



# BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 120 Winter 2022

£1



## *Cobweb Inn's First Shanty Festival a Huge Success*

*The Shanty Festival committee gave £4200 towards Forrabury Church repairs. L to R Trevor Lloyd, Simon Biddick, Jon Statton, Julie Pugh, Rev Heather Aston, Anita Edwards-Symons, Vernon Bright - see page 4 for full story*

**Also inside:** News from the Lookout page 8   Bosccastle School page 20   Useful Numbers page 38



## 300 Miles of Sea

How about this for the perfect Christmas present? Buy the latest Boscastle Buoys CD for only £12. The title track of the CD, 300 Miles of Sea was written and performed by the late great Chris Edwards, sorely missed by us all. Proceeds from the CD go to charity. Please contact Roger on 07773500635 or alternatively pop into the Napoleon Inn on a Tuesday night and listen to the Buoys give a live performance. The Buoys wish everyone all the best for Christmas and the New Year.



*Left to right: Nick Spurdens, Brenda Williams, Nick Arkell, Lin Spurdens, David Williams*

Back in October fundraisers for such an important cause. The four have been central to keeping this Branch running for nearly 30 years in total and up until very recently have been the mainstays behind all the collection boxes and other fundraising events. Covid and health have played a part in their era coming to an end, but we know that they will continue to support the Boscastle and District RNLI Branch.

We had a very pleasant evening chatting over past experiences relating to the RNLI and old friends and it was an honour to be able to present framed certificates to them all as thanks for their valued service. Our thanks also, to The King Arthur's

Arms who, very generously, provided a large and varied buffet and a room to host the presentations free of charge as a mark of their support and respect for all that the RNLI do within our community.

A new committee has now been formed and we are very pleased to have some of the old team still working with us so the branch is in safe hands.

We can always use help collecting in Tintagel, Crackington Haven, Boscastle and Trebarwith Strand. So, if you can spare a few hours every now and again we'd be really grateful!

You can call our helpline on 07908 738230 or e-mail us on [boscastleRNLI@gmail.com](mailto:boscastleRNLI@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.

*Neil Bridges*

## POP IN FOR PANCAKES

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023**  
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## Will Keating Concert

Forrabury church hosted Cornish folk singers Will Keating and John Dowling during their Candlelit Tour of 28 Cornish churches.

The concert was organized by Forrabury and Minster volunteers and was deemed to be a great success. Look out for a return visit by these very talented musicians to a church near you in 2023

## Christmas Trees

Cornwall Council is asking residents to think about how they will dispose of real Christmas trees before they buy one.

This year, in line with most other local authorities, Cornwall Council will only collect trees from households

that have subscribed to the garden waste collection service. If you do not have a garden waste subscription, you can chip and compost your tree at home or take it to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre for composting. If you do this, Cornwall Council advises that you use the opportunity to take other items to avoid multiple trips.

Please do not dump your trees in the carpark or elsewhere.

## Festive Shop Bingo & Light Switch On

A cold and crisp Saturday evening and there was a rumbling downtown. School children preparing for their carols, a flurry of shop bingo cards being

passed across shop counters to get a line for a mulled wine and the Boscastle Buoys trying to get their kit up in the pitch black!

A big thank you to all of those who ventured out to support Boscastle's late night shopping and Christmas tree light switch on – it was a huge crowd. The BCTC are grateful to the Boscastle Buoys and Boscastle School children who led a series of carols with a crowd next to the lobster pot Christmas "tree".

Well done to everyone involved!

## Boscastle Oil Ordering Group

Please could all members to keep a note of these dates for orders in 2023: Order from 1<sup>st</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> March for delivery in early April and order from 1<sup>st</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> September for delivery in early October. Our supplier is Hop Oil and they can be contacted on 01208 851195.

If you're new to the village and want to join the group in order to benefit from our 2 pence per litre discount you can either ring Hop Oil direct or call Myrna Lester on 01840 250520.

## Boscastle Panto

Get ready for mostly hotly awaited the production of 2023! The Boscastle Players are busy rehearsing their parts for the delightful and delectable experience they have in store for the New Year.

Mike Parsons writes: "This time the panto is 'Aladdin and Alisha Baba'. The script is the normal panto plot with a few Boscastle twists - as you would expect. It features, of course, heroes and villains (I wonder who they are and who will play them?), as well as a return of not one but two dames!

"We are planning five public performances to be held at Boscastle Village Hall, on the evenings of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of January; there will be an afternoon performance on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets go on sale at the beginning of December and are available from Boscastle Nisa and Boscastle Premier shops and the National Trust shop.

"We look forward to seeing you all in January."

As usual, refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle.



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## Boscastle STOMPS its mark on the Cornish Shanty Circuit!

With the Autumn sun shining brightly over the weekend long event, the first Boscastle Shanty Festival, hosted at the Cobweb Inn was a thigh slapping and foot stomping musical success. Raising a massive £8400 for the chosen charities of the late Ivor Bright – Forrabury Church repairs and Chris Edwards – Kennedy's Disease UK.

Dates have already been set for next November, with bands clampering to be invited along, such as the brilliant atmosphere.

People travelled the length and breadth of the county and indeed country to attend and support. It all kicked off on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November evening with Cobweb Crew, Boscastle Buoys and Bude Band Cousin Jack. A rousing "Shanty Shout" followed and the foundations were set for an awesome weekend.

Saturday continued from midday till late with back-to-back bands every hour. Ditto Sunday but with the added

inclusion of a few words of Remembrance by priest in charge, Heather Aston. With the arrival of the allegedly "surprise guests" the Fisherman's Friends, the party was in full-swing and the Cobweb festival tent was truly rocking! With raffle and auction prizes peppered throughout the 2 days, including a brand new iPad worth over £300, The Countrymen closed the event bands sessions and the last Shanty Shout(s) lasted late into the evening...when the rain finally gave out.

The members of the Boscastle Shanty Festival committee have been blown away by the support



*The Port Isaac Gulls on stage at the festival*

and generosity of so many people and businesses. With less than 6 weeks' notice, you've all helped in such amazing ways be it time, donations, support, raffle and auction prizes, transport etc etc. There are too many people to thank, however **"Thank you all so very very much"**. What

a fantastic tribute to two wonderful characters and example of community spirit for the village. No doubt Ivor & Chris would have been clinking beer glasses and celebrating the success. Well done One & All ... roll on next year!

*Cheers,  
Anita*



*The Cobweb Crew launch the Shanty Festival with a rousing song*



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## Thank You #1



There are no words to say how amazed we were once again this year for the support of everyone who came for our Macmillan breakfasts and quiz night.

We know how hard things are for so many people this year and are truly humbled by your generosity and support.

Together we raised a totally fabulous £1511 for this great charity. Many in the village (including me) have had their help either as a cancer sufferer, survivor or friend or family member, they are there to support whoever needs them which is why we do this event each year.

So, once again, THANK YOU and we look forward to seeing

you all again for our 2023 Macmillan coffee morning/Breakfast you are all AMAZING!!!

*Beccy Dallow*

## Thank You #2

Following a most successful Sea Shanty Festival at The Cobweb, the Rector and Churchwarden Trevor Lloyd were delighted to receive a cheque for the amazing sum of £4,200 donated in Ivor Bright's name to go towards Forrabury church roof repairs.

The Rev Heather would like to thank the Shanty Festival Team for this most generous gift.



*The late Ivor Bright and Chris Edwards chatting in the Cobweb*

## Pop In Pops Up Again

Many will have happy memories of Pop In, the Thursday morning sessions in the Village Hall where people could drop in for a brew, a bun, and plenty of banter. Sadly it was shelved when Covid lock down started.

The good news is that it's back, and better than before!

On Thursdays, from December 15<sup>th</sup> onwards, the hall will be open from 09.00 to 15.00 to provide

a warm meeting place - something that many of us may find helpful in these difficult times.

Morning and afternoon tea/coffee and biscuits will be available, with hot soup and a roll at lunchtime, this is all free of charge.

Everyone is welcome come alone or come with a friend, So please pop in and have a look. If you would like to join our team of helpers please enquire at one of the gatherings.

## Beep! Beep!

### Community trip planner needed



The community minibuss operates on a permit from the Department of Transport that covers a provision for community trips. The CIC have struggled to get this element of the permit moving successfully due to varying factors. We have run a number of trips in the past, including visits to; Heligan Gardens, RHS Rosemoor, Killerton House, Exeter, Plymouth, Wadebridge, Bude, IKEA, Padstow. Passenger numbers were rising but then COVID and the trips were abandoned.

However, the CIC is looking to re-establish this vital part to the project again. If you have some spare time to plan and organise trips for the CIC, please contact the minibuss manager on 07506944622 as we would love to get the minibuss moving early in 2023.

Additionally, if you were a frequent community passenger or

would like to be, look out for more information about upcoming trips on the community noticeboards, the CIC's social media or our website [www.boscastlecic.co.uk/minibus](http://www.boscastlecic.co.uk/minibus)

## Used Postage Stamps

Used UK and foreign stamps are still needed so please continue to leave them in the boxes at Tintagel and Boscastle surgeries or pop them into my front porch at 8 Pentargon Road. Unwanted albums or collections are very welcome and these, too can be left in my front porch or I can collect if necessary – ring me on **01840 250520** to arrange. Since the last Blowhole I sent off a box to the RNIB which was worth over £40 to them so thank you for your continued support.

*M Lester*



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## New Business on Old Road



*Christine outside Pyramid Therapy*

A 'Welcome to the village' for newcomers Christine and Andy Towle, who moved to the village from Hastings, East Sussex.

Christine, a qualified complementary therapist, has just opened her business, Pyramid Therapy, in Old Road, Boscastle. She offers a range of holistic treatments to help combat a variety of conditions, and looks forward to offering a service to the local community.

In Sussex, Christine worked in a local hospice

as well as running her own practice. "I worked with a team of complementary therapists, providing adapted holistic treatments to help alleviate the side affects of chemotherapy and to improve palliative care. I learnt so much during my time at the hospice, both professionally and personally, and I am hoping to get the opportunity to continue that work in and around Boscastle".

Christine's husband, Andy, is an antiques dealer and continues to

run his business 'Eras of Style' from home, as well as through a selection of antique warehouses in Lincolnshire, Sussex and Devon. He said "After 27 years of visiting north Cornwall during the wild and windy winter months, we are delighted to finally be living and working here in Boscastle. We always hoped to one day take the plunge and relocate. The local community have been so friendly and supportive, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to make Boscastle our home"

## Electric Vehicle Charging

### *CIC gets green light to install EV charging*

Over a year of negotiations and the CIC and Cornwall Council have agreed the terms and conditions for the provision of electric vehicle charging in the car park of Boscastle. The speed at which the project has taken is entirely the fault of Cornwall Council who often had to regroup

their ducks as they had waddled off from being in a row! More importantly, Boscastle did NOT feature in the Council's 150 electric vehicle charge points funding scheme announced earlier in the year so, without the CIC's involvement, this infrastructure would continue to be lost to residents and visitors.

Whilst the Council's service director's final email stated that "this project can now conclude at speed", we are awaiting the lease to get on with the job. Residents who are interested in using the EV charging scheme are encouraged to look at the CIC's website for more information and the company's directors will consider subsidy where financially possible. The CIC is hoping for the installation to be completed in the Spring of 2023.

For more information on the work of the CIC please see online at:

[www.boscastlecic.co.uk](http://www.boscastlecic.co.uk)



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Cornwall Advanced Drivers have teamed up with the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner to launch a road accident reduction project called Vision Zero South-West. Cornwall Advanced Drivers has received funding to train up to 20 young Cornish-resident car drivers under the age of 25 up to the IAM Advanced Driver test standard. Sadly, it is this age group that regularly features amongst the highest in road casualties and therefore who would benefit most from further training to teach responsible and safe driving but whilst still getting the most out of their driving enjoyment.

The project works as follows: you pay for the Advanced Driver Course direct with the IAM via their website [www.iamroadsmart.com](http://www.iamroadsmart.com) currently costing £175.00. For this you get one year's membership of both IAM and Cornwall Advanced Drivers, a course manual, one to one training in your own car with one of our highly qualified observers to reach the standard ( a



maximum of 10 sessions applies but 5-7 are normally enough). Finally the test fee is also included so all in all a very good deal. If the candidate passes then the £175 is refunded. This could make an ideal Christmas present from parents as Gift Vouchers are available via the same website.

If you are over the age of 25 and are interested in becoming an Advanced Driver we offer free evaluation sessions with a qualified Advanced Driving Tutor who will watch the way you drive and offer any suggestions and tips for improvement. Over the years, we all pick up bad habits in our driving so the Advanced Driving course is an excellent way of ironing these out to make us better drivers on roads but particularly in our Cornwall that has some very challenging roads and conditions at times.

But hurry to book a place on our young driver project as places are strictly limited. If you are interested in the above and want to discuss it, please contact John Simpson on: 07485 192208

[johnsimpson@iam-cornwall.org.uk](mailto:johnsimpson@iam-cornwall.org.uk)

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Neil Bridges

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## News from the Lookout

As is often the case at this time of year, it's been a bit quiet up at the lookout recently, apart from the nearby lightning strike that damaged our phone line and knocked out our router! Nothing like the damage from the direct hit that the Lookout took on New Year's Eve 2015. It was inconvenient, but watchkeeping was able to carry on as usual, but without our landline or internet connection for a few days, using mobiles instead.

Our AGM falls in October and this year it saw a notable "changing of the guard". Chris Reeves has been our Training

Officer for many years and before that she was our Treasurer. There are only a couple of members who have served longer than her 16 years, and this year she decided to stand down from the Committee due to health reasons. This resulted in Paul Scudds taking over as Training Officer and James Bragger taking over from Paul as Buildings and Equipment Officer. Apart from his knowledge and skills, a side benefit of James joining the Committee is that it has lowered the average age a good few notches.

Any regulars up on the headland will notice a change to the South wall of the Lookout - there is now a defibrillator mounted there. It will be there, ready for use 24 x 7, however there is no truth in the rumour that its presence is really a response to the age and health of our watchkeepers! Nevertheless, it was largely funded by the collection at the funeral of one of our watchkeepers, Mervyn Fudge, who died

unexpectedly earlier this year.

In many ways winter is a good time to start a watchkeepers training. There may be far fewer boats out on the water, but that means there is more time to gain the basic knowledge and skills that will be needed once things get busier in the spring and the trainees have a good chance of becoming a fully qualified watchkeeper in time for the summer when we need enough members to man 3 x 4 hour watches every day. Should you be interested visit the lookout and have a chat with the watchkeepers or

contact Chris Evans, the Station Manager on 01566 781449.

As part of our "new roof" project, we have had to have an ecological survey to check that we would not be disturbing any bats that were roosting in the Lookout. We, the watchkeepers, see a lot of flying creatures while on watch but never any bats! Happily, the survey confirmed there were no bats present, mind you it has been suggested that the survey may have been flawed since some of our members are thought to be more than a little batty!

*Phil Brown*

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

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 Inarticulate = Lorry Driver In Queue At Dover  
 Condensing = Prisoner Going Downstairs  
 Scold = It's Chilly  
 Skimp = A Little Devil  
 Bigamist = Widespread Fog  
 Slumber = Sleep Like A Log  
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# My Christmas Pudding Recipe

Everyone has their own version of this gorgeous pudding. I am only sorry that we tend to eat it only once in twelve months. I don't suppose we really have to make it a yearly event, but we almost invariably do. Here is my own version, which is coarse textured, fruity, sticky, dark and oozing with liqueurs. It is not the traditional pudding, but is delicious and wickedly rich, so a little goes a long way. It is not a spicy pudding.

## Ingredients:

110g self-raising flour  
110g fresh white breadcrumbs  
110g ground almonds  
200g sultanas  
200g stoned raisins (muscatels if possible)  
200g whole glace cherries  
100g crystallised apricots  
100g crystallised ginger (the kind in syrup)  
100g whole cap peel finely chopped  
200g Barbados sugar  
110g cold hard unsalted butter  
3 medium eggs  
Half a pint sweet strong ale such as barley wine

Juice and rind of 1 lemon and 1 orange  
4 tablespoons Benedictine or Drambuie or Grand Marnier

Grate the butter. Beat the eggs. Grate the orange and lemon rind and squeeze the juice and add to the beer and liqueur. Combine all the dry ingredients. Mix well with the liquids. Put into buttered basins, cover with greaseproof paper and foil and steam for five hours for the first steaming, and then a further three hours on the day of eating. Once the puddings are cool, remove the foil and greaseproof paper and cover with a fresh piece of greaseproof. At this state I usually give mine a good drink of brandy. The quantity given above makes three medium sized puddings – one for my sister, one for us on Christmas Day, and one to keep for a surprise later in the year.

Pat Thorne



Rainfall totals measured in millimeters in Boscastle SX 09697 90138		
	October 2022	November 2022
Days with zero rainfall	5	5
Max daily rainfall in millimeters	4.2	29.6
Date maximum daily rain fell	22 <sup>nd</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Monthly total rainfall in mm	140.8	253.8
Total rainfall same month in 2021	191	65.2

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# NEWS FROM A SMALLHOLDING

It wasn't that long ago that we were writing our last article, and things are still underway with work (as always!) We thought we'd take this time to reminisce and tell a little story about turkeys. So put your feet up, grab a drink and if you're ready, we'll begin...

A few years ago, before we moved to Boscastle, we decided to have a go at rearing some turkeys. We'd had chickens for years and hatched our own chicks, so it seemed a sensible progression. At this time we had enough garden space to rear them through their infancy and then a good sized section of one of the sheep fields to allow them to grow. It was the perfect idea.

After a little bit of research our chosen breed was Norfolk Black, a heritage breed which originally came from Europe becoming a popular bird for Norfolk farmers to rear – hence the name. They were also slightly smaller than their Bronze brethren which would mean that they

(theoretically) would be easier to handle. We picked up the turkeys when they were a few days old; yellow, fluffy and cheeping away. To say they were cute would be an understatement. The dog cage that we had set up for them seemed huge, we'd had to cover the lower parts of it as they were small enough to squeeze through the gaps in bars and go skittering across the kitchen floor. They settled in very quickly and would feast on little heaps of scrambled eggs before falling asleep in a pile under their heat lamp. On this diet along with chick crumbs they grew quickly and at six weeks old were eating around half a kilogram of food a day plus an egg each. They grew almost as quickly as they learnt...

Turkeys can appear to be a little bit slow on the uptake, but they are naturally inquisitive creatures and if something piques their attention they will make sure to investigate it fully. They quickly got used to the

daily routine and worked out just when to throw themselves at their little door to escape and zoom around the kitchen like small dinosaurs. They had a very clear pack mentality and we're pretty sure that some days they were more similar to velociraptors than turkeys – if you've ever tried to catch a young turkey that thinks everything is a game you'll understand. They also learned that the noise of saucepans often meant eggs...and when it actually meant something else there would be a dissatisfied chorus of cheeps and chirrups! It didn't take them long to have us trained to cook for them while we were making our own food.

Soon, they needed to explore the outside world and though they were still too small to live outside, they came back\* to their dog cage in the evening.

They loved the garden. It didn't take them long to suss out where the vegetable border was and they decided that under the courgette leaves was a perfect place to doze. When they weren't sleeping, they were harassing the chickens through the fence, trying to get back into the kitchen and generally behaving like toddlers. If there was silence you knew they were up to something! It wasn't uncommon to turn around to find a turkey balancing precariously on a windowsill or trying to get in through the cat flap. On a chicken related note; we always kept the two species separate. Housing them together would have been much easier but hens can carry a disease known as *Blackhead* which is fatal to turkeys.

Finally, we decided that the posse were large enough to fend for themselves and move out to the field. This had nothing to do with one of them stealing a bacon sandwich as we were

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*Gobbles keeping watch from her cosy pouch*

gardening one morning or with one of them jumping on a workbench and upending an entire toolkit over the shed...but that may have been taken into consideration! We built a large run for them behind the field shelter and procured a shed which we fitted with a 'turkey flap' and some very sturdy perches. There were lots of

things for them to jump on (posts, IBCs, the shed...) as well as a huge area of grass and a dusty area for bathing. They continued to grow, and eat. By now the males of the bunch were gobbling and they were becoming protective of the females – our little chickadees were adults now!

During this entire time

there was one turkey that wasn't growing as well as the others. There is commonly a runt in most groups and we called her Gobbles. Gobbles was the happiest turkey of the bunch, despite being around a third of the size of the rest. She didn't have the speed or size for causing top-level carnage but had worked out that she was still small enough to squeeze out of the cage bars if she stood on top of the little house and really forced herself through. As her friends carried on growing and she remained small, someone decided to take her to the vets...at this point it was already decided that she was a pet! The diagnosis was that the tendons in her legs were displacing (not an uncommon thing in meat birds) and this meant she wasn't always able to fight for food or stand for long periods of time. So we did the sensible thing, we got her supplements (manganese helps) and strapped her legs so she could thud around with

the others. They bullied her relentlessly so she came to work in her own little box, sat in a knitted turkey-pouch for warmth and fell asleep next to the keyboard when she was bored of pecking the keys.

For the posse of turkeys, this story ends as you would expect, and yes, we did cry. We were involved at every stage; from day old chicks to carving on Christmas day and we're glad of this. It is very important to know where our food comes from and it is our responsibility to make sure that the animals are treated well throughout their lives. The turkeys brought a constant state of chaos to the house and garden and have given us many tales to recount since! They are also the reason that we currently have a 'no turkeys' rule at Binty's Farm...though we're petitioning for it to be lifted next year!

*\*This is a total lie, we spent a good amount of time playing 'find the turkey' and 'chase the turkey' at bedtime.*

*Lara Pollard-Jones*

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**HETAS**

## David Ferrett

clerk@forraburyminsterparishcouncil.org.uk

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Council held a minute's silence in memory of Dave Ferrett, a long-serving parish councillor who held the post of Chair and Vice Chair for many years. He will be sadly missed by his fellow parish councillors

## Community Speedwatch Volunteers Needed

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to join a Community Speedwatch Group to help enforce our local speed limits. Each year the Council receives many complaints from residents about speeding traffic on our roads. In response, the Council recently purchased a mobile electronic speed sign which tells drivers if they are going too fast and also records the vehicle speeds. Whilst this shows the average speed of vehicles is between 20-30mph, the sign has recorded some vehicles exceeding the previous 30mph limit, with some going 40-50mph, which is a concern for all. The speed sign also shows a reduction in the average speed when it is operational in the area.

Our Cornwall Councillor Barry Jordan has helped set up community

speedwatch groups elsewhere and has offered to help us get our own group started. If you are concerned about the speed of traffic through our village, you can now do something about it by joining the new group. Volunteers will receive training and equipment and are supported by the local police.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact the clerk of the Parish Council for more information.

## Castle Site

As part of its Monumental Improvement Project, Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) plans to commence a geophysical survey of the Castle Site in January/February 2023. This is to find out and map what is underneath the soil without disturbing the ground. They expect a team of 2-3 people to be able to do this in a day, using Ground Penetrating Radar systems. As the ground to be surveyed needs to be clear of vegetation, the Council are liaising closely with Cornwall AONB in advance of the work to prepare for this.

## Play Area

The new seesaw and swings are now in place and ready for use. Repairs and maintenance have also been carried out on other pieces of equipment. The Council is committed to further improvements at the Play Area in 2023 and plans to hold a public consultation in February to discuss these and listen to residents' views. The Council has applied to Cornwall Council for a grant from its Community Infrastructure Levy Fund towards the work and is awaiting the outcome.

## Paradise Triangle

As mentioned in the previous Blowhole, the Parish Council is keen to tidy up the area known as Paradise

Triangle, at the junction of Barnpark Road and Paradise Road on both sides of Paradise Road. Since then, the Chairman has met with 2 local contractors to discuss this and the Council hope to be able to award a contract for the work at its January meeting.

The work will involve the removal of large overgrown shrubs, removal of brambles, removal of the sycamore tree and trimming back other trees as required. There will also be some grass re seeding and appropriate new planting. The aim is to improve the visual appearance of the area for local residents and make it an attractive 'gateway' for visitors coming to our village.

## Defibrillator

Due to deterioration of the cabinet, the Parish Council's defibrillator was recently moved into the Nisa store. Although this restricted its availability to the store opening hours, it enabled it to still be available for use. The defibrillator itself is becoming obsolete, so the Council has purchased a new one and a new cabinet which will shortly be installed. This will ensure this vital service is available 24/7 in the lower village, just as the WI Defibrillator is at the Premier Stores in the Upper Village.



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# LOVELY LEAVES AND BEAUTIFUL BARK

This glorious autumn is giving way to winter, bringing with it rain and wind and taking away the last of the leaves. Trees that hang on to their canopy late into autumn in my garden include American oak, which turns a glorious shade of gold; and Liquidambar, whose leaves are a palette of burnt treacle shading to deep mulberry and eventually almost black. As the days darken the trees go out in a blaze of glory, leaving only their stark outlines against the sky – and that's where colourful trunk and bark comes into its own.

I love the brilliant white of paperbark birch on a sunny January afternoon; or the striated trunk of Snake-bark maple, or Tibetan cherry with its lovely red peeling bark. I have three birches in the island bed in my garden (*see photo*), Grayswood Ghost, bought from Endsleigh Nursery twenty years ago. They really brighten up a winter day and just like a favourite view, you never tire of looking at them. There's little chance or inclination come to that,



to go out and actually do some work in the garden but although it might be frightful outside, that's just an opportunity to plan what you're going to do next year.

December & January are the traditional months for placing your seed orders. You may well have favourite varieties, but it's an opportunity to try new ones, compare their performance and perhaps

set new must-haves. We're lucky to have a good discount on our packets of seed, onion sets and potato orders at Juliotter Garden club because the club runs a seed ordering scheme with a big supplier.

There's not a lot you can plant out in December but

if you've not got round to it, you could put out hard-neck garlic corms direct (although I usually start mine off in jiffy pots or root trainers in the greenhouse first). They actually benefit from a period of cold, which prompts growth later. Garlic doesn't like to sit in water, so if your soil is heavy and holds water, try dibbing a hole with an old spade handle or suchlike. Put about an inch of sand into the base and plant the clove on top, filling above with fine compost. This ensures good drainage and stops rotting. They do say that onions sown towards the end of the month make better plants, but I've never had a lot of luck with sowing from seed and prefer to wait until the sets arrive in January. What I'm really saying is there's not a lot to get on with outside so cuddle up in front of the fire with your tempting seed catalogues. And above all have a Happy Christmas and a successful gardening New Year.

*Pat Thorne*

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# A Brush with Danger: Part 3

*...to continue the topic 'Interesting Lives' suggested by Mr Rodda:*

After leaving school, my first job of work was clerk at the Bank of Scotland. The branch, to which I was assigned, was situated in the suburbs of Edinburgh. It was a mainly residential area, with just a couple of shops, a post office and a police box – like the Tardis – and was located at a cross roads. One road led to a housing estate.

The bank was an old Edwardian building with a large open waiting area, a long wooden counter with a metal railing affair around the two tellers' counters and, a fixed desk behind a partition, for the accountant. My desk was behind the tellers' 'cages' with frosted glass obscuring me from the public's view. The manager's office was a separate room to the side of our enclosed area. There was frosted glass on the exterior windows with 'Bank of Scotland' etched into them.

There were five employees – Mr Callender, the Manager; Mr Watson,

the accountant; Bruce and Alex, the two male tellers and me, the junior. All through one summer, Bruce (the younger of the two tellers) had been sent on relief, to cover holiday leave at various Scottish branches around the country. He was very pleased when, one week, Alex got the short straw (as Bruce thought) and now Bruce could go home at the end of each working day. 'Be careful what you wish for' seems to be an apt thought here.

This particular Saturday morning (all banks were open on Saturday mornings in those days.) the sun was shining, our wandering teller, Bruce, was looking forward to a game of golf, planned for the afternoon, and I would be boarding a train, later that day, to visit my aunt in Fife (or so I thought). We were all in a happy mood, anticipating our Saturday afternoon off.

Around 11.0 am two customers entered the bank – a middle-aged lady

with her young son and the local butcher – to deposit his takings. Suddenly, close on their heels, there was a third customer. Never taking their eyes off the newcomer, the first three people shuffled backwards. This placed him (for it was a man) at the front of the queue. Mr Watson slowly rose from his stool. The man aggressively snapped '**Sit down**'. A bag was thrust towards Bruce. '**Fill it up**', he barked. Bruce's face was ashen. Slowly, he started to place bank notes into the bag. '**Hurry up**' snarled the voice. Now Bruce's face flushed crimson. His movements quickened. From my position behind Bruce's 'cage', it was like watching a play. I had not seen his gun (yes, obviously, he had a gun) It was the reactions of those who could see it that told me that I should stay where I was.

He left, telling us not to follow him. All Hell broke out. The customers were in shock. Bruce was in shock. The accountant rushed to the manager's office. He flung the door open, startling Mr Callender. '**Ring the police**', he shouted. I ran

to peer through the 'Bank of Scotland' etching on the frosted window glass. He must have had an accomplice waiting for him, since he was on the passenger side of a car. He was staring at the door of the bank, before getting into the car. It drove towards the housing estate. Within just a few minutes, he had walked out of the bank with £3000 -- a substantial amount in the early 1960s. (As a junior clerk, my wage was £4 a week.)

The police arrived and we gave statements. He was medium height, with a cap on, just an ordinary looking guy. We were driven to Edinburgh's main police station, where we spent most of the afternoon looking at pages and pages of 'mug shots', without recognising him. Unsurprising, since, when in the bank, he had some sort of face covering on. When we were allowed to leave, I went into the city centre where news of the robbery was emblazoned across the bill boards. The public's comments were both amusing and irritating, with many suggestions on what we



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could have done to stop him and wondering how much money he walked away with.

It was unnerving when we realised that **HE** must have been watching **US**, before he carried out the robbery. The car had been stolen the night before and, after the theft, had been

ditched in the housing estate. For quite some time later, I kept looking over my shoulder, on my way to work, to see if I was being followed. He was never caught and I often wondered what he spent the £3,000 on.

GQ

# S.A.S

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### Boscastle Coastguard's Update

Thankfully, there is little news from Boscastle Coastguard for this edition however training continues.

A big thank you to Delabole Community Fire Station for having us at the station and talking us through their kit and capabilities. This improves our understanding of what the local fire service has to offer if we ever need help along the coast or even working together during

floods etc. Thanks again, and hopefully see you soon, when it's our turn to show off our kit and capabilities.



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**Crossword Answers:**

**Across:** 6 Chets Special, 8 Shift, 9 Scholar, 11 Rook, 13 Port, 14 Paris, 15 Break a leg, 16 Strap, 18 Game of two halves, 20 Brother, 22 A cop out, 23 Arts, 24 Ruthless, 26 See 12d, 27 Duck, 29 Adder, 30 Self Defence

**Down:** 1 Accord, 2 Set your stall out, 3 Apes, 4 Gallop, 5 Outstanding, 7 Shipshape, 10 Hades, 12 & 26a Take to the cleaners, 16 Slap up meal, 17 Police, 19 Starred, 20 Barbers, 21 Rose, 25 Lucid, 26 Corn, 28 Try

# Church and Chapel

## *A Methodist Minister's View*

At the beginning of a New Year, we all probably in our thinking and conversations look back over the past year and then express our hopes and aspirations for the year which lies ahead.

As you look back over 2022 you may well be alarmed that we have conflict on European soil in the Ukraine which is a situation you probably did not think would arise. In our own country we have had three Prime Ministers within a short period of time and are experiencing a more difficult economic situation because of it. Add to this the current discontentedness of various groups of employees – the postal workers, railway

staff, Nurses, University lecturers – with other groups intimating potential industrial action. Amidst all of this we have experienced the passing of our long-serving Queen and the coming of King Charles III to the throne.

All of the above is happening in an era of economic recession, high inflation and increasing interest rates in the international banking world. Meanwhile a number of people are experiencing the issues associated with our housing crisis, an increasing number are using foodbanks, and many are finding it difficult to make ends meet. All of this has been our experience in 2022 and we take it with us into 2023.

It is a worrying situation which has been created by a number of factors and will need a great deal of wisdom to be exercised by those in government and positions of responsibility.

As I was thinking in these terms, I recalled some words written by the prophet Micah some 2,700 years ago addressed to his contemporaries who were experiencing being dominated by a foreign power – the Assyrians. He encouraged all the people to follow God's way – to act justly, show constant love and live in humble fellowship with God (see Micah 5 verse 8). He advocated that God's Way would lead to peace between nations such that 'swords could become

ploughs, and spears pruning knives (see Micah 4 verse 3). In our language that might be Missiles into Combine Harvesters and tanks into tractors. What a change this would be if it could be realised, but its realisation starts with the response of each one of us.

What do you wish for 2023? What are your aspirations for the New Year?

Every blessing as you ponder these things.

Happy New Year to you all.

*Bryan Ede*



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### From The Rectory

This time last year we were hoping that the new year would bring better health and prospects for us all as we came out of the clutches of the pandemic. However, that was a short-lived hope as the unlawful invasion of Ukraine has impacted the whole world, resulting in the disruption of food and fuel supplies. The subsequent rise in the cost of fuel and the steep rise in the cost of living are causing great anxiety and hardship in our communities. We are thankful for all those who continue to support the work of the local Foodbanks and Pantry and Cornwall Christmas Box appeal.

We are opening up Boscastle Village Hall, all day, for **every** Thursday throughout the Winter, starting from 15 December. It is an expansion of the pre-lockdown 'Pop in' to enable people to come into a warm place to enjoy a hot drink, a chat, a hot soup lunch, and to spend social time together. There will be no charge for this as we wish it to be available for everyone.

As we approach Christmas there are a number of opportunities to celebrate this holy time by joining us at one of the many Carol/Christingle/Crib services across the twelve churches in this Benefice. Do join us at one of these to hear the traditional story of the first Christmas, to sing some carols, and to give thanks to God. Also do look out for some of the characters

in the Christmas story as they travel around our villages on their way to Bethlehem.

You are warmly invited to join us in Church this Christmas. Details of all services in the Benefice can be found on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com).

All are welcome to the Christmas services times of which are shown below.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus who came as a light to shine in the darkness other in these difficult times.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace the Christ-Child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you this Christmas time and evermore. Amen

*The Reverend Heather Aston*

### Star Festival

Forrabury Church put on a very successful Star Festival in church at the end of November. Profits from this event were shared between the upkeep of Forrabury and Minster Churches, and St Petrocs in Truro, who support the homeless in Cornwall.

The church was filled with hundreds of stars – too many to count – and visitors were able to purchase star themed presents and decorations, whilst enjoying a hot drink and some homemade cake.

Boscastle school children produced some lovely poems, and made a

lot of wicker stars for us to display. (see photo on page 21)

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to stage this festival; and also to all those who donated, or lent us, stars to decorate the church, or made financial donations to the event.

If you visit Forrabury church this Christmas you can still see some of the stars shining brightly.



*photos thanks to the Rev Heather and Gillian Schultz*

### Church Christmas Services

**Thursday 22 Dec:** 1600 Forrabury Carol Service

**Christmas Eve Sat 24 Dec:** 1100 Minster Communion Service;  
1500 Crackington beach Crib Service; 1500 Tintagel Crib Service  
1700 Lesnewth Carol Service; 2330 St Gennys Midnight Mass  
2330 Tintagel Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day Sunday 25 Dec:** 0900 Forrabury and Zoom  
Christmas Communion; 1100 Warbstow Christmas Communion

# A New Interest

On a clear night, Dear Reader, I can watch Lundy's South Lighthouse winking at me - a quick white flash every 5 seconds. I had never considered that maintenance is a regular feature for these essential towers, vital to shipping, until my son-in-law changed his job.

Paul had been head chef on a Stena ferry for many years and this year decided he needed a change. He applied to the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) for a position as chef and was successful. The family immediately became interested in lighthouses and the destination of Paul's ship, the Northern Lighthouse Vessel *Pharos*. With the aid of the app 'Marine Radar', we are able to track the NLV *Pharos* and discover places we never knew existed, gaining interesting bits of information along the way.

Writer Robert Louis Stevenson's forebears were the engineers who built most of the lighthouses around Scotland, to the relief of passing mariners, many of which stand proud

today. The NLB 's area of responsibility *'covers half the waters and coastline of the United Kingdom, including the majority of offshore manned oil installations'*. The lighthouses were automated in the second half of the last century (so no chance of a repeat of the *\*Keepers of Flannan Isles Mystery*). On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1998, Fair Isle South - located between Orkney and Shetland - became the last manned lighthouse, bringing 211 years of the tradition of Lighthouse Keeping to an end. The next modernisation plan, for the lighthouses, is to install solar power.

So, where are these newly discovered places of which I spoke? There is Muckle Flugga, which is not 'muckle' by any stretch of the imagination ('muckle' is Scots for 'big'); but apparently, the name comes from the Old Norse - Mikla Flugey, meaning *large steep-sided island*. This lighthouse, located off the coast of Shetland, stands 'precariously on a series of sharp rocks' and was purposely built to



NLV *Pharos*

protect ships heading to the Crimea War. Muckle Flugga lighthouse was automated in 1995 (140 years after its construction) and thus ended the difficulties of life on the lighthouse, for the men assigned to it.

The technicians who carried out Muckle Flugga's maintenance had to be helicoptered on to the island, as NLV *Pharos* was unable to get near enough for them to land. Because of bad weather, the technicians were stuck on the island for three days. I hope they took plenty of provisions with them.

NLV *Pharos*' base is Oban (Gaelic for 'little bay'), where her sister ship, NLV *Pole Star*, is

also berthed. From Oban, and since Paul joined the ship, the NLV *Pharos* has visited Stornoway, in the Outer Hebrides; Scrabster, in Caithness; the sea loch Eriboll near Durness and Stromness and Kirkwall in Orkney (where NLV *Pharos* was berthed 2 minutes ago). Although they appear to be concentrating on lighthouses in the north of Scotland, the area, covered by the NLB, is from Shetland to the Isle of Man.

I could never have imagined that Paul's new job would open up a fresh interest for me. With the internet providing information on all his destinations, I can visit them without worrying

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about catching Covid, perfect! Now when I see Lundy lighthouse, I will think of those men who carry out regular maintenance on the lighthouses, to keep sailors safe around our coasts.

\*'Keepers of Flannan Isles Mystery' – three keepers went missing from Flannan Isle lighthouse without explanation. Their absence was discovered on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1900, when a captain sailing by noticed that the light was out on the lighthouse. Their disappearance has never been explained and the mystery has provided a theme for television, film, opera and poetry with many theories on their disappearance.

GQ



*top to bottom: school star table at Forrabury church; the children assemble ready to sing their Christmas songs; Boscastle's famous lobster pot tree lights up the December night*





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The party was a fun end to busy week and it was great so many children were there enjoying themselves. A big thank you to the School Association for all your hard work, and to Tracy Partrick for providing the tunes.



Also, a big thank you to Louise and Richard Smith for their kind donation of a Cornish Christmas tree which looks lovely in the playground.



### Craft afternoon

It was great that so many parents were able to join us for the craft afternoon.

The lanterns turned out really well and looked lovely all lit up for our Children in Need walk.



### Children in Need

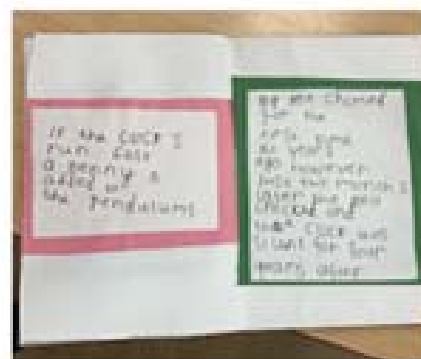
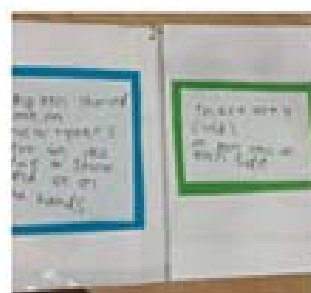
Many thanks to everyone who came along to join our Lantern Walk in aid of Children in Need.

It was a really lovely evening which ended with chips at the Manor House – a huge thank you to Rebecca and Lee for being so generous and also providing us with a perfect place to gather after our walk down to the harbour.

We raised £120.14 for Children in Need!



The children in Class 1 have been busy learning about London landmarks as part of their topic on the Great Fire of London. We now have several replicas of Big Ben, Tower Bridge and the London Eye, along with some brilliant information booklets, posters and pictures.



We were really pleased to take part in the Follow the Star Festival at Forrabury Church last weekend. The children's stars were sold on our school stall at the 'Boscastle Christmas Lights Switch On'. (photo of school stars at Forrabury Church on page 18)

## Buying a Christmas Tree should be Fun!

This article was written in the hopes that the Blowhole might reach our readers in time for Christmas but sadly this will be touch and go, so you may be reading this after the festivities. Still, there are 12 days of Christmas, finishing on Twelfth Night, so I decided to go ahead and write it anyway.

Buying a Christmas tree should be fun, and should certainly not add to the stresses which invariably crop up in the run up to Christmas. Not so in our household where buying, installing and decorating a tree is (or should be) a meticulous operation, planned and executed with military precision.

It's true we live in quite a small bungalow and our lounge is not very big so we do have to think of the width and height to start with. A variety which doesn't drop its needles is essential (our favoured choice is a Noble Fir). The trunk should be straight, with a balanced spread of branches, which mustn't be too close together, there has to be room for ornaments

to dangle and for tinsel and lametta to drape gracefully. Finally, the topmost branch should be tall enough and straight enough to display the chosen ornament; there are differing opinions regarding this – we like a star, but others may prefer an angel or a fairy (the latter may serve other purposes: devotees of "Porridge" may recall that the fairy atop Slade Prison's Christmas tree had 4 oz of contraband tobacco hidden under her tutu!)

So off we toddle to the garden centre to choose the perfect specimen. It always seems to rain when choosing our tree so there am I, holding an umbrella with one hand and twirling a very prickly tree around in the other so my husband can measure and ensure it meets all our requirements. Sometimes we strike lucky and the third or fourth one appraised is just right; on other occasions it can prove a lengthy business.

We don't always get it right. Many years ago, my husband and two boys, as they were then, set off one afternoon to a farm where

you could choose your tree while it was still in the ground and have it dug up for you. All went well, a superb tree was selected, strapped on the roof-rack, and brought home in triumph. Only after bringing it indoors did it dawn on the foraging party that something wasn't quite right - the dimensions so precisely measured had neglected to allow for the part below ground level. However, all agreed that it was a beautiful tree, and once its top branch had been shortened to permit the tree to stand up vertically, instead of the top

being bent at 90 degrees through contact with the ceiling, all was well!

Decorating the tree and putting on the lights is solely my husband's prerogative: I discovered early on in our marriage that if I should be unwise enough to hang something in the wrong place, I would suffer the indignity of finding the offending item repositioned as soon as my back was turned! I now refrain from interfering, which works very well as I always have a million other things to do. The only problem is that it can take a very very long time (three



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days?!!) It's only fair to say it is a thing of beauty when it's finished.

Our tree is usually up by the second week of December but when I was little my father always brought the family tree home a couple of days before Christmas and it was decorated just in time for the big day. Our ancient set of lights was brought out of storage together with our fairy doll, which was extremely venerable but carefully preserved, never allowed to be handled until she was placed lovingly on top of the tree.

My husband has fond memories of his family's artificial tree with real candles secured to the branches with spring clips. One year (age probably around 9 or 10) he unwisely decided that the tree would look much prettier if the candles were actually alight! And he was right.....until one of the candles toppled sideways, setting fire to the cotton wool "snow". Fortunately,

he was not alone in the house and the flames were swiftly smothered with the aid of a hearth rug. Remarkably, the tree survived for several more years, its scorched branches an annual reminder of his folly. Perhaps today's "health and safety" culture has something to commend it after all!

For me it's the scent of the tree, lingering, even when it's in the house for some time, which evokes memories of past Christmases, and helps to preserve for me the magic of Christmas which has stayed with me since childhood, and which I and my husband have passed down to our children and they in turn to our grandchildren.

So, to all who are vowing, while finding pine needles several months after the tree has been dismantled, to have an artificial tree in the future, I say: stay with a tradition that goes back a very long way.

SV & MV



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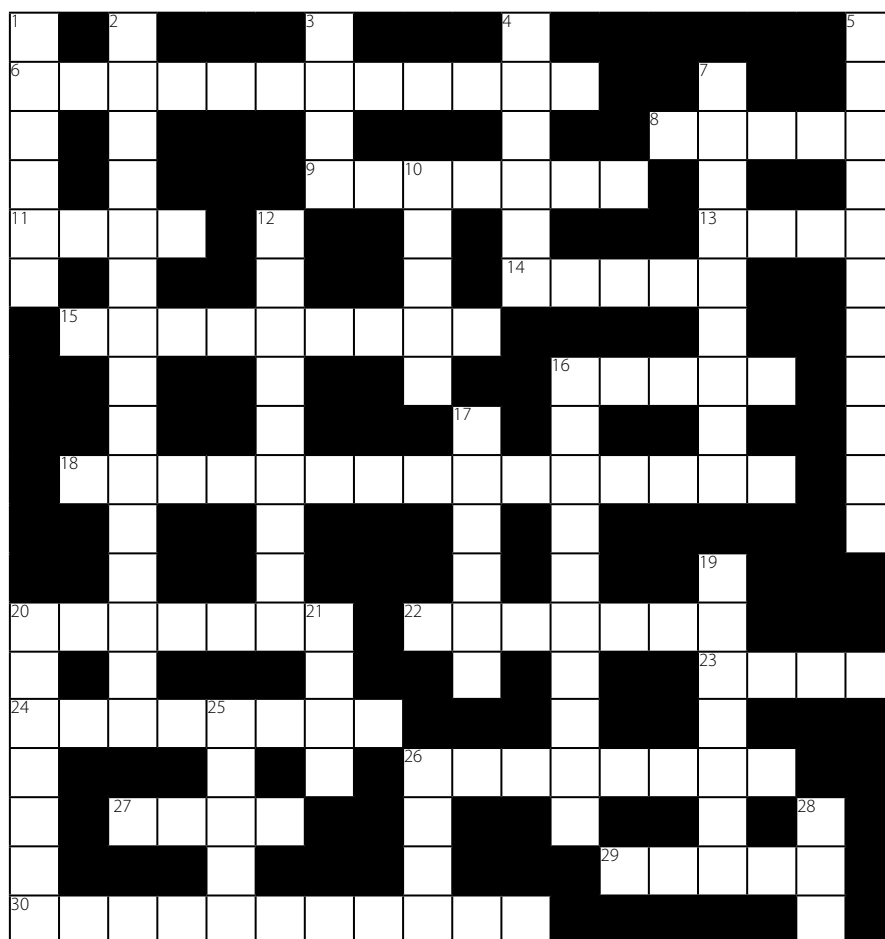
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## Steve's Winter Crossword



### Across

- 6 The cook's rather good for dish of the day (5,7)  
 8 Move, it's time to work (5)  
 9 Referred to as a gentleman and a studious type (7)  
 11 Bird on chessboard (4)  
 13 Safe place for a drink (4)  
 14 Capital place to get plastered (5)

- 15 Good luck in theatre (5,1,3)  
 16 Truss gets parts back (5)  
 18 Split pheasant between you in topsy turvy football match (4,2,3,6)  
 20 Monkish sibling (7)  
 22 Get a policeman to attend, but then let down (1,3,3)  
 23 Starts to drop saint for paintings, sculpture, dancing etc. (4)  
 24 Merciless without Ruth (8)  
 26 See 12d  
 27 Term of affection for a bird (4)  
 29 Calculating snake (5)  
 30 Represent yourself in court, maybe using violence (4,7)

### Down

- 1 Agreement it sounds like music (6)  
 2 Prepare to sell football strategy (3,4,5,3)  
 3 Our ancestors confused about peas? (4)  
 4 Race a horse (6)  
 5 Impressive debt (11)  
 7 Like a large boat, in order (9)  
 10 Shade around the underworld (5)

- 12 & 26a Drive to the launderette and rip them off! (4,2,3,8)  
 16 Large dinner turns violent? (4,2,4)  
 17 Emergency service for old pop group (6)  
 19 Featured, lucky (7)  
 20 Sounds like where to take sheep for a haircut (7)  
 21 Eros moved about symbol of love (4)  
 25 Clear about Euclid without NATO echo (5)  
 26 Old bad joke is cropped (4)  
 28 Have a go at rugby score (3)

*crossword answers on page 35*



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## Final Thoughts

There has been talk, as Philippa steps aside from her work as *primus inter pares*, first amongst equals of the Blowhole team, of putting the magazine aside for a year or so and then deciding if appropriate to continue. The suggestion is then it might appear as an on-line publication.

I confess bias – having contributed to the magazine for a couple of decades – I would regret its passing. Unlike Twitter and other forms of social media, writing even a short piece requires concentration and consideration how to formulate one's thoughts, so hopefully the end result is more valuable than a casual remark or knee-jerk reaction to a piece of news.

The trouble with on-line material is there is so much of it. When everyone speaks at once, who gets heard? The noise drowns out meaning and each thought disappears as soon as uttered – “All those moments,” as the replicant in *Blade Runner* regrets, “will be lost in time, like tears in the rain.”

Many years ago as a student I was allowed, white gloves on, in the London Library to actually handle a 1722 edition of *The Spectator*, edited by Addison and Steele, containing an article by Jonathan Swift, the author of *Gulliver's Travels*. This vast broadsheet was hung up in the coffee houses along The Strand, to be read and discussed by the gentlemen and intellectuals of the day, literature, politics, scientific thought and the arts. It can only be described as a thrill, to leaf

through those pages from 250 years ago and read the arguments again that they witnessed.

We have certainly not fallen out of love with books, newspapers and magazines. That is the strength of the printed word. There is something satisfying in physical possession of a tangible object, which you can discard or read at will, cut out bits, scribble in the margins.

Everyone I have spoken to would regret the Blowhole's passing. They keep and read back issues, my neighbour actually citing back at me an article I wrote ten years ago. It is part of our village's social history and, as I have pointed out, the effort of producing something fit for publication means perhaps the quality of thought is better and therefore worth keeping.

CR

*Editor's note: The suggestion of the Blowhole becoming an online publication was one that was mentioned at an editorial meeting and then deemed as being an unlikely proposition at present, as well as being unhelpful for any resident who doesn't use the internet. One of the main reasons for starting the Blowhole was to produce something that would reach everyone in the village. For the Blowhole to continue in any form, the remaining members of the team need to find someone to take on the task of compiling and editing. A couple of people have expressed interest, though at the time of writing, nothing has been decided.*

PA

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# DEE WILLIS

12/07/1927 ~ 21/10/2022

Dee was born in 1927 in the small mining town of South Elmsall in Yorkshire. Her father was manager of the local Co-op and her mother a dinner lady. She has a brother Dennis who was 9 years younger. She loved learning, was always sewing and her dream was to be a teacher. Sadly, that did not happen for many years, as, aged 14, she had to leave school and help support the family when her father volunteered to go abroad with the army for 5 years. He came home, having left her as a young girl, to find her a grown woman and was very strict with her. Dee loved ballroom dancing and would go every Saturday to the dance hall, where she met her husband Cyril, who was a miner, she married him with doubts, probably to escape life at home.

Dee continued with her education at night school, determined to have her dream, she scrimped and saved to buy their first home. She worked at the local primary school. Jan came along in 1953 and Dee was overjoyed at having a little person to love, she would take Jan in her coach pram, walking for miles and singing nursery rhymes. When Jan was 11, Dee went to Garnet College in Roehampton to take her final exams to become a teacher and Jan stayed with her parents for the year she was away. They

then moved to Boston in Lincolnshire where she became Head of Fashion and Design at the local college. Dee always made her and Jan's own clothes, and attending numerous courses in embroidery and tailoring, anything to do with sewing; she was even making lavender bags with Marion up to a few months ago.

She then met her second husband Ron, who was the love of her life. They married in 1972 and lived happily together until his death in 2011. They both worked as teachers and travelled the world, mainly on cruises and finally settled in Perth, Australia, where they lived out their retirement. When Ron passed away, Dee came back to the UK on holiday and decided she wanted to come home to England and settle in Cornwall, with Jan and Bob who were planning to retire there.

So, 10 years ago, Jan and Bob bought their home in Boscastle and had it converted with an independent annex for Dee. She loved it, especially the views of the sea and Forrabury church, where she attended regularly up until covid. With this move came an extended family to add to her grandson Lee, wife Nicky and Oscar and Isabella, this was Bob's 3 children Jay, Ryan and Jade along with 5 grandchildren with who she loved spending time with,



also a stepdaughter Karen who was Ron's daughter.

Dee had a marvellous life embracing everything Boscastle had to offer, she belonged to the WI and Boscastle Bowls club, still playing in matches aged 92. She also loved her trips in the Age Concern Bus and many local people would see her walking around the village or sitting on the seat by the bus shelter, where she would wave to all the vehicles passing, whether she knew them or not.

Dee was nervous of dogs, in particular German Shepherds, so this posed a problem for Jan and Bob who had two of them, it took a while but resulted in her being best of friends with their youngest Mila, who would let herself into the annex on a daily basis as she knew Dee kept dog biscuits for her in the cupboard. Jan and Bob were always being told off by the vet that Mila was putting on too much weight,

until they realised with the oncoming dementia Dee had, that Mila was getting down there, having her 2 biscuits, then mum would put her outside and shut the door, Mila would wait a few minutes then let herself in again for another 2 biscuits, Dee had obviously forgotten, so a very close eye had to be kept on Mila from then on.

The whole family loved Dee, as did all the people who knew her, she was kind, funny, generous and there is a huge hole in all their lives, especially Jan's, who cared for her every day throughout her short illness and was with her till the end, she says, "it was a privilege" to do that for her mum.

Dee didn't suffer and it's hard to believe she was still walking to the local shop a few weeks before her illness. She had a truly wonderful life and for that we are eternally grateful. God bless her.

## BOSCASTLE BORDER MORRIS

As the summer drew to a close and the visitors started to leave the village, something new was brewing in the quiet corners of Boscastle. Our village is steeped in history and has an inimitable draw to it which is hard to resist, but there is something that it has never had - its own Morris dancing side. In fact, there is a distinct lack of Morris sides in the area with the next nearest being Barrel Morris in Bude. But why here, and why now? To start a Morris side you need a perfect storm; experience, space and a strange desire to partake in a much maligned and mocked tradition. In October of this year, we had our perfect storm and the first meeting of Boscastle Border Morris took place.

There are a number of different types of Morris dancing and we decided that we would favour Border Morris; we wanted to use sticks not hankies

and didn't fancy wearing white just in case we spilled something on it. We also have quite a knowledge base of this type of dancing as some members have dabbled in this previously. This put us in the perfect position to teach those who wanted to give it a bash (literally and figuratively). The wonderful thing about starting from the beginning is that everyone builds the side together; from the colours of the tattered jackets to any logos and emblems this is a group endeavour to create something that was born of the village.

Traditionally Morris sides dance out in the summer, frequenting local pubs to entertain patrons and publicans alike. Throughout the year there are many festivals and events that sides can



be invited to and they are varied. From folk festivals to fetes and wassails to weddings, once you've seen a Morris side you will start seeing them everywhere (in the summer months at least!) Currently Boscastle Border is still in its infancy, using the winter months to learn dances and create the tattered jackets for which Border Morris is known. When the New Year arrives, the side will start making decisions and when and where it wants to dance - so keep an eye out as you may find them at one of our locals!

If you've ever fancied a bit of Morris, or just want to see what it is about please feel free to pop along to one of our

sessions. We're relaxed, inclusive and cater for all ages and abilities. Whether you just want to get a bit more exercise or socialise you can be as active as you like. Morris dancing isn't all about people waving hankies...we've got sticks! You can find us at Boscastle Community Centre on Wednesdays from 7.30pm - 9.30pm and post weekly updates on our Facebook page (Boscastle Morris). At the time of writing, we've already received invitations to events in 2023 and are absolutely thrilled that Boscastle Border Morris are starting to make a small (but very important!) impression.

Morris on!

*Lara Pollard-Jones*

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## EMMETS

The Daily Telegraph recently (23<sup>rd</sup> Nov) reported the frank comments by Malcolm Bell, Cornwall's outgoing tourism chief, on those he regarded as "emmetts". *"In my mind",* he said, *"Visitors fall into five unofficial categories. At one level you have friends, then you have guests, then you have tourists, then you have bloody tourists, then you have f\*\*\* emmets. You can quote me on that."*

He was swiftly rebuffed by our own local county councillor Barry Jordan who retorted, *"words like 'grockle' and 'emmet' have no place in modern society. Tourism is important for Cornwall."*

Malcolm Bell further expanded his argument in the *Cornish Guardian*. Cornwall, he maintained, has too long been regarded as a second choice of holiday destination, particularly since Covid: "Once you stopped them going abroad, you ended up with people who didn't want to be here."

A local restaurateur remarked to me, "the trouble was the Magaluf crowd" used to all-inclusive, who objected to

paying Cornish prices for food and drink.

Malcolm also questions the assumption that tourism is beneficial to the County's income, "33p of a visitor's spend goes directly to London," he says, "that's £600-£700 million in income." Certainly, one must balance the social and monetary input to the community of a holiday home or buy-to-let, against the value of a family living there year round.

While Boscastle may feel itself immune from the goings-on in the great world outside, external societal changes are having a serious impact. The proportion of the village's second homes is steadily increasing and in a couple of decades the only local families in the village will be those fortunate enough to inherit. Every freehold will be acquired by the highest bidder, inevitably an outsider.

The population of the UK grows at a million annually of which last year net immigration accounted for half. As in the United States, our big cities are suffering the "doughnut effect" as prosperous middle class families

head out to the suburbs and countryside. Along with the recent growth of working-from-home jobs and large scale retirement of 50-somethings, Cornwall has become eminently feasible as a permanent base. House prices have increased accordingly particularly for the most attractive properties in seaside towns and prettier villages, unaffordable to locals. This trend has long been well-documented and despite the lamentations of the County Council the only solutions offered are small numbers of new-builds on out of town sites usually squeezed out from developers, and a continuing focus on attracting tourists.

As the late Sir Peter de Savery, whose property interests included Lands End, pointed out, there is no Cornish tourist industry as such, just a thousand small businesses, employing seasonal staff on minimum wages with few opportunities for advancement. Cornwall has a thriving service economy – self-employed builders, decorators, cottage cleaners and so forth, but the hospitality industry

remains the career of last resort. Graduate level jobs are in short supply so there is a constant brain drain out of county by those seeking a professional career.

You got it, you sell it, you still got it, call this a business? Cornwall has, somewhat lazily in my view, relied on its scenery to provide a living, without bothering to look at alternative and more dependable sources of revenue, like manufacturing, technology, financial services. Farming is necessary and spiritually enhancing, but contributes only a tiny proportion to the overall wealth of the nation. Most farms would surely go bust if they were not amply supported by subsidies and diversifying into tourism.

Cornwall, for many people, is what they imagine England used to be and they would be happy to live and work here full time. The County could attract venture capitalism, governmental relocation, research facilities and a host of businesses based on intellectual property, if only it could wean itself off the notion of the pile-em-high, sell-it-cheap tourism model.

CR



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## Boscastle WI

A group of members had a fabulous outing to Bodmin Jail on 25<sup>th</sup> October, taking the Age Concern bus to eliminate the need to drive. We recommend this beautifully rehabbed venue to anyone wanting a really interesting visit. The special effects are very dynamic and the whole tour is steeped in history.



*Boscastle WI members with Avril, who is holding the microfibre filter*



*Women of WI enjoying one of the spooky rooms at Bodmin Jail, cobwebs and all*

The Jail also houses an excellent cafe/restaurant and a hotel.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November our monthly meeting included a fascinating talk by Avril Greenaway co-founder of Cleaner Seas Group,

located in Stratton. She told us about ocean health, the devastating effects of microfibres in our lives and their soon-to-be-launched retro-fit microfibre filter for washing machines which will help eliminate clothing microfibre

particles from going into our water supply.

Our very best wishes to everyone in the community for a very happy Christmas and New Year.

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.

*Gillian Schultz*

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The Ranger team has been busy with 'bread and butter' jobs, such as cutting back vegetation on paths, replacing steps, gates and fences, painting signs, picking up litter, which all helps people to get out and about and enjoying the outdoors.

Some of the improvements planned for around Peter's Wood and the Valency valley includes redefining the path and replacing gates with posts to allow for easier access.

The valley has also had its butterfly glades cleared, which will give more variety of habitats for next year's broods.

In the New Year we will start the coppicing of some of the riverside saplings in the Valency valley. This helps to reduce the number of taller trees growing on the bank side edges, whilst keeping a root system to help bind the soil, which is a small part of the flood alleviation scheme for the village.

The Outer Breakwater (moule) in the harbour will get some more maintenance repairs over winter, replacing missing surface stones and pointing.

Other work coming up includes removing certain plants, for example, Crocosmia where it encroaches into meadows, and also woody plants (sycamore, fig,) from the walls along the river banks in the harbour area.

We have started our tree safety work. Having checked the trees earlier in the year, we are now carrying out the work identified. We have some ash trees to trim/remove which are showing signs of Ash Die Back. This disease is present in many of the ash trees we surveyed though we are only intervening where needed so the remaining trees have the possibility of developing a natural resistance.

*Festive wishes to all.*  
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## COFFIN COTTAGE

On the afternoon of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2004, a date etched in villagers' memories, David "College" Fletcher strolled into the bar of the Wellington Hotel and suggested its clients vacated the area sooner rather than later. Moments later, the field hedges that had held back the volume of rainwater poised above Boscastle, broke, and the torrent tore through the Wellington's ground floor, reducing it, like much of Boscastle, to mud and rubble.

Testimony has it builders discovered that the Snug near the back entrance, had been used as a mortuary, preparing corpses for burial. These were then discreetly carried up the path through the woods to what was popularly known as Coffin Cottage, now more wholesomely as Shepherd's Cottage, before interment at Minster Church. The slab used for washing bodies now acts as a beer table in the pub garden.

Other macabre elements that have incited pursuers of the supernatural to investigate supposed

sightings of various spectral presences, including that of the writer Thomas Hardy and his wife, whom he met and married at St Juliot, a phantom coachman, a young child and old woman in Room 9. These ghostly phenomena featured in the *Most Haunted* television series and Rick Hale's *Wellington Hotel: A Ghostly Guide*

The Wellington Hotel is one of the oldest in Cornwall, its present name in honour of the noble Duke dating from 1852. Its imposing Castilian façade and local status meant it attracted the illustrious amongst its guests, including Edward VII, the above mentioned Thomas Hardy and Dam Busters hero Guy Gibson. Most recently Michael Portillo stayed a week while filming a coastal walk series and proved as charming in reality as his television persona.

Under Victor and Solange Tobutt's benign management the pub gained a reputation for rumbustious good cheer. Many an afternoon John Massey and I, theoretically antiques dealers, boasted

about and spent our profits in its main bar. John, older readers will recall, had a massive beard, even more wonderful cord trousers held up with red braces, but beautifully manicured hands, so much so they featured in a harbour scene for a company filming *Oscar and Lucinda*. Until the day we literally ran out the cash to pay our bill. "I expected that of you," Victor upbraided John but, turning to me, "Not of you!" He could see we were suitably chastened so breached all publicans' sacred codes by buying us a brandy.

After the flood the refurbishment that followed was perhaps timely and necessary.

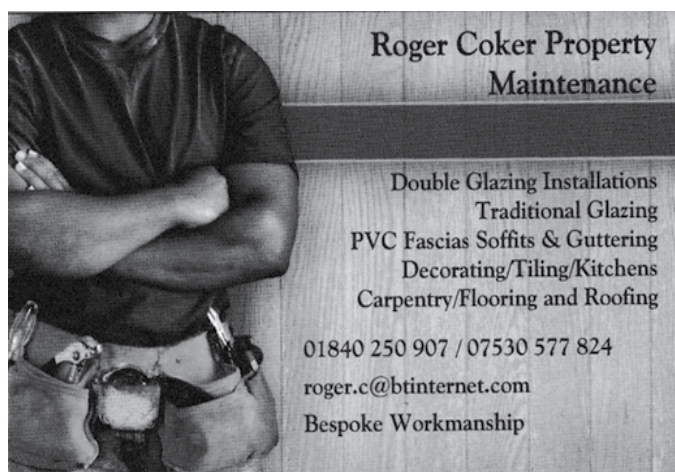
The takeover by St Austell Brewery is intended to enhance the chain's move to more upmarket venues, and together with its self-catering apartments will provide a relaxing atmosphere for hotel guests as well as locals.

Today the "Welly" is a good deal sleeker, warm, polished and welcoming. It is a tied house, which some might lament, so some of the beers and even kitchen

ingredients are restricted to specific suppliers but Wellington's undoubted strength is its staff, who remain intact. This includes Tamsin Champion, whose longevity as Head Receptionist means she is now considered part of the furniture, and Penny Taw, the house manager who worked alongside its previous owner, John Scott, and will maintain its reputation as a local inn noted for its wide ranging bar menu as well as restaurant. Without impinging on the qualities of Boscastle's other hostelries, it will provide a comfortable venue for those seeking a pleasant ambience and special experience.

Penny very much wants to involve the community in the Wellington's future so as well as the Wednesday folk singing evening, hosted by the Boscastle Busker, John Maughan and songstress wife Cheryl, she will seek to bolster local charities by organising a calendar of events, providing assistance with premises, catering and advertising.

CR



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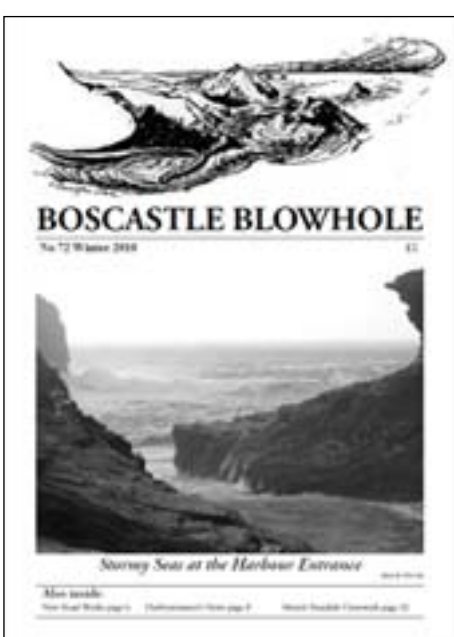
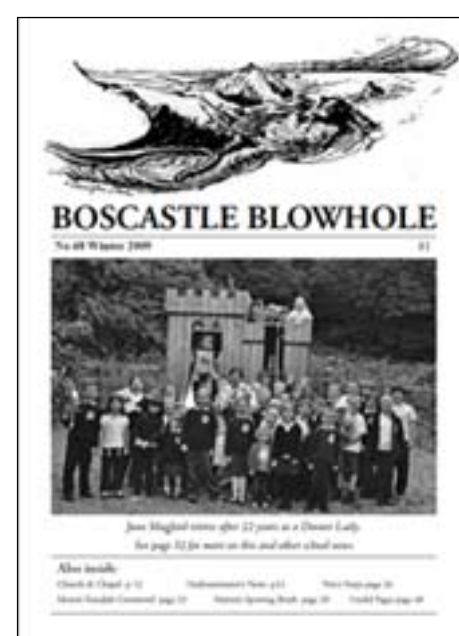
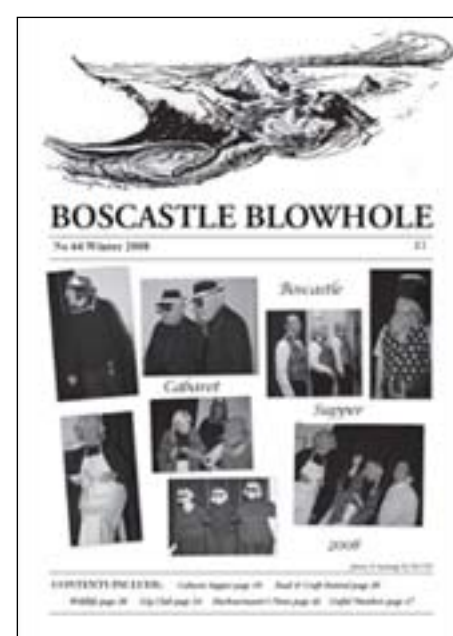
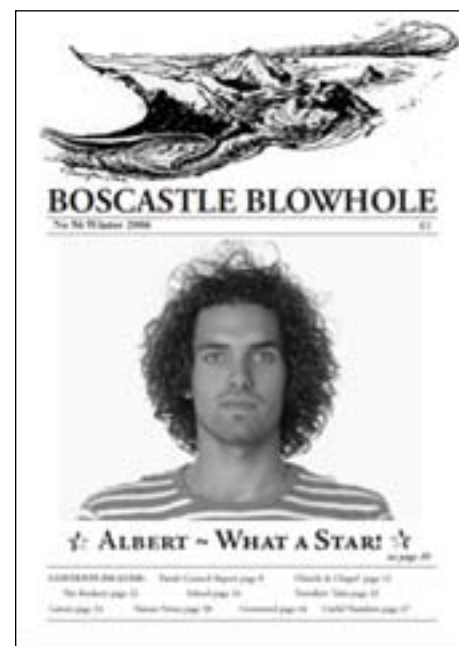
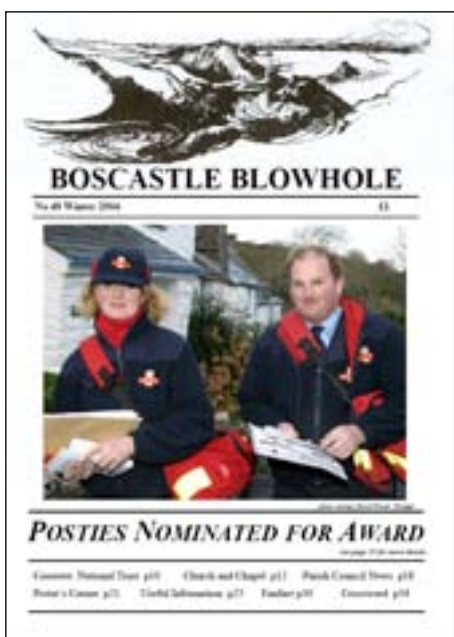
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Contact Carolyn 07896 909245  
*come take a look*





A couple of articles didn't arrive so I have indulged myself & used the space for a display of all the winter covers produced since I took over as compiler/editor! They bring back memories of people and events and remind me of the value of the Blowhole. *Best wishes PA*







## Sense and Sensibility

We all agree we live in a beautiful place, but how much of it do we really see? Sometimes familiarity with our surroundings can stop us seeing them as we once did. When we return from time away, we see some things more clearly than when we left. This feeling fades somewhat as normality takes hold again and we get back to our routines. Those of us who have been house hunting know there can be a significant difference between our impressions of first and second viewings. Our senses were maybe more influenced by the positive aspects first time round and were 'banked' by our memories and then some of the more practical and mundane considerations come to the fore.

It can be this way with places too: when we have had a fabulous holiday abroad and return some years later to repeat the experience we are often disappointed to find it somehow diminished. Similarly, on holiday the things we eat and drink can taste great, but when we buy the same back home it's a disappointment, particularly the Retsina. Our high expectations have been dashed.

Once again, we have all probably been for a drive or a walk and find ourselves at our destination but can't



*spot the spirit*

remember parts of it. How did we get here, did I drive safely, who was driving the car, moving my feet when I was away with my thoughts?

So, it's clear that the way we see and experience things is influenced by a lot of other factors than our 5 senses and our experiences of the same things can differ greatly. Our mood, preoccupations, expectations can greatly influence this. They can become a barrier between us and the world outside of us. Being aware of this is important; it's a barrier we can dismantle.

To become truly aware on a walk we somehow need to disrupt the general filters we automatically use to manage the huge amount of perceptual data out there. If we didn't filter this it would overwhelm our senses, much too much to handle. This is part of the reason why those 'on the spectrum' (we are all on it somewhere) find some situations overwhelming, too much data coming through the filters. This is also why some further along the spectrum have very impressive recall of detail; they experience it in ways more profound than the majority of us. We can disrupt our own filters by consciously doing things differently.

The next time you go for a walk, be aware of your mood. Are you in a rush, are you irritated or angry about something, are you worried about something (or everything), concerned about the weather? Are you used to this walk, has it become a habit? Is the dog pulling on the lead again? These can all restrict what we see and experience on our walk. Take your time if you can, try to be aware of any stress you are carrying and let it go, and if your breathing is tight and tense try to relax it. So far so good, but there's more you can do.

Try looking for a colour on your walk, probably best not green, although there are of course many shades. Perhaps yellow, or blue, or red. Then try to spot everything that colour on the walk. By doing so you look at everything more closely to check for the colour and decide if it counts or not. Try stopping and closing your eyes, listening to the sounds and separating them out from 'background noise' to individual components – birds, wind, sea, aircraft, distant lawnmower, chainsaw, motorbike etc.. Then feel the wind on your face, the warmth of the sun, where are these coming from. Then, after a couple of minutes, open your eyes again and in that moment

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Look for things that have been placed, a stone wall, look at the design, think about who built it and when, what their lives were like. Look at the granite gateposts, they were brought down from the moors, granite doesn't occur naturally down here. Some have been found to be inverted stone crosses, could these ones be as well? Try to imagine a guardian spirit of a place, an elf, piskie or other spirit and show them respect. Maybe even ask their permission to enter their space. You may feel silly at first, but it will enhance your experience, and who knows?

It takes us at least 15 minutes to really experience a place. If we stop for a moment or two to admire a view along the Valency Valley or up on the commons, and maybe take a picture for Facebook we don't really see it ourselves. But by staying there watching, standing still for 15 minutes we begin to

see more and more of the detail: the swirling patterns of the river as it moves towards the sea, birds that flew off on our approach returning now feeling safe again, different colours and shapes in the undergrowth, the changing shapes of the clouds, the sounds coming through. The shifting of the immense power of the sea, the changing character of the waves and swell, the arcing flight of seabirds, smaller ground birds appearing. Try it and you will be the richer.

SS

# Peeps at the Past

**1 NOV 1867**  
**SEA-SAND FROM**  
**BOSCASTLE**

A string of sand-loaded carts pass up the steep mile length hill, which was skilfully made by the Boscastleites, but it needs 3 horses to drag about a cubic yard and a half of sea sand up the hill. This sand is highly valued & mixed with turf, weeds

& some manure it forms a good dressing for the soil. Where there is only pathways up from the steep cliffs the bags are put on the backs of donkeys & carted to the land.

## 23 SEPT 1859 A "BLACK BOOK" FOR LAUNCESTON

It appears that in Launceston that a "black book" is being kept by the authorities & the police enter all the names of people seen on the streets after 10p.m..

**15 JAN 1841**  
**ICE BREAKING ON BUDE**  
**CANAL**

Satisfactory experiments have been made on the canal with an ice boat breaking & clearing ice from the severe weather of the last ten days. It was drawn by two horses and travelled at 4 miles an hour.

**11 MAY 1849**  
**BOSCASTLE**

This neighbourhood, frequented by many visitors to improve their health & for the taste for the beautiful & romantic scenery of the area, has been much improved during the past winter. This was due to Mr. Fuggard who has made different walks, cliff-cuttings, excavations etc

& erected seats & chairs placed to command the most picturesque views. The paths lead to many beauty spots which were inaccessible and has made the area still more attractive, all at his own expense.

## 7 JUNE 1850

### ANAESTHETICS AT LAST

At Padstow, Mr. John Carruthers, a surgeon, amputated the thigh of Francis Lobb aged 23 yrs, under influence of chloroform in about 1 minute in the presence of Mr. Ward of Bodmin & Mr. Fry of Wadebridge in a very efficient style. The man's constitution is extremely shattered but he is in a fair way of recovery.

## 6 SEPT 1857 THE GILBERT MONUMENT AT BODMIN

In the evening, the last stone (1 ton) forming the apex of the Obelisk erected on Bodmin Beacon to the memory of the late General Gilbert, was placed in position. The Mayor & other gentlemen were witness to the occasion. It is the highest structure in Cornwall at 144 ft. from the base. The builder of this monument was Mr. Thomas Eva of Helston.

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Wishing you a all a Happy Christmas & New Year and  
thank you for your custom

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# The Reading Room

Nadelik Lowen Ha Bledhen Nowyth Da! Have you put up your Gwedhen Nadelik and decorated it yet? Are your Royow Nadelik all wrapped up? Have you been good enough for Tas Nadelik to call with Rudolf an Karow Ergh Tron-Rudh?

We are so lucky to be in Cornwall for Christmas. Our Lobster Pot Christmas tree is looking wonderful down in the village and the switching on of the lights looked spectacular. What brilliant singing there was as well. There are lots more traditional events, old and new, that take place around this county, including good old pantos. Be sure to get home in time to snuggle up by the fireside to read the lovely books you may find under your Gwedhen Nadelik.

Until then, we bookworms would like to invite you to step inside the Reading Room with us, a welcome is waiting with mulled wine and mince pies.

## *The Theatre for Dreamers* by Polly Samson

Polly Samson was born on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1962. Her father, Lance, was born in 1928 in Hamburg and he came to the UK in 1938 on the Kindertransport as a Jewish refugee. He became a newspaper editor and a diplomatic correspondent to The Daily Worker, (later to be called the Morning Star). Polly's

mother, Esther Cheo Ling was born in Shanghai in 1932. From the age of six, she lived in England but her childhood in the Midlands was traumatic. She returned to China at the age of seventeen. She joined the People's Liberation Army (Mao's Red Army) and became a Major. She married a Filipino General and they had a son. Her second husband was a Journalist at The Daily Worker and they also had a son. She then met Lance Samson who also worked there and he became her third husband, Polly's father. He and her mother were Communist Party members through the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and then quietly gave up their membership in the 1970's.

Polly was a lonely child as her two brothers were grown up. Polly began writing at an early age and won a Blue Peter Badge for a story about a badger. The family moved to Cornwall where her mother was a teacher and Head of a small rural Primary School. Her father worked for The Packet group of newspapers in Cornwall. When he was 82 years old, he died unexpectedly from liver damage caused by antibiotics.

Polly was rebellious as a child and when at grammar School in Devon she was finally asked to leave the sixth form. She moved to London at the age of 18 and was encouraged by

her grandmother to work in publishing. In 1988 she met the writer Heathcote Williams. They had a son, Charlie and moved to Cornwall. She then began working as a freelance writer for The Observer, Guardian and The Sunday Times. She also wrote book reviews for The Daily Mail. She wrote and had published many short stories. Her first collection of stories was published in 1999 was recognised as 'Book of the Year' by Susan Hill and by Cressida Conolly. Her success as a writer continued and in 1993, she collaborated with David Gilmour to write the lyrics to seven tracks on Pink Floyd's album The Division Bell. In 1994 they were married and they have two sons and a daughter. Their professional collaborations on lyrics for songs continues to thrive and alongside this Polly continues to write successful novels.

'The Theatre for Dreamers' is her fifth book which was published in the spring of 2020 and one bookworm described it as 'sun, sex and Leonard Cohen'. It is set in the sun-drenched Greek island of Hydra in the sixties and it focuses on the international Bohemian set that gravitated there. It is narrated by Erica who relates the story of her and her brother Bobby following the wishes of their dying mother to go and have an adventure. Their father was dictatorial and, normally domineering over their mother, but

somehow, she had been able to squirrel away a bequest that enabled the two siblings to escape London to live a carefree immorality away from the prying eyes of the city.

The bookworms had mixed feelings about this book. One bookworm, who was a great fan of Leonard Cohen was fascinated by the era and the idea of living on the island with all its comings and goings. She felt the book worked very well. Another bookworm found it a tedious read with far too many names to deal with. It was also felt that the descriptions were far too frequent and convoluted. Most of us felt it successfully evoked a time, place and culture but perhaps the voice of Erica was not really convincing, the characters were under developed and the plot contained little structure or purpose. It's an easy read, a piece of escapism but very thought provoking. Most of us were glad we had read it as it took us in to a world we would never have visited.

## Storyline 6

## Writing Quality 7

### *The Overstory* by Richard Powers.

This author uses his writing to explore the effects of modern science and technology. He was born in 1957 and raised in Illinois USA. He is married to fellow American Jane Kuntz. They have chosen not to have children because of a concern that they would be bringing them in to a perilous world and they would be adding

another human being to the earth's burden. His work took him to stay in The Smoky Mountains to study the park's old growth forest. He became so bewitched with it that they set up home there. They live in what he describes as 'very much a tree house perched on a hillside on the edge of The Great Smoky Mountain's National Park.'

Here in a tiny pebbled cove alongside a mountain stream he will write in his electronic notebook and swim, as he describes it: 'in the frigid churn until my limbs are numb.'

It is surrounded by mossy ancient rocks and ferns. From the water he stares up at a canopy of Alder, Sycamore, Beech, Eastern White Pine, Hemlock, Pawpaw and Maple.

'The Overstory' won the Pulitzer Prize in 2019 and his life and career changed but it left him so drained that he was uncertain he would ever write again. He said it left him feeling adrift,

It is a book of two parts. In the first part you meet nine characters and hear their individual stories. In the second part they are very skilfully, all drawn together.

One bookworm enjoyed the short stories in the first part of the book about the nine different characters and she thought it was very clever the way the trees were portrayed as the tenth. It compelled her to look at the role we play and our relationship with nature. She had to

quell the urge to read fast as it would have spoilt the enjoyment of the beautiful, if complex language. She felt each chapter was carefully structured to create a sense of drama and a tension that quietly, was building. Several bookworms felt it perhaps would have benefitted from more editing to make the message more accessible. An ex-forester in the group felt the concept was good but the story rather tedious with a disappointing ending. Other bookworms loved the ending and found parts of the characters' stories very touching.

The book was challenging and long read. We were in two camps about whether it was worth it or not. One very much thought it was, but the other definitely not.

Storyline 7

Writing Quality 8

The bookworms wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful New year. Thank you for joining us in The Reading Room. Your company is always very welcome and we hope you are expanding your reading choices because of your visits. Continue to have adventures between the covers of books until we meet again in The Reading Room in 2023, and enjoy a peaceful festive season with loved ones.

*Yours truly  
The Keeper of the Key*



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**Shop open daily at 6am**

## Cornish Stores

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Home deliveries available

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## 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**

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**

## Camelford Library

Town Hall, Market Place, Camelford, PL32 9PD

**Tel: 0300 1234 111**

Mon & Tues: 10am - 4.30pm,

Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am - 1pm

[camelford.library@liscornwall.org.uk](mailto:camelford.library@liscornwall.org.uk)

## Waste Tip, Bowithick Quarry

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**Open Friday to Monday: 9am – 4pm**

**Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day**

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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)

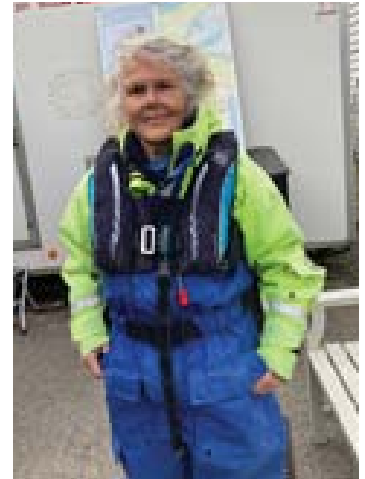


*Huge congratulations to Catherine Cowling and Andy Teague who said "I do" at Minster Church on Monday 5th December. We wish you a lifetime of much love and happiness together.*

Both Rene and Onward have been required to have electronic transponders fitted which is a bit 1984 and Big Brother in that they can be traced by satellite at all times when at sea fishing. It also means my wife Stephanie will know where I am when at sea which may or may not be a good thing in that it could dramatically reduce any time spent in the Cobweb.

Rough weather through November meant the harbour was very little used apart from walkers and sightseers.

Early December has brought a flat spell so I have had Romy on a mooring and some pots in the harbour which have seen some success with a few lobsters.



## Harbourmaster's News



The crane came on the 8<sup>th</sup> October and lifted the bigger boats out.

Onward has gone on down to Rock for maintenance and the periodic ministry safety inspection which now requires a stability test.



*Chris Key , Harbourmaster December 2022*



*Jodie Hession sent us this photo she took in November. She says "I've just had the pleasure of watching the blowhole shoot out some beautiful rainbows! I only had my phone camera but thought you might appreciate a photo :)"*

*Thanks, Jodie...wonder whether there was a seal swimming around searching for the crock of gold?*



*children's playground area showing the new swings and see-saw, installed in early December*

As reported on page 12, the Council is committed to further improvements at the Play Area and plans to hold a public consultation in February 2023 to discuss these and to listen to residents' views. Anyone who has views or ideas about these improvements should keep an eye out on the parish council's noticeboards to find out the date. Alternatively you can contact Adrian Prescott, clerk to the parish council (contact details on page 38) who can keep you informed on all parish council matters.

## Pop In ..

.. and stay if you wish

**A community coming together**



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from 15<sup>th</sup> December to end March  
9:00am to 3:00pm

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Questions: email [fmchurch@westcv.co.uk](mailto:fmchurch@westcv.co.uk)

Hosted by Forrabury & Minster PCC for & with the community

## 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 whole team. The editorial team are: Philippa Arthan, Heather Colne, Gloria Quinlan

Chris Rodda, Sue Viner, Steve Simmonds, Ross Yates

to read back issues of the Blowhole, go to <https://boscastlevillagearchives.co.uk/blowhole/>

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

The Blowhole is printed by:

Easyprint of Stratton telephone: 01288 381700 email: [easy.print@btconnect.com](mailto:easy.print@btconnect.com)