



The Stoke Climsland Newsletter

Issue 33 April 2021

WELCOME to the Easter issue of the Stoke Climsland Newsletter. We're preparing this just as the weather has taken a distinct turn for the better and the first stages of the lockdown easing have taken place. So there's an air of optimism around the parish, perhaps characterised by the decorated trees on the village green (see pages 20 and 21). Of course, we have to remain cautious, so that it's too early to announce widespread re-opening of parish facilities and certainly too soon to discard the masks and throw caution to the winds.

Over the last few issues we have been reminded of other, non-Covid, issues that we must face. In particular, we are being asked to think hard about our responsibilities to our environment and to the impact that we, as a species, have had on the planet. That makes us wonder what we mean when we say that we are hoping to get back to a 'normal' way of life. Does that mean going back to the way that things were before Covid? Or to something different - perhaps something that seriously addresses the climate emergency that we face? And, if we are contemplating a different way of life how much sacrifice are we prepared to make to achieve this? Or is it just someone else's problem?

These are not issues that we'll sort out in a few Newsletter articles but they are critically important and absolutely inescapable though their seriousness doesn't prevent us wishing you a very Joyful Easter.

Deri Parsons and John Wilmot

ROAST LAMB LUNCHES UNDER THREAT

In this issue, the subjects for our farming correspondent (Page 15) are sheep and lambs. Seeing them together in the meadow is surely a sign that winter is over and spring is with us. But changes might be afoot that could disturb this rural idyll.

Amongst the farming community, there is increasing concern of the possibility that a new coronavirus variant - Bahvid-36 - from the sheep rearing region of New Zealand might spread to the UK. Shaun, the sheep expert at the Duchy College, has told us that "taking precautionary measures now should prevent the spread of Bahvid-36 and stop our farmers being fleeced". The government's chief agricultural advisor, Jonathan Van Lamb, is set to announce social distancing measures for flocks of more than 10 sheep. With these in place, sheep will be kept at least 2 metres apart for a period of eight weeks. Special machinery has been commissioned at record speed from AZ Tractors and this is being rolled-out nationally. It will be used to delineate fields in the appropriate manner and to the specified dimensions. We give an artists' impression of what our fields could look like below. It is hoped that this measure will prove successful at encouraging flock immunity and that escalation to the next stage - mandating that ovine face masks be worn - will not be necessary. It would be very baaaad news if we got to that stage. We will keep ewe informed of developments in future issues of the Newsletter.



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. The next issue is due out on April 14th.

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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PARENTS IN EAST CORNWALL CAN NOW COLLECT RAPID COVID-19 TESTING KITS FROM LOCAL SITES

Parents of nursery, school and college-age children in East Cornwall are now able to pick up free Covid-19 testing kits from sites in Liskeard and Launceston. The aim is to ensure all adults who live in households with children can test themselves with rapid-result Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) twice a week if possible.

As many as one in three people who catch the virus display no symptoms meaning they go about their daily lives unaware they are spreading it around. Results for LFD tests are typically available within an hour so anyone who tests positive can self-isolate immediately. This means Covid will have far fewer opportunities to sneak into workplaces and schools, keeping our communities as safe as possible. Our nearest sites are:

- Launceston (Cattle Market short stay car park) every Monday, 9am-3pm.
- Westbourne Car Park, Liskeard, daily from 1 – 8pm.

To find other sites near us, check out the map here - <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Adults over 18 years of age can pick up a maximum of two kits each per visit for their own use. Other adults in the household must pick up their own kits. Instructions on how to use the tests and record results are included with the kits. People should **NOT** use these kits to test children. Where appropriate, children will be supplied kits by their schools.

**1 in 3 people
who have
Covid-19 don't
have symptoms.
Test regularly.**



cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus

REMEMBER

when using play areas, parks
and skate facilities

Hands • Face • Space



Thank you / Meur ras

www.cornwallgov.uk/coronavirus

WELL-INFORMED GINGER CAT SOCIALLY-DISTANCING ON SHOPPING TRIP TO TESCO



The roll-out of the vaccination programme is universally regarded as being a great success. The roll-out across the various priority groups, shown in the schematic below, is proceeding speedily and the system is gearing up to give people their second jab. Remember you can ring the Tamar Valley Surgery if you are in one of the priority groups or if you have a query. In addition to this, if you are in an eligible group, you can book an appointment (online or by calling 119) at a mass vaccination centre currently either at Home Park in Plymouth, Wadebridge Showground or Stithians Showground in Truro.

It is worth reminding ourselves what the changes brought in on March 29th allow us to do.

Social contact: People will be allowed to have outdoor gatherings with their friends and families, which includes within private gardens. The limit on numbers is either up to six people, or two households.

Sport: Outdoor sporting facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, and outdoor swimming pools, will be allowed to reopen. People will also be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports, which will not have to adhere to the rule of six restrictions. However, the government guidance says it "should be compliant with guidance issued by national governing bodies".

Travel: The stay-at-home rule, which has been in place since the new lockdown began in January, will be lifted. However, the government says people should continue to work at home where possible and minimise the number of journeys made. Travel abroad will not be allowed, apart from for a small number of permitted reasons.

Weddings, funerals, and places of worship: Weddings will no longer be limited to just exceptional circumstances. However, the rule of six will remain applicable to attendees. The guidance for funerals will stay the same, up to 30 guests allowed, and the rule of six remaining in place for wakes. Churches, mosques, and other places of worship have remained open throughout the current

lockdown, and there will be no changes to the rules now in place. For Easter services, the guidance says people "must not mingle with anyone outside your household or support bubble".

Protests: The new regulations state that protests will be allowed under an exemption from the ban on large gatherings, but only if they are organised by a public body, business, or political body or other group. They also have to pass risk assessments at the discretion of individual police forces, including to maintain social distancing.



HM Government

COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritisation

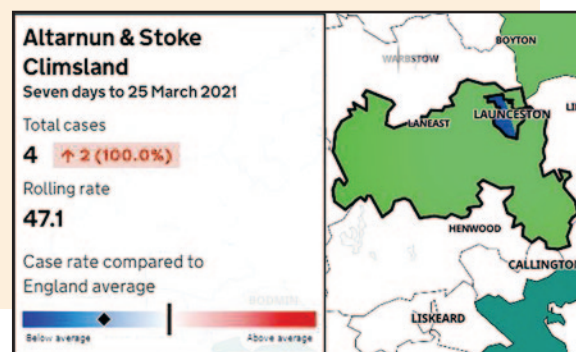
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Care home residents
Care home staff | 6 Under 65s with underlying health conditions |
| 2 Over 80s
Frontline health and care staff | 7 Over 60s |
| 3 Over 75s | 8 Over 55s |
| 4 Over 70s
Clinically extremely vulnerable people | 9 Over 50s |
| 5 Over 65s | |

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 shown a slight increase from 2 to 4 new cases in the seven days up to March 25th. But our area is well below the national rate for England. The picture for Cornwall over the same period shows an increase by 24 to 112 new cases, still well below the national rate.

We have to recognise that these figures do not really include the effects of the return to school, and it will

take, perhaps, a couple more accounting periods before any consequences of this are clear. Now we are moving into the Easter Holiday period and the temptation, for many of us, will be to get out and about more and, let's face it, stretch what we are allowed to do to the limit. This really is not a good idea. As all the experts keep pointing out, the virus (and its variants) 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. Remember the mantra: hands, face, space, fresh air. Simple things to keep in mind and simple rules to follow. Heaven knows, they've been repeated often enough and there's no excuse for not knowing what they mean!



AN EMBARRASSMENT!

Do you wear a Cross? Sometimes, secular institutions, trying to be politically-correct, instruct Christians not to wear their Cross at work in case it offends, resulting in arguments about freedom of religion. In the Middle East many Coptic Christians have a small Cross tattooed on their inner wrist for all to see. There is a problem with the Cross.

In the Roman Empire, Christians were mocked for their attraction to the Cross. The Cross was a negative image for most Romans, it was a means of excruciating execution for slaves, robbers, and enemies of the State. Nailing someone naked to a wooden cross worked because it was so barbaric; the victim died not from nail wounds, but slow asphyxiation. Early Christians had quite a hurdle to jump when they were declaring in faith that Jesus was the Son of God! There is a third-century piece of graffiti, not as artistic as Banksy, but still satire. The crude drawing shows a boy with his hand raised in worship before a crucified figure with an ass's head. Beneath are the words: 'Alexamenus worships his god'.



In the Bible, the idea that Jesus died on a Cross figures greatly.

Mark, one of the Gospel writers, reports: 'They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means 'the place of the Skull'... It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the accusation against him said: 'The King of the Jews'. ... People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus...'

So, how and why has the Cross become a religious symbol? The rough, bloody, wooden cross gets transformed into an item of gold, ornate jewellery. It does seem that the early Christians found the reality of the Cross a little tricky to say the least. However, when the disciples looked back at the teaching of Jesus, they remembered that he had foretold his own death and the means by which it would happen. It is also clear that these same women and men were willing to suffer ridicule, and death for the faith they held. In fact, the Gospel stories are clear not just that Jesus died an embarrassing criminal's death, but also that he had been raised to life three days afterwards. Followers are certain because by faith, they know Jesus and God's love.

As the Christian faith spread across the Roman Empire and eventually into Britain the symbol of the Cross came with it. Early examples are Standing Stones shaped into a Celtic Cross, often found across Cornwall and it seems these acted, amongst other things, as a focus for private prayer, or to mark a site for public open-air worship. Coming out of Lock Down many of our church buildings will be re-opening for public worship this Easter.

As they will be doing so in a Covid-safe way I suggest you check what the local practice is should you want to attend. However, wherever we are, we are all able to worship or reflect upon the Crucified, Risen Lord Jesus.

Rev. David Moss,
Methodist minister for Stoke Climsland

EASTER TREE DECORATIONS

Everyone is looking forward to seeing the Stoke Climsland Jubilee Trees laden with decorations for Easter

Don't worry if you are not part of any of the groups or clubs that have reserved trees, you still have the opportunity to add your own decorations to the two Community Trees which are available for everyone, so why not get involved.



Always up with the action, the Newsletter team dispatched our roving cameraperson to the Village Green to capture the efforts of the local tree decorators. You can see the results on pages 20 and 21. Congratulations to all concerned!

THE CHURCHES IN OUR PARISH

METHODIST CHURCH



April services are being held at Venterdon on the 4th (Easter Sunday), 11th, 18th and 25th. All services start at 11am and will be lead by Gordon Rowe (4th), local arrangement (11th), Michael Rose (18th) and Jean Ryall (25th).

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' 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.



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

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 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 for joining details).

We thank you all for Zooming with us and 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 Easter Day 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 14th and 26th**.

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!

PARISH CHURCH





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Thursday, Friday & Saturday
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fresh fruit, veg, dairy & bread



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Considering Permaculture *from Alastair Guy*

At the Stoke Climsland Parish Council meeting on 15th March 2021, I spoke in the public session. Our parish council has limited time available for the public to speak at each meeting due to their existing heavy workload. I was kindly given two minutes to read out the following:

Here at Climson in Stoke Climsland, where we live, we have seen a massive decline in both flora and fauna in the past 35 years. In the early eighties, the dawn chorus was just an amazing experience. We had willow warblers, spotted flycatchers, redstart, and meadow pipits. We had blackcaps, whitethroats, goldcrests, linnets, and redpoll. Snipe and woodcock were common with greenshank winter visitors. Mistle thrush, fieldfare, and redwing. The list goes on and on. We even had a nightjar in the veg patch one year! Now butterflies, moths, and bees; so many have disappeared. Wildflower meadows are no more. We are living in the middle of the Sixth Mass Extinction.

For the past sixty years or so, we have believed in the so called "Green Revolution". Herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, and fungicides - the instant 'cure' for all our growing problems and synthetic fertilisers that give us instant results for better crops. But all this comes at a huge cost. The cost is the collapse of biodiversity and even the collapse of whole ecosystems with global heating. Permaculture is one way forward. We need to stop waging war on Mother Earth. Rachael Carson's "Silent Spring" is the reality we must all face now. Permaculture for growers and gardeners, sustainable and enlightened, regenerative agriculture for farmland.

After the meeting, I was delighted to get a phone call from District Councillor Neil Burden. He said that he had listened to what I had read out and that he agreed with everything I had said. He went on to say it was difficult to know what to do about it. My response was that education was the key, and to my delight Neil agreed and said that he would help in any way that he could. What I am hoping for is the opportunity to start a dialogue with Duchy College and our local community about climate change and biodiversity loss. An open dialogue between residents, local shops, farmers, and the leading agricultural college about what we can all do to help.

If anyone would like to be kept informed about this, feel free to call me on this number anytime – 07779 838003



PERMACULTURE

Don't hope to return to normal *from John Wilmut*

It's good to see the recent series of Newsletter articles that draw attention to potential actions that we, as residents of Stoke Climsland, might take in response to the current climate emergency. The latest article on electric vehicles was interesting particularly since I have been doing some serious thinking about replacing our ageing diesel car with an electric one.

But I have become increasingly suspicious of solutions to the climate emergency which depend on replacing one technology with another, more advanced, technology whose long-term effects we can't yet envisage. After all, it's our commitment to chasing prosperity using fossil-fuel-based economies and technologies that has got us into the environmental mess that we're in and there's no reason to suppose that further technologies will get us out of that. The difficulty is that we have all become conditioned to believe in and live our lives within a hi-tech economy. We expect instant access to personal transport, cheap packaged food, gadgets galore, instant healthcare and vaccines to ward off disease, entertainment on tap, warmth and comfort at home and all the rest that a wealthy advanced economy can give us. We are far better off in these respects than most people in the world but in the process of getting these comforts we have caused the climate emergency while others suffer the worst of its effects.



Our governments don't help. They indulge us with commitments to quick fixes where it is easier to promote technological solutions than it is to think about long-term consequences or, dare we say, more drastic ways of dealing with the climate emergency. And, where strong and imaginative international action is needed, populist politicians find it easier to focus on immediate national issues or to appease local interest groups.

So what can citizens of Stoke Climsland do? Maybe we need to get through some simple steps before we commit to solutions like electric cars, solar panels, hi-tech agriculture or ground-source heat pumps. Perhaps travelling less and planning journeys on a shared basis would help. Perhaps using feet, trains or

buses a bit more. Perhaps eating less and eating less meat. Maybe doing some DIY work to reduce domestic heat loss or lowering the temperature at which we live. Definitely recycling diligently and seeking low-packaging items. Definitely sticking with and repairing older technologies for as long as possible.

We must re-learn a respect for the environment and we almost certainly must lower our expectations – going back to 'normal' after Covid really isn't an option and many of the technologies on offer are too brutal and too dangerous to contemplate. Perhaps electric cars will turn out to be the wrong sort of solution though it's my children and grandchildren who will discover that.

RECYCLING MATTERS! IT REALLY DOES

Local TESCO stores at Callington, Launceston and Tavistock have added an extra in-store collection cage alongside their carrier bags recycling cage. This additional cage is for “soft” plastics, ie not hard/rigid plastic, which includes crinkly plastic from

- salad items, celery, tomatoes
- some fruits and veg (peppers, spinach, apples etc)
- film off punnets of fruit, trays of veg and meat
- sleeves and film lids off yoghurt pots
- packets of sauces
- cereals, muesli, granola and oats bags
- noodles, rice and pasta packets
- dried fruit, sugar in plastic bags
- crumpets, thins & naan packaging
- in fact, pretty much all the food packaging that RECYCLING FOR CHARITY cannot take...

The cages are located in the lobby by the exit in Launceston, the one in Callington is just before the exit into the lobby and that in Tavistock is through the checkouts but not close to the exit.

Remember, you should continue to put stretchy plastic with the carrier bag recycling, including

- shrink wrap from cans
- bubblewrap,
- postal bags
- frozen chips and peas packets
- spuds and apple bags
- nets from fruit and garlic
- carrier bags

**YES, RECYCLING
TAKES EFFORT
BUT ISN'T IT
WORTH IT TO DO
YOUR BIT TO
HELP SAVE
THE PLANET?**



Sarah Bradbury, Tesco's Director of Quality, said:

“Reducing and recycling plastics is such an important issue for us, for customers and for the future of our planet. That's why we are working hard to reduce the amount of packaging in our stores and have committed that all remaining packaging will be recyclable by 2025.”

PLEASE continue to support RECYCLING FOR CHARITY on Facebook Save the following items and drop them off at The Old School car park recycling shed or other local collection points.

- Bread bags that are stretchy (all others can now go to TESCO)
- Cheese packets include Baby Bel nets, labels and wax
- Crisp & all snacks packets
- Baby food and Pet food pouches
- Biscuit & cracker packets and cake wrappers
- Sweet & chocolate wrappers
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes, soft tubes and pots of creams, gels, ointments.
- Triggers and hand pumps, roll on deodorants, LATEX style gloves & Marigolds
- Cleaning wipes and dishwasher packets & tubs, plastic air fresheners
- Pens and inkjet cartridges

For a full list of what can be accepted visit www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling and see where your nearest collection point is.

Thank you.

Ali
SHARE@south-hill.co.uk
07305 044049

WE'VE GOT OUR POLLING CARDS – HAVE YOU?

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:

1. Electing the County Councillor who will represent us in the newly formed ward of Altarnun and Stoke Climsland – there is a single vacancy.
2. Electing new Parish Councillors to Stoke Climsland Parish Council for the next 4-year term of office – there is a maximum number of 10 vacancies.
3. Electing a new Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall – there is a single vacancy.

We give details of the current candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner on the next page. But we cannot yet give you details of who might be standing for the County and Parish Council positions as the closing date for applications for both is not until 5pm on 7th April. Hopefully, we will be able to give you names and, if possible, biographies in the next couple of issues of this Newsletter.

IMPORTANT: You must be on the Electoral Register to be able to vote in these, or any other, elections. Are you registered? If not, you have got until Monday 19th April to do it. To register to vote, please go to Cornwall Council's **Register To Vote** page on <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/> It's not an onerous process and further information about registering to vote can be found on the Electoral Commission website, including a step-by-step easy read guide to registering to vote online.

DON'T FORGET: You can vote in an election in different ways:

IN PERSON BY POST BY PROXY - you can appoint someone else to vote for you.

There is lots of useful information on Cornwall Council's **Different Ways To Vote** on its elections page.

CONCERNED ABOUT COVID? 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.



Cornwall Council

Poll card

Election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall police area

Election of councillors to Cornwall Council
Altarnun & Stoke Climsland Division

Date of election **Thursday 6 May 2021**

Voting information

Polling day	Thursday 6 May 2021
Voting hours	7am to 10pm
Your polling station will be	Stoke Climsland Parish Hall Stoke Climsland, Callington PL17 8NY

For information on candidates standing in your area:
Go to www.choosemypcc.org.uk
Or call 0808 1 96 21 70

Delivered by
Royal Mail

Your details:
[Redacted]

PL17

Number on register: [Redacted]

You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote.

When visiting the polling station we ask that you

- Wear a face covering unless you have a valid exemption
- Bring your own pen or pencil
- Follow signs and guidance from staff at the station to adhere to social distancing

Please turn over

Steves home and garden maintenance

No job to small

- Basic Garden maintenance
- Window cleaning
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- Putting up fences
- Domestic cleaning
- House maintenance
- Gutter cleaning

Please feel free to call me for a non-obligation quote.

Home: 01579 384204
Mobile: 07512786971

DEVON AND CORNWALL PCC ELECTION 2021: WHO WILL BE STANDING?

We will be able to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Devon and Cornwall on 6th May. To most of us, I'd hazard a guess and say this is the post that is less visible. This may be the case but it is important because of the scope of the role. PCCs work to ensure police forces in England and Wales are running effectively. Their responsibilities include setting out force budgets, holding chief constables to account and providing a link between communities and police. PCCs are usually elected every four years, but elections were postponed in May 2020 due to coronavirus (of course!).

These are the candidates who have said they intend to stand for Devon and Cornwall PCC this year (listed alphabetically). This list will be updated if and when more candidates declare they will stand. Hopefully, we'll be getting more information on each one as they start their canvassing.



**Brian Blake,
Liberal Democrat**

Brian Blake served with Devon and Cornwall Police for more than 30 years before moving on to work at the Ministry of Defence for 13 years.



Gareth Derrick, Labour

Gareth Derrick served in the Royal Navy for 36 years and was elected as a city councillor for Plymouth in 2018. He sits on the Police and Crime Panel.



**Alison Hernandez,
Conservative**

Alison Hernandez is the incumbent PCC and was first elected in 2016. She runs her own management consultancy business.

VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT

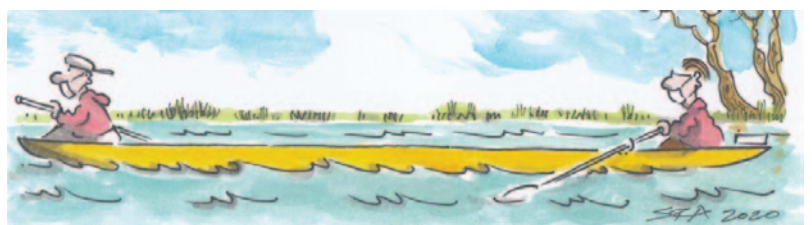
Luckett Social Club is Hosting an Easter Quiz via Zoom on Saturday 3rd April at 7pm. The Theme of the quiz will be 'School Subjects' If you would like to participate, please contact the Luckett Social Club by email (luckettsocialclub@gmail.com) and the Zoom joining instructions will be sent to you.

**LUCKETT
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CLUB**

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dynamic modern property agents.**



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.





LATCHLEY, CHILSWORTHY AND COXPARK SHOW GOES VIRTUAL

The Committee of the LCCP SHOW has reluctantly decided not to hold the Show in the usual way this year. The ongoing situation makes it very difficult to ensure the safety of all our exhibitors and visitors, especially within the confines of a crowded marquee. However, we are very conscious that there has been considerable renewed interest in growing and crafting throughout the last year of enforced lockdown, and so that all these potential exhibitors are not disappointed we intend holding a VIRTUAL SHOW on the usual date at the end of July.

Our Committee is currently working on a revised Schedule and Rules, and these will be available on our website and Facebook page in the next few weeks. We hope this initiative to keep this important event thriving and will be welcomed by the community and we can all look forward to a great get together again next year.

All the details will be on our website <https://www.lccpshow.org/> and Facebook page in the coming weeks so watch this space and get busy!

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



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What's in Your Genes?

There has been a positive response to my piece in Newsletter 32 about DNA testing, and our Zoom meeting planned for 5pm on Monday 19th April. It promises to be a useful introduction to using DNA testing both for family historians and for those seeking more knowledge about the deeper aspects of tracing your ancestral roots "out of Africa".

Deri will be our Chairman and John will give us an insight to the various ways we can obtain DNA tests and how to interpret the results. There will be plenty of time for questions, and probably answers!

If you have not signed up yet, you will need to do so by emailing Deri (derrick.parsons@btinternet.com) before April 12th so that I can send you the Zoom invitation (including any help for those who may not be confident using Zoom) and Deri, John and I can fine-tune the session to make sure we cover this interesting subject in the right amount of detail. To help you take notes, copies of John's

presentation and reference list will be sent to everyone beforehand.

There has been much interest in DNA on our TV screens recently, with both BBC2 and ITV showing programmes helping others find information about their or a loved one's pasts. We won't be doing that, but we hope to be just as entertaining, if not more so!

Nigel Allam

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE GRAVEYARD

Did you know that there are just under 2000 burials recorded for the graveyard at the church? Many of the headstones are gradually succumbing to the elements and the inscriptions are becoming very difficult to decipher. Rob Stewart and I are thinking about producing a photographic record/archive of what's there and would welcome others with cameras to join us. We need to work out the best way of going about it and what to do with the data we produce. But the starting point will be taking the photographs. If you would like to contribute (and it would be a very pleasant – and peaceful – way of spending a few hours on a sunny afternoon), please get in touch (derrick.parsons@btinternet.com or 01579 370319).

Deri Parsons



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Hello to everyone from SCARPER. 'Scarper'? We wonder how many people are taking the opportunity this week to 'scarper' off to see family and relatives that they have not really had chance to meet up for so long now? Hopefully, all will be well, and everyone has an enjoyable time. Diaries will be filling up fast! In the meantime, we wish you all a very Happy Easter and enjoy all that chocolate!

Of course, the virus is still out there. It is clear from the statistics we see that the infections levels are coming down as are the hospitalisations and, thankfully, the death rates. Whilst this will be a function of those being vaccinated, we have also had a strong 'stay at home' message and, in the main, most of us have adhered to that restriction. 'Stay at home', in itself, must help to better control the infection levels. Removing 'stay at home' has a risk to it. So, we must all continue to be aware of the 'face, space, hands' message we have been hearing for so many months now. We should not forget that the virus has not gone away. Despite the wonderful fall in infection rates, there is still enough infection circulating that it could easily take off again. We are seeing infection rates on the rise yet again in Europe. The Office for National Statistics estimates that, along with asymptomatic cases, there could be more than 100,000 infectious people out there. Thankfully, we live in a very rural environment where we have some good green spaces and reasonable garden space to now meet friends but keep to our social distancing. Hugging and kissing will have to wait a bit longer!

None of us want to go back to another lockdown. We have seen the impact on people's health and the strain of either working from home or 'home schooling' or worse, as well as the local economy. Let us hope that we are now moving forward to a 'new normality' As Captain Sir Tom Moore said, 'Tomorrow will be a good day'. 'This is perhaps the end of the beginning and the beginning of the end' (plagiarised and adapted from that famous speech by Sir Winston Churchill made in more difficult times). Whatever you are doing now and then from 12th April (the earliest date for our 'release') stay safe and enjoy meeting family and neighbours. Maybe you already have your plans set from May 17th (again an 'earliest' date)?

Did you stop and think to reflect at 12.00 on 23rd March? Also beam a light at 8pm that night? Many of us would have reflected, particularly those of us who lost a loved one and were not able to say a goodbye or hold their hand at that sad moment. Maybe some will have lost their job or their hard-won business. Maybe others are experiencing the impact of 'long covid' or are supporting those with 'long covid'. Yes, much to reflect upon and to reflect on how we will be when we enter the 'new normal'. We are back to that word 'resilience' mentioned in earlier newsletters (Nos 31 and 32) the Stoke Climsland community is very capable, versatile, and supportive. That does not mean there is no suffering within the community or loneliness. A cheery 'good morning, how are you?' can be well received.

Maybe we can have another 'jumble ramble' later this year, last years' was a really good one coming at the end of our first lockdown. Seeing so many happy faces chatting away was a real uplift after several months 'hibernating'.

We will continue to offer the prescription collection service as long as it is needed. 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 on the next page.

We set this service up at a time when we were locked down. As restrictions begin to relax the needs for this service may also reduce. But some of you may still need to use this service. Please contact Sarah if this applies to you and we can see how we continue in the coming months.

Lockdown rules for England from 29 March



Stay local as much as possible - continue to work from home if you can and keep journeys to a minimum



Six people or two households can meet up outside, including in private gardens



Outdoor sports facilities and open-air swimming pools are allowed to reopen



Non-essential shops, gyms and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted



Holidays abroad still banned

continued from the previous page

Ren Jackaman (contact: 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 or 01579 370521), our prescriptions and medicines co-ordinator. Please contact her if you need help.

Nigel Cooper (contact: 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 or call 01579 370201). Please contact Sue if you want home deliveries of your groceries.

Stay safe, please try, and keep well and continue to follow the Government and Cornwall Council guidelines as they (and the 'road map' dates) may change.



LOWER NORTON KENNELS IS CLOSING

Richard and Barbara have decided to close Lower Norton Kennels and retire. To hang up the dog leads!

We would like to thank all our clients, many of whom have become our friends, for their custom and business over many years. We have enjoyed looking after your pets, large and small, shaggy and smooth coated. As of March 31st. we will no longer have a landline but our mobile numbers remain the same.

We will miss you in many ways. God bless you all.



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

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 .



Sorry New Zealand but its official - 'British Lamb is best, and Coleman's have got it covered!' Their current advertisement for Mint Sauce confirms that, when it is naturally reared, grass fed and local, you can taste the difference. However, where the promotion is less clear is in highlighting that, in the main, New Zealand Lamb is processed, store chilled and shipped halfway around the world from carcasses produced up to 6 months ago. Whereas British, and especially our own West Country PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) Lamb, has been born, raised on grass diet, and slaughtered all within the Region. Little travel carbon footprint, no storage and fresh in season.

Indeed, it is the Dorset Breed early born pre - Christmas / New Year lambs that are beginning to appear on the meat counter, oven ready for this Easter weekend that await the Mint Sauce condiment. For those of us more traditionally spring lambing

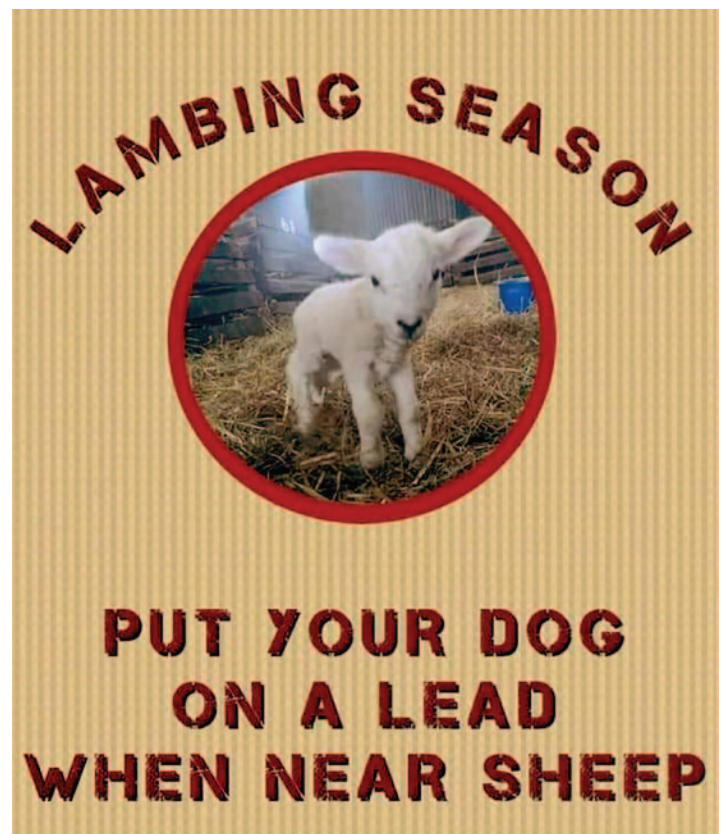
right now, of course, the new season crop will take 4 -6 months to fatten throughout the summer to be sold in the autumn as 'mature lamb' as opposed to 'suck lamb' the term given to spring raised lamb.

One pleasing aspect for us weary shepherds to note is the current record high price for lamb. Always subject to supply and demand, prices fluctuate by season and throughout the year. But with a combination of lower numbers available, partly due to many producers selling their Hoggets (between 1 and 2 years of age) pre-Xmas in the fear of a post-Brexit collapse (now unfounded with Continental Europe still importing 30% of our prime lamb) plus a resurgence in red meat consumption by UK consumers, market prices up to £6.50/kg far exceed the seasonal norm of between £4-£5/kg.

This is welcome news for a sector that has been 'bottom of the pile' for far too long. For even now, although meeting the cost of production, we still face the total loss of our wool clip for a second season due to the ongoing Covid restrictions (no new carpets in empty hotels!) and a world market collapse. Locally we suffer further disappointment at the recent closure of our long-standing Liskeard Wool Grading Centre, as part of British Wool's drastic reform of the network. Hope of a collection centre in Launceston for the coming season will be a welcome alternative otherwise all Cornwall's clip will have to travel to South Molton, North Devon. Difficult times for one of the most natural and renewable materials known to man!

So, we see this week the gradual easing of Lockdown 3, with the return of the 'Rule of 6', meeting up outdoors in family bubbles and the return of some individual leisure sports. As you tuck into some succulent Great British Lamb this Easter time, then work it off with a leisurely walk in the spring sunshine, all within our glorious countryside, remember as farmers we are pleased to produce all your local needs. Indeed, we can safely say we have 'got it covered'.

Once more, remember to 'Stay Safe, Protect the NHS and Save Lives', plus keep it local. A Happy Easter from us all Down on the Farm.





LOCAL WALKS

There seems to be interest in us featuring details of local walks and we hope to start this in the next issue. If you have a favourite walk that you'd like to tell us about, please contact Deri Parsons (**derrick.parsons@btinternet.com** or **01579 370319**) for more information. And if anyone would be interested in helping to compile a booklet and/or a website of local walks we'd be interested to hear from you.

SPRING HAIKU

The blossom unfurls

Bright sun shines in the blue sky

Soft breeze chills my skin.

Louise Power



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We welcome all contributions to this Newsletter - it makes it so much more interesting if it reflects the diversity of interests and activities in the parish. The deadline for each issue is 2 days before the publication date - see page 1 for details.

March has on the whole been lion-like with cold winds making everything pause a while, particularly insect life and plant growth. I was cheered by the two-syllable call of a Chiffchaff in the garden last week, but it was only a passer-by. It lingered for perhaps half an hour but then was heard no more. A Blackcap was heard at Winsor last week too.

We celebrated the start of our freedom from lockdown with a quick visit to Horsebridge and were pleased to see a few Sand Martins flying over the river. The stonework of the bridge had a good show of the pretty Ivy-leaved Toadflax with mauve flowers and the lanes were full of the bright stars of celandines open in the sun. The month seems to be going out like a lamb, though it promises to be short-lived.



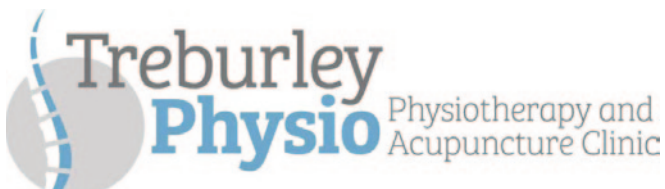
Compulsive
armchair
viewing since

about the 21st of March has been the eruption of a small but dramatic volcano near Reykjavik in Iceland. A neat little cone which has been extinct for over 800 years sprang to life following 50,000 earth tremors in the previous month, a warning of things to come. A fissure in the cone has been spewing molten lava ever since. The speed with which the lava flows down the slope is amazing. Fortunately, the flow is spreading out over the floor of a remote and uninhabited valley. Two small fissures opened below the main cone and over the past week they enlarged and then merged and currently this new cone is more active than the original one. The visibility is good, there are no great plumes of smoke so viewing despite the variable local weather, is excellent and big crowds of people are making the long and difficult trek to go and gaze, photograph and fry sausages on the hot lava.

Mary Atkinson



Pictures: Top: Ivy-leaved Toadflax; Middle & bottom: Icelanders and their new volcano



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DUCHY COLLEGE NEWS

Duchy College students started a phased return to the campus from 8th March, and by the time you read this article all students will have been welcomed back, including residential students. The College became a very busy coronavirus testing centre for several weeks, with home test kits being issued after a period of time. Appropriate coronavirus measures are in place on the campus, in accordance with current Government guidelines. With this in mind, a gentle reminder for local residents please to keep to the designated footpaths if they are on the College campus.



And now some really good positive news to share! We intend hosting an Open Day on Sunday 11th July – a positive event for the community to enjoy after such a difficult period. Entry will be by purchasing an online ticket, this will allow the College to control the number of the attendees. There will be no entry by payment with cash on the day.

We are very keen to offer the opportunity to support local crafts people at the Open Day. Do you have a hidden talent? If so, would you like to have a stall/area for the day to showcase your craft? If so, please contact Catherine McMeeking catherine.mcmeeking@bicton.ac.uk

A REMINDER: FREE ADULT COURSES 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

AND ANOTHER REMINDER

Over our next few issues the easing of Covid restrictions means that more and more people will be able to get out and to access goods and services that are available from local businesses. So 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 - contact details on page 1.

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LOTS OF VIRTUAL ACTIVITY WITH THE STOKE CLIMSLAND SCOUTS

It has been a strange start to the year with not being able to run face-to-face Scouting, however the future is looking brighter and Scouting as we all know it should be able to resume soon. It has certainly been a tricky time for both Leaders and Scouts alike; trying to run Virtual Scouting has not been easy but everyone involved has stepped up to the challenge and have been running scouting sessions over Zoom. Below are a few little snippets of what each section have been up to since Christmas.

The Beavers have held scavenger hunts around the house, made Origami fortune tellers, learnt about Scouting, made paper boats, and tested them in bowls of water. They were kidnapped whilst dressed up in Pirate fancy dress and had to use their knowledge to escape from a virtual Escape Room. They successfully baked some pizzas and cakes in mugs in the microwave and created their own model campsite using recycled materials that they could find around the house.

The Cubs have been busy taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Bird watch, to help encourage the birds to visit their gardens the Cubs made fat ball cakes. Lots of birds were spotted including Robins, Sparrows, Coal Tits, Goldfinches, Dunnocks and Long Tailed Tits, and there were even some squirrels spotted getting in on the action. More recently the Cubs have made cupcakes and decorated them, which was a resounding success, not many were left after 24 hours! The Beavers and Cubs have also been busy getting creative and produced Easter-themed decorations which will be going up on a tree on the village green. Can you spot which one?



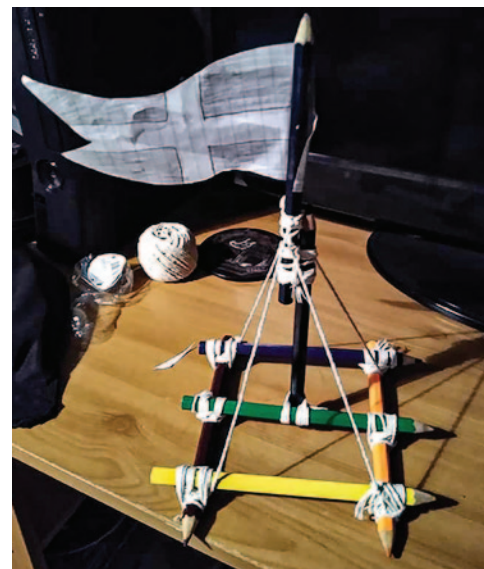
The Scouts have been working towards their Photography Badge and over the half term break were encouraged to take a camera out on their daily exercise and capture some pictures for a photo competition.

The results of this will be released soon (look out for the winning photographs in the next issue). They have also been baking Easter cakes, had a Taskmaster evening which was filled with lots of quick games and challenges to keep their minds active. Along with this, the Scouts have been working towards their Meteorology Badge where they have been recording the weather and learning about the different types of weather associated with different cloud formations.

The Explorers have also been busy working towards their Pioneering Badge creating miniature free standing flagpoles and catapults using pens and pencils rather than large poles. They have taken part in a "Bake Off Challenge" where they had to cook a batch of scones whilst making some cheese straws, the Bake-Off twist was that they had to use theirs to create a campfire scene. The Explorers took a trip to a virtual trip Brecon Beacons where they took part in a virtual navigation challenge and answer the questions using the instructions and maps provided.

The Scout Association have given us the green light to resume face-to-face Scouting outside from the end of March. The current plan is that when the UK government progresses onto Step 2 of the roadmap, we will be allowed to meet inside with a limited group size of 15. It has definitely been a long time coming but all for the Leaders and Scouts are looking forward to getting back to face-to-face Scouting.

The Scout group are running a Stoke Climsland Scout Group Supporters Club. We have been selling tickets for the past seven years to raise funds for the maintenance of the Scout hut and to help purchase new equipment. This is done by selling tickets and performing a monthly draw, with 50% of the proceeds going to the winning ticket holder and 50% going to the group funds. We aim to sell 100 tickets as £1 per ticket per month. Should you be interested in taking part please email GSL@1ststokeclimsland.org



EASTER TREE DECORATIONS

As we were preparing this Newsletter groups of people were busy decorating trees on the Stoke Climsland Village Green. We sent our roving cameraperson (Deri Parsons) to capture these efforts and we show a selection of pictures on this and the next page. Congratulations to all concerned and special thanks to the members of the WI who initiated and promoted this project. You should go along to see for yourself.



MORE EASTER TREE DECORATIONS

