

# THE OLD SCHOOL NEWS

Issue 252  
May 2024



Photo by David Price

Marie Curie Coffee Morning  
Raised £314.44 in donations  
Well done the WI



**CALLINGTON  
MAY FEST 2024  
Saturday 11th May**

PROCESSION 12:30

New **GIANTS** will be appearing

**NON STOP LIVE MUSIC** on the  
New Road Stage and the Samworth Stage

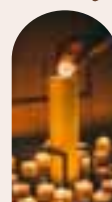
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**OLD SCHOOL FARMERS MARKET**  
May 4th - from 9:30am



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Karen Cooper - Cards - 01579 370536  
Derek Scofield - Fruit Juices - 01579 350594  
Chris George - Wood Turner- 01579 370654  
Helen Webb - Skin Care Products - 01579 683471  
Linda Losty - Aprons, Masks etc. - 07494 939086  
Neil Robyns - Pies, yogurts, etc. - 07831 625159  
Sandra Jane - Leather products - 01579 370966  
Sue Cook - Plants & Glass Ornaments - 01579 383885  
Val Kidman - Preserves & Cakes - 01579 370297  
Suzanne Shone - Felting - 01579 386992  
Veryan Barneby - Jewellery - 01579 370680  
Kendale Courts - Local Fresh Vegetables - 07813 157961  
Rosemary Hambly - Action for Children - 01579 383773

*Aderyn String Quartet*



BY CANDLELIGHT  
ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH, SOUTH HILL  
WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY  
DOORS OPEN 7PM

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<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/baroque-evening-with-the-aderyn-string-quartet-tickets-847182655247>



This News Sheet has been produced by the Trustees of **The Old School, Stoke Climsland, Callington PL17 8NY**. All enquiries should be made to the office at The Old School, tel **01579 370493** or by email at **theoldschool78@gmail.com**

The News Sheet can be viewed on The Old School **Facebook page** and is available for download at **www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk**

For more information about The Old School go to **www.oldschoolstokeclimsland.co.uk**

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER**  
SCATS PRESENTS  
**AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND POETRY**  
THEMED AROUND GUY FAWKES AND BONFIRE NIGHT  
PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY AND WATCH OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE COURSE .....



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**PARISH HALL MAY 2024**

**Regular Events:**

Monday	7 pm	1st week only	GARDENING CLUB
	7 pm	3rd week only	PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday	9 am - noon	Weekly	POP-UP CAFÉ
	1:15 - 2:15 pm	Weekly	LATINO DANCE
	7:00 pm	2nd week only	W.I.
Wednesday	7 pm	Weekly except 2nd week	BOWLS
	4.00 - 8:30 pm	Weekly	SJS DANCE ACADEMY
Thursday	9:30 - 11 am	Weekly	KEEP ACTIVE
	4 - 7:30 pm	Weekly	SJS DANCE ACADEMY
	8 - 10 pm	Weekly	CALLINGTON GOSPEL CHOIR
Friday	10am - 11am	Weekly	PILATES
	11:15 - 12:15	Weekly	MATURE MOVERS
	7 - 10:30 pm	Weekly	BRIDGE
Saturday	2 - 6 pm	1st week only	Sewing Group

All events are subject to change due to holidays etc.  
Please contact group leaders for specific info.

**Together with:**

May 1st	Morning	WOW
May 2nd	ALL DAY	ELECTIONS
May 8th	Morning	WOW
May 11th	Morning	PRIVATE HIRE - Piano Exams
May 15th	Morning	WOW
May 18th	Afternoon	PRIVATE HIRE
May 22nd	Morning	WOW
May 29th	Evening	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

For further information regarding bookings please contact Sue Watts 07836 202212 or email sue-watts@btconnect.com

**1970's Meal and ABBA Music in the Parish Hall**  
Pay bar  
Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>

**DOORS OPEN 7.00pm**      **TICKET PRICE £8**

**OLD SCHOOL MAY 2024**

**Weekly Events:**

Mondays	9 am	ACUPUNCTURE (by appt)
	8.30 am	PILATES
Tuesdays	7 pm	SCOTTISH DANCING
	10 am - 1 pm	RAGS ART GROUP
	1:30	LOVE TO MOVE
Wednesday	1:30	MAHJONG
	10 am - 3 pm	CROSS BORDER ARTS
Thursday	7pm - 8pm	CHESS CLUB
Fridays	9 - 11:30 am	TODDLER SINGING GROUP
	12 noon	FRIDAY LUNCH all welcome - please book in advance at the Old School 01579 370493

**Together with:**

May 4	9 am	VILLAGE MARKET
May 7	7 pm	VILLAGE SHOW MEETING
May 8	7:30 pm	FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
May 9	3 - 4:30 pm	LEGO CLUB
	7 pm	TRUSTEES MEETING
May 10	7 pm	FILM CLUB
May 18	9 am - 1 pm	REPAIR CAFE
May 23	3 - 4:30 pm	LIBRARY & GAMES
May 27	CLOSED	BANK HOLIDAY
May 28	7 pm	LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES MAY 2024**

SORRY NO INFORMATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THIS MONTH

**PARISH CHURCH MAY 2024**

May 4	3 pm	Messy Church in the Old School
May 5	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Morning Worship
May 12	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Holy Communion followed by Annual Meeting
May 19	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Morning Worship
May 26	8 am	BCP
	10:00	Family Service

News, diary and other information should be sent directly to wendyambrose74@gmail.com

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**Thank You Parish Council!**

The Old School News team and Trustees would like to express our thanks to the Parish Council who have recently agreed to contribute towards the costs of producing the Old School News for the next year. They agree with us that it's really important that all members of the Parish have free access to the Old School News, which of course helps to keep us all informed about what's going on at the Old School, but also about all the different facilities in the Parish and beyond. We believe that without it, people could become lonelier and more isolated, and that these facilities may struggle to promote their events and activities. It also serves to advertise local businesses, inform about local organisations, farming, and other matters of importance and interest.

As part of this grant, we have been asked by the Parish Council, to consider how we might reduce our costs. We are already supported, and to some extent subsidised, by The Printing Press to help keep our printing costs down, so need to look at other factors. One of these could be to reduce the number of copies we print. Currently, an amazing team of volunteers deliver the OSN house to house throughout the Parish. Many people also receive a copy online, via email and it's available on The Old School Website. We are considering how we could logistically manage less paper copies and more online, or via email, without increasing the load on our volunteers. If you have any thoughts on this or think you might be able to help, please do let us know either in the Old School Office, via telephone 01579 370493 or email at theoldschool78@gmail.com

Another priority is to increase advertising revenue. If you, or someone you know, would like to advertise in the OSN at very competitive rates, please contact Gill Hiscott at gillhiscott@hotmail.com to discuss how advertising throughout the Parish, and beyond, could work for you.

**Parish Council Vacancy**

Being a Parish Councillor is both interesting and rewarding. It is more than just attending a meeting for a couple of hours each month; it is an opportunity to take part in shaping the future of the community to which you belong.

A good performing council is one which provides leadership and works to achieve the outcomes that make the parish a great place to live or bring up a family. Planning, where the parish has a consultative role, is important to the community and the future of the area. Making sure that the money the council spends is used in a way that provides good value and promotes the well-being of residents. These are all important aspects of the role.

You need to have the time to commit, to work for the general good, perhaps an average of 2 hours or so a week. Time well spent when you have the satisfaction of using your experience and skills for the benefit of all and helping the community realise their hopes and ambitions. You also need to live in or very close to the Parish.

There are elections for the whole council every 4 years, the next is in 2025, but at the moment we have a vacancy due to a resignation. If you or someone you know have the right qualities, please consider applying and standing in 2025. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to talk about being a councillor. You can telephone me on 01822 762065 or email parishclerkscpc@gmail.com.

**Letter from the Editor**  
 By Wendy Ambrose

Living in a small village has both its ups and downs, but most definitely on the whole, the advantages far outweigh any disadvantages. Not too many towns have tractor runs running through their streets with those involved waving at all those watching them - it was a joy for many. Moreover, the community spirit of those in the village when there is an accident is second to none. I will not go into the details, but suffice it to say, I was very grateful for all those who stopped and helped me last month, whether that was with co-ordinating services, checking to see if they could help or bringing a much welcome cuppa! Do still have a high-vis jacket and a brilliant torch - if you could email me, I would love to get them back to you! Thank you to all involved - I am more than grateful.

There have been some enquiries about what has happened to our own Lady Foghorn - she has, it seems, been somewhat busy but has promised to return soon with more 'Know your Neighbour'.

Finally, the OSN is YOUR publication, and to this end, if you have something that you feel needs awareness being given to it, then let me know on wendyambrose74@gmail.com

If you know of any traders that would want to advertise their business, why not suggest to them that they contact gillhiscott@hotmail.com for information on how to advertise with us.

**STOKE CLIMSLAND REPAIR CAFE**

If you can carry it, we'll take a look at it.

**The Old School Stoke Climsland MAY 18th**  
 9:30am to 1pm  
 Last repair from 12:15

Lamps, radios, clocks, laptops & PC diagnosis (repair if possible), clothes, curtains, family heirlooms, vacuum cleaners, portable goods, bikes, toys and many other small items.

REPAIR CAFE

Donations for repairs & drinks, etc. are welcome to help cover costs

Also, tea, coffee, cake and a chance for a chat

A meeting place of volunteers, dedicated to fixing things, sharing their expertise and knowledge with the aim of repairing, not replacing household items



# Down on the Farm

## “May the Grass Force be with you.”

By: Martin Howlett

Following one of the wettest winter and spring periods on record with up to two thirds of our annual rainfall already precipitated, the challenge for so many farms is to save the season for the all-so-important growing crops and its impact on this next year’s harvest

and their business in general.

Autumn sown cereals which were well established, then suffered waterlogged roots, had to wait for a very late application of fertilizer top-dressing of nutrients and are now faced with little chance of managing any plant disease protection, will inevitably result in lower yield come harvest. For any spring drilling or patching-up of bare ground with barley, or indeed planting potato crops (each are beyond contemplation for many), our best hope is still to have a favourable weather window of opportunity to establish forage maize.

So despite the trials and tribulations of crop production, together with equally real challenges for livestock producers not able to get stock turned out into saturated fields, extending an already lengthy winter housing period, with slurry pits fit to burst, empty barns and silos, plus the expense of extra feed and bedding in full to capacity sheds of cows & new born calves, there is some comfort in the knowledge that our staple crop of grass continues to thrive in all weather conditions season after season.

Permanent pasture meadows not only act as a sponge for high rainfall and run off issues, but also offer a year around carbon capture sink and remain the backbone for traditional livestock grazing, whilst shorter term leys of ryegrass provide high yielding multiple cuts of grass silage conserved and ready to refill those empty pits for next winter.

An increasing sight on many local farms is the regenerative novel crop of herbal leys - a dynamic mix of traditional grass species such as fescues, cocksfoot & timothy, so familiar in old hay meadow pastures, plus a variety of clover species, lucerne & sanfoin and many other Nitrogen fixing legumes, then finally a range of herbs including chicory, plantain & yarrow, all deep rooting and drought resistant, this productive and resilient combination mix so vital to pollinators & insects, has additional nutritional and medicinal properties for both grazing livestock and silage cropping yields.

Ever the optimist and in the full knowledge that weather patterns eventually balance themselves out, we each remain hopeful that the force of nature will be with us, aid a recovery and not let us down this May - ‘Down on the Farm’.



## CHURCH MATTERS - Or Does It?

By Miranda Lawrance-Owen

Last month in “Church Matters”, Roy Cooper asked whether the church really matters today. He concluded that “the church is central to the purposes of God and is of benefit to the world around us”.

That set me thinking about what that means in a practical, every day sense for the communities around the churches in our area - especially to those who do not attend church. Do our churches matter to anyone other than those of us who attend them or love them as heritage buildings? Do we follow St Paul’s request to share with those who are in need and practise hospitality?

If you have visited the Eden Project you will probably remember the “Plant Takeaway” exhibit at the entrance, where everything which relies on plants disappears, one by one (children usually call it the “dead cat exhibition”). I remembered the Plant Takeaway when I began thinking about what our churches do in the local community and in the wider world. Are there things which matter to our communities and what would happen if they disappeared?

There are many things run by volunteers from the Callington cluster churches, such as Toddler Groups, ‘Drop In’ cafes, ‘Warm Spaces’, Soup Lunches, the Food Bank, etc. Do they matter? I am sure they do.

For example, toddler groups, are not “just” toddler groups - they provide a lifeline for new parents who may be struggling in a world where health visitors can no longer visit regularly, and they play

a vital part in preparing children for independence and school. In the words of a recent report “Beneath the surface of our noisy, messy, and chaotic sessions there is all sorts of hidden treasure. Children are learning how to interact with others, developing communication skills, gaining resilience, growing in curiosity and much more” <https://notjustaparentandtoddler.group/>

And all the toddler groups run by our churches are free.

The Foodbanks run by local churches in Callington are also completely free of charge to those who need them. They provide vital food and other supplies for desperate people, as well as a chance to chat with sympathetic listeners. There are apparently more foodbanks in the UK than there are McDonalds and almost every single one was set up by, linked to or run by, a church and its volunteers.

A report by the National Churches Trust, who provide funding to maintain and improve church buildings, has quantified the economic and social value to the UK linked to church buildings of all denominations. They found that, in 2021, the yearly value of the activities undertaken by volunteers from the nation’s churches is around £55 billion That is roughly twice as much as the total spend on adult social care by local authorities.

I am not suggesting that things which matter are only organised by churches but many of them are. It would certainly matter to people if they were not there. From Food Banks to Toddler Groups, churches provide vital services to their local communities. Churches matter.



## “The Great Escaper”

Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, Danielle Vitalis and John Standing.

Based on the true story, that made national headlines, about octogenarian Bernard Jordan who absconded from his care home in Hove in 2014 in order to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France

“ A moving and surprisingly nuanced drama offering far more than flag waving nostalgia. Superb performances from Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson in her last film role”.

“ Gentle and dignified, a grande finale for two fabulous veteran actors”.

“ The film’s sweet tone never veers into sentimentality--- the story remains grounded on the tragedy of war building to a memorable scene decrying the human cost of battle”



Doors open at 7pm for Refreshments  
Film starts 7:30pm

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2024



# Lockett Social Club

All events start at 8.00pm unless otherwise stated, with the club and bar open from 7.30pm.

Looking back to the month of March - on Friday 1st there was plenty of pointy arrows being thrown around for the Annual Audrey Pellow Darts Night, with the majority going into the dartboard but not all. 12 players took part in a round-robin style competition with the top 2 from each group progressing through to the semi-finals. With 4 regular players from the Lockett Dart team in action, it was surprising that only 2 made it through. Dean beat Geoff in one and David C beat Andy, who up until then was unbeaten all night in the other. Congratulations to

David Crawley who upset the odds to win the trophy in the Final.

On Friday 8th, David & Sari Bricknell, both back from their recent travels, asked the Questions in their ‘Around the World in 80 Question’ Quiz. 8 teams took part in various rounds on subjects from around the globe. Bonus points were awarded to the first team to complete each round by shouting Phileas Fogg. In the final controversial round, teams had to guess where certain foods came from with the winner of each question receiving a sample. Not many points separated the teams with The Unpronounceable coming in 2nd but the clear winner on 61.5pts were the Three Wise Monkeys - well done to Ian & Sally S and David Crawley.

On Saturday 16th members watched on the big screen and endured the conclusion of the 6 Nations Rugby 2024 with England narrowly losing in France.

The sound of whirling dice could be heard across the road when on Saturday 23rd Fourteen members played out high speed games of a Beetle Drive. Maxine took home the booby prize (her £2 back) with Logan coming 2nd winning £10 and Geoff with a high score of 189 body parts winning £15.

The Final event in March saw a record attendance (48) for the Easter Prize Bingo evening on Easter Saturday 30th. Most of the prizes were shared out evenly with only 2 people winning more than once. Thanks to Sheila & Danny for sourcing the prizes.

### May dates:

Friday 3rd	Darts Team Home	Saturday 11th 10 am - 3 pm	SPRING CRAFT FAYRE - Plenty of Crafts/Produce on show. Light refreshments available. All are welcome and it is free entry.
Saturday 11th Evening	EUROVISION SONG CONTEST - Swedish Party. Come along and join in the fun, dressing up optional.	Friday 17th	First Leg of the STUCKETT DARTS CHALLENGE at Stoke Climsland
Friday 24th	CASH BINGO All the tickets you need for £5	Friday 31st	Second and deciding leg STUCKETT DARTS CHALLENGE at Lockett

### Summer Events for diaries:

Saturday 1 June, LUCKETT DUCK DAY 3pm onwards at Byenleigh.

Saturday 27 July, SKITTLES EVENING at Deer Park Farm from 6:30pm onwards. Teams of 6 to register. Hot food available.

For further information visit our Facebook Page The-Lockett-Social-Club

Geoff Howlett (Hon. Sec.)



# STOKE CLIMSLAND SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

### OPENING TIMES

Wednesday & Thursday 8:00pm to 11:00pm  
Friday & Saturday 7:30pm to 11:00pm

Follow us on Facebook  
Club Secretary: Louise Power  
01579 370819 [louisepoweraok@msn.com](mailto:louisepoweraok@msn.com)

### BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 5pm to 11pm - Saturday & Sunday 12pm to 11pm

Members and non-members: look no further than the club for the ultimate beer experience! Drop in any time to sample the range of tipples on offer. As well as showing the cup final, we aim to add a sprinkling of live music so look out for further details.

It's worth reminding readers that the club's licensing and staffing arrangements allow us to sell drinks at hugely competitive prices. As examples of the great value we offer, at time of writing draught beers and ciders cost £3.30 per pint, a glass of wine will set you back £3.20, while a premium G&T amounts to £3.90. Oh, and we stock quite the assortment of gins (come in and see for yourselves).

The beer festival publicised above is open to all-comers but we're a members' club at other opening times (though non-members can be signed in as guests). Pop in to the club any time to find out how to become a member (just £5). Or just scan the accompanying QR code!

Note: The Fish & Chip night will take place on the field on 28<sup>th</sup> June; details in the next issue on how to secure the much sought-after tickets. Oh, and cheers to David and The Mets boys for their recent barnstorming set.



### UPCOMING QUIZ NIGHTS

Teams of 4 - £5 entry per team  
7:30pm for 8:00pm start

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Hosted by David & Bernard  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Hosted by Jenny & Kathleen

Hat-tips go to Gary, Magles, Dawn, Dominic, Georgia and Maurice for hosting thoroughly engaging quizzes in recent months.

## Callington 'Toddle In'

By Louise James, Children & Families Worker, Methodist Church

I was interested to read a recent article in the Church Times which says - 'the tendency to downplay the value of toddler groups has been challenged in a new booklet that highlights the vital part that they play in preparing children for school.' The booklet (<https://notjustaparentandtoddler.group/>) has been compiled by a number of organisations brought together by Dave King, the strategic director for Gather Movement, an organisation that works with churches seeking to transform communities.

The group, which included Kids Matter, Daniel's Den, Care for the Family, 1277, 5 Minus, and Love and Joy Ministries, encourages those running groups to stop prefacing references to their work with "just" ("I'm just putting out some toys"), and sets out 12 aspects of school-readiness to which the groups can contribute. These aspects include developing language, literacy, social skills, a sense of independence, a sense of routine and a sense of awe and wonder. The message to churches was to "value what is going on in your church or hall in the middle of the week".

As part of my role in the Methodist Church I head up Callington Toddle In which meets on a Thursday morning from 9.30 am - 11.30 am during term time at Callington Methodist Church. It's a joy to see how the babies and toddlers develop and it's also such a privilege to come alongside the families, whether it be parents, carers, or more often these days grandparents, to share their news, their joys and their sorrows and to help provide them with a support network. Locally we also have the fantastic WOW on Wednesdays in Stoke Climsland and Sampson's Supertots in Golberdon on a Monday and although, at times, we may all say 'it's hard work!' let's remember what fun it can be and what encouragement and appreciation the families frequently give those of us who run these groups, not forgetting the commitment of all our volunteers.

Perhaps there is something you could do to support your local toddler group?

It would be good to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel, as recorded in The Message: Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, "I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom."



### 'Callington Toddle In'

For babies, toddlers & their  
parents, grandparents, carers

CALLINGTON METHODIST  
CHURCH, Haye Road, PL17 7JJ

Each Thursday 9.30 - 11.30 am  
term time

Parking behind the Church.

01579 388840 or visit our  
Facebook page



## Carbon Zero Homes Project

By Andy Nevill, Community Energy Advisor (contact: 07799848084 or [andynevill@protonmail.com](mailto:andynevill@protonmail.com))

This will be the last bulletin for this project in its current form. Running a project of this nature is a first for the Parish Council and the funding from the community levelling up programme has now ended. The idea behind whole house retrofit is to have a plan which can be executed over time thus spreading the cost. Preparing for a net zero world is a journey and it extends beyond our homes. For example, it is estimated by Cornwall Council that in 2030 27% of us and 41% of our visitors will be driving electric vehicles. EV charging is now under consideration, and the Parish Council will continue to support net zero initiatives through the Carbon Zero Committee. Your Parish Council contact for this is Richard Davies.

A huge thank you to everyone who engaged with and supported the project, to those who gave their own time and worked hard behind the scenes and also to our fantastic team of advisors and surveyors, who together made things happen. Over an 8-month period we handled 102 enquiries, issued various advice and guidance notes, and 45 households signed up to our Property Diagnostics Campaign to receive surveys which were subsidised through the project.

What Next?

We have a new collaborative relationship with Tamar Energy Community (TEC); and many of the people who were actively involved with the project, and within our community, are happy to share their knowledge and experience. There are plans for a group of volunteers to create the Stoke Climsland Retrofit Guide, which will aim to contain much of the learning from this project and will be informed from the feedback received from the Property Diagnostics Campaign. When available, this can be downloaded from the Parish Council website and via TEC.

TEC can provide energy and retrofit advice and support for households from the parish; and can be contacted, ideally, via their website: <https://tamarenergycommunity.com/request-support/>

Finding Trustworthy Installers

We have received quite a few enquiries about how to find trustworthy installers, particularly for loft and cavity wall insulation. A good general source of potential suppliers is the TrustMark website: <https://www.trustmark.org.uk/find-a-tradesman>

For loft and cavity wall insulation you can get in touch with TEC as above.

Community Events

On 13th April we held a second drop-in event at the Old School, which was an opportunity to provide an update on the project and to offer advice and support. There is also interest in holding a meeting to discuss the truths and myths about heat pumps, which are frequently misrepresented in the tabloid newspapers and on social media channels - so this is also being considered.

The Carbon Zero Homes Project aims to support households to make changes to existing buildings so that energy consumption and emissions are reduced, and your home is warmer, healthier and more comfortable. This project is fully funded by the Community Levelling Up Programme.



## Stoke Climsland Gardening Club

By Mike Casebow

Last autumn, Dale Wood of Rilla Mill gave us an interesting talk on "Bee Keeping". Following a last-minute cancellation, he stepped in again for our April meeting to give another fascinating talk about bees - did you know, for instance that:

Bees have 5 eyes: two compound eyes plus a further three light detectors, which are used as flying aids to determine up/down orientation?

One third of the plants we eat have been pollinated by bees?

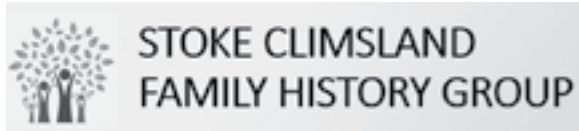
Since the 1970's, we have lost 97% of our flower meadows?

It hardly feels like summer but for the next few months the Club has arranged a programme of outdoor visits to local gardens. These will take place on the first Monday in the month, leaving the Parish Hall by car at 6pm. The 6th May visit is Cathy and Keith Walters' gardens in North Petherwin





By Derrick Parsons  
 We have now completed our 2023/2024 indoor sessions and we are moving outside for a series of 'walk and talks'. The first of these will be on May 28th, when local Blue Badge Guide, Chrissie Le Marchant, will be guiding us through the history and archaeology of Kit Hill. We'll meet in the Summit Car Park, ready to start at 6.30 pm. Fingers crossed that the weather is good or, failing that, acceptable!  
 All are welcome to come along and if you want more information, please contact Deri Parsons on 01579 370319 or via email: derrick.parsons@btinternet.com You can also contact him if you'd like to be added to our mailing list for details of our meetings.



By Deri Parsons  
 The next session of the Family History Group will be on May 8th and the topic to be covered will be Sources of Family History Information.  
 Family History research relies on good quality information and we'll attempt to provide you with a comprehensive and structured review of all the sources that we know about and, importantly, how to access them. You'll be amazed at their range, types and scope.  
 All are welcome to come along to our meeting at 7.30pm at the Old School; there will be a charge of £2 per session to cover costs.  
 Remember, as an adjunct to the meetings, we can offer 1-to-1 sessions where specific issues and/or problems can be addressed which will be held at any convenient time of day.  
 If you want any more information, contact Deri Parsons (01579 370319 or derrick.parsons@btinternet.com) or John Wilmut (01579 370736 or johnwilmut@btinternet.com)

## Riding for the Disabled



By Sarah Thomas  
 If you have ever wondered what it is that we do when we have our lessons, this is a very brief breakdown.  
 The aims of our lessons are to:

- Enable our riders to make own decisions - we do this with playing matching games and follow my leader
- Enable our riders to start and stop - we do this by playing grandmother's footsteps
- Enable our riders to steer - we play matching games and follow my leader
- Develop our riders' concentration - we play matching games and grandmother's footsteps
- Practice physical exercises - stationary and moving

Has this intrigued you at all?  
**Reminder Alert:** our sessions are from 1pm to 4pm on a Wednesday at Duchy College and we'd love to meet you.

## Ecumenical All Age Good Friday Walk of Witness

By Louise James  
 A moving Ecumenical All Age Good Friday Walk of Witness took place at Stoke Climsland, starting at the Parish Church and finishing at the Methodist Church. Thanks to: our friends from the Parish Church who led us, especially Dominic and Dawn Nelson, those who took part and also those who provided welcome toasted Hot Cross Buns and hot drinks at Stoke Climsland Methodist Church at the end of the walk, where the Flower Team had created some beautiful displays depicting events from Palm Sunday to the Ascension.



## STOKE CLIMSLAND WI



In March we held our Annual Meeting and we were delighted that Chrissie Le Marchant agreed to continue as our President for another year.  
 We were visited by Georgia and Lindy who both work in The Probation Service. They talked to us about the history of the service and some of the changes that have occurred during the last hundred years. Recently the Probation Service merged with the Prison Service to form HM Prison and Probation Service. There is a lot of focus nowadays on the transition from Prison to the community. Probation Officers work in conjunction with offenders, police and prison staff, court officials, and victims. They ensure that offenders adhere to conditions set by the court and assess their needs, providing resources to support their return to the community. This sometimes involves using halfway houses. We heard about such places which exist and are planned for Women in Plymouth. It was a very interesting and thought-provoking talk.

In March we also hosted a Coffee Morning in aid of Marie Curie. It was good to welcome lots of villagers who enjoyed the delicious cakes and took part in the raffle. The sum of £314.44 was raised by donations.  
 Anyone is welcome to join us for our social 'craft' evenings held at the Social Club. You don't need to be a member of the WI and you don't have to be able to knit or crochet you are welcome to bring along any sort of craft project you are working on - we look forward to welcoming some new crafters! See our Stoke Climsland WI facebook page for future dates.

Dates for your Diary

14th May -	Forever Blooms, Metal Petals	
	Chris Beardsmore	Open Meeting
11th June	Talk on Scouts trip to S. Korea	Open Meeting
9th July	To be arranged	
August	Summer picnic	
10th Sep	Blood Bikes	Open Meeting

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in Stoke Climsland Parish Hall at 7:30pm and new members and visitors are always welcome. There is a charge of £4.50 which includes homemade refreshments (no charge for members of other WI's). We look forward to welcoming you to one of our meetings.

Look out for information about future events on the local notice boards and on our facebook page, Stoke Climsland WI.

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# STOKE CLIMSLAND PARISH CHURCH

## AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE REFURBISHMENTS

By Derrick Parsons

It has been a while, almost two years, since we last gave you an update on the refurbishments taking place in the Parish Church. A lot has happened since then and, if you visit the church, you can see the impressive results of the ongoing work. It is all being done by a band of skilled and enthusiastic volunteers. I will not mention any names (we will have a full roll call at a later date), but you'll probably be able to recognise them from their aching backs, limbs and sore knees!

The most recent work has focussed on solving a damp problem caused by soil and ash being dumped against the north wall. Also, the retiling has moved from the chancel into the nave - and what a major undertaking this has been: pews and pew platforms have had to be removed as these were far more worm-eaten than anticipated. Most of the wood was only fit for burning but some of the pews should be OK for recycling - if you are interested, contact a church warden!

Once the pews were removed, the hard work of laying and levelling a concrete floor (all mixed by hand) was completed before tiling could start. And, although this is still in progress as I write, it is moving forward more quickly than anticipated, again thanks to the merry band of volunteers.

To a large extent, the work is repairing damage that has been done in the past, mainly by the Victorians; the result will be a much more uniform, attractive and friendly interior. The photographs here, which will give you an idea of what has been done, but why not pop in and take a look for yourself? You will be impressed.



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