



December 2020 Volume 35 (9)

Seasons' Greetings

and a Happy New Year

Nature Notes

Getting up close to an insect is not everyone's idea of entertainment and I can understand why some species appear threatening. In the garden in early November, I have just disturbed a large insect, about two centimetres in length, with very long, fine antennae and large, angled hind legs. It's a female Dark Bush-Cricket and it is sporting an enormous sickle-shaped ovipositor that at first glance looks as if it could cause damage. It is totally harmless of course. The insect's compound eyes enable it to look in a complete circle without moving its head. It does not see me as a threat and I encourage it to move onto my arm; happily, it allows close scrutiny, even a photo opportunity. This is a robust species of bush-cricket, cryptic in appearance, dark brown with blackish flecks. The wings are vestigial, reduced to tiny flaps, so it cannot fly. Unlike most similar species, this bush-cricket survives late in the year. This female will lay eggs in crevices in bark or rotting wood which may hatch next April or even the year after. Individuals are normally nocturnal, but females like to bask in the sun late in the season. The species is common over southern England but I cannot recall a recent encounter. In fact, this year has been good for grasshoppers in the garden rather than crickets. The Dark Bush-Cricket prefers small, undisturbed areas and may explain why it can go unnoticed. It shows that leaving a few untidy patches in your garden can help its survival.

A couple of days later and another encounter with insects, but in a totally unexpected form. It is a windy afternoon and I am on the slipway overlooking the beach at high tide. There are hundreds of gulls feeding on the shore and something has driven them into a frenzy. They are feeding avidly and appear to be spoilt for choice. Jostling for position they don't know where to prod next. Looking down I see a narrow, white wavy line moving in the swash. A fellow onlooker mentions maggots and I go to investigate. There are thousands and thousands of them, some still wriggling. Kelp flies had laid

eggs in the rotting seaweed a while ago and this is the result. Black-headed and Herring Gulls are the two main species making the most of the bounty. I give up after counting 800, but careful scrutiny reveals other species - the Mediterranean Gull, no longer confined to the eponymous sea, and the Common Gull, a winter visitor and not at all common.

The gulls are so intent on feeding that they are reluctant to move. As I walk along the beach, large numbers eventually fill the air, move a short distance and resume feeding. They have no trouble avoiding the breaking waves too. One gull carries a ring on each leg and the larger ring contains a code. Frustratingly, the gull does not remain still long enough for me to read the code accurately, even with binoculars. The ring will help to reveal the gull's origins and I would love to know its history, but I have to miss out this time. The amazing spectacle of maggots and gulls will have to suffice. *Alan Payne*

News from County Hall – Cllr Jesse Foot

As Cornwall, the UK, and the world at large head into the darkest winter of modern times with tougher but often inconsistent pandemic restrictions, economic stability wavering, political leadership floundering, personal isolation increasing, and mental health decreasing, I ask myself is there a light at the end of this long dark tunnel? I say a resounding, Yes! - there is light at the end of the tunnel. But what is that light anyway? Is it the light of a mass-vaccination program? Is it the ubiquitous glow of our televisions, computers, and smartphones leading us into an ever more disconnected but constantly monitored world of harvested personal data, monetized by global corporations, and monitored by government? Is it the light of the Brexit train going to create economic havoc and division in British society and with our European neighbours?

Will the sparkling lights of a Black-Friday Christmas be enough to brighten the world enough to lift us out of this global nightmare? This year the winter solstice falls on Monday (I don't like Mondays), making it the shortest day for sunshine, and therefore the darkest day of the year – physically anyway. Starting on the 22nd December, the days start to get physically brighter. Christmas speaks of a different kind of spiritual light coming into the world. Whether you believe in that spiritual Christmas light or not, the message of forgiveness, reconciliation, peace on earth, and goodwill towards men is one that I would like to encourage. We need physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental healing more than ever right now. We all need help sometimes, and we all would do well to help others if we are able. The council tries to help with many situations but doesn't have the resource to do it all. I don't know how you might need help at present, or if Cornwall Council is able to help, but please get in touch with me and I will at least listen and try to help or point you to someone who can. Hopefully, the day is fast approaching when we will say 'the light is getting brighter now' but each one of us must try to love one another to make it so. Nadelik Lowen - Happy Christmas. Contact Cllr Foot on 07449 372274 or jesse.foot@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

St Germans Parish Council

The Council now owns the disused phone box at the top of Quay Road, St Germans. One option which has been suggested is to use it as a book exchange. Please email our clerk if you have other ideas to put forward.

The Methodist Church is, we understand, planning to sell Bethany Methodist Chapel with attached hall. It has been a community hub for many years. The building itself is of mundic block construction, but stands in a large space with a lovely view, a small car park to the front and green space at the back. The Council has registered it as a community asset, which gives us the opportunity to offer to purchase the building and land for the community.

We need your views, please, as to whether you see this possible purchase as of benefit to our parish. A questionnaire is being prepared, but in the meantime please feel free to post or email your thoughts to our clerk.

As you know, we have signed up to Cornwall Council's Climate Change Initiative. More on this next time, but meanwhile please keep up the re-cycling!

Councillor Patricia Pipe

Deviocck Parish Council

Forthcoming virtual meetings: Full Council 17th December, 7.30pm. See Agendas for details prior to each meeting.

Memorial garden: Work will begin shortly on the memorial garden shelter, to include a new roof and rails to be located on the inside back wall, where memorial plaques will be fixed on approval. Further to this, the Parish Council is looking to contract a local builder to provide a ramp for disabled access.

Allotments: A reminder that we are updating our list of residents interested in having an allotment. Please email the Clerk to express your interest.

Planning website: As many of you are aware, the Cornwall Council Planning website is where consultees (including the Parish Council) and members of the public can leave comments on parish planning applications. While emails from concerned residents are accepted by the Parish Council, we recommend that you leave comments on the Planning site instead, where your comments will be viewed by a greater number of people, including the Parish Council, Cornwall Council Planning officers and other consultees such as Highways. Councillors are made aware of any comments on the site prior to Parish Council meetings. The construction of a beach access slipway at Seaton has been approved by Cornwall Council. To comment on a planning application, go to: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/>.

Opening hours: As the Parish Office is remaining closed until further notice, please contact the Clerk via email if you have an enquiry (clerk.deviockpc@btinternet.com, Mon-Fri). See the website at: www.deviockparish.org.uk (where Agendas and Minutes are also available).

Karen Pugh (Parish Clerk)

Deviock 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.

Editorial

It is a bumper edition this month. I was privately rather pleased that no contributors chose to mention Christmas in last month's edition. It makes it all the more special to save any celebration until the actual event rather than the long, drawn out marketing exercises pre-festival periods have tended to become in recent years. Whether religious or not, Christmas provides a time for families and friends to gather and feast. If we're allowed to do so more tangibly than of late, true company will be all the more poignant given the challenges we have all endured within the family of communities which the Nut Tree serves. May you all have a safe, happy and convivial celebration in the (let's hope!) proper company of those we love and cherish most, and a very happy New Year to you all. Nut Tree takes a break in January so we'll be back in February.

Ed

Community Thanks

Richard, Kim and all the team at DOWDERRY STORES extend heartfelt thanks to our AMAZING COMMUNITY for your continuous support and kindness throughout this pandemic. You have been so generous with "Cakes and Bakes and Makes" and volunteering and always comforting words of reassurance and kindness. We wish you all Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year, whatever challenges it brings us. Richard and Kim would also like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Jan, Sharon, Thea, Andy and Mark our DOWDERRY STORES family. Stay safe, with love from us all.

Yvonne Byles would also like to pass on Christmas greetings & a grateful thanks to all the staff at Quay Lane Surgery St Germans for the way we are being cared for in this challenging time. We hear of folk in other areas who cannot get to see a GP or cannot get their usual medication etc. We are very fortunate indeed. Thank you, Yvonne B

St Germans and District Twinning Association

'Un Joyeux Noël' to all our members. Let's raise our glasses to the anticipation that some time in the New Year we will be meeting again.

Ann Drew

Quay Lane Surgery

Looking back over the year it has certainly been a very difficult one for everybody. Now we are hearing about a vaccine for Covid - 19 which is wonderful news; a ray of hope as we go into winter, and 'a light at the end of the tunnel'. I think back to March when the Patient Participation Group (PPG) first offered support to the practice delivering medicine to shielding patients. Many of our members are vulnerable themselves and so there were just 5 of us initially! We realised we would need more volunteers and in a matter of days 30 other patients came forward. We were then asked to supervise entry and distancing at Quay Lane and even more patients came - some working both on the door and delivering prescriptions. It was an outstanding community response to help Quay Lane Surgery deliver care to patients safely throughout the crisis. I wish everyone a very Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas from us all in the PPG.

Claire Croft - PPG Chair quaylaneppg@gmail.com

Practice News

A huge thank you goes to Sister Claire and HCA Helen for the amazing job they are doing to vaccinate our at risk patients against flu this year. They've had a great turn out so far with lots of positive feedback from patients. If you are aged 65 or over or aged 64 and under and fall into an 'at risk group' and have not yet been vaccinated against flu then please ring the surgery to book your appointment. We are still awaiting guidance from NHS England about offering vaccines to those aged 50 – 64 who are not in an at risk group so please don't contact the surgery. You may have also heard in the news that a COVID vaccination could be imminent - we are currently making plans with the East Cornwall Locality and will update you when we know more. Keep an eye on the Practice website or via Facebook for updated information.

We would like to welcome Marcia Henning to the team. She works for Healthy Cornwall as a Healthy Lifestyle Advisor and will be working at the surgery on a Thursday afternoon. She is able to advise patients on Weight management, Healthy eating, Physical activity and Stopping smoking. She is offering a combination of telephone and face to face appointments. We also have directly bookable appointments with Paul Sumner, Physiotherapist, Nicola Stephens, Clinical Pharmacist and Jess Hiron, Social Prescriber at the surgery, so there is no need to speak to the GP first.

The Portacabin has been a really positive purchase for the surgery! As well as being used to vaccinate our patients against flu we have now opened up one of the rooms daily as a medication collection point. The other room is being used as a clinical consultation room. So far it has proved really successful helping to reduce footfall in the surgery keeping it COVID safe for both patients and staff.

We are still experiencing a higher than average number of calls into the practice so please only contact us by telephone when it is necessary. You can contact the surgery via other means using E-Consult via the website www.quaylanesurgery.co.uk Patient Access or by e-mail to quaylane.surgery@nhs.net I would like to take this opportunity to wish our patients a Happy Christmas and good health in the New Year from myself, the Doctors, Nurses and the whole team at Quay Lane Surgery.

Debbie Todd - Practice Manager

From the churches.

As I write this we are in lockdown and it is hard to know what will be possible when this Nut Tree is distributed and whether or not Church services will be able to resume once again. If they can, we plan to hold as many traditional Carol Services and Christmas communion services as we can – please look on our websites nearer the time. www.achurchnearyou.com and www.stgermansparishes.com

On a more optimistic note, provided that our local schools remain open, we have plans in place for Christingle! We will be distributing over 350 “Christingles in a Bag” to the schools within our Benefice at Antony, Donderry, St Germans and Craffhole pre-school. This will allow children to make their Christingles at home and join in the Church of England and Children’s Society’s **online Christingle Service on 13 December**.

Regardless of whether restrictions are lifted or not, we are still holding services by Zoom every day of the week. If you would like to join one of these services, please email Revd Canon Lynn Parker at parker30@hotmail.com:

Sunday 10:00 am
Tues 10:00 am
Weds 10:00 am
Fri 10:00 am

Mon 7:00 pm
Thurs 7:00 pm
Sat 7:00 pm

Christmas is not cancelled, do not worry or fear, it’s all about Lord Jesus, and he’s already here.

Have a safe and peaceful Christmas, and whether we are able to come together in church or not, let us hold each other in our hearts, and pray for an end to this dreadful pandemic.

Revd Canon Lynn Parker,

**The Zone a Fresh Expression of The Methodist Church in Donderry
The Chapel by the Sea**

We are sorry that we could not have our Communion Service and coffee mornings last month due to Government’s Second Lockdown. Hopefully, if there are no more restrictions, we will be able to have a Communion Service on Sunday December 13th at 5pm. The coffee mornings we hope, would be able to start again on Friday December 11th at 10am – 11.30am

Both these events will probably have limited numbers, please phone Elsa Guilfoyle on 250118 for booking and information. We look forward to welcoming you all back.

Elsa Guilfoyle

Light up Donderry and Seaton

Do you deck out the outside of your home with dazzling lights and decorations at Christmas? If you do, you could be in with a chance of winning an amazing Christmas Hamper. To enter send a photo, with your name and address to: donderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com. Competition runs from 1st to 18th December. The winner will be chosen by the Village Hall Management Committee.

St Nicolas CofE Primary School, Donderry

It has been a pleasure to welcome all children back to school this term. Some children missed a lot of school and returned for the first time since March this September. Whilst children were away from school, parents did a fantastic job of becoming home teachers for which we are very grateful. This term, we have managed to fit in lots of outdoor adventures such as cycling the Drakes trail; mountain biking at Lanhydrock; climbing to the highest point in Cornwall; exploring the local parts of the South West coast path and orienteering around Mount Edgcumbe.

This month, due to the National lockdown, we have had to remain on site more however, we have taken part in lots of 'in-school' adventures such as outdoor cooking; using tools; climbing trees and building dens.

During the last few months, we have been blessed with the support of our local community. Hundred of pounds worth of food hampers have been paid for by donations and were prepared for us by Donderry Stores. This helped a huge amount of families during this difficult time. We are very grateful for your support.

We hope you managed to spot our Remembrance Day display at the front of the school this month? Children took part in a socially distanced service on the playground which included readings, prayers and a 2 minute silence. We hope that restrictions will be lifted so we can re-join the community at the War Memorial next year.

Finally, we hope you managed to spot our fireworks this year? We certainly lit up the lockdown! Many blessings,

Head of School - Jake Imrie

Donderry Community Bus

Thank you everyone for leaving your annual donations for our bus, either in our shop or in my post box. The winners for the month of November 1st. No. 92 Danielle Bennett 2nd. No. 123 Sue Hough and 3rd. No.168 Steve Shepherd. Many thanks and stay safe.

Jo Woodley 01503 250489

News from DaSRA - Donderry and Seaton Residents Association

COVID-19 Good Neighbours' Group. At the start of the national Covid-19 lockdown in March, DASRA joined a partnership with Volunteer Cornwall and Neighbourhood Watch and established a Good Neighbours' Group in Donderry and Seaton, offering local residents practical and emotional support if needed during the Coronavirus pandemic. When the early restrictions eased, those who volunteered to join the Good Neighbours' Group agreed to stay on board so we were ready if there were further lockdowns. We want to stay flexible offering support if needs arise; who knows how long restrictions in any form will last, particularly as we come up to Christmas. If you, or someone you know, feels in need of help, or just wants to talk, please do get in touch. 01503 250911/01503 250332. email info@dasra.co.uk Donderry Stores holds mail for us, so you could leave a note there.

Neighbourhood Watch (NW). Many of you may know that Jack London, our long serving Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, is returning to his native Midlands so the search is on for a local resident to take on the NW brief. This national organisation encourages and supports neighbours within a local area to come together to create safe, stronger and active communities and the local co-ordinator is the lead point of contact, actively involved in keeping neighbourhoods safe. If you would like to know more, please contact Laura Done, Chair of DaSRA at info@dasra.co.uk

Seaton Play Park. Children now visiting the Seaton Play Park will be having fun on the new play equipment recently installed as part of a staged improvement plan for this important community asset. All is not quite complete as Cornwall Council is currently monitoring the groundworks following the recent rain falls, and once that is resolved, Phase1 of the project will be done.

Many residents participated in a consultation organised by Cornwall Council in the summer of 2019, when residents shared their views on future improvements to the play area. These ideas were fed into the overall plan, which is now calling for additional equipment to conclude this important community play area.

A working group is being convened to raise funds to complete Phase 2 by adding more of the play items chosen by public consultation. The plan is to launch a digital-based, short-term (4-5 months) fundraising programme in early 2021 promoted through a dedicated Facebook page. We are appealing for volunteers to help with this Appeal - one area of expertise needed is to manage the Facebook page but we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in this community-led ambition for a high standard Play Park to benefit the health and wellbeing of our local children. If you would like to help please contact Laura Done, DaSRA: 01503 250911; email info@dasra.co.uk: James Millidge. 07968 008770: John Croft 07718 482777 email croft00@btinternet.com

Laura Done

Downderry and Seaton Village Hall

Reopening the Main Hall - Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, it is with much regret that we may now not be able to reopen the Main Hall in early December. Once dates for the Deep Clean and Maintenance work, which we were hoping would be done in November, have been completed, we will be arranging some events. Please note these events will be different to our normal events, as they must be COVID-19 Secure. So, keep checking our Facebook Group, notice boards around the villages and our website (www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk) for details. Via our website, you can also subscribe to receive the latest news delivered to your email box.

AGM - We are hoping to hold our Annual General Meeting on Friday 26th February 2021 at 7.30pm, however, the format is yet to be finalised as it will depend on the COVID-19 restrictions at the time. The AGM Agenda and details of the meeting will be on display in the window by the Village Hall Main Door and Snooker Room, our website and local notices boards on Friday 12th February 2021. Election of the Village Hall Committee - Village Hall members are invited to:

1: a) Propose changes to the Rules. b) Stand, or nominate another member to stand for election as either the President, a Vice-President, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary or a Committee Member at the 2021 AGM. Every candidate and nominee must provide their name, full contact details and the position for which they are standing by email or letter. In respect of nominations, except for a Vice-President, a letter is required, signed by both the nominator and the nominee. For Vice-President nominations, a letter is required stating the reason for the nomination(s) and signed by the nominator only.

2: All proposals and candidates' names will be published in the AGM agenda.

3: The deadline for receipt of all proposals and candidates' details is at noon on Tuesday 29th January 2021, at the latest.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary and posted in the Hall's mailbox by the front entrance. Our website is at downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk - Email: downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com.

Mandy Smith

St Germans & District Garden Club

We wish all our members a Happy Christmas and here's hoping you will be able to spend it with your families. We look forward with anticipation to a better New Year and the hope that we will soon be able to meet up again and resume our meetings.

Ann Drew

St Germans Thursday Club

Hello again! Amazing that a whole month has gone by since I last wrote, and that the year's end - Christmas and New Year are just a few weeks away. We hope that everyone in and out the village, members of the Thursday Club, and their families, friends and neighbours - however far-flung will have a comfortable, heart-warming and healthy holiday season.

Results of our researches into days gone by will be shared in 2021, maybe in a group meeting? Do keep sending, phoning or dropping off any memories and facts of the past of our parish, and items from previous village newsletters, or newspapers, or books. I've been playing "guess the date" with old clippings and letters.

Keep in touch - phone our Chairperson, Jean Mills (01503-230324), or leave me a note at Merryweather Cottage (just along from St Germans shop).

Sue Cousins (230106)

Simple ways to save the planet – December 2020.

What a year this has been! As 2020 draws to a close I find myself rounding up the year's events and considering where the environment stands in it all. Forest fires, floods and the plague have made 2020 feel like a chapter from the Old Testament. However there have been positives among the chaos; more of us have been walking and connecting with wildlife. More of us have been growing our own food. Flying has taken a much needed nosedive, albeit possibly temporarily until a vaccine is developed. For my part I have been immersed in the question of environmental growth, most recently contemplating how we can reinstate the keystone species our landscapes so desperately need to counterbalance the frenzy of house building. Keystone species are animals that can have a marked positive benefit on the environment, and one that has rightly been hitting the news recently is the beaver.

Beavers are amazing because they create water and, alongside clean air, water is the fundamental essence of life; from water grows algae, which provides food for insects, which feed amphibians, bats and birds, which feed larger predators. The other advantage of creating ponds and wetlands from streams is that they offer somewhere for the rain to go, slowing down peak flow and reducing flooding downstream. There are carbon benefits too, but explaining them may be beyond the word count of this article! Our woodland valleys are perfect for beavers. There are of course some conflicts; there may be fields where cultivation goes right to the river bank, and beavers do enjoy munching vegetation. A good way around this would be for all farmers to be paid to leave a 20m buffer strip around waterways. This would reduce any chemical run off going into our rivers, so would be a win win all round. At the moment the reintroduction of beavers is beset with paperwork, but I for one am hopeful that 2021 may be the year that we start to see these amazing animals doing their magic in a waterway in our locality.

Lizzy Stroud

Hessenford News

You will probably be reading this a day or two before our second lockdown ends. Hopefully you've been able to 'put up with' being generally stuck inside, and that none of your family and/or friends have become Covid-positive, and those of you who've had birthdays in the interim were able to enjoy them. Lovely to see a lot of you around the War Memorial on the 11th. Thank you to those who tidied up the area in advance of the occasion. Maybe we can form a little group of willing volunteers to regularly keep this area looking spick and span. Thought that 'the nurse' & her poppies looked good too, with the cross in memory of Sam Bassett. DM has the design of the Tideford poppies and was wondering if a group of interested people would like to get together sometime to make some for next year.

I know at least a couple of things have been put on hold, but hopefully we'll be able to join up for a chat & a coffee on Saturday, 12th December from 10am - 12noon; and hopefully there'll be a wedding in St Anne's. Things that did happen were The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan that raised the excellent sum of £236.77, which paid for a Macmillan Support Worker for two days, helping people living with cancer receive the support they need. Another event that took place was 'Wear It Pink' for Breast Cancer which has so far raised about £860, with a little more still to come, an absolutely fantastic sum. So a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated, bid & bought. A personal challenge was also undertaken by myself for 11/11 and The Royal British Legion. RBL asked you to choose your own challenge & I chose to walk the equivalent of the 3 Peaks (23 miles), which I did over five days. Many of you followed my walks on Strava/Facebook. On my fifth walk to Donderry & back I met the lovely couple from Mount Brioni who gave me a donation of £20 – I don't know my exact total to date but I'm sure whatever it is RBL will be very grateful.

Watch this space for a December/January fundraiser for St Luke's Hospice - some of it related to Art. Also look out for the Art Group's Christmas Cards raising funds for the Institute. I hope you've been filling up your Children's Society/Children's Hospice South-West candle collecting boxes ready to hand them in by Christmas Eve. Margaret & I look forward to counting up the pennies - I've received one back so far with a grand sum inside.

A few of us (six households) have been suffering with no t'internet for SIXTEEN DAYS to date. I don't know if anyone has a direct line to Openreach. It apparently took NINE DAYS for the necessary Tree Work to be put on someone's job sheet!! Quite ridiculous in my opinion. I'm due another 'update' in two days time, hopefully this will be more positive. Maybe our local councillors can put pressure on BT as this vital service is so important to those of us in rural communities?

It's lovely to be able to welcome some more people to the village, although we don't know all their names yet. Hessenford Farmhouse, Pineview Cottage, and across the road No's. 2 & 5 St Anne's View (all on the main road thru') have all been sold but we're not sure exactly who to; however we can welcome Seth & Assumpta to 6 West End Cottage & hope they'll enjoy their sojourn in the village (they have an absolutely beautiful ginger cat).

I came across an article today, before I started writing this in which Elizabeth Day wanted to introduce a new 'Word of the Year' to sum up 2020 - angrious - essentially a mixture of the two emotions angry & anxious. She says: "Being angrious is, essentially, a sort of impotence. We have all these feelings and nowhere to put them. But naming a problem is the first step in solving it". Perhaps we can find some comfort in solidarity. What do you think? Hope to see you all again soon in a social setting. Take care, stay safe.

Fran Moore

Downderry and Seaton Women's Institute

We've grown again! We welcome Sue from Seaton to our WI as another new member and hope that she will make many new friends in her new home. This month we took the plunge into extended technology and offered members the chance to see a cookery demonstration by Ann Dollard and Pat Paxton. Now I am no cook, but I think I could do the two cakes and spiced nuts they demonstrated. I will have a go anyway! We are hoping to hone our skills for this type of activity and so we are inviting members to attend a "Christmas Table Decoration demonstration" on Tuesday 8th December at 2.00 p.m. This is a member's only event as the WI are supplying all the kit for it in advance.

Our Christmas "Not in the pub" evening on 18th December will be a seasonal event. Get your Christmas jumpers, Christmas hats on and we will supply the games and bingo. It will be a scream! Bingo cards will be delivered with the table decoration kits sometime after 3rd December.

The Book club have chosen some seasonal themed books for their meeting on 22nd December at 7.30 p.m. and if you want to know more about that, contact Pat Paxton at the email address below.

If you are interested in talking to me about the WI please phone 01503250322. Or drop an email to Downderry-and-Seaton-wi@googlegroups.com

Maura Swabey

Tamar Valley Logo Hunt

Have you seen these logos on an interpretation board near you? If so, please get in touch!

Out with the old:



and in with the new:



This summer, the Tamar Valley celebrated 25 years since designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Over that time, many projects and initiatives to conserve and enhance natural beauty (including wildlife, geology and landscape features, archaeology and architecture) have taken place in the area. To provide information, a number of interpretation boards have been erected over the years at certain locations throughout the Valley.

Unfortunately, many of these boards are looking tired now and some contain information that is very out of date. With the introduction of a new brand for the Tamar Valley AONB, it seems timely to take stock of everything that's out there, to start scheduling updates of the panels or replacing them entirely if they are no longer fit for purpose.

... and this is where we'd love your help! During your daily exercise, if you pass an information board that contains one of our old logos, please could you note where it is, what information it contains and provide a brief description of the condition of the board? A simple survey form is available by emailing Charlotte at cdancer@tamarvalley.org.uk

Charlotte Dancer

St Germans & Area Public Transport Group

Annual Meeting: We missed our annual meeting this year - BUT we are planning an open committee meeting by Zoom in December. If you'd like to join us let me know (01503 230106 or a.cousins345@btinternet.com)

Buses: National Express coaches were running through Tideford from July for a while, but there are no coaches at all through Cornwall at present. From early December two coaches are scheduled to operate daily from Plymouth to London & return and two coaches daily to Birmingham & return, but there are no coaches scheduled to operate to and from any destination in Cornwall at any date in the future. However, the Stagecoach Falcon Coach Service is not only back to full service but it has been slightly increased. Currently 20 coaches are scheduled to run daily from Plymouth Coach Station departing between 01.00 & 23.00 to Bristol Airport & City Centre and the same number departing Bristol City Centre between 01.30 & 23.30 to the Airport & Plymouth. National Express Coach Services are important to local passengers travelling on a budget, who may not have a car, and cannot afford train fares but need to visit relatives. Let us know if you have been a regular user of National Express, as we plan to support calls for the restoration of the service through Cornwall.

Trains: Don't forget there will be a new timetable from 13th December. There will be a few additional weekday trains (eastwards at 1027 and 1628; westwards at 1402 and 1722), and a few changed times, including many slightly earlier departures on Saturdays and Sundays.

I reported last month that various services would be affected by track renewal work. Here are the details we have heard about:

PLEASE NOTE: the changes detailed below for main line West Cornwall services (December 5 to December 10) will mean that various St Germans services will not be running, and some timings are different - you should check carefully before travelling. The main changes are on the weekdays.

West Cornwall track renewals, Saturday 5 to Thursday 10 Dec 2020 inclusive

On Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December:

- The line between St Erth and Penzance will be temporarily closed.
- Trains will continue to run from St Erth towards Plymouth although times will be different to normal.
- Replacement buses will run between St Erth and Penzance. Buses will be timed to connect with trains.

From Monday 7 to Thursday 10 Dec:

- The lines from Truro to Penzance and St Erth to St Ives will be temporarily closed.
- Replacement buses will be timed to connect with trains at Truro.
- Trains between Truro and Falmouth Docks will run up to 10 minutes earlier than normal.

Replacement buses will run between:

- Truro - St Erth - Penzance (hourly)
- Truro - Penzance (stopping at all stations, hourly)
- St Erth - Lelant* - Carbis Bay - St Ives (every 30 mins)

* Hourly. One bus a day also calls at Lelant Saltings

Find out more at GWR.com/WestCornwall

St Ives Bay line, Sunday 13, 20 Dec 2020; & Monday 4 Jan to Sunday 7 Feb. 2021:

- The St Ives Bay line will be temporarily closed to trains.
- Replacement buses will run between St Erth and St Ives.
- Buses will be timed to connect with trains at St Erth.

Replacement buses will run between:

- St Erth - Carbis Bay - St Ives (25 minutes journey time, buses run every 30 minutes)
- One bus each hour in each direction will stop additionally at Lelant.
- One bus a day in each direction will stop additionally at Lelant Saltings.

Connecting onto trains at St Erth

- Buses to/from St Ives will be timed to connect with trains at St Erth. You may need to travel earlier than normal in order maintain the same train connection.
- A normal service will run on the main line between Plymouth and Penzance.
- St Ives Bay line trains that normally start/terminate at Penzance will not run.

Find out more at GWR.com/StIves

Alan Cousins

Cornwall Libraries - Click and Collect!

Contact the Cornwall Libraries at 0300-1234-111, and ask for the person or branch you want, or to renew your books.

This morning we had our monthly visit from the Mobile Library.

Like all the Cornwall Library branches, it works by click and collect.

There were 5 books for me that I'd ordered back in October, early November. Also the librarian selected two mystery books in large print. Easy on the eyes. At this time browsing the shelves is not done, or in some branches very restricted. All books returned are left for 3 days before the librarians process them. Careful handling and minimal contact, distanced and with masks, keeps us all safe.

So, with these 7 books, and a big book of Muriel Spark short stories (borrowed in October), I am a very happy library user.

To renew books and check on dates due, login to your library account

www.capitaldiscovery.co.uk/cornwall/login and type in your membership number.

Browse the catalogue at <https://capitaldiscovery.co.uk/cornwall>

You can search by keyword - title, author, subject. A list drops down - so many items that you can sort in different ways A-Z by title, or by author, or by date published (either oldest or newest first). Select a book and click on Check Availability. Details of the book will appear - number of pages, a few lines about it. When you want to reserve it, click Reserve. If you haven't logged in to your account as above, you can now enter your borrower number and choose the branch you want to collect your item from a drop-down list.

For the Mobile Library, you can order by email at mobile@cornwall.gov.uk or by phoning 07837 – 815942 (East Area). Anyone who doesn't have a library card can join at the Mobile Library, (next visit 15th Dec. see Rita's Rota).

Please do support our very exciting, superbly well-stocked Cornwall Libraries. Thank you Cornwall Libraries and with thanks to all our librarians!

I shall be even happier when we can share our libraries with Scrabble groups, Knit and Natter, Book Groups and Writing Groups. Oh and Children's sing-alongs, ...and did I mention skits and story-telling? Did I say Lego? Chess? Colouring groups....

PS A book recommendation: The Giver of Stars by Jo Jo Moyes - Cornwall has several hbk and pbk copies, a book-group set of 12, a CD, an ebook, a Large Print copy.....It's a great read. Or to get your very own copy, why not try Click and Collect from our very own local bookshops in Liskeard and Saltash?! Would make a very good Christmas present, and if you have a free read of it first from the library, you'll know who might like it.

Sue Cousins (01503-230106)

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

- 1** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
10.00 Communion TC
- 2** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
5.00 Prayers SNCh
- 3** 10.00 Prayers HC;
7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 4** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 5** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 6** 10.00 Morning Worship SNCh;
10.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 7** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 8** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
10.00 Communion TC;
2.00 Dderry WI Zoom;
- 9** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
5.00 Prayers SNCh
- 10** 10.00 Prayers HC;
7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 11** 10.00 CM CZ;
10.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 12** 10.00 CM HCH;
7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 13** 10.00 Communion SGPC;
10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
5.00 Communion CZ;
- 14** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- 15** 9.45 Mobile Library at
St Germans - Alms Houses,
10.05 St Germans - Quay Road,
1.55 IOS ,
2.45 Seaton - Car Park;
10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
10.00 Communion TC
- 16** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
5.00 Prayers SNCh

Copy for Rita's Rota should be sent to ritasrota@yahoo.co.uk by 15th of the preceding month.

- 17** 10.00 Prayers HC;
7.00 C of E Zoom Service;
7.30 Deviock PC Zoom
 - 18** 10.00 CM CZ;
10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
6.30 Dderry WI Party Zoom;
 - 19** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 20** 10.00 Communion SNCh;
10.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 21** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 22** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
10.00 Communion TC;
7.30 Dderry WI Book Club Zoom
 - 23** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
5.00 Prayers SNCh
 - 24** 10.00 Prayers HC;
7.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 25** **CHRISTMAS DAY** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 26** **BOXING DAY** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 27** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 28** 7.00 C of E Zoom Service
 - 29** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
10.00 Communion TC
 - 30** 10.00 C of E Zoom Service;
5.00 Prayers SNCh
 - 31** 10.00 Prayers HC;
7.00 C of E Zoom Service
- CZ Dderry Coastal Zone; DSVH Dderry & Seaton VH; PolH Polbathic Hall; EHS G Eliot Hall St G; HC H'ford Church; HCH H'ford Church Hall; IOS Inn on the Shore; SGMC St G Methodist Ch; SGPC St G Priory Church;; SNCh St Nicolas' Church; TC Tideford Church; TRBL Tideford RBL Hall; WVH W'gates V Hall**

**Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year, stay safe all from
Rita**

Disclaimer : The Editorial Group accepts no responsibility for views expressed in any edition of Nut Tree. Nevertheless, we will try to be as accurate as possible and desire similar factual correctness from our correspondents.