

THE OLD SCHOOL NEWS

Issue 259
February 2025



THE OLD SCHOOL HAS BEEN A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR 25 YEARS !

Keep a look out for forthcoming special events for people of all ages throughout the year to celebrate this amazing Community Centre.



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CHRISTMAS PARTY JAZZ AT THE OLD SCHOOL
On Saturday 8th February 2025
Please note new date from postponed December event.

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start.
Price £20 pp. includes a delicious 2 course meal

Please book via the Old School 01579370493
Email: theoldschool78@gmail.com
Or contact Vivienne Davis on 07798751337

THE OLD SCHOOL, STOKE CLIMSLAND PRESENTS A

DINNER & BLUES NIGHT

WITH



THE MIGHTY HOWLERS

Roaring Rhythm & Blues

INCLUDES A DELICIOUS 2 COURSE MEAL

Saturday 8th March	AT THE OLD SCHOOL STOKE CLIMSLAND, CALLINGTON PL17 8NY
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TICKETS

£20	ADULT	7.30 PM	
£16	UNDER 18'S		

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE OLD SCHOOL
01579 370493 OR VISIT:
WWW.OLDSCHOOLSTOKECLIMSLAND.CO.UK

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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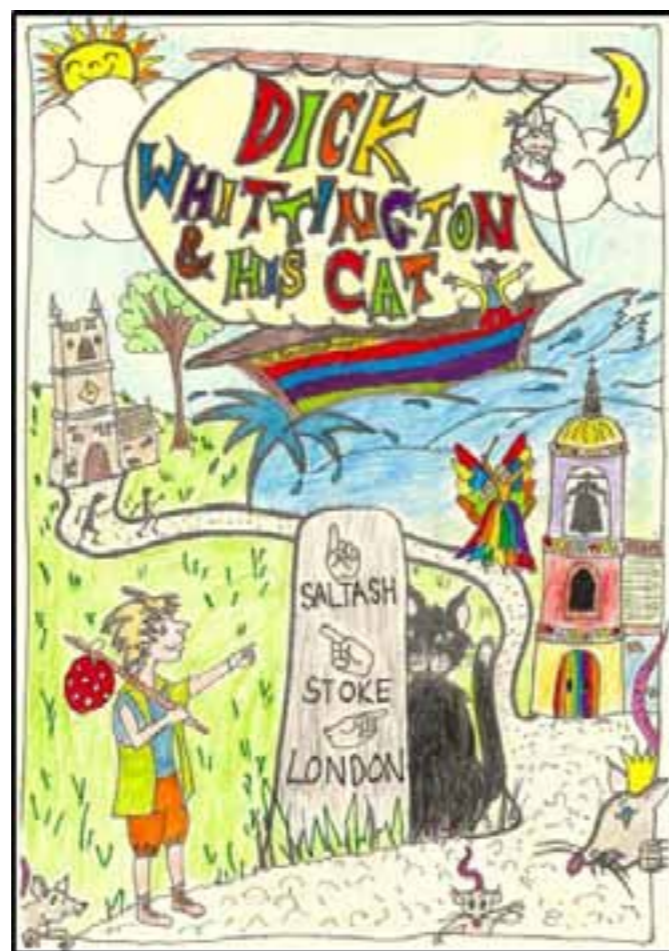


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CONGRATULATIONS
Kyle Bateman on your winning entry

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Letter from the Editor

By Wendy Ambrose



It does not seem it, but it is now over a year ago that I wrote my first 'Letter from the Editor', and now I am writing my last. There are certainly mixed emotions whilst I write this, but I know that the next incumbent - Hamish Johnston - will be an excellent Editor.

As always, the OSN is YOUR publication, so if there is something that you wish to see in it, then let us know, or better still, submit something to be included.

There are very few rules that have to be adhered to, and those that must be followed are not onerous:

Copy must be submitted on the 10th of every month (currently by 8pm) - it does take time to edit work and even more time is needed to confirm layout, and that is before it is checked again before submitting to print. If the deadline is ignored, then the information you read may very well have lost its significance.

Copy must be submitted on a separate document (not in the text of an email) and can only be received by email at osneditor@gmail.com. Photographs must also be received in this manner.

Word limits apply. The maximum word count is 500 words with 900 as an exception and with prior Editor approval.

Copy cannot be submitted with expectation that the Editor will not apply his discretion to edit it if he feels that that is needed.

There are some amazing people in this community who tirelessly give to others with no expectation to receive in return. We really do live in an amazing place.

PARISH CHURCH FEBRUARY 2025

Feb 2	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Morning Worship
	2.30 pm	Remembering God
Feb 9	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Holly Communion
Feb 16	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Morning Worship
Feb 23	8 am	BCP
	10 am	Family Service
	6:30 pm	Cluster Informal Communion at St Mary's

METHODIST CHURCH FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday Worship 11am (unless stated)	
Feb 2	Brenda Grundy
Feb 9	Keith Mutton
Feb 16	Professor Noel Morgan
Feb 23	Local Arrangement

News, diary and other information should be sent directly to: osneditor@gmail.com
All advertising enquires should be sent to: gillhiscott@hotmail.com

OLD SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2025

Weekly Events:

Mondays	9 am	ACUPUNCTURE (by appt)
	8.30 am	PILATES (RUTH NEVILL)
	7.30 pm	SCOTTISH DANCING
Tuesdays	10 am - 1 pm	RAGS ART GROUP
	1:30 pm	MAHJONG
Wednesday	10 am - 3 pm	CROSS BORDER ARTS
Thursday	10 am - 11 am	PILATES (JAYNE DOWDSWELL) (Dec 24)
	11:20 am - 12:20	MATURE MOVERS DANCE CLASS (Dec 24)
Fridays	9 - 11:30 am	TODDLER SINGING GROUP
	12 noon	FRIDAY LUNCH all welcome - please book in advance. 01579 370493

Together with:

Feb 1	9 am	VILLAGE MARKET
Feb 6	5:30 pm	HEAT PUMPS - FACT OR FICTION?
Feb 8	7 pm	JAZZ & 2 COURSE MEAL. RIVIERA RAMBLERS
Feb 11	2 pm	LOOK GROUP
Feb 13	3pm - 4.30pm	LEGO CLUB
	7:30 pm	TRUSTEES MEETING
Feb 15	9 am - 1 pm	REPAIR CAFE
	7:30 pm	FILM CLUB
Feb 18	9:30 - 10:30	BOOK CLUB
Feb 25	7:30 pm	LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Feb 27	6:30 pm	OPEN MIC NIGHT

PARISH HALL FEBRUARY 2025

Regular Events:

Monday	7 pm	1 st week only	GARDENING CLUB
	7 pm	2 nd week only	CIO (back room)
	7 pm	3 rd week only	PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday	7 pm	2/4 th weeks	SCATS Rehearsal
	9 am - noon	Weekly	POP-UP CAFÉ
	7:00 pm	2 nd week only	W.I.
Wednesday	7 pm	Weekly except 2 nd week	BOWLS
	4.00 - 6:30 pm	Weekly	SJS DANCE
Thursday	9:30 - 11 am	Weekly	KEEP ACTIVE
	4 - 7:30 pm	Weekly	SJS DANCE
	8 - 10 pm	Weekly	CALLINGTON GOSPEL CHOIR
Friday	7 - 10:30 pm	Weekly	BRIDGE
Saturday	9 am - noon	1 st week only	TABLE TOP SALE
	2 - 6 pm	1 st & 3 rd week only	SEWING GROUP

PLEASE NOTE Some events are subject to change due to holidays etc. Please check with individual events if unsure.

Together with:

Sat 15 Feb to Sun 02 March SCATS block booking		
Feb 21, 22 & 28	7pm	Panto
Feb 22	2 pm	Panto Matinee Performance

For further information regarding bookings please contact Brian Lupton 07766305376 or email luptonb@btinternet.com

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Upcoming Events at The Old School

Thursday 6th February @ 5.30pm
HEAT PUMPS - FACT OR FICTION? A talk providing up-to-date impartial information on this topic and to have an opportunity for some discussion. FREE - but book online via website to secure your place.

Saturday 8th February @ 7pm
JAZZ - RIVIERA RAMBLERS with 2 course meal £20pp. This is the postponed Christmas Party which was cancelled due to bad weather. Book online via our website or contact the office 01579 370493

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd February
ARCHIVE OPEN WEEKEND - talks, displays and activities about local history of the area using historical data held in the Stoke Climsland Archives. Visit The Old School website for details.

Thursday 27th February @ 6.30pm
OPEN MIC NIGHT. For all ages - young or older! Bar, soft drinks & homemade pasties. FREE to attend but book online via our website or contact the office 01579 370493 to book your spot.

Saturday 8th March @ 7.30pm
DINNER & BLUES NIGHT - THE MIGHTY HOWLERS. Includes a delicious 2 course meal. £20 Adult/£16 Under 18's. Book online via our website or contact the office 01579 370493

15th-23rd March
HERITAGE LOTTERY OPEN WEEK
Talks, displays and kids activities celebrating our 25th anniversary and the support received by The Heritage Lottery fund. Visit The Old School website for details.

Friday 16th May @ 7pm
DINNER & LIVE MUSIC with BLACK FRIDAY a fab local Celtic Folk Punk duo which have even played at Glastonbury! (Details & booking coming soon.....)

Along with our regular events such as:
The Farmers Market & Breakfast (1st Saturday of the month 9.30am-midday)
Film Club (2nd Friday of the month 7pm)
Repair Cafe (3rd Saturday of the month 9.30am-1pm)
Lego Club (2nd Thursday of the month 3.00-4.30pm)

For more information visit:
www.oldschoolstokeclimsland.co.uk or
The Old School Stoke Climsland Facebook page

Speedwatch Stoke Climsland

By Deris Watson

Excessive speed is one of the "Fatal Five" factors in accidents and deaths on our roads. Speedwatch was set up to help educate drivers on the need to always be aware of their speed. The Downgate group has been very successful in reducing excessive speeds on Downgate Hill but there are roads in the wider parish which people feel also have a speeding problem.

If you would like to be involved and help with the work, please register with Speedwatch as follows visit: www.communityspeedwatch.org

click REGISTER
then JOIN EXISTING TEAM
then DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE
then CORNWALL EAST
then the group name STROKE CLIMSLAND
Please then follow the online registration process to make an application to join the team which will include completing a small online quiz.

Once you have done this, we can arrange your operator training.



On the evening of Friday 13 December, the Wheal Martha Band held their third annual "Christmas Celebration", this year with new members Adrian (tenor saxophone) and Peter (cornet). The weather was kind to Lockett villagers, friends and family carolling on the bridge, before they retired to the social club for further singing and seasonal refreshments, including mince pies, Alison's excellent home-made Christmas sausage rolls (with cranberry and brie, or chorizo and fennel) and mulled wine, all expertly served by Danny and Sheila.

Nigel gave a rendition of the much-loved early 1800s poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas", which was well received. Special pieces by The Wheal Martha Band included a saxophone arrangement of "Winter Wonderland", "Santa Baby" and the very lively "Feliz Navidad".

Jodie Struck had travelled up from Truro to talk about the work of (possibly Cornwall's oldest charity) "iSight", founded in 1856. She told how their services are free to all Cornish residents and the charity aims to support all who are affected by sight loss to lead active, independent and involved lives. Jodie brought along some very useful aids to show us, including a small audio device that hooks over a cup when making a hot drink to avoid scalding and overflowing - simple but very effective.

A slightly different line-up of the band played a similar "Christmas Celebration" a few days later at The Honicombe Arms, Honicombe Holiday Park with euphonium player Catherine joining us. Thank you to hosts, Matt and Denise Martin.

A collection was made at both festive evenings when everyone gave very generously and raised a fantastic total of £425.03 for the charity.

The band already have a couple of engagements lined up for 2025 - why not come along and listen - watch this space for further details!



“The Wild Robot”

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emily Blunt, Hannah Waddingham and Lee Major.

Based on the 2016 book of the same name, *The Wild Robot* is an animated adventure film by Dreamworks about a robot, Roz, who is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island. Roz has to learn to cope with the harsh environment and build relationships with the animals on the island whilst caring for an orphaned gosling.

“A dazzling triumph of animation, *The Wild Robot* is wondrous entertainment that dazzles the eye while filling your heart to the brim.”

“Few films have the power to evoke such strong emotions, *The Wild Robot* is a treasure trove of valuable life lessons for everyone.”

“An absolute delight of a film, an animated wonder, there’s no film I’ve seen more in 2024.”

A universally critically acclaimed success at the Golden Globes, this film was nominated for the Best Animated feature film, Best Original score and Best Original song.



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

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Friday February 14th 2025

**OLD SCHOOL
FARMERS MARKET**
February 1st - from 9:30am



**JOIN US
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Wednesdays@10.30

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- Linda Losty - Aprons, Masks etc. - 07494 939086
- Sandra Jane - Leather products - 01579 370966
- Sue Cook - Plants & Glass Ornaments - 01579 383885
- Val Kidman - Preserves & Cakes - 01579 370297
- Suzanne Shone - Felting - 01579 386992
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- Kendale Courts - Local Fresh Vegetables - 07813 157961
- Rosemary Hambly - Action for Children - 01579 383773



Stoke Climsland Amateur Theatrical Society
is proud to present their Pantomime for 2025



Dick Whittington & His Cat

Leaving behind his beloved Stoke Climsland, our hero Dick, sails to London with Cap'n Codpeace to seek his fortune. Acquiring an unusual travelling companion along the way, he finds himself in a London overrun by rampant, rascally, rodents!
Can our hero save the City? Will the rats rule regardless? Will the sun shine on Stoke this Summer?
For the answer to some of these questions, come along to Stoke Climsland Parish Hall!

Evening Performances will take place at 7.00pm on
Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd February &
Friday 28th February & Saturday 1st March &
Matinée Performances on Saturdays 22nd February & 1st March at 2.00pm

**TICKETS ON SALE FROM STOKE CLIMSLAND POST OFFICE
NOW!**

Adult Tickets £7.00, Child Tickets £3.50 (Under 14),
Family Ticket (2A+2C) £18.00

We look forward to seeing you there!



SCATS PANTOMIME 2025 - COLOURING COMPETITION

See page 1 for winning entry

SCATS are very grateful, once again, to Stoke Climsland Primary School for facilitating our Pantomime Poster Colouring Competition. The entries were of an extremely high standard across the school. The poster entries are judged 'blind' in that whilst we look at each Year Group together, the names of the entrants are not revealed until the winning pictures are chosen. The Competition for Overall Winner is then decided from the outstanding entries from each Year Group. Once again it was an extremely close competition, but we are delighted to announce that the Overall Winner, whose Entry (from an original drawing by Sara Hooley) is our Poster and the cover of the Pantomime Programme for Dick Whittington & His Cat, is Kyle Bateman of Year 5. Congratulations Kyle on your winning entry!

In addition, the Overall Winner and each Year Group Winner receives a Complimentary Family Ticket to the 2025 Pantomime.

Details of Tickets and Performances can be found at Stoke Climsland Post Office, on Social Media,

SCATS Supporting Young Talent

Stoke Climsland Amateur Theatrical Society is introducing a bursary scheme to support young talent in stage and theatre.

Founded in 1987 SCATS has been providing theatrical entertainment for the community ever since in the form of plays, poetry and, of course, the annual pantomime. This pantomime experience has been the inspiration and springboard for many young people to go on and explore stage and music outside of the local community.

SCATS is now offering a Youth Theatre Bursary to a maximum of £250 to members up to the age of 18 who are seeking to participate in theatre workshops and training in the hope that it will encourage and support more young people to explore the stage and performance arts further and have more opportunities to gain experience.

If you are a member of SCATS and would like more information please email: Treasurer@scatsociety.org.uk

Interested in getting involved in SCATS? We are always open to new members - on the stage and behind the scenes. Please get in touch: chair@scatsociety.org.uk

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the SCATS Pantomime 2025! They are available now in Stoke Climsland Post.



Parish Hall Update

By Martin Howlett

A belated Happy New Year to all of our regular hirers and supporters of the Parish Hall - we warmly welcome you back and all look forward to a brighter and less challenging 2025. With several Parish Hall fundraising events already planned - see notices below, including a social evening talk on Flying Boat Pilots by local author Mark Alderson (date to be confirmed due to illness), together with the return of the ever popular SCATS annual pantomime at the end of the month, we eagerly look forward to full houses each night.

Hopefully everyone will appreciate the latest in house upgrade of energy efficient LED lighting throughout, as well as the bluetooth technology to aid the sound system for live music during performances. Remember with free wi-fi access, powerpoint projection and big screen installed we offer much more than the traditional open space low cost DIY hall hire.



Further improvements to entrance doors and front façade are planned, with the emergency northern extension side door now already in place, plus the eagerly awaited refurbishment of our popular self-service kitchen.

Finally a friendly reminder to users of ample car parking

for x5 immediately outside the parish hall, with more parking available just around the corner of the green or even at

the side of the social club if in need of a post event drink with club members as guests - please park responsibly to allow clear access of the main bus route and village roadway thoroughfare.

We look forward to welcoming you all at an event in the Parish Hall very soon and weather permitting - spring is just around the corner.

These are the notes submitted directly by the Parish Council Clerk. There have been no amendments or edits made to this text and are included within this edition of the OSN with the caveat that they are not formal minutes of the recent Parish Council meeting; it was however felt that the information contained would be of interest to the OSN readers.

Stoke Climsland Parish Council

By Derris Watson

The Parish Council has decided to set an increase in the Precept for 2025-6 in line with inflation at 3.95%. This equates to 5p extra per week for a band D property.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will be brought to the Council at its meeting on 20th January for their agreement to proceed to the final 6 week consultation by the steering group. All the proposed plan and its evidence base together with the results of all previous consultations will be available. Watch out for the summary leaflet and the invitation to submit your views. Following any adjustments to take those results into account the plan will be submitted to Cornwall Council who will then take it through the final steps to a referendum of the Parish.

The successful Carbon Zero Homes Project is still attracting attention from many parts of the country with other larger councils asking to use either our business model or to use the Retrofit Animation, which you can see at: Stoke Climsland Carbon Zero Homes Project - YouTube. It explains in simple terms the ways you can make your home warmer, healthier and save money at the same time.

The Council is also working with Cornwall Council and local landowners to keep the footpaths open and usable across the parish. They recognise the health benefits and enjoyment many of you get from being able to walk in our beautiful countryside and have done extra work to several of the routes in the last couple of years.

Over the last few years, they have installed new grit bins to supplement those that were originally in place and dog waste bins, which they pay Cornwall Council to empty, helping to keep our countryside a pleasant place to be.

There will be an election for all 10 seats on the Parish Council on 1st May. There are already two vacancies as there have been resignations. Do you have ideas that might bring improvements to the Parish, could you give some time to keeping Stoke Climsland such a great place to live? If you are interested and would like to know more, please talk to the Parish Clerk.

To contact the Council please email: parishclerkscpc@gmail.com




Coming to the Parish Hall in 2025



February:	1st February Table top sale - 9am - noon 21st, 22nd, 28th February & 1st March It's PANTO time
March:	29th March from 9am Well Being Day Holistic therapies, massage, aromatherapy Shiatsu and more.
April	5th April (1st Saturday of the month) Table top Sale
May	18th May from 9am Woman's Pamper Day Manicure, pedicure, facials


There will be other events so keep an eye on the Old School News and facebook. If you have any ideas of events to raise money for the Parish Hall - Contact: louisepoweraok@msn.com



STOKE CLIMSLAND

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

OPENING TIMES
Wednesday to Saturday 7:30pm to 11:00pm

SIX NATIONS RUGBY 

We'll show the following matches, opening approximately half an hour before kick-off. Keep an eye on the socials for details on food provision.

Saturday 1st February Ireland v England 4:45pm
Saturday 8th February England v France 4:45pm
Saturday 22nd February England v Scotland 4:45pm
Saturday 8th March Ireland v France 2:15pm
Scotland v Wales 4:45pm
Saturday 15th March Wales v England 4:45pm

ALSO COMING UP IN MARCH

Sunday 23rd March - Sunday afternoon live music with "Black Friday" from 2:30pm.
Friday 28th March - The live music continues as we enjoy a set from "Pork Chop with a Cider Banjo". Doors open from 7:30pm and food will be available.
Saturday 29th March - Annual General Meeting from 7:30pm.

VALENTINE'S MEAL 8th February
By the time you read this, £10 tickets will be on sale in the club and Post Office for this annual highlight. Join us for a sumptuous two-course meal that includes a delicious steak and ale pic. We might even throw in a raffle.


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

Saturday 15th February - Gary & Magles compering
Saturday 15th March - Hosted by Georgia & Maurice

WITHOUT WHOM
A big thank you to David for leading the carols on our fantastic Christmas Raffle night, and to Sharon and Aaron for their virtuoso accompaniment. Cheers to Jenny and Kath for the questions at the January quiz.

ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP £5
Still not joined or renewed your membership? Absolutely no problem, you can still do so any time for just £5. Pop into the club or you can even do so online using the QR code to the left. Non-members are welcome to come in for a drink or attend the social events - we just ask that you sign in as guests.

Follow us on Facebook
Club Secretary: Louise Power
01579 370819 louisepoweraok@msn.com



CALLINGTON & DISTRICT TWINNING NEWS DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF TWINNING

November saw members coming together for the annual dinner, which this year meant tasting the delights of a raclette evening, an occasion which pleased all those who attended.

With the New Year well underway our attention turned to the preparations for the customary Burns Night Supper which has been so successful over the years. Once again we enjoyed the delights of a traditional supper with all the traditional elements associated with celebrating Scotland's favourite bard.

Annual General Meeting

Anyone interested in what has been going on in the world of twinning is warmly invited to attend the AGM in the Council Chamber of Callington Town Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 7th February. Not only will you be able to catch up with the latest news, but you are invited to join us with a glass of wine and a selection of bread and cheese.

Would twinning suit me?

Many people have not heard of twinning or know what it entails - and before you ask, you don't need to be a twin or have twins to qualify! If you would like to know how twinning could enhance your life and open up new horizons for you, your family or an organisation you are involved in, why not come along to our Open Evening in the Council Chamber of Callington Town Hall from 7.00pm on Friday 28th February?

You'll be able to chat to people who have been involved in twinning over the years and hear how twinning has added to or, indeed, changed their lives.

Coming up soon

We are in the process of organising a visit to Guipavas, our French twin town, at the end of May. If you would like to join us for the weekend and require more details, contact Sue Lumley on the number below or come along to either of the above meetings in Callington Town Hall.

If you think that you might be interested in twinning for yourself, your family or your organisation, further details about twinning in general can be obtained on our web site (www.callingtontwinning.weebly.com) or why not give chairman Sue Lumley a ring (Tel: 01579 382 705)?



Start the new year with free weekly walks in Tamar Valley National Landscape



National Landscapes are the perfect places to find peace and fresh air this winter.

The Tamar Valley, just one of 46 National Landscapes throughout the UK, is no exception, with scenic woodland and breathtaking river views to enjoy, and rich mining heritage to discover.

Our three, free, weekly walking groups offer the chance to explore areas within Tamar Valley National Landscape that you may not be familiar with, as well as places a little further afield. Spend time in Nature, boost your wellbeing and meet new people with the latest



programmes that cover the next three months.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, our qualified walk leaders will help you to discover new routes in the Tamar Valley and beyond, or revisit old favourites. Most walks last around two hours, and range from 2 to 4½ miles in length. They often include a coffee stop part way round or at the end.

The Saltash Walk & Talk group meet every Monday at 10:30am. Walk along footpaths and fields from Latchbrook to Trematon, enjoy a circular walk around St Mellion or stroll around St Germans near the River Lynher. This group also explores the South West Coast Path, including walks around Mount Batten, Seaton and Wembury this season. If you enjoy walks around formal gardens, a walk around Lanhydrock Estate is planned for 17 March.



On Wednesday mornings, join the Tamar Valley Walk & Talk group. On the Cornish side, they'll explore Calstock, Lucket and Deer Park Farm, with walks on the Devon bank including Weir Quay, Bere Alston, Tavistock, Yelverton and Lopwell. Walks that pass mining remains include Kit Hill, Wheal Fanny and Harrowbarrow.

Over the next three months, Tamar & Bere Wellbeing Walks will explore a number of local routes on both side of the river each Thursday, including a walk along quiet lanes and through fields around Milton Combe; walks around Tamar Trails, Tavistock Canal and Hingston Down; and a stroll around Bohetherick and Cotehele Mill, which will pass

through old market gardens.

All walking programmes can be found here - <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/discover-explore/walking/free-walk-groups/>

There's no need to book, and you can join in with as many or as few as you would like. Please wear appropriate footwear and comfortable clothing. A walking stick is useful, too. Please also consider bringing a drink and snack, particularly for longer walks. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome (at walk leader's discretion). All walkers participate at their own risk.



The Flippin' Marvellous Pancake Party
 Wednesday 19th February
 10 am to 12 noon
 at
 Callington Methodist Church PL17 7JJ
 Creativity, Challenges, Pancakes with sweet or
 savoury toppings
 Pay As You Feel - proceeds to Callington Foodbank
 further details
www.callingtonmethodist.org
 01579 388840

Lucket Social Club

By: Geoff Howlett



This is something of a reflection from over the last 2 months of 2024, culminating in an exciting look forward to our [planned events in 2025.

On Friday 8th November it was eyes down for Cash Bingo, with the prize money being shared out fairly evenly. On the following Saturday 16th the Club held its Annual Craft Fayre; thanks to everyone who supported the event and to the various stall holders for their wonderful crafts. On Friday 22nd there was a big Cornish theme with the showing of both Fisherman's Friends films. A delightful evening with traditional pasties and saffron cake served at half time.

The festive season got underway on Friday 6th December with the Christmas Prize Bingo. Thanks to Sheila & Danny for sourcing the Prizes and to everyone who came to the evening. Luke won the top prize of a gammon dinner as well as a chicken dinner earlier.

The following Friday (13th), the Club supported the Wheal Martha Band's Christmas Night which started on Lucket Bridge with carols before retreating to the warmth of the Club for mince pies and mulled wine. More carols were played and thanks to everyone's generosity over £250 was raised for their chosen charity - Eye Sight Cornwall.

Our last event for 2024 was the Christmas Party on Saturday 21st. Members and guests enjoyed the live music performed by The Johnny Mac Trio. Thanks to Christine for coordinating the fantastic buffet which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The evening concluded with Adrian (who else?) and Debs leading the dancing. The Xmas 100 Draw was won by Tanya Daw, second Dave Jones and third David Seward. The 50 number draw 1st Nigel Lloyd, 2nd Deb Glassborow and 3rd Tim Skegg. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

Dates for the December diary:

Saturday 1st	Quiz all About Time - Join Dr Who Else (David Bricknell) and his chums in a journey through time. Bring your own time travellers or team up on the night, because time and Dr Who Else will wait for no-one!		
Friday 7th	A Cornish Shout, led by Richard Long and friends	Saturday 22nd	A visit to SCATS Pantomime in the Parish Hall
Saturday 15th	Cash Bingo. All the tickets you need for just £5		
Events start at 8pm with Club and Bar open from 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.			

England's 6 Nation Rugby Matches will also be shown on the screen at 4.15pm on Saturday 1st Saturday 8th and Saturday 22nd Club open half an hour prior to kick off.

Keep the dates free:

Saturday 31st May Lucket Duck Day at Byenleigh, Lucket

Saturday 26th July Skittles Evening at Deer Park Farm from 6.30pm

Saturday 2nd August Music in the Barn, Deer Park Farm with BlackFriday

For further info visit our facebook page The-Lucket-Social-Club. Membership is now due, Adults £8 and Seniors £6.

TAMAR VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

By Angus Parker

Do you enjoy singing? Would you value some camaraderie and fun in your life? Well, Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir welcomes new members so why not give it some consideration?

Are you concerned that you wouldn't be good enough? Don't be! You don't even need to be able to read music. You'd be surprised at what you can achieve with some friendly support and help. Don't hesitate - come and give it a go. Men of all ages are welcome.

The Choir has about 25 members and was founded in 2006. It has a full programme of concerts, entertaining audiences in Devon and Cornwall through which it has helped to raise thousands of pounds for local and national charities. The music repertoire is wide - including traditional male voice pieces, songs from the shows, folk songs & songs from the "pop" scene. There really is something for every taste.

Where do we rehearse? - Callington Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday evenings 7.30p.m.

Interested in finding out more? Chat to Geoff Gunning - 01752 895102

or visit the website : www.tamarvalleymvc.com

A warm welcome awaits you!



Riding for the Disabled

By Sarah Thomas

Very best wishes for a happy 2025!

Another new year! Is it just my imagination, or do they come round more quickly as the years pass? It's not possible to foresee all that the new year will bring, but one thing that will definitely happen this year is that the Duchy College Riding for the Disabled group will continue to offer riding for any people in the area with a physical problem or learning difficulty and whom it's thought that horse riding would help.

In my last column of 2024 I suggested that a very good resolution for 2025 would be to come and visit us during one of our sessions - Duchy College, Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 3:45ish during College terms - to see what is involved when you volunteer with us. I may also have mentioned that there's usually cake involved!

There are all sorts of different tasks needing to be carried out each session, so there's generally something for everyone. If you're reasonably fit, there's the task of walking beside the rider to make sure they're safe on their horse. One of the side-walkers will also be tasked with giving a brief verbal report on your rider's progress. If you're happy to do so and are used to horses, you may be asked to lead the aforementioned equine.

If you are not so fit you may be asked to act as 'eyes on the ground', which means that you keep a beady eye on the lesson to make sure that there aren't any problems, and report anything that's worrying you to the coach taking the ride. This is necessary because it's not possible for the coach to be watching all the riders at any one time and, above all, we need to ensure that our riders are safe at all times. Another task for the not-so-fit might be to make brief notes of how each rider has got on from information given by one of the side-walkers, as mentioned above. This is very helpful to the coach as, not usually being gifted with eyes in the back of their head (sadly!), as mentioned above, they may not be aware of everything that's happening at any one time.

Another most important task for the not-so-fit is to take charge of one of the horses during the times between the rides so that the leaders and side-walkers can take the opportunity to refresh themselves with a cuppa and maybe a slice of the aforementioned cake. Following the well-known idea that there are no calories in birthday cake, I rather suspect that the same applies to cake eaten during a session of Riding for the Disabled!

If I've persuaded you to come and meet us, you can contact us on Facebook: RDA Duchy Group, or you can email our Group Secretary at kycl@btinternet.com. We'd love to meet you.



Down on the Farm

By: Martin Howlett

'What did the Romans ever do for us?' A question often asked when looking back in history - so maybe a modern take should be, as we enter 2025, 'What did farmers ever do for society?'

A new government, keen to implement change and challenged by a fragile economy, have (as alluded to in previous DOTF articles) taken issue with both farming and fellow small businesses: they are intent on removing the long established one hundred percent Inheritance Tax Relief (IHT) allowances on assets for both Agricultural Property Relief (APR) - agricultural land, farmhouse and buildings and Business Property Relief (BPR) - machinery, fixed equipment and livestock values - all capital items essential to running any business and not liquid assets held for investment or personal gain.

Dubbed the 'family farm tax', this proposal is robustly challenged on its potential impact on most farm business family partnerships over the next generation (take note - the HM Treasury figures of just 500 farms being affected are at odds with the industry figures which indicate that up to 75,000 businesses will be affected). These businesses will have to juggle the combination of the reality of continued poor returns and low profits whilst attempting to budget for 10 years of IHT on asset value over 1 million; amongst this they will face further challenges caused by weather extremes and climate change. All of this will undoubtedly stifle any upgrades or reinvestment, curtailing productivity and causing a total loss of confidence for the next generation, thus threatening the very existence of small and medium sized family farms - the backbone of our countryside and rural economy.

So what do we in farming provide that justifies our respected IHT business and property relief allowance over big corporate organisations and private citizens?

Well, apart from the obvious primary purpose of producing a guaranteed supply of home-grow, fully traceable and farm assured safe standard, quantity and quality affordable range of food and drink for a population of 70 million loyal consumers, we also create a landscape by maintaining and enhancing our much celebrated Great British countryside, protecting nature and its wildlife. Such an environment is desired and enjoyed by many local residents, visiting tourists and recreational activities - including runners, hikers, horse riders and dog walkers alike - each taking benefit for health and wellbeing through the extensive public network of footpaths, bridleways and country lanes that criss-cross our cropped fields and pastures. Similarly, the often unseen layer of infrastructure to supply rural dwellings and larger towns through gas pipelines, water mains, electric power and telecom poles and masts each on a simple way-leave agreement with the landowner is maintained by the farmers. In recent times, you can add in farmland sites to site renewable energy sites for wind turbines and solar arrays.

Co-operation by the farmer for all these given (and expected) services in many instances also include the receiving and essential spreading under licence of treated sewage sludge from local treatment works. This is, however, under the radar and maybe a less appreciated measured contribution to local communities that many family farms willingly and generously give of their time, resource and support in times of weather crises - ranging from a powerful tractor to rescue a stranded vehicle, a loader bucket to clear snow or blocked drains in a flood, chainsaws and trailers to remove fallen trees across roads or property, to a water pump or generator for standby power at any time of day or night, community events such as extra parking in a nearby field for the local fete, large space barns for group fundraising events, plus year round storage of club and community equipment all free of charge.

Furthermore, farmers often provide public open days for charity, farm walks and school educational visits, scout campsites, tractor / trailers for local carnivals, village bonfires, the list goes on. All of these additional benefits provided by farmers are likely to be threatened by the unintended consequences of a flawed family farm tax. Be careful what you wish for.

Thank you for continuing to support British Farming and understanding the true value of us all 'Down on the Farm'.

STOKE CLIMSLAND HERITAGE COLLECTION AND PARISH ARCHIVE

Welcomes you to an OPEN WEEKEND in February
(with grant aid from SWMuseums)
On February 22nd and 23rd
All are welcome, of all ages.

This Parish (that's from the River Inney south to Kit Hill, and from the River Tamar west to Bray Shop) has a wealth of fascinating history - at your fingertips!

Look out for posters of what's happening when - loads of fascinating displays, archiving workshops, tours, costume making, Victorian classroom sessions and games for children - don't miss a thing!



People and Places, Wildlife and History - if yours is a local family, you could find out lots here that you won't find on 'Ancestry'!

Refreshments will be available all day.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone.

If you want to contact us beforehand, or volunteer to help, please phone 07976 727618

Stoke Climsland Local History Group

By Deri Parsons

Just a short note to let you know that the next meeting of the Stoke Climsland Local History Group will be on Tuesday February 25th at 7.30pm at the Old School.



Our speaker will be Cornwall Finds Liaison Officer Laura Miucci who will give a talk on her role and also share some of the recent historically interesting finds made in Cornwall. Although Laura is based at the Museum of Cornish Life in Helston (if you haven't visited it, you should! It's a gem), her remit in her role as Finds Liaison Officer covers the whole of Cornwall.

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.



Stoke Climsland Scout Group

By Stacey Weaver



What would be a better way to start our Scout Group activities without a round up from the end of 2024? We are truly an active Group and have something to offer all ages.

Back in November the Scout Group held a Remembrance Parade and Service by the War Memorial, which was supported by the entire unit, their families and members of the community; we remembered all those lost at war and conflicts. It really was a perfect way to pause our busy lives and reflect on what others have given for us.

The Explorer Scouts have been culminating their finely honed team building and pioneering skills recently. Given the recent storms, you never know when they will need to use these in their daily lives!

The Scouts have had an action-packed term since Patrol camp in September. Paul Cox gave up his time to join the Scouts. He brought in pheasants and taught the Scouts how to pluck, gut, prepare and cook the bird. They were even able to enjoy the results of their hard work by enjoying the delicious meal. They truly understood the phrase 'from farm to plate' - well done Scouts!

Christmas saw the Scouts get all festive: the older Scouts prepared and cooked a full Christmas dinner for the younger scouts and leaders, and invited them for a full festive celebration and sleepover

With Norjam 2025 soon approaching, fundraising is a key focus point for us. You may have seen the Scouts soon bag packing at Tesco Callington to help raise for transport. The children's packing skills were welcomed by the shoppers, and they were very kind with their donations.

The Cubs got snowed off for a night but certainly made up for the missed session with an extended Christmas Trip to Trethorne where 36 cubs took on leaders in a bowling challenge, followed by the joys of a dodgem car battle.

Our Beavers finished November with a bang! In order to achieve their experiment badge, they created their own bottle divers and learnt about chemical reactions and electricity.

We also took a trip to Pets at Home in Launceston, where the Beavers learnt about pet care and were lucky enough to be able to hold the guinea pigs and gerbils.

The Beavers also celebrated their festivities by cooking mini-Christmas Cakes; each beaver took one home after their Christmas party on their last session. Maybe you got to enjoy their cooking?

And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a Beaver rendition of the Nativity. We were invited back to Venterdon Chapel to take part in the service, the first time since Covid. The Beaver Scouts were happy to take centre stage as they dressed up and performed our very own nativity for the congregation and were amazing!

Christmas is about spending time together, spreading joy, and Christmas cheer. The Beavers certainly did this as they went Carol singing at Appleby Lodge and were welcomed by the residents.

From all of us at Stoke Climsland Scout Group, we would like to say thank you to the community for the opportunities that you afford us. We do our best to give our young charges the best experiences that we can, but it is you the community who helps us achieve that goal.

Thank you.

Curiosity

By Lisa Chaffer



It's a new year and many of us will have been tempted to make resolutions. Some of this will have been prompted by tradition, some by expectations from those around us and some because we like the sense of a fresh start to tackle new goals. However, such resolutions can bring about a sense of pressure all of their own, particularly if we struggle to maintain them.

So, what might we do instead? Well, how about giving ourselves a gift in the shape of a mental health or wellbeing strategy?

One of the most valuable tools we can start to use is curiosity. This is because our brains have a natural tendency towards the negative side of life. Thousands of years ago, it was a survival strategy; to assume the sound in the bushes was an animal about to eat us was what kept us alive.

This negativity shows itself when we are judgemental towards ourselves and others, when we say 'what on earth did I do that for?', 'what planet are they on?' etc. This actually puts us into the flight or flight response and gets the stress hormones flowing, which we could do without.

Curiosity helps us expand our horizons and adopt a much more open outlook towards ourselves and others. Instead of being judgemental, we could say to ourselves 'I wonder what made me do that?', or 'I wonder why they behaved in that way?'. This changes the way we look at a person or situation completely but, most importantly, it changes the way we look at ourselves and enables us to look at ourselves more compassionately. Plus, this means we are not putting ourselves into the fight or flight response, which is better for our physical and mental health.

Using curiosity can also help us to manage stress. When we notice our stress levels rising, we can ask ourselves 'what can I notice right now?'. This helps us to use our surroundings and notice what our senses are telling us we can see, hear, smell, feel or even taste.

People have used this in situations that they were dreading, such as a hospital appointment. When they were in the waiting room, they simply focussed on what they could see and hear, not analysing or being judgemental about it, simply being an observer of their surroundings. I jokingly tell people to imagine they are David Attenborough and they are making a documentary of that environment, providing the commentary.

Using such a strategy is very mindful and soothing for our brains. It might not dial the stress down to zero but it will dial it down to some degree. The more you use it as a strategy, the better your brain will tune into it and the more effective it will become. You might even notice yourself doing it on automatic pilot and that would show how well it's working for you.

So, why would we do this for ourselves? Well, how has beating yourself up worked for you so far? How might you do things differently in 2025?



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