

# THE OLD SCHOOL NEWS



Issue 248  
December 2023 & January 2024



**STOKE CLIMSLAND REPAIR CAFE**

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

**The Old School Stoke Climsland**  
**December 16th**  
9:30am to 1pm

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

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

Chairs, tables & PC equipment (range of peripherals, cables, printers, floppy drives, mouse, scanner, graphics cards, lamps, radios, kettles, toasters and other small items)

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

**REPAIR CAFE**

## Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 21st December  
6.30 pm  
Stoke Climsland Parish Church  
Followed by wine and mince pies



Come along and celebrate Christmas with us and the Church Community Choir  
All welcome



**STOKE CLIMSLAND CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
Dec 9th  
in the Parish Hall  
10.00am - 12.00pm

Cakes, Handicrafts, Raffle, Home made preserves, Nearly New, Silent Auction, Christmas decorations, Cafe.

Proceeds going to Shelter Box

Concert of Music for Advent  
to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the  
**Callington Singers**

Stoke Climsland Church  
Saturday 9th December  
at 4.30pm

To include in addition to Christmas carols, the premiere performance of a new setting of the Christmas Zangeneh, composed by Dr. Andrew Wilson

**FREE ADMISSION**  
All are welcome to attend  
Refreshments will be provided

**OLD SCHOOL FARMERS MARKET**  
December 2nd - from 9:30am



- Jeremy Daw - Butcher - 01579 350410
- Ian MacDonald - Framing - 01579 351221
- 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

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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**Vict** **ofqual**

Callington  
**Rotary**  
**Christmas Market**



Stalls,  
Food & Drink, Entertainment

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**3.30pm - 7.30pm**

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**Letter from the Editor**

It is really great to receive so many submissions, so thank you all. However, hands up, a couple of submissions were missed last month: apologies to both Andy Nevill and Martin Howlett. Those articles are included now.

I hope you enjoy the articles gathered together for you in this December and January double edition. An idea has been mooted to me, and I am hoping that someone will contact me to take on the mantle: rubbish, as in every village, is both a blight and an eye-sore. Would anyone like to take the lead and assume responsibility for a litter pick team around the village?

As ever, if you have something that you find interesting and news worthy, then it is likely that so will other readers of the OSN. Please contact me on [wendyambrose74@gmail.com](mailto:wendyambrose74@gmail.com) so that your interest can be included in the next issue.

Wendy Ambrose

**A big heartfelt thank you to ALL volunteers in the Parish for all of your efforts throughout the year!**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**OLD SCHOOL 200 CLUB WINNERS**

Oct 06	A Carnegie	Oct 13	M Shead
Oct 20	C Vulliamy	Oct 27	J Brown

News, diary and other information should be sent directly to [wendyambrose74@gmail.com](mailto:wendyambrose74@gmail.com)

**PARISH HALL - DEC 2023/JAN 2024**

**Regular Events:**

Monday	7 pm	2, 4, 5 weeks only	SCATS REHEARSALS
	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 - 7:50 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

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

**Together with:**

Dec 6th	Morning	PRIVATE HIRE
Dec 9th	Morning	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Dec 13th	Morning	PRIVATE HIRE
Dec 17th	Afternoon	PRIVATE HIRE
Dec 22/23	All Day	PRIVATE HIRE

For further information regarding bookings please contact Sue Watts 07836 202212 or email [sue-watts@btconnect.com](mailto:sue-watts@btconnect.com)

**PARISH CHURCH - DEC 2023/JAN 2024**

Dec 2	3 pm	Messy Advent in the Church
Dec 3	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
	10 am	Morning Worship
Dec 10	2:30 pm	Remembering God
	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
Dec 17	10 am	Holy Communion
	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
Dec 21	10 am	Morning Worship
	6:30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
	4:30 pm	Nativity & Christingle
	11:30 pm	Midnight Communion
Dec 25	10:30 am	Christmas Day Family Communion
Dec 31 N.Y. Eve	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
	10:30 am	Cluster Information Communion
Jan 7	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
	10 am	Morning Worship
	2:30 pm	Remembering God
Jan 14	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
	10 am	Holly Communion
Jan 21	8 am	Holly Communion
	10 am	Morning Worship
Jan 28	8 am	Morning Prayer BCP
	10 am	Family Service

**OLD SCHOOL - DEC 2023/JAN 2024**

**Weekly Events:**

Mondays	9 am	ACUPUNCTURE (by appt)
	8.30 am	PILATES
	7 pm	SCOTTISH DANCING
Tuesdays	10 am - 1 pm	RAGS ART GROUP
Wednesday	10 am - 3 pm	CROSS BORDER ARTS
Fridays	9 - 11:30 am	TODDLER SINGING GROUP
	12 noon	FRIDAY LUNCH all welcome, please ring Old School to book

**Together with:**

**DECEMBER**

Dec 2	9 am	VILLAGE MARKET
	7pm	JAZZ EVENING
Dec 4	4 - 5 pm	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Dec 5	1 pm	LOVE TO MOVE
	2 pm	MAHJONG
	5 pm	CHESS CLUB
Dec 6	10 - 11:30 am	PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY
	1:30 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
Dec 7	9 am - 4 pm	CHIROPODIST (by appt.)
Dec 8	7 :30 pm	FILM CLUB (mince pies & mulled wine)
Dec 12	2 pm	LOOK GROUP
	5 pm	CHESS CLUB
Dec 14	9 am - 4 pm	CHIROPODIST (by appt.)
	7 pm	INVESTMENT CLUB
	7 pm	TRUSTEES MEETING
Dec 16	9 am - 1 pm	REPAIR CAFE
	9:30 am	BOOK CLUB
Dec 19	1 pm	LOVE TO MOVE
	2:30 pm	LEGO CLUB
	5 pm	CHESS CLUB

Wednesday 20th December to 4th January 2024  
OLD SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

**JANUARY 2024**

Jan 4	9 am - 4 pm	CHIROPODIST (by appt.)
Jan 6	9 am	FARMERS MARKET
	1 pm - 6 pm	MESSY CHURCH

**METHODIST CHURCH - DEC 23/JAN 24**

Sunday Worship 11am (unless stated)

Dec 3	Rev'd Dr Steve Emery-Wright Holy Communion
Dec 10	Keith Mutton
Dec 17	Rev'd David Moss - Carol Service
Dec 24	Rev'd Dr Steven Emery-Wright
Monday Dec 25	No service at SC - Circuit Celebration Serv. at Callington Methodist Church at 10:00 am
Dec 31	No service at SC - Circuit Covenant Serv. at Callington Methodist Church at 10:30 am
Jan 7	Rev'd David Moss
Jan 14	Alison Moss
Jan 21	John Ware
Jan 28	Local Arrangement

**CAROL SERVICE AND TURKEY SUPPER**  
Friday 15th December - 7pm  
Please book with Donna 01579 383709



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## Know your neighbour!

Just for a bit of fun...if you've ever watched Bridgerton, this is the (somewhat) tamer version of Lady Whistledown's Scandal Sheet; if you would like to be interviewed for it, please notify the Editor who will pass on your details to Stoke's very own Lady Foghorn. Will you be able to identify your neighbour from the information below?

**Are you Cornish by birth?** No (not unless I was lied to by my parents!).

**When and why did you move to Cornwall?** It was 34 years ago; I was prepping for back surgery, stayed with an Aunt, and met a man over her garden fence; it was love at first

sight on my part, but he needed a little persuasion, but he hasn't looked back since. To be fair, my love of Glava persuaded him.

**Who, dead or alive, would you like to have a conversation with and about what?** There are so many! I would love to have a conversation with my grandad (who I never met), about his career. With just two weeks before retiring to a desk job in the Royal Navy, and whilst serving on HMS Hood as Chief Stoker, he sadly lost his life when Bismark sunk his ship.

**Do you have any neighbours of interest?** Why yes! But to be discreet, all my neighbours are very different in their character: one flies high in the Sky, another is a phantom wine thrower with dubious taste in tights (seriously) and another is a very successful Entrepreneur.

**What is the most interesting fact about you that you feel safe to share with all?** Hmmmmm, I need to think; I love to sing (but neighbours wish I didn't) and I hail from a city famous for its sauce.

**What would you most like to be remembered for?** I sincerely hope that I will be remembered for being kind to and helping others, be that in my professional career (I know an awful lot about germs) or my personal life.

**Do you have a significant other or others that you would be willing to describe?** Yes - we have been together thirty-five years, with no parole in sight!

**Describe your career/s to date.** It was focussed on tending and mending, making sure that the job was done efficiently and properly, and one of the blue light services.

**Do you have any pets?** Just the one four-legged friend, who is a friend to all.

**Do you have any plans for the future?** Not at the moment, I like to plod and see what comes along.

**What advice, in your opinion, is the best advice to give anyone?** To be kind and live and let live; life is too short for petty squabbles.

So, who is your neighbour? All will be revealed in the next Edition!

## 'The Hobbit - The Shire Awakens' - again!

By David Oddie



A couple of years ago we were looking forward to staging our adaptation of 'The Hobbit' with the primary school and members of various groups that had expressed interest, such as SCATS and the Community Choir. The timing of the event was meant to coincide with the emergence from the pandemic and the commitment of the Parish to be carbon neutral by 2030. The play was to tell the wonderful story of 'The Hobbit' as an ecological parable for our times: after the isolation of lockdown, the whole project was to be a joyful celebration of resilience, the road to recovery and renewal.

Unfortunately, I had a stroke in March 2022 and our plans were put on hold.

However, I am delighted to tell you that we are going ahead with the production of The Hobbit on the 10th, 11th and 12th July 2024. The show will take place in a marquee on the school grounds. We still have the Arts Council grant which will enable a small team of professional artists to be resident at the school in the summer term and to guide the production.

This is an ambitious journey and to achieve our aims we are looking for participants and helpers in all aspects of the project from performers, stage managers to fundraising and marketing. We would also welcome your ideas about hobbit activities that could take place during the production week.

**Please join us in the adventure!**

We want to give children, and others in the parish, a rich, creative experience they will remember for a very long time. If you feel you would like to be involved in any way do please get in touch with me directly on: indracongress@hotmail.co.uk

**Bilbo Baggins needs you!**

I look forward to hearing from you.

*There was an old hobbit from Stoke  
The poor chap got hit by a stroke  
But he's now on the mend  
With this missive to send  
Your interest he hopes to provoke.*





# Down on the Farm

## 'Seeing the wood from the trees this Christmas!'

As the Christmas season draws ever near, we look forward to long winter evenings in front of a roaring log fire: a perfect image for many craving our country lifestyle. However, the reality for most now

living in modern houses with neither fireplace or chimney, is to gaze upon fake electric glows or flame imitations.

For those of us seeking the benefit of an open fire, recent government rules on emissions in the use of seasoned kiln dry wood fuel are now in force. The net result of combined reduced demand and the building industries move away from UK home-grown hardwoods, places further pressure on the timber sector; with statistics showing 80% of our native broadleaved woodland is now in unmanaged decline, the big question remains for what best purpose is its long-term land use.

The real challenge that we as farmers and growers - the true custodians of the countryside - continually face is how to remain in a sustainable and profitable business whilst upholding the balance with food production, land management and maintaining the environment. A clear message from the market place, together with direction on policies toward national food security, nature recovery and carbon net zero targets, is needed to allow our own on-farm decision making. For there to be a sustainable UK timber production (which can play an important role in the mitigation of carbon emissions through sequestration), we, as landowners, need to see clear commitment to make any long-term investment in any return to new woodland plantations.

It all may seem to be in conflict to the understandable huge public outrage over the recent wanton act of vandalism to fell the infamous 'Robin Hood - Sycamore Gap Tree' which had stood in solitary surrounds of Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland for 300 years. There was a similar reaction locally when the tree lined avenue along Amarda Way was totally desecrated by Plymouth City Council last winter and the protest can only be imagined if the equally admired 'Coming Home Trees' off the A30 were to be removed. Yet still the tradition for many this yuletide will be to proudly display a freshly cut Norway Spruce Christmas tree, albeit some may purchase one complete with roots; ironically, the vast majority will end up in landfill come January 6th.



So, as we each curl up in the comfort and warmth of our own homes this Christmastime, fuelled by natural wood, gas, coal or renewable energy, enjoying the very best of British Agriculture's food & drink, perhaps we all need to take a moment to decide where our real priorities lie - a clear vision of 'seeing the wood from the trees' would be much appreciated. Season's Greetings from us all 'Down on the Farm'.

By: Martin Howlett

## 'The people in-between'

Release the dogs of war and the international rules of war get broken; innocent civilians are killed. Currently there are about thirty wars taking place across the world. Following the Hamas terrorist horror on 7th October, Israel declared war on Hamas. Our media has then focussed on Israel and Gaza and has largely forgotten the war in the Ukraine.

Each day there are people 'in-between', traumatised, starved and killed. People become refugees, moving at the behest of controlling powers, looking for safety. They leave their homes and go to live with relatives. These people caught in-between are vulnerable. In Gaza, Muslims and Christians have been told to move away from Gaza city and so many have travelled south, looking for safety and not all have found it.

Over two thousand years ago, there was a Jewish couple, Mary and Joseph, who walked from their home in Nazareth the 75 miles to Bethlehem. They went because they were ordered to by the Roman occupying state who wanted to take a census. They were people caught in-between. They went to Joseph's ancestral town Bethlehem. Like Palestinians trying to escape fighting, they headed to relatives. When they got there, there is no room for them in the guest room. It's like a first century chaotic 'family' Christmas, in fact the first Christmas!

Middle Eastern hospitality dictates a welcome for visitors, pregnant women aren't sent away! If you ever go to Bethlehem, as we have, and look for the place of Jesus' birth, it's now in a large Church building 'The Church of the Holy Nativity'. Imagine our surprise when we went, to discover the place of birth is a cave underneath the building. People in-between have to go to marginal places to survive. Our Palestinian Christian guide, explained that 1st Century houses were often built on top of small caves giving an extra room, often used for sheep and cattle. Mary would find this cave ideal, it being warm safe and private. Jewish law meant women gave birth away from other people so as not to make others ceremonially unclean. The cave was perfect. For believers, and those who would like to believe, this grounds it in reality; Jesus was born where the animals lay.

People 'in-between' are marginalised people; in our country there are people who just about manage, people who are made poor by circumstances outside of their control. We may not have war, but we can decide to treat others with kindness and respect, to love our neighbour. My belief is that God becomes human for us, so we can share in divine love.

This Christmas we have several Carol Services. I'll be leading our Stoke Climsland Carol Service at our chapel in Venterdon on Sunday December 17th at 11am. Everyone is welcome to join with us to sing out traditional carols together.

Methodist Minister for Stoke Climsland

Revd David Moss



# Lockett Social Club

With the Rugby World Cup continuing throughout the month of October members watch selective matches on the big screen. Mainly involving the England games several beers were consumed.

Other events which took place were 'Geoff's One Night Quiz'. Seven teams of 4 took part over 9 rounds, in one round, teams could play their Joker for double points. With the scores still being very close the final round was the Wipeout round, whereby teams only put down an answer if they were sure of the correct answer. Any wrong guesses wiped out their points for that round, to which several unfortunately did just that. In seventh position were Bonkers Bully Beagles who had the best 3-word team name, third were

Don't Ask Me and second were Lockett or Bust, but the Winners by half a point were Nigel's Noisy Neighbours on 71pts. Well done to Bridget & Steve and Bill & Alice on taking home the Prize pot of money.

On Saturday 14th, the Club held its Annual General Meeting. It was business as usual with Danny Hobbs remaining as Chairman, Geoff Howlett re-elected as Honorary Secretary, Sheila Hobbs as the Honorary Treasurer and Jacqui Selwood as Vice Chair. There was also no change in the Committee with everyone returning for another 12 months. With the Rugby match taking preference this was the last event until November.

### December dates for your diary:

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	OPEN EVENING/GAMES NIGHT Come along and join in or just pop in for a drink and chat.	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	THE WHEAL MARTHA BAND EVENING Join them for singing Carols outside (Weather permitting) then in the club for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine. Funds raised will be for their chosen charity.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO With over £120 worth of prizes to be won. All the tickets you need for just £6	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY No charge to come in, but if you would like to bring a plate of food to share that would be great. Music provided by our own DJ Tim.

### January dates for your diary:

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	QUIZ NIGHT With Jacqui as Questionmaster	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	BEETLE DRIVE Always good fun
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	BINGO Eyes down, look out!	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	BURNS NIGHT SPECIAL Please book in advance as numbers are limited.

Also coming next year is our exciting Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge one Sunday afternoon. See more details on facebook.

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise stated with Club Bar open from 7:30pm.

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

Geoff Howlett (Hon. Sec.)

MOUNT KELLY CHORAL SOCIETY



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>. 7.30 p.m.

TAVISTOCK METHODIST CHURCH

Chapel Street, Tavistock PL19 8DX

A programme of Christmas music, favourite carols and readings including extracts from Handel's Messiah and Mendelssohn's Elijah.

Soloists:

Bianca Phillips – Soprano                      Andrew Farris – Baritone  
Organist Mary Mazur-Park                      Director - Dan Robson

Tickets £14. Under 18s. Free. Tickets from Bookstop, Tavistock or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society) [www.mountkellychoralsociety.com](http://www.mountkellychoralsociety.com)

**THE WHEAL MARTHA BAND**  
A Christmas Celebration



on Lockett bridge and then in Lockett Social Club

**Friday 15 December**  
7.30 pm  
Mulled wine and mince pies  
Collection for Cornwall Blood Bikes (Riding for Life)





As our weather patterns change, one of the consequences is that we get more and sudden flash floods. If your road is flooded over, telephone 0300 1234 222 (Mon-Fri 8.30am to 6pm) or search online for 'Cormac road flooding'.

With all of the wet weather that we have been experiencing, it would be prudent to be aware of how to report a flash flood. You can either report them direct on the Cornwall Government website or by telephone on 0300 1234 222.

Lockett stream may become an issue as might run off from local fields that have only recently been planted and have yet to have the crop fully grown. Local farmers have been making efforts to reduce run off and to also hold back some of the high flow rates on the Lockett stream.

Let us all look out for one another.



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**STOKE CLIMSLAND WI**

We are a friendly welcoming group who meet once a month on a Tuesday evening in the Parish Hall. We have a varied programme of Speakers throughout the year which often involve practical arts and crafts. There are also cookery demonstrations most months held in The Old School, look out for the notices. We always like to see visitors at our meetings so why not come along and give us a try. It costs just £4.50 which includes tea, sandwiches and homemade cakes, an absolute bargain!

**Dates for your diary:**

5<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Carol singing on the Green  
Soup and roll available. All Welcome

12<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Social

9<sup>th</sup> January 'Behind the designs of a coinage artist'  
John Bergdahl. All Welcome

13<sup>th</sup> February Social evening

12<sup>th</sup> March Annual Meeting

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in Stoke Climsland Parish Hall at 7.30pm

New members are always welcome, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Find Stoke Climsland WI on Facebook for regular updates.

## Pots for Every Month

WI talk by Mike Stephens

When Mike Stephens came to speak recently at a WI meeting, he helped explain that pretty containers are not consigned to just the summer season. Mike used to be a Teacher of English in St. Austell and he opens his garden for the National Gardens Scheme.



When planting in a container it is as much to do with the container you choose to plant in as well as the plants that you put in them. You can upcycle any items to add interest and he showed us photos of example of containers that are a bit unusual, wellies, dustbins and even jeans. Another point made was where to place pots: it could be outside entrance doors, on steps or by a place you sit so you can enjoy them.

During the evening he went through month by month of ideas. To give you some ideas, we have put them into different seasons to inspire you too:

**Winter** - Scented Sarcococca Christmas Box, Coronilla Glauca 'Citrina' which flowers in winter, Cornus Midwinter Fire which have coloured stems, Black Grasses, Hellebores and spring bulbs of Daffodils and Tulips. A pot full of just Daffodils or Tulips can look stunning.

**Spring** - Herbs are great but make sure you plant ones together that like the same conditions. You can pick them up very cheaply from the supermarket or perhaps plant some salad leaves that are very easy to grow and you would be eating them in a few weeks.

**Summer** - You can grow vegetables in pots: Runner Beans (grow up canes in the pots), Strawberries or Raspberries, Mint and Lavender. Succulents do well in shallow pots but remember to add lots of grit to the compost and they can cope with drought conditions, but remember to protect them from frost when summer turns to winter.

**Autumn** - If you have a shady spot plant up Ferns, Hostas and Fuchsias. You can even grow fruit trees or Blueberries, but you will need to use ericaceous compost. You could plant up Evergreens, Box, Yew, Conifers and Heuchera as a display (like flower arranging), to look good during the winter months. Conifers, Dogwood and Holly all do well in planters and will last for ages.

It was a lovely informal evening and he was happy to answer any gardening questions.



At the end of September, the Scout group gathered for our annual Group Camp. This was an opportunity for everybody from the age of 6 to experience the outdoors and broaden their horizons with new skills and a night away from their parents. For some it was the first time camping away from their parents.

The camp is designed to develop the skills of the young people as they progress through Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and on to Explorers. During the camp, the Beavers (6 - 8) had the opportunity to sleep in a tent, make garlic bread over an open fire and complete some challenges to improve teamwork and communication. The Cubs (8 - 10.5) developed this skill further by making a Spaghetti Bolognese from Scratch along with cooking breakfast over an open fire; they also learnt how to make camp gadgets such as a washing up stand and gateway aiding to improve life on camp. They then took a tour around the Scouts Campsite to see how Scouts and Explorers



camped and how the skills they were learning were being used by other sections.

The Scouts (10.5 - 14) and Explorer s(14-17) use the camp to showcase their knowledge and teamwork in a camping competition. In their patrols, they are given all their equipment and an area of the field. The patrol then work together to create their home for the weekend: erecting a sleeping tent, cooking tent, making a gateway, chopping area and collecting wood. The Scouts and Explorers design their menu for the weekend, get their own food and cook it themselves.



Alongside the camping competition, the Scouts and Explorers partake in a cooking competition, where they create a three-course meal, two elements of which must be cooked over a wood fire. The effort that goes into the cooking competition is incredible with menus, table decorations, drinks and even shirts and ties for the waiters. Some of the meals cooked this year included homemade dips with flat breads, salmon and chorizo served with charred veg and salad, and even a Bannock cake and a rhubarb and apple crumble. After trying all the food, the leaders were stuffed! Saturday evening gave us a

chance to involve the parents and helpers at a Campfire; there was singing, sketches and laughter throughout the campfire, even if it was cut slightly short by the rain. More image of the Camp can be found on our Gallery at [www.1stStokeClimsland.org](http://www.1stStokeClimsland.org)



## Carbon Zero Homes Project



Property diagnostics are surveys, measurements, and assessments which provide you with useful information about your home. In the NHS, diagnostic tests such as blood tests and x-rays are carried out before treatment can be decided. Your home also requires diagnostics before it can be 'treated' effectively.

**LIMITED WINTER OFFER FOR RESIDENTS.** We have identified and are supporting 4 different types of property diagnostics. The total value, if all are required, is around £1,000 (probably higher).

- Retrofit Assessment

- Whole House Plan
- Historic / Traditional Property Assessment
- Heat Loss Survey

For most households, having a Retrofit Assessment and a Whole House Plan would be useful. Some historical / traditionally built / older properties may benefit from an additional specialist assessment. For households considering a heat pump heating system, it is critically important to have a good heat loss survey, because a heat pump needs to be properly matched to the heat loss characteristics of the property.

**HOUSEHOLD CONTRIBUTION:** a fixed cost of £150 towards the cost of a retrofit assessment. All parish households are eligible to apply. Suitability for the various diagnostics will be checked on application and households may also be eligible to apply for alternative grants. Funding is limited: first come, first served.

If you are interested, please use the contact details above, or scan the QR code for an online enquiry form.

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.

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



## THE WHEAL MARTHA BAND

Having welcomed Pete, a saxophonist, to our band, we are busy practising for our upcoming "Christmas Celebration" on Friday 15 December.

We're hoping to start at 7.30pm with some community carol singing on Lockett bridge and will then move to the Social Club, where we will continue with seasonal music, accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies. Do come and join us.

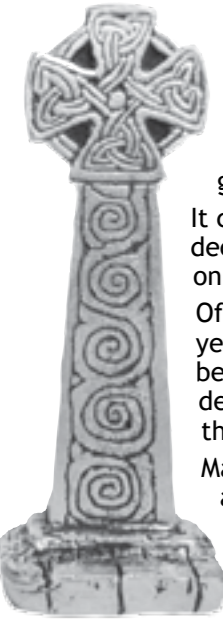
Our chosen charity this year is Cornwall Blood Bikes (Riding for Life).

You're also very welcome to join us at The Honicombe Arms, Honicombe Holiday Village, St Ann's Chapel on Wednesday 20 December at 7.30pm.

By Annette Williams







# Christmas Pre-NUPs

Christmas, the song tells us, is 'the most wonderful time of the year'. In many ways that's true if you're one of those who, like me, really loves Christmas. It's a time to see old friends and family, to give and receive and to reflect on the significance of the birth of Christ.

It can be a stressful time especially if it involves bringing together relatives who you haven't seen for decades, who still treat you like a child. As Victor Borg said: "Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year."

Of course there's paying for it. One anonymous writer put it: Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money. The expert on this is Martin Lewis, who said that 'Christmas has become a retail festival and it shouldn't be. It should be joyous but it causes some people unhappiness, debt and worry'. He went onto say that 'Many people feel obliged to buy gifts for others that they know they won't use, with money they don't have and cause themselves stress they don't need'.

Martin has some interesting perspectives on how we've disconnected from the real reasons for giving gifts and how it's led to the current treadmill of tit-for-tat giving. He suggests limiting gift-giving to close family and making a Christmas pre-NUP (No Unnecessary Presents) with others. I'm not advocating that we become Scrooge-like and fail to be generous, but Martin's suggestion seems a very reasonable one.

The original message about giving at Christmas has its roots both in the Nativity and the first Santa Clause. The nativity speaks of the overwhelming generosity and love of God for all. The 'Message' version of the Bible (John 3:16) puts it like this: 'This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son'. He did this not to condemn us, nor point his accusing finger at us but that we can have whole or full life. 'He came to help, to put the world right again'.

The original Santa Clause was St Nicholas, who was the Bishop of Myra. He was seriously concerned about helping the poor. One story tells of how he secretly dropped gold coins down the chimney of a poor family in order to prevent the occupier's three daughters from being sold into slavery. This mirrors the original Christmas story where God revealed kindness and love, not because of anything we deserved but because God is love. God gave generously so we could be free. When we discover and experience the deep love of God reach down into our soul, we are moved to love others in need. The love of God so affected St Nicholas, that he was moved to help others in real need.

I'm hoping to get the balance right this Christmas and won't have a retail experience that causes me stress. I also hope we can all be inspired to love the poor as St Nicholas did.

**Merry Christmas.**

By Joe Lannon (Rector)



**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)

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP: NOW £5 FOR ONE YEAR

Yes, you read that correctly: from 2024, full-year membership for the club will cost just £5 per person. And as a special festive treat, that new price will kick in from 1st December 2023 for those who are keen and can't wait until January to sign up or renew (membership would still be valid for the whole of 2024 if paying in December). You can become a new member or rejoin at your leisure during our opening times. However, we know many like to hang on for the annual Members' Night, which will take place on 27th January 2024 from 7:30pm. Come along for a glass of wine and nibbles on us!

Non-members are welcome to drop in for a drink or attend any of the events below - we only ask that you sign in as guests. From January 2024, we'll also charge a £1 fee for non-members.

### FESTIVE EVENTS

16<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Quiz  
Join Jenny and Kath for some seasonal trivia.  
Teams of 4; £5 entry per team; 7:30pm for 8:00pm start.  
17<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Raffle  
Pop in from 7:30pm for some mulled wine and festive bites and take part in our annual Christmas Raffle. If you're lucky, we may even belt out some carols.  
31<sup>st</sup> December: New Year's Eve Disco  
No tickets, just drop by and see in the new year with a drink or two and some banging tunes. 7:30pm until late.

### COMING UP IN 2024

20<sup>th</sup> January: Quiz  
27<sup>th</sup> January: Member's Night (see above)  
10<sup>th</sup> February: Valentine's Meal  
This popular event and delicious meal will be ticketed so look out for details nearer the time.  
17<sup>th</sup> February: Quiz

### Without whom...

Cheers to Luke (aka "Pork Chop") and friends for their entertaining evening of live music and to David and Bernard for hosting November's quiz



# PSSSST! IT'S NEARLY PANTO TIME!



Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is!

Stoke Climsland's own Theatrical Society, SCATS, has been busy, busy, busy since auditions in September with the 2024 Pantomime production:

## ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN!

The whole Cast are working hard at rehearsals to bring you the thrilling tale of Robin and his faithful friends as he battles against the shifty High Sherriff of Callington, his manipulating Mother, and their hapless henchmen. Will Robin defeat their dastardly doings, will their Den in the depths be discovered, will the local woods be laid to waste for wicked wants, will Robin find Marion, will Will .....?!

To find the answers to these and so many other burning questions, come along to this rollicking tale of Green vs. Black!

Tickets on-sale in mid-January 2024 from Stoke Climsland Post Office

Performance dates are:



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> (Eve) and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> (Matinee and Eve)  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (Eve) and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> (Matinee and Eve)  
FEBRUARY 2024



in Stoke Climsland Parish Hall.



### "The Duke"

**Starring: Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Mathew Goode and Fion Whitehead.**

Based on the true story of Kempton Bunton, a 60 year old cab driver who stole a Goya painting to protest against Government spending policies.

"Broadbent is asolutely marvellous giving his best performance in years."

"Gloriously witty and comic... a wonderful film".

### "The Lost King"

**Starring: Sally Hawkin, Steve Coogan and Mark Addy.**

The true story of an amateur historian defying the academic establishment in order to find the remains of King Richard III which were lost for over 500 years.

"A quite lovely movie because Oscar nominee, Sally Hawkins, is just fantastic".  
"Director Stephen Frears, gives us something really sweet, comforting, solid and sincere".

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

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023



Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> 2024





## Carbon Zero Homes Project

The launch of this project now feels like a long time ago. It has been busy, and I feel that with the interactions and feedback we have had, we are rapidly learning about how best to support households and add value. If the editor limited me to just 5 words, I would be writing: “be curious about your home”. We can help you with the questions you could be asking - and from that the solutions will follow.

**KISS - Keep It Simple Stupid** This principle can be applied to “having an energy efficient home”. If you break it down, there are 6 considerations:

Carrying out energy efficiency improvements can of course be complex, but breaking it down as shown here can be helpful to better understand what may be involved. Properties need to be properly maintained, and underlying problems such as damp need to be addressed. Insulation, having some sort of efficient heating system, and solar panels (whether or not you can have them) is probably on your radar. But there are a number of things which may not be.

Firstly, insulation without ventilation will likely cause problems - ventilation is often overlooked. A lack of ventilation after adding insulation can contribute to condensation issues and problems with mould. Too much ventilation will be costly due to heat loss. Secondly, as a consequence of climate change, keeping our homes cool in the summer will be a growing challenge; insulation works both ways - it will keep you cool as well as keep you warm.

**Feedback Received** This is a learning project, so encouraging and receiving feedback and adapting is a constant process. Feedback from 40 people (approximately 6% of households across the parish) indicates that 97% of those households are considering making home energy efficiency improvements and 48% have already done something. 49% have heard of the term ‘retrofit’, and others identify with it, but wouldn’t have used that word.

**Searching for Truth** Unfortunately, there is a lot of poor and misinformation around, so I have been on the search for truth. For me this is not a new thing because I have been involved in evidence-based practice for decades. There is one topic for which this seems to be a particular problem: heat pumps. In September the Centre for Sustainable Energy published a useful article on heat pumps (search “CSE heat pumps”). I also now have a good report on how heat pumps have been used in older properties, including a church.

**Home Visits** We are now booking and trialling home visits. These take around an hour and involve running through a set of questions designed to properly understand your current situation, your priorities, and your concerns - and advise accordingly. Please contact me to arrange a home visit.

**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.**

Andy Nevill, Community Energy Advisor, Chartered Engineer 07799848084 andynevill@protonmail.com



Since its inception in September, the Stoke Climsland Family History



Group is gaining momentum and has had some very useful and interesting talks. These will continue after Xmas with a talk on January 17th by Deri Parsons. The title ‘Getting Started Part 2’ is less than inspiring but should be of interest to those who want to take their family history researches back to before 1837. This is a key date as England and Wales formal registration began on 1st July 1837, and covered births, marriages, divorces and deaths. Such records did not exist before then so tracking your ancestors pre-1837 is not so easy. This session is designed to help you navigate your way through the records that can be used.

All are welcome to come along to the meetings. They will be at 7.30pm at the Old School and there will be a charge of £2 per session to cover costs.

As an adjunct to the meetings, we can offer 1-to-1 sessions where specific issues and/or problems can be addressed. These could 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)



## Stoke Climsland Parish Hall

### Latest news

Well, we have started two challenges with our refurbishment; by the time you read this article you should see scaffolding in place and work having started to repair both the chimney and lantern leaks. Our aim is to preserve our planning permission (which would have expired on 23 October 2023) and to start to make the building damp proof. The initial survey identified both the chimney and lantern as direct sources of moisture ingress, and that some of the lead flashing needed replacing. It also identified that the guttering was too narrow for the size of the roof, so the gutters will also be replaced with compliant versions to meet the Grade II listing requirements. The down pipes which carry the building date will be retained.

We have held our first Halloween party, which was a great success. Parents gave us good feedback and asked ‘for more’!!!

The Trustees continue to work closely with our Duchy landlord and local partners to put together a plan (or plans) to ensure we (the ‘joint’ we) are able to provide a total community facility that meets our community needs, now and well into the future, as established over time from workshops and consultations. If you have ideas then please let us know, or if you want to hire the hall, but would want to see some new features or upgrades, then again, please let us know. It would help us fundraise for specific items which will enhance our offering.

Whilst the Trustees focus on the building why not join our ‘Friends of Stoke Climsland Parish Hall’ for a natter and exchange of ideas and help us to run some events? Contact our Secretary, details below.

Our Parish Hall has been here since 1915 for the community and will continue to provide for the community as long as the Trustees are able to. It is YOUR hall and is here to use but it is for the community to decide whether the Parish Hall remains or deteriorates; it really is in your hands folks now that The Prince’s Foundation have turned their back on us. The Trustees are here to serve your requirements, will you support your Parish Hall?

Geoff Giles, Secretary, Stoke Climsland Parish Hall, - email: secretaryscph@gmail.com



## Rich harvests and YANOMAMO musings

Over the last two weeks we have entered another season but my memories of our rich late summer still remain. Did anyone else harvest great figs this summer?

...below is an excerpt from the YANOMAMO script.....

*“I’m a pregnant fig wasp mum; I’m looking for a fig,*

*There’s lots of lovely food inside to make my young grow big.*

*And when they, too, are mums and dads, and all their food has gone,*

*The new mums fly to other figs, and that’s how life goes on.*

*This is the fig tree here again; my figs at last are ripe.*

*Dispersal’s now the thing I need to propagate my type*

*I have plenty of juicy figs, so succulent and sweet’*

*To tempt the monkeys, birds and bats to gather them to eat.*

*We’re all part of the tree of life and we cannot live without it.*

*We depend on the tree of life, and we are foolish if we doubt it.*

*All of us need someone else. Can anyone deny it?*

*We’re all part of the tree of life; in surviving we were taught it;*

*The tree of life needs the living trees for they nourish and support it.”*

There were things nibbling the biggest figs that we have ever had...we saw butterflies and wasps, and perhaps there have even been bats on them!

By Melanie Guy



## Follow that Star!

### The Epiphany Experience for all ages

Wednesday 3rd January 2024  
10 am - 12 noon

with optional add-on pay as you feel  
Pizza and Pud lunch at 12:00 noon

### Callington Methodist Church

Interactive Journey with games, crafts and challenges.

Children to be accompanied by an adult please.

Further details 01579 388840  
www.callingtonmethodist.org



We come to the end of another successful ‘term’ and we are taking a break until the New Year. Here are the talks we can look forward to for the first three months of 2024.

#### January 24th:

Sally Ronchetti - The Life and Times of Emily Hobhouse.

#### February 27th:

Dr Harry Bennett - Devonport Dockyard: History and Social Impact

#### March 26th:

Dr Chris Smart - The Roman army in Southwest Britain: Recent Excavations at Calstock in context.

As always, the talks will be held at the Old School in Stoke Climsland and will start at 7.30pm. 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.





## ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH, SOUTH HILL

Thirteen is a good number for St Sampson's Church, South Hill. All thirteen windows have been restored to their prime with the help of thirteen grant funders and three individuals. A grand total of £53,000.

Our funding research took us in all directions and we made some fascinating discoveries. Many pleasant hours were spent wading through family trees and church records. We discovered connections all around the world, as well as a short distance down the road.

The chancel (south) window is dedicated to Major Percy John Rice (1810-1850) and Lucy Maria Elton (nee Rice) (1814- 1846), brother and sister of the then Rector of South Hill, Revd. Horace Rice. The inscription contains the words: "Ah my brother! Ah my sister!" Lucy Maria was the great, great, Grandmother of Julia Rice Elton, who we traced. She was unaware of her family window but delighted to discover it.

I have a fascination with one particular dedicatee who remains somewhat of a mystery, a woman called Mary Fookes (1754-1812). I spent many hours on a Cornish misty November morning looking at every gravestone in the churchyard to no avail, but she is here somewhere! Maybe one day someone will trace themselves to St Sampson's church and Mary's window.

My favourite window, for its images, is in the Manaton Chapel.

The righthand side shows Edward White Benson (1829-1896), first Bishop of Truro and later Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Sampson of Dol, our patron saint, is in the centre and Frederick Temple (1821-1902), Archbishop of Canterbury after Benson, is on the left-hand side.

Beneath these figures are pictures of a sower, a reaper and a gleaner representing the biblical allusions and the agricultural nature of the parish of South Hill.

In November 2021 the work to repair the windows started. What a wonderful moment in January when the first three restored windows were replaced. I don't think anyone realised exactly how much difference it would make. No more rusty bars, no more wobbly glass panes, simply beautiful windows letting in the light and allowing us to see the trees outside.

Five more windows were taken out in the intense heat wave of August 2022 and put back in December, amid freezing temperatures. The inscriptions could all now be easily read, the colours of the stained glass vibrant and fulsome. It felt like a true honouring of the families Trehaine, Body, Dunston and my mystery lady, Mary Fookes.

The final five windows were removed in May 2023, including the East window, which was a sad sight to see boarded up, but glorious when replaced in August. By the end of September 2023 all our windows were back.

How wonderful that all our windows are now fully restored. Watching the skilled heritage craftsmen of Dan Humphries Stained Glass Ltd and C.F. Piper & Son at work has been amazing. Their knowledge is immense, and we are very grateful to them for the sensitive restoration that they completed. And it came in under budget!

To read the full article go to: St Sampsons windows restoration Project

Judith Ayers - Churchwarden and Local Lay Leader.



## Wild About Calstock

Wild About Calstock is an intergenerational arts project engaging school children from Calstock & Stoke Climsland Primary Schools and members of Sensory Trust's local dementia-friendly Walk & Laugh group, using the tried and tested model of The Photobook Project <https://the-photobook-project.com/>

The aim is to build a deeper appreciation of the local environment and wildlife through 3 guided nature walks, offering a supportive experience of observing, documenting, sharing knowledge and learning about the natural world in our locality.

Additionally, the project aims to raise awareness of the Parish Council's Climate Change Action Plan and the environmental challenges and opportunities that the Tamar Valley AONB and Parish are currently seeking to address. The Parish Council has adopted an Environment and Climate Emergency Strategic Plan and has set up working groups to address three key objectives; Nature Recovery, Reducing Impact and Improving Health.

The themes of the walks are foraging, winter wetlands and local wildlife and the first one took place at Cotehele on Wednesday 1st November.

The next walks are scheduled to take place on 6th December and 10th January. The project also includes a visit to The Box in Plymouth to see the natural history collection and culminates in an exhibition and book launch at Calstock Arts in March.

The project is supported by FEAST, Arts council England, Cornwall Council, Calstock Parish Council, Sensory Trust, The Photobook Project, The Box and the Tamara Landscape Partnership (a delivery branch of The Tamar Valley AONB).

By Judith Robinson



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# Pilates Classes



Fridays 10-11am

Stoke Climsland Parish Hall

Contact Jayne ; 07838 842943

Movementmedicineuk25@gmail.com

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## Cubs News

1st Stoke Climsland Cubs enjoyed an amazing night at Callington Community Fire Station recently learning about the incredible role our fire fighters have. Cubs learnt about the training and uniform firefighters need. They then had an opportunity to look around the Engine, learning about all the different equipment and situations they help with: from rescuing cats to responding to car accidents as well as putting fires out.



They thought it would be really tough to get a call in the middle of the night, on Christmas Day or when you were in the bath. All Cubs were really engaged and asked loads of great questions.

They finished the evening with climbing into the engine, sitting in the back and using the hoses to knock down a cone or two. Huge thanks to the amazing team at Callington Community Fire Station.

# LEST WE FORGET

