



# The Stoke Climsland Newsletter

Issue 32 March 2021

**WELCOME** to the latest issue of the Stoke Climsland Newsletter. The first of these Newsletters was produced at the end of March 2020 so we are about to be 1 year old. In the course of the year we've produced 32 issues with a total of 361 pages and have grown from our first 4-page black and white Newsletter to recent issues which have topped 20 pages, all in full colour. We think that this is a matter for a little (but not too much) celebration with heartfelt thanks to everyone who has encouraged us, has put up with nagging requests for information and material, and has provided the words and pictures on which we depend.

At the same time we have to acknowledge the toll that Covid has taken across the country and in the world at large. This has not been a happy year for anyone and awful for many. So the commemoration, described below, is a wholly appropriate response which we can all support.

We fervently hope that the gradual easing of restrictions will be sustained and that we will soon be able to replace the Newsletter by the Old School News, perhaps in an improved format. We look forward to the resumption of that bit of normal existence. In the meantime, enjoy the read, take care and appreciate David Price's picture of Spring Flowers.

*Deri Parsons and John Wilmot*



## THE FIRST COVID LOCK-DOWN: COMMEMORATING ONE YEAR ON

A minute's silence and a national doorstep vigil will form part of a day of reflection to mark the anniversary of the first Covid lockdown. The Prime Minister is backing charity Marie Curie's plan for Tuesday 23rd March, when those who have died in the pandemic will be remembered.

There will be a minute's silence at 12:00 noon with people encouraged to light up their doorsteps that night. It is hoped people will help create a nationwide "beacon of remembrance" on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles, and torches into the night sky at 20:00.

As part of this, Steve Leonard-Williams will be tolling one of the church bells at the end of the minute's silence on the 23rd. So, if you hear it, you will know the reason why.



This issue of the Newsletter is published on The Old School page on Facebook and can be viewed and easily downloaded from [www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk](http://www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk). The next issue is due out on April 1st.

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

This Newsletter is being produced by Old School volunteers in collaboration with the Parish Council. Please use our contacts to provide information or with questions about the Newsletter. Please do not leave information at The Old School office which at present is not always regularly staffed.  
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# OUR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES

## TAKE NOTE: THERE ARE THREE ELECTIONS ON MAY 6th

Thursday May 6th is an important day for local democracy: those of us who are eligible will be able to vote in three separate elections:

- Electing the County Councillor who will represent us in the newly formed ward of Altarnun and Stoke Climsland.
- Electing new Parish Councillors for the next 4-year term of office for our Parish Council.
- Electing a new Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall.

Did you know that there are nearly 200 Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall, plus Truro City Council, and between them they have over 2000 Councillor seats? Yet in 2017 only 41 councils had any contested elections – that means that in the rest of the councils, fewer people stood for election than the number of seats on the council. In 5 councils, there were wards (or whole councils) where no one stood at all! It would be a great shame if our local elections were uncontested so, as we have mentioned in previous Newsletters, why not consider standing yourself?

Full details of who is standing for what are not known currently as the closing date for applications has not yet passed (so you have got plenty of time to get yours in). We will be featuring information on candidates as we get closer to Election Day. We will also be letting you know more details of how you can vote (in person, by proxy or by post).

We do know that Cornwall Council's elections team are working closely with Public Health colleagues to ensure the necessary arrangements are in place to keep voters and staff safe. You can expect many of the measures you have become used to over recent months:

- One-way systems will be implemented at polling stations and queues will be managed to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at each station and polling booths will be cleaned after each vote is cast.
- Voters will also be asked to wear face coverings and where possible bring their own pen.

But if you are at all concerned about your safety at the polling station (the Parish Hall), you can always register for a postal or proxy vote. Full details will be given in the next Newsletter.



## DON'T FORGET: MARCH 21st IS CENSUS DAY

census2021

Government services at all levels require accurate information if they are to improve our communities and the lives of the people in them. That is why taking part in this year's census is essential: government and local authorities use the information from the survey to plan public services from housing to healthcare across England and Wales. So, your input is essential – in fact, it is a legal requirement. Failure to answer the survey could result in a fine of up to £1000.

Census 2021 is taking place on March 21st, and will be the first digital-first census. You should have received a letter with an access code earlier in

March. This will allow you to complete the questionnaire on a laptop, mobile phone, or tablet. The survey is quick and easy, taking around ten minutes per person to complete. Finish it in one go or save your progress and come back to it later.

If you cannot complete the census online, you can request a paper form – full details will be in your letter. You will be able to visit a Census Support Centre (subject to Covid restrictions) for help with filling in the form or you can call the census phone service for a paper version - **0800 141 2021**.

When you do this year's census, your privacy and safety are assured. All information is kept securely. Personal details are not shared, and records remain anonymous for 100 years. Census field officers will only follow up with householders after Census Day if they have not completed their form. They will not enter homes, will socially distance, and are equipped with PPE.

Get prepared  
for Census 2021

Census day will be  
Sunday 21 March 2021



# COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritisation

- 1 Care home residents  
Care home staff
- 2 Over 80s  
Frontline health and care staff
- 3 Over 75s
- 4 Over 70s  
Clinically extremely vulnerable people
- 5 Over 65s
- 6 Under 65s with underlying health conditions
- 7 Over 60s
- 8 Over 55s
- 9 Over 50s

The roll-out of the vaccinations through the priority list continues unabated. And feedback from the sites used continues to praise both the process and all those involved. It really will not be that long before second doses will start to be offered. You will be notified when it is your turn. In the meantime, here is the latest information bulletin from Tamar Valley Health.



VACCINE ROLL-OUT INFORMATION

There are further Covid vaccination clinics available at Launceston College this week on **Friday 19th March** and **Saturday 20th March**. If you are over 55 or aged 18-64 with an underlying health condition (cohort 6) or on the CEV shielding list (cohort 4), please contact the surgery to make an appointment. The health conditions that will be covered in cohort 6 are not the same as the eligibility for the annual influenza vaccination. The main risk groups identified by the JCVI are set out below (this is a non-exhaustive list):

- Chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis and severe asthma.
- Chronic heart disease (and vascular disease)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease including epilepsy.
- Down's syndrome
- Severe and profound learning disability
- Diabetes
- Solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers
- Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment
- Asplenia and splenic dysfunction
- Morbid obesity
- Severe mental illness

Please ring the surgery to make an appointment or if you have a query. Remember, if you are in an eligible group, you can book an appointment yourself (online or by calling 119) at a mass vaccination centre currently either at Home Park in Plymouth, Wadebridge Showground or Stithians Showground in Truro.

The surgery has received a high number of enquiries regarding vaccination cards as many patients were not given these at local clinics. These cards are not considered proof of vaccine nor are they a vaccination passport. They were not given stocks of these cards, so this means that they are not able to provide patients with them. Please do not ring the surgery requesting these cards.

**HEALTH CENTRE STOP PRESS**

We are now also able to vaccinate those aged 50 to 54, with or without an underlying health condition. Please contact the Health Centre to book your appointment.

**COVID CASES IN OUR AREA**

As the latest available data from the Office of National Statistics shows, the number of new cases of Covid-19 in our ward (Altarnun and Stoke Climsland) has fallen to fewer than 3 cases in the seven days up to March 10th. That is great news and, clearly, the various control measures are having a marked effect. But we should be aware that the good news of the easing of restrictions brings with it the bad news that this relaxation could be accompanied by an increase in risk as more and more people start circulating more freely. Beware of complacency and do not assume

**Altarnun & Stoke Climsland**  
Seven days to 10 March 2021

There were fewer than 3 cases. For smaller areas (eg MSOAs) with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show data. This is to protect individuals' identities.



that we are in the clear. We are not. The virus is still out there and is primed to take advantage of any lessening of our defences. Let us all follow the government guidelines assiduously and not think that we are the exceptions to the rules. We will not be. They are there for our benefit. Do not take a chance with other people's health and certainly not with me and mine!

*Deri Parsons*



## TIME TO UPDATE YOUR SPIRITUAL SAT NAV?

It has been just over 2 months since my family and I moved into this lovely part of the world. Already, it has been great to see the 5 Churches that make up the Callington Cluster work together so well during this difficult time. We now are exploring what lies ahead as the road map set out by our Government unfolds.

Our family car has a fancy sat nav, but the only problem is we have not updated it yet. So, whenever we drive on a new road it either pictures the car driving in the middle of a field, or it keeps telling us to turn right into oncoming traffic! I am

instantly reminded of a verse from the gospels (Matt 13:52) which was given to me just before my ordination which is where Jesus says:

“Therefore, every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

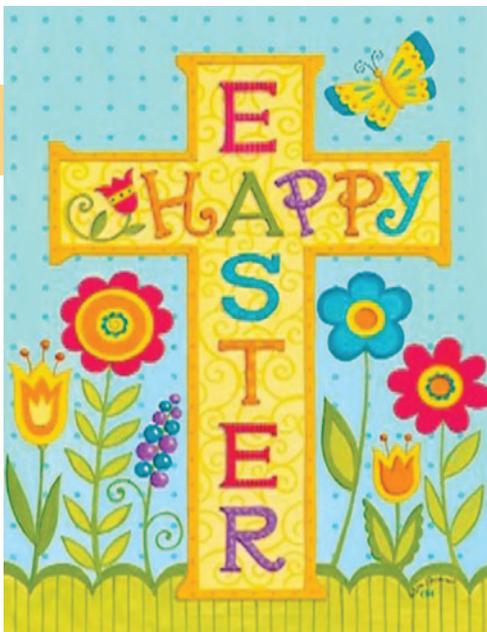
Jesus is challenging the religious leaders to see that God is doing a new thing and that the disciples of heaven’s kingdom cherish both old and the new truths. In fact, the kingdom Jesus brings is deeply rooted in the former or Old Testament. The New is the fulfilment of much of what was promised in the former.

Many of the conflicts in the early Church occurred when God decided to do a new thing, but the Church refused to be updated. Before God could enable the early Church to move from being entirely Jewish, to reach Gentiles (non-Jews) He had to bring Peter on board (Acts 10). He did this by giving him a vision of a blanket filled with unclean (or non-kosher) foods. How did Peter react? He point-blank refused God three times! Jesus had already declared all foods clean, so this was nothing new. But now Peter had to overcome his own inner objections (and possible bigotry) and go where he was sent to the house of a Roman Centurion, who was already on the path towards becoming a Christian. Fortunately, Peter changed his thinking and his heart and so began the great Christianisation of the Roman world.

I am sorry to say that it is often the people outside the supposed boundaries of the Church who are quicker to accept God and his plans than the Christians are! God is always doing something new and often he first has to challenge Christians to let go of something they cherish to make space for the new to grow.

It feels very much like spring is in the air and for the Church, Easter is fast approaching, when we celebrate life overcoming death in the Resurrection of Jesus. Just as saplings need space and light to grow in the forest; God makes space in the kingdom for new growth. The job of the Church (which is people not buildings) is to make space in their hearts, lives, and their meetings to enable this to happen. Are we willing to be there for the people of this area who are seeking, looking, and knocking at our doors wondering what life and death is all about? Is it time to get on board, to give up our own scruples and preferences for the sake of the kingdom? Is it time we updated our spiritual sat nav?

*Revd. Joe Lannon (Rector, Callington Cluster)*  
<https://callingtoncluster.org.uk>



## MESSY CHURCH IN A BAG

Our bumper Easter Messy Church in a Bag will be available to collect from outside Callington Methodist Church PL17 7JJ on SATURDAY 3rd APRIL between 10 am and 12 noon.

Please book by **SATURDAY 20th MARCH** by email [ljames434@btinternet.com](mailto:ljames434@btinternet.com) or phone 01579 388840 or via our **Messy Church in Callington** Facebook Page.

Thanks very much

*Louise*



## THE CHURCHES IN OUR PARISH

### METHODIST CHURCH



Stoke Climsland Methodist Church will re-open for worship, led by Revd David Moss, on Palm Sunday, 28th March at 11 am.

On Easter Sunday 4th April, we will be holding a Sunrise Service in the Churchyard, starting at 06:30 am. If you would like to attend then please remember to wear a Facemask and observe Social Distancing Rules. There will be a 10:00 Service on the same day hosted by St Mary's Callington and details of this will be on the Callington Cluster Website.



The Church will be open for Private Prayer between 13:00 and 16:00 every Wednesday starting from 17th March. Please wear a Facemask and use the Hand Sanitiser at the entrance before and after Prayer. We will be continuing the Zoom Prayer Meeting every Monday at 6:00 pm, Zoom Men's Breakfast every other Saturday at 9:15 am (contact John, [j.chaldecott@talk21.com](mailto:j.chaldecott@talk21.com) for joining details) and a LIVE Streamed Service every Sunday at 10:00 am with the addition of a Zoom Coffee and Chat afterwards at 11:00 am (contact Rob, [wellhouse01@gmail.com](mailto:wellhouse01@gmail.com) for joining details). We thank you all for Zooming with us and watching Services on-line during these difficult times and both of us are monitoring the Covid situation along with the ever changing regulations on a daily basis. If the situation changes then we will let everyone

know via the local social media channels, the Newsletter, the weekly Pew Sheet and the Church of England 'A Church Near You' website. Blessings and Stay Safe.

*Rob and Steve (Churchwardens)*

Photograph by Rob Stewart taken at a previous Sunrise Service on Kit Hill.

## THE NEXT NEWSLETTERS

Until such time as this Newsletter gives way to a resumed Old School News (something which may not now be too far away) we will continue to publish it online. All the evidence is that it is widely read and valued both inside and outside the parish.

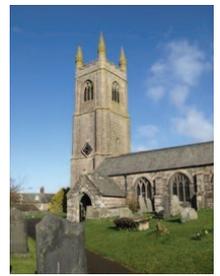
We are now producing Newsletters at about 2 week intervals. The next issues will be published online on **April 1st** and **14th**.

Please send contributions to Deri Parsons no later than two days before publication.

With the Newsletter being read widely in Stoke Climsland and elsewhere, this is becoming a good place for local businesses that are offering goods or services to advertise. Insertions are very cheap: for example a 9 cm x 6 cm insertion in full colour costs only £6. The maximum size is ¼ page. Please contact Linda Ainsworth; advertisements must be submitted no later than two days before publication.

The Newsletter contact details are on page 1. This Newsletter only works if it reflects the ideas, opinions, news and activities that are going on in the parish, despite the Covid restrictions. This is part of what keeps our community together and particularly keeps in touch with people who are stuck at home on their own. So please send us your contributions: we will gladly include anything and everything that's fit to publish!

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## Easter Tree Decorations

Did you know that the  
Stoke Climsland Jubilee Trees  
are going to be decorated for Easter?

Why not join us for this exciting  
community event

We are taking reservations from local  
Groups and Clubs.

If you would like to take part, please  
Contact Bonny Lightfoot:

bonitalightfoot31@gmail.com

Trees can be decorated from 27th March  
and decorations must be removed  
Between 10th and 17th April



theWI  
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## COVID WINTER GRANT: FINANCIAL HELP FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED

### BUT YOU NEED TO BE QUICK!

Many people in Cornwall are facing financial hardship due to the impact of the pandemic and many are struggling to put food on the table, stay warm, and buy essentials. Cornwall Council has secured a government grant to provide additional financial and practical help to local families. The Covid Winter Grant can be used to provide financial help to any households who are facing financial hardship and who would benefit from this support. The

## COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME

fund is £1.8 million from central government and 80% of the cash will go towards families with children while the remaining money will go to other households struggling because of the pandemic. Over £650,000 of this funding has already been allocated towards funding Free School Meals provision during the Christmas holiday period and February Half Term.

The conditions of the grant specify that financial help can be given in the following areas:

1. Food
2. Energy and water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, and sanitary purposes) and sewerage.
3. Other essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.)

All grants must be allocated by the end of March. To apply for the Covid Winter Grant, please use the contact information below.

For items relating to home heating such as fuel bills or breakdown in heating equipment such as oil tanks or boiler repair please contact Community Energy Plus by emailing [advice@cep.org.uk](mailto:advice@cep.org.uk) or phoning 0800 954 1956.

For help with food and other essential household items visit <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/benefits/crisis-and-care-awards/>

## WALTER C. PARSON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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## FROM THE EVELY FAMILY

The Evely family would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards, messages and phone calls of support and condolences following Ivor's passing. It is a real comfort to know just how highly everyone thought of Ivor and how much they will miss him. We would also like to thank all those people who came to the Village Green to pay their respects and give Ivor a good send off, and all those who donated to The Chestnut Appeal at Derriford Hospital in his memory.

## FROM A READER: THANK YOU EVERYONE

Every day over the last year I have been so thankful that we chose to move to Luccett 5 years ago. I do not think I could have felt safer or happier anywhere else through this extraordinary year. So, I would like to thank the people of the community for their amazing efforts. Here goes:

- ✓ Thank you to our post men and delivery drivers and to our refuse collectors.
- ✓ Thank you to everyone at Stoke Climsland Post Office and Shop for your care of those shielding and your good spirit. Also, thanks to the cheery staff at Tesco.
- ✓ Thank you to the volunteers who delivered food to the house bound and who phone those who are home alone.
- ✓ Thank you to the volunteer drivers, marshals, and vaccine jabbers.
- ✓ Thank you to the Parish clerk and councillors for all their time and commitment, I know your support is valued across the parish.
- ✓ Thank you to all our NHS staff, to the clergy and prayer groups.
- ✓ Thank you to our farmers and to our vets.
- ✓ Thank you to all those doing home visits to fix boilers, replace tiles etc.
- ✓ Thank you, food bank teams.
- ✓ Thank you to the Stoke Climsland Virtual Flower Show for such fun last Summer.
- ✓ Thank you to Edah, Rosie Neville and our local pubs for takeaway meals & dining treats.
- ✓ Lastly, thank you to the Stoke Climsland Newsletter for keeping us connected.

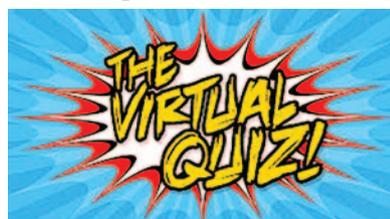
Well done everyone.



*Bridget Langsford*



Luccett Social Club is Hosting an Easter Quiz via Zoom on Saturday 3rd April at 7pm. The Theme of the quiz will be 'School Subjects' If you would like to participate, please contact the Luccett Social Club by email ([lucettsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:lucettsocialclub@gmail.com)) and the Zoom joining instructions will be sent to you.



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Mobile: 07512786971

The Old School is currently closed due to government restrictions. We will be taking messages at least once a week off the answering machine on **01579 370493** and from email at **theoldschool78@gmail.com**. If you leave contact details we will get back to you. We will try to keep you in touch via the Newsletter which is published online on The Old School Facebook page and on **www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk** where it is easier to read and download. If you do not receive it, please either contact the editor (details on Page 1) or leave your details at the office and we will add you to the mailing list. Some printed copies are sometimes available at the Post Office. Information about Old School events and services that are available are listed below.

**OLD SCHOOL MARKET** There will not be a Market in April and the current timetable for the easing of restrictions may make a May Market impossible. However, if the situation changes we will let you know in a later Newsletter. We're sorry about this uncertainty and we are trying to get the Market up and running again as soon as it is safe to do so.

**THE CHIROPODIST** will hold an appointments-only clinic on Thursdays at 2-week intervals from 18th March. You may wish to check with the office for details of clinics.

**FRIDAY LUNCHES** are cancelled until the current restrictions are lifted. As soon as we have an update we will let regulars know by phone or letter. Please contact the office to confirm your booking.

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

**TAKEAWAY MEAL** The next take-away will be on **Saturday 10th April** (not the first Saturday in the month which is in the middle of the Easter weekend). Helen Hawkey will join with Edah and will cook a Chinese Sweet and Sour with Rice and Vegetables.



So we continue our expert gastronomic round-the-world romp and, if you haven't yet enjoyed one of The Old School's lockdown take-

away meals, then you're really missing something special.

You will need to book in advance with the office. The meal will be available from The Old School car park kitchen door from 6.30 - 7.30 pm.

The price will be £7-50 per meal as before.

## WANT TO ZOOM BUT DON'T KNOW HOW? THE IT CLUB AT THE OLD SCHOOL CAN HELP

The various lockdowns have seen a massive growth in the use of videoconferencing. They are used for meetings, quizzes, church services, getting together with friends, on-line courses and much, much more. Zoom is very popular as is Facetime and Microsoft Teams.

Perhaps you would like to take part in some of these activities but do not know how? Perhaps we can help you? Just to remind you that the Old School IT Club has set up an on-line 'help desk'. You can send emails to it with your queries and you will be answered by at least one of Rosemary, Nigel or Deri. The address is **ositclinic@gmail.com**. We look forward to hearing from you. Of course, if you cannot get online, this is of no use at all, but you can call Deri Parsons on **01579 370319** and he'll do what he can to help (probably by putting you in contact with Nigel or Rosemary!)



If you know someone who struggles with the internet, let them know that we are still offering friendly and free help to improve their digital skills. There is no time like the present to get on-line.



**BROADGATE  
DAFFODILS:  
A LITTLE LOCAL  
SOCIAL HISTORY**

Here are a couple of photos of the daffodils from down New Mills/ Broadgate, where they used to be picked and then sent by train from Kelly Bray. I always look forward to seeing them, they are so lovely, coming back year after year.

So many people around Stoke used to pick their flowers and send them up country to the London Market. Mrs Rendell always sent bunches of snowdrops up to London each year. Greenhouses, too, grew lots of flowers and employed a lot of men and women from the village and around.

*Dorita Harford*



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After a year of turmoil, we are nearly there: Boris has his roadmap, many of us have now had our first vaccination and new cases of Covid-19 continue to drop to last summer's low trough. So, as we reach the 23rd March first anniversary and planned Day of Remembrance, we look to 'spring forward in renewed hope'. Cautiously, of course, and fully aware of social overcrowding and mixing, keen to escape from any more lockdown, but fully in the knowledge that the fatal disease is still out there.

So how was the pandemic of 2020/21 for you? We may well be asked in years to come; in just the same way our parents and grandparents were challenged after the Second World War. Well for us in farming, without belittling the real sacrifices made by our medical professionals on the front line, or the hardship of so many businesses shut down for much of the year, or even those households trapped in boredom in towns and

cities up and down the nation, it was, by-and-large, the same as any other year. Working with livestock, calving, lambing, harvest through the four seasons and the challenging weather, it was business as usual.

Of course, how could we not notice all that was going on around us and often with knock-on consequences to our markets, supplies, and workforce. In the early days of 'stay at home' travel restrictions, we suddenly became 'key workers'. We were finally acknowledged as the essential primary producers at the start of the food chain. Likewise, vets, agricultural mechanics and hauliers were also allowed to continue. Livestock



markets still continue to operate on a restricted entry of buyers and sellers.

But it was the total closure of pubs, restaurants, and hotels, plus any large events that took its toll on catering for 'out of home' eating. A number of dairy farmers who had contracts with those suppliers had to pour milk down the drain in the early months. The beef market dropped initially as sales of steaks and top end cuts disappeared. Even grain sales were affected by the lack of beer sales. However, as one market closed another opened as 'home cooking' made a revival, with flour, eggs, and sugar in short supply. Further as the supermarket shelves emptied, a renewed interest in farm shops and 'buy local' saw a 25% increase in market share across the year.

But, as we continued to knuckle down to our daily routine on the farm in a self-imposed isolation, there was the invasion of the lanes and footpaths all around us as 'all the world and their dog' rediscovered our glorious countryside. A welcome return for most as a free, safe, and truly local form of daily exercise during the long months of lockdown, plus for those first-time explorers especially with young families a chance to both experience and enjoy our natural world right here on the doorstep.

Wildlife at its best co-mingling in our farmed landscape clearly demonstrating there still is a 'Space for Nature' despite the nay-sayers who choose just to look to historic figures way back to the 1970's in highlighting any decline, yet then fail to acknowledge the success of the past 30 years of recovery through our many Countryside Stewardship Schemes!

As we gradually enter into the 'new normal' post-pandemic period, we will continue to show resilience as only farmers can. We have lived through our own disease challenges and crises of BSE, FMD and Bovine TB. We've always 'prepared for the worst whilst hoping for the best' and we will continue to proudly produce

quality food whilst maintaining and enhancing our Great British Countryside for all to enjoy. We look forward to the days when we can return to more social and family gatherings, agricultural shows, and events, plus a pint and pasty down the pub.

After a year we are nearly there. Let us continue to remember to 'Stay Safe, Protect the NHS and Save Lives', plus keep it local – from us all Down on the Farm.

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## INFORMATION WANTED: CAN YOU HELP?

We have had a request for information from a descendant of Gregory SOPER who left Stoke Climsland in 1883. Chris Soper is hoping to visit the area later in the year and was wondering if there were any Sopers still living in Stoke.

If there are, he would love to hear from you. His e-mail address is **chrisrsoper@hotmail.co.uk**

## A MESSAGE FROM VOLUNTEER CORNWALL

Our own local group, SCARPER, is registered with Volunteer Cornwall, a group that supports all aspects of volunteering cross the county. You can find out more about them at **www.volunteercornwall.org.uk** Here are some ways in which you can help your neighbours and community as lock-down eases.

1. As we draw near to the end of the shielding period, we are asking you to continue having those conversations with the people you are supporting about what they would like to do with their new freedoms. Where applicable, perhaps try to encourage them to venture out for a short distance (safely by explaining about safe distancing and in a quiet time as they may not know about the new rules) and rediscover their independence.
2. Bench Buddies with the person you have been helping has been re-launched. You can now meet another (one) person outside for exercise. For those that now feel more confident to go out and are not shielding, you could suggest meeting them for a walk or meet on a nearby public bench (social distancing measures in place) for a little chat (NB: the two benches at the top of the village green near to the Millennium stone are a good place to meet up and chat whilst keeping 'social distancing'). Take a flask of tea or coffee each (or something stronger if you are walking - do not share!!), wear a warm coat – just sit and relax. Encourage them to invite a friend to join them the next time.
3. If you do not have a 'bench buddy' why not call SCARPER's volunteer coordinator and see if we can match up and enjoy a chat on the benches? Of course, later in March we may be able to meet up in our gardens (up to four adults from two households) and can then enjoy more chats, As the adage goes – 'it's good to talk'.
4. You may leave your home (yippee!) for exercise or visit a public outdoor place for recreation. This must be on your own, with your household or support bubble or with one other person when in a public outdoor place. You should minimise the time you spend outside your home for this, and you should not travel outside your local area.



**WE HAVE BEEN BANGING ON ABOUT DOG POO AND LITTER. HOW ABOUT THIS FOR A NEW IDEA? ISN'T IT THE PERFECT WAY OF SOLVING ONE PROBLEM? AND IT REDUCES THE USE OF PLASTIC AT THE SAME TIME.**

They say that if March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion. Was the fine, calm but frosty beginning a frozen lamb? It is roaring now in the middle of the month; who knows what beast we will have at the end?

The Rookery up Downgate Hill seemed stalled at ten nests, half the number there were last year, but suddenly there is a lot more vocal activity and there are now fifteen substantial nests, and a splinter group with eight more nests in hedgerow trees on the far side of a nearby field. Various willows in the garden are pollinating and warm afternoons tempt quite a few hive and bumble bees to them. But not today -- everything is crouching down before the strong wind and wintry showers.

I said to our Editor what Nature Note can I make out of mud and wind and he suggested I thought about how birds deal with wind. He should have asked a hang-glider pilot! But talking of birds and wind, coincidentally our daughter e-mailed me from North Wales to say she had just been surprised to see a pair of Shelduck resolutely flying out to sea in the teeth of a westerly gale! The Met. Office weather station equipment is on a

rocky outcrop just above her cottage and it gave gusts of 89 mph in that blow! Her resident Choughs, who can build up to a flock of 60 or 70 in the winter, always seem to enjoy the wind, soaring and swooping in the updrafts along the cliffs, calling cheerfully.

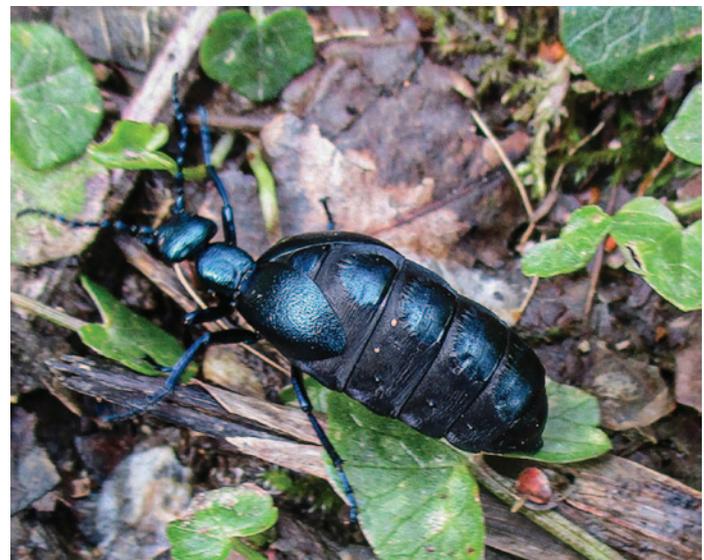
One mystery has been at least partly resolved -- the phantom tweakers, those unseen culprits which every year nip off the flowers of just about all of our primroses and polyanthus, were spotted the other day. Tony saw a cock Greenfinch nipping off the primrose flowers down the garden, leaving them scattered on the ground. So that is at least one villain. The air is at present full of their wheezing and chattering calls.



This year, records are sought for Bee Flies and Oil Beetles. I will gladly pass on any records with date and place.

Bee Flies are about the size of a smallish bumble bee and hover or briefly perch in front of a flower with a long straight proboscis drinking the nectar before zooming off to the next. Oil beetles are the rather lumbering flightless beetle with a plump abdomen not covered by the vestigial wing cases. E-mail me at [maryatk7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryatk7@yahoo.co.uk) for more information if you are interested.

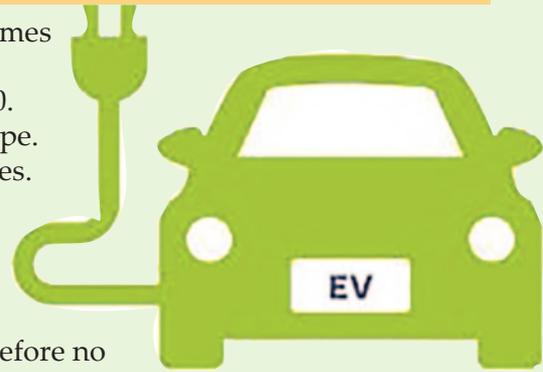
*Mary Atkinson*



Photographs: Top: Greenfinch; Above: Oil Beetle; Left: Bee Fly

# AN INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV) AND EV CHARGING

It has been estimated that 42% of carbon emissions in Stoke Climsland comes from transport. The Government announced in November 2020 that new petrol and diesel cars and vans will no longer be sold in the UK after 2030. From 2035, all new cars and vans must be fully zero emission at the tailpipe. There is now more momentum around getting drivers into cleaner vehicles. However, there are a number of different types of electric car currently available:



## **EV or BEVs (Battery Electric Vehicles)**

Are powered solely by an electric motor/battery and charged from an external source of electric power. These cars have no tailpipe, and therefore no emissions.

## **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs)**

Are equipped with a petrol or diesel engine as well as a battery that can be charged up by plugging in. These vehicles are only 'zero emissions' when driven in electric-only mode. Range-Extended Electric Vehicles (RE-EVs) use engines or fuel cells to charge up the batteries.

## **Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs)**

Are similar to PHEVs, but the electric motor/battery is smaller and charged by braking/cruising and cannot be plugged in and charged. They have very limited 'zero-emissions' mode. Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicles (MHEV) which are powered by petrol/diesel engines and assisted by a secondary electric battery cannot be driven in a zero-emissions mode.

At the start of 2021, there were more than 150,000 zero-emission BEVs on the roads in the UK and around 185,000 PHEVs and RE-EVs. The most popular electric cars on the road are models from Nissan, Renault, and Tesla. The average basic range of the top 10 BEV models is 235 miles.

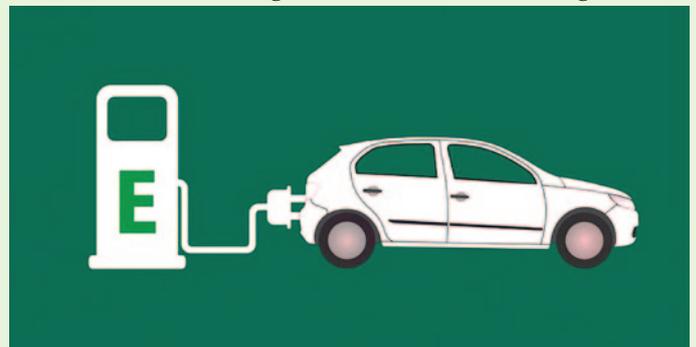
New EVs can be bought from vehicle dealerships or leased through leasing companies (except the Tesla; most of their sales are on-line). EVs generally have higher purchase costs (from £25,000) than petrol/diesel cars but have lower running costs. Grants are available from OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles) for the initial purchase cost of eligible plug-in vehicles (maximum of £3000 for a car, £8000 for a van, £1500 for a motorcycle). Second-hand EVs cost from around £10,000 but the remaining battery life needs to be taken into consideration. For used vehicles, look for a retailer certified for its EV knowledge and excellence through the Electric Vehicle Approved (EVA) Scheme.

## **Charging Your Electric Car**

There are 3 basic ways to charge your electric car: at home, at work, or at a public charging point. There are 3 categories of charger relating to the length of time it takes to charge a car: slow (8-10 hours or more), fast (3-7 hours or more) and rapid (30-60mins)

### **Home Charging (slow)**

Charging each night at home should provide the daily driving range the average driver will need. If you have the right lead, you can charge using a regular 3 pin socket (which delivers about 2.3kW), but a dedicated 7kW home socket is the better option by far. Dedicated home chargers are much safer as they are designed to deliver that level of power over long periods and the installation engineer will have checked that your property's wiring and consumer unit are up to the required standard. Of course, prices vary but the typical cost of a home charger is around £800. Under its Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme, OZEV currently offers a grant of up to 75% of the cost, capped at a maximum of £350.



### **Public EV Chargers**

Can be found at service stations, car parks, supermarkets, cinemas or just at the side of the road. Rapid chargers at service stations are best suited for longer journeys. Supermarket car parks, shopping centres and cinemas normally have fast chargers.

The EV charging market is still evolving, which means there is no universal connector for each charger type (slow, fast, and rapid) so you always need to check your car's handbook and the charging network provider's website for more specific information. For non-rapid charging you will usually have to supply your own cables. Rapid chargers have tethered cables. The easiest way to find suitable public charge points is to use an app like Zap-Map which shows the charge points on a map (giving information on connector type, EV type or charging speed and any reported charger problems).

Currently there are several different apps for payment and the requirement to subscribe. Contactless is available for some chargers. The Government is trying to encourage wider availability of contactless.

The Government has recently consulted on the EV Charging Market and SCCAG have submitted a response which outlined the challenges for on-street EV Charging in rural areas. Electric vehicles are inevitable and the time for using petrol and diesel is starting to run out. As a community we need to plan for on-street or car park charging and ensure that sufficient charging points are available in our villages. This needs to be included in the neighbourhood plan.

This is just a brief overview of EVs and EV charging. Further information can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/electric-vehicles/>

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/electric-vehicles/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

<https://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/electric-vehicle-charging-market-study>

*Susan Davies*

Energy and Transport Working Group

All comments, questions, experience of EVs welcome



## A REMINDER FROM THE VILLAGE STORE AND POST OFFICE

The Post Office counter is open 9 am - 5pm Monday - Friday, and 9 am - 12.30 pm Saturday.

The shop is open: 8 am - 6 pm Monday - Friday, 7 am - 12.30 pm Saturday and 9 am - 11 am Sunday.

For those who prefer, we also offer a 'call and collect' service. And we will continue to deliver to those vulnerable or self-isolating customers in need.

Social distancing at 2m will continue to be in force, which means limiting the number of people in the shop at any one time. Please bear with us. And, in line with current guidelines, all customers must wear a face covering unless exempt due to health, age or cognitive disability.

FOR ORDERS: please call us on 01579 370201, or email [sue-watts@btconnect.com](mailto:sue-watts@btconnect.com)

We take payment across the phone and aim to deliver the next day if you order before 4 pm. Minimum order £10, no delivery charge .

Thank you to all our customers old and new, our amazing staff and wonderful volunteers, we couldn't do it without you. Please share and thank you for your support .

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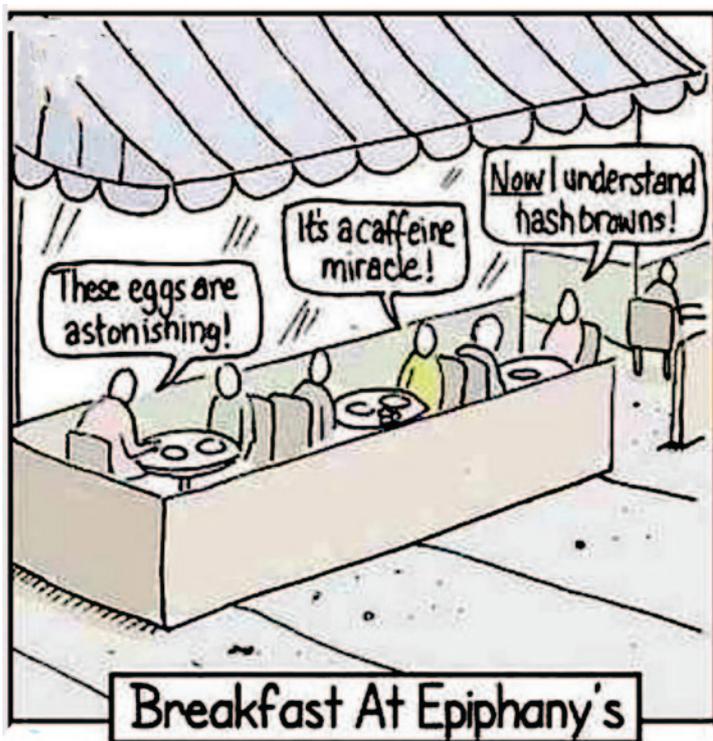
## DAFFODILS AT COTEHELE

Jan and I think that the daffodils in the orchard at Cotehele are looking particularly fine this year. Under normal circumstances, we would be looking forward to the annual Daffodil Festival at Cotehele taking place around about now. But, due to you-know-what, they are doing things a little bit differently this year by moving the majority of the festival



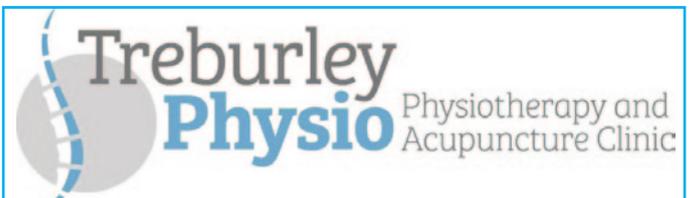
online. Join the event (follow this link: <https://fb.me/e/1YV51Iei9>) and be updated regularly with daffodils, daffodils, and more daffodils from across Cotehele and the wider Tamar Valley. The organisers hope this brings a little bit of joy to everyone who cannot get to Cotehele personally. Of course, the gardens currently remain open for locals and it's best to pre-book via the website to guarantee entry: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele)

*Deri Parsons*



## WE OPERATE AN EMAIL DISTRIBUTION FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

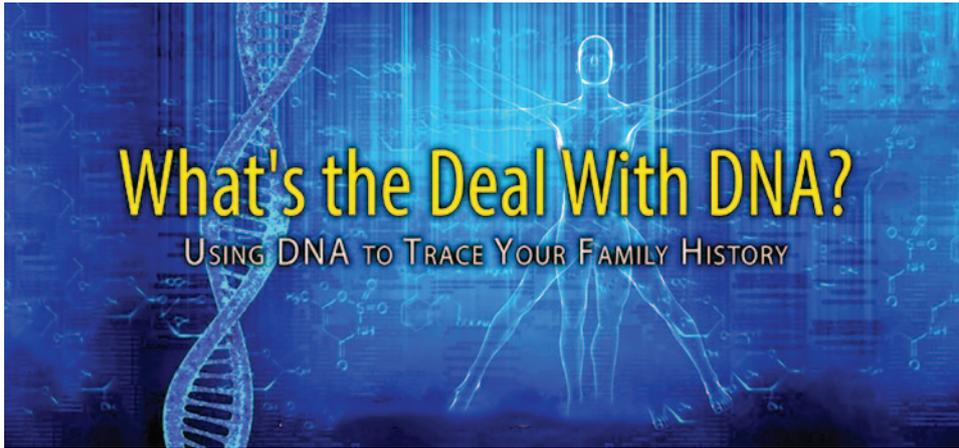
If you would like to have an emailed copy on publication day please contact Deri Parsons (details on the front page) and he will be pleased to add your name to our email circulation list.



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I was interested to read John Wilmot's piece in Issue 30 of the Newsletter in which he described his ancestral heritage coming from North Africa. Like John, and several others in the parish, I am a keen amateur family historian, with Ancestry.com my main vehicle of choice for research, and a few years ago, along with my wife Cindy, I took their DNA test.

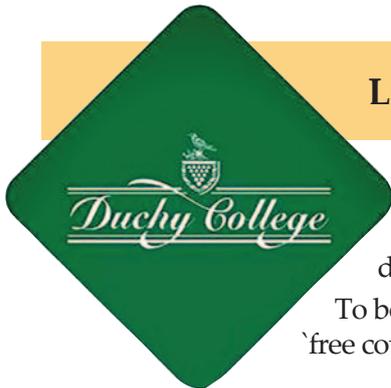
For me the results were unsurprising and revealed what I expected - that I am very "Anglo Saxon", with a lot of Scandinavian genetics

with a smattering of other Western European elements. A quick look at England's history tells my story. Cindy's ancestors stem from a wider heritage including Russia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and very surprisingly she is 1% Native American – how did that happen?

I would like to know more about DNA profiling as a tool for tracing family stories, and John, Deri and I are hosting a Zoom session, open to all, to share our experiences and learn from each other. If you would like an invite to this session, which is planned for **19th April at 5pm**, please contact Deri, whose email address you can find on Page 1.

*Nigel Allam*

## LOOK! FREE COURSES FOR ADULTS AT DUCHY COLLEGE



Duchy College has a number of FREE courses running for adults (19 years+) in order to bring the local community together at Duchy College over the spring and summer term. Most of the courses are carried out over one day and although they don't come with a qualification, you do get a certificate of achievement.

To book on please go to the Duchy College Web site <https://www.duchy.ac.uk/> and search 'free courses' in the search bar before selecting and registering on the courses of interest.

- Air Rifle Safety
- Introduction to chain saw maintenance
- Bee keeping for beginners
- Lawn mower and Garden Equipment Maintenance
- Agricultural welding for beginners - an introduction
- Pest control (moles and traps, trapping, law, and legislation)
- Important considerations before purchasing a pet
- Canine First aid
- Equine Lunging and long-reining
- Horse care and Husbandry
- Plaiting and Trimming Course
- Basic Equine Nutrition
- Equine Behaviour and Learning
- The Science behind Equitation
- Equine Conformation

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Hello everyone, are you counting down the days as we approach the next crossroads on the road map to our new 'normality'? Of course, we have to remember that the road map can change if the rate of infections and hospitalisations have not continued to fall. We might look over the border into Wales with envy as they start their road to recovery ahead of England. We wish them well and that they do not find a roadblock ahead and get slammed back into lockdown. They will be a good lead to see how we might fair when our turn comes. Fingers crossed for them...and us.



Here's hoping that when we can go out and about and travel to see friends and distant family that we have the fine weather we had last year in our first lock down. Maybe the very wet and thundery weather we had last week will be behind us. Anyone got any good forecasts from their seaweed hanging up in the garden shed or any 'old farmer' sayings that foretell what weather lies ahead? In the last newsletter (No. 31) we mentioned 'resilience' being the 'R' in our abbreviated name SCARPER. As we near the real easing of the restrictions we will have our 'resilience' tested on how

we recover and do not go backwards with new infections. As a Parish we seem to have done very well with infection levels from Covid-19. Long may this continue. We hope that we will continue to follow whatever current guidelines apply (and even the law in some cases) so we can all enjoy those much-needed breaks and holidays. Cornwall has done well to remain in the lowest infection levels. As we stretch out and breath in that fresh air, we hope that we can all start to feel that sensation of being fulfilled again in this great life in this great county.

Enjoy and stay safe and well.

As a reminder from the previous issues, we are developing our Emergency Evacuation Plan. We need to be informed of those in the local Parish community who might need to have extra assistance to leave their homes in the case of an emergency or evacuation. In such an event, the Emergency Plan will be activated and SCARPER would then be able to inform the emergency services who needed extra assistance to comply with the Emergency Orders. If you feel this might apply to you, then please contact Nigel Cooper (contact details below) and he will add you to our list. If you are a neighbour or carer of such a person but they might not get this message, then please contact them (complying with current Covid restrictions) and ask them for their permission to pass their name onto Nigel.

We continue to build up our list of volunteers with specialist skills or equipment (pumps, generators, first aid, 4x4 vehicles, heavy lifting gear etc) if you have not already done so please contact Bonny Lightfoot on 07792 264177.

Whatever you are doing we are still here and if in doubt give our volunteer coordinators a call and ask your questions.

We continue to offer the prescription collection service. If you need collections due to your medical conditions, the collection service will be there for you. Please check your prescriptions and quantity of medicines you will be needing, also check on the pharmacy (and doctor) opening times which may be subject to changes.

Just let us know when your prescription is ready, and we will collect for anyone that needs us please contact Sarah Ross – see details below.

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

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

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

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

## THE PROBLEM OF FILLERS

I really don't know whether professional layout designers ever have small spaces into which they have to squeeze large amounts of text or large spaces that, at the last moment, need to be filled. But we do. Unlike the Old School News we can add or remove single pages to our Newsletters but there is invariably a moment, close to our publication deadline, when Deri and I find that we either need fillers or, more rarely, have to decide to jettison or shorten something because we've run out of space.

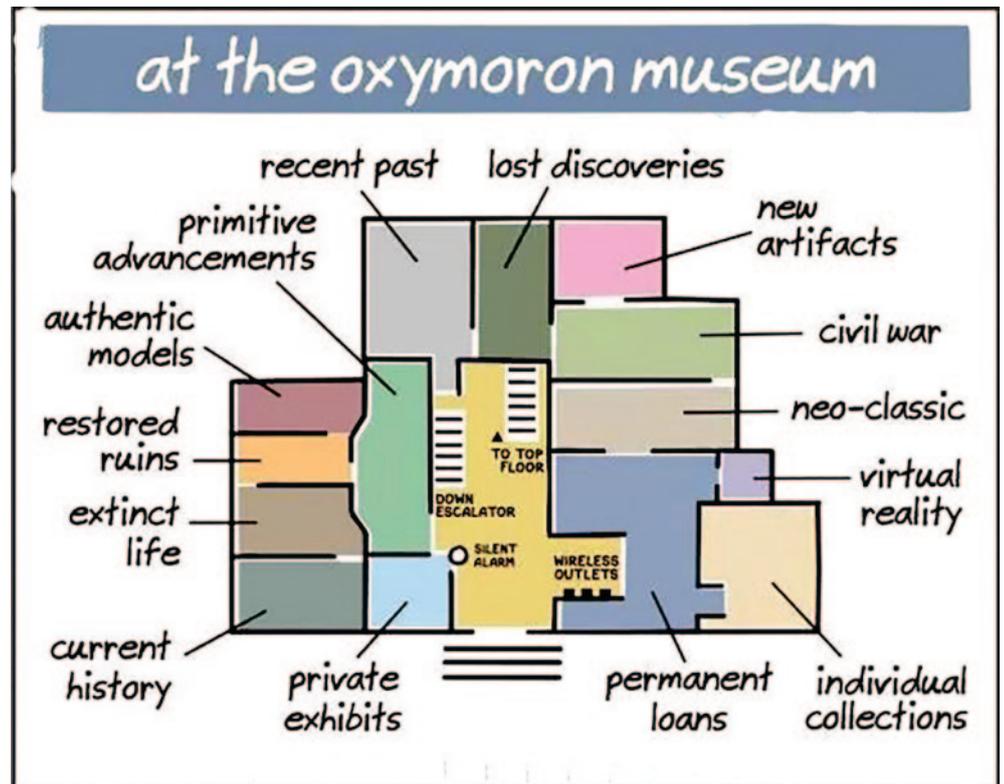
The technology of fillers is interesting. Where unfilled spaces are small we can stretch the text of surrounding items or enlarge pictures and thus flow existing material into the unwanted blank area. But there are limits to that: over-enlarged or over-squeezed text spacing becomes unpleasant to read and not all pictures enlarge well. So we guess that prudent editors and compilers have a small pot of short news items which can be parked in the unwanted spaces.

But we find that our small pot is often empty or has items which are either too large to fit the small space or downright unsuitable. This is where we start to scour the internet for material (what *did* people do before the internet came along?). The cartoon to the right is a filler that came from some internet source but it's not ideal since it can't be reduced in size without losing the small text in its middle.

Of course, some cartoons are really not appropriate to a noble publication like this Newsletter.

You can help: we would welcome as many snippets (text or pictures or both) as you can generate. Better still if they have local interest. They would make the final stages of our work so much easier!

*John Wilmut*



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## JUST A REMINDER

We are now publishing this Newsletter twice a month and the next few issues will be tracking the progress of the Government's roadmap out of Covid restrictions. As this happens there will be more and more people who are able to get out and to access goods and services that are on offer from local businesses.

**THERE MAY NEVER BE A BETTER  
TIME TO ADVERTISE WHAT YOU  
HAVE TO OFFER!**

Advertisements in this Newsletter are very cheap; for example a 9 cm x 6 cm insertion in full colour costs only £6. We would be delighted to include yours. If you want to advertise your goods and services please get in touch with Linda - her contact details are on the front cover.



**TO ALL  
THE MUMS  
READING  
THIS...**

We know that it's a bit late but we thought that we'd include pictures of bouquets sent out by the parish church to mums in Stoke Climsland. We think that all mums can share in the good wishes whether or not they live in the parish. So, if you're a mum reading this, Happy Mother's Day. And many thanks to Jane Coumbe for instigating and coordinating everything.



**...WE HOPE  
YOU HAD  
A HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY**