

# NUT TREE

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## Nature Notes

It is early on a dull, grey morning as I scan the ocean. The sea is quite calm and there is a slight breeze. A dark shape just offshore draws my attention as it slowly moves west. Immediately I think of a seal, but using binoculars I am amazed to witness a female Mallard escorting her brood. A common occurrence in itself, but I cannot remember seeing this event on the open sea before. There are eleven ducklings and the whole group moves as one mass, appearing larger than their individual parts. The ducklings have no trouble keeping pace, but they are still exposed. I want to see how the ducks fare so decide to track them. Reaching the sea wall, I gradually overtake them as they head towards Seaton.

Herring Gulls fly over and ignore the ducks, but then suddenly a Great Black-backed Gull appears and settles on the sea a few metres away. The female is naturally wary and takes the initiative; she launches herself at the gull and a clash of bodies ensues. Water and wings lift into the air. For a few seconds the ducklings are alone. Amazingly the gull withdraws to a safe distance and the duck returns to her offspring. Still complete, the family continues to the shore at Seaton whilst occasionally the female casts a wary eye towards the gull. I catch them up at the river mouth. The gull continues to follow but gives up further interest as it sees me. The ducks do not take to the river but walk into the empty seating area of the café and move out of view. Reaching the bridge, I find the mallards in the river, moving upstream. I follow and stop close to the pond. The female encourages the ducklings out of the river but her quacking attracts the attention of idle drakes.

One cannot resist the temptation and rushes at the female and attempts to mate. The ducklings scatter and the odd one gets trampled in the melee. The female successfully survives the onslaught and quiet ensues. She gathers her brood again within a metre of me and I count them all. I am not deemed to be a threat and they start to graze and pluck at leaves before moving to the pond for shelter. At this point I estimate that the whole episode has lasted eighty minutes. I assume the female nested close to the stream adjacent to St Nicolas' school in Dowlerry. She has moved her brood over a mile to safety and chosen the ideal conditions - the ducklings have survived for now. I look around and realise that no one else has seen anything of the drama.

*Alan Payne*

## **Deviocck Parish Council**

The Parish Council hopes to hold virtual meetings in July (tbc). See the parish website at [www.deviocckparish.org.uk](http://www.deviocckparish.org.uk) for details and agendas prior to the meeting dates: Full Council Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm; Planning Committee Meeting (if needed): 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 6.30pm.

## **Deviocck Parish Council Loan Fund**

The Council provides interest-free loans (up to £1,000) to local organisations for specific projects (subject to terms and conditions). Please contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors if your organisation thinks it could benefit from this service.

As the Deviocck Parish Office is currently closed as a precaution for the foreseeable future, please contact the Clerk via email if you have an enquiry (Monday to Friday) at [clerk.deviocckpc@btinternet.com](mailto:clerk.deviocckpc@btinternet.com).

*Karen Pugh (Clerk)*

## **St Germans Parish Council**

The Parish Council are planning to hold a virtual meeting on 29th June, and probably another at the end of July. Please, as always, have a look at our websites and noticeboards to keep updated. It is very easy to "attend" the meeting as a member of the public. You can do this from your phone, laptop or tablet. The instructions for how to join the meeting will be clearly set out on the agenda. Once you have joined, the Chairman will ask you to give your name and to say whether you wish to speak in the public participation section. Everyone present, including all councillors and the clerk, will be able to hear you.

We are still negotiating on the new lease for Tideford play park. Sadly, we cannot open the play equipment at either Tideford or St Germans until the Government say it is safe to do so, and risk assessments have been carried out. *Cllr Patricia Pipe*

## News from County Hall - Cllr Jesse Foot



Since last writing, my work as a Cornwall Councillor has continued albeit with some very significant changes. I have been available to assist and support with any council related issues as well as signposting to volunteer groups, funding sources, and more. Instead of face to face meetings, I have attended regular virtual meetings using either Microsoft Teams, Skype or Zoom. These meetings have included weekly meetings with the Liberal Democrat group, and Community Network Area meetings for both Caradon & the Gateway areas that make up this division. In addition, I have also taken part in regular technical and member briefings as well as continuing the regular business of the council with the committees I sit on - Licensing Act, Miscellaneous Licensing, East Planning, Strategic Planning, and the Cornish Minority Working Group to name a few.

A number of parish councils have also started to meet virtually. If you don't know what virtual meeting fatigue feels like, be grateful. While I appreciate that we can still conduct some important business in a virtual way and welcome the travel reductions, I miss the face to face interactions with real people. I have managed a few socially distanced meetings in person. At times, the situation makes one feel like a prisoner in one's own home with access to the world limited to a screen. All these screens remind me of the book 1984 by Orwell. However, the 4th of July looks to be a day for more freedom away from screens and independence in our communities. This reminds me of the film the Great Escape and the famous quote by Steve McQueen, "No Taxation Without Representation". I am still here representing you so please get in touch if I may assist with anything Cornwall Council related.

I don't usually mention my life outside of Cornwall Council but I have also been busy working with a local undertaker, driving one of my daughters back and forth to work, she is a key worker, celebrating another daughters 15th birthday, my 21st wedding anniversary and undergoing a kidney stone removal operation at Derriford. I am so grateful for family, community, the NHS, all our key workers and living in Cornwall. I hope that in the midst of whatever challenges faced one and all have been able to find something for which to be grateful. There is light at the end of the tunnel, we will get through this, have courage, persevere, and be kind. Gwella,

*Jesse - 07449372274 or [jesse.foot@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:jesse.foot@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk)*

## **Editorial**

There is a sense, at the time of writing, that things are beginning to revert to a semblance of 'normal'. Even Rita's Rota has returned; albeit in a rather reduced form and with a recurring theme of online meetings. Nevertheless, a number of uncertainties still remain. It will take a while yet to get a clearer picture of what risks we do still face and what events and activities we might be able to enjoy through the summer, or not. Whatever happens, strength as a community, respect for others and tolerance will remain as key and enduring themes - particularly as we variously, and at a pace dictated by our own circumstances, feel sufficiently confident to return to once familiar ways of doing things.

We will all need to remind ourselves, of course, that not everyone will be able to recover at the same rate and there will be times when some may feel that life is back to normal whilst others may still find that not (or, indeed, never again), to be the case. As we do move forwards, perhaps we should also pause for a moment to question whether the way things were really was the best way?

By way of examples, one suspects that companies who have previously revelled in the vanities of occupying of high priced commercial offices may begin to realize that such indulgence, and cost, wasn't ever actually necessary; particularly given the video meeting technology that has come to the fore during the last few months. Was the commute ever really so vital? A possible knock on effect, will be an increase in the number of people and families who may now seek to relocate permanently away from the cosmopolitan melée of urban living to the simple pleasures we so fortunately enjoy on our doorsteps, and a rise in the number of those who come simply to enjoy it and recover their sanities for just a short while; the once 'bright lights' now having been revealed in their true colours as grim, soulless imprisoning cityscapes. When the time is right, a warm welcome awaits all those who have previously stayed away to avoid overloading our local NHS and services and, of course, massive thanks to all those stalwarts who have kept vital services - in every guise - going so reliably throughout the whole ordeal.

## **Community Thank Yous**

Huge thanks to Kim and Richard and all the very busy workers at Donderry Stores, the post office, Post men, Sue and John, Anne and Bob. Not forgetting strong Lydia. Many, many thanks.

*Chrissie-Ann*

BLACKBIRDS, you have kept me smiling with your lovely song. Singing from dawn to dusk, takes my mind off hard times. Thank you.

*Mrs Mary Pearce*

## **News from the churches.**

It is really good news that the churches can open for private prayer – BUT – and there is always a but, before we can do so we have to work through a ten-page document of Government legislation. This is necessary to ensure people's health and safety and to abide by the Covid 19 guidelines. As soon as we have got things in place, we will open up the churches for private prayer and contemplation. As a church we are always happy to prayer for needs within the community, and we are praying every day for the shops, businesses, pubs, halls, organisations and schools in the area. If you have a specific need please let us know and we will try to help. Our online zoom services will continue. We have daily prayer services and a weekly Sunday morning get together at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining in please let me know and I can put you on the list to receive the link. [parker30@hotmail.com](mailto:parker30@hotmail.com) Until we can meet again – may God's blessing be with you.

*Rev Canon Lynn Parker*

## **Downderry and Seaton Residents' Association - DaSRA**

Local residents volunteering for our Good Neighbours' Group may be feeling under-utilised, as little has been asked of them during these first months of the Coronavirus lockdown. We hope they see this as a positive sign, that our more vulnerable neighbours are already being supported by family, friends and neighbours.

Our Good Neighbours' Group will continue, supported by Volunteer Cornwall, until such times that the consensus is that life can get back to some level of normality. In the meantime, we are still here to give support to those who are more vulnerable to Covid-19 and who are therefore shielding and so are unable to get out and about. Do call DaSRA on 01503 250911 or 250332 or [info@dasra.co.uk](mailto:info@dasra.co.uk) if you need any practical help or just want a chat. Don't ever feel you are alone.

As each week brings a further easing of restrictions, some people are pressing for a return to a more normal existence, while others are being more cautious, thinking it too early to open up the county to visitors. We hope that residents will agree that our local Downderry Stores has been instrumental in keeping us safe by supplying, and in many cases, home delivering, essential foods. Kim and Richard, with their staff team, will be maintaining, until further notice, the regime they have been operating since mid-March, with their focus on ensuring supplies to local residents and safe working conditions for their staff.

DaSRA's relationship with Volunteer Cornwall during the Coronavirus lockdown has made us extra aware of the strength of support available throughout the county. Advice and training is on hand for individuals and community groups covering a wide range of topics so it is worth checking out the websites of Cornwall Council [www.cornwallcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.cornwallcouncil.gov.uk) and Volunteer Cornwall [www.volunteercornwall.org.uk](http://www.volunteercornwall.org.uk) to see if there is something there for you.

*Laura Done, Chair, 01503 250911*

## **Downderry and Seaton Village Hall**



The Committee has been monitoring the situation closely regarding the UK government and Public Health England recommendations in response to Covid-19. As (at time of writing) there is still no timescale for when social distancing may be reduced or no longer necessary, we wanted to give you sufficient notice that we have taken the decision to cancel this year's Carnival, Art & Crafts Show and Garden & Produce Show.

It is with regret that we have cancelled these events but feel it's the right thing to do to help protect our community, which is our highest priority.

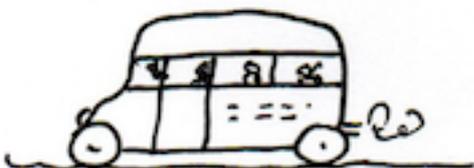
All other events and hall bookings continue to be cancelled until further notice, as is the Snooker Room. We also wanted to assure you, however, that we are continuing to look after the Village Hall and Snooker Room to ensure they will both be ready, once they can safely be reopened.

We wish you continued health and stay safe.

*Downderry and Seaton Village Hall Committee*

## **Downderry Community Bus 300 Club**

Well done!! This is the first time, since I've taken over this little job that all members are all paid and up to date. Winners for the month of June:



1st - £20 Margaret Pook,  
2nd - £15 Trish Rogan  
3rd - £10 Frank Taverner.

Stay safe everyone.

*Jo Woodley*

## Hessenford News

Hello all. Looking to the future we may have to put our thinking caps on as to how we might run a 'virtual' Duck Race with socially distanced wardens! We have approximately 50 houses in the village, would each household be willing and able to sell say 10 tickets to family, friends and colleagues?

Mike at The Copley has asked me to let you know, what you've probably heard on the news, that the pub is hoping to be allowed to operate from early July but the details still have to be confirmed by the government. Maybe by the time you read this it will have happened!! We all hope so. Somewhere else that's waiting to open again is the church. In the meantime, you could think about Harvest/Life & Love/Diversity/Leaders needing Guidance & Courage/For those Looking After Us/Bringing Peace to the Anxious. If you've got a bible you may wish to read Galatians 3 or Psalm 100. Oh! & if you want to volunteer to clean, when the church is open again, or clean NOW! the poop in the entrance occasionally while the swallows are nesting [they are messy little whatsits] please let me know.

You've all probably seen either the picture, put on the Covid-19 page, of the new 'dog poo bin'. Thanks to whoever erected it. For information, the bin will be emptied on Wednesdays. Fiona has to take the bin bag down to the start of the Country Park and marry it up with the poo bin there - it then gets incinerated. If Fiona's away on a Wednesday there are other volunteers who have offered their services. [Something else you may wish to volunteer/get involved with, particularly if you've got a pooch].

We have to say a BIG thanks to Philip for clearing a lot of rubbish from the river. It's amazing what he found, some interesting items too, such as beer and ginger beer bottles dating back quite a long time.....don't know if you've seen his photos but I'm sure he'd share them with you if you're interested.

There are lots of hello's and goodbyes we're going to be saying to people in the village in the near future - apologies, I'm so behind in mentioning some of the hello's but we hope you all enjoy your time in Hessenford - Keiran, Lauren & Maisie; Sarah, Leigh, Jack & Daisy; Helen & Ian. And for those who are leaving us we wish you many happy years in your new homes-Dave & Lisa; Rose; Tracey; Jean; Wendy; Becki, Dan, Beth & Izach + tbc.

I don't know how many of you have watched them, or are able to see from your houses, but it's great sport to watch Ian/Lester driving their Suzuki.....modern day cowboys....rounding up the cattle in the field adjacent to the main road.....truly amazing!

Last but not least.....Bonfires.....please check the wind direction and state of your neighbours' washing lines/windows before you light one, preferably towards the end of the afternoon/early evening or send them a message somehow to be aware that you're planning lighting one, particularly in these very dry conditions, and observe printed guidelines.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there's anything I should be mentioning.  
Thank You.

*Fran*

## **Downderry WI**

Our Zoom meeting in June was addressed by Lynn Goold a blue badge guide and expert on Daphne Du Maurier. We sat transfixed as she took us on a journey of Daphne's life from London to Cornwall. Showing us slides of landmarks that featured in her novels and how she matched existing landscapes to her fictional outpourings. As a spin off from this meeting we hope to meet up with Lynn in Fowey and do the "Rebecca Walk" once this current lockdown is eased sufficiently.



In keeping with WI tradition, we held a raffle won by Pat Paxton and flower picture competition won by Julie Green. The "Not in the pub" Zoom social event on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, enabled us to meet more informally and Martine Gibb shared a quiz with us. Future social events will feature "Chocolate tasting" and a picture quiz and possibly a game of Bingo!

Our next Zoom monthly meeting at 2.00 p.m. on 14<sup>th</sup> July we will welcome our own Chris Wiseman from Downderry talking about "Family History". We keep in touch with members by newsletters and hope in the not too distant future we will be able to see each other personally. If you want to know more about being a member of the WI in Downderry and Seaton do give me a call on 01503250322.

*Maura Swabey*

## **Coronavirus Support**

A quick reminder that consolidated advice for all those who may have concerns arising from the local implications of Coronavirus can be found at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health-cornwall/information-about-coronavirus-covid-19/>. This includes advice and resources for those who have concerns relating to debt, homelessness, anxiety, test and trace, business support and safety in the home.

## **Buses and Trains - St Germans & Area Public Transport Group**

A reminder, first, that from 15<sup>th</sup> June a face covering has been compulsory if travelling by train or bus; also remember to observe the rules on social distancing at all times. At the time of writing, neither buses nor trains locally have been busy, and both buses and trains have been running to time.

Trains. GWR are planning to run a new timetable from 6<sup>th</sup> July, with a further change on 14<sup>th</sup> September. By September they aim to have returned to similar service levels as the pre-Covid timetables. From 6<sup>th</sup> July the majority of services will be restored on the Cornish mainline between Plymouth and Penzance, Monday-Saturday, getting closer to two trains per hour throughout the day. From St Germans there will be over 20 a day each way, and the early evening gaps we have had will be filled. You will need to check the timetables carefully, of course, before travelling: Realtime Trains is a good website to use, or phone GWR at 03457 000125.

Buses. You will have seen that the timetables for the 75 and 71 since June 1<sup>st</sup> have been greatly improved. A reminder that buses run as follows:

### 75 Liskeard to Torpoint via Hessenford, Seaton and Donderry:

Donderry to Torpoint at 0744 (0748 Sats/non-school days), 1013, 1213, 1438, 1708;  
Donderry to Liskeard at 0856, 1129, 1329, 1559, 1834.

### 71 Liskeard to Derriford Hospital via Menheniot and St Germans:

St Germans to Derriford at 0800 (0805 Sats/non-school days), 0945, 1045, 1245, 1445, 1700;  
St Germans to Liskeard at 0917, 1117, 1317, 1532 (1517 Sats & non-school days), 1727.

See the full timetables on the bus stops or at Transport for Cornwall (0808 196 2632), and in local shops.

*Alan Cousins*

## **Save the Children**

Huge thanks to everyone who has bought plants from Sunnyside, £100 already sent to help Children since lockdown began. Plenty of plants still left from colourful geraniums, perennial salvia and , verbena to a stunning selection of echevaria, aeoniums and aloes (summer succulents).

*Chris Wiseman*

## Simple ways to save the planet

Increasingly, the news we read about the environment is grim. The biggest problem is that, despite knowing we are facing a climate emergency, even dyed in the wool environmentalists like myself struggle to make the changes that are needed. So perhaps we need a different way of thinking?



Instead of playing King Canute and trying to turn the tide, perhaps now is the time to think instead of life rafts. So what could we construct our rafts from? The first is ecological growth, so we build resilience into our landscape. Extremes of drought and excessive rain are becoming commonplace. So we yo-yo from too much water to not enough. Supporting the reintroduction of beavers could help enormously as these amazing creatures, who once shaped UK landscapes until we hunted them to extinction, have the ability to create ponds and wetlands that act as carbon sinks, reduce peak flows of streams and rivers and help store water for times of drought, as well as promoting ecological growth of all species.

The reintroduction of other once common species can also help reinstate ecological diversity. A group called The Vincent Trust is at the forefront of leading the research into this. On a local level, as well as supporting the reintroduction of beavers, our own life raft could be to grow our own vegetables and learn to be more self-sufficient. And there are bonuses to this, because nothing tastes as good as a homegrown strawberry or freshly picked runner beans.

*Lizzy*

## St Germans Thursday Club

How are we all doing? Hardly a day goes by without an email, phone call or letter, or a conversation as we meet on walks, or over the garden wall or fence. If not, then why not, get in touch with someone else in Thursday Club, or an old friend, near or far. Try going through your Christmas card list, and contact someone or several on it now. Don't wait for December.

Anyone taking very early morning or low water walks to the (old) quay may have spotted a lone heron. He can stand quite still for 1/2 hour at a time - it's a fact. Must be quite a philosopher! Next time I'd better find or bring a seat for while I wait for him to do something. He did say something - a few croaky low squawks.

Several members have been making and mending - socks into masks, clothing and patchwork quilts. Those smallish pieces of cloth, just waiting to be sewn together creatively, having gathered in hope of being part of the new production... Until one is distracted by another idea entirely.

Garden creativity abounds - with warmer weather, why not plant the seed of a mango; also one can (we're told) grow avocados, passion fruit, etc. Have you let your lawns grow into glorious meadows of wild flowers, grasses and weeds? Or given everything in the garden even more tending and trimming than usual? And aren't our garden birds lively and friendly lately!

We hope everyone has found good books, and regular newspapers or magazines and other reading matter; there have been swaps going on, not to mention jigsaw puzzles. Doing a jigsaw or mending, when listening to a good radio program, or when thinking through a dilemma or a memory - time well-used.

And that brings us to some requests. Please:

- Jot down any memories of the villages and of Thursday Club meetings and outings, especially those whose memories are long.
- Record your observations on life during lockdown. Poems, recipes, journal pieces, country diaries.
- Requests of authors or books wanted; lists of books on offer (next year a book sale again?)
- Check the 2020/2021 Thursday Club programme and consider (the logistics, as they say!) how you'd like to get back together again.

We want to get ideas from all our members and future members about the Thursday Club's long, interesting past and its glittering go-ahead future.

This reporter would also like any ideas, poems, book lists to be dropped in to her at Merryweather Cottage. Keep exercising, whether it's walks out and about, work in the garden or even that hefty cupboard clearing and cleaning many of us are tackling!

Jean Mills and the Committee send best wishes to all members. Keep safe and don't feel alone. If you have any questions or problems, or just want to connect, we will be happy to hear from you, at 01503-230324. Please continue to keep in touch - We miss our meetings.

*Sue Cousins (230106)*

# Rita's Rota – Things may change further so please check before making plans.

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|---|---|
| 1 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)   | 19 10.30 Morning Prayer Service (Zoom)                  |
| 2 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)  | 20 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)                           |
| 3 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)   | 21 10 .00 Church Reflection and chat (Zoom)             |
| 4 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)  | 22 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)                          |
| 5 NHS 72nd Anniversary look out for local celebrations; 10.30 Morning Prayer Service (Zoom) | 23 6.30 Deviock PC Planning; 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom) |
| 6 GWR new timetable begins; 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)                                      | 24 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)                          |
| 7 10 .00 Church Reflection and chat (Zoom)  | 25 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)                           |
| 8 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)   | 26 10.30 Morning Prayer Service (Zoom)                  |
| 9 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom); 7.30 Deviock PC (Zoom)  | 27 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)                           |
| 10 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)  | 28 10 .00 Church Reflection and chat (Zoom)             |
| 11 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)   | 29 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom); 7.00ish St Germans PC   |
| 12 10.30 Morning Prayer (Zoom)  | 30 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)                           |
| 13 7.00 Evening Prayer Service (Zoom)   | 31 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)                          |
| 14 10 .00 Church Reflection and chat (Zoom); 2.00 Dderry WI (Zoom), Family History          |   |
| 15 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)  |   |
| 16 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)   |   |
| 17 10.00 Morning Prayer (Zoom)  |   |
| 18 7.00 Evening Prayer (Zoom)   |   |

Copy for Rita's Rota to [ritasrota@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ritasrota@yahoo.co.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month please.

Well what a to-do we've had, whatever next?  
Keep well everyone.

**Rita**

**Disclaimer : The editorial group accepts no responsibility for views expressed in any edition of Nut Tree. Nonetheless we will try to be as accurate as possible and seek similar commitment to factual correctness from all correspondents.**