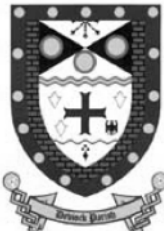


# NUT TREE

October 2021 Volume 36 (6)



## Nature Notes

One late afternoon in September and I am scanning the ocean off Donderry. There is no wind but the sky is murky and visibility is worsening. Still enough light, however, to pick out a party of Balearic Shearwaters. They are spread out in an untidy line and it takes several attempts to count them as individuals disappear momentarily in the gently heaving sea. Finally, I am happy to settle on 27. I have seen more on other occasions but only in flight, so this is a rare opportunity to see so many settled together on the sea and close to land. Nervously, the odd bird takes to the air, circles and rejoins the rest of the flock. Soon, they all take flight and head towards Portwrinkle. These birds are regular visitors to our coast especially from July to October. The species is closely related to the familiar Manx Shearwater that breeds in Britain. As the name suggests the Balearics nest in the Mediterranean; after breeding they pass Gibraltar and head north into the Atlantic. Maybe because of rising sea temperatures we are seeing more of them. What is most significant about the sighting is that the Balearic Shearwater is one of Europe's rarest birds. It breeds colonially in caves in coastal cliffs on islands such as Formentera and has suffered a marked decline as a result of pollution, disturbance and declining food supply. There may be fewer than 2000 pairs remaining, so to see 27 settled on the ocean in one place is a rare privilege. To put this into context, there are over 7 million territories of the Robin in Britain during summer, yet how many might you come across in one day?

I am reminded of other encounters with more familiar, British birds that have suffered a huge decline. Towards the end of April this year, I was walking near Deviock and caught sight of a Turtle Dove. This was a migrant bird, freshly arrived from the south. I could not remember the last one I saw in Britain, but its population has tumbled due to a combination of hunting, drought in Africa and unfavourable agricultural practices here. It is Britain's fastest declining bird. For me, another case of being in the right place at the right time.

The Cirl Bunting, a close relative of the familiar Yellowhammer, is another example of a bird that has experienced a catastrophic drop in numbers and it is now found only in south Devon and in a couple of places in Cornwall. Here, the loss of winter stubble has been a major factor in the decline. For both these birds there is a glimmer of hope as changing practices designed especially for the species are being employed. Rewilding of agricultural land has seen benefits for the Turtle Dove in Sussex for example and numbers of Cirl Buntings here have increased with more beneficial land management especially in winter. However, for the Balearic Shearwater, its future is largely out of our hands. There may be more sightings of them off the Cornish coast, but the future of the species rests firmly with conservation efforts in the Mediterranean.

*Alan Payne*

## **Deviock Parish Council**

Forthcoming meetings in October (to take place at the Zone, Downterry Methodist Church, unless Covid restrictions change): Full Council 14<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm, Planning Committee 28<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm (if required). Social distancing and reduced capacity will continue to apply. See Agendas for details prior to each meeting.

20mph zone (Downterry): The Parish Council is proposing to consult with residents on this topic; more information to follow. The Highways working party is in the process of prioritising other highways projects in the parish that have previously been put forward.

Keval Lane, Seaton: Cornwall Council has been monitoring the stability of part of the bridleway over a 12-month period, which is being extended by another six months. The Parish Council will request that the lane is brought up to bridleway standard once the monitoring has been completed.

Changing Places Toilets: Cornwall Council is hoping to receive funding for up to three Changing Places Toilet facilities (those that are accessible to severely disabled people) as part of a funding bid to central Government. Deviock Parish Council has submitted an application for such a facility at Seaton due to its flat location and access to the beach, country park and accessible eating places.

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

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

*Karen Pugh – Deviock PC Clerk*

## **Deviocck Parish Council Loan Fund**

The Council provides interest-free loans (up to £1,000) to local organisations for specific projects (subject to terms and conditions). Please contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors if your organisation thinks it could benefit from this service.

## **St Germans Parish Council**

St Germans and Tideford Play Parks are open, although Tideford's lease has been agreed, details are yet to be completed. When this happens, repairs and new equipment will begin. Could we please continue to use the litter bins.

There will be a Defibrillator Training Session at the Eliot Hall St Germans, Wednesday November 10th at 6-30 pm. All are welcome.

There have been concerns with traffic speed around our villages, a voluntary speed watch group exists, that is funded and equipped by the Police. Anyone interested can find further information at Speed Watch UK, or by contacting the Parish clerk at [clerk@stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stgermansparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Meeting dates: Tuesday October 5 at 6-30 Eliot Hall and Tuesday November 2 at 6-30 RBL Tideford. Stay safe

*Councillor Graham Mackeen*

## **News from County Hall – Councillor Kate Ewert**



We seem to be fully into Autumn now, the evenings are drawing in and the mornings are getting chilly and Cornwall Council is back in full swing. Following on from my last column, I am pleased to see that the Leader of Cornwall Council, Linda Taylor, has announced a raft of measures to deal with the housing crisis in Cornwall – I am even more pleased that the measures, including a levy on Council Tax on second homes, enforcing the Right to Buy covenants, looking at planning regulations around change of use for second homes and holiday lets and finally dealing with the Council Tax loophole, are all policies that the Labour Group in Cornwall has been campaigning on for many years.

The news reported this last week that Saltash Swimming Pool could well be up for closure has been shocking and deeply concerning. I have received a huge amount of correspondence about this issue, from individual users, schools, groups and parents concerned about swimming lessons. We have just received a briefing on this consultation, which is to be launched on Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept and will run until Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, the consultation is part of a wider Cornwall Leisure facilities review, but the 4 centres at risk will be covered in it. I would heartily recommend all residents that use Saltash pool to engage with the consultation, we need to keep this facility for our

communities, I will share links to it on my Facebook page (search Kate Ewert – Cornwall Cllr for Rame and St Germans). My belief, and that of the Labour Group, is that Cornwall Council has a duty to provide facilities for the health and wellbeing of residents. If a private business cannot successfully run these facilities, then they should be brought back under the management of Cornwall Council for the good of all here.

I am delighted that I have been able to secure funding for a pilot scheme for the residents of Tideford that are worst affected by the poor air quality caused by the heavy traffic through the centre of the village. This scheme will initially run for 12 months and will include real time data capturing devices both inside and outside of homes, that will monitor the air quality 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as well as air filtration units within those homes cleaning the air inside. I know this doesn't fix the problem of the road, but it should hopefully improve the quality of air that residents have to breathe.

My twice monthly Councillor Surgeries are now in full swing and are well attended. Any resident of the Rame Peninsula and St Germans division is welcome to pop in for support and advice with anything Council based. They are held on the first Friday morning of the month in the Rame Centre in Millbrook, and the second Friday morning of each month in Torpoint Library, both from 10-12.

If you need my support, please do email me on [cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk).

*Councillor Kate Ewert*

## **St Germans Group Parish**

The Church of England throughout SE Cornwall is looking ahead to see what shape the church, as an organisation, will be in in ten to fifteen years time. We are following a process called 'On the Way' which explores the future of the church in the community. While you can be sure that the folk inside the church will have views on this, we are especially interested in hearing from those who are not regular churchgoers, those who only go on family occasions, as well as those who never go at all - and those who used to attend church but no longer do so.

We are embarking on a process which we hope will attract the interest of some members of the wider community - remember the church is there for the community, not just for those who attend on Sundays. Look out for opportunities to pass on your views or communicate them directly to me at [david.watters1@gmail.com](mailto:david.watters1@gmail.com). Meanwhile, we have been doing some things for the community pre-pandemic - eg weekly lunches and Soup and Pud lunches a few times a year - with opportunities for local Groups to have stalls. We are interested in how we can best serve our local communities both through accessible worship and service in the community. Let us know what you think!

*David Watters  
Lay Chair, Diocesan Synod*



## St Germans Priory Appeal

The Trustees of the St Germans Priory would like to thank all folk who donated so generously to our recent Appeal. We were hoping to raise £7000 and were given £9000. This is really wonderful and means we should be able to pay all our bills for the next 12 months. We thank all those who gave, every donation helps us whether large or small. It is so encouraging for us to see how much people value the Priory in the life of our community. We are planning to run a Christmas Market in late November as long as the rules allow, and hope to see you all there.



*Richard Laugharne  
Chair of Trustees*

## The Zone Donderry



The Service for October is Harvest Festival with Mr Alan Libby from Saltash. Please make any donations suitable for the local foodbank. Coffee mornings every Wednesday from 10am until 11.30am. Come and join us for coffee and chat.

*Elsa Guilfoyle*

On Friday 15th October 6-8pm Awenek Studio will be hosting an evening of 'Craft and Conversation' at The Zone, Donderry. Pop along and try out some simple crafts and let us know what workshops or groups you'd like to see at the venue in future.

Outreach is a huge part of our role as a community art studio. We've really enjoyed building a relationship with our friends at The Zone, but we'd love to do more! If you'd like to start a regular group, or learn a particular craft we can help... Bring a friend, spread the word and we'll see you on 15th October. For more information contact Viv Parker on [parkerviv@aol.com](mailto:parkerviv@aol.com) or 01503 250519 or just turn up!

*Viv Parker*

## Donderry Bread and Babes Group

Donderry Bread and Babes is a local parent/carers baby and toddler group. If you have a little one and fancy a cuppa and a chat plus craft, toys and bread making, come along and see what you think. We have plenty of toys, always have a craft to do and the bread once cooked will be your little ones' snack at the end. We run every term time Thursday at The Zone, Donderry, PL11 3LY from 09:30 to 11:30. First session is free then £3 per session per family after that. We have a Facebook group for more information or message us with any questions.

*Michelle Davies*

## Quay Lane Surgery Patient Participation Group

A small team of our members are delivering medicines every week to patients needing extra assistance and who have no one else to help. The volunteers are not only dropping by with the drugs they need, they are a friendly face, and a life line. In normal times we fundraise to buy equipment not provided by the NHS to enhance care services and patient experience at Quay Lane and Dowlerry Surgery. We have just started to provide 'Goodie Bags' full of fun for pre-school children having inoculations. It is a lovely way we can help the children, their parents and the Practice Sister to deliver the job with as little upset as possible.

If you have ideas and would like to be involved in making good things happen - please get in touch with me by email or write to the Practice Manager, Quay Lane Surgery, St Germans, PL12 5LH for more information about our virtual membership (online) or full membership options.

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

## Quay Lane Surgery Practice News

NHS England has released the latest finding of its GP Patient Survey - a huge ongoing poll involving more than a million people a year. It covers everything from the trust patients have in their doctor, to the attitude of reception staff and how easy it is to get an appointment. NHS England data team crunched the numbers in seven key areas: how easy it is to get an appointment, whether opening times are convenient, whether people trust the GP, whether the GP listens to them, whether the GP treats them with care and concern, whether receptionists are helpful, and how patients rate their overall experience.

**Quay Lane Surgery has again been voted the 'Best Practice in East Cornwall',  
is now rated the '3rd Best Practice in Cornwall'  
and ranked in the 'Top 2% of 'Best Practices in England'!**

COVID Update. A number of patients are still attending the surgery without a face covering. We would like to remind you that a face covering is still required for entry to 'all' NHS buildings unless you have a medical exemption. Despite the easing of lockdown rules we ask that you please keep a 2 metre plus distance from any other patients who are in the reception areas. Some of our patients may have weakened immune systems or conditions that make them more susceptible to the virus. We also need to keep our surgery staff safe so that we can remain open.

Coronavirus Vaccine Boosters. We are awaiting guidance from NHS England and the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation about the booster programme. We will publish information via our practice website and Facebook page once information

becomes available. **You can find your own COVID vaccination info on the NHS app. Please download for free today!**

Staff Retirement and Recruitment. We say a fond farewell to Janet, who has worked at Quay Lane Surgery as a receptionist for 18 years. We would like to wish her the very best of health and happiness in her retirement. We also said goodbye to Tracey, our Diabetic Nurse, as she moves on to pastures new. We would like to welcome to our team: Sonya, Health Care Assistant and Rachel, Receptionist.

Flu Season 2021. Due to national delays with deliveries our clinics might be slightly later than normal; we can confirm that your flu vaccination has been ordered so it is important to have yours at our surgery. Vaccinations will be offered to patients aged 50 and over and those aged 49 and under in an 'at risk' group. By the time this edition arrives on your doorsteps we should have confirmed the dates of our Autumn clinics and started inviting patients to book appointments. Check out our Facebook page and Practice website for clinic dates.

Be Kind! We occasionally have to operate with reduced staffing, due to sickness and the NHS England covid isolation protocols. This may result in a disruption to appointments and delays to prescription collections. Whilst we will always endeavor to keep disruptions to an absolute minimum we kindly ask that patients are patient and understanding. We operate a zero-tolerance policy, in accordance with NHS Guidelines, our staff have the right to work in a safe environment without fear of physical or verbal abuse. Abuse to our staff may result in removal from our list. Please be kind!

*Debbie Todd, Practice Manager*

## **News from DaSRA Downderry & Seaton Residents Association**



Speed Limits through the village. Many of the residents who responded to DaSRA's request to share their priority concerns with County Councillor Armand Toms highlighted the need for speed restrictions by way of a 20mph speed limit. This was an agenda item at Deviock Parish Council's September meeting when Councillors agreed to take the issue further with Cornwall Council. Cllr Toms stressed the importance of local support for such measures so residents' views will be sought.

Looe Hill. A group of residents living on Looe Hill has been campaigning for some time for Cornwall Council to monitor the level of erosion of a vulnerable section of Looe Hill. Cornwall Council's contractor, Cormac, has released the results of a ground investigation that they have implemented over the past 10-11 months to better understand the nature of instability affecting the road. The report sets out their methods and findings: periodic visual inspection of the highway and adjacent coastal slope to

identify any signs of deterioration, developing instability, etc; pin readings of previously identified cracking in the highway (no significant changes over the monitoring period to date, no new cracks observed); inclinometer deflection readings taken at borehole locations. The readings to date do not suggest that significant slope movements have occurred over the past 10-11 months.

Cormac did find some evidence to suggest highway surface water run-off overtopping the edge of the highway is causing local and gradual shallow sloughing (the existence of an ~150mm drop adjacent to the leaning fence) of the vegetated highway verge/crest opposite one of the installed boreholes (BH1) and this is contributing towards the fence bowing visibly outwards. The available field evidence observed elsewhere along the slope span in addition to the inclinometer measurements taken to date (measuring slope deformation), supports this conclusion with the reported defects (highway cracking, bowing fence) not attributed to a potential deep-seated global instability mechanism at present. Tension cracks visible in the road surface course may be related to a combination of tensions induced by the bowing fence, shallow erosional failure and likely subordinate vehicle loading of the pavement as it is a very well used road. Tension cracks haven't noticeably changed in length or aperture over the monitoring period.

The cumulative results of the monitoring program will be reviewed with Cornwall Council in Autumn 2021 and at this point a decision will be made on next steps. Two of the borehole installations allow monitoring by inclinometer and therefore the collection of readings can be resumed at any point should any signs of significant instability be identified at a later date. While the residents have welcomed evidence that sloughing is not due to deep-seated rock instability at present, they propose an active response to the review to ensure that measures are immediately taken to prevent future overtopping. To keep aware of updates, please follow [www.dasra.co.uk/campaigns/looe-hill-coastal-erosion](http://www.dasra.co.uk/campaigns/looe-hill-coastal-erosion) or email [info@dasra.co.uk](mailto:info@dasra.co.uk).

Treasurer Required. Clare Glynn has efficiently guarded the finances of DaSRA for many a year, and feels it is time to step down from her role as Treasurer at next summer's AGM. We will miss her but it is right that residents associations continue to welcome new blood so we are seeking a new officer to serve on DaSRA's Management Committee. Ideally, the person, who is one of three officers on the committee, will come with experience of bookkeeping/accountancy, as s/he will be responsible for the handling of monies coming into and going out of DaSRA. As well as having an active involvement as a full member of the committee, a key role is to present the balance sheet and financial statement at each year's AGM. If you are interested in knowing more please contact DaSRA's Chair, Laura Done on 01503 250911 or email [info@dasra.co.uk](mailto:info@dasra.co.uk)

*Laura Done*



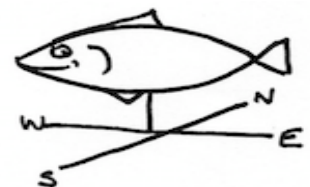
Neighbourhood Watch. Over the summer months Neighbourhood Watch (NW) has run a number of webinars aimed at informing members of the various scams that plague our emails, texts and other media. A monthly newsletter is produced aimed at membership and these can be viewed in the Neighbourhood Watch section of the DaSRA web site. [www.dasra.co.uk](http://www.dasra.co.uk). There are also links to the various campaigns that are running in order to keep people up to date with the latest scam that cyber criminals will use to get hold of your, or your children's, money. The latest cruel target is teenagers who are coming of age to draw money from their government backed Child Trust Fund. Cyber and phone crimes can have a devastating impact on victims. Advanced security systems and innovations in which the finance industry invests to protect customers stopped more than £1.8 billion of unauthorised fraud. But despite this, criminals successfully stole £1.2 billion through fraud and scams in 2019. Neighbourhood Watch has launched a national campaign, **Take Five**, that offers straightforward and impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from preventable financial fraud. This includes email deception and phone-based scams as well as online fraud – particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations. Take Five urges you to stop and consider whether the situation is genuine – to stop and think if what you're being told really makes sense.

Neighbour of the Year. NW is also on the lookout to find the Neighbour of the Year, and the Community of the Year so if you have a good neighbour who you would like to nominate, please send in a short citation and we will get back in touch to discuss your nomination. Email our NW co-ordinator, Nigel Jones, at [info@dasra.co.uk](mailto:info@dasra.co.uk) ahead of deadline date of 12 October. For more information about our local Neighbourhood Watch send a message to Nigel, at [info@dasra.co.uk](mailto:info@dasra.co.uk)

New Police Strategy. Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez has unveiled her new strategy for policing and crime reduction in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Key community priorities of breaking the cycle of violence, reducing drugs harm, tackling antisocial behaviour and improving road safety are identified in the Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 2021-25. Read the full report via [www.dasra.co.uk/neighbourhoodwatch](http://www.dasra.co.uk/neighbourhoodwatch)

## **Downderry and Seaton Village Hall**

A big thank you to all who joined in the fun at our Celebration Events in August - Coffee Morning with the Rockettes, Quiz Night with Keith Smith our new Quizmaster, Music Night with Rocksea and the DerryAirs and Celebration Day. There were some great fancy dress costumes on Celebration Day, the overall winners being the 'NHS Heroes'. Also, thanks to the Hopping Hares and Whitsand Harmony for providing the music and Shot in the Dark and his friends, our Children's Entertainer. A special thank you must go to our volunteers, without whom the events wouldn't have been possible. We are now starting to plan a bigger and better similar event for next year, so watch this space.



We are looking for ideas for new Fundraising Events for 2022. If you have an idea that you think our community would enjoy, then please let us know by either speaking to a Committee Member or emailing [downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:downderryandseatonvillagehall@gmail.com).

## October Events

- **Coffee Morning, Tuesday 5th October 10am to 12 noon** - Pop into the Village Hall for a chat and enjoy tea or coffee and a Brioche Bun for £1.50 per person. There will be a book/DVD sale and raffle.
- **Little Breakfast, Saturday 16th October 10am to 1pm** - Come to the Village Hall and enjoy a Breakfast Bap of Sausage, Bacon & Egg or the veggie option of Egg & Hash Browns with a Tea or Coffee for just £3.

All are welcome at the events above, including well behaved dogs on leads who will also get a little treat. Also going on in the Hall:

- **Camp Theatre Production**, Friday 22nd October 6.30pm for 7.30pm start - This year's production is Double Trouble, two one-act plays - The Room by Harold Pinter and The Dock Brief by John Mortimer. There will be a bar and raffle in the interval. Tickets are £10 each and are now on sale from Marion Candy on 01752 852155 or from the Downderry and Seaton Village Hall website.
- **Halloween Night with Rocksea Band**, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 7pm to 11.30pm - Costume Required. Come and join in the fun in your spooky costumes. Tickets £13 (non refundable, age 18+). Prize for the scariest costume. Full Bar available (corkage fee charged). To purchase tickets (first come, first served) go to [www.eddystoneview.co.uk](http://www.eddystoneview.co.uk) or telephone Mandy or Keith Smith on 01503 250412.

## Coming Soon

- **Craft Fair Sunday 21st November**, To book a table (large £10, small £5) at our next Craft Fair, please telephone Sue Slyfield on 01503 250811.

*Mandy Smith  
Secretary, Downderry and Seaton Village Hall*

## **Tour De Moor 2021**



A charity cycling event on Dartmoor in aid of St Luke's Hospice, Plymouth.

For the sixth year running (except 2020!) Chris & Gail Brett will be taking part and hope to collect as many sponsors as possible. By kind permission of Kim & Richard we will put a sponsorship form in Downderry Stores or alternatively you can sponsor us using the following link;- <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/G-CBrett>. Thank you in advance.

*Chris and Gail Brett*

## Recycling for Charity October

Hello all, firstly the good news, I would just like to thank everyone who dropped off their items in September. It was the biggest St Germans collection yet. In other good news, there is going to be new set of items I can collect which is crinkly bakery bags including packaging for baps, wraps crumpets bagels croissants etc. If these can be sorted separately I look forward to collecting them from you.

Now some bad news, unfortunately the pet food packaging scheme is coming to an end so October will be the last collection at which I will be able to take any pet food packaging. Other less good news is that I cannot yet confirm my collection date for October in the Eliot Arms pub car park yet. When I do have a date, I will post this on the Recycling for charity and St Germans community Facebook groups. The date will also be posted on the recycling for charity website and I will put it on posters around the village. So, I would appreciate it if you can check these in early October and spread the word when I have a date confirmed.

Any questions about this feel free to contact Freddie Brasher ([Freddiebrasher@outlook.com](mailto:Freddiebrasher@outlook.com)). You can also find information on the website (<https://south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling/>) or join our Facebook group "Recycling For Charity" (<https://m.facebook.com/groups/832979876753455>). I hope to see you with more sorted items at the next collection.

*Freddie Brasher*

### **Simple ways to save the planet – in autumn!**

I was reminded yesterday that the current crisis is not just environmental, but also ecological. To me, the two go hand in hand; reduced emissions will mean cleaner air, and a healthier planet. But, of course, the most effective way of improving air quality is to add plants of all sizes, and the best and easiest way of doing so is to plant a hedge.



Hedges are great. They are versatile and can be slipped onto a boundary where they will need little attention other than the occasional trim. There they will add a living windbreak, privacy, a home for birds, and a climbing frame for ivy, which is one of the best wildlife plants of all. Traditionally, a few trees would be allowed to grow taller and become standards, offering shade, structure and another layer of habitat. These standards could be oaks, which support a greater number of life forms than any other tree, fruit trees such as damsons, perfect for late summer foraging, or hawthorns, with their fabulous pollinator friendly blossoms and bird nourishing haws. Hedges also provide enormously important wildlife corridors, food and shelter for birds and small mammals in the winter, and blossom in the spring.

If you don't yet have a hedge, but do have a little space in your garden, now is the time to start planning. Bare-rooted hedge bundles can be planted between November and March. There are many companies offering wildlife friendly mixes of hawthorn, crab apple, field maple, blackthorn, bird cherry, hazel, guelder rose and dog rose. I planted a boundary hedge six years ago which is now a colourful, busy place that is a joy to behold.

If you already have a hedge, it is worth layering it for optimum wildlife benefit. I am lucky enough to have champion hedge-laying father, but if you don't have one of these, then Duchy college offers a two day course. If you are in the fortunate position of owning a small holding or larger piece of land, then allowing your hedges to grow big and bushy will protect field margins from excess run-off and offer a home for birds that predate on crop pests, reducing the need for sprays.

So, in a nutshell, grow and celebrate hedges. Instead of a feeding station, give birds a home and sustenance in one package. Rejoice in those bushy tangles of hawthorn, hazel and ivy, for they will provide food for the future for all kinds of wildlife long after we can.

*Lizzy Stroud*

## **Hessenford News**

I'm very pleased to report that both the Hessenford Fête and Duck Race on Saturday, 4th September were extremely successful. Various people/groups from the local vicinity put up their tables of bric-a-brac, home/farm produce, artistic cards and wooden ornaments, plants and garden produce, treasure hunt and someone else's treasures around the edge of the grassy area and then there were games of skittles and a coconut shy on the grass; plus a raffle, guess the weight of the cake and all the artwork from the Art Group displayed and for sale inside the hall. Then, of course, tea, coffee, juice and delicious cakes and scones were available for a donation. The duck race tickets were a complete sell-out! And from underneath The Copley Arms bridge to their car park, an excited crowd eagerly awaited the winning ducks. There were 20 wonderful prizes won by friends and acquaintances in Hessenford, Seaton, Downton, Widgates, Narkurs, Tideford and St Germans. Everyone was really looking forward to this special village event and it didn't disappoint. Hopefully all the new residents of the village came, joined in the fun and socialised with people they had not had the opportunity to meet before. So, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped raise nearly £1,000 for the upkeep of and improvements to the Village Hall and St Anne's Church, we really appreciate your time and generosity freely given. Apologies if I didn't meet and say hello to you all but hope you enjoyed it. Please also come along to the next Café, Chat & Cake (CCC) morning on the Saturday, 9th October from 10.30am to 12.30pm and note we're starting and finishing half an hour later.

My mistake, it's not DC who's collecting used stamps but Angela Crook. The relevant information is on the notice board outside the hall if you need any more details.



The graveyard is looking a little overgrown at the moment, apart from where Peter's been doing his clearing and tidying, but hopefully the council's contractors will be around soon to clear it. When I first came to the village the residents and local farmers would clear it and then go down to the hall for a pasty and a pint but that's before it was 'closed'. That doesn't mean to say that if you wanted you couldn't choose to 'tend a grave or two' between council clearances (some people do already). So if you have a spare half-hour/hour that you'd like to spend in the open air, why not 'adopt a grave'.

Hope you've all enjoyed your holidays or staycations and the children were pleased to start their new school/college year. I look forward to seeing you at the next CCC.

Of course, as many of you will know we'll be saying goodbye to Mike and Di at the end of the month after 20 years(??) of living and working here (although not completely goodbye as they'll be becoming residents of the village) and we'll be welcoming a new landlord and landlady to The Copley Arms. Everyone's good wishes go with Mike and Diane as they leave the pub and everyone's good wishes go out to the people who we're going to welcome. We hope, whether leaving or joining, you'll be very happy in our village.

*Fran Moore*

## **Whitsand Harmony**

On Sunday 15th August a select number of Whitsand Harmony packed their raincoats and set off to sing at Looe in aid of the RNLI.

The RNLI is one of the choir's favourite charities and living by the sea we appreciate how changeable and dangerous the sea can be. We all rely on these brave folk to rescue us when we and others run into trouble.

Despite 'unfavourable' weather conditions (most of the time) the choir, under the leadership of Trish Rogan and musical accompaniment of Beth Worth, smiled and sung magnificently against the elements to a steady crowd of appreciative onlookers. The joyful sounds even inspired dancing from one enterprising toddler! Unfortunately, rain stopped play during the second half and as music was sticking together, the keyboard was suffering and those without coats were properly soaked, Trish decided to call it a day.

£300+ was raised during that short time which delighted the choir and the RNLI volunteers, who stood with the choir in the rain collecting donations.

A worthwhile and heart-warming afternoon, everyone went home a little damp but smiling and uplifted by being able to sing together again for the enjoyment of others, ourselves and fund raise for a deserving charity.

*Jan Doyle*

## Thursday Club - St Germans

We are very much back in action. Outings and activities are being planned so we need you! If you're thinking of joining us, now is a very good time. At least come along, one Thursday. We've been sharing Qs&As about recycling. As well as the usual kerbside collection, soft plastic bags to supermarkets, plant pots to garden centres and Recycling for Charity takes place one Sunday morning each month in Eliot Arms car park (pens, toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes, pill strips, crisp and biscuit bags, etc).

Our Summer Lunch was held on the 26th August. A delicious and plentiful buffet was enthusiastically received by the members. The free raffle had numerous prizes from a bottle of wine to the lovely table flower arrangements.

At the end of a most relaxed and enjoyable afternoon, that had a "back to normal" feeling, our Chairman gave our sincere thanks to the caterer for making the lunch so successful.

The following Wednesday, eleven members visited Otter Nurseries outside Plymouth. The trip started by crossing by the ferry from Torpoint which some of us had not done for a while. It was a fine day, just right for wandering around the plants. After a leisurely lunch, and a last-minute shop, we made our way home.

Many thanks to the Committee for all their work in arranging these events. Next meetings: Oct 14th and Oct 28th, Eliot Hall, 2:30 pm; doors open 2 pm. October 14th - Harvest Service led by the Rev. Iris Bray; Contributions for the food bank, and other charities, as you wish.

Contact our Chairperson, Jean Mills (01503-230324). This report from Monica D and Sue C (230106)

*Sue Cousins*

## Tideford and St Germans Royal British Legion (RBL)

Monthly Coffee Mornings on 1st Monday of each month 10.30 to 12 at Tideford RBL Club. All welcome. Proceeds to the Poppy Appeal.

*Sue Fisher*

## Cornwall Hospice Care



We welcome you back to a **PLAIN BAKED POTATO LUNCH** at the Donderry Village Hall on **THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER** 11.30am - 1pm £6 . All welcome. Christmas cards will be on sale.

*Viv Parker*

# DOWNDERRY AND SEATON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1921

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INSPIRING WOMEN

2021

FOR 100 YEARS

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION

ALL THE VILLAGE ARE WELCOME TO OUR COFFEE MORNING

- 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 -

9.30 A.M. TO 12.00 M.D.

DOWNDERRY AND SEATON VILLAGE HALL

- Exhibition of our 100 years History
- Delicious Coffee or Tea, Bacon and /or Sausage Baps £2.50 (Vegetarian option available)
- Cakes for all tastes including vegan and dairy free
- Doggie cake – you know they love it!
- Craft stall with gifts you could buy for Christmas

## Community Bus News



Welcome back to all who have been travelling on the Community Bus since we re-started operations, and to those who haven't, we hope to see you soon.

We are almost back on our full schedule, which means weekly services to Plymouth (Tuesdays) and to Liskeard (Thursdays), we have resumed our services to Truro, Tavistock, Totnes and Exeter (all departures normally at 09.30), and we have reinstated our popular excursions. For the safety of our passengers and our drivers we are insisting that **all** passengers using the bus must have had their two Covid vaccinations and also that **all** passengers using the bus must wear face masks throughout their journey.

During October we have trips planned to Exeter on Wednesday October 6, Tavistock on Wednesday October 13 and to Truro on October 20. In addition we are making an

excursion to Dartmouth Food Festival on Friday October 22. Please note that the Tavistock run was originally planned as a visit to the Goose Fair. Unfortunately, the event has been cancelled by the Tavistock Town Council, so it will be a normal Tavistock service that day.

Now some dates further out for your diaries. In November we will be going back to Tavistock on November 12, to Truro on November 17 and to the Fowey Christmas Market on November 26. The following month it will be Exeter on December 1, the Tavistock Dickensian Evening on December 3, Truro late night shopping on December 8 and Truro again on December 15.

Finally, a special plea for help. We have received a request from some interested parents in Seaton for us to reinstate the weekdays early morning service from Seaton to Dowederry timed to bring children from Seaton to St Nicolas School. We operated this service for many years during school terms, until the pandemic stopped all our operations. At that point the service was actually starting to fail because of insufficient demand. We are anxious now to gauge potential support, if we were to reinstate this service. So, if you are interested for you or your children to use such a service, could you please get in touch. My contact details are below. Obviously the conditions about facemasks and vaccinations would not apply to young passengers.

Please look for our timetable on the village noticeboards, on the DaSRA (Dowederry and Seaton Residents Association) website [www.dasra.co.uk](http://www.dasra.co.uk) and in Nut Tree.

For reservations please call Bev Brighton on 01503 250944. For any other questions please contact Kevin Done, chairman on 01503 250911 or by email at [kevindone@hotmail.com](mailto:kevindone@hotmail.com).

*Kevin Done*

### **Dowederry Community Bus 300 Club**

Hope you're all enjoying seeing OUR bus on the roads again? Two months' winners to give out this month:

#### **AUGUST**

1st. No. 163 £20 Jean Evans, 2nd. No. 78 Ann Davies and 3rd. No. 15 Rosemary Stevenson

#### **SEPTEMBER**

1st. No. 6 £20 Mike Hartland, 2nd. No.116 £15 Wendy Waite and 3rd. No. 103 £10 Simon Mather

Thank you all for contributing to our bus!

*Jo Woodley 01503 250489*



## **St Germans & Area Public Transport User Group**

Local Bus Services. As from the 6<sup>th</sup> September all school bus services in our area will revert to being able to carry adult fare paying adult passengers. This will include the new extended 172 Torpoint - Callywith College (Bodmin) Service. On the outward journey, on schooldays only, this bus will depart from Torpoint Ferry at 07.15, only stopping in our parish at The Cross, Crafhole at 07.31, and then via Donderry, Widegates, East Looe, Pelynt & East Taphouse to arrive at the college at 08.57. The return journey will depart Callywith College at 16.25, calling at East Looe Surgery at 17.10, Donderry at 17.31 before arriving at The Cross at 17.42 and terminating at Torpoint Ferry at 18.01. Due to anticipated additional student numbers using the route, an additional school bus is to be deployed between Millbrook & Torpoint Community College in the mornings and afternoons. Other welcome news is that the Parish Council has purchased a much needed new replacement bus shelter with a free standing bench, that is due to be erected at The Cross in the near future, thanks in part to the Parish Council being successful in obtaining a bus shelter grant from Cornwall Council.

There are minor, and for some people useful, changes to the 71 bus route. It now goes via the Carkeel roundabout, with a stop outside Lidl's (easy to get to Waitrose from there as well). There's still a stop outside Saltash library and leisure centre. The 75 bus service through Donderry and Seaton needs improving in various ways, and especially with the connecting services to Plymouth. Rame Peninsula Public Transport Users Group (RPPTUG) have put forward proposals to Cornwall Council and Go Cornwall Bus for a new demand responsive bus service based at St. Germans Station and the St. Germans & Area Passenger Transport Group is now progressing a feasibility study based on extensive public surveys etc. Bearing in mind the Government's new £3 Billion Bus Strategy in which Cornwall Council have, like other local authorities in conjunction with local bus companies, a duty to put forward Bus Service Improvement Plans that they have to publish by the end of October, we took the opportunity to put forward some suggestions. These included:- (i) a proposed improved No. 75 Bus Service that would give Donderry & Seaton with a population of 1,300, who rely on the 75 as their only regular daily bus route, a better service that would include at least two through buses on weekdays each way to Plymouth, (ii) The reinstatement of a Sunday Bus Service from Plymouth to Looe/Polperro, via Torpoint, Portwrinkle, Donderry & Seaton, possibly linked to a special day ticket enabling holders to use the railway in one direction between Looe & Plymouth. We continued to press for the reinstatement of the late night bus service from Plymouth to call at Sheviok & Crafhole, and for the need of RPTI (Real passenger Time Information) at locations in our area where this important facility has not yet been installed. However, it needs to be stated that most of our area has a very good bus service provided by one of the best operators in Go Cornwall Bus, part of the Go Ahead Group. The next RPPTUG Committee Meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October in the Freathy Community Hall. Please remember that travellers are being encouraged to still wear face masks on Public Transport, that makes it safer for everyone.

National Express Coaches. There is further good news in that since the 2<sup>nd</sup> August National Express have been operating coaches in Cornwall to and from Birmingham for the first time since Covid restrictions commenced in March 2020. This reopens up much more of the N.E. network from Cornwall, as from Birmingham you can connect into their services operating to & from the North East, North West & Scotland.

Consequently, there are now five daily services calling at the Tideford Bus Shelters in the up direction, namely the 00.48 & the 10.30 to Birmingham plus the 06.15, 14.30 & 22.33 to London Victoria via Heathrow Airport. Similarly, there are five daily return bus services that call at Tideford en route to Penzance. Unfortunately, National Express again did not give any advance notice about the services to Birmingham, so anyone making enquiries on the N. E. Website up to only a few days before the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, would not have been made aware of the important impending changes.

From Plymouth Coach station there are of course other additional National Express Coach Services to London & Birmingham as well the frequent Stagecoach Falcon Bus Service to Bristol Airport & City Centre where it connects into Stagecoach Megabus Services to London, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester & Sunderland. For further information please use the National Express Travel Planner or telephone 08717818181, and for Stagecoach Falcon & Megabus services telephone 01413524444.

Train Services. Train services continue to be good generally, although there are still cancellations from time to time because of train staff having to isolate under Covid regulations. Overall, in the last few weeks, numbers of passengers travelling between Plymouth and Penzance have been similar to pre-Covid days.

Recently, a Flexi season ticket has been introduced on GWR. It provides passengers with 8 days of travel in 28 days – at any time (including peak periods) between two named stations. The 8 days of travel do not need to be specified in advance, and this gives part-time commuters more flexibility to travel when they want and need. It gives a 20% saving in fares. Flexi season tickets are available as a Smartcard ticket which you can buy at GWR.com, on the GWR app or from ticket offices. Check the website for details.

If you have ideas about improvements to public transport or to St Germans station let us know ([sgrug@railholiday.co.uk](mailto:sgrug@railholiday.co.uk), or phone 01503 230106). Should there be bike lockers at the station or electric bike charging points? Should there be changes to bus routes? Or bus links to the station? Should the proposal for a station car park be revived?

*Alan Cousins, Lizzy Stroud and Geoff Cadwaller*



## St Martin by Looe Parish Tithe Map 1840

Own a fascinating piece of historical  
research by the local historian



Jenny Wallis

for a £3 minimum donation.

All Proceeds to go to

**The RNLI**

**Ollie Naismith II**

**New Looe Lifeboat Appeal**

Available from:

RNLI Shop, Looe, The Old Bookshop, Shutta Road, Looe,  
Purely Cornish, 18 Fore Street, Looe, The Book Shop,  
2 Barras Street, Liskeard, Tregoad Holiday Park Shop,  
Looe Bay Holiday Park Reception, Looe Country Park, The  
Oaks Holiday Park, The Monkey Sanctuary Shop.  
Tredinnick Farm Shop.  
St Martin by Looe Parish Councillors.

## The story behind the 1840 Tithe Map

Our map spent nearly all of its formative years as 24 sheets of A4. The day it got assembled - the big reveal - was so exciting. At last the parish landscape appeared with all its wooded valleys, shoreline, settlements and the great turnpike road carving across the web of ways that went before it. The Cornish manors became defined. The Norman Church has commandeered the entire hill around it, sweeping away the Saxon settlement of Maristowe. This was the Norman Conquest in action. Tithes could be collected and paid to the Conqueror; produce stored in the tithe barn. (You can see this on Lidar in Barn Park.)

Little glimpses of past lives appear in the **field names** - where the Cornish plays were held; the site of Midsummer Bonfires; where there were barrows, hay-yards, wood for wainscotting. We had a defensive wall and beacons. There were watermills, a windmill, quarries, pits and a vineyard.

The **field numbers** refer to the Tithe Apportionment, written in copperplate, showing area and ownership. This gives the names of leaseholders - a haven for **genealogists!** All the plots in Looe are numbered but too small on our map. A bigger scale map would make a great resource for Looe historians. I am arranging to make photocopies and the CD available in the **Looe Library**.

The oldest names are the **river names**, the Frome, Bunny, Kennal, Side, Sarre and Dover. They are Celtic river names used across Europe before the Romans 2000 years ago at least.

Some tithe maps are printed and coloured. Ours only had **red** for **habitation**. But the colour-coding on this version means you can see the **pattern of land-holding** (all bounded by watercourses). This complements historic leases etc. The Duchy lands have been surveyed and recorded. Pendrym had a succession of absentee landlords leaving archives in St Ives, Dorset, Mount Edgecombe, Courtney Library, Shevioc and more. **Cornwall Record Office** has a wealth of information. There is much more to discover!

The map fills a gap in the local history and is screaming out for further research. Teachers, home-schoolers, budding historians, photographers with drones, archaeologists and geologists can all expand on the information which is 180 years old already. **The Victoria Bookshop** in Looe has fascinating local publications which could do with a map! The **library** has existing history books of Looe. The internet is revealing a wealth of new research. Last week I discovered that an ancestor helped rebuild Tregoad and Barbican!

I'm hoping our map will inspire other parishes to create their own map. I shall be sending them out as **Christmas presents!** Big thanks to Jon Puckey of A2Z Printers for the design and to our Parish Council for the support.

So put your hand up if you think we should have a **SPOT THE SPELLING MISTAKE** competition? I know the answer. Someone spotted it! Must do better!

## Rita's Rota

### October 2021 Dates

- 4 10:30-12:00 Tideford RBL Coffee Morning (TRBL)
- 5 10:00-12:00 Coffee Morning (DSVH)  
18:30 St Germans PC Mtg (EHSG)
- 6. 10:00-11:30 Coffee Morning (CZ)  
Exeter (CB)
- 7 09:30-11:30 Bread & Babes (CZ)
- 9 09:30-12:00 Donderry & Seaton WI  
Coffee Morning (DSVH)  
10:30-12:30 Coffee, Chat & Cake (HCH)
- 13 10:00-11:30 Coffee Morning (CZ)  
Tavistock (CB)
- 14 09:30-11:30 Bread & Babes (CZ)  
11:30-13:00 Cornwall Hospice Care  
Baked Potato Lunch (DSVH)  
14:30 Thursday Club Harvest (EHSG)  
19:30 Deviock PC Meeting (CZ)
- 15 18:00-20:00 Craft & Conversation (CZ)
- 16 10:00 -13:00 Little Breakfast (DSVH)
- 19 Mobile Library:  
St Germans Alms Houses 09:45- 10:05  
St Germans - Quay Rd 10:15 to 10:50  
Donderry - Inn 13:55 to 14:35  
Seaton - Car Park. 14:45 to 15:05

- 20 10:00-11:30 Coffee Morning (CZ)  
Truro (CB)
- 21 09:30-11:30 Bread & Babes (CZ)
- 22 Dartmouth Food Festival (CB)  
18:30 Double Trouble (DSVH)
- 27 10:00-11:30 Coffee Morning (CZ)
- 28 09:30-11:30 Bread & Babes (CZ)  
14:30 Thursday Club Mtg (EHSG)  
18:30 Deviock PC Planning Mtg (CZ)
- 30 19:00 Halloween Night (DSVH)

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

Copy for Rita's Rota should be sent to [nuttree.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:nuttree.editor@yahoo.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. (Note change to email address)

**Rita**

**[Nuttree.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:Nuttree.editor@yahoo.com)**

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