



December 2021 Volume 36 (9)

Seasons' Greetings
& a Happy New Year
to all our neighbours

Nature Notes

The rising sun continues its slow, imperceptible movement south beyond the tip of the Rame peninsula. There are still a few more weeks before it appears to stall at the winter solstice and we anticipate its apparent return northwards. Until then the daylight reduces minute by minute and we have to make the most of what remains. This morning is spectacular as the fuzzily edged sun emerges behind a cumulus cloud whose crest is glinted yellow. Above, horizontal lines of pink and orange clouds reflect the light. Within ten minutes the show is over and I concentrate on activity on the shiny, shimmering sea.

Birds are few and scattered – the ponderous, black silhouettes of Cormorants more obvious than the odd Gannet or Kittiwake. There are no Great Northern Divers, yet two days ago, I came across a loose group of seven birds, newly arrived from Iceland or beyond. That is a good number for November. These large birds were lounging on the surface, occasionally taking it in turns to dive. As I scanned the ocean there was the frustratingly brief, but noticeable profile of a Harbour Porpoise. I waited without luck for it to reappear. Compared to dolphins, this species is smaller and scarcely breaks the surface. Today, no diver and no porpoise.

Having surveyed the ocean, I spend a little time observing activity along the road on the way home. There seems to be no sign of winter as the mild autumn persists. With little wind, leaves continue to hang on and there are still a few flowers in bloom. I was still collecting raspberries until a few days ago and the leaves of spring bulbs are already emerging. Deep within a bush there is the sharp, emphatic call of a Blackcap, a regular winter visitor from central Europe. This species will build up its numbers into the new year.

Blackbirds chase one another across the road, jostling for position as they move from one bush to another. The sound of Chaffinch, Dunnock, Blue Tit and Jackdaw add to the mix. There is a tick sound and a Robin emerges, posing for its Christmas card. It is one of the few birds that continue to sing into winter though the song is different from that in summer.

I am looking out for an uncommon winter visitor, the Firecrest, but there is no sign yet of this diminutive bird. I expect to see one or two each winter. No winter thrushes from Scandinavia either, though Redwings and Fieldfares have been seen elsewhere in Cornwall.

I count nine Collared Doves perched on a line close together. Nothing unusual in that, but I am reminded that this sedentary species was unknown in Britain until the 1950s. It is easy to take for granted such a ubiquitous bird, but breeding was first confirmed in Norfolk only in 1955, following a rapid expansion across western Europe before the war. We know that the species has profited from the availability of free grain, livestock feed and weed-seed. The initial spread predates global warming but no doubt milder winters have helped to maintain its hold here.

Alan Payne

St Germans Parish Council

As mentioned in a previous Nut Tree, the Council has bought a marquee and gazebo, which are available for anyone in the parish to borrow if they are organising an event. Please contact our clerk Emily for more details.

Road safety is always a concern in our area. Just by way of example, bus users, including school children, have to cross the busy main roads at Tideford, Polbathic and Trerulefoot in order to access the bus stops, without any real protection.

The Safe A38 group are doing a wonderful job of raising awareness on this and all the other issues which affect us. As a council we fully support them. We are ourselves liaising with Cornwall County Council over the possibility of a 20 mph speed limit through St Germans. More on this later.

The December meeting is likely to be on 21st December at the Eliot Hall, but please check our website and the notice boards for confirmation.

Finally, our clerk Emily works hard to keep our website updated and full of information. Please do have a look at it from time to time. The web address is (www.stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillor Patricia Pipe

Deviock Parish Council

Forthcoming meetings in December and January (to take place at the Zone, Downterry Methodist Church): Full Council 16th December 7.30pm and 13th January 7.30pm; Planning Committee 27th January 6.30pm. Social distancing and reduced capacity will continue to apply. See Agendas for details prior to each meeting.

Seaton land purchase: The Parish Council exchanged contracts on 4.7 acres of woodland at the sea end of Seaton valley in November. Originally scheduled for public auction, it was secured during pre-auction negotiations following a successful emergency crowdfunding campaign using public donations and earmarked reserves for land. Chair Mark Gibbons said: "I would like to thank all in the community who contributed so generously to this appeal, and Cornwall Wildlife Trust for its endorsement, as well as Cllr Armand Toms and all at Cornwall Council who responded rapidly and effectively to support the remarkable and tireless efforts of Parish Councillors on the ground. We had less than two weeks to save this land and we are delighted that it is now protected for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations. We will now be working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust on a sustainable, long term management plan for this habitat and its wildlife."

Seaton ward vacancy: A vacancy has been advertised for a new Councillor to join the Deviock Parish Council.

Planning: To comment on a planning application, search for 'cornwall council planning applications'. Any comments posted on the Cornwall Council site are viewed by the Parish Council. See Agendas for applications due for discussion at the next Full Council or Planning Committee meeting.

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 available).

Karen Pugh - Parish Clerk

Christmas Greetings from County Hall



As we draw to the end of 2021, our thoughts turn to the festive period and the new beginnings of 2022; a new year always brings the promise of renewal and change.

Whatever your plans for the Christmas and New Year period, we wish you and your families the very best and a restful and joyful time.

Cllr Kate Ewert and Cllr Armand Toms

News from the Churches

After last Christmas where we couldn't really mix with others and Christmas activities were curtailed and church services kept to a minimum; this year feels a lot more hopeful. People are (whilst being careful) wanting to enter into the spirit of Christmas a little more, and there is a sense of hope and expectation as we come into the Christmas Season.

So, I pray that you can find time this Christmas to think about "The Reason For The Season", the event which brings hope into our lives, the birth of Jesus Christ and to make time, within all the busyness, to bring him into your celebrations. To help with that we have some extra seasonal services for you to enjoy. (Our normal Sunday services details are on the back page)

December

16th – 7.00pm Donderry Carol service

19th – 3.00pm St Germans Carols "by the Lychgate"

21st – 6.30pm Portwrinkle Carols

22nd – 7.30pm St Germans Christmas Carols Remembrance Service – A time to remember those loved ones who have died and will not be with us for Christmas.

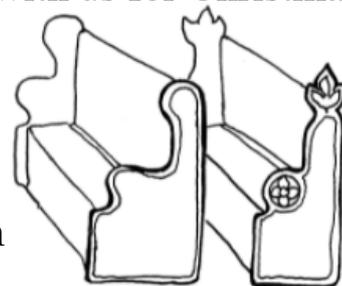
24th – 2.00pm Donderry Carols on the beach

24th – 6.00pm Hensford Christingle Service

24th – 11.30pm St Germans Christmas Communion

24th – 11.30pm Donderry Christmas Communion

25th – 10.00am Donderry Family Christmas Communion



Hopefully these services will not add to your busyness – but will give meaning to it. Seasonal Blessings.

Rev Canon Lynn Parker parker30@hotmail.com

St Germans Methodist Church

St Germans Methodist Church is open once more. While our normal Christmas activities are somewhat curtailed, we are delighted to welcome you to the following. On Sunday 12 December at 4.00pm our Carols by Candlelight Service will be led by Prof. Noel Morgan. On Christmas Eve at 4.00pm we are holding a Family Christmas Celebration. This is a good time for the whole family to truly begin to celebrate this wonderful season. This will be led by Janet and Steve Gerrard

Everyone is warmly welcome to both these celebrations and also to our usual morning services which are every Sunday at 10.30. (In December there will be no morning service on either the 12th or 26th). We look forward to seeing you.

Any enquiries please call Jenny on 01503 230766 or Janet on 01503 230403

Steve Gerrard

The Zone - The Donderry Methodist Church.

Coffee Morning Wednesday mornings between 10am-11.30am.

Carol Service. Sunday December 12th at 3pm. Mrs Barbara Snowling will be taking the service. Deviock Brass Ensemble will be playing for us, and Whitsand Harmony Choir will be singing and also giving us some special carols of their choice. Everyone welcome, as we begin to prepare for a peaceful and happy Christmas.



Church on the Beach. Sunday 19th December:

9:30am Breakfast (bring your own) in the Chapel

10:00 am All age service in the Chapel

11.20am Sand Challenge - Donderry Beach (Build a Christmas tree)

11.45m Hot Choc and Brunch -- in the Chapel

We are sorry for the change in the beach activities but, since the dreadful accident in Wales a few weeks ago, all water-based activities for UK charities are under review and it is difficult getting insurance cover for these events. Come and join us for all or part of this event. People may still feel they would like to swim but not under the name of Action for Children.

Elsa Guilfoyle

Deviock Activities Group

Deviock Activities Group (DAG) is an organisation being established by a small group of local residents to enable activities to take place in the village. We currently run a popular table tennis group on Wednesday evenings at the Zone 6pm-8pm.

Additional sessions are possible in the future, including Parent & 11+ sessions during the Christmas School holidays, if there is sufficient demand. Contact Maggie Holden on magiluv2sing@gmail.com for more information.

Plans are also underway for a social arts and crafting 'Works in Progress' group. This will be a weekly group held at The Zone for anyone to come along for a coffee and biscuit and to work on projects, or just swap ideas about your creative projects, whether it's quilting, knitting, darning & mending, cross-stitch, embroidery, card-making, drawing or doodling.... The contact for this group is Sue Webster on getknitted@outlook.com. Our first activity is a Families Christmas Workshop on Saturday 4th December 10-12noon £2 per child £5 per family.

To book places on the Workshop, for more information about DAG, ideas of other activities & how to get involved please contact Viv Parker on 250519 or parkerviv@aol.com.

Viv Parker

Cornwall Hospice Care

Do come along to our Christmas **PLAIN BAKED POTATO LUNCH** at the Downterry Village Hall on **THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER** 11.30am - 1pm £6 includes a pudding. Christmas cards will be on sale.



Viv Parker

A Simply Topping Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15 December at Noon at St.Nicolas Church, Downterry. A Jacket Potato with a Turkey topping and seasonal accompaniments (a vegetarian option is also available), Christmas pudding and mince-pies. **There is no fee. Donations are welcome.** Contact Sandra Pearce to sign up by Wednesday December 8th.

Sandra Pearce 01503 250798 smilepearce25@btinternet.com

Tideford RBL Christmas Fayre

Sat 4th December at Tideford British Legion - 11am - 4pm. Craft stalls, homemade pasties and cakes. Raffle, tombola, refreshments and bar. Santa is visiting 1 - 2.30 with presents for the children (no charge). All welcome.

L Clarke

St Germans Thursday Club

In December, Thursday Club will meet on 2nd Dec. at 2:30 pm, in the Eliot Hall, for mince pies and festive music with the VOICES chamber choir. And also on Thursday 16th Dec, for a general looking ahead to the year 2022. Our meetings in January 2022 are on the 13th and 27th.

All meetings are at 2:30 pm, with raffle and refreshments. Doors of Eliot Hall open at 2 pm. If you come along about then, you will get a chance to help move chairs, and set up tables, and get the best seat(s)... Visitors and new members very welcome. We will be gathering nominations and volunteers to join the committee, and discussing future activities, outings and speakers. As the year turns, we will all consider our programme for 2022 - have your ideas and choices ready to share and plan together.

What we are hoping for must be the friendship and fun that the Thursday Club began with in 1973. We will return to all that is best and brightest in the run-up to our 50th year in 2023.

Keep in touch; hope to see you soon! Our Chairperson is Jean Mills (230324)

Sue Cousins 230106

Quay Lane Surgery

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Social Prescriber Link Worker Jessica Hirons has been at Quay Lane Surgery now for 2 years and holds appointments on Thursdays. She offers a huge lifeline within our community by linking people with the support they need; from respite services for carers, cancer care and long-term health support - to people with poor health linked to housing, unemployment, debt management and weight management, to name a few. Social Prescribing can help you access a wealth of services to improve both mental and physical health; meet new people or learn a new skill depending on what you might need and what services and resources are available. This might include social isolation and befriending services, bereavement, accessing legal advice, emotional wellbeing, and mental health support.

To access Social Prescribing, simply ring the surgery to book an appointment. Home visits can also be arranged. Jessica also has a weekly drop-in Wellbeing Hub at Torpoint Library on Wednesday afternoons (1-3) where all are welcome and is hoping to extend this service with a monthly pop-up wellbeing hub in Donderry, St Germans, Millbrook and Cawsand from January. These sessions offer an extension of the support mentioned above plus mindful arts and crafts, digital support, and the opportunity to have a cuppa and a chat. More at www.facebook.com/the.wellbeing.hub.east.cornwall.

On behalf of all our members I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!!

Claire Croft, PPG Chair quaylanesurgeryppg@gmail.com

Practice News

Covid Boosters. If you are eligible (must be a minimum of 6 months since your 2nd vaccination) then please contact the surgery after 10am Monday to Friday to book your appointment. COVID boosters are taking place at Saltash Football Club every two weeks. Alternatively, upon invitation from the NHS, eligible patients can book an appointment either online or via 119 to book at a mass vaccination centre or find out about one of the other local options that may be available.

Flu Vaccinations. Appointments are now being made for both the over 65 and eligible under 65 flu vaccination age groups. Please contact the surgery if you have not already booked your appointment.

Face coverings. We must remind patients again that there is a requirement to wear a face covering in all NHS buildings to include St. Germans and Donderry Surgery. We also ask that you wear a face covering when collecting medication from the Portacabin. If you are exempt then please make this known to the team before attending the surgery so that alternative arrangements can be put in place.

NHS staff still need to isolate if a household member has COVID which impacts on our staffing levels. Please help to keep our vulnerable patients and team members safe by not attending the surgery if you have any cough/cold symptoms and please continue to wear a face covering. Thank you for your assistance.

Wishing all our patients a very Merry Christmas, happy and healthy New Year from the Quay Lane Surgery Team.

Debbie Todd, Practice Manager



Superfast Broadband. DaSRA committee member, Caroline Frith, together with Caroline Walmsley want to thank local people for the excellent turnout for the Superfast Broadband Information meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 15th November. Representatives from both Openreach and Superfast Cornwall were there to give an overview, and answer questions, on the project which will bring Government funding to help Downderry and Seaton upgrade to Superfast fibre to the premises (FTTP). Interest in the project seems to be strong and, at the time of writing, the pledge level is at 54% - thanks to all those who have already 'got on board'...it would be great if we could encourage all our friends and neighbours to do the same. We do need to almost double the current number of 'signups' in order for the project to go ahead before the Government grant scheme becomes suspended early in January 2022. Ideally, we are aiming to get 100% support by mid-December. If you have yet to sign your pledge and still have questions, please contact either the county's Community Lead at dsfibrepartnership@gmail.com, Julian Cowans (Superfast Cornwall) at info@superfastcornwall.org or message to info@dasra.co.uk with your query. Alternatively, there is a lot of very helpful Q&As being dealt with on the DaSRA Facebook page by another Openreach representative - Broadband Geraint - who is also part of the project team. Otherwise, please add your support for the future proofing of internet connectivity for the whole Downderry and Seaton community by going to www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity or the link on our FB page to pledge.

Community Notice Board. The Notice Board in the centre of the village, next to Downderry Stores, is in a dilapidated state. Sadly, over the years it has been neglected and is an eye sore. It is in a prime site, in easy view of passers-by and therefore a great place for community groups to advertise their activities. DaSRA has taken on the responsibility to replace and maintain it. Deviock Parish Council has kindly granted to part fund the cost of a new one so we hope to have it replaced in the New Year.

Farewells. Heather Blacker, a long-term active resident, is leaving Donderry, and The Zone's weekly coffee morning gives an appropriate setting to say Au Revoir as she moves to live in Liskeard. We hope she will visit us often. Heather played a leading role with members of the Donderry Methodist Church to save its future by developing the use of the church as a community centre, offering a much-needed venue in our active village. The Zone Committee would welcome all residents who have known Heather over the years to the Zone from 10.00am on Wednesday 8 December. We are sure many memories will be shared.

Donderry & Seaton Community Fund. Many residents will recall when our local Post Office was threatened with closure in 2016. A fund was launched to secure its continuation for a further two years, after which a self-financing outreach service took over, and continues to this day. That fund is still being supported by some residents, and the D & S Community Fund grows month by month as a "fighting fund" to protect community assets of value to our quality of life. Last month, when 4.5 acres of Seaton woodland was being auctioned off with potential for "low-income generation", our Parish Council launched a crowdfunding appeal to take the site into public ownership and create a wildlife woodland. It proved to be an example of how, with little warning, the community took an opportunity to act quickly and take control. Appreciating that its success in raising sufficient funds would go to the wire, DaSRA's Management Committee stayed in close contact with DPC as we assessed if the threat posed to the site if sold to a developer would meet the criteria established for D & S Community Fund. We decided it did. In the final hours, a donation of £2000 was made from the Community Fund and, as we now know, the bid was accepted and this land is now in public ownership, secured for the long term to be a wildlife woodland - a real coming together of the community, getting behind this initiative of Deviock Parish Council. If you agree that this Fund can be a tremendous resource for our community when a local asset needs support, and you would like to help it grow, details can be found on www.dasra.co.uk or do contact Laura Done, Chair, DaSRA 01503 250911

Laura Done

Donderry and Seaton Neighbourhood Watch (in partnership with DaSRA)

Over the recent weeks, some residents have received a letter through the postal system promoting Nextdoor Deviock. One example was sent with the greeting *Hi West Camps Bay Neighbour*. It describes a neighbourhood hub for useful information, connecting neighbours in need with those who can help. The letter has no signature, just a first name, a local area, no date, and, importantly, no contact details. The letter asks that a Nextdoor App is downloaded, and gives a joining code. Donderry and Seaton Neighbourhood Watch has no specific information about Nextdoor Deviock so we checked to see if national Neighbourhood Watch knew of this Nextdoor App. They advise us that the App's company is registered in the USA and stress our residents should be aware that it is, therefore, not subject to our UK Data Protection Act which

restricts companies on how they can use the data they collect. It is always worth remembering the general warning that is included on Devon and Cornwall Police/ Neighbourhood Watch communications. Do not respond to any unsolicited request to download an App unless you can verify, and are satisfied with, the source behind it.

Frauds /Scams are on the increase. Neighbourhood Watch continually updates the information it holds on the different types of fraud being experienced by the general public. In last month's Nut Tree, we listed a wide range of scams that are being reported to the police, and we keep information updated on the Neighbourhood Watch pages of www.dasra.co.uk. As we approach the Christmas season, we again advise residents to look out for indications that an email, phone call, text message, or doorstep caller may not be genuine. For example: Charity scams: Scammers will call claiming to be collecting money for charity and either pocket your donation or use personal details to access bank accounts. Courier scams: Courier scams usually consist of two parts; firstly, scammers will cold call, claiming to be from the bank or other authority and persuade you to tell them your PIN and your address. Then they will send a fraudulent courier to your house to pick up your bank card. Impersonation of UK officials: Criminals impersonate UK officials to obtain personal information and steal money, often claiming that you are due a refund or must make an urgent payment. Bank scams: Scammers may call you on the telephone or send you a text message purporting to be from your bank to say that your bank account has been fraudulently accessed and therefore, a new 'safe' account is opened that you should transfer your money into.

Always REMEMBER: your bank will NEVER contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password, or move money to another account. Payment scams: Emails or telephone calls purporting to be from genuine suppliers updating their bank details and quickly requesting an invoice. Doorstep fraud: Fraudsters try to scam you after knocking on your door. They might be pretending to collect money for charity or offering to sell you overpriced or substandard products or services, such as home improvements. In the case of rogue traders, they will call uninvited and offer to do some work on your roof, driveway, or garden.

Visit <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention> or visit our local Neighbourhood Watch page at www.dasra.co.uk. To join our Neighbourhood Watch and for more up to date information on line, visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW or make direct contact with our local NW Co-ordinator, Nigel Jones at email: info@dasra.co.uk

A Christmas Message from Donderry Stores

Wishing our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with a huge thank you for your kindness, support and for keeping our spirits lifted during the year. Best wishes and love.

Richard, Kim, Jan, Sharon, Thea and Andy.Xxx.

Downderry and Seaton Village Hall

Light up Downderry and Seaton Competition. 1st to 17th December - 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 name and address to: downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com or pop a



photo, with your details on the back, in the Village Hall mailbox. Competition runs from 1st to 17th December. The winner will be chosen by the Village Hall Management Committee.

Coffee Morning. Tuesday 7th December 10am to 12 noon - Come along for a chat and enjoy tea or coffee with Mince Pies and Cream. Doors open at 10am until 12 noon and it only costs £1.50 per person. There will be a Book Stall and Raffle Tickets for that morning's draw. All are welcome, including well behaved dogs on leads who will also get a little treat.

Christmas Quiz. Friday 17th December - If you've ever wondered what to do with all that knowledge and trivia stored in those little grey cells, then get those thinking caps on, and have a fun and exciting evening. Tables are for groups of up to 6, so come along with a group of friends and family, or just come and join in on another table.....and win those prizes. Tickets are £5 each. The Village Hall doors will open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm start. There will be nibbles on your table, a bar & raffle. To purchase tickets, go to our website or telephone Mandy Smith on 01503 250412.

Children's Christmas Disco. Saturday 18th December - Children 4 to 11 years of age living in Downderry or Seaton are invited to a Christmas Disco. Entertainment is by Shot in the Dark Disco and his friends with a special guest appearance by a man in a red suit! There will be free face painting and children will get refreshments and a gift from Santa. There will also be a prize for the best Christmas fancy dress. To register your child(ren) telephone Mandy or Keith Smith on 250412 or email downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com. To avoid disappointment, register early as numbers are limited. Closing date is Friday 10th December. There will be a bar and refreshments on sale for parents.

Coffee Morning. Tuesday 4th and 25th January - Pop into the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon for a chat and enjoy tea or coffee and a little treat for £2 per person. There will be a book/DVD sale and raffle. All welcome including dogs on leads.

Little Breakfast. Saturday 15th January - Come to the Village Hall between 10am and 1pm and enjoy a Breakfast Bap of Sausage, Bacon & Egg or the veggie option of Egg & Hash Browns with a Tea or Coffee for just £4. There will be a book/DVD sale and all welcome including dogs on leads.

Adventure in Pantoland. Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th February - It's nearly PANTO TIME and rehearsals are well under way. This is always a popular event, so when tickets go on sale, buy early, after all, you won't want to miss the Drama Group making fools of themselves or seeing their fabulous costumes and the scenery. You will see lots of familiar faces and some making their stage debut, supported by an innovative production team. Tickets cost Adults £8 and Children £4 and they will be on sale from Fri 14 January online from the website www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk or by telephone Mandy Smith on 01503 250412. There will also be a box office at our Little Breakfast on Saturday 15th January.

AGM. We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Friday 4th March 2022 at 7.30pm. 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 18th February 2022. 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 2022 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 25th January 2022, at the latest.

Mandy Smith
Secretary, Downderry and Seaton Village Hall

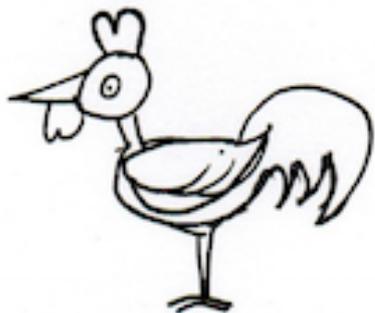
Sponsorship - Thank you

Chris and Gail Brett would like to thank all of you who sponsored us in aid of St Luke's Hospice. We are pleased to say that we completed the 30km and have raised £180 this year. Thank you to Kim and Richard along with staff members at Downderry Stores for helping with the sponsor forms and monies.

Chris and Gail Brett

Deviock Parish Council Loan Fund

Deviock 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.



Wow! December already! Where has that year gone? According to the Chinese it was the year of the Ox but in Hessenford I think it was the year of the Dog as we had lots of new additions to lots of families/people, so I guess we followed a nationwide trend. Maybe we should work towards a Hessenford Dog Show in 2022 and that means for one category/class at the show - Best New Trick - Andy's going to have to think up a new one for Maisie and the rest of you will have to get some special training done.

So, who's written and sent their cards already? Every year I say I'm going to make sure distant family and friends receive their cards on the 1st of the month - I know we always receive one or two - but I've mostly failed again!! Just a few have made it.

Last month I kept seeing adverts for Christmas Workshops, Craft Sales, Markets, Craft Fairs, Flower and Tree Festivals, Tabletop Sales and Christmas Food Delights so I hope you've enjoyed your crafting and have your creations on display or are shortly going to have - I will definitely be looking out for the wreaths. I hope you were able to shop locally and find some interesting original items to give as presents and enjoyed the displays that have been lovingly put together. And I hope the local butcher, baker and candlestick maker have all the food and items you need to make your Christmas perfect. Don't forget we have a FOOD BANK box in the church for any extra items you may have bought whilst shopping. Or you can put together a Cornwall Christmas Box for a Family of 4 - 6. The nearest drop-off point is Real Ideas 2 Pike Street, Liskeard (next to Barclays Bank) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday between 9.30 & 3 but be quick because the box has got to be at the collection point by Friday, 10th December.

A Christmas Café, Chat & Cake (in the form of mince pies, although other delicacies may be available too) will take place on Saturday, 11th December from 11am and we're looking forward to seeing some faces old and new.

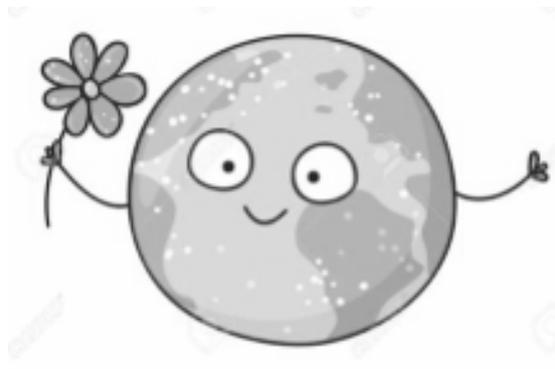
Of course, as most of you know Christmas Eve is special in Hessenford because of the Christingle Service, which I'm very pleased to say will be going ahead again this year in St Anne's to which you are all very warmly invited. Our innovative Christmas Tree will also be making a repeat appearance. If you missed it last year you're in for a treat!

Take care, stay well and see you all soon.

Fran Moore

Simple Ways to Save the Planet

I can't believe it's that time of year again! But as it is, here are some top tips for reducing your carbon footprint at Christmas.



Decorate with greenery. Take secateurs and cut what you find in hedges. Chances are the birds will have eaten the holly berries, but leylandii, privet, sage, rosemary, rosehips, Christmas tree trimmings etc will scent and embellish your house beautifully.

Buy second-hand decorations, or re-use old ones. For me, one of the highlights of the season is unwrapping the battered fairy that once was Dad's when he was a child. There's a camel a friend bought me when we were in primary school, and little decorated stars made by the children when they were young. Each decoration has a story. Homemade decorations make good presents too; simple things to make include brightly coloured pom-poms from left over wool, pinecones painted gold or decorated eggs (I stick the ribbon on with superglue and then cover the join by threading it through a small circle of fabric). And if you feel the need for more tinsel, there's usually plenty in charity shops at this time of year.

I also raid charity shops for fun cracker gifts. Making your own crackers is the easiest thing. Cut up thin card (old cereal boxes are perfect) and staple them to make the inner. Fill with a joke, a gift and if you've the energy a homemade paper hat. (I get around this by attaching raffle ticket to hats we already own and putting a ticket in the cracker). Wrap your inner with newspaper, which can be decorated with stickers, greenery, paint, or left plain (I get a Financial Times as the colour is pretty). Tie with ribbon or strips of brightly coloured rag (which can be reused afterwards.) It's easy to source cracker pulls online but we find it's just as fun to shout bang loudly.

Finally, another shout out for Christmas to be the season of localism. Now is the perfect time to buy from local sources; know which farm your food came from, support your independent shops. Go for a walk and immerse yourself in your local winter landscape. Run about in the rain. Call on your neighbours to say hello. Invite someone around who might otherwise be alone. Because nothing is quite as seasonal as the warm glow of sharing time together in singing and games, and that's just what we need to nourish the soul as we head into another new year.

Lizzy Stroud

St Germans & Area Public Transport Group

The big train news is that the December to May train timetable begins on **Sunday 12th December**. The biggest changes are in Sunday trains. There will be 13 Sunday trains each way throughout the period, including the 0751 from Paddington (1156 at St Germans) and the 1803 from Paddington (2131 at St Germans); also the last Sunday east-bound train will be the 2132 from Penzance (2311 at St Germans). Sunday excursions by train will be much easier from now - let's make use of the new services!

Watch out for several minor time changes on weekdays and Saturdays. Printed copies of the timetable have been distributed and you will find them in shops, pubs, etc. and at the station. Contact me if you can't get hold of one.

Be careful in the first week of the new timetable, however, as there are scheduled engineering works from **13-16 December**. Buses will replace trains between Truro and Penzance, including the St Ives Bay Line. And for St Germans, an amended hourly train service will continue to run between Truro and Plymouth (with minor alterations further into Devon). Thus, several trains on the published timetable will not be running on those four days - so check carefully before travelling.

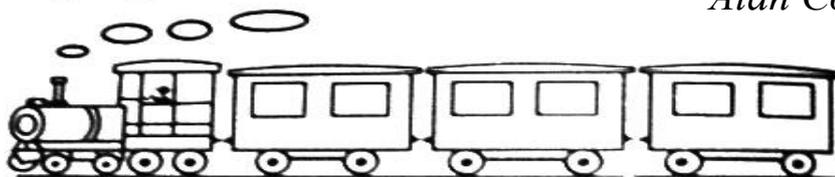
As usual, there will be no GWR services on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The network at the end of December is largely unchanged - but there will be engineering work involving Bristol Parkway and the area up to Gloucester from 25-31 December.

Further engineering work is scheduled for the new year: Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 January, there will be work on the Par to Newquay line, meaning that buses will replace trains between St Austell and Newquay. All weekends in February: Exeter St Davids to Plymouth engineering works.

Thanks to those giving donations to the Public Transport Group in the St German Community shop box in November. And thanks to those buying books from our stall at the Eliot Hall table-top sale - the proceeds went to the group's funds (which were rather depleted as a result of loss of grants during the Covid crisis). That means that in addition to the train timetable we're able to print some local 71 and 75 bus timetables again, which will be available in local shops etc.

Over the next few months there are likely to be improved bus services both in Cornwall and Plymouth, with reduced fares and enhanced services. Money is being made available by Government to embark on Bus Improvement Plans. We hope in future reports to give some details.

Alan Cousins 01503 230106



Community Bus News

Let the Community Bus take the strain during these final weeks before Christmas. We have several services designed to get you to Christmas markets and to the shops in **Exeter, Tavistock, Truro, Plymouth and Liskeard**. No parking issues. We look after that. Also if you have a Freedom Pass for local buses, you can use it on the Plymouth and Liskeard services.

Remember too you can use our regular Plymouth service to visit the wonderful new Plymouth Box Museum. Move quickly on this one, because the fascinating **Mayflower 400 exhibition** is due to finish on January 2. The Box restaurant also has great food for lunch, and we can drop you at the door, if you ask the driver nicely.

Check out the bus timetable below and on www.dasra.co.uk (the Downton & Seaton Residents Association website). Our regular weekly service to **Plymouth** departs at 09.30am on Tuesdays, and **Liskeard** is Thursdays at 09.30am. We are also visiting **Truro** on Wednesday December 15 departing at 09.30am. You can visit **Kernow Mill** on Monday December 6, departing at 13.00.

A local date for your diary is the **Friends of the Bus** tea and mince pies, coffee and cake get-together at St Nicolas Church at 3pm on Friday, December 17th. Also, a rallying cry for the Community Bus **300 Club**. Please join. It only costs £12 a year to be entered in the monthly draw with three cash prizes to be won, and it is a great way to support the bus and help keep it running.

And finally...a big thank you to all our new young passengers from Seaton, who are using the bus each morning to get to school. You are wonderful children, your parents can be proud of you, and it is wonderful having you on board. And finally, finally, Happy Christmas and let's all have a great New Year. For bus reservations please call Bev Brighton on 01503 250944. For 300 Club, call Jo Woodley on 01503 250489. For any other questions please contact Kevin Done, chairman on 01503 250911 or by email at kevindone@hotmail.com.

Services and Excursions during December 2021

DATE		DESTINATION	DEPART	LENGTH OF STAY	FARES SINGLE	RETURN
December						
Wednesday	1	EXETER	9.30 am	4 Hours	£5.00	£8.00
Thursday	2	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£3.00
Friday	3	Tavistock Dickensian Evening		Dept 4.00pm		£6.00
Tuesday	7	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£4.00
Wednesday	8	TRURO Victorian Mkt	4.00pm	3 Hours	£5.00	£7.00
Thursday	9	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£3.00
Tuesday	14	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£4.00
Wednesday	15	TRURO	9.30 am	4 Hours	£5.00	£7.00
Thursday	16	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£3.00
Friday	17	St Nicolas Church Tea and Mince Pies	3.00pm	2 Hours		£2.00
Tuesday	21	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£4.00
Thursday	23	Liskeard	9.30 am	4 Hours	£2.00	£3.00
Tuesday	28	No Service, Bank Holiday				
Thursday	30	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£3.00

TO BOOK SEATS TELEPHONE DOWNDERRY (01503) 250944 Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Downderry Community Bus - 300 Club

Any Nut Tree readers wondering what this 300 Club is all about? Well.... you pay me £12 annually and you are given a lucky number. Each month a draw is made with three prizes awarded and the possibility of winning £20, £15, or £10. Surplus funds go towards keeping the Downderry Community Bus on the road and are especially needed now to help make up for the income we have lost during the pandemic. I will contact you when your annual donation is due, and of course to tell you when you have won a prize. Two weeks ago, a new resident in the village joined the 300 Club and this month she is a lucky winner! Don't hesitate, phone me and I'll set you up for 2022.

Winners for the month of November 1st.No. 30 £20 Roger Jamieson 2nd. No. 42 £15 Melanie Buttall and 3rd. No. 57 Dawn Neale.

Jo Woodley 01503 250489.

BREAKING NEWS

*Magic dust has once more fallen over Polbathic Hall
And the players have left their cosy homes, to answer the director's call.
But before we begin.....Heed this warning
A cold snap has brought a flurry of snow - that settles on the stage
with an ageing queen who's very vain and tries to hide her age*



Yes, Mums and Dads, Boys and Girls, 2022 Panto season is on the way and Polbathic players are busy preparing for the meanest queen there's ever been.

"The Snow Queen" will be performed in Polbathic Hall.
Written by Helen Gard.

Tickets will be on sale from January 1st 2022. Venue for tickets TBC. Join our Facebook page 'Polbathic Players Drama Group' for updates. This amateur production is by arrangement with NODA Ltd.

*Be there on time and play a part
In melting the ice in the Snow Queens heart*

Performance Dates:

Friday 28th January 7.30pm
Saturday 29th January 5.00pm early performance
Thursday 3rd Feb 7.30 pm
Friday 4th February 7.30pm
Saturday 5th February 7.30pm

Sam Amphlett

Upholstery Classes

There will be a six-week UPHOLSTERY CLASS starting on Monday January 10th 2022 from 10am - 12 noon at St Nicolas Church, Donderry. Cost £30.00 payable on Jan 10th. A further six-week course can be arranged after the half term break if there is enough demand.

This is a beginners' class for those of you who may have an upholstery item that needs redoing or recovering. You may also fancy starting something from scratch. Upholstery covers a wide range of items including all types of seat cushions and coverings so if you are interested, call Pat Paxton on 07471 066555 for a chat.

Pat has extensive teaching experience in upholstery and soft furnishings having taught the subject to City and Guilds level at Ivybridge Community College, Devon for many years.

Pat Paxton



Donderry and Seaton WI celebrated 100 years on 9th October 2021.

We were truly gratified that so many villagers and visitors took the time to join us for our special coffee morning. It was truly heart-warming to meet so many new faces and catch up with old friends. The afternoon celebration tea party was another chance to meet with friends from four other WIs from the Rame peninsular. Singing and a sketch formed part of the entertainment and the village hall was a hubbub of talk and laughter.

A certificate to celebrate our Centenary Anniversary was presented to our WI president by The Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes and after a call to all present to look back at where women had been in 1921 and to look forward to what we could be in years to come a final toast was made to what we are really about, "Friendship and fun".

November meeting. A full hall was regaled by Michael Green on his expertise as a Sourdough Baker. After a talk about the history of this method of breadmaking we all had the chance to sample the delights of his labours. It was a brilliant afternoon. Huge thanks to him and his wife Julie.

December dates. Annual Christmas Wreath making morning in the Zone on 11th December, starting at 10.00 a.m. We will help you to make a splendid wreath for your front door or gate. All equipment provided. Small charge for wreath frame. Festive refreshments also provided. If you want to come and have not told us already, please drop an email to downderryandseatonwi@gmail.com.

Next month's WI meeting on 14th December for members (and anyone who wants to come to a WI meeting) will be trying our hand at Christmas Table Decorations. All equipment will be provided just let us know if you are coming by contacting downderryandseatonwi@gmail.com. *Maura Swabey*

Editorial

As usual, Nut Tree takes a break in January; we will be back in February 2022. So, as we get to the end of another calendar year, it is timely to offer a big thank you to all those who make the Nut Tree possible. This is a bigger team than many realize so, at risk of unwittingly leaving anyone out, please spare a thought this Christmas for:

- The Parish Councils of Deviock and St Germans parishes.
- Our contributors - who arrange the multitude of events and activities we report.
- Our oversight and proofreading team - with the sharpest eyes and best grammar in SE Cornwall.
- The fantastic team at Parish Magazine Printing based not far away in north Devon.
- Our village coordinators who distribute the Nut Trees for delivery.
- Our deliverers who bring the Nut Tree to your doors. Here I will single out one person - Mike Hartland - who delivers his last edition this month before hanging up his spurs after years of delivering to one of the largest rounds of our patch 'come rain or shine'. Thank you, Mike - forever *Certa Cito*. You're an inspiration to us all.
- The local businesses who, without looking for reward, support us in one way or another (we don't advertise but you, and we, know who you are).
- Our local County Councillors (and their predecessors) who contribute monthly whilst committedly and loyally representing our interests in County Hall.
- You, our readers and neighbours who, we hope, still find the Nut Tree a useful source of local information and news.

A very Happy Christmas to you all and our best wishes for a safe, fulfilling and prosperous New Year.

Notes to contributors: Deadline for submissions remains midnight on the 17th of the month preceding publication. As local activities start to ramp up again post Covid, please keep all articles as short as possible to maximize space for others. Please submit in an editable format (not pdf or as an image) without excessive or unusual formatting. Contributions longer than 400 words (ie 1 page) may be printed with reduced font size or arbitrarily edited (ie shortened!).

Rita's Rota

December 2021

- 1 10am Coffee Morning(CZ)
- 2 2:30pm St G Thursday Club (EHSG)
- 3 4pm Tavistock Dickensian Eve (CB)
7pm Kick off Xmas Whitsand Harmony (DSVH)
- 4 10-12am DAG Family Xmas Workshop (CZ)
11am-4pm RBL Christmas Fayre (TRBL)
- 5 10am Morning Worship (SNCh)
10:30am Morning Service (SGMC)
- 6 10:30 RBL Coffee Morning (TRBL)
- 7 10-12am Coffee Morning (DSVH)
- 8 10am Coffee Morning(CZ)
4pm Truro Victorian Market (CB)
- 9 11:30am Baked Potato Lunch (DSVH)
- 11 10am WI Wreath making (CZ)
- 12 10am Communion Service (SGPC)
11am H'ford Café, Chat and Cake (HCH)
3pm The Zone Carol Service (CZ)
4pm Carols by Candlelight (SGMC)
- 14 Mobile Library:
St Germans - Alms Houses 09:45 to 10:05
St Germans - Quay Road. 10:15 to 10:50
Downderry - Inn 13:55 to 14:35
Seaton - Car Park. 14:45 to 15:05
D&S WI Christmas Table Decorations
- 15 10am Coffee Morning(CZ)
12noon Baked potato Xmas lunch (SNCh)
- 16 2:30pm St G Thursday Club (EHSG)
7pm Downderry Carol Service (SNCh)
7:30pm Deviock PC Full Mtg (CZ)
- 17 3pm Community Bus Tea & Mince pies (SNCh)
7pm Christmas Quiz (DSVH)
- 18 Childrens' Xmas Disco (age 4-11 - DSVH)
- 19 9:30am Church on the Beach (CZ)
10am Communion Service (SNCh)
10:30am Morning Service (SGMC)
3pm Carols "by the Lychgate" (SGPC)
- 21 Time tbc St Germans PC Mtg (TBC) (EHSG)
6:30pm Portwrinkle Carols

- 22 10am Coffee Morning(CZ)
7:30pm Carols and Remembrance (SGPC)
- 24 2pm D'derry Carols on the Beach
4pm Family Celebration (SGMC)
6pm Hessenford Christingle Service (HC)
11:30pm Christmas Communion (SGPC)
11:30pm Christmas Communion (SNCh)
- 25 10am Family Communion (SNCh)
- 29 10am Coffee Morning(CZ)

January 2022

- 4 10-12am Coffee Morning (DSVH)
- 11 Mobile Library:
St Germans - Alms Houses 09:45 to 10:05
St Germans - Quay Road. 10:15 to 10:50
Downderry - Inn 13:55 to 14:35
Seaton - Car Park. 14:45 to 15:05
- 13 2:30pm St G Thursday Club (EHSG)
7:30pm Deviock PC Full Mtg (CZ)
- 15 10am-1pm Little Breakfast (DSVH)
- 16 Adventure in Pantoland (DSVH)
- 17 Adventure in Pantoland (DSVH)
- 18 Adventure in Pantoland (DSVH)
- 19 Adventure in Pantoland (DSVH)
- 25 10-12am Coffee Morning (DSVH)
- 27 2:30pm St G Thursday Club (EHSG)
6:30pm Deviock PC Planning Mtg (CZ)
- 28 7:30pm The Snow Queen Panto (PolH)
- 29 5:30pm The Snow Queen Panto (PolH)

CZ Downderry Coastal Zone; CB Community Bus; DSVH Dderry & Seaton VH; PolH Polbathic Hall; EA Eliot Arms StG; EHSG Eliot Hall StG; HC H'ford Church; HCH H'ford Church Hall; SGMC St G Methodist Ch; SGPC St G Priory Church; SNCh St Nicolas' Church; SNS St Nicolas' School; TC Tideford Church; TRBL Tideford RBL Hall; WVH W'gates V Hall

Copy for Rita's Rota should be sent to nuttree.editor@yahoo.com by 15th of the preceding month. **Rita**

nuttree.editor@yahoo.com

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.