade cakes and biscuits, hot chocolate, tea and coffee and orange squash so that villagers and visitors could be refreshed during the synchronized music and laser light show along the wall dividing the church yard from the common.

The queue, which seemed endless, started early and the four members worked tirelessly from 9:45pm to about 11:00pm, together with Reverend Heather Aston who helped manage the queue. Served free of charge, there was a box for donations to help with the fabric of the Forrabury & Minster churches. It was gratifying how many people generously donated and came back to say how much they "appreciated the cheerful service and delicious cakes."

*Gillian Schultz*

*Photographs by Rev. Heather Aston.*



*a long line of people queue patiently for refreshments from the church gazebo.*



*A wide array of cakes, biscuits, hot and cold drinks "fed the five thousand"!*

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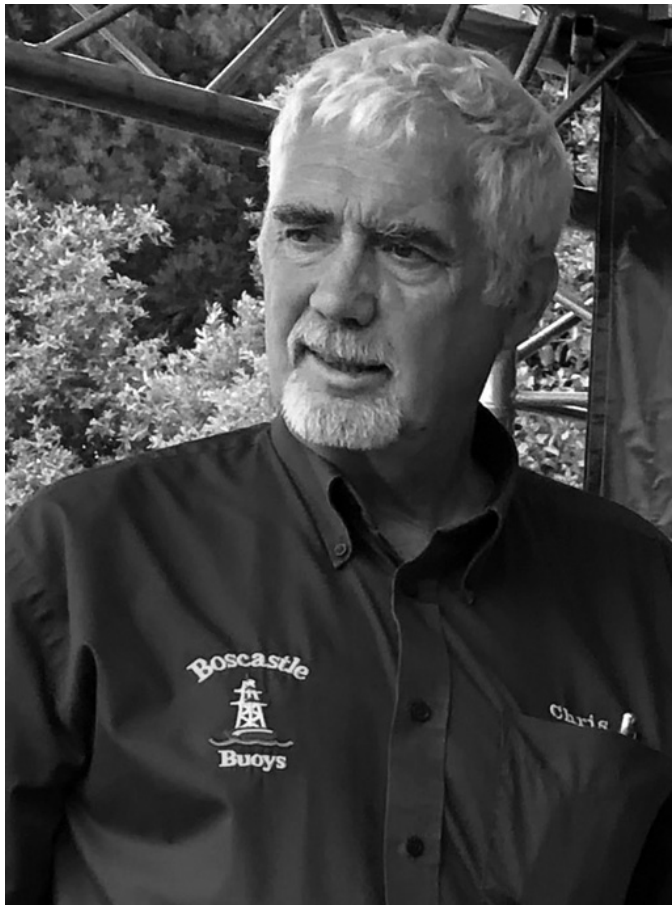
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# CHRIS EDWARDS

14 MARCH 1950 - 16 APRIL 2022



On 12 May 2022 a service was held to “Sing and Celebrate” the life of Chris Edwards, who has died unexpectedly aged 72. Over 300 people packed into Davidstow Church (and spilled into the graveyard) in order to pay their final respects for this legendary Cornish man.

The service reflected Chris’ love of music, with his group the Boscattle Buoy singing both songs written by Chris – “3 Rivers” and “300 miles of Sea” and a cd of Chris singing solo “The Oggy Man” was also played. It was a wonderful send off for such an amazing character, with readings from close friends and a stunningly entertaining and emotional

eulogy by Roger Nicholls. A private family committal service followed at Bodmin Crematorium with the finale of a Neil Diamond Song “A beautiful Noise”.

Everyone then gathered at the Cobweb Inn which bathed in sunshine. Chris would have cherished the wonderful singing, friends gathered and stories re-told. He loved the phrase “there is no such thing as strangers, just good friends we haven’t met yet”. The family are so very grateful to everyone for their messages of support and those that attended from far and wide and everyone who worked hard in making the day so very special and fitting. Donations are still being accepted for

Chris’ charities, Kennedy’s Disease-UK and Cornwall Hospice Care via the funeral directors, Arthur Bryant Funeral Service.

Chris was a man of action. Born at Davidstow, he was the middle child of two siblings June and Ken. Money was very tight for the family and it was a frugal upbringing but rich in so many ways. No doubt that’s where Chris’s skills to make things and utilise materials were borne from, for they had to be built from scraps, as there was no money to buy new. With an engineer mindset, this all came very naturally to Chris.

The moors and fields were his playground, fortunate to grow up in the days that you went off exploring with friends and only came home when hungry! His life is peppered with calamity and absorbing stories, like the time as a family going out on a Sunday afternoon to the moor, Chris found some old bits of military stuff and rode back home on the back of Joe’s truck, with them bouncing around. Next day he took some to his Primary school, to kick around the school yard with his mates. Per chance, the Headmaster looked out to see this activity, not long after the Bomb Squad arrived and Chris had to take them to where he’d found the loot. By then it had gone. However, the bits he’d collected were diagnosed as “live”! They were destroyed. Luckily, he hadn’t been!!

After attending Sir James Camelford Secondary School Chris gained an engineering apprenticeship at ECLP and travelled to St Austell. He went on to work at Ile’s in Delabole and Pressy Sparks in Wadebridge. His engineering career continued at the “Cheese Factory” and he continually grew his skills at fixing, making and sourcing parts. A key member of the plant, he relished his work and colleagues.

Chris married Delabole girl Yvonne and they lived there and brought up their two sons, Lee and Shaun. Both now follow in their father’s footsteps. One being an engineer and the other an electrician. Many of their father’s characteristics live on in his sons (and four grandchildren) – Isabella, Dylan, Cayden and Eliza, not least their willingness to always help others, their hard work ethic, humour, sense of fun and inquisitive minds.

In those days, CB radio was popular and Chris’ handle was “Maverick”, so very apt! Besides his career Chris enjoyed so many pursuits, car rallying, shooting, pool, tug of war, Carnival Floats, panto. A whizz on the sewing machine, he treated the pedal like an accelerator! The kids at Delabole won many prizes throughout the county with their elaborate floats. Always looking for a challenge and adventure, Chris also signed up as an RAF auxiliary which enabled him to pursue

his love of the outdoors, all things mechanical and comradeship of friends.

Chris met Boscastle girl Anita Symons and they embraced a 30 plus year relationship, culminating in getting married at Minster Church in 2019. He went on to work at Ambrosia Creamery, Lifton and Pall Aerospace in Redruth. The pair often sharing a lift to commute as Anita was working in Penzance. Together they worked hard and played hard. It took 10 years to personally build their house The Old Stables, but in fact that is quite a feat considering they only had weekends and evenings on top of their main jobs and hectic social life including friendships at Padstow, Newquay, Ireland and beyond. Plus, many other projects and ventures on the go including motorbiking and being Pyrotechnicians (setting off fireworks!).

Once in Boscastle Chris started singing with Roger, Raymond, Hedley, Simon, John Blunt and encouraged Stats and Peter Hicks to come along ... before long the Boscastle Buoy were formed and we all know how successful they have been. You only need to watch them interact together be it in the pub or on stage to see real friendship. The Buoy have now raised over £50K for their charity and continue to do so with their newly launched CD named after Chris's own penned song "300 miles of Sea".

Sadly in 2005 Chris was diagnosed with a very rare genetic disease – Kennedys, for which there is no current cure. Fortunately, Chris had a slow variant of the disease and for many years it didn't make life too difficult. They followed his consultant's advice and had the "big holidays". They travelled far and wide, with and without friends and made amazing memories. Chris volunteered to be studied in the Kennedy's Research program, mindful that a cure wouldn't be available in his lifetime, but hoped it would be forthcoming for future generations. A week before he died, he visited the team at UCL in London, a long day trip but Chris was determined to do it. A long time ago he'd accepted the fate of his illness and the future it held with stoicism and fortitude.

Please remember Chris as he was before Kennedy's took hold. A fun, loving, active and clever man. His nearest and dearest are trying not to be too sad, but instead concentrate on knowing how privileged they have been to have loved and been loved by such a wonderful man.

The well-known phrase "life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely, in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting "Hold on tight... what a ride!", could have been written with Chris in mind. He certainly gave it his best shot!

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Goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 who are leaving us to move onto Sir James Smiths' School, Camelford and Budehaven Community School.



Boscastle Primary School have been busy working on their performance of 'Hoodwinked', an adaptation of the Robin Hood story. The children shared their performance with family members, local residents, holidaymakers, and past and future pupils over 2 evenings. Feedback was absolutely brilliant. They sang, acted, smiled and shone amazingly! They should be so proud of their efforts and the school team would like to extend their thanks to everyone involved in creating scenery, providing props, costumes and refreshments, and to the local community for putting up with rehearsals! What a fantastic way to end a busy year.



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## The Reluctant Gardeners' Association

I will freely admit I belong to the Reluctant Gardeners' association. I love relaxing in our own garden, especially with a glass of Chardonnay at my elbow, and I enjoy going round beautiful gardens, full of admiration for exquisitely laid flower beds and exotic trees and shrubs. However, a gardener I am not. I've never been great at grubbing around in the soil, would rather recline in a lounge, read a book in the sunshine and watch others toil.

We had a smallish garden when I was a child but my parents looked after it and except for the occasional watering of the plants neither I nor my siblings ever did anything constructive at all. We certainly weren't allowed to pick anything.

When I became a nurse, the nearest I got to a flower was sorting out the numerous vases of offerings on patients' lockers, taking

them in and out of the ward at night and in the morning, and making sure Sister never got sight of a red and white flower together in the same vase as it was bound to mean someone would die!! I still harbour that superstition today.

After I married, I discovered that all my in-laws were very keen gardeners, especially my mother-in-law, who used to take great pride in walking me around her garden and inviting me to admire her *Rudbeckias* and *Coreopsis*, while I tried to look intelligent and hoped it wasn't too obvious that I hadn't the faintest idea what she was talking about!

My husband is extremely enthusiastic too and our garden is a thing of beauty. Nothing to do with me I hasten to add. My role is to weed and even then, I have to be extremely careful. I can still remember the sorrowful expression on



can certainly recognise a dandelion when I see one and I am getting slowly better at deciding what is a weed and what isn't: its only taken me 46 years of marriage! It's just so tedious and time consuming, looks great for a week then back they grow again, and weed killer is definitely out.

I can't mow the lawn as the mower is too heavy and I certainly baulk at trimming the privet hedges, though again I am useful in clearing up what is left afterwards. Also, a dab hand with the watering can, but there it ends.

Now, I do realise that all you ardent gardeners will be casting your eyes heavenwards, and uttering pitying noises, but to each her own - my talents hopefully lie in different directions (my husband is very good at clearing up after I have cooked supper!)

SV

At least I have no problem weeding all the gravel we have at the front of the bungalow and around the sundial. I

**Crossword Answers:**  
Across: 1 demonstrating, 6 chips, 8 massage, 11 stupor, 13 adamant, 15 loot, 16 run, 17 cell, 19 bench, 21 dead ringer, 22 whim, 24 shovel, 25 vows, 27 ruins, 28 sparkler, 29 buns, 31 wellington  
Down: 1 duck, 2 odd, 3 team, 4 nee, 5 zipper, 7 street, 9 scotch, 10 mean, 11 shops, 12 dragon, 14 meltdown, 15 lancelet, 17 cheapskate, 18 hip, 19 bowlers, 20 camping, 23 coast, 26 stern, 30 urn

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## News from a Smallholding

This article was written over the Platinum Jubilee weekend; and it feels like the first weekend we've had off in a long while. When you're busy to-ing and fro-ing you can easily forget about the world around you and become immersed in what you are doing. It is beneficial to sit back and take stock of what you've achieved and what still needs to be done – preferably with tea (or gin) in one hand and cake in the other.

Since our last article things have not slowed down; you can't put brakes on nature and lambing was a prime example of this! In terms of physical ease, this is probably one of the easiest lambings we have had. We only breed the best sheep so usually have no more than 12 ewes expecting at any one time. Emotionally, this was a horrid lambing season. Our wonderful matriarch, Hazel, prolapsed and our vets came to sort her out;

despite bouncing back an infection took her and her lambs before they were born. This was a risk that the vet had told us about, but with the attention to detail we had put in we thought we had minimised this. It was a terrible start and we actually dreaded the start of lambing. However, once one of our ewes decided to lamb the rest followed suit rather quickly! Our ewes are very private and don't like to lamb in the presence of people; we set up cameras which showed them starting to make a nest, promptly stopping whenever someone checked on them, and then continuing when the coast was clear. Before long we had some lovely lambs on the ground and were feeling buoyed by the new arrivals. Then one of our ewes named Valency had a bad day and wasn't progressing as she should have been. Again, the vet was called and he confirmed our suspicions of ring-womb

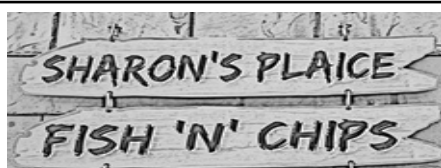


*sheep at Binty's Farm - photo taken in Spring*

(it's when the cervix doesn't dilate but the lambs still want to come!), and there is only one solution to this. A caesarean.

If you haven't already realised, farmers and smallholders don't just have one hat. We're bookkeepers, mechanics, builders, fencers, animal keepers, gardeners and, in this scenario, nurses. We're pretty good at adjusting to most scenarios and while our vet was getting all of his equipment ready we were quickly able to get all the supplies he needed for washing down and also get Valency into position. Caesareans on farm animals are done while they are awake, like in humans. If you're squeamish it

probably isn't something you want to watch, but if you are brave enough (and let's face it, when you're the one holding the sheep, what else are you going to do?) It is fascinating to watch. If you're reading this with a sandwich you'll be pleased about the lack of detail, but it didn't take long to retrieve two good-sized lambs and for them to be passed over to the nurses in waiting. As Valency was being sewn up and also rather high on painkillers it was down to us to get the lambs going. In place of the ewe licking we use bundles of straw to rub a little life into them. Being born is stressful enough, but arriving in this way is even more so for everyone



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involved. It wasn't long before the two lambs were up and about and shouting for their mother...who really didn't want to be disturbed. In fact, due to the nature of their arrival she hadn't realised that they were hers...one minute she was feeling terribly uncomfortable and the next she had two shouting small things demanding her attention. It took about a week before she accepted that the lambs were hers. That was a week of us holding her and making sure the lambs fed every few hours, a week of food bribery to get her to stand still and a week of worry just in case she got an infection like Hazel.

Six weeks on and you would never know what had happened – apart from Valency having a rather dodgy haircut! She loves her lambs and they are a proper little family, to say that we are relieved is an understatement. We now have eight new chaos-bringers to the flock; and think that we might have a year off lambing next

year! When you're breeding for fleece genetics are important and we need to see how well the current flock mature and what the quality of their fleece is like. Once we know this, we will know who moves into the breeding flock and who gets to retire into the fleece growing flock. Last year's lambs (affectionately known as The Rabble, as they are a bunch of rowdy teenagers) have grown wonderfully and produced some amazingly high-quality fleeces, but another year of lazy days and lack of responsibility will probably do them good. You can't rush some things and the things that need time are worth waiting for.

Anyway, it's not like we are short of jobs... we've still got to finish the vegetable patch, landscape part of the garden, relocate the bees to the orchard and build some new block compost bins. But first, there is cake, gin tea, and the rest of the Jubilee weekend ahead of us.

*Lara Pollard-Jones*

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# Everyone has a Story

"Today hav John and I bin wed this 3 yere and here I do set down all that I do every day."

So begins *The Diary of a Farmer's Wife 1796-7*, by Ann Hughes, an amalgam of her own observations and stories of the Herefordshire farming community, which she passed down to her daughter.

"Today I did do my butter maken. Leaving Sarah to cook most of the dinner... Sarah did burne thr dinner; like she always do, and John very cross therebye, he mislyking Sarahs cooken, so I sometimes have to let him think it is me. Men be pretty tiresome sometimes."

Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century the majority of the population was poor and illiterate, struggling to survive with no time to put down their thoughts, purchase of paper and ink a luxury beyond their means and, besides, what had they to say of any importance?

You could argue that Ann Hughes is a rarity, fortunate to have both the education and the commitment, unrepresentative of her class and time, yet her diary is pretty well all we have as a record of the daily life of ordinary people. Written with humour and passion, it is a record of local gossip, births, deaths and weddings, alarms and excursions, grinding hard work interspersed with enjoyable interludes: "It being late by this time

everrie boddie did start home, albeit sum a bit jerkie from so much wine drinking, and Master Ferris did say he was going to ride his horse backwards home for the tail was more to hold on to and so steadie him."

All too briefly, her tales ended. Her first pregnancy, and the increasing demands of running the household, made her lay it aside regretfully.

"I shall allus be glad that my own dear mother did let Mistress Prue show me how to rite and figure... All times I do wonder who will read my book and what will become of it. But I do hope that annie who do read it may be as happy a wife as I be. So now I say good bye to my book. for I shall have too much work to do to write agen."

In *The Blowhole* from time to time I have been privileged to receive, talk with and recount parts of the lives of several notable local residents.

These include John Tyerman Williams of Trethevy, author of *Winnie the Pooh and the Philosophers*, former teacher at Sir James Smith's who, one winter's day, when heavy snowfall prevented most of the staff attending, rode his horse to school.

Also Noel Ward, a former tea planter and Ghurka army officer who left me his pipe collection.

George Findlay, sometime Chair of the

Parish Council, proud at never having lived beyond parish borders.

And Jim Castling, former editor of *The Blowhole*, who with his dear wife Jane, set up a company called Divertimenti that predated Habitat by introducing European kitchen equipment to the UK, before buying Valency House and moving alongside Boscastle harbour.

Most lately, a lament for Molly Webber, a great village character, whose Christmas lunches and parties have passed into legend. We met first at Tredrizzick County Primary.

And an unsung hero: Ken Stanton-Nadin, who lent me his morning coat for a posh wedding and taking it to the dry cleaners afterwards I discovered his Military Cross in the breast pocket. Others told he was awarded it for bravery under fire when, as a young officer in Cyprus during Greek/Cypriot hostilities he rescued comrades when his column was ambushed. Yet from the man himself not a hint.

Now all gathered in the arms of angels.

A well-written obituary is an art form in itself and I have long enjoyed the fascination of lives chronicled in *The Times* or *Daily Telegraph*. But however skilfully and lovingly compiled they are necessarily second-hand accounts, not the living voice of the person.

Ordinary people often have extraordinary lives, their accounts providing the stuff of drama: whether it is the diary of Jewish schoolgirl Ann Frank, hiding from the Nazis, nurse Jennifer Worth (*Call the Midwife*), vet James Herriot (*All Creatures Great and Small*), traveller Laurence Durrell's life on Corfu, or journalist Christopher Isherwood's experiences in pre-war Berlin (*Cabaret*). These are not just recordings of great events. We learn of their hopes and fears, quirks and foibles. Although Comptroller of Charles II's navy, Samuel Pepys was preoccupied with a flighty wife and, seeing the Great Fire of London approach his house, buried his favourite parmesan in the garden. The great dictionary compiler Samuel Johnson used to

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## Everyone has a Story

continued

send out his manservant to buy oysters for his cat, Hodge.

Charity shops are cluttered with celebrity biographies or the memoirs of yesterday's politicians, supposedly lubricious yet disappointingly damp. They are not truthful, either to their audience, or themselves.

What then, is the authentic voice? It is heartfelt, plain & simple: the little boy in *Seven Up* asked if he would like to get married: "Say she cooks greens, and I don't like greens and she says you got to eat what you get give and that's it," he concludes miserably, must have had a domineering mother.

Or the faint but definite imprint of the author. In Christopher Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*, Barabas, the Jew, recalls a lost love, "but that was in another country and besides, the wench is dead." Not Barabas, Marlowe.

During the Second World War the civilian population was called up to fight on the home front. Despite the dangers and privations for many it was a life enhancing experience. One young girl, drafted to a remote part of Wales wrote, "Before joining the Woman's Land Army I worked for five long, dreary years in an office in Brixton, Always I dreamt of hills and stars and free green spaces and sometimes, bending over a ledger in springtime, I could actually smell the primrose of my imagination." (quoted from Norman Longmate's *How We Lived Then*.)

***The burden of my tale: let us have then, your reminiscences, for The Blowhole.***

CR

## Falcons on the Lawn

As well as table top sales a regular attraction on the Valency Lawn is **Jonathan Marshall** and his falconry displays. Jonathan is a renowned animal trainer and for the past thirty five years has appeared at equine events all over the world. His most public achievement, perhaps, is as trainer of Amadeus, the fine black stallion starring in the Lloyds Bank Black Horse advertisements.

With his partner **Rebecca Larkin**, who is a three times US Dressage gold medallist, they are currently based in Somerset. They married just a few weeks ago at St Winwalloe's church Poundstock. They operate during the winters from their farm near Barcelona, Catalonia, but have equal ties with the West Country, so we should see much more of them both in the future.

Jonathan has written and illustrated several books on falconry and equine management, as well as children's literature. He is currently completing *Amadeus: A Winter's Tale*, based on the exploits of his champion horse, just in time for Christmas.

Fans can access the full story of Jonathan's life and talents via his website and on the internet.

[jonathanmarshallshows.com](http://jonathanmarshallshows.com)





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# Opening Hours and Useful Numbers

## NatWest Bank

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

## Boscastle Nisa Store

**Tel: 01840 250419**

Cash machine during business hours

**Post Office facilities**

**Shop open daily at 6am**

## Cornish Stores

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

Home deliveries available

**Tel: 01840 250344**

## 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**

**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**

## Camelford Library and Information Service

Town Hall, Market Place, Camelford, PL32 9PD

**Tel: 0300 1234 111**

Mon & Tues: 10am - 4.30pm,

Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am - 1pm

Library renewals line: 0845 607 6119

camelford.library@liscornwall.org.uk

## Waste Tip, Bowithick Quarry

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

**Tel: 01840 770778**

**Open Friday to Monday: 9am – 4pm**

## Emergency Services:

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

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

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

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

## Local Hospitals:

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

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

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

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

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

## Local Churches:

Church of England 01840 250359

Methodist 01840 779339

Catholic 01840 770663

**Harbourmaster:** 01840 250200

## Parish Council:

Chairman: 01840 250529

Clerk: 01840 230609

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

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

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

**Community Centre Bookings:** 01840 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](http://www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk)



## WHERE HAVE ALL THE BUTTONS AND KNOBS GONE?

I'm a Buttons and Knobs person. This goes back to childhood. If you wanted to listen to a radio programme you turned it on with a click of the knob and twiddled another until you found the appropriate station. It was a voyage of discovery, a bit like a trip on the Orient Express as you passed through foreign stations hearing unfamiliar language, until you reached the well-known 'Riders of the Range'; 'Dick Barton - Special Agent' or 'The Man in Black' with Valentine Dyall - easily controlled with a knob.

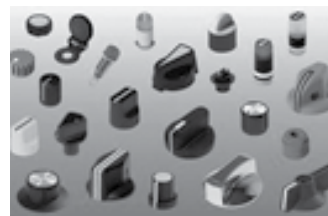
It appears that, now we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is an aversion to buttons and knobs, they are obsolete. I suspect this has been decided surreptitiously (nobody asked me!). It started with my replacement tumble-dryer. There was a button to start the machine and all I had to do was press it. However, it didn't appear to be up to the job of

switching the machine on, since the button made little movement and was almost flush with the machine. I got used to it, although all the time thinking 'can I trust it to keep working, since I can't hear any clicks?'

My next move away from familiar buttons and knobs, was the 'Google Nest'. Now, I never found myself talking to the radio, but to waken up the 'Nest' I say 'Hey Google' and I can ask it anything and it will reply. Like an eager dog, it is listening in the background to fulfil my every whim. So, imagine my surprise, on one occasion, when I hadn't asked it anything, to have the 'Nest' join in the conversation I was having with my daughter. The 'old school' radio would never have interrupted or joined in a conversation; it knew it's place. Who is the 'Nest' working for I'm wondering? Should I censor my future conversations?

Move on a few years and

my washing machine needs replacing. It is quickly installed, checked and the delivery guys talk me through the instructions (although there is a manual, fortunately not as huge as the Encyclopaedia Britannica, as, surprisingly, there are no endless foreign instructions included). The men leave and it's on with the first wash. Now, I always suspect that new machines know I am a novice and I am usually slightly nervous about switching them on. I seldom read instruction manuals before I start (do any of us?). Some manuals require a degree in engineering to understand them. Anyway, first wash in and - where the heck is the 'on' button? There isn't one - I am panicking. Will I make myself look a complete fool and ring the shop; call the delivery guys back or what? After pressing everything in sight I suddenly notice, written on the front right-hand side of the machine, 'Start/Pause' - no button,



no knob just writing. How does that work? The tumble dryer did have 'Start/Stop' written on it but that was above its button. Panic over, it did work, just by pressing the writing. Before Steve, the delivery man, left, he said I could use my 'Smart Phone' to switch the machine on (is my phone 'Smart', I don't think so). He did say, however, that he didn't know how the machine managed to put the washing into the drum on its own.

My Grandmother never had any issues with her reliable wash-board. Although she didn't have many 'labour-saving' gadgets, she was in complete control of all household equipment. I feel that my life is becoming too technical and the recent power cut showed just how reliant we have all become on technology - it's scary!

GQ



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# Harbour Master's News

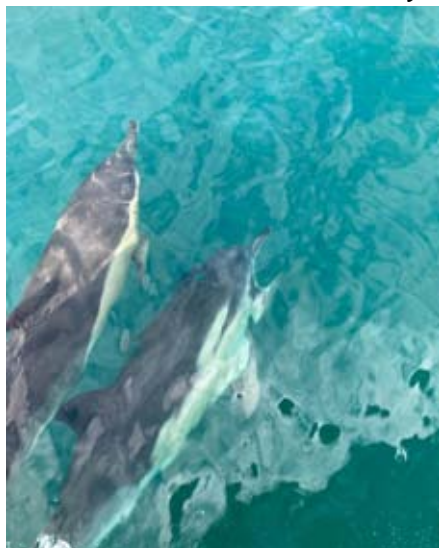
It was a slow start this year. I motored Rene up from Rock on the 13<sup>th</sup> April on a lovely flat spring day. We came with the flood tide and saw dolphin off Trebarwith and tied up in Boscastle mid-afternoon. Initially I got a dozen pots out and had some success early on but the fishing went pretty flat in May. There was some mackerel around which was encouraging but not really enough compared with past years. By the end of June we had 9 boats on their moorings and we have another 'Pirate' boat owned by Pete Templar.

Two or more big boats have been fishing heavily in the waters close to Boscastle this year and last which I think has diminished the stocks. I did however catch a very large lobster close to Beeny Sisters which was the largest I had seen in several years and weighed in at about six pounds. I managed a photo or two. By the end of June, the water temperature was above sixteen degrees and so we saw lots of swimmers together with paddle boarders and kayaks and a few occasional people launching from trailers.



I have seen reports on the press of avian flu decimating the population of sea birds in the Northeast. I have not seen any evidence of bird flu locally. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June I took my granddaughters Ezra and Romy to see the nesting site at Short Island. We saw numerous Auks including Razor bills, Guillemots and two Puffin swimming in the current with sand eels in their beaks. The Children were delighted.

*Chris Key*



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