



# The Stoke Climsland Newsletter

Issue 24 November 2020

**WELCOME** to The Stoke Climsland Newsletter.

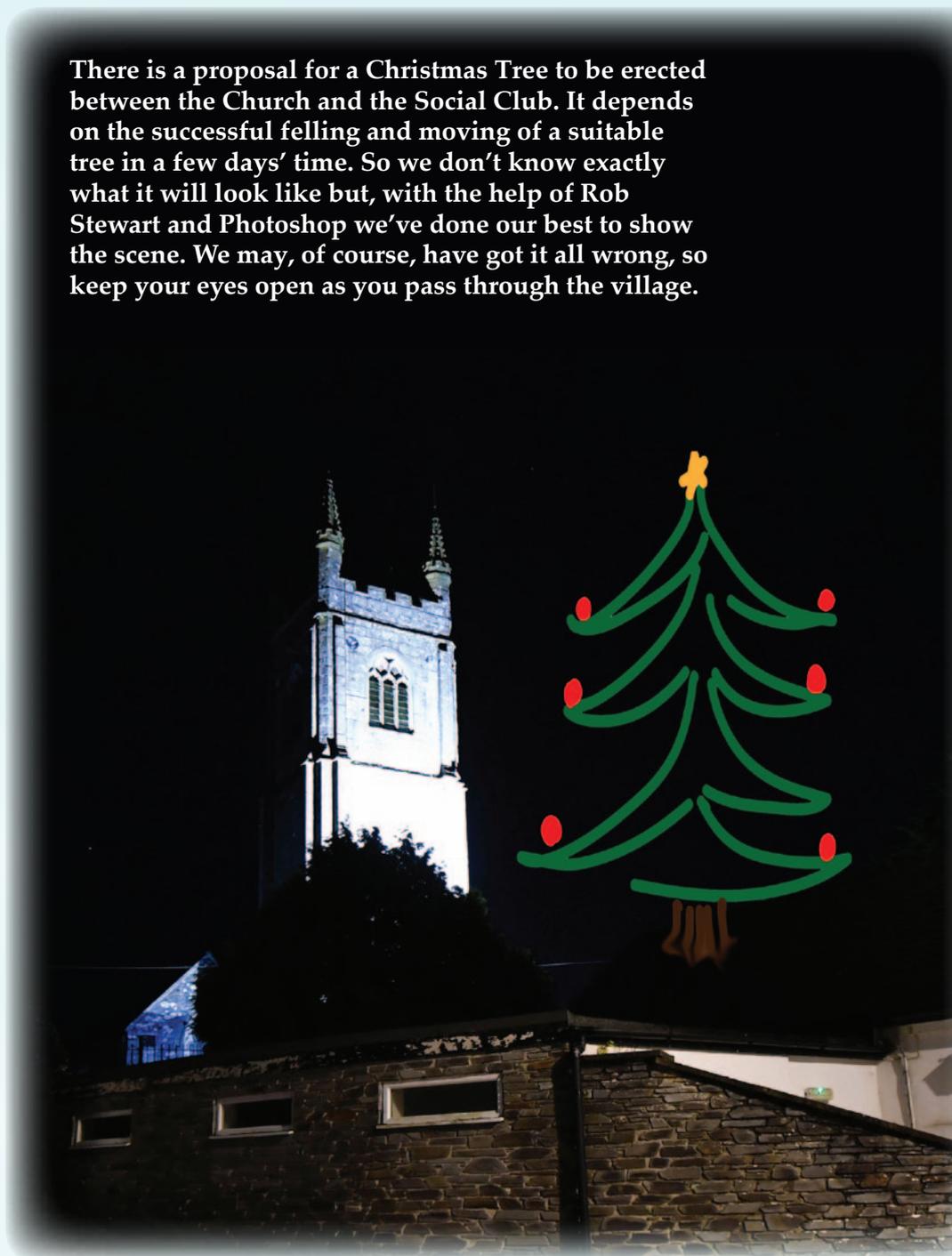
It's Issue 24 and the last one before Lockdown V2 is lifted. What will replace it? Who knows? Perhaps we'll be able to give you details in Issue 25, which is due out on December 3rd. The way we all behave in the next couple of weeks will be key to keeping the infection rate under control and we'll be emphasising the importance of doing just that throughout this issue.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Each day brings more and more promising news about vaccines. And we've got Christmas to look forward to. It will be different, that's for sure, in ways that aren't clear at the moment. We are already planning our Bumper Christmas Issue, due out on December 16th, and we'd love to hear from you. Do you know of anything going on or any stories that you would like to share with others? Tips for socially-distanced get-togethers or virtual parties, perhaps?

In the meantime, keep safe and keep following the guidelines. Covid-19 is not the Christmas present you want to give to someone, or receive it yourself as a most unwanted gift. It will be with us for a long while yet so let's keep vigilant and not lapse into complacency.

*Deri Parsons  
John Wilmut*

There is a proposal for a Christmas Tree to be erected between the Church and the Social Club. It depends on the successful felling and moving of a suitable tree in a few days' time. So we don't know exactly what it will look like but, with the help of Rob Stewart and Photoshop we've done our best to show the scene. We may, of course, have got it all wrong, so keep your eyes open as you pass through the village.



See page 4 for full information about the next few Newsletters

**COVID COULD BE GETTING SERIOUS FOR US**  
If we don't want heavy restrictions next month we need to take the recent rise in local cases very seriously. See pages 2 and 3 for details

This Newsletter is published on The Old School page on Facebook and on [www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk](http://www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk) where it is easier to download

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is being produced by Old School volunteers in collaboration with the Parish Council. Please use our contacts to provide information or with questions about the Newsletter. Please do not leave information at The Old School office which at present is not regularly staffed.  
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## EAST CORNWALL RESIDENTS (WHICH MEANS US) URGED TO STICK TO COVID-19 RULES AMID RISE IN CASES

People in East Cornwall are being urged to follow the government's 'hands, face and space' public health guidance to keep COVID-19 at bay as cases continue to rise in the area. Cornwall Council's public health team is asking residents in East Cornwall to stick to the rules and be especially mindful of how easily the virus can spread. Data analysis by the Council's public health specialists shows cases in the east of the county are higher on average than in other areas.

People can check out where the hotspots are on the government's interactive map here <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

Cllr Sally Hawken, Cornwall Council's Portfolio Holder for Children, Wellbeing and Public Health, who represents Liskeard East, said: "We're seeing cases continue to rise in East Cornwall and it's vital that we put the brakes on this. These are cases that are being transmitted within groups of families and friends, allowing the virus to easily move from household to household. In the past the virus has been linked to workplace outbreaks which are easier for us to contain, but this change in pattern of spread shows us that we all really need to be careful. Even though we're currently in lockdown, people need to remember the basic guidance – wash your hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household. Following these simple steps could make a significant difference in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and help protect you and your friends, colleagues and family from the virus."

Rachel Wigglesworth, Director of Public Health for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, said: "While cases remain relatively low in Cornwall compared to the rest of the country and the announcement of a possible vaccine is great news, we can't afford to be complacent. Cases continue to climb across Cornwall - especially in East Cornwall along the border where we urge people more than ever to follow the rules and be mindful of how easily the virus can be spread."

If you have any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms – a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss of taste or smell, you must self-isolate and your household must continue to self-isolate while waiting for a test. You also must continue to isolate until you get your test results. Anyone who tests positive must self-isolate, along with all members of their household, whether they have symptoms or not.

For more information on the rules and guidance visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

### Altarnun & Stoke Climsland

Seven days to 12 November 2020

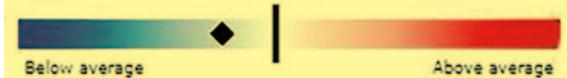
Total cases

**16** ↑ 4 (33.3%)

Rolling rate

**188.3**

Case rate compared to  
England average



### Callington & Pensilva

Seven days to 12 November 2020

Total cases

**23** ↑ 13 (130.0%)

Rolling rate

**275.5**

Case rate compared to  
England average



### Launceston

Seven days to 12 November 2020

Total cases

**15** ↑ 9 (150.0%)

Rolling rate

**137.4**

Case rate compared to  
England average



**DON'T  
FORGET  
THE NHS  
COVID APP**

The NHS Covid App is an important part of the Government's strategy to limit the spread of the virus.. For it to work effectively it needs the majority of the population to download it to their mobile phones. If you have not downloaded it yet please do so - it only takes a few seconds and downloading it will be an important step in getting the virus under control. You can get it free from the Apple Store or Google Play.





## UPDATE FROM SCARPER

### STOKE CLIMSLAND AREA RESILIENCE PLAN AND EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Hello everyone. We are now well into our second lockdown, with only a couple of weeks to go until the end – of this phase. How are you all getting on? We hope you are managing and keeping well. If not, you have the list of our co-ordinators below to contact if you need some help. Don't hold back, whilst we can't guarantee to help resolve all your questions, we will have a good go. And if we can't, we probably know someone who can!!

The news of concern is that here, in East Cornwall, our Covid-19 infection levels are rising, somewhere between 100-200 per 100,000. We do not have information as to exactly why, but we must continue to take every precaution and not relax our safeguards. We continue to hear that we must frequently wash or sanitise our hands, wear face masks (how many of us are wearing single use face masks time and time again? Or using washable facemasks and not washing them frequently?) and maintain our social distancing? As the weeks have gone by and we remain well, we might have begun to relax our safeguards? Maybe we have begun to mix with other people not in our regular 'bubble'? The sooner we can get infection rates down, the sooner we can plan to have a 'normal' family Christmas. Remember to leave some sanitiser out for Santa and Rudolf this year and make sure they are both wearing face masks. At least the face masks will help keep the secret of Santa!



Cornwall Council continue to publish information on their website and Facebook if you are OK with these digital media platforms. If not, then ask or 'phone a friend. Keep up to date by looking at: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health-cornwall/information-about-coronavirus-Covid-19/](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health-cornwall/information-about-coronavirus-Covid-19/)

Ren Jackaman (contact: [parishclerkscpc@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkscpc@gmail.com) or 07878 368857), our 'vulnerable and self-isolating' co-ordinator. Contact Ren if you want to be added to our list or if you know of a neighbour who might be in need of some support.

Sarah Ross (contact: [srossscpc@gmail.com](mailto:srossscpc@gmail.com) or 01579 370521), our prescriptions and medicines co-ordinator. Please contact her if you need help.

Nigel Cooper (contact: [njcooperscpc@gmail.com](mailto:njcooperscpc@gmail.com) or 07525 351628), our volunteer co-ordinator. Please contact Nigel if you want to help us.

Village Store: Sue Watts (contact: [sue-watts@btconnect.com](mailto:sue-watts@btconnect.com) or call 01579 370201). Please contact Sue if you want home deliveries of your groceries.

Our co-ordinators and volunteers continue to be available to help if they can, for as long as we can be of service. We continue to pick up prescriptions. If you need collections due to your medical conditions, or the situation here gets worse, the collection service will be there for you. Just let us know when your prescription is ready and we will collect it. Please contact Sarah Ross – see details on the left.

Our volunteer group remains active if you need any further help. If you do, please contact our co-ordinators who will try and assist:

Stay safe, please try, and keep well. Please continue to follow the Government and Cornwall Council guidelines.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE OLD SCHOOL?

In short - not a lot at the moment. But we're hoping to reinstate some activities as soon as the current lockdown eases. But for now, this is where we are. Leave a message on 01579 370493 for more information.

**THE ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC** continues at The Old School but only by prior appointment. Contact Michael Clements on 01752 770998 or 07711 934845.

**THE CHIROPODIST** will hold an appointments-only clinic at The Old School on Thursday 19th November and then at 2-weekly intervals after that.

**THE LIBRARY** has closed until further notice but we are talking to Cornwall Council about this.

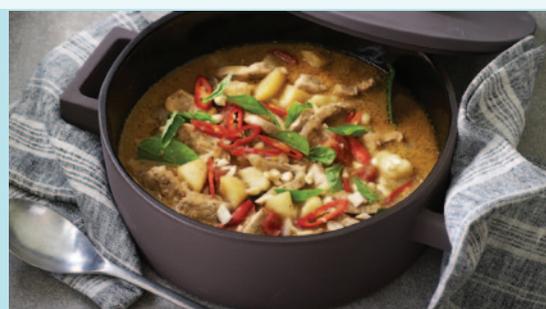
**THE OLD SCHOOL BOOK CLUB** continues as a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 15th December at 9-30 am. The book for discussion is *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald. Copies are now available; please email Helen Cadiot on [helen.cadiot@outlook.com](mailto:helen.cadiot@outlook.com) who will let you know where to collect a copy of the book and will arrange for you to get the logon details for the Zoom meeting.



**FRIDAY LUNCHES** have been stopped for the duration of the lockdown. We will circulate information about their resumption as soon as the Covid regulations allow this.

### THE TAKE-AWAY MEALS CONTINUE

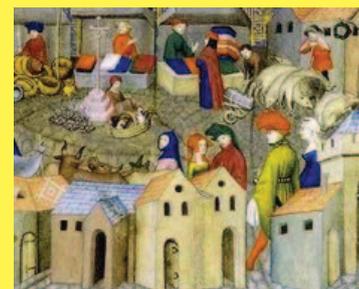
The December Saturday Night Treat will be on 5th December from 6.30pm. It will be a Thai Chicken Massaman curry, Jasmine rice and vegetables Thai style. You need to book ahead - just call 01579 370493 and leave a message saying how many meals you want. The cost will be £7-50 per meal, payable on the night. You will need to observe strict social distancing rules when you come to the kitchen door in the car park.



**RECYCLING** Ali Humphreys is planning to be at The Old School car park from 8.30 - 9.15 am on December 3rd. We think that this will go ahead if, as we expect, we will be returned to pre-lockdown conditions by then. If you are concerned about recycling you may be interested in the article on page 14 of this Newsletter.

**THE OLD SCHOOL MARKET** will happen on December 5th, 10am-noon, as scheduled, but assuming that the current lockdown restrictions have been lifted during the previous week; you can check with the Old School office on 01579 370493. We hope to have these stallholders present.

- Sue Cook - Stained glass gifts
- Karen Cooper - Personalised gifts and cards
- Jeremy Dawe - Traditional meat from Trehill Farm
- Chris George - Wood turner, Gifts
- Michael Harford - Wood crafts
- Dawn Hunn - Vegetables
- Sandra Jane - Leather goods
- Val Kidman - Home made preserves, jams and freshly baked cakes
- Linda Losty - Aprons, masks etc
- Ian Macdonald - Cross-stitch, tapestry and picture framing
- Di Nash - Gifts and hand-knitted etc
- Neil Robyns - Artisan yogurts, cream cheese, cheesecakes and pies
- Derek Schofield - Apple and other juices, vinegar, cordials
- Dale Wood - Honey



**The Market will be held indoors. Car parking will be available as usual. Please enter the building through the main door and follow the signs, keeping a proper distance from others. The exit will be via the kitchen corridor. Please do not double back on this route - walk round the building.**

**Since all three rooms will be used for stalls a more restricted breakfast will be available. Please follow the signs - do not enter the kitchen or open the kitchen hatch.**

**If you need help please ask - volunteers will be present for the whole time.**

## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE PARISH

VENTERDON  
CHAPEL



Services at Venterdon Chapel are suspended for the time being.

PARISH CHURCH

On Sunday November 22nd our Family Service will be streamed at 10 am. Jane Coumbe will be making the Advent Ring and the Worship Group will be playing live. We hope to see you there,

We will continue to be open from 1 - 4 pm on Wednesdays for Individual Private Prayer.



## IF YOU CAN'T WORK THIS OUT SPEAK TO THE EDITOR



At first there were only 25 letters in the alphabet. Nobody knew why.

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## A BOOK RECOMMENDATION

# Demelza's People

*The real lives of Cornish miners and their families*



By Terry and David Faull

"Demelza's People" by Terry Faull is a superb new book, (it must have kept Terry very busy during the lockdown) covering the whole mining story from a human angle. It's full of insights and nitty-gritty information, explaining the system by which the mining industry was run, right through to what it was like for the miners! Throughout we find lovely examples of his uncle David Faull's work – carefully drawn and painted views of mining scenes as they were in the mid to late 1900's which are full of atmosphere and life – I love their gentle colours.

Do get hold of a copy to keep – you'll enjoy it! (a very good Christmas present, too)

Copies (£6.25 including postage) and details from this email-address : [treslothan1@gmail.com](mailto:treslothan1@gmail.com)

Caroline Vuilliamy

## WORDSEARCH

See if you can find the 12 garden birds in the puzzle. Solution on page 13.

W	H	O	R	I	T	R	W	E	F	P	B	G	T
W	N	G	W	H	C	H	O	M	H	A	L	H	D
O	T	H	R	E	C	M	R	O	A	D	U	S	B
R	O	R	S	V	I	N	C	R	D	T	E	I	B
R	C	R	T	O	R	T	I	I	E	B	T	L	O
A	C	N	A	D	H	E	C	F	T	I	I	H	B
P	H	C	R	D	I	D	R	N	N	E	T	A	D
S	A	O	L	E	L	T	O	C	I	E	I	A	P
I	F	A	I	R	E	L	H	E	I	B	E	I	I
A	F	L	N	A	R	I	N	R	D	I	O	R	A
C	I	T	G	L	O	L	P	H	U	G	R	R	G
H	N	I	R	L	P	S	S	G	H	S	U	I	T
H	C	T	C	O	I	R	C	I	A	W	H	C	A
A	H	I	G	C	R	T	D	A	L	M	H	C	G

## POST EARLIER FOR XMAS THIS YEAR

Once the presents are wrapped and cards written, all that is left is to post them — and you will want to ensure they arrive in plenty of time. Although we will be giving you some official 'post by' dates below, the best advice is post as soon as you can. Covid-19 will inevitably have an adverse effect somewhere along the line, so the sooner you get your items in the post, the better. You would not want anyone to miss out, would you? If in doubt, ask in the Post Office for advice. And it is a great place to buy cards and stamps as well.

### Royal Mail's latest recommended posting dates for delivery in the UK in 2020

Friday, December 18th for second class mail  
Monday, December 21st for first class mail  
Wednesday, December 23th for special delivery

There will be no delivery and collection service from Christmas Day through to the Boxing Day Bank Holiday (December 28th), however normal service will resume on Tuesday, December 29th. On New Year's Day there will be no deliveries or collections.

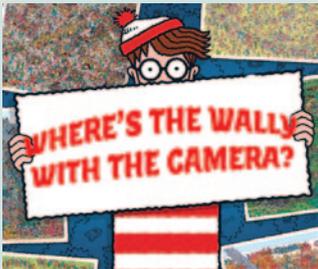
**Unfortunately, the last posting dates for International Surface Mail destinations have passed.**



### If you want to reach the rest of the world using the International Airmail service, these are the latest recommended posting dates

Friday, December 4th for Australia, New Zealand  
Wednesday, December 9th for Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central and South America, Far and Middle East  
Thursday, December 10th for Canada, Cyprus, Malta  
Friday, December 11th for Greece, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia) and Turkey

Saturday, December 12th for Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, USA  
Wednesday, December 16th for Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland  
Friday, December 18th for Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg



### DID YOU LOCATE OUR WALLY WITH THE CAMERA?

Whilst taking the image in the last issue, our Wally with the Camera was on the road from Higherland to Lockett around the entry to Sheba Woods and if you turn it through 90 degrees it looks like a Piranha. If you say so Wally. But where was he when he took this issue's image?



**Tre, Pol & Pen  
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Open 8am - 5pm Monday - Saturday  
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call us on 01566 706527  
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Christmas Turkey, Butchery and Deli  
orders now being taken

A simple line drawing illustration of a cow, a sheep, and some trees, representing a farm scene.

## SHOP LOCALLY DURING THE LOCKDOWN

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING: SHOP LOCALLY AND ONLINE

We we'd like to remind you of the recent initiative by Lucy Hard who has started a Facebook group called the Stoke Climsland Virtual Christmas Shopping Market.

The idea of the group is for local crafters to showcase their crafts or services so that we can try and buy locally this Christmas. Most importantly it is a group for local people to show what they do, and we can support them and each other through this unusual time and make Christmas shopping enjoyable - from the comfort of our armchairs without the urge to rip a face mask off.

Want to find out more? Just put **Stoke Climsland Virtual Christmas Shopping Market** into the Facebook search bar and you will soon be entering a world of talent that you probably did not know existed. We're not sure how many members there are now but the array of gifts on display is very impressive. Take a look and remember, if you buy something, you are supporting a local enterprise.

Lucy would like to raise funds for the community whilst we all shop, so to become an approved local seller there is a £5 charge to join. If you are interested, pop Lucy a message and she will get you set up.



Cornwall Christmas Box provides Christmas Dinner in a box for the poorest families in Cornwall. Each box contains enough food for Christmas

dinner with all the extra little goodies and treats like mince pies, biscuits and Christmas pudding, which all go to make up a feast for a family in need. We cannot accept fresh food but there are plenty of good things to eat that can still be included. A typical box costs around £30-£40 and they are distributed through various local organisations. Help to fund these boxes is needed.

If you have any question be sure to get in touch – either by email ([hello@cornwallchristmasbox.co.uk](mailto:hello@cornwallchristmasbox.co.uk)) or via Messenger on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cornwallchristmasbox/>). There is a local collection point for boxes and that is at Darren's Cars in St Anne's Chapel.

### NEED BOOKS?



Independent bookshops have set up a website in competition with Amazon. These bookshops guarantee 30% discounts and aim to please 'the socially conscious online shopper'.

The website is [www.bookshop.org](http://www.bookshop.org)

Now is the time to reduce the distances we travel and to avoid large crowds. This is where shopping local helps – not so far to go and not so many people to interact with. We know that shops selling non-essential items will be closed but many of them are offering delivery and/or click and collect services. Check with your favourite local store to see if this is what they are doing. Although restaurants, bars and pubs must close, they can still provide takeaway and delivery services. Once again, check them out and try and consider giving them your custom.

### THE VILLAGE STORE AND POST OFFICE

The Post Office counter remains open from 9 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday and 9 am - 12.30 pm Saturday. And the shop is open 8 am - 6 pm Mon-Friday; 7 am - 12.30 pm Saturday; 9 am - 11 am Sunday.

A 'call and collect' service is available and the shop will continue to deliver to vulnerable or self-isolating customers.

Social distancing at 2 metres operates and this means limiting the number of people in the shop at any time. All customers visiting the Shop or Post Office must wear a face mask or face covering at all times unless they are exempt from this rule.

**ORDERS CAN BE PLACED** Please call us on 01579 370201, or email [sue-watts@btconnect.com](mailto:sue-watts@btconnect.com) We take payment across the phone and aim to deliver the next day if you order before 4 pm. Minimum order £10, no delivery charge.

Orders can now be placed for Christmas.

**NEED TO CHECK ON POSTING DATES FOR CHRISTMAS?**

**See the listings on page 7**

Eat local.  
Drink local.

Are you watching 'Saving Britain's Pubs with Tom Kerridge' on BBC? If so, you'll be aware that The White Hart in Chilsworthy is featured. As a result of the pandemic, already struggling pubs have endured a hokey-cokey of closing, reopening and then closing once again, as we oscillate in and out of lockdown. Many local pubs are responding to the Covid Challenge by offering very attractive take-away options. As well as shopping local, you can also eat and drink local. Give your favourite hostelry (and restaurant) a call and see what they are doing. For some, it really could be a case of 'use it or lose it'.

## TAMAR VALLEY LOGO HUNT: SOMETHING TO LOOK OUT FOR ON YOUR LOCKDOWN EXERCISE



Have you seen these logos on an interpretation board near you? If so, please get in touch! This summer, the Tamar Valley celebrated 25 years since designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Over that time, many projects and initiatives to conserve and enhance natural beauty (including wildlife, geology and landscape features, archaeology, and architecture) have taken place in the area. To provide information, a number of interpretation boards have been erected over the years at certain locations throughout the Valley.

Unfortunately, many of these boards are looking tired now and some contain information that is very out of date. With the introduction of a new brand for the Tamar Valley AONB, it seems timely to take stock of everything that's out there, to start scheduling updates of the panels or replacing them entirely if they are no longer fit for purpose.

.... and this is where we would love your help! During your daily exercise, if you pass an information board that contains one of our old logos, please could you note where it is, what information it contains and provide a brief description of the condition of the board? A simple survey form is available by emailing Charlotte at [cdancer@tamarvalley.org.uk](mailto:cdancer@tamarvalley.org.uk)



**LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS  
SHOE BOX APPEAL**

**CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED LARGE QUANTITIES OF EACH ITEM ON THE FOLLOWING LIST:**

**HOMELESS SOUP RUN**

- 10 X SLEEPING BAGS
- 10 X 1 MAN TENTS
- 10 X FLOOR CAMPING MATS
- 100 X GLOVES, HATS, WARM SOCKS
- 100 X CHOCOLATES
- 100 X SWEETS
- 20 X SMALL SANITARY
- 100 X SMALL TOILETRIES
- 100 X TOOTH PASTE AND BRUSH
- 70 X WRAPPING PAPER ROLLS
- ANY OTHER SMALL USEFUL ITEMS

**VULNERABLE COMMUNITY PARCELS**

- 80 X CHRISTMAS CRACKERS
- 80 X CHOCOLATES
- 80 X SWEETS
- 80 X MINCE PIES
- 80 X EDUCATIONAL GAMES, TOYS
- 60 X STATIONARY
- 80 X FAMILY FRIENDLY DVD'S
- 80 X PUZZLES & COLOURING BOOKS
- 80 X SCARVES, HATS, GLOVES & SOCKS
- 50 X DIARIES AND CALENDARS
- 80 X TOILETRIES AND SMELLIES

**LAST DATE FOR DONATIONS 14TH DEC - DISTRIBUTION 19TH & 23RD.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THESE  
DIFFICULT & UNUSUAL TIMES!

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**ADVERTISE WITH US**

In this Newsletter we offer a *very* cheap advertising service so that local businesses can market their goods and services to Stoke Climsland customers. Why not get in touch now with Linda (contact details on page 1) and get your advertisement in the next two pre-Christmas issues.



By the time many read this, the current lockdown should be coming to an end and we will be returning to living with the restrictions of one of the tiers which, at the moment, are anticipated to be re-introduced. We are in times of great uncertainty, not experienced perhaps since the Second World War. Many of the things we had grown accustomed to have been swept away or are under threat as we find ourselves engaged in battle with the invisible enemy of Covid-19.

For many it is the uncertainty that causes more stress and anxiety than Covid-19 and the associated restrictions. I have been planning church services for December bearing in mind that public worship may not be possible even when the current lockdown ends. It is more or less certain that the normal Christmas Carol and Crib services will not be possible and anything like a normal Christmas is unlikely. It is doubtful that the current early November surge in Covid-19 cases will have decreased sufficiently by 25th December! Christmas plans for many will need to change.

A major concern as Christmas approaches is the prospect that it will not be possible to meet up with family and loved ones. For those of us who are fortunate enough to have loving and supportive families, the resulting sense of belonging and personal value is often an anchor in uncertain times. Tragically for some, this Christmas a family member will be missing, highlighting the fact that even the support and love of family members is uncertain, that anchor may not always be there. Similarly, other things that give us a sense of security and self-worth can be swept away; work, friends, and the ability to partake in a favourite sport to name a few.

Personally, I have found my Christian faith the strongest and most enduring anchor, particularly in uncertain and difficult times. Not that my faith is a crutch, it is more like a foundation upon which everything else is built, a foundation I have found to be secure. In common with countless others who have a Christian faith, I have found that it has made facing uncertainty easier than it would otherwise have been. Like many, I have found security in a loving family and self-worth in employment, but neither is foundational. Important as they are, life is more than family and employment. I say this having lost my father at an early age, been made redundant more than once and having faced the uncertainties of self-employment and starting a small business.

Remembrance Day has brought to mind again my paternal grandfather who served in the First World War, in Ypres amongst other places. More than one work colleague who knew him both before and after the war commented that it had not appeared to change him like it had so many. He too was a man of strong Christian faith, a faith that helped to sustain him during the difficult, uncertain and at times horrendous war years. He, like so many, did not talk much about his war years. One of the few things he did mention though was the death of all of the gun team he worked closely with. One night the tent they were sleeping in suffered a direct hit from a shell, my grandfather only escaped because he could not sleep on the hot summer's night and left the tent to sleep next to a nearby hedge. Against the rules but it saved his life! This and no doubt many other horrors of the war he experienced did not seem to affect him adversely, his Christian faith had an important part to play in that.

As a different Christmas edges nearer, perhaps a quieter Christmas, there may be more space for reflection. Reflection on what is secure and foundational for each of us as we contemplate what is likely to be a challenging and uncertain 2021. This Christmas season is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world who is to bring 'Peace on Earth, Good will to humankind'. Yes please, we could certainly do with a bit of that in these turbulent and uncertain times! As the time of New Year resolutions approaches let us re-commit ourselves to playing our part in bringing about peace and good will in whatever ways we are able.

I wish you all a blessed, peaceful, and joyous Christmas and a Covid-19 free New Year,

*Brian Norris*

## COVID-19 WON'T BE WITH US FOREVER SO LET'S LOOK TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY

From March this year, all of us have experienced a massive disruption to our way of life. Cornwall Council's residents' survey in June showed that this had triggered an appetite for change. Although there were some very negative side effects of the pandemic, the more positive changes made people realise that life could be different and only one in ten people wanted everything to go back to the way it was before the pandemic. As a result, "The Cornwall We Want" campaign was launched on 26th June, to hear more from residents about the changes we want for future generations. Incidentally, this was the council's biggest ever listening exercise.

**"THE  
CORNWALL  
WE WANT"**  
For future generations



What did people say? Cornwall Council heard from a wide range of people, across the county. Over 25,000 people visited the Let's Talk Cornwall new online platform to take part in the conversation about the Cornwall we want. Over 900 people have taken part in discussions, round tables, and focus groups. The three livestreamed discussions have been watched back over 16,000 times. You can read more about the ways people could have their say and what the Council heard from them in the reports which can be accessed on <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/overview>

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What happens next? The feedback from residents has been used to shape the vision set out in 'Gyllyn Warbarth, Together we can: The Cornwall Plan'. So far, the plan has been endorsed by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership Senate, Cornwall Association of Local Councils, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership and Cornwall's Youth Parliament. Environment Secretary George Eustice commented: "Across the nation, there is a new appreciation of the difference that nature makes to our lives, and of the link between our own health and that of the planet. This vision shows how Cornwall can lead the way in building back better and greener."

You can let the Council know what you think of the plan at [haveyoursay@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@cornwall.gov.uk) or give your views on the Let's Talk Cornwall website

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**YET ANOTHER SPACE-FILLING CARTOON THAT APPEALS TO THE EDITOR'S SENSE OF HUMOUR, IF NOBODY ELSE'S. YOU CAN HELP STOP THESE BY PROVIDING MATERIAL THAT WE CAN USE TO FILL THESE GAPS.**



**Socially distanced conkers**



In a year like no other we appear to be heading for Christmas extra early, with high streets already displaying their cheerful light displays, despite the majority of shops forced to close and people bizarrely then flocking to supermarkets to buy up every last tin of Roses – all during a ‘lockdown’! A reaction most probably in denial or defiance of what may or may not be anything like a ‘normal’ festive season due to the Pandemic raging around us and now scientific debate about whether to relax social rules for Christmas and pay later in the New Year - a concept that sounds familiar but usually applies only to the credit card!

With all this uncertainty spare a thought for the humble Turkey and its rearers in not knowing either their fate or future. Over the years Turkey has risen in popularity to the Number One Christmas Day meal choice and as family gatherings increase in numbers around the table

the average weight has in turn risen to a massive 14kg stuffed bird. UK Turkey Meat production now stands at 16 million tonnes / year. However, to understand the production of this seasonal favourite we must remember that rearing starts in early summer with day old chicks delivered to farms and gradually fattened to time exactly with the December demand – there is little profit in being left with a fully grown Turkey in January! So suggestions and indications that this year we play safe and just buy a smaller bird of 5 – 10kg causes major supply issues due to the method of fattening, as by slaughtering earlier for lighter carcass weights means that birds would not be fully fleshed and not available as fresh choice orders but only as frozen options.

One solution could be to move buying habits towards purchasing the ‘Turkey Breast Crown’ thus allowing the remaining carcass meat to be turned into ready meal alternatives. Or a simple solution harking back to ‘Granny’s Day’ would be to still buy the full size Turkey to consume the best for Roast on the 25th then pare off the remaining meat, freeze for future meals or make into left-over recipes – Simple!

More Turkey Talk (as if the human Pandemic – Covid-19 was not enough) now there is news of a return of Bird Flu -Avian Influenza (H5N2) - that has struck areas of the UK, with reports of deaths as close as South Devon & Dorset in wild Geese and Black Swans. Thankfully it is not a threat to human health but a stark reminder to all poultry keepers to remain extra vigilant at this time.

Finally, ‘across the pond’ Turkeys are also foremost on the minds of Americans – no reference to the recent Presidential Elections (we will leave that to the Supreme Court!), but to next week’s ‘Thanksgiving Day’ celebrations, held on the fourth Thursday in November for the past 400 years to give thanks for their first harvest. No doubt it’s a similar dilemma about gatherings to our own depending on your political stance or fear from Covid or (in Mr Trump’s view that Chinese Disease for which he tested out and conquered in a single weekend). Clearly Turkey sales in the USA will be an indicator of our pattern in the coming month. All very unpredictable but just spare a thought for mistletoe sellers this year – surely they can kiss goodbye to Christmas!

Stay Safe, Protect the NHS, Save Lives, and keep it local – from us all Down on the Farm.

Stoke Climsland  
Neighbourhood Plan

Shaping the future  
of our Parish



#### PROGRESS WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This week, the first iteration of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was discussed at a Zoom meeting with the Parish Council. The draft has not yet been finalised, but it is in a suitable state for it to be submitted to Cornwall Council for the next stage of the process, a Strategic Environment Assessment. After that, and a few

more necessary tweaks, the document will be made available for wider dissemination and consultation. It has to be recognised that Covid-19 restrictions will have an impact upon what can be done in terms of public meetings, drop-in sessions etc, and the details of how the information can reach all in the Parish are still being worked out. Rest assured that you will be kept informed and involved as much as possible. Keep your eyes out for further details.

If you have any questions about the draft, please give Deri Parsons a call on 01579 370319 and he will do his best to give you acceptable answers.



## NATURE NOTES

## To Weir Quay for Avocets

Brilliant sunshine the day before Lockdown 2 tempted us out to look for Avocets. The light and state of tide were right for Weir Quay across the Tamar. The sun was behind us and the tide half out so there would be plenty of mud exposed for feeding birds.

The mud gleamed in the sun when we got there, and a scatter of birds stood at the water's edge: Herring, Black-headed and Great Black-

backed Gulls were washing and preening, Canada Geese pottering, a Grey Heron dozing and a Little Egret paddling. A bunch of Crows was scavenging and a Cormorant fishing, but no sign of Avocets. A woman coming home from a walk told us she had seen a couple there a day or two ago.

Over the past forty years Little Egrets have gradually become a usual sight on all our Estuaries. They seem commoner than Grey Herons now, but perhaps that is just because they show up better. And they join Grey Herons to nest in their Heronries.

A bit further down the lane a pristine Red Admiral was basking at the foot of the bank and further down again, growing out of the stone and earth bank of a garden were big clumps of rosettes of the succulent Echeveria or similar species. They were immaculate; no sign of slug or weather damage so the winter must be especially mild just along there.

Outside a garden was a clump of yellow bunch-headed Narcissi in flower. I admired them with a couple just getting into their car who said they had been out since early September. I asked was that usual or a fluke and they said they always flowered early but this year they were earlier than ever. Next door

to the Narcissi was a tall Ginkgo, a glory of bright canary yellow.

Better luck with the Avocets another time.

*Mary Atkinson*



Photos: Top, Holes Hole; Middle, Red Admiral; Bottom Echeveria sp Weir Quay

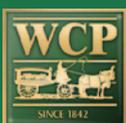
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## WORDSEARCH SOLUTION

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## SEEKING CARBON NEUTRALITY – WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT



We are a group within the Stoke Climsland Climate Change Action Group. Our role is to develop ways in which we can reduce our waste within the local community to support the target set by the Parish Council to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Much has been published regarding the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on a global scale. Our task is more at a local level. In this issue we would like to look at some other aspects of recycling.

Ren Jackman has set up Tamar Valley Wombles to recycle and 'upcycle' a wide range of unwanted arts and crafts products for distribution to those who can make good use of them. An example was that following the disastrous fires in Australia, this group and others in Cornwall clubbed together and made many pouches for orphaned marsupials to huddle into. The group have a collection of materials ready for you to have a go at 'upcycling'. Look for **Tamar Valley Wombles** on Facebook.

Talking to Cornwall Council recently they say that wheely bins should be rolled out around Spring of next year together with food caddies. This is probably about a year behind the scheduled announced last year. Whilst wheely bins might not suit every household, the key factor is the introduction of the food caddy. Currently food waste is mixed with the black bin or black bag 'non-recycled' waste. However, there are some packaging materials in that waste that

can be recycled but being contaminated with food waste, cannot and have to go to incineration.

PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is a prime example. Councils will collect PET bottles, but we have also have many PET trays and film lids and wraps, all perfectly recyclable as are the bottles, but the councils don't want them because councils are measured on recycling by weight! You can see the board at the Launceston site stating their recycling percentage. This is based on weight. They have a truck weighing scale outside which weighs the empty truck in and the filled truck out. So, sorting these other lightweight recyclable materials is not supporting their KPI's (Key Performance Indicators). This is something that needs to change in the short to medium term and is facilitated by the removal of food waste from our black bins or black bags.

Once our food waste can be separated at source and once we have removed all the main stream recyclables (glass, cans, plastic bottles, paper, cardboard), what is left can then be sorted and valuable materials be extracted by modern recycling equipment. What is finally left can indeed go for incineration with energy recovery.

The food waste can then be sent to biodigesters to produce natural gas which can then be sent into the national gas grid. Or if you have suitable composting bins, the food waste can be composted at source. The old days of feeding food waste to your pigs have long gone.

By having food waste in a separate caddy, we will be able to see just how much food we throw away each week. This might help us to be more careful on what foods we buy and how we prepare the food or show how we might be buying too much.

These little steps today will become the much larger steps in the future, and we hope we can reduce our waste from our homes, which in turn could save us money each week.

If you wish to help us recycle more of our packaging and help formulate future recycling programmes, then contact us on [adagio70p117@gmail.com](mailto:adagio70p117@gmail.com)

*Geoff Giles  
Team Lead for the waste and recycling management group of SCCCAG.*

**DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE. WE NEED YOUR STORIES, PICTURES, REPORTS, IDEAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEWSLETTER OF 12th DECEMBER. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH HIGHLIGHT STOKE CLIMSLAND'S WAYS OF COPING WITH A COVID CHRISTMAS.**