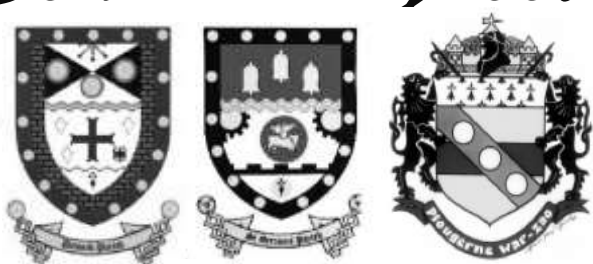




December 2025 Volume 40 (9)

*Season's Greetings to all*



## Nature Notes

It is dawn but the blackened sky would suggest otherwise. Night and day merge as one below the low cloud and murk remaining from earlier rain. A storm has been slowly progressing northward from sodden Iberia and more heavy rain is forecast here. The breeze is becoming easterly but it is still remarkably mild for November. At home many plants are still growing and flowers of geranium and cosmos, for example, still persist, helping to add a bit of colour to the autumnal gloom. I catch the dependable winter song of the Robin and the weak ticking of a Wren. A Grey Wagtail flies over calling loudly. A few days ago, on a much brighter day, I came across the first Black Redstart of the autumn. It has probably flown over from the continent, but has now moved on. There are still plenty of insects around too, notably on the flowers of the evergreen Castor Oil plant.

As I look out to sea, there are few birds. I note scarce appearances from Gannet, Razorbill and Guillemot, though the commonest species seems to be the Cormorant. Perhaps the beach will offer something different. A couple of Little Egrets fly westward just offshore and I interrupt the feeding activity of several Pied Wagtails, many already paired for next spring. I hope to see a Water Pipit, a winter visitor from the Alps, which I encountered a few days ago. Usually, I come across one each year in Downderry. Yet my interest is drawn quickly to what is at my feet, not the

accumulations of dark seaweed but the more reflective outlines of tiny plastic-like pieces of debris. However, these are not offending bits of plastic.

Along the high-tide line are thousands of the translucent floats of the By-the-wind Sailor, or velella, a type of colonial, free-floating animal similar to jellyfish. It is an innocuous creature, a distant relative of the Portuguese Man o' War. Each float is about five centimetres long, oval in shape with circular, smooth ridges. It includes a sail that crosses the float diagonally. In recent storms, the wind has pushed these floats ashore in incalculable numbers, an occurrence not unfamiliar in Devon and Cornwall. Each float belonged to a deep blue animal, a complexity in itself, whose stinging tentacles would have caught plankton out in the warmer ocean. Unfortunately, the float is all we normally find.

The meandering line seems to go on forever, mirroring the high point reached by the swash of the waves. As I follow the line, inevitably, I come across other objects on the beach, but many are unwelcome. They are discarded and I do my bit to remove a few. Yet, one large piece leaves a deep impression on me. It is an empty plastic bottle, once the carrier of pure water according to the label. I read on and the small print reveals that it originated in Singapore. Now that in itself conjures up another story.

*Alan Payne*

# The SHOP

Owned by  
Downderry &  
Seaton Community

## **Built by Us, For Us — and Nearly Ready to Shine!**

There is a buzz in the village and it is coming from The Shop. The transformation underway is nothing short of magical; walls beautifully reimaged by Kyle Haigh and his team, ceilings mended with care by Gavin, and Barry and Chris are powering through the electrics with the first fix done and second underway. Every brushstroke, wire, and timber is a testament to community spirit and craftsmanship. Next up: paint and with it, the promise of a space that truly reflects us.

We are also still welcoming donations from our online wish list towards practical items that will help us stock the café and shop with everything from chairs to the sign. Each gift is a building block in this shared vision, and every contribution makes a difference.

Follow our journey and join the conversation on Facebook at Downderry and Seaton Community Shop and on Instagram at @the\_shop\_downderry\_seaton. Your support, your stories, your spirit — they are what make this project truly ours.

*The Shop Community*

## St Germans Parish Council

Many residents will have noticed that the three-cornered field adjacent to St Germans station is currently being used for what appears to be ongoing and unlawful tipping of excavation waste in a conservation area and the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Parish Council are endeavouring to stop this activity and have contacted the relevant authorities requesting that they investigate and take appropriate action to stop the tipping and return the field to its previous natural condition. Some residents have already lodged their own complaints, and it would be helpful if anyone who is concerned about this activity could also contact the authorities to log a complaint.

The relevant telephone number and email addresses are listed below:

Environment Agency: 0800 807060

Cornwall Council Planning and Enforcement: [planning@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cornwall.gov.uk)

County Councillor Kate Ewert: [cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk)

St Germans Parish Council: [clerk@stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk)

On a more positive note, National Highways have signed off on the pedestrian crossing at Tideford, and the work will also include a 'yellow box' so that westbound traffic will have to stop and keep the road opposite the junction clear to enable cars to pull out.

Residents of St Germans will have noticed that the broken section of wall next to the triangle at Fancy Bridge has been repaired and that the footpath is now open again.

There is a problem with people pushing glass bottles into the soil at the burial ground. It is centred around one grave in particular, so if anyone reading this knows who is responsible, please ask them to stop and dispose of their bottles in the bin. It is dangerous and means that the grass around the grave can not be cut because it could lead to smashed glass being spread around and it endangers the people maintaining the graveyard.

The Parish Council would like to express our sincere thanks to Patricia Pipe, who has served on the Council for many years, and for a long time has been our Chair. She is moving away from the area, and we wish her every happiness in her new surroundings. We therefore have four vacancies for new councillors, one for Bethany ward, one for St Germans ward, one for Tideford and one for St Germans. This is not a time-consuming commitment and we welcome all members of the community, whatever their age and background, to apply.

*Julian True*  
*Parish Councillor St Germans Ward*

## **The Rame Peninsula and St Germans**

As we reach the end of 2025, I find myself reflecting on what has been a fast-paced and productive year. The first half was dominated by the local elections, and I was absolutely honoured to be re-elected to serve you for another four years as your Cornwall Councillor. Since then, it has been full steam ahead — working on casework, supporting residents, and continuing to push for projects that make a real difference across our communities.

As residents will be aware, we recently had a consultation on the proposed pedestrian crossing in Tideford Village – this was really well responded to and I am delighted to say it was overwhelmingly supported which means that Cornwall Council has signed this project off and it moves to the next stage. There are a few hoops to jump through still, but all being well we should see this being installed in the early part of 2026, finally making the A38 safer and easier for residents to cross. This is something I have been calling for for several years now, and have worked hard alongside the brilliant Safe38 to bring this to fruition.

In other news, the safety review of the A374 is nearing completion – this has been a long project to get completed but the early sightings I have had of the report look promising in terms of making the villages along the route safer for all. There is still a way to go on this but I will keep folk updated.

For those of you who enjoy walking, cycling or running in our beautiful corner of Cornwall, I would encourage you to take a look at the Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust's online mapping tool. They are gathering ideas on how to make active travel safer and more accessible — not just for now, but to help shape future funding bids and identify physical barriers that make getting around difficult. You can share your thoughts here: <https://communitymap.uk/project/255/>

December is always a joyful time across our villages — with Festive markets, light switch-ons, and carol concerts bringing us together. It is also a moment to pause and reflect on the year gone by, and to remember those we have lost who won't be joining us in 2026, I know we will carry them in our hearts.

So, from me and my family to you and yours — I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and hopeful New Year.

Email: [cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk) Tel :07873-193631

*Cllr Kate Ewert*

## **Deviack 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.



## Deviocck Parish Council

There will be one meeting in December and two meetings in January: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December (Full Council, 19:30), Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January (Full Council, at the new start time of 19:00) and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January (Planning Committee, 18:30). The December meeting will take place at Hessenford Church Hall (January onwards to be confirmed). See Agendas for details prior to each meeting.

Tanver Yate planting event: Following on from the successful Phase One planting that took place in February 2024, we are asking for volunteers to help with the Forest for Cornwall Phase Two planting event at Tanver Yate field, to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Those of you who came and helped last time will remember what a fun day it was and how much you contributed to the look and feel of this great community asset. If you are able to volunteer, please join us on-site at 10:00, bringing your gardening gloves and hand tools. Teas and coffees will be provided. Pasties will also be available for those who would like one, but we would need to order in advance, so *please email the Clerk by 2<sup>nd</sup> January if you require a pasty* (and confirm if meat or vegetarian). We look forward to seeing you there!

Co-option: The Parish Council is still looking to co-opt more Councillors. Please contact the Clerk to ask any questions, express an interest or to receive further information and an application form.

Full Council meetings: Please note that from January, Full Council meetings will start at 19:00 rather than 19:30. Planning Committee meetings will continue to start at 18:30.

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.deviocckparish.org.uk/](http://www.deviocckparish.org.uk/).

The Parish Clerk can be contacted Monday - Friday by email at [clerk.deviocckpc@btinternet.com](mailto:clerk.deviocckpc@btinternet.com). The Parish Office at the Vestry in Downterry is open to the public on the first and third Wednesday of the month (non-meeting weeks) from 15:00 (tel: 01503-250052).

*Karen Pugh, Parish Clerk*

## **Hessenford News**

I am relieving Tam for a month of writing our news for the Nut Tree. If anyone would be able to help us to do this in the future, just now and again, please do let us know. It would be so much more interesting to get someone else's fresh perspective of life and the goings on in the village and it does not take long to do.

November seems to have been a month of roadworks, treeworks, road redirections and power cuts in Hessenford; hopefully all now behind us for a while. The repair to the Village Hall wall that collapsed into the river is complete and we can expect work to remove the yew tree and repair the wall outside the Church to start in 2026. We are hoping to build a gate to make sure the Village Hall garden is secure for people to use without the worry of children, dogs and balls getting into the road.

The derelict Working Men's Institute building in the centre of the village (behind the War Memorial) came up for auction on 12<sup>th</sup> November. We hope that the sale proceeds without a hitch and hope that the new owner's future plans will see this once lovely building at the heart of the village restored in one form or another. One or two people have expressed concern that this might affect the War Memorial. We have approached Deviock Parish Council to take on responsibility for maintaining the War Memorial and its surroundings in good condition in perpetuity, in case the small group of volunteers who do this currently are no longer able to. Coming up in December we have the village coffee, cake and chat on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 11:00 to 13:00. If you are new to the village, holidaying here or just passing through it is a great chance to meet people and to find out what is going on (and to shelter from the rain if you are waiting for the bus).

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December there is a magical evening planned; a candlelit concert with the Orchard Cafe Quartet in St Anne's Church at 19:30 with dinner beforehand or afterwards at the Copley Arms. If you want to just attend the concert, that is OK too. Speak to the Copley about tickets; it is already looking very popular. On Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December, St Anne's will be holding its very special annual candlelit Christingle service at 18:00. We hope to see you there.

*Fiona Bristow*

## **Tideford British Legion Coffee morning.**

The next coffee morning at the British Legion Tideford will be Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January. 10:30 - Midday. Everyone is welcome. Proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. Sorry folks due to The Christmas Fayre on December 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be no coffee morning in December.

*Julie Luscombe*

## **St Germans and District Gardening Club**

In December we have our annual Christmas Party. It will be held in the Eliot Hall, St Germans, on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Doors will open at 18:00. The Reflexions Choir from Polbathic will start the evening at 18:30. The Christmas buffet will be served from 19:15. It is a popular evening so members are requested to buy their tickets for themselves and their guests early. Tickets are £20 per head and are available from the St Germans village shop or our treasurer Liz on 01503-230431, or our Chairman Roger on 01503-230629. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Roger Whitehead - Chairman*

## **Lynher Church St Germans**

Here we are approaching the Festive Season. It is a very special time for us as we remember the birth of our Lord in the form of the Christ child Jesus. There are various things going on in December. First of all, on the three Thursdays leading up to Christmas the Revd. Stuart is leading an Advent Course at the chapel. These sessions will begin at 15:00 and everyone is welcome. Whilst these are taking place there will not be our twice monthly Bible Study.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our annual Carols by Candlelight. This will begin at 16:00. Please come and celebrate the coming of 'the reason for the season' with us.

Our Coffee and Cake Morning is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and will be a Coffee and Mince Pie with Cream Morning. As usual the proceeds are for charity and this will be Operation Christmas Child.

On Christmas Eve we celebrate with a service for all the family at 16:00. It will be quite informal and will involve cake again. Please come and celebrate with us.

Looking forward to January we will be holding services as usual and our Coffee and Cake Morning is on the 17<sup>th</sup> and is in aid of Quay Lane Surgery.

Thank you for being with us throughout 2025 and a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year from everyone at St Germans Methodist Church.

*Steve Gerrard*

## **St Nics Coffee Mornings**

Here are the dates for our upcoming Tuesday 10:30 coffee mornings in St Nics Church. In December we will meet only on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> (as the school has use of the Church on 16<sup>th</sup>). In January we have a fuller calendar and will meet on 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Elsa Guilfoyle*

## Quay Lane Surgery

### The Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The PPG's Christmas raffle will be drawn at Quay Lane Surgery in December!

You can see the two luxury Christmas hampers and other prizes to be won on display in the surgery waiting room. However, raffle tickets are only available now at St Germans Community Shop. Thank you to everyone at St Germans Community Shop for your tremendous support and selling the tickets!

On behalf of all our members, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year!

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

### Practice News:

#### Winter Reminders and Appointment Guidance

As we approach the Festive season, we would like to remind all patients to order their repeat medications as usual allowing a minimum of five working days for collection (not including weekends or bank holidays). Please allow for our **Christmas and New Year closures at both the main and branch surgery:**

- **Thursday 25th December** – Closed
- **Friday 26th December** – Closed
- **Thursday 1st January** – Closed

The practice will be **open as normal** on all other weekdays during this period.

#### Booking Appointments: What to Expect

When you contact reception to book an appointment, our team will ask for a brief idea of your problem. This helps us direct you to the most appropriate clinician and ensures timely care.

- **Routine appointments** should be booked **in advance**. For routine appointments please ring the surgery after 10:30
- **Urgent appointments** are available **on the day only**. You can ring from 08:30.

Please remember: **not all problems need to be seen by a Doctor**. We have a skilled team of healthcare professionals who can help:

#### Who Can Help You?

- Clinical Pharmacist Ideal for medication reviews, managing long-term conditions like high blood pressure or asthma, and advice on side effects or interactions.
- First Contact Physiotherapist Your go-to for muscle, joint, or back pain. They can assess, diagnose, and provide treatment plans without needing a GP referral.
- Social Prescriber Supports with non-medical issues affecting your health—such as loneliness, housing, financial worries, or lifestyle changes. They connect you with local services and community groups.



- Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) Highly trained to assess, diagnose, and treat a wide range of conditions. ANPs can prescribe medication and manage many issues independently.

We are here to help you get the right care, from the right person, at the right time. Wishing you a healthy and peaceful holiday season!

*Debbie Todd, Practice Manager*

## **St Germans Thursday Club**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November we had our Annual Dinner, we had a lovely meal cooked beautifully as always by Shirley who was assisted by her husband, thank you both, also a big thank you to the committee for organising everything. It was lovely to see so many members on this special occasion.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November is our Christmas Craft afternoon, I am sure we will all enjoy ourselves, I will report on how we got on in the next issue.

### **Coming up in December:**

#### Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup>:

We have one of the highlights of the year our Christmas Party. I am sure we are all looking forward to welcoming back 'Just Voices' who will be getting us all into the spirit of Christmas with lots of Christmas Carols and of course there will be mince pies and I believe there will even be some scones, jam and cream.

### **Coming up in January:**

#### Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup>:

General get together and catch up after Christmas, also it is that time of year to pay our subscriptions and to make our nominations for the coming year's committee.

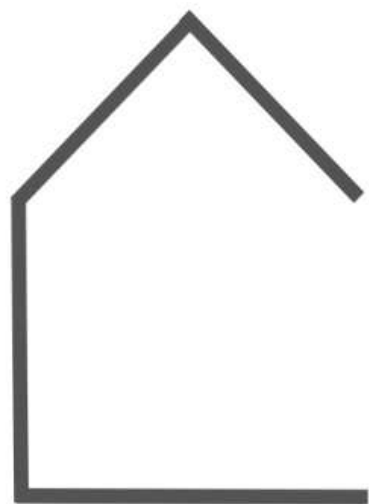
Please note we only have one meeting in December and January.

Our meetings are held at the Eliot Hall, St. Germans, doors open at 14:00 for 14:30 start unless otherwise advertised. Entry is £3 at the door which includes a cup of tea or coffee, biscuits and a fun raffle. Please come and join us, new members and visitors are always welcome.

For general enquiries please contact our chairperson Jenny Putt on 01503-230766.

The committee and members of The St Germans Thursday Club wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

*Linda Barnes*



# The Zone

## Health & Wellbeing Hub

### D O W N D E R R Y

Negotiations continue to progress with regards the purchase of The Zone as a Health & Wellbeing Hub owned and run by the community. We expect to exchange contracts very shortly.

Once more definite news is available about the actual 'Big Day' and other reopening activities we will be letting everyone know via local Facebook pages and posters.

In the meantime we would love for you to join us in St Nicolas Church for a Traditional Carol Concert. Hosted by The Zone Health & Wellbeing Hub and St Nicolas Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 15:00. Enjoy Festive favourites with Whitsand Harmony, Deviock Brass, and soloist Maggie Holden. All are welcome; come sing, celebrate, and after enjoy some mince pies and hot drinks!

To celebrate the reopening of The Zone Health & Wellbeing Hub we are inviting people to a **Free Traditional Meal on Christmas Day** at The Zone 12:00 – 14:00 with vegetarian option. Transport provided if needed. This event is open to all the community. Well behaved dogs welcome too.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to join us by:  
emailing us on [zonedownderry@aol.com](mailto:zonedownderry@aol.com) or contacting Viv Parker on 07855-162268.

*The Zone Steering Group*

### **Eliot Hall**

Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 – 12:00. Join us for tea, coffee and mince pies with clotted cream at our Christmas Coffee morning. The Hall will be decorated and warm so come and join us and try your luck in our Christmas Raffle.

Christmas wreath making fundraising for The Eliot Hall Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 19:00 – 21:00. Following last year's lovely workshop, join us for a fun evening to create a Christmas foliage wreath for your front door and fundraise for your community village hall. £20 for tea/coffee and mince pie or £25 for mulled wine and mince pie.

All materials will be provided. No experience necessary.

Booking is essential, please contact Charlotte at [eliotcommunityhall@gmail.com](mailto:eliotcommunityhall@gmail.com) for more information and to reserve your place.

*Charlotte True*



## **Hessenford WI**

Hessenford goes crafty again. At our November meeting we enjoyed making a range of Christmas decorations from pipe cleaners. We made wreaths and sparkly stars embellished with bows, beads and glittery bits. We do enjoy our craft. All in all a fun, sociable and productive afternoon. Our December meeting is a celebratory meal out. Meetings at Widegates Village Hall resume on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 14:00 and we are happy to welcome like-minded women of all ages.

*Jackie Holland - President*

## **Downderry & Seaton WI**

This year's Nationwide WI resolution is 'Bystanders save lives' - so at our November meeting we received an enlightening talk by our local expert Pat Dollard of Kernow Training on Basic Life Support to include CPR and training with the defibrillator. Thanks to Pat for making this an important and entertaining afternoon.

Our Christmas Craft Day saw our members and guests making many different Christmas items, watch out for future craft sessions which may be available in the spring.

There are limited places available for the wreath and table decoration workshop on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at St Nics Church, Downderry. Please contact us if you would like to attend [downderryandseatonwi@gmail.com](mailto:downderryandseatonwi@gmail.com). There are two sessions, one morning and one afternoon, £15 for a wreath and £10 for table decorations, again inclusive of all materials.

Our December meeting will start the Christmas celebrations with our annual afternoon party and games, and at the January meeting we have an entertaining speaker booked to start the New Year.

Downderry & Seaton WI would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

*Julie Green, Secretary Downderry & Seaton WI*



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

Together we have raised £120,000 for the 'Save our Village Hall' appeal - this is an incredible amount of money that many of you have contributed towards. We are thrilled to have your support. We still have some way to go, so your continued support is absolutely crucial NOW to get the essential renovations needed to the Village Hall completed. Securing the future of this community owned hub means you, your family,

friends and neighbours can continue to attend a wide variety of events and activities that are so important for everyone's health and wellbeing. For more information about our appeal and ways you can help, go to [www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk).

Coffee Mornings, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> January 10:00 to 12:00 - Come along for a chat and enjoy a hot or cold drink with a little treat. There will be a book stall and raffle tickets for that morning's draw.

Christmas Craft Fair, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 to 19:00 and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 to 15:00 - Come and support our many talented local crafters and buy some unique handmade pieces which you, your family and friends will love. Entry is free. Payment by cash or card.

Games Afternoons, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> January 14:00 to 17:00 - Enjoy a fun afternoon with family and friends or make new ones. Lots of games available to play, or if you have a favourite bring it along! Entry fee £1 each. Hot and cold drinks available, including a reasonably priced bar.

Bingo Nights, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December and 30<sup>th</sup> January 18:30 for 19:30 start - Have a fun evening out with family and friends. This is a non-commercial Fundraising Event with all proceeds going to the Village Hall.

Little & Bigger Breakfast, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December and 17<sup>th</sup> January 10:00 to 13:00 - Make new friends and enjoy a hearty breakfast of either a breakfast bap for £5.00 or full breakfast for £6.50. Pay on the door.

Producers Market, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December and 18<sup>th</sup> January 10:00 to 13:00 - Shop local for great fresh produce. Hot and cold refreshments available and buy raffle tickets for the hamper, all items donated by the producers. Entry is free.

Quiz Night, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 18:30 for 19:30 start - Enjoy a fun evening with family and friends and test your knowledge at our screen-based quiz (tables are for groups of up to six only). If you do not have a team, let us know. £5 each. To book your place, see contact details below.

All welcome at our Fundraising Events, unless otherwise stated, including dogs on leads. Reasonably priced bar at most evening events. Payment by cash or card.

Regular activities and other events in the Village Hall: Mondays - 14:00 Qigong with Nicola; Tuesdays - 14:00 VH Short Mat Bowls Group; 18:00 Pilates with Sarah; 19:15 VH Drama Group. Wednesdays - 14:00 VH Badminton Group; 19:30 Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal. Fridays - 10:30 Chair Yoga with Craig. Most days 09:00 to 23:30 VH Snooker Room. 10:00 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and 14<sup>th</sup> January Community Bus Coffee Morning – 11:00 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> January Soundbath with Tracy.



Contact Details: For more information about the above events and activities see posters around the area, go to our website [www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk), Facebook Group [www.facebook.com/groups/downderryandseatonvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/groups/downderryandseatonvillagehall), email [downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com).

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

## **Whitsand Harmony (Choir)**

Whitsand Harmony present an evening of Music in The Downderry & Seaton Village Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, doors open at 19:00 for 19:30 start. Pre booking is not required, just turn up and enjoy on the night. It is in aid of the Liskeard, Looe & Torpoint Foodbank and proceeds from the Bar will be going to the Village Hall Fund. Nibbles will be provided.

*Melanie Buttall - Whitsand Harmony Events Co-ordination*

## **Open The Book**

For a number of years now, once a fortnight, members of our village churches have been dressing up and enacting Bible stories to the pupils at St Nicolas school. The stories, beautifully written in the Lion story teller Bible book, are especially adapted for reading aloud and wherever possible the children take part as well. We also now go to St Germans school once a month.

*Yvonne Byles*

**DEVIOCK ACTIVITES GROUP (DAG)** (In December at St Nics Church, DOWNDERRY)

### **December Programme**

**Craft Café and Art Group:** Mondays 10:00 – noon, £3. Come along and make some lovely Christmas decorations each week.

Also Monday 1<sup>st</sup> help us decorate the Church. Our last session will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Table Tennis:** Wednesdays 18:00 – 19:00, £2. All levels welcome, equipment provided, friendly group. Last session Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Music Club:** Thursdays 14:15 – 15:45, £3. Learn to play the ukulele or guitar or come along to sing. A fun session with a friendly bunch of people. Last session Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

In 2026 we anticipate being back at The Zone with the following programme:

**Craft Café and Art Group:** Mondays 14:00 – 16:00. Craft of the month Crochet. Beginners welcome.

**Music Club:** Wednesdays 14:00 – 15:30.

**Table Tennis:** Wednesdays 18:00 – 19:00

For up-to-date information see local Facebook pages and posters nearer the time or contact [zonedownderry@aol.com](mailto:zonedownderry@aol.com)

Happy Christmas to all our supporters, we hope to see you and new participants in the New Year at The Zone Health & Wellbeing Hub.

*Viv Parker*

### **Downderry Christmas Extravaganza**



On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December we invite you to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year with us! Come and enjoy good music, excellent food and Christmas ambiance and make this Christmas unforgettable!

Lantern Parade - Meet at St Nicolas Church at 16:30 mince pies, mulled wine and cocoa. The Parade leaves at 17:00.



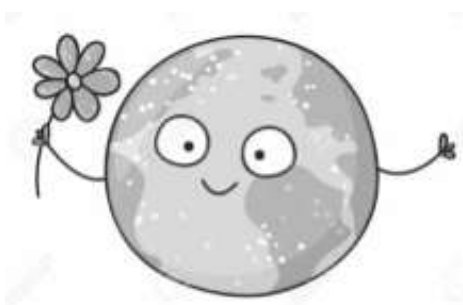
Inn on the Shore - Toast marshmallows on the fire pits while enjoying a mulled wine or mulled cider.

Bewshea's By The Beach - Enjoy a mulled wine or mulled cider with a roast pork and stuffing bap. The Parade arrives at 17:30 for the Community Christmas Carols sing-along. The Village Christmas Lights will be switched on at 18:00 by Armand Toms. Santa and his Elves will then arrive with presents for the children (sponsored by Bewshea's).



*Mandy Smith*

## **Simple Ways To Save The Planet**



Inequality is a massive issue when it comes to climate change and social unrest. The wealthy, through their powerful media channels, are great at scapegoating the lower echelons of society. The truth is that the wealthiest are most likely to have the highest carbon footprint, through greater energy costs, a casual approach to flying and the purchase of more stuff.

At the Wall Street Journal Innovator Awards, American singer Billie Eilish put the following question to the room full of people, that included billionaires Mark Zuckerberg and George Lucas. "If you're a billionaire, why are you a billionaire?" She continued with, "If you have money, it would be great to use it for good things, maybe give it to some people that need it,"

Billie Eilish puts her money where her mouth is and revealed she would be donating \$11.5 million from her latest tour to various organisations and charities.

Very few of us would consider ourselves super-wealthy, but by comparison to most of the world's population we are. Most of us also have more stuff than we need.

Christmas is a great time to redress this balance. Instead of more stuff, buy presents for people that benefit others, such as a Twinned Toilet or a goat for an African village. Or buy homemade items and support small producers locally. Redistribute surplus stuff by giving it away; regift, pass it on to a charity shop.

Can you afford to be more generous than you currently are? What could you do to help others less fortunate? If you have no money, could you gift time? Visit someone who may be lonely or help out at a local charity. Giving is often better than receiving, and the reward of feeling kind is a gift in itself.

*Lizzy Stroud*

## December / January and February 2026 Dates

DATE		DESTINATION	DEPART	LENGTH OF STAY	FARES SINGLE	FARES RETURN
<b>December</b>						
Tuesday	2	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Wednesday	3	<b>EXETER</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	<b>£8.00</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
Thursday	4	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Friday	5	<b>LOOE</b>	11.30am	3 Hours	£3.00	<b>£5.00</b>
Tuesday	9	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Wednesday	10	Tea, Biscuits and mini quiz at <b>VILLAGE HALL</b> , £3.00			10.30 am - 12.00	
Thursday	11	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Sat	13	Smugglers quiz night, for the bus Plus Mega Raffle, food available before Quiz			Quiz starts 8.00pm, See Notice Boards for more details	
Tuesday	16	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Tuesday	16	Totnes late night shopping + Xmas market	3.30pm	4 Hours		<b>£10.00</b>
Wednesday	17	<b>TRURO</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	£6.00	<b>£12.00</b>
Thursday	18	Liskeard	9.30 am	2 Hours	£2.00	£4.00
Tuesday	23	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
Thursday	25	Christmas Day-no service				
Tuesday	30	Plymouth	9.30 am	4 Hours	£3.00	£5.00
<b>January</b>						
Thursday	1	New Years Day-no service		<b>HAPPY★NEW★YEAR</b>		
Wednesday	14	Truro Cathedral "Time" Immersive Lights	11.30 am	Light show starts 4.30pm	£10.50 entry	£12.00 bus
Wednesday	21	<b>TRURO</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	£6.00	<b>£12.00</b>
<b>February</b>						
Friday	6	<b>LOOE</b>	11.30am	3 Hours	£3.00	<b>£5.00</b>
Wednesday	18	<b>TRURO</b>	9.30 am	4 Hours	£6.00	<b>£12.00</b>
Friday	27	Chocolate Making Tour	9.30 am	4 Hours	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>

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

### Community Bus News

At the AGM last month, the Chairman was pleased to confirm that all objectives contained in the Bus Association 2024/25 Plan had been achieved in full, and with a very favourable financial balance sheet, there was every reason to be optimistic for the future provision of our bus services for 2026. A massive thanks goes out to our committee, drivers and wonderful fund-raisers, and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. The bus only functions with your selfless and dedicated support – thank you.



In the meantime! A busy Festive period approaches for our bus, and we have a variety of fun outings and fund-raising events to look forward to. We will continue with our

Seaton (school) service for the duration of term time and with our scheduled runs to PLYMOUTH (Tuesdays 09:30) and LISKEARD (Thursdays 09:30). In December, we also have trips to EXETER on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, LOOE on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and TRURO on 17<sup>th</sup>, although there will be no service to Liskeard on 25<sup>th</sup>. A full service will be resumed in January.

It was just great to see so many attendees at our last Coffee morning! It is a great chance for our community to get together for a snack, quick bus update and a little fun (Raffle and Quiz). Our next date is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and once again, it would be great to see everyone. As ever, our functions at the Smugglers continue to grow in popularity and we are all looking forward to the Quiz and 'Mega Christmas Raffle' on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – we will run a shuttle bus service from DOWDERRY for what promises to be a fun and memorable night.

For those of you looking to get a little Christmas shopping in, we have a trip to Totnes late night shopping and Christmas market on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> leaving at 15:30 (£10 return). This much-loved event fills the high street in Totnes with twinkling lights, live music, delicious food and a vibrant array of artisan skills – make sure you book early! One other excursion on the horizon that you may want to take a look at early in the new year is a trip to the immersive lights at Truro cathedral on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2026. 'Space' is an immersive visual and audio spectacular experience allowing viewers to go on a journey through space and time. Walk amongst the stars against the incredible backdrop of the architecture of Truro Cathedral.

We maintain an updated schedule and full list of events (and a few photos from previous excursions) on our website at [www.dscombus.com](http://www.dscombus.com) so take a look and pop it in your favourites/bookmarks to stay up to date.

NEW DRIVERS (New Year's resolution?). Our bus committee and drivers, along with all our administrators and fund-raisers have created a friendly and professional team that would love to welcome you into our fold. If maybe, one of your New Year's resolutions is to do a little for your local community then what better way than to come and join us in providing this bus service to our community. We would love to hear from you – more info at <https://www.dscombus.com/volunteers>. Happy Christmas everyone.

*Rob Gascoigne - Chairman*  
[dscombus@gmail.com](mailto:dscombus@gmail.com)

## **Dowderry Bus 300 Club**

The lucky winners of the November 300 Club draw are:

1<sup>st</sup>. No. 87 - John Nicholls £20. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No. 32 - Robin Doyle £15. 3<sup>rd</sup>. No.99 - Jem Hall £10. Many thanks everyone,

*Jo Woodley: 01503-250489*

## A Big Vote of “Thanks”

Season Greetings and a big thank you to all the good folk who commit so much of their time and energy to the smooth running of the many and varied activities which are available to us in our community spirited villages. You are much appreciated.

*Yvonne Byle*

### Rita’s Rota – December Dates

1	10:00	DAG Craft café (SNCh)	12	10:30	Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)
	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)		18:30	Christmas Bingo (DSVH)
2	10:00	Coffee Morning (DSVH)	13		
	14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)	14	12:00	Child’s Xmas Magical Mayhem (DSVH)
	18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)		16:00	Carols by Candlelight (SGMC)
	19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)	15	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)
3	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)	16	11:00	Soundbath with Tracy (DSVH)
	18:00	DAG Table Tennis (SNCh)		14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)
	19:00	Whitsand Harmony Concert (DSVH)		18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)
4	14:15	DAG Music Club (SNCh)		19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)
	15:00	Advent Course (SGMC)		19:30	Candlelit Concert (HC)
5	10:30	Chair Yoga (DSVH)	17	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
6	Am/pm	Xmas Decoration Workshop (SNCh)		18:00	St G. Gardening Club Party (EHSG)
	10:00	Christmas Fair (DSVH)		18:00	DAG Table Tennis (SNCh)
	10:00	Christmas Coffee Morning (EHSG)		19:30	Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)
	16:30	Christmas Extravaganza (Various)	18	15:00	Advent Course (SGMC)
7	10:00	Christmas Fair (DSVH)		19:30	Deviock Full Council Mtg (HCH)
8	10:00	DAG Craft Café (SNCh)	19	10:30	Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)
	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)	20	10:00	Little & Bigger Breakfast (DSVH)
9	10:30	Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)	21	10:00	Producers Market (DSVH)
	14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)		15:00	Traditional Carol Concert (SNCh)
	18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)	22	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)
	19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)	23	11:00	Coffee, Cake, Chat (HCH)
10	10:00	CB Coffee Morning (DSVH)		14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)
	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)		18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)
	18:00	DAG Table Tennis (SNCh)		19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)
	19:00	Christmas Wreath Making (EHSG)	24	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
	19:30	Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)		16:00	Christmas Eve Service (SGMC)
11	14:00	Games Afternoon (DSVH)		18:00	Candlelit Service (HC)
	14:15	DAG Music Club (SNCh)	25	12:00	Christmas Lunch (TZ)
	14:30	Thursday Club (EHSG)			
	15:00	Advent Course (SGMC)			

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

## Rita's Rota – January Dates

1			14	10:00	CB Coffee Morning (DSVH)
2	10:30	Chair Yoga (DSVH)		14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
3				14:00	DAG Music Club (TZ)
4				18:00	DAG Table Tennis (TZ)
5	10:30	Coffee Morning (TRBL)		19:30	Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)
	14:00	Qigong with Nicola (DSVH)	15	19:00	Deviack Full Council Mtg (Venue tbc)
	14:00	DAG Craft Café (TZ)	16	10:30	Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)
6	-	MOBILE LIBRARY DAY	17	10:00	Little & Bigger Breakfast (DSVH)
	10:00	Coffee Morning (DSVH)	18	10:00	Producers Market (DSVH)
	14:00	Hessenford WI (WVH)	19	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)
	14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)		14:00	DAG Craft Café (TZ)
	18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)	20	10:30	Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)
	19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)		11:00	Soundbath with Tracy (DSVH)
7	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)		14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)
	14:00	DAG Music Club (TZ)		18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)
	18:00	DAG Table Tennis (TZ)		19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)
	19:30	Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)	21	14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
8	14:00	Games Afternoon (DSVH)		14:00	DAG Music Club (TZ)
9	10:30	Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)		18:00	DAG Table Tennis (TZ)
10	10:00	Tanver Yate Tree Planting		19:30	Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)
	19:00	Dance Night with Emma (DSVH)	22	14:30	Thursday Club (EHSG)
11			23	18:30	Quiz Night (DSVH)
12	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)	24		
	14:00	DAG Craft Café (TZ)	25		
13	10:30	Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)	26	14:00	QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)
	14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)		14:00	DAG Craft Café (TZ)
	18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)	27	10:30	Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)
	19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)		14:00	Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)
				18:00	Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)
				19:15	Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)
Mobile Library:				14:00	Badminton (DSVH)
St Germans - Alms Houses	09:45 - 10:05	28		14:00	DAG Music Club (TZ)
St Germans - Quay Road.	10:15 - 10:50			18:00	DAG Table Tennis (TZ)
Downderry - Inn.	13:55 - 14:35			19:30	Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)
Seaton - Car Park.	14:45 - 15:05	29		18:30	Deviack Cncl Planning Mtg (venue tbc)
		30		10:30	Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)
				18:30	Bingo (DSVH)
		31			

**BBB Bewshea's By The Beach; CB Community Bus; DSVH Derry & 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; 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 17<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month - Rita  
Copy deadline for the February Nut Tree is BY 17<sup>th</sup> January– [nuttree.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:nuttree.editor@yahoo.com)



## **Be Bright, Be Merry, Be Seen!**

As the year winds down and the fairy lights go up, the DaSRA Committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a New Year that's everything you hoped for - whether that's peace and quiet, family fun, or simply surviving the sprouts!

Now, while we're all dreaming of cosy evenings, a quick reality check... our lanes are picturesque, but they're not exactly the most pedestrian-friendly! Pavements? Rare. Street lighting? Patchy at best. We have had a few near misses lately, so if you are out walking the dog, cycling, or heading out for the school run, please make sure you are visible. A flash of hi-vis or a twinkle of light could save the day and your toes.

The Festive season also means more traffic, with visitors, deliveries, and the odd emergency dash for cranberry sauce. So, let's all take that extra moment to look out for one another. And while we are on the subject of looking out - home security deserves a nod. Those beautifully wrapped gifts under the tree... they look lovely inside, but they can also look tempting from outside. We are not here to scare anyone, just to remind you to keep valuables out of sight and doors locked, even if you are only popping next door with a plate of mince pies.

Finally, thank you for being part of such a brilliant community. Your support makes all the difference, and we look forward to another year of working together. Until then, enjoy the Festivities, stay safe, and remember: hi-vis is for the outdoors, not the Christmas party!

**Warm and festive wishes from all of us at DaSRA.** Contact: [info@dasra.co.uk](mailto:info@dasra.co.uk)

*Chris Clarke*

## **Thanks and Seasons Greetings!.....**

.....to all our readers, distributors and correspondents.

Everyone at Nut Tree wishes to thank our readers for taking the time to read our little magazine each month. We thank our dedicated band of locals who brave the elements to post your magazines through your letter boxes each month. And we especially thank those who press finger to keyboard each month to provide the copy you all enjoy reading.

There is no Nut Tree in January, so for our readers your next copy will be with you early in February, and for correspondents your copy deadline for the next edition is by 17<sup>th</sup> January.

We wish you all a holiday season full of peace, joy and happiness.

*Ed*