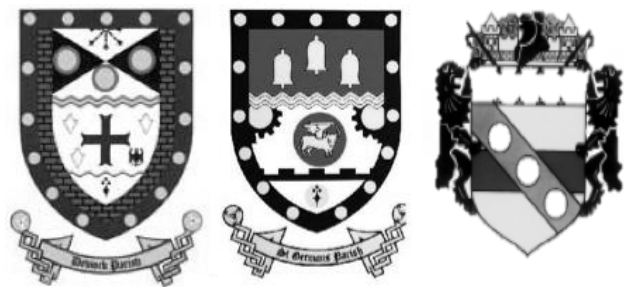


# NUT TREE

Magazine of the St Germans and Deviock Parishes & Councils  
February 2026 Volume 40 (11)



## Nature Notes

With Storm Goretti still in mind, I am happy to experience very benign conditions as I take the track upwards towards the reservoir. There is a scarce breeze and earlier rain has passed, although the sky is still overcast on this very mild morning in mid-January. The sound of Great Tit, Jackdaw, Robin and Song Thrush echo across the sodden landscape. On my ascent the quiet solitude is gradually broken by the constant roar of water escaping from the lip of the dam which slowly comes into sight. For a few minutes all bird sound has gone. Alongside the path, the brown drabness of bracken contrasts markedly with the yellow flowers of the gorse.

I pass through the gate to the side of the dam and get my first view of Siblyback, the smaller of two principal reservoirs on the southern edge of the moor. I should not be surprised that the reservoir is full given the amount of rain since the autumn when I last visited. In fact, the reservoir appears too full as I note several peripheral bushes standing in water. On my previous visit the level of the water was exceedingly low and the northern end of the reservoir exhibited undulating acres of former lakebed, forming temporary habitats. This coincided fortuitously with the autumn migration of many birds that used this ephemeral landscape as a welcome feeding station. Many wading birds, some from North America, drew many observers eager to encounter some rarities. Today is so different and I consider my chances of seeing any waders as remote.

There is barely a ripple across the uninviting blackness of the water as I cross the dam and take the puddle-strewn circular path. Beyond the overflow from the reservoir there is a notable silence, though occasionally it is broken by a croaking Raven, the soft hum of a transatlantic aircraft or the lowing of complaining cattle. I scan the lake for possible wildfowl but I note only gulls, four species, and a few Cormorant.

Continuing the circuit I eventually find a few Teal, our smallest dabbling duck, and a solitary Coot, close to the narrow inflow of the lake. Where are the geese, I ask myself. There are no Mallards or Little Grebes either! Rather than continue around Siblyback, I decide to return the way I came to see what I may have missed in bays hidden from the path. Eventually, I just make out a couple of Mallard tucked into the side of the water below overhanging vegetation. There are a few more Teal too.

Given the size of the reservoir, I would expect more wildfowl here in winter. In this respect, the morning has been rather fruitless. I turn my attention away from the lake and casually glance across an adjacent field hoping to see some wintering thrushes or plovers. No luck, just a few Starlings and corvids. There are a few sheep. They look up, pay me scant attention and continue grazing. They do not recognize my disappointment.

*Alan Payne*

## **Deviock Parish Council**

There will be two meetings in February: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> (Full Council, 19:00) and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> (Planning Committee, 18:30). All meetings will take place at The Zone in Donderry from February, with Full Council meetings starting at 19:00. See Agendas for details prior to each meeting.

Tanver Yate planting event: Deviock Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers that turned out on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January to make the Tanver Yate Phase 2 planting event such a massive success. Over 450 hedging plants and trees were planted by this fantastic group of individuals and families in less than three hours, which is a testament to their dedication and to the amazing community spirit that we have within the Parish. Apart from one very heavy downpour, we were blessed with the weather yet again and the community field looked amazing by the time that we had all packed up and finished. Everyone certainly fully deserved their pasty and tea/coffee at the end. *“A society grows great when old men plant trees under whose shade they know they shall never sit.” (Greek proverb)*

Devolution: The Parish Council is working on the devolution of four Donderry assets, including Broads Yard car park. Cornwall Council will therefore be removing the car park from its Parking Order 2026 (under consultation), which will allow the Parish Council to include Broads Yard on its new Parking Order. This will mean that any changes going forward will be made at Parish level.

Cycling machine (outdoor gym equipment): The cycling machine has been out of use (and covered up) for many months. Councillors are considering removing rather than repairing/replacing this item, as a suitable repair will cost several thousand pounds. Before going ahead, we would welcome feedback from residents and any users of the gym

equipment. Please email the Clerk by the end of February with any feedback. The remaining items of gym equipment will not be affected and will remain.

Co-option: The Parish Council was delighted to welcome a new councillor (Seaton ward) to the January Full Council meeting. We are still looking to co-opt more councillors, so please contact the Clerk to find out more or to express an interest.

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) from 15:00 (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 and District Gardening Club**

Best wishes to all gardeners for a great growing season in 2026. On Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup> 19:00 for 19:30 in the Eliot Hall, our talk will be Easy Unusual Plants to Grow with Mike (the plantsman) Stephens. Members £3, non-members and guests £4. All will be welcome.

*Roger Whitehead*

### **Eliot Hall, St Germans Coffee Morning**

Join us for tea, coffee and toasted teacakes as we hold our first coffee morning of 2026 on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 10:00 - midday. Celebrate Valentine's Day by bringing a friend!

*Briony Woods*

## Looe East And Deviock Update

Graffiti - Christmas morning incident: I woke up on Christmas morning to a spate of graffiti across the division - from Looe to Downton and extending out to Polbathic and Craffthole. I went out that day to photograph and map each occurrence and liaised with the police. This was not a harmless prank - residents and businesses have been left picking up the bill for serious criminal damage, and I will keep pressure on for a result.

Station Road works - taking longer than planned: The works on Station Road are taking longer than expected due to additional underpinning being required to make the bank secure. I will continue to monitor progress and keep you posted as this moves forward.

Storm Goretti - impacts and recovery: Storm Goretti - the first named storm of 2026, has caused severe damage and, tragically, loss of life across Cornwall. In our division, several trees came down and blocked roads between Downton and Looe. My thanks to the members of the public who reported issues, and to Cornwall Council Highways and Cormac for getting roads cleared and reopened quickly in extremely challenging conditions. As residents in Morval and Widegates will know only too well, this was followed by a protracted power outage, and at the time of writing, some households are still waiting for broadband services to be fully restored. More widely across Cornwall, colleagues on the north coast and further west have reported even more severe impacts, including extensive tree fall, property damage, and ongoing utility disruption.

A community tree planting event took place in Downton on 17<sup>th</sup> January, having been delayed for a week by the storm. Having lost so many trees across Cornwall, it was wonderful to see over 430 hedgerow saplings and 10 oaks planted by the local community, supported by Cornwall Council's Forest for Cornwall initiative, on Parish Council land.

From Truro - Parking Consultation: Cornwall Council is consulting on a new **Off Street Parking Places Order**, which includes a number of amendments such as winter charging, tariff changes and motorhome stays to specific car parks across Cornwall.

Parking has a real impact on residents, local businesses and visitors - from town centre trade and access to services, to local people walking dogs or popping to the shop – I would strongly encourage everyone to take a few minutes to share their views. Responses (supporting or objecting) need to be received **by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026** and can be submitted here: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/off-street-parking-order-2026>.

Visit Cornwall liquidation - mitigating the impact: The voluntary liquidation of Visit Cornwall last year raised real concern among local businesses that rely on strong destination marketing.

I have raised this with the Cabinet Member for the visitor economy, and I am reassured to hear that Cornwall Council is maintaining the Visit Cornwall website and is exploring

acquisition of assets, with a team in place to manage ongoing destination marketing and support.

We are off to a busy start but let me close by wishing you all the very best for a healthy and happy New Year!

*Cllr Mark Gibbons - Looe East & Deviock  
cllr.mark.gibbons@cornwall.gov.uk*

### **Lynher Church St Germans**

A belated Happy New Year to you all. Christmas is just a memory now but a good one. We were delighted to welcome so many people to our various events and we hope you enjoyed the Festive spirit as much as we did. Thank you all for joining with us. Things are a little quieter now, giving us all a little time to sit back and reflect on the message Christmas brings. “*Peace on earth and goodwill to all men*” may seem a pipe dream in the world we live in at the present, but look around you and, in all the disorder and evilness of the world there are so many rays of hope. There are so many people and organisations who seek to help where there are problems in the world and it is often people like yourselves who enable this to happen by contributing, through money or action to these organisations.

Playing our very small part in this, our next Charity Cake and Coffee morning is in aid of St Petroc’s in Bodmin who help single homeless people. Many of these people have fallen into difficult times through no action of their own and desperately need help. Please come and join us for coffee, cake, lively chat and laughter on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 10:00 to 12:00, here at the chapel. We do not charge but contributions are very welcome and every penny goes to the charity of the month.

Services during the month are every Sunday morning at 10:30 and whether you are young or old there is a warm welcome awaiting you. We all wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed New Year.

*Steve Gerrard*

### **St Nics Coffee Mornings**

Dates for the Tuesday 10:30 coffee mornings at St Nics in February are 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Elsa Guilfoyle*

### **Coffee Morning Tideford**

The coffee morning will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 10:30 – 12:00 at the Tideford British Legion. Everyone welcome. All proceeds will go to the Poppy Appeal.

*Julie Luscombe*

### **Bingo**

Bingo at Polbathic Village Hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, doors open at 19:00 for eyes down at 19:30, prizes for lines and houses, plus a money line and house, raffle and refreshments!

*Jenny Warr*

# Quay Lane Surgery

## A Personal Message from the Practice Manager

As I prepare to retire I find myself reflecting on a career that has shaped my life in more ways than I could ever have imagined. When I joined Quay Lane Surgery in November 2012 it became more than just a workplace — it became a community, a family and a place I have put my heart and soul into every day. As I look forward to the next phase of my life and the chance to slow down after so many years of early mornings and full days, I am excited to spend more time with my husband and family. It feels like the right moment to turn the page and I do so with real confidence in the future of the Practice as I start handing over the reins to the new Practice Manager in March.

With over 41 years' service in General Practice, I have watched the NHS change, evolve, and sometimes circle right back to where it started. Throughout it all, my passion for the NHS has never wavered. Through every shift and challenge, one thing has stayed constant: the dedication of the people I have worked alongside. My colleagues at Quay Lane Surgery have been the heartbeat of my working life. Their kindness, resilience, and willingness to support one another have made even the hardest days feel manageable. I will always be grateful for this spirit of teamwork and compassion that defines our practice. I feel so incredibly lucky to have worked with such extraordinary people.

To our patients, thank you, not just for your trust, but for the warmth and kindness you have shown over the years. You have shared your stories, your worries, your humour, and your patience (especially on the days when the computers had other plans)! Although I am moving on, Quay Lane Surgery will always hold a special place in my heart. I leave with gratitude and pride, and with memories I will carry with me always - thank you.

## Using Our Surgery Services Responsibly: A Guide for Our Community

Our local GP surgery is here to support the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community. To make sure we can offer timely care to those who need it most, it is important that our services are used appropriately. Recently, we have seen more people attending the surgery for issues that are better treated elsewhere or managed at home, which can create delays for all patients.

This simple guide explains where to go depending on your symptoms, helping you get the right care as quickly as possible.

### When You Have an Injury

If you have sustained an injury such as a major cut, sprain, suspected fracture, burn or anything that may require urgent or immediate assessment — the GP surgery is **not** the right place to attend:

- **Minor Injuries Units** are equipped to treat sprains, major cuts, burns, simple fractures and similar problems.
- **A&E departments** are the correct option for more serious injuries or anything that may be life-threatening.

Coming to the surgery with an injury often leads to delays in your treatment, because you will still need to be signposted to the appropriate service. Going directly to Minor Injuries or A&E ensures you receive the right care without unnecessary waiting.

### When You Have a Minor Illness

Many everyday illnesses can be safely managed at home with rest, fluids, and over-the-counter remedies. Common self-treatable conditions include:

- colds and sore throats, mild stomach upsets, simple aches and pains

Your local pharmacy can offer advice and recommend suitable treatments. If your symptoms persist despite self-care, or if you are unsure whether you need further support, then it is appropriate to contact the surgery.

### **When to Contact the Surgery**

We are here to help when:

- your symptoms do not improve after self-treatment
- you have ongoing or chronic health concerns
- you need medical advice that a pharmacist cannot provide
- you require follow-up for an existing condition

Using the surgery appropriately helps us provide better care for everyone — shorter waits, more available appointments, and a smoother experience for the whole community.

*Debbie Todd, Practice Manager*



### **Hessenford WI**

In February Members will learn some tips on tracing their family tree.

Come along and join us for some interesting meetings that are planned for the Spring. We meet in Widegates Village Hall at 14:00 on the first Tuesday of each month. We are a friendly, interesting bunch and visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Jackie Holland – President*

## **Downderry & Seaton WI**

Firstly, we would like to say a massive "Thank You" to everyone who came and supported our annual Wreath and Table Decoration Workshop. We had a lovely day with lots of cake!

Another word of thanks goes to St Nics Church, Downderry for allowing us to arrange our meetings after the temporary closure of The Zone.

2026 has seen our community take over the wellbeing hub at The Zone and lots of groups have now moved back into the newly acquired community space. Our WI group had a busy Saturday in early January with us providing refreshments at a pop-up cafe there alongside bread deliveries by Sun Sea & Sourdough. Once again our community rallied around and raised a substantial amount for The Zone fund.

Our first meeting of 2026 found us back in The Zone where we were entertained by the Lady Time Traveller who gave a fascinating talk and demonstration on Victorian dress. We also voted on the Nationwide WI resolution - where did that year go!

We have lots of events and activities in the calendar; theatre trips, garden visits, afternoon teas, exhibitions amongst them. If you would like to come along and meet us, we can be found at The Zone 14:00 – 16:00 on the second Tuesday for our monthly meeting and third Tuesday for our Craft Group. We also run a book club which meets on the third Tuesday each month 14:00 – 16:00 at the Inn on the Shore.

*Julie Green - Secretary Downderry & Seaton WI*

## **Tideford and St Germans Branch Royal British Legion**

The RBL's busiest time of year has again been well supported and celebrated in Tideford. The Remembrance Service was well attended with around 110 community members, veterans, service personnel and locals alike. Approximately half then congregated at St Luke's Church for a religious ceremony prior to heading back to the Club for refreshments.

Over £1,700 (excluding card/contact-less donations) was raised for the Poppy Appeal throughout the Remembrance period by the Tideford and St Germans Branch.

The Club has continued to be busy over the Festive period with further events planned for the coming year, such as the *Casino Royale* Night enjoyed on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Please see our Facebook page or contact the Club or Branch committees for details of future events.

If you would like to get involved and support the Branch further, the committee are looking for volunteer members; please contact the Branch Secretary for more information: [TidefordStGermans.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:TidefordStGermans.Secretary@rbl.community)

We, as always, appreciate the continued local support to both the Branch and Club.

*Jess Kazlauskas – Chair*



### **The Zone: A New Chapter Begins**

The Zone reached a major milestone on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January as the Trustees received the keys from Councillor Mark Gibbons — a symbolic moment marking the start of true community ownership. Thanks to support from Cornwall Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy and Community Levelling Up funding, the building is now secured as a permanent asset for DOWnderry, Seaton and the wider Deviock Parish.

Councillor Gibbons praised the community's determination in bringing the project to completion, and Trustees expressed their gratitude to everyone who has backed the vision. The Zone now stands as a shared space for wellbeing, connection and opportunity — shaped and sustained by the people it serves.

To guide the next phase, residents are invited to share their ideas through a short questionnaire. Whether you are a regular visitor or haven't yet stepped inside, your voice will help shape The Zone's future. Find the questionnaire on Facebook (*The Zone Health and Wellbeing Hub*), Instagram (*zone\_health\_wellbeing\_hub*), or request it by email at [zonedownderry@aol.com](mailto:zonedownderry@aol.com).

Thank you for being part of this next chapter in our community's story.

*Michelle Davies - Trustee*

## **The SHOP: One Month In and What a Month It Has Been**

A month has passed since The SHOP opened its doors, and already it feels as though it has been part of village life forever. From the moment we cut the ribbon at the official opening, the support from our community has been nothing short of extraordinary. To everyone who came along on that day and to everyone who has popped in since, thank you. Your enthusiasm, your curiosity, your purchases, your conversations, and your kindness have breathed life into this space.

The SHOP was always meant to be more than a place to buy essentials. It was imagined as a hub, a friendly stop on your morning walk, a place to meet neighbours, a way to keep our village thriving and connected. Seeing that vision come alive, day by day, has been deeply encouraging. We are thoroughly grateful to all who have chosen to use us, recommend us, and cheer us on.

Of course, a community shop is exactly that: a community effort. As we continue to grow, we are still looking for more volunteers to join our team. Whether you have a regular hour to spare or prefer to help occasionally, your contribution makes a real difference. Volunteering at The SHOP is a chance to meet new people, learn new skills, and be part of something that genuinely strengthens our village.

If you feel this could be you, or if you are simply curious, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch at [hello@theshopindownderry.com](mailto:hello@theshopindownderry.com) or just pop in and see us.

Here's to many more months of shared stories, local pride, and a shop that belongs to all of us.

*Michelle Davies, Downderry and Seaton Community Shop*

## **Hessenford News**

I will start this month's news by going back in time slightly as a few events from December need a mention. Firstly, I am sure you would like me to thank the person who provided the village Christmas Tree and the volunteers who collected, dressed and erected it. This year when the tree appears a few pounds towards the tree, lights and electricity would be much appreciated. Thanks to those who contributed last year.

Secondly, I think we would like to thank and then congratulate Jared and Hannah on the success of the Candlelight Concert and Dinner evening. They decorated the church

beautifully and 85 people really enjoyed the music, with only a few less booking for the meal as well. Keep an eye out for details of the next one.

Thirdly, I have it on good authority, since I was up in the frozen north, that the traditional candlelit Christingle Service in St Anne's was one of the best we have had; and I am very pleased to tell you it raised £175.00, which has been donated to the Little Harbour Children's Hospice in Porthpean near St Austell.

We would also like to thank the person/s who gritted Church Hill during the cold spell, it was much appreciated.

Going back even further it was great for the village that the auction for the Institute was a success, and I know we are all looking forward to seeing some progress on the site in the months ahead.

It is also good to know that the work on The Old Mill has been completed and the village can look forward to welcoming some new residents to our community in due course.

Something else that requires a mention is that there is the possibility of the yew tree in the church yard coming down in February, which will result in a road closure of Church Hill and probably an electricity outage for some residents. Then the wall will be rebuilt, which may also result in some disruption for Church Hill users.

We have probably been watching with interest the number of skips that have been filled at the Copley Arms, while renovations have been taking place; and look forward to its re-opening on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February (not long after you have received this copy - see you there!).

Then later in the month on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February it is Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church Hall from 11:00 to 13:00. Don't forget to bring your favourite Valentines Card and then we will check on who received the most - don't be shy!

Of course, the Church Hall has lots more uses other than a coffee morning venue once a month, and if you would like to hire it for anything suitable it is readily available. Maybe we should get Sarah to do another Silent Disco for us/charity? Get your thinking caps on! Go to [www.hessenford.com](http://www.hessenford.com) and the booking form and instructions appear or get in touch with Fiona.

Next month you will get someone else's perspective of life and the goings on in the village but for now it's *Fran Moore* signing off.

*Fran Moore*



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

Together we have raised £130,000 for the 'Save our Village Hall' appeal - The Village Hall Trustees would like to say a very big thank you for the incredibly generous £10,000 donation received from Powerpro UK Ltd, owned by Lynn and Martin Roberts (residents of our community). Also, thank you to everyone else who has contributed to the 'Save our Village Hall' appeal. We are thrilled to have your

support. For more information about our appeal and ways you can help, go to [www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.downderryandseatonvillagehall.co.uk).

Coffee Morning, Tuesday 3rd February 10:00 to 12:00 - Come along for a chat and enjoy a hot or cold drink with crumpets. There will be a book stall and raffle tickets for that morning's draw.

40 Years of Drama: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10:00 to 15:00, A Retrospective Exhibition Take a trip down memory lane and celebrate four decades of creativity at the Downderry and Seaton Village Hall! We are opening our archives to showcase the incredible history of the Village Hall Drama Group. Come and explore a treasure trove of memorabilia from the last 40 years of local productions, including: photos capturing moments on and off the stage and see how many people you recognise, original programmes for many of the shows that have graced our stage, props that have brought our stories to life and stunning costumes from the elaborate to the everyday, worn by generations of local performers. Whether you have been in the spotlight, worked behind the scenes, or simply enjoyed the performances from the audience, this exhibition is a wonderful way to celebrate our shared cultural heritage. Free entry, all welcome, including dogs on leads. There will be hot and cold drinks and a reasonably priced bar.

The Village Hall Drama Group performs 'Jack and the Beanstalk', Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February doors open 13:30 for 14:30 start and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February doors open at 18:30 for 19:30 start. A giant of a pantomime with a host of wonderful comedy characters. Tickets, Adult £10, Child £5. There will be a reasonably priced bar and raffle at each performance.

All are welcome at our Fundraising Events, including dogs on leads. Payment by cash or card.

Snooker Room Closed - Due to Panto rehearsals and performances, the Snooker Room will be closed from 09:00 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to 14:00 on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Regular activities and other events in the Village Hall: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 14:00 Qigong with Nicola - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 14:00 VH Short Mat Bowls Group - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 18:00 Pilates with Sarah - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 14:00 VH Badminton Group - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Chair Yoga with Craig. Most days 09:00 to 23:30 VH Snooker Room. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Community Bus Coffee Morning - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Soundbath with Tracey.

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), FacebookGroup [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*

## **St Germans Thursday Club**

On November 27<sup>th</sup> we spent a very enjoyable afternoon with Jackie and Amanda creating some lovely Christmas decorations. Even those of us, like myself, who are not very artistic made some great decorations to take home that we were happy to display. Thank you so much Jackie and Amanda.

Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> was one of the highlights of our calendar when we welcomed back 'Just Voices' choir who once again delighted us with some wonderful Christmas carols and we all enjoyed scones and mince pies. A lovely afternoon that was enjoyed by all. Thank you so much 'Just Voices'.

## **Coming up in February**

### Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup>

This Thursday our Annual General Meeting will be held. Everyone is welcome and we hope as many Members as possible will attend.

### Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup>

We will be celebrating our 53rd birthday, please come and join us for some party food and cake and I know there will be plenty of good company.

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.

*Linda Barnes*

## Devioc Activities Group (DAG)

Now back in operation at The Zone Health & Wellbeing Hub Donderry (PL11 3JZ) which is now run by and belongs to the local community.

**Craft Café:** Mondays 14:00 – 16:00, £3. February Crafts - Lavender and cross stitch hearts, bags and cards. You can also bring your own project or just come for a cuppa and a chat. All are welcome.

February Workshops:

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 19:30 – 21:30 Seaweed Pressing £15

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 – 16:00 Sewing Studio £15. Come along and join in for a day of sewing and chat amongst like-minded people. Bring your own projects and sewing supplies/machine. There will also be a chance to make your own calico apron. £25, including materials and tuition.

See posters and our Facebook page.

To book contact [karen@deviockactivitiesgroup@gmail.com](mailto:karen@deviockactivitiesgroup@gmail.com)

**Day Trip:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March to the Craft4Crafters Show at Westpoint Exeter with the Community Bus. To book contact Bev on 01503-250944. Only a few places left.

**Music Club:** Wednesdays 14:00 – 15:30, £3. Learn to play the ukulele or improve your skills on an instrument. Voices welcome too. A fun supportive group. No previous experience necessary. Ukuleles available.

**Table Tennis:** Wednesdays 18:00 – 19:00, £2. Another fun supportive group. No experience needed, all levels welcome. Three tables available, equipment provided. A great way to make new friends and get some gentle exercise.

**‘Sallywags’** at February Half term and Easter holidays. Look out for information about Sallywags activities for primary school pupils and their parents.

For more information about DAG activities contact [parkerviv@aol.com](mailto:parkerviv@aol.com) and follow us on Facebook.

DAG is run by local people for local people.



### Other activities at The Zone:

Weekly: Pilates with Gocha, Yoga with Jackie, Children's Dance, Ballet and Adult Tap with Jill, Ashtanga Yoga with Clio, Dance/Fitness with Emma, W.I., Yoga with Lowenna. Monthly Tai Chi with Ninja Granny and Drum Circle with Jo. Also, regular Yoga Workshops and Soundbaths.

## Barefoot Angel

Line Dancing Social Class at The Inn on the Shore, first Thursday of the month, starting 5<sup>th</sup> February, from 19:00 – 21:30. Consists of a lesson with social dancing. Suitable for beginners. No partner necessary. Cowboy hats, boots and fringes welcome but not essential!

Zumba and Line Dance continues at St Nic's on a Tuesday morning 09:15 – 10:15.

Legs, Bums, Tums is now at The Zone Wellbeing Hub on a Friday morning 10:30 – 11:30.

It is not about getting it 'right', but it is about having fun, working a few brain cells and a few muscles and building some exercise into your day.

Both classes are suitable for all levels. Accompanied children are welcome: under 12s are free; 12+ £1; Adults £6.

Feel free to call or message me for more info.

*Emma 07495-536254*



This Valentine's Day, love truly blossoms along our beautiful stretch of coast as the Downderry and Seaton Residents Association celebrates the warmth, kindness and shared spirit that make our villages

feel like one big family. From the sound of waves rolling gently onto the shore to the familiar faces that brighten our daily walks, there is a special kind of magic here, a love woven into every greeting, every helping hand, every moment of community pride.

Today, let us spread that joy even further. Share a memory, a smile, a message of appreciation or simply a heartfelt "thank you" to someone who brings light to your life. Let us fill our social feeds with warmth, colour and community spirit, reminding one another that the greatest love isn't just romantic, it is the deep enduring connection we all share as neighbours. Here is to love, laughter and the vibrant heart of our coastal community.

*Chris Clarke - Chair - DaSRA*

## Community Bus News

So off we go with 2026! As I said in my previous report, the Bus Association can look to the future with justified confidence and optimism. Our full range of bus services is ready to go, with a dedicated support team and awesome set of fund-raising organisations and initiatives. 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 February we have trips to LOOE on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and TRURO on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, and in March we also have trips to LOOE on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and to TRURO on 18<sup>th</sup>.

Alongside our scheduled services, our excursions lead (Jane Hall) has some exciting events for us this year starting with a trip to Colwith Distillery for a tour and tasting session on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February and a visit to Exeter Crafting Fayre at Westpoint on 28<sup>th</sup> March. We regularly update the details (and links) for these events on our website ([www.dscombus.com](http://www.dscombus.com)) along with highlighting a variety of other useful information – so take a look and pop it in your ‘favourites’.

As I have also mentioned on numerous occasions, we are truly blessed to have such an effective and dedicated fund-raising system supporting our Bus. The tireless ‘Friends of the Bus’ are already busy planning a number of events with the next big social event being a Quiz Night at The Smugglers Inn on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February. A huge thanks to Chris, Debbie and the staff at The Smugglers who continue to steadfastly support our fund-raising efforts. Thank you. The bingo and quiz nights continue to gain in popularity, and the Christmas auction raised a staggering £3000! The Friends of the Bus Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/11201784560529710>) contains lots of information on future events.

As some readers may be aware, Jo Woodley runs our 300 Club with a cash prize draw every month (drawn at the coffee mornings). Anyone wishing to sign up for supporting our Bus with a chance to win some cash thrown in, please contact Jo on 01503-250489. Thanks for your efforts Jo.

It is also great to see so many attendees at our Friends of the Bus sponsored monthly coffee mornings. It is a great chance for me to update you on Bus matters and for our community to get together for a snack and a little fun (Raffle & Quiz). Our next date is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February and once again, it would be great to see everyone.

As I say, we maintain an updated Bus schedule and full list of events/announcements (and a few photos from previous excursions) on our website at [www.dscombus.com](http://www.dscombus.com) so do take a look.

**New Drivers or Committee Members.** Our Bus committee and drivers, along with all our administrators and fund-raisers have created a very friendly and professional team that would love to welcome you into our fold. We are always on the lookout for drivers to do one or two runs each month and we are currently looking for a bookings rep. This role

involves taking phone bookings for the bus and passing them onto our Drivers. If you can help we would just love to hear from you – more info at <https://www.dscombus.com/volunteers>.

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

## February / March 2026

| DATE                                    |    | DESTINATION                                                  | DEPART  | LENGTH OF STAY | FARES SINGLE                                             | FARES RETURN          |
|-----------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>February</b>                         |    |                                                              |         |                |                                                          |                       |
| Tuesday                                 | 3  | Plymouth                                                     | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | £3.00                                                    | £5.00                 |
| Wednesday                               | 4  | Tea, Biscuits and mini quiz at <b>VILLAGE HALL</b> , £3.00   |         |                | 10.30 am -12.00                                          |                       |
| Thursday                                | 5  | Liskeard                                                     | 9.30 am | 2 Hours        | £2.00                                                    | £4.00                 |
| Friday                                  | 6  | <b>LOOE</b>                                                  | 11.30am | 3 Hours        | £3.00                                                    | <b>£5.00</b>          |
| Tuesday                                 | 10 | Plymouth                                                     | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | £3.00                                                    | £5.00                 |
| Thursday                                | 12 | Liskeard                                                     | 9.30 am | 2 Hours        | £2.00                                                    | £4.00                 |
| Tuesday                                 | 17 | Plymouth                                                     | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | £3.00                                                    | £5.00                 |
| Wednesday                               | 18 | <b>TRURO</b>                                                 | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | £6.00                                                    | <b>£12.00</b>         |
| Thursday                                | 19 | Liskeard                                                     | 9.30 am | 2 Hours        | £2.00                                                    | £4.00                 |
| Tuesday                                 | 24 | Plymouth                                                     | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | £3.00                                                    | £5.00                 |
| Thursday                                | 26 | Liskeard                                                     | 9.30 am | 2 Hours        | £2.00                                                    | £4.00                 |
| Friday                                  | 27 | Colwith Distillery Tour and tasting                          | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | TBA                                                      | £10.00 for bus        |
| Sat                                     | 28 | Smugglers quiz night, for the bus food available before Quiz |         |                | Quiz starts 8.00pm<br>See Notice Boards for more details |                       |
| <b>MARCH</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                 |
| Friday                                  | 6  | <b>LOOE</b>                                                  | 11.30am | 3 Hours        | £3.00                                                    | <b>£5.00</b>          |
| <b>Other Excursions/Trips for MARCH</b> |    |                                                              |         |                |                                                          |                       |
| Wednesday                               | 18 | <b>TRURO</b>                                                 | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | £6.00                                                    | <b>£12.00</b>         |
| Friday                                  | 28 | Exter Crafting Fayre - Westpoint                             | 9.30 am | 4 Hours        | <b>£8.00 Entry</b>                                       | <b>£15.00 for bus</b> |

## Downderry Bus 300 Club

The lucky winners of the December and January 300 Club draws are:

December: 1<sup>st</sup>. No.101 - Mike & Julie Green. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No.169 - Sue Utterainer. 3<sup>rd</sup>. No.109 - Grace Storko

January: 1<sup>st</sup>.No.29 - Rose Bird. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No -157 - Ann Jackson. 3<sup>rd</sup>. No.35 - Oogle Corrigan.

Thank you everyone.

*Jo Woodley (01503-250489)*

## **St Germans and District Twinning Association**

Well, here we are in 2026. We hope everyone had a good Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead.

By now we would have had our Burns night. This was a sold-out event and we thank everyone for their fantastic support.

This year we are changing things up a bit. It is important to raise funds to entertain our guests when they come over but we also want to nurture friendships within our Association and also join up with other associations nearby, for example, attending Boule matches, French conversation coffee mornings, etc.

The first social event is a woodland walk from Calstock to Cotehele on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Leaving Calstock village hall at 13:00, all are welcome (approximately a four mile, return ramble). You can get a cup of tea in Cotehele before returning. Please join in if you can. If you have mobility issues you can always join us just for tea in the café.

If anyone is interested in joining a French conversation coffee morning. We are currently joining in with Saltash Twinning Association on the second Saturday morning of the month.

We are off to Plougueneau this May. If you are a new member please get in touch. Tell us if you speak French or not (it is really not essential), tell us what you like to do, for example, if you are sporty, enjoy walking or like art or literature and our French friends will find you suitable hosts.

If you have any questions about events, the coffee morning in Saltash or if you would like to join the Twinning Association please contact: [stgdtpresident@gmail.com](mailto:stgdtpresident@gmail.com)

*Carol Carter  
President St Germans and District Twinning Association*

## **Downderry & Seaton Village Hall "SHOW STOPPERS" (November 2025)**

What a fantastic show - such talent in our village. We thoroughly enjoyed it. It made us laugh and cry happy tears! You all deserve an Oscar each in your own right. Also, a big thank you to all who worked so hard behind the scenes and in the kitchen.

*Tess, Anne & Doreen*



## Simple Ways To Save The Planet

As many of you know, as well as writing articles, I also write eco-poetry. I was delighted to receive a request for a poem in this column. As it is February, which is a month for planting trees and moving snowdrops, I felt it would be appropriate to chose one about ecological growth. This is dedicated to my lovely mother, Frankie Lister, whom many of you will have known. It is a Japanese form called a Haibun, which is a short piece of prose poetry followed by a haiku. I hope it inspires you to pick up a spade and plant something for future generations to enjoy.

### When We Are Silent Our Landscapes Speak

I pick tree guards out of liquid sunset. Buzzards circle lazily on thermals above.  
Beneath a pylon, the thirty-year old walnut trees you planted glow like bleached coral.

I miss your laughter, your stooped back, your work-gnarled hands.  
I descend to the copse where lent lilies are just pushing up,  
where blackthorn buds glow like fists of lichen,  
the air rich with damp leaf-mould.

It is then I see them, your surprise gift;  
the imprint of your spade on our lives.

Snowdrops float like ghosts -  
Disembodied petticoats  
Melting into dusk.

*Lizzy Stroud*

### A Big THANK YOU to Bewsheas!

Following the closure of DOWDERRY STORES, Bewsheas very kindly took delivery of copies of the Nut Tree from where the local distributors collected their relevant bundles of the magazines to deliver locally. They also held a small supply of Nut Tree magazines for any visitors who did not receive a copy through their letter box.

Now 'The SHOP' is up and running in DOWDERRY the distributors will once again collect their bundles from there.

There will also be a small supply of magazines for outlying residents who do not receive a copy through their letter box. Small supplies, for those without a delivery, are also held at St Germans Community Shop, Quay Lane Surgery, Tredinnick Farm Shop, Copley Arms and the Halfway House public houses.

*Ed!*

## Rita's Rota – February Dates

|    |       |                                      |    |       |                                                |
|----|-------|--------------------------------------|----|-------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 10:30 | Church Service (SGMC)                | 17 | 09:15 | Zumba (SNCh)                                   |
| 2  | 14:00 | QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)            |    | 10:30 | Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)                  |
|    | 14:00 | Craft Café (TZ)                      |    | 14:00 | D&S WI Craft (TZ)                              |
| 3  | -     | MOBILE LIBRARY DAY                   | 18 | 14:00 | Music Club (TZ)                                |
|    | 09:15 | Zumba (SNCh)                         |    | 18:00 | Table Tennis (TZ)                              |
|    | 10:00 | Coffee Morning (DSVH)                | 19 | 18:30 | Panto – Jack & The Beanstalk (DSVH)            |
|    | 14:00 | Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)               |    | 19:30 | Seaweed Pressing W/shop (TZ)                   |
|    | 14:00 | Hessenford WI (WVH)                  | 20 | 10:30 | Legs, Bums & Tums (TZ)                         |
|    | 18:00 | Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)            |    | 18:30 | Panto – Jack & The Beanstalk (DSVH)            |
|    | 19:15 | Drama Group Rehearsal (DSVH)         | 21 | 10:00 | Sewing Studio (TZ)                             |
| 4  | 10:00 | Friends of Bus Coffee Morning (DSVH) |    | 10:00 | Coffee Morning (SGMC)                          |
|    | 14:00 | Badminton (DSVH)                     |    | 18:30 | Panto – Jack & The Beanstalk (DSVH)            |
|    | 14:00 | Music Club (TZ)                      |    | 19:00 | St Germans Gardening Club (EHSG)               |
|    | 18:00 | Table Tennis (TZ)                    | 22 | 10:30 | Church Service (SGMC)                          |
|    | 19:30 | Whitsand Harmony Rehearsal (DSVH)    | 23 | 14:00 | QiGong with Nicola (DSVH)                      |
| 5  | 19:00 | Line Dancing (IOS)                   |    | 14:00 | Craft Café (TZ)                                |
| 6  | 10:30 | Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)         | 24 | 09:15 | Zumba (SNCh)                                   |
|    | 10:30 | Legs, Bums & Tums (TZ)               |    | 10:30 | Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)                  |
| 7  | 10:00 | 40 Yrs of Drama Exhibition (DSVH)    |    | 11:00 | Soundbath (DSVH)                               |
| 8  | 10:30 | Church Service (SGMC)                |    | 14:00 | Short Mat Bowls (DSVH)                         |
| 9  | 10:30 | Coffee Morning (TRBL)                |    | 18:00 | Pilates with Sarah (DSVH)                      |
|    | 14:00 | Craft Café (TZ)                      | 25 | 14:00 | Badminton (DSVH)                               |
| 10 | 09:15 | Zumba (SNCh)                         |    | 14:00 | Music Club (TZ)                                |
|    | 10:30 | Coffee Morning St Nics (SNCh)        |    | 18:00 | Table Tennis (TZ)                              |
|    | 14:00 | D&S WI Mtg (TZ)                      | 26 | 14:30 | Thursday Club 53 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday (EHSG) |
| 11 | 14:00 | Music Club (TZ)                      |    | 18:30 | Devioc Planning Committee (TZ)                 |
|    | 18:00 | Table Tennis (TZ)                    | 27 | 10:30 | Chair Yoga with Craig (DSVH)                   |
| 12 | 14:30 | Thursday Club – AGM (EHSG)           |    | 10:30 | Legs, Bums & Tums (TZ)                         |
|    | 19:00 | Devioc Full Council Mtg (TZ)         | 28 | 20:00 | FoB Quiz Night (Smugglers)                     |
| 13 | 10:30 | Legs, Bums & Tums (TZ)               |    |       |                                                |
|    | 19:00 | Bingo (PolH)                         |    |       |                                                |
| 14 | 10:00 | Coffee Morning (EHSG)                |    |       |                                                |
|    | 11:00 | Coffee Morning (HCH)                 |    |       |                                                |
|    | 13:30 | Panto – Jack & The Beanstalk (DSVH)  |    |       |                                                |
| 15 | 10:30 | Church Service (SGMC)                |    |       |                                                |
|    | 13:30 | Panto – Jack & The Beanstalk (DSVH)  |    |       |                                                |
| 16 | 14:00 | Craft Café (TZ)                      |    |       |                                                |

### Mobile Library:

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| St Germans - Alms Houses | 09:45 - 10:05 |
| St Germans - Quay Road.  | 10:15 - 10:50 |
| Downderry - Inn.         | 13:55 - 14:35 |
| Seaton - Car Park.       | 14:45 - 15:05 |

**BBB Bewshea's By The Beach; CB Community Bus; DSVH Dderry & Seaton VH; PolH Polbathic Hall; EA Eliot Arms StG; EHSG Eliot Hall StG; HC H'ford Church; HCH H'ford Church Hall; IOS Inn On Shore; 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**

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

**Copy deadline for the March Nut Tree is by 17<sup>th</sup> February to  
[nuttree.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:nuttree.editor@yahoo.com)**