

May 2025 Volume 40 (2)

## Nature Notes

One of the advantages of cloudless nights is that migrating birds have little to hinder their progress northwards and can travel well inland before setting foot on the ground. The series of clear skies recently has emphasized that phenomenon. So, there has been little to see along the coast. No doubt the continued easterly wind has not been helpful either. Close one's eyes first thing in the morning and it feels like winter. During two successive mornings I am not too hopeful.

The first occasion, I walk to Seaton and listen for elements of the dawn chorus by the riverside. The Chiffchaffs, short distance migrants, have been in the vicinity for several weeks so are expected. But I am pleased to hear a close cousin, a Willow Warbler, singing across the river too. The two species are very similar in appearance but their songs are so different. That of the Willow Warbler is a pleasant series of notes descending in scale. It also differs in that it is a long distant migrant originating from as far as southern Africa; its slightly longer wings give it the ability to travel further than the Chiffchaff. I can just pick out the Willow Warbler as it flits through branches, but the song is definitive. Unfortunately, I do not expect the bird to stay since the species is a scarce breeder along the coast.

I then take the coastal path facing the glare of the rising sun. Reaching the rock armour, I catch sight of a bird on top of a granite block. Momentarily it drops from view, then reappears on another perch further along. Although the sun is a hindrance, I know immediately that this bird is a Wheatear and this site is a favourite spot during spring migration. With luck, the warming rocks will attract insects. In fact, there are two, male and female, but as I continue along the path, they prefer to keep one step ahead of me and soon fly off high into overhanging gardens. Wheatears spend winter south

of the Sahara and arrive back from mid-March, one of the earliest migrants to return from winter quarters. They will not stay here but gradually move inland, perhaps to a local moorland where they nest in stone walls.

The following morning, I decide to walk up to a local viewpoint among young trees above the village. There are Chiffchaffs here too, but I also hear the delightful song of another warbler, the Blackcap, another short distant migrant and one I would expect to hear at this site. I move on a few metres and a large bird flies across a clearing. I recognize its very distinctive plumage and flight pattern. Black and white stripes in the wing coupled with a flappy, undulating flight immediately signal an exotic Hoopoe. No sooner has my brain sorted out the finer details, than the bird has gone. It is another migrant from Africa, but rare in Britain except in spring when a number of individuals travel too far north. This has been a good year for Hoopoes in England so I am pleased to come across one, even for a second or two. Strangely, this encounter takes place within a few metres of one I saw in April five years ago. A coincidence or not!

*Alan Payne*

## **Deviocck Parish Council**

There will be two meetings in May: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> (Annual Meeting, 19:30) and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> (Planning Committee, 18:30). All meetings take place at The Zone, Donderry Methodist Church. See Agendas for details prior to each meeting.

Parish Council Elections: Due to the number of nominations being lower in all three wards than the number of Parish Councillor vacancies, six Councillors have been duly elected and will serve on the new council in May. This means that there will be several vacancies for co-option, notices for which will be published after the Annual Meeting in May. *However, we would encourage any early interest as we will be looking to co-opt as soon as possible after May.* Please speak to one of your Councillors or email the Clerk for further information.

Tanver Yate: Further progress is taking place at the site, with two gates to be installed soon.

Narkurs BT phone box: The old kiosk has been repainted inside and out and will soon house a defibrillator once the new light fitting and defibrillator unit have been installed.

Flags at Seaton: Two new flags have been raised at Seaton.

Seaton toilets: Thank you to our Parish contractor for refreshing the external paintwork on the main toilet block.

Planning applications: To comment on a planning application on the Cornwall Council Planning site, search online for 'cornwall council planning applications'. You will need to log in to use the Planning site. Any comments posted on the site are viewed by the Parish Council's Planning Committee and Cornwall Council Planning Officers. See

Agendas for applications due for discussion at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Forthcoming road closures around the parish: These can be found at <https://one.network/>.

For any other Parish Council business and news, go to our website at [www.deviockparish.org.uk/](http://www.deviockparish.org.uk/). The Parish Clerk can be contacted Monday to Friday by email at [clerk.deviockpc@btinternet.com](mailto:clerk.deviockpc@btinternet.com). The Parish Office at the Vestry in Donderry is open to the public on the first and third Wednesday of the month (non-meeting weeks), 14:00 – 17:00 (tel: 01503-250052).

*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.

## **St Germans Parish Council**

With spring well advanced and summer on the way we are hoping for good weather for the upcoming Maytree Fair. The Parish Council is supporting the event with a grant and also providing a large gazebo. This is available for local events and parishioners. If anyone is interested in using it for an event in the parish, please email: [clerk@stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Many of you will have noticed that the hedges and trees at the burial ground have been cut back and as part of further efforts to improve the facilities the Parish Council is replacing the water tank with a new one to ensure that there is a supply of water for those tending graves, watering etc.

In order to maintain the burial ground as a welcoming place for everyone, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we ask that users respect the regulations. A summary of these are displayed at the burial ground and here are some of the key points:

- Please dispose of all litter in the bin provided.
- Graves may only be decorated with natural flowers; artificial flowers and ornaments are not permitted. This reduces waste plastic and micro plastics entering into our local environment.
- Floral tributes should be removed after four weeks. The planting of trees, shrubs or flowers on a grave is not permitted.

Finally, with the warmer, and hopefully drier weather approaching, the Parish Council is planning to carry out some of the outstanding repairs and maintenance on the play parks at Tideford and St Germans over the next few weeks.

*Julian True*

## Hessenford News

I have been asked to write an article for May, so here goes!

According to BBC weather information, Astronomical Spring in 2025 began on 20<sup>th</sup> March and will end on 21<sup>st</sup> June at the summer solstice. While we have been quite fortunate to have dry weather, the mornings continued to be frosty with much windscreen scraping going on. Hopefully, that's all over now. Oh how I'm looking forward to long warm summer days and evenings. The smell of newly mown lawns epitomises summertime for me.

Talking of grass, we know that the church hall grounds are perfect for letting the children play on the rope swing and to kick a ball around, as well as hosting the village fete, but the grass has to be kept nice and trimmed during the summer months, into the autumn. If anyone has a small amount of time to help mow the grass, that would be so helpful. There is a petrol driven mower, just perfect for the job, which takes around 30-40 minutes. Dave Moore is currently the volunteer "ground keeper" but any additional help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in anticipation.

For those of us who use Facebook, we couldn't have failed to notice that Fran Moore has been to New York with the Rock Choir which is a nationwide organisation with over 30,000 members. Fran and 353 others from all over Cornwall flew to the Big Apple for five days. During this time they did a "Flashmob" in Central Park and Times Square. The ensemble practiced in Fordham University and Carnegie Hall before their big performance at the famous Carnegie Hall. They followed in the footsteps of Tchaikovsky, Dvůřák, Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman and The Beatles, receiving a standing ovation plus an invitation to return. Well done to everyone involved.

In order for the Hessenford article in the Nut Tree to survive, it needs volunteers. If you have the time to put together a small newsy article a few times a year, please do!

The village Coffee, Cake and Chat at the Hessenford Church Hall is taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> May 11:00 – 13:00. Bring your friends.

I'm off to feed the pheasants. Mrs Pheasant taps on the back door for peanuts but Mr Pheasant keeps his distance by staying on the wall at the end of the garden. He squawks, flaps his wings and makes a fuss, while she just looks at him!

Enjoy your start to the summer, whatever you have planned.

*Jill Mayor*

## So; What is St Nics all about?

St Nics is your friendly local Anglican church in DOWNDERRY, part of St Germans Group Parish. Our church community is friendly, open, inclusive and relaxed. We are keen to have helpful engagement with our local community. Our congregation is between 20 and 30 people and we meet on the FIRST and THIRD Sundays in St Nics to learn more about a loving God and to pray for the needs of the world, our community and for greater understanding of how to be a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On second and fourth Sundays we meet in St Germans - all services are advertised on a board outside the front door at St Nics – you can also sign up for an email version of our weekly notice sheet.

During the week we

- Hold a Community Lunch on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 12:00. This is open to anyone who wants to come and share in chat and good food. There is no charge but donations are welcome.
- Collect food for the Food Bank in Liskeard – which covers our area. A green box in the porch is a collection point.
- Organise an ‘Open the Book’ session for the pupils at St Nics School twice a month – and at St Germans School once a month – here we act out Bible stories and bring out the values contained in the stories. This is one of the best things we do – and it never fails to surprise us how attentive the children are – excellent memories of past events and even identifying Bible stories portrayed in our wonderful 20<sup>th</sup> century stained glass windows. We also provide the children seasonal small gifts at Easter and Christmas and every pupil moving on from St Nics to secondary school receives a modern Bible. We value our local school, the pupils and staff!
- The church is open for private prayer and provides a place for a rest and shelter from the winds or rains! We are about to launch our welcome tray so that you can help yourself to a cup of tea or coffee.
- The building also serves as the school assembly hall – provided free of charge by the church community.
- We host the local Post Office on Mondays and Thursdays: 12:45 – 14:15.
- We also provide a venue for local coffee groups and martial arts groups.
- Finally – we are guided by The Revd Jo Northey – who is a lively, inspiring and adventurous person whose interests span everything from cold water swimming to being our valued friend!

Absolutely finally, we need volunteers for all sorts of activities – get in touch and find out what is available!

To get in touch contact David Watters on 01503 250521 or email at [david.watters1@gmail.com](mailto:david.watters1@gmail.com)

*David Watters*

## **Lynher Church at St Germans**

Spring is very much with us and it is a delight to see new life appearing all around us. We have enjoyed a very full Easter in our church and look forward to our biennial celebrations in July.

During the coming month our services are, as usual, every Sunday at 10:30 and everyone is most welcome. Our Charity Coffee Morning is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 10:00 to 12:00. Our Charity this month is Christian Aid which, among others, will be giving aid to earthquake torn areas in Myanmar. We extend a warm welcome to everyone, there is no charge but all donations will go to the charity. Thank you for all your support during the year and the laughter we hear during our coffee mornings. Thank you too for your financial support for all our chosen charities, they so need our help.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our services and events.

*Steve Gerrard*

## **St Germans Priory Church – Can you help?**

**(An important piece of our heritage run by a small charitable trust of volunteers)**

Most of you will have visited, seen or know of the large, beautiful, historic Grade 1 listed Church in St Germans in one guise or another. It is used as a venue for a wide range of music, art and church events, markets and fayres, village and local celebrations and much more. It is the location for the start of the Cornish Celtic Way and pilgrims and walkers often stay overnight in the Priory when they start or finish the walk. It is open for visitors all year round and has an active group of bell ringers. If you are new to the area or on holiday, just come along. Parking is free and there is no entry fee.

In 2012 the Priory was under threat of closure because of a dwindling congregation and the cost of maintenance and repairs. A charitable trust was set up at that point, which in 2016, was granted a long lease from the Diocese of Truro for responsibility of the building. Against the odds, a small group of trustees and volunteers have kept the building open for the last 12 years. For example, we have an amazing group of St Germans residents who open and close the Priory on a daily basis. The Trust has secured grants for repairs and is broadening use. The aim is to keep the building open, develop the arts and music programmes and much more to ensure it is sustainable and fit for the future while retaining it as a place of worship. There is, however, much more to do; as a starter we need warmth, indoor facilities and have ambitious plans but we need your help if we are going to achieve this.

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who would like to be part of our team. The tasks are not too onerous; there is something for everyone. We are currently looking

to fill a number of roles; we need new Trustees, someone to be our resident 'handy person/caretaker' to keep a regular eye on the building and to identify to the Trustees any work that is needed, people to steward at events, those prepared to join the daily opening and closing roster, keen gardeners – the garden is small but needs to be kept under control and someone who would be prepared to take the record of the monthly Trustees meeting.

If you would like to find out more please call either Richard on 07815 571284 or Fiona on 07753 937812 or leave a message on the contact page on our website – [www.stgermanspriory.org](http://www.stgermanspriory.org) and we will get back to you. If you don't know what you might be able to do, please just give us a call; we want to include the breadth of our local and wider permanent community and those who visit regularly.

*Fiona Bristow*

### **St Germans Thursday Club**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March we had a fun packed afternoon playing Beetle and chatting, I think everyone there would agree Viv is the Thursday Club Beetle Champion.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April we held our Easter Craft afternoon where we all enjoyed decorating cupcakes, making little Easter gifts and a demonstration of weaving.

#### Coming up on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Come and join us for 'A trip down memory lane'. Claire Brewis has offered to lead us in rediscovering favourite tunes and memories. Everyone is invited to bring along any memorabilia, old photos, advertisements, magazines etc.

#### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Our first outing of the year is to the lovely Otter Nursery, leaving St Germans at 13:30. Please contact Trish on 01503 230697 for availability and cost.

Our regular meetings are held at the Eliot Hall St Germans, 14:00 for 14:30 start, entry is £3 at the door and includes a cup tea or coffee, biscuits and a fun raffle. New members and visitors are always welcome.

For general enquiries please contact Jenny Put on 01503 230766.

*Linda Barnes*

### **Polbathic Village Hall AGM Notice**

Notice is hereby given the Annual General Meeting for Polbathic Village Hall is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, the Hall will be open from 19:00 for subscriptions to be paid and the meeting will start at 19:30. All welcome.

*Jenny Warr*

## Eliot Hall Events:

### **VE Day Coffee Morning Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 – 12:00**

Celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day with coffee, tea, cake and teacakes. We will be getting out the bunting and 1940's music will be playing. If anyone has memorabilia from that time that they would like to share, please bring it along.

*Briony Woods*

### **May Tree Workshops 17<sup>th</sup> May**

The Eliot Hall and May Tree Fair invite you to attend our workshops on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. They will be held at the Eliot Hall and are free - suggested £5 donation.

#### Bunting-making and leaf-decorating workshops 10:00 – 12:00

- Bunting: Help make bunting to decorate the village for the fair. Suitable for all levels of sewing, beginners welcome. Please bring a sewing machine if you have one!
- Leaves: Decorate new leaves to go on the May Tree. Leaves and paint will be provided. All ages and abilities welcome, children must be accompanied.

Refreshments available - please bring cash.

#### Music Workshop 14:00 – 15:00

Calling all musicians to come and learn the May Tree Tune from local experts. You will be able to join the musical procession at the May Tree Fair the following weekend. All levels welcome - we would particularly like to include local young musicians ages 8+. Please bring your musical instrument and a music stand if you have one.

Please email [eliotcommunityhall@gmail.com](mailto:eliotcommunityhall@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance or for any additional information – or see you on the day!

*Charlotte True*

### **St Germans May Tree Fair**

We are delighted to announce that the St Germans Maytree Fair will be going ahead again this year. There will be an election for the Mock Mayor and Mayoress at the Eliot Arms on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May, with live music from Davey Keogh and The Hahas. Then on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>, the main event will be held at the Recreation Field, starting at 12:00. There will be games, activities and music during the afternoon, with Maypole dancing and a tug-of-war competition.



The finale of this part of the festivities is a grand procession through the village, open to anyone, playing the village tune, carrying flags and garlands and beating drums as they accompany the Maytree. This leaves the Recreation Field at about 15:00, winding down through the village with a stop at the church, for a blessing, and arriving at the Eliot Arms for 16:00. There we will enjoy food and drink, accompanied by music from local bands through until late.

There are still a few spaces for stalls, stands or fundraising activities for local organisations and groups and small businesses, on the field. If you would like to reserve a space, please email: [stgermansmaytreefair@gmail.com](mailto:stgermansmaytreefair@gmail.com) .

*Julian True*

### **St Germans Primary School - Could You Be A Governor?**

The governing body was reconstituted after the school joined St Barnabas Multi Academy Trust in September 2024. We are recruiting a new governing body and full training will be provided. Being a governor involves three 17:30 Governor meetings a year, each lasting one and a half hours. In addition, there are monitoring visits shared between the governors each term.

There is no preparation to do for these meetings as a template is provided by the MAT. It involves talking to the headteacher and pupils about the work going on in that half term. If anyone would like to find out more information they can contact me on (01503) 230096 or (07775) 504090 or you can contact the School on (01503) 230378. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Bill Woods*

*Chair of Governors St Germans Primary School Director St Barnabas Multi Academy Trust*

### **May British Legion Coffee Morning**

Due to the May Bank Holiday the Coffee morning at the Royal British Legion Tideford will be Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 10:30 – 12:00. Coffee and cake £2.50. Everyone welcome. Proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal.

*Julie Luscombe*

### **Tina Jefferis Notice**

We are sorry to announce that Tina Jefferis died on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. She died peacefully in her sleep in her own home as she had wished. She had written the words "No mourning, I've had a fantastic life". We will have a service and wake for family and the villages to remember her on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

*Nic and Ian Jefferis*

# Quay Lane Surgery

## The Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The PPG Fundraising team will be joining the Producers Market in DOWNDERRY Village Hall on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May - please come and say hello! There will be tempting homemade cakes, preserves, craft items and a selection of paperback books on sale. The PPG is raising money to fund medical and ancillary equipment to enhance patient care and experience provided at both Quay Lane and DOWNDERRY Surgery.

*Claire Croft, Chair Email: [quaylanepgg@gmail.com](mailto:quaylanepgg@gmail.com)*

### Practice News:

We bid a fond farewell to Paul Sumner, our First Contact Physio, at the end of March. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

We are delighted to welcome Jacob Herman to our team. Jacob is an Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, skilled in managing musculoskeletal issues. He is available to see patients over the age of 16 for conditions such as:

- Back pain and sciatica
- Neck pain and whiplash injury
- Shoulder pain on movement
- Joint pains, including elbows, wrists, hands, fingers, hips, knees, feet, and ankles
- Muscle and tendon pains
- Sports injuries, sprains, and strains

Jacob is qualified to prescribe pain relief and administer joint injections when necessary. He holds clinics every Tuesday, offering both morning and afternoon appointments, either by telephone or face-to-face. Patients will receive diagnostic assessments and onward referrals if required. Please enquire at reception for an appointment or more information about this service.

Additionally, we remind you that Lisa May, our Social Prescriber, is available every Monday and Friday. She also offers home visits for those unable to attend the surgery. Lisa can assist with a variety of social issues, including:

- Social isolation and befriending services
- Bereavement support
- Accessing legal advice
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health support
- Carer support and respite services
- Cancer care services and long-term health support
- Workplace access and volunteering opportunities
- Debt management and healthy lifestyle advice
- Weight management and getting out and about
- Joining activity-based, arts-based, or outdoor groups
- Digital access to services

To arrange an appointment with Lisa, please contact the surgery and speak to our reception team.

*Debbie Todd, Practice Manager*

## Deviock Activities Group (DAG) At The ZONE (PL11 3JZ)



### May Activities:

**Craft Café & Art Group:** Mondays (not Bank Holidays) 14:00 – 16:00

Suggested donation £3

Activities on offer each week this month - make a book cushion.

Bring your own projects or just come for a chat and a coffee.

Also on in May:

12<sup>th</sup> - the first of an exciting new series of eight monthly Sketchbook Social Workshops run by Awenek Studio 14:00 – 16:00 £5

19<sup>th</sup> - Watercolours Workshop with Jennie Boniface 13:40 -16:40

For further information contact [webstersue62@gmail.com](mailto:webstersue62@gmail.com)

### **Low-Cost Workshops**

- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> WILLOW WORKSHOP £7.50 Making a bird feeder or vegetable basket with Jasmine Fassenfelt 10:00 – 13:00
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> AROMATHERAPY WORKSHOP £5 with Moya Bradbee - Cox 19:30 – 21:30
- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> SHIBORI SCARVES WORKSHOP £10 with Helen Round 10:30 – 15:30 For more information contact [parkerviv@aol.com](mailto:parkerviv@aol.com)

**Music Club** (Wednesdays) 14:00 – 15:30 Suggested donation £3

Refreshments provided. Join us for singing, playing an instrument or just listening and enjoying. No musical ability or experience required!

For more information contact [parkerviv@aol.com](mailto:parkerviv@aol.com)

**Table Tennis** (Wednesdays) 18:00 £2.

A friendly group, no experience needed, all abilities welcome and all equipment provided.

For more information contact [magiluv2sing@gmail.com](mailto:magiluv2sing@gmail.com)

### **“Sallywags”**

For information on Half Term school holiday activities for children and their parents contact [leanneronk@yahoo.com](mailto:leanneronk@yahoo.com)

*Viv Parker*

### **Cornwall Hospice Care Charity Lunch**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended this event on 27<sup>th</sup> March in the Dowederry & Seaton Village Hall. A dedicated team of volunteers worked hard to make it a happy and successful afternoon. The total raised for Cornwall Hospice Care was £494.50. Thank you!

*Gail Burns*



## **Downderry and Seaton Village Hall (Registered Charity 1210090)**

Membership: Please support the Village Hall by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Ordinary membership is £9.50 and Junior membership £4.50 for 2025/26. Membership of the Village Hall entitles you to attend the AGM, join a Village Hall Group (Badminton, Drama, Short Mat Bowls), use the

Snooker Room and be appointed as a Trustee. Your membership will help to secure the future of this vital community asset and keep our charges/prices low or free of charge. It will also allow us to continue to hold a variety of Fundraising and Community events and to provide a venue for activities important to people's wellbeing. More details are available on our website ([www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk)), posters in the Village Hall and at our Fundraising Events.

Together we have raised £72,000 for the '*Save our Village Hall*' appeal - The Village Hall Trustees would like to thank everyone who has given a donation to our appeal, renewed or become a member and attended our Fundraising Events. We are thrilled to have your support. We need you now, more than ever, to come together and help save our Village Hall by making a monetary donation or donating your expertise or time. Your help will secure the future of this vital community owned building. More details are on our website or please speak to a Trustee at any of our Fundraising Events. It is a gift that will always be remembered as your name will be added to our 'Wall of Thanks', listing all those who have helped save the D&S Village Hall. **THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE HALL IS IN YOUR HANDS!**

Cup Winners - If anyone has any Village Hall Cups which they won at our events, we would very much like them back. To arrange collection or delivery, use the contact details below.

Coffee Morning, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 to 12:00 - Come along for a chat and enjoy a hot or cold drink with crumpets. It only costs £2.50 per person and there will be a Book Stall and Raffle Tickets for that morning's draw.

VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Afternoon Tea, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 14:00 – 17:00 - Come and enjoy afternoon tea with family and friends. There will be a special performance by The Rockseattes and a raffle. It is £5 per person and please pay on the door. Additional charge for a glass of bubbly.

Quiz Night, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 18:30 for 19:30 start - Have a fun night with family and friends at our Quiz Night on the BIG screen. Prize for winning team. Register your

team of up to six people now and book a table for this fun-filled night! Tickets £5 each, see contact details below.

Little & Bigger Breakfast, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 to 13:00 - Enjoy a Breakfast Bap of sausage, bacon and egg or the veggie option of egg and hash browns with a hot or cold drink for just £5.00. Or a bigger breakfast of sausage, bacon, egg, tomatoes, beans, hash brown and toast with a hot or cold drink for £6.50, veggie option also available.

Producers Market, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 to 13:00 - Shop local and support our local producers. See our website for a list of the producers who will be attending this event. Hot and cold refreshments available. Entry is free.

Dowderry & Seaton Community Fair 24<sup>th</sup> May 14:00 to 17:00 - Come, meet and chat with representatives of charities, local organisations, associations and groups and find out what they do, how you can help and get involved. Entry is free and there will be hot and cold refreshments available.

Craft Fair, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 to 14:00 - Support our many talented local crafters and buy some unique handmade pieces which you, your family and friends will love. There will be some of your favourites as well as new ones. Entry is free and there will be hot and cold refreshments available.

Bingo, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 18:30 for 19:30 start – “Eyes down” it's Bingo Time - this fun game is open to all with many cash prizes. There will be a reasonably priced bar and snacks on the night. This is a non-commercial Fundraising Event with all proceeds going to the Village Hall.

Groups (members only) - Tuesdays 14:00 to 16:00 Short Mat Bowls, Tuesdays 19:15 to 21:30 - Drama Group, Wednesdays 14:00 to 16:00 Badminton, Thursdays 19:00 to 21:00 Badminton, Most days 09:00 to 23:30pm Snooker Room.

Save the date - Beach BBQ at the annual Raft Race 14<sup>th</sup> June or backup date of 28<sup>th</sup> June.

All are welcome at our Fundraising Events, unless otherwise stated, including dogs on leads. Reasonably priced bar at evening events. For more information about the above events see posters around the area, go to our website

[www.dowderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dowderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk) or Facebook Group, email [dowderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:dowderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com) or telephone 01503 250412.

*Mandy Smith  
Trustee & Secretary, Dowderry and Seaton Village Hall*



**Celebrate with Care: Light Up the Sky,  
Not the Community.**

As we celebrate various occasions throughout the year with fireworks, it is important to remember our responsibility towards our neighbours, animals, farm animals and the community. Here are a few guidelines to ensure everyone can enjoy these celebrations safely and respectfully.

- **Respect Residents:** Be mindful of the time and location when setting off fireworks. Avoid late-night displays and consider the proximity to residential areas to minimise disturbance.
- **Communication:** Notify your neighbours and use local social media pages (if possible) to inform residents about fireworks displays.
- **Consider Animals:** Fireworks can be distressing for pets and wildlife. Informing your neighbours in advance will help them take necessary precautions for their pets.
- **Community Safety:** Always follow local regulations and safety guidelines when using fireworks. Ensure you have a safe area for the display, away from buildings, trees, and other hazards.
- **Time Restrictions:** You cannot set off fireworks between 23:00 and 7:00, except on certain occasions. The exceptions are: Bonfire Night (November 5<sup>th</sup>) until midnight. New Year's Eve, Diwali, and Chinese New Year until 01:00.
- **Location Restrictions:** It is illegal to set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street, beach or other public places.

Violating these laws can result in fines or other penalties. By following these simple steps, we can all enjoy the festivities while being considerate of those around us. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Reference: <https://www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law>, accessed 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

*Mark Davies,*  
*Treasurer, Downderry and Seaton Residents Association* <https://www.dasra.co.uk>



## Road Safety – Our local police ran a road safety campaign during April, “The Fatal Five”

The Fatal Five road safety campaign was to raise awareness of the top five issues which cause road traffic collisions and death or serious injury on the roads. The five main reasons why people are killed and seriously injured on the roads are:

- ❖ Not wearing a seatbelt
- ❖ Impairment (e.g. drink/drug driving)
- ❖ Speeding
- ❖ Distraction (e.g. mobile phones)
- ❖ Careless driving (e.g. middle lane hogging, poor observation and hazard awareness)

The campaign targets drivers with a focus on educating the youngest and oldest drivers – two of the most at-risk groups. Data shows older drivers as being involved in a quarter of fatalities. The most common factors attributed to older car driver collisions were ‘fail to look properly’ and ‘fail to judge another person’s path or speed.’ With young people the issues are related to speeding and distraction (such as using a mobile phone). The campaign also focusses on the importance of fitness to drive. Things such as age, experience, physical fitness and eyesight are critical factors for a person to be able to drive safely – both for their own safety and that of others. For more information visit [www.info@dasra.co.uk/neighbourhoodwatch](http://www.info@dasra.co.uk/neighbourhoodwatch)

*Nigel Jones, Donderry & Seaton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator*

### **St Germans and District Garden Club**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 19:00 for 19:30, in the Eliot Hall, we have Robin Hill giving a talk on More Adventurous Planting. We all have our favourite plants that give us a lot of pleasure but there is also an infinite range of plants to try something new. Definitely worth a listen. Members £3, non members and guests welcome £4.

**COMING SOON:** The St Germans Open Gardens Event on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 12:00 to 18:00 ; ten gardens, an allotment and vineyard. Adults £5; Children under 16 FREE. Lots to see....

*Roger Whitehead*

## May / June 2025

DATE		DESTINATION	DEPART	LENGTH OF STAY	FARES SINGLE	FARES RETURN
<b><u>MAY</u></b>						
Thursday	1	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Friday	2	<b>LOOE</b>	11.30am	3 Hours	£2.00	<b>£4.00</b>
Tuesday	6	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Thursday	8	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Friday	9	<b>TAVISTOCK</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	£4.00	<b>£8.00</b>
Tuesday	13	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Thursday	15	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Friday	16	<b>Music Festival Dartmouth</b>	11.00 am	4 Hours		<b>£10.00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Tea, Biscuits and mini quiz at <u>VILLAGE HALL</u>, £3.00</b>			<b>10.30 am -12.00</b>	
Tuesday	20	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Wednesday	21	<b>TRURO</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	£5.00	<b>£10.00</b>
Thursday	22	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Tuesday	27	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Thursday	29	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Friday	30	<b>LOOE</b>	11.30am	3 Hours	£2.00	<b>£4.00</b>
<b><u>JUNE</u></b>						
Tuesday	3	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Thursday	5	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Fri/Sat	6,7	<b>Royal Cornwall Show</b>	<u>9.15am</u>	4 hours	<b>Entry TBA, plus £10</b>	
<b><u>Other Excursions/Trips for June</u></b>						
Friday	13	<b>TOTNES</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	<b>£5.00</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
Wednesday	18	<b>Dartmouth River Cruise</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	<b>cruise TBA, plus bus £10</b>	
Wednesday	25	<b>TRURO</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	£5.00	<b>£10.00</b>

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

### Downderry Bus 300 Club

Lucky 300 Club winners for this month are:

1<sup>st</sup>. No. 94 - Leslie Keeble. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No.29 - Rose Bird and 3<sup>rd</sup>. No. 100 - D&C Flack.

Thanks everyone.

*Jo Woodley (01503 250489)*



## Community Bus News

These are busy times for the Downterry & District Community Bus with an exciting early summer schedule of trips as well as some changes in our organisation.

The big excursion in May will be to Dartmouth on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> amidst the town's music festival as well as giving a chance to sample its wonderful cafés, shops, restaurants and museum. Please note the later than usual departure time of 11:00 to allow you time, hopefully, to take in some of the gigs. We will be visiting Looe, ideal for a long lunch, on Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Remember the bus for Looe departs at 11:30, and we return from Looe at 15:00. Book early to avoid disappointment.

This month there will also be services to Tavistock on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>, to Truro on Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> and again to Looe at the end of the month Friday 30<sup>th</sup>. We are squeezing in Looe right at the end of May, as on the first Friday of the following month June 6<sup>th</sup> it will be time to head off to the Royal Cornwall Show. We are planning services to the Show on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, both with departure times of 09:15. Again please book as early as you can.

Every week we visit Plymouth on a Tuesday and Liskeard on a Thursday, and on these two services you can use your bus freedom passes. No issues with parking. We are there for you. The normal bus departure time from Broads Yard, Downterry is 09:30.

Further ahead in June, in addition to the Royal Cornwall Show, we are planning to visit Totnes on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Truro on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. In between those two dates, the June excursion will be a wonderful cruise on the River Dart, a chance to explore the glorious scenery of this south Devon estuary. The Bus will drop you off in Totnes and pick you up again in Dartmouth.

And finally...on a personal note, this is the last Community Bus News from me as Chairman. After more than six years in the role, it is time to engage a younger generation with renewed energy and vision. Rob Gascoigne, already a driver and duty officer of the Bus, took over in mid-April. The Community Bus is one of the special institutions of our very special villages. I am sure Rob can count on the same great support you have all afforded to me.

Details of the community bus timetable are available in Nut Tree, on the village noticeboards and on the DaSRA (Downterry and Seaton Residents Association) website [www.dasra.co.uk](http://www.dasra.co.uk). For all passenger bookings please call Bev Brighton on 01503 250944. For 300 Club and details of the monthly draw call Jo Woodley on 01503 250489. For any other questions, including on driver recruitment, please contact Rob Gascoigne, Chairman, by email at [downterrybus@gmail.com](mailto:downterrybus@gmail.com).

*Kevin Done*

## **The Zone - Barefoot Angel**

At The Zone Donderry Tuesdays in May – 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>:  
09:15 Dance Fitness and 10:30 – 12:00 Mindfulness & Meditation

Coming to The Zone, Donderry, a new DANCE FITNESS class, suitable for all levels. Will consist of Line Dances, Zumba type tracks, partner free jive and ballroom. £5 per session If an hour is too much, feel free to do the first half hour for £3. There will also be seated options.

Meditation & Mindfulness is moving from Fridays to Tuesdays and will follow the Dance Fitness. £7.50 per session. Or do both classes for £10. Accompanied children are welcome at both sessions. Email: [emma.barefootangel@gmail.com](mailto:emma.barefootangel@gmail.com) or call/text: 07495 536254 to book a place.

*Emma*

## **Hessenford WI**

Hessenford WI April meeting; Gosh what a talk! This month members learnt about Sepsis and one person's journey through it. We were interested to hear about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment and some of the symptoms to look for. We were shocked at how rapidly it can develop, how easy it is to miss the symptoms and the dreadful consequences of doing so. We are certainly all now more aware.

Next month is our AGM when we elect our committee and president and will take place in the evening: Hessenford WI AGM Widegates Village Hall 6<sup>th</sup> May 19:00.

Our usual meetings at 14:00 in Widegates Village Hall resume in June. We have an interesting programme for this coming year with speakers, visits and activities. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Jackie Holland. President*

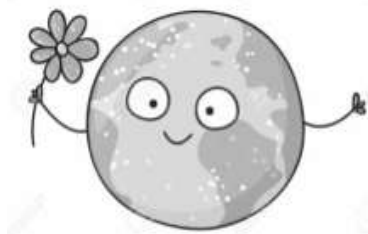
## **Donderry & Seaton WI**

The year has started out busy for our group. We have been out and about the County meeting with Hessenford WI, celebrating Galentines Day with afternoon tea at Hannafore Point Hotel, lunches and visiting garden centres.

We have lots of outings planned for the spring/early summer and some interesting speakers lined up for the coming months. Our next meeting will take place at The Zone on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 14:00. If you would like to come along and meet the group please just pop along or contact us [donderryandseatonwi@gmail.com](mailto:donderryandseatonwi@gmail.com).

*Julie Green, Secretary*

## Simple Ways To Save The Planet



A few weeks ago I went to an excellent 'immersive light-show time-portal experience' by the eco-guru Rob Hopkins called *Film Recordings From the Future*. Rob had created a positive vision of what 2030 could look like, which was a much welcome salve to the normal barrage of depressing news.

What was truly wonderful about the evening, which took place in the magnificent Devonport Guildhall, was that all of the technology showcased actually already exists. Rob had knitted together clips of films made about each project and accompanied it with live music. I thought readers of this column might like to have a summary:

1. A car-free city. In this city other noises take place of engines; pianos playing, children laughing, bicycle bells. Wide boulevards for walking and cycling and a robust public transport system makes the city a very attractive place socially. The improvement in air quality also has a positive impact on mortality.
2. An underground mushroom farm. Mushrooms have amazing properties, from food, to medicine, to fabrics, without starting on the good that their mycelium does to support plant life.
3. A restaurant that cooks using only the heat from the sun.
4. A fully regenerative farm that has restored biodiversity on the edge of a city, bringing volunteers together to work on the land.
5. A town where the rush hour takes place entirely on bicycles.
6. Landscapes rewilded by beavers.

Rob was able to show that these concepts are already working successfully. They simply need scaling up. We can dream and we can make dreams reality if enough of us want that reality. At the moment Rob's immersive light show is not yet touring, but if you would like to know more do check out his website: [robhopkins.net](http://robhopkins.net). Rob has a podcast *From What If to What Next*, which is well worth a listen.

*Lizzy Stroud*

### Seen A Beaver?

Beavers are currently living on the river Tamar. A few days ago a beaver was found dead in Saltash Passage. This had followed some enthusiastic sightings of it alive and well on social media. Unfortunately, beavers die in salt water. If you see a beaver in tidal waters, it needs rescuing as a matter of emergency. Please call one of the following numbers: British Divers Marine Life Rescue - 01825 765546, Cornwall Beaver Project - 07971 436319, Plymouth Beaver Project - 07747 776946 or Devon Wildlife Trust beaver manager - 07553 268153.

*Lizzy Stroud*

## Rita's Rota – MAY Dates

4	10:30	Church Service (SGMC)	17	10:00	Little / Bigger Breakfast (DSVH)
6	09:15	Dance Fitness (TZ)		10:00	Willow Workshop (TZ)
	10:00	Coffee Morning (DSVH)		10:00	May Tree Workshop (EHSG)
	10:30	Mindfulness & Meditation (TZ)		14:00	May Tree Music Workshop (EHSG)
	14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)	18	10:00	Producers Market (DSVH)
	19:00	Hessenford WI AGM (WVH)		10:30	Church Service (SGMC)
	19:15	Drama Group (DSVH)	19	13:40	Craft Café Watercolour W/shop (TZ)
7	14:00	Music Club (TZ)	20	09:15	Dance Fitness (TZ)
	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)		10:30	Coffee Morning (SNCh)
	18:00	Table Tennis (TZ)		10:30	Mindfulness & Meditation (TZ)
8	14:00	VE Day Anniversary Tea (DSVH)		14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)
	14:00	Thursday Club (EHSG)		19:15	Drama Group (DSVH)
	19:00	Badminton (DSVH)	21	14:00	Music Club (TZ)
9	18:30	Quiz Night (DSVH)		14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
10	11:00	Coffee, Cake, Chat (HCH)		18:00	Table Tennis (TZ)
11	10:30	Church Service (SGMC)		19:00	Gardening Club (EHSG)
12	10:30	Coffee Morning (TRBL)	22	13:30	Thursday Club Outing
	14:00	Craft Café Sketchbook Social (TZ)		18:30	Devioc Council Planning Mtg (TZ)
13	09.15	Dance Fitness (TZ)		19:00	Badminton (DSVH)
	10:30	Coffee Morning (SNCh)		19:30	Aromatherapy Workshop (TZ)
	10:30	Mindfulness & Meditation (TZ)	24	14:00	D&S Community Fair (DSVH)
	14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)		-	St Germans May Tree Fair
	14:00	D & S WI Meeting (TZ)	25	10:00	Craft Fair (DSVH)
	19:15	Drama Group (DSVH)		10:30	Church Service (SGMC)
14	14:00	Music Club (TZ)		12:00	St Germans May Tree Fair / Procession
	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)	27	-	MOBILE LIBRARY DAY
	18:00	Table Tennis (TZ)		09:15	Dance Fitness (TZ)
15	19:00	Polbathic Village Hall AGM (PoIH)		10:30	Coffee Morning (SNCh)
	19:00	Badminton (DSVH)		10:30	Mindfulness & Meditation (TZ)
	19:30	Devioc Annual Council Mtg (TZ)		14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)
Mobile Library:			28	19:15	Drama Group (DSVH)
St Germans - Alms Houses	09:45 - 10:05			14:00	Music Club (TZ)
St Germans - Quay Road.	10:15 - 10:50			14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
Downderry - Inn.	13:55 - 14:35	29		18:00	Table Tennis (TZ)
Seaton - Car Park.	14:45 - 15:05	30		19:00	Badminton (DSVH)
		31		18:30	Bingo (DSVH)
				10:30	Shibori Scarves Workshop (TZ)

**BBB Bewshea's By The Beach; CB Community Bus; DSVH Dderry & Seaton VH; PoIH 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; TZ The Zone Downderry; WVH W'gates V Hall**

Entries for Rita's Rota should be sent to [nuttree.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:nuttree.editor@yahoo.com) by **17th of the preceding month.**

Many Thanks - 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 seek the same from our correspondents.**