



# The Stoke Climsland Newsletter

Issue 39 June 2021

**WELCOME** to a new issue of the Stoke Climsland Newsletter. It's the usual mix of information and reports that, once again, reflect a cautious but gratifying return to life in Stoke Climsland as we last knew it in 2019. We are, of course, all reminding ourselves to be careful but it's very good to see people getting together for events and activities with the promise of more later in the summer and into the autumn. All we need is more sunshine.

This is also the penultimate Newsletter that we will produce and on page 2 there's some news of what may happen after we complete the final one. It's still rather tentative but we hope that you will be seeing a new publication some time soon.

We'd like to go out with a bang, not a whimper, so please send us material for our last issue. Make it sharp and interesting, with pictures where possible, and we'll enjoy putting issue 40 together and then disappearing into the Stoke Climsland sunset.

*Deri Parsons and John Wilmot*

This issue of the Newsletter is published on The Old School page on Facebook, emailed to those on our email list, and viewable with an easy download from [www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk](http://www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk).

The next and last issue is due out on July 14th; please send contributions to Deri as soon as possible and no later than the end of July 11th.

## A QUACKING NEW FENCE FOR THE VENTERDON DUCKS



It's a rather comforting feeling to be able to feature something as quintessentially normal as the Venterdon Duckpond. You may have noticed that there has been a flurry of non-avian activity to replace the old fence, which was built in 2003 by Michael Cox. So, many thanks to Graham Clark (project manager and design consultant) who was ably assisted by Derek Ross (general factotum and tool carrier). The wood supply was arranged by Richard Lacey and paid for by Stoke Climsland Parish Council. It should reduce the casualty rate of ducks on the road up to Duchy College.

It is greatly appreciated by those who live nearby who have witnessed ducky-carnage on a number of occasions. One has written to us saying "I would like to thank the Parish Council for the provision of materials and a tremendous thank you to Graham Clark and Derek Ross for spending so long replacing the fence by the pond. This is to keep the ducks secure and on behalf of Venterdon residents and fellow duck lovers we appreciate their hard work very much". May the fence be long appreciated for future generations of Parishioners and, of course, Venterdon Ducks.



Duckpond pictures by Deri Parsons (top) and David Price (middle and bottom)

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. Editorial and information for inclusion: Deri Parsons 01579 370319 or [derrick.parsons@btinternet.com](mailto:derrick.parsons@btinternet.com) Advertising enquiries: Linda Ainsworth 01579 370632 or [newsletteroldschool@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteroldschool@gmail.com) Compilation by John Wilmot on 01579 370736 or [johnwilmot@btinternet.com](mailto:johnwilmot@btinternet.com)

## WHAT WILL REPLACE THIS NEWSLETTER?



Sadly, we have not been overwhelmed with offers of help with replacing this Newsletter when we stop work on it after the next issue. We have watched as the time began to run out and had begun to accept that, perhaps, there would no longer be any publication, on paper or online, that would cover events in Stoke Climsland parish.

Of course, the Newsletter was always going to be a temporary measure, created in March of last year in response to the coronavirus emergency at a time when the Old School News, in its traditional print format, was no longer viable. For quite a long time we thought that we would soon be abandoning the Newsletter and bringing back the Old School News and you may remember that we conducted a survey, asking you what form that might take. We had almost 200 responses and a rich mixture of views to take into account.

But, just as we were making plans for a re-vamped Old School News the Covid situation worsened, the gloom deepened and the simplest course was to keep the Newsletter going. We reached early summer wondering whether it would have to go on for ever, something that filled us with fear. The only way in which we could deal with this was to announce that we were going to stop production; we wrote about this in Issue 36 in May, hoping for at least a trickle of offers of help.

In the meantime the trustees of The Old School started to worry about the consequences of having no parish magazine, available to everyone. It would be a major step away from what we were used to, affecting everyone and not just those who used The Old School. So the word went out and, a few days ago, we were made aware of three people who just might be interested and we met with two of them late last week and had a very constructive discussion about how a new publication could be made to work.

As we write we aren't able to announce a solution but we are much more hopeful that some form of publication, providing coverage of all events and interests in the parish, will emerge. Inevitably, it will almost certainly not look like either the Newsletter or the Old School News as we know them but there is a general agreement that it should reflect the full range of parish activities and interests, be of good quality and be regularly available to everyone, free of charge. We hope that we will have firm commitments to this new publication in time to publicise it in our final Newsletter, due out in mid-July.

In the best of all possible worlds it seems likely that a new publication will not emerge until September, at best. If this is the case, we will be grateful (and relieved) that it will involve a new team with a new outlook and different interests; we will gratefully retire into other interests and commitments.

*Deri Parsons and John Wilmut*

### THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter will be published online on July 14th.

All contributions are welcome. Please send contributions to Deri Parsons **no later than two days before the publication date.**

We welcome advertisements: for details contact Linda Ainsworth. Advertisements must be submitted **no later than two days before publication.**

Newsletter contact details are at the foot of page 1.

## WE HAVE CERTAINLY PASSED INTO THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR

June 24th was Midsummer's Day. This date is often confused with the summer solstice, which fell on June 21st, and had the longest hours of daylight in the year. In contrast, Midsummer's Day marks the halfway point in the calendar year and was also one of the old Quarter Days, which divided the year up into quarters for rent and tax payments: Lady Day (March 25th), Midsummer's Day (June 24th), Michaelmas (September 29th) and Christmas (December 25th). Even though Midsummer's Day differs from the solstice, it often marks the latest sunset of the year. The earliest sunrise, on the other hand, occurs around June 17th or 18th, and the reason for these discrepancies in sunrise and sunset is the elliptical orbit of the Earth.

At midnight on Midsummer's Eve, young girls should, it is said, scatter rose petals before them and say

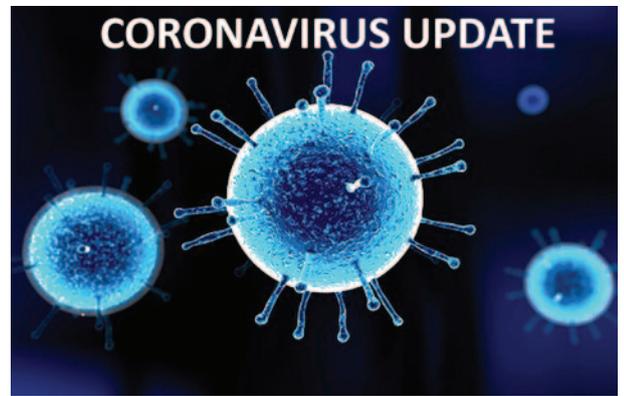
Rose leaves, rose leaves,  
Rose leaves I strew.  
He that will love me  
Come after me now.

Then the next day, Midsummer's Day, their true love will visit them. Well, that's a miss for another year!

## ARE WE APPROACHING THE END GAME OF COVID RESTRICTIONS?

As this is written, the consistent message that seems to be coming from authoritative government

sources (And do they get any more authoritative than the Prime Minister and Health Secretary? That is a rhetorical question, by the way) is that July 19th will be 'Freedom Day'. Then restrictions will be lifted, and we can all start working back to the new normal. Just in time to salvage something for the remaining summer months? Well, let us hope that this does in fact happen. But all this is happening against the background of rising cases of the Delta variant, with the associated rise in hospital admissions and, sadly, deaths. So, despite any formal lifting of restrictions, it seems perfectly reasonable to continue to be cautious for a while longer. We all know what to do (and what not): hands, face, space, and fresh air until it feels safe to do otherwise.



### THE MESSAGE FOR US ALL: DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

With the number of Covid cases rising once more in Cornwall and elsewhere, we should all keep following the guidance:

- Wash and sanitise our hands regularly
- Wear a face covering when required, especially when we might be getting close to other people in shops etc
- Keep our distance from other people as much as possible. Social distancing should still be the norm.
- Meet people outside in the fresh air or keep rooms well ventilated
- Keep home testing

**PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

### GET YOUR JABS

The delay is designed to allow more people to be vaccinated and have second doses amid the rising cases of the Delta variant. You can do your bit by getting jabs when they are offered to. They can be booked online [HERE](#).

### ANYONE IN CORNWALL CAN NOW GET FREE TWICE-WEEKLY COVID-19 TESTS

Here are three good reasons why it is important that you get tested regularly:

- Not everyone has been offered the vaccine yet and the more people who are vaccinated, the better.
- One in three people have no symptoms so 'hidden' infections need to be revealed.
- Society can open up more safely so we can continue on the roadmap. To repeat, the more people who are vaccinated, the better it is for all of us.

The Lateral Flow Test kits are free and easy to collect from your local pharmacy - Lloyd's in Callington is our nearest. You can also order them online from the government's website for delivery to your home. Here is the [LINK](#)



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## WE HAVE A NEW PARISH CLERK

At the end of June Ren Jackaman is stepping down as the Parish Clerk for personal reasons. Ren has done an outstanding job pulling the council into the 21st Century ensuring that we remained fully compliant with the constantly evolving regulations for local councils, made appropriate use of software and social media, and generally keeping the councillors in line. It goes without saying that the Parish Clerk position has been challenged by the pandemic and Ren has not only kept everything on track but has also taken on many other voluntary duties to support the Parish response to Covid 19, acting as a point of contact for those parishioners that maybe need a little help. The thanks from all the Stoke Climsland Parish go out to Ren and we all wish her the best in her future endeavours.

We have managed to find an excellent replacement for Ren, which I must say comes as a relief to the council as many parish councils operate with temporary voluntary clerks or locums. As from Monday 28th June Ms Derris Watson has accepted the position of Clerk to Stoke Climsland Parish Council. Derris has a wealth of experience in Local Government, having been a Cornwall Councillor, a Caradon District Councillor (when we had District Councillors) and she still sits as a Parish Councillor for St Cleer. Derris has voluntary experience as a Parish Clerk in St Cleer while they have been seeking a permanent replacement.



Derris lives in Higher Tremar, though she has family connections with Stoke Climsland going back many years. The e mail address for the Stoke Climsland Parish Clerk will be transferred to her and we will share her telephone contact number once she is in place. Please welcome Derris to Stoke Climsland.

*Nigel Cooper*

 Tre, Pol & Pen

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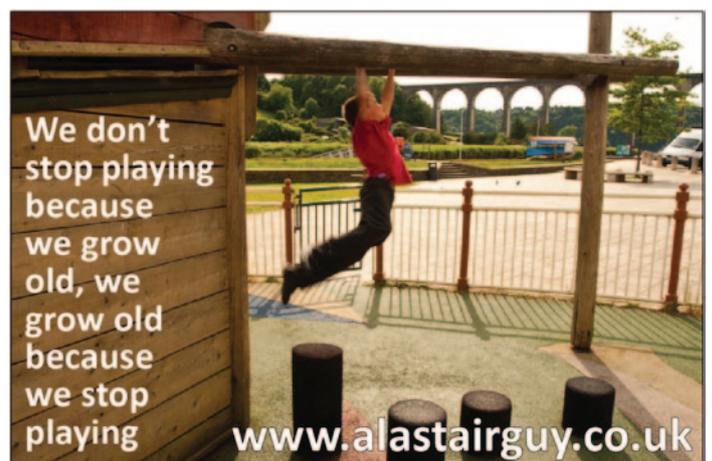
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Hello everyone, from your SCARPER team. Last month we awaited the announcement regarding coming out of lockdown on 21st June. Well, we now know that it did not go to plan and we had a 'deviation' to 19th July (maybe!). With the number of Covid-19 cases still rising in Cornwall, and elsewhere, at the time of writing this article, it seemed the obvious course of action. Hopefully, the surge in Covid vaccination bookings will help to improve the resilience of the community to the impact of the virus. A number of those in our community have still to receive their vaccination (1st or 2nd) and we must take precautions to protect those as well. They may



be members of our family, other loved ones, or those within our community. Whatever the government advice we receive we need to be as supportive as we can and remember that this virus is not finished with us yet. Maybe only meeting outside when we have fine dry weather is not such a bad thing, maybe continuing to wear a face mask in the more populated areas such as shops is also not such a bad thing? Whatever the government guidelines become, whatever, our common sense tells us, stay safe and enjoy whatever freedom path or 'deviation' we are guided along. SCARPER remains on stand-by for any real emergency. In the meantime, our volunteer service remains open.

We 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 Sarah Ross know when your prescription is ready, and she will arrange collection, see her contact details below.

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.

Ren Jackaman (contact: [renjack@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:renjack@hotmail.co.uk) 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.

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

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Stoke Climsland WI recently held their Annual General Meeting on the football field. It was lovely for so many of our members to have the opportunity to meet up again, to chat and enjoy a picnic together. On the business side of things, we were able to thank our President Jane Baxendale, for doing such a great job in keeping the members connected during the Covid pandemic. Jane has stepped down from her role and we were delighted that Sharon Selleck will be taking over for the coming year.

We had a talk from Geraldine Hiscott on behalf of the Wild Young Parents' Project. She explained about the interesting work she is involved in, reaching out to young parents, children, and babies in East Cornwall. In response to the talk our members have taken on the task of making washable bags which will be used to house individual toys safely at their group meetings.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

We are hoping to be able to meet in July for a talk from Rosemary Griggs, a well-known costumed history interpreter. The date for this has yet to be confirmed, so watch out for posters.



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# CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE AND JULY

## METHODIST CHURCH



All are welcome to attend Sunday Worship.

**Sunday July 4th:** 11.00 Revd David Moss (Holy Communion)

**Sunday July 11th:** 11.00 Alison Moss

**Sunday July 18th:** 11.00 Brenda Grundy

**Sunday July 25th:** 11.00 Mark Pellow

## PARISH CHURCH

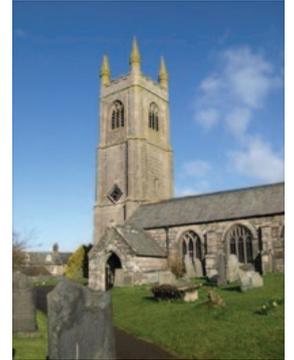
The church is now fully open, and we are returning to the pattern of services that existed pre-covid.

**Sunday 4th July:**  
10.00 Morning Worship.

**Sunday 11th July:**  
08.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 All age service.

**Sunday 18th July:**  
10.00 Holy Communion.

**Sunday 25th July:**  
08.00 Book of Common Prayer  
10.00 Family Service.



## INVISIBLE ME...



*Proudly presents*

## Tissues. Water. Clock.

A new audio play by Jayne Newton Chance shedding light on invisible illness.

Over the past two years a dedicated team of writer, director, actors and artists have been collecting stories from people in SE Cornwall and area who have been living with the debilitating condition ME/CFS (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). This first-hand experience provides the raw material for Invisible ME's powerful and moving new audio drama.

Tissues. Water. Clock. was originally devised as a 'live' theatre production but the impact of lockdown resulted in its transformation into an audio play, which will be distributed widely, free of charge.

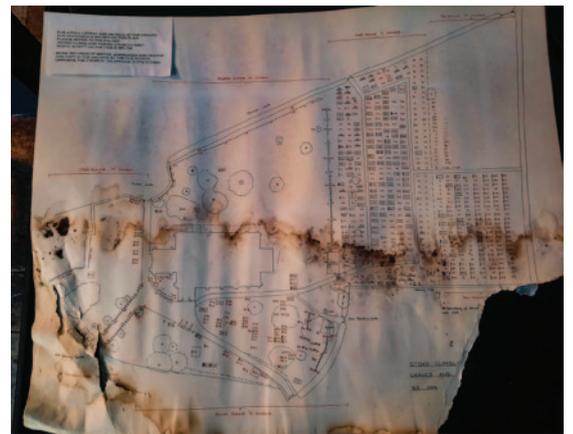
**To listen to Tissues.Water.Clock. in three 20 minute episodes go to [www.invisibleme.org.uk](http://www.invisibleme.org.uk)**

*Warning: The play contains strong language.*  
We would welcome feedback from listeners.

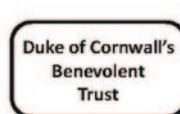
## CAN SOMEONE HELP US WITH A GRAVEYARD PLAN?

The existing plan of the graveyard, drawn in 2004 by William Sommerville, has been damaged by damp and is now practically unreadable. This is a valuable record and is frequently used by visitors to the church to trace where their forebears are buried

We would like redraw, in A3 format, and update the plan and display it both in the church and online. If you have the skills necessary to do this, and the imagination to make it really stand out, we'd love to hear from you. If you can help, please give Deri Parsons a call on **01579 370319**.



For further information contact David Oddie and Dr Hilary Doe at: [invisiblemecornwall@gmail.com](mailto:invisiblemecornwall@gmail.com) or visit web-site: [www.invisibleme.org](http://www.invisibleme.org).



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. The next Newsletter will be published on July 14th and this is an excellent time to tell us what you're doing or to advertise your goods and services with us! Contact details are on page 1.





It has been a long time coming but I am glad to say, we are back meeting face to face. It is slightly different to normal with the protocols we have in place to ensure that we remain Covid-safe. All sections resumed face to face meeting after

the Easter Holidays, and it has been great to watch the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers interact and get back to enjoying Scouting as it should be.

The Beavers have been busy getting back to nature this term and have completed their Gardening badges; off the back of this they now have some fantastic petunias, begonias and wildflowers growing in their gardens. The Beavers have been exploring the woods for 3 weeks, taking part in nature trails, scavenger hunts and backwoods cooking on the campfire. They have also shown some great home design skills by making mini shelters. A range of shelters were created from standard tepee shapes all the way up to hotels with multiple rooms, mini camps including fires, drying lines and one even had a Rainbow behind the camp, all made with items they found around the woods.

The Cubs have really enjoyed being able to get together as a whole section and over the last few weeks have achieved their Athletics badge. The Cubs learnt all about map reading and have learnt how to play table tennis with the help of one of the young leaders. The Cubs are now learning about Camping and how to pack our bags. The Cubs took part in a day hike recently and walked from the Scout hut, along footpaths to the hut in the woods for a bite to eat, before heading to Old Mill and up the huge hill back to Stoke Climsland. Everyone who took part did amazingly well.

The Scouts have been looking at using a map and compass and learning what equipment they need to keep them safe along with what to wear. They have also been looking at different navigation techniques for that will come in handy when on the moors. They did a day hike starting at Mary Tavy using the footpaths up on to Dartmoor and finished near Princetown. We had good weather for the walk. The last two weeks we have been cooking Greek food from raw ingredients. They have cooked Pitta bread with Tzatziki dip and hummus with fried pork gyro; they tasted great and counts as part of their International badge.

The Explorers have been running a varied programme since the Easter break. During the darker evenings, they got out into the countryside and took part in a 3.5-mile night hike around the local area using maps and a route card; all the Explorers managed to complete the route, and nobody got lost. Recently they have had a visit from a local Beekeeper, Zoe Oke, who provided a presentation about beekeeping and demonstrated the use of a smoker, which turned into a competition between the Explorers as to who could keep it going the longest. Along with this she brought in her Observation Hive with live bees which enabled the Explorers to spot the Queen Bee in one of the frames. The honey that the bees produced tasted absolutely lovely!

The Scout Group currently has spaces in Scouts and Explorers; aged 10 – 14 and 14 – 18 respectively. Please email [GSL@1ststokeclimsland.org](mailto:GSL@1ststokeclimsland.org) if you are interest in a space.

The Scout committee has talked recently about acquiring some land to use for camping and activities in the summer months. If you have or know of anyone who has got an acre of reasonably flat land near Stoke Climsland that may be suitable; please get in touch using the above email address.



A recent report, The State of Nature 2020, by Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) and commissioned by the Cornwall and IOS Local Nature Partnership (LNP)\*, highlights major species decline since 1970 of nearly half of our farmland birds, terrestrial mammals and over 60% of butterfly habitat. Indeed 'Nature in Decline across the Duchy' broadly mirrors a wildlife trend across the UK. Whilst no single factor can be attributed to the 50-year decline, farming production and its land management continues to take the lion's share of the blame. Scant reference is made in the report of the 8% land area cover of urban sprawl or associated road transport and infrastructure (10% and rising upcountry). Nor to the changes in natural habitat driven by a 1 degree C temperature increase through climate change over the last 35 years!

However, by identifying and understanding through baseline evidence the current state of nature, it is vital that we can start to make the case for restorative actions where needed. We are well placed by Cornwall having been a DEFRA Pilot for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as part of the staged roll out of Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM), the successor to the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) under transition to be phased out by 2027.

Whilst welcoming such schemes and in acknowledgement of the report mentioned above, it is but a snapshot of our coastal and countryside state. And one which often frustrates our local farming community in constantly referencing the 1970's in their 50-year comparisons, whilst taking no account of the massive uptake (60% of all farmland) and successful delivery of many Natural England/DEFRA Countryside Stewardship Schemes over the past 25 years – our own farm included – see picture\*\*.

Those with longer memories will recall the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) throughout the late 60's, 70's and up to 1984, actively promoting a drive for efficiency and modernisation. This it did through grant aided initiatives, investment in machinery and full market intervention support, all to increase food production and secure self sufficiency (95%), all on the back of post war food rationing. However, many will now argue it was to the detriment of our Great British Countryside through extensive land drainage, hedgerow removal and a heavy general reliance in both artificial fertilizer and agrichemical sprays. Today we use just a fraction of such Plant Protection Products (PPP).

In the intervening years, farming has been heavily regulated and directed away from solely food production towards environmental measures. Over the same period, our UK self sufficiency has dropped to just 59% of our needs, but with the security of the EU single market. Now having finally exited the EU, we start to see new moves to secure our food supply from overseas trading blocs. These include New Zealand and Australia, Asia (Trans-Pacific) and Canada, North and South America (Trans-Atlantic) deals. As to what the effects will be on our own domestic farm business in terms of its sustainability and profitability and the knock-on effect of the environmental management - all without any financial support (BPS being phased out by 2027) - remains to be seen in years to come.

In the meantime, there is encouraging news for us here in the valley as a new £50 million fund for Farming in the Protected Landscapes (FiPL's) is launched from July 1st. All National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONB's) can bid for individual projects over the next 3 years. Projects to aid improvements to our special natural environment, cultural heritage, and public access. The Tamar Valley AONB has been awarded £300k for its own programme to support farmers in nature recovery, mitigating climate change through carbon storage and flood risk, providing better public access and opportunities to understand, discover and enjoy our farmed landscape, all through nature friendly sustainable farm businesses. All welcome news for those of us who have embraced stewardship in the past and encouragement for new advocates of the future to champion our Great British Countryside whilst continuing to produce quality local food and drink and finding a 'place for nature'.

Stay Safe, Protect the NHS and Save Lives', plus keep it local and Back British Farming – thank you from us all 'Down on the Farm'.

\* Available at <https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/state-nature-cornwall-2020-report>

\*\* The picture shows the 'space for nature' measures at Deer Park. Right to left are: the Spring Bean crop (finally recovered from spring drought), a 6 metre arable flower margin (buttercups and marigold mix), a 3 metre wild flower margin (ox eye daisy mix for Heath Fritillary Butterfly) and the New Consols Flue at Lockett as a backdrop to the Apple Way permissive footpath.



The longest day will have passed by the time you read this. The cold late spring has passed into oblivion and suddenly, here is summer, with Foxgloves and Honeysuckle in flower.

Week after week we have been saying “Where are the insects?” Butterflies and bees are scarce and so too are other insects such as hoverflies and the normal mixture of flies which are attracted to the light in the moth trap. This includes the moths themselves, with vastly lower numbers and variety than is usually the case at this time of the year.

I am always ambivalent about feeding birds through the summer. My instinct says they should be foraging for natural food. We have had conflicting advice from the RSPB. Some years ago, it was to stop feeding but now they encourage us to continue. So, this summer there has been yet another bag of sunflower hearts in the shopping trolleys and we have not yet withdrawn the feeders. I tell myself we are providing a useful supplement to what may be short supplies of natural foodstuff in this very indifferent season. On the plus side we have spent a lot of time watching and enjoying the procession of birds, now bringing their families to feed as well. I worry the youngsters are being brought up to favour the easy pickings of convenience food rather than foraging in the wild. Young Siskins, Bullfinches,



Greenfinches, Goldfinches and Nuthatches are all queuing up at our ‘cafe’ and Great, Cole and Blue Tits, Dunnocks, Robins and Blackbirds are all regular visitors. Two pairs of Jackdaws and three pairs of House Sparrows regularly swoop down from the chimneys and soffits and Collared doves and Wood Pigeons, Magpies and even a pair of Crows compete with the squirrels for the leftovers. The downside of all this nature is that the squirrels also eat the strawberries, and the Magpies steal the hens’ food.

Confusing.com? We the unfortunate public are given so many mixed messages. The Climate Change lobby urges us to forgo eating red meat, but the Butterfly Conservation magazine tells us in two different articles, that to enhance the wellbeing of grassland (a valuable Carbon sink) we should be grazing cattle. Like the Covid conundrum of Health versus the Economy, climate change and conservation sometimes have conflicting priorities.

Mary Atkinson

Photographs: Top: Meadow Brown; Middle: Bullfinch at feeders; Bottom: Squirrel

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# DENSITY & LIGHTNESS

SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

12 JUNE – 30 AUGUST 2021

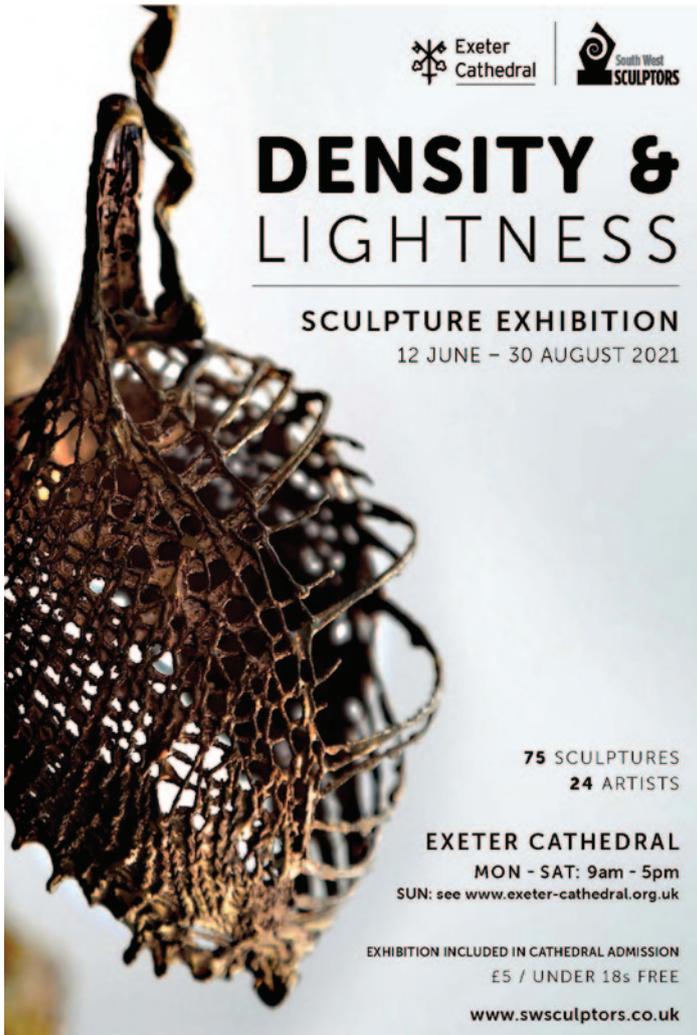
75 SCULPTURES  
24 ARTISTS

EXETER CATHEDRAL

MON - SAT: 9am - 5pm  
SUN: see [www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

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[www.swsculptors.co.uk](http://www.swsculptors.co.uk)



## SUMMER AND AUTUMN ARTS EVENTS TO SHAKE OFF COVID BLUES

### MELANIE GUY WRITES

For the whole summer, until 30th August I have sculpture at Exeter Cathedral in a great exhibition of contemporary and traditional sculpture - interior and exterior. There are 75 works by 25 South West Sculptors as well as the cathedral's own permanent sculptural collection.

A wonderful day trip for the West Country visitors - cathedral entry applicable, children free. Please see my latest sculpture - "REMEMBER GAIA" and there's more information on [www.swsculptors.co.uk](http://www.swsculptors.co.uk)



There will also be the Drawn to The Valley summer exhibition at Butcher's Hall, Tavistock from 4th - 8th August 2021

And Open Studios in the Tamar Valley - 72 artists at 37 venues - 28th August - 5th September. I am at The Tamar Valley Centre, Drakewalls. See [www.drawntothevalley.org](http://www.drawntothevalley.org) for details.

And in the autumn - DttV is again at Butcher's Hall Tavistock - 'Drawn to Make' - 29 - 30th October

If you would like further information about any of these, please contact Melanie Guy, Climson Barn, Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall PL17 8NB, email: [meljoyguy@hotmail.com](mailto:meljoyguy@hotmail.com) telephone: 01579 370916 website: [www.melanieguy.com](http://www.melanieguy.com)

## NEWS FROM DUCHY COLLEGE



Sadly, due to the Government's decision to delay the removal of all Covid restrictions, the Open Day at the College planned for 11th July has been cancelled.

The end of term is on Friday 2nd July, a year dominated by the need to rapidly respond to changes to the delivery of teaching and learning, caused by the coronavirus. Planning is well advanced for next year and we anticipate a healthy increase in the number of students enrolling at the College for a September 2021 start, compared to this year and the previous year.

The College is still running several adult courses over the next few weeks, which may be of interest to residents. Many are free of charge and full details can be found on the College's website [www.duchy.ac.uk/leisure](http://www.duchy.ac.uk/leisure)

The Head of College held the termly meeting with a small number of the members of the new Parish Council earlier this month, where matters of mutual interest were discussed.

The Old School is still operating with a less than full range of activities but a number of the old favourites are re-starting and some new initiatives are planned. All, of course, are organised to comply with current and developing health guidelines and regulations so that Edah and the trustees are taking it a step at a time. There will be some events that will probably not restart until September and any changes in the government's road map may still affect what can or can't operate.

The office is dealing promptly with messages and enquiries and is staffed on most weekday mornings, so that messages left on the answering machine on **01579 370493** and on email at **theoldschool78@gmail.com** are responded to as soon as possible. We also try to keep you in touch via this 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. Below is a summary of what we know is happening as we prepare this Newsletter.

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

**THE CHIROPODIST** will hold an appointments-only clinic on Thursdays at 2-week intervals from 15th April. You may wish to check with the office for details of clinics.

**TAKEAWAY MEALS** are expected to resume on **4th September**.

**THE LIBRARY** has reopened on weekday mornings. Social distancing and hygiene rules must be observed and it may be sensible to check with the office before coming. See also the next page.

**PILATES** classes have now restarted on 21st June. Please call the office for more information.

**THE OLD SCHOOL BOOK CLUB** continues as a Zoom meeting on the morning of the third Tuesday of each month. Please email Helen Cadiot on **helen.cadiot@outlook.com** if you would like to join the Club - she will let you know where to collect a copy of the book and will arrange for you to get the logon details for the Zoom meeting.



The **MARKET** has resumed and will continue on the first Saturday of each month. Details are on the next page

**THE CROSS BORDER ART GROUP** is now meeting regularly

**THE LAUNCESTON TATE LOOK GROUP** has now restarted its monthly meetings. The details of a special July meeting on Rock Art are on the next page.

**CALLINGTON U3A GROUP** has now restarted its meetings. For details please call the office (contacts above).

**FRIDAY LUNCHES** have now restarted. As has always been the case, you will need to book ahead by contacting the office (details above) at least a couple of days beforehand when you can find out the menus. Whilst Covid restrictions continue you will be asked to wear a mask when moving around and to sign in on arrival. The price will now be £7 per person.



**AFTERNOON TEAS** will restart on 7th July. You will need to book ahead by contacting the office (details above). Whilst Covid restrictions continue you will be asked to wear a mask when moving around and to sign in on arrival.



**INVESTMENT CLUB** has resumed its meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Please call of the office (details above) for more information.

**JAZZ CLUB** hopes to start in the autumn, subject to continuing relaxation of the Covid restrictions. Two provisional bookings with old friends of jazz at The Old School have been made; they are:

**Saturday 2nd October - John Shillito and the Riviera Ramblers,** pictured here



**Friday 10th December - Roger Marks Cornish Armada Jazz Band.**

We expect the evenings to take the usual form with a two-course dinner in the interval and a well-stocked bar.

These are dates for your diary. Bookings will open early in September. Lets hope that this turns out to be the return of music to The Old School.

The new Old School website is now up and running. It includes full information about The Old School, the activities that take place there and services provided.

Go to it at

**www.oldschoolstokeclimland.co.uk**

## THE MARKET IS BACK

The next Market is on **July 3rd** from 10 am to midday. It will be held outdoors and we ask you not to bring cars into the car park - there is parking space in the road and alongside the village green. For the time being, please observe the normal rules for social distancing and follow direction signs. As before, we will ask you to sign in when you arrive.

We will again be offering a light breakfast fare of filled baps, teas and coffees, served from the back door of the kitchen where we also expect to place tables and chairs so that you can dine in comfort (observing the Covid rules, of course).

We will make arrangements to keep you dry if the weather is poor. Providing that we can comply with Covid regulations we will move the Market and/or breakfast indoors in due course and we hope that we can then resume a full breakfast service.



These are our regular stallholders

**Sue Cook** – Plants – 01579 383885

**Karen Cooper** – Cards – 01579 370536

**Jeremy Daw** – Butcher – 01579 350410

**Chris George** - Wood Turner- 01579 370654

**Michael Harford** – Wood crafts – 01579 370663

**Dawn Hunn** – Vegetables and strawberries in season - 07779 058889

**Sandra Jane** – Leather products – 01579 370966

**Val Kidman** – Preserves & Cakes – 01579 370297

**Linda Losty** – Aprons, Masks etc. – 07733 298969

**Ian MacDonald** – Framing -01579 351221

**Di Nash** – Gift Hand Knits – 01579 384155

**Neil Robyns** – Pies, yogurts, etc. – 07831 625159

**Derek Scofield** – Fruit Juices – 01579 350594

**Dale Wood** – Honey – 01579 362458

In future, information about activities and services at The Old School will appear on the new website, now available.

Look for it on  
[www.oldschoolstokeclimland.co.uk](http://www.oldschoolstokeclimland.co.uk)

## CAN'T GET TO THE LIBRARY BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO BORROW A BOOK?

If you can't get to the Microlibrary in the café area of The Old School, the Home Library Service can bring the library to you – free! All you need is your Library Number and it is for anyone who is unable to use the library because they have a disability, long-term illness or caring responsibilities which make it difficult for them to get out. Tell us the sort of books you like, and Royal Voluntary Service volunteers will deliver them to your home. Or tell us exactly which books you would like and we will do our best to get them for you - you can browse and reserve items yourself using our online library catalogue. You can choose from books in ordinary print or Large Print and audiobooks.

Who do you contact?

Telephone: 0300 1234 111. E-mail: [libraries@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@cornwall.gov.uk) Website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/)

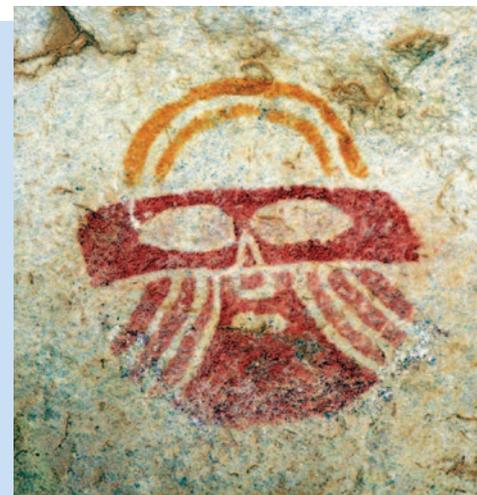
## A LOOK AT ROCK ART

An invitation from **The Launceston Tate Look Group**

To celebrate the long-awaited summer, the Launceston Tate Look group are taking a look back to the very earliest days of human artistic endeavour. We will be hosting a talk from the anthropologist and archaeologist, Jamie Hampson. Jamie specialises in indigenous rock paintings and engravings, some of which are over 70,000 years old. He works with Aboriginal groups in northern Australia, San Bushmen in southern Africa, indigenous groups in central India, and Native Americans in California and Texas. Jamie has a PhD from Cambridge and is currently Director of the MA programme in International Heritage at Exeter University (Penryn campus).

Jamie will be with us in the hall at The Old School for his illustrated talk, at **7 pm on Thursday 8th July**. In line with government advice, seats will be limited to allow for social distancing and pre-bookings only. To reserve your tickets, please contact Helen Adams **01566 782129** or Jo Pescod **01579 370200**. Tickets £5, will be collected and paid for at the door. The Look group will be providing tea, coffee and cake. We look forward to seeing you there.

**LAST CHANCE  
TO BOOK**



## ADVANCE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING OLD SCHOOL EVENTS

This is not a comprehensive list – Village Markets and other regular activities continue as normal.

From this summer there will be a succession of special events coming along, with provisional dates which will be confirmed as changing regulations allow. Do look out for posters and flyers, as well as any updates on the new Old School website at [www.oldschoolstokeclimsland.co.uk](http://www.oldschoolstokeclimsland.co.uk)

Some events will be indoors with a limited number of people allowed, so you would need to BOOK your TICKETS through The Old School office – please phone 01579 370493

### JULY

**Villages Walk 2 – Venterdon – Thursday 29th at 7 pm** Do join us for the second guided walk looking at the history of our villages through their buildings. Starting from The Old School, and finishing with coffee and cake.

**'Vide Jardin' – empty your garden – Saturday 31st** A car boot sale with a difference - an opportunity to pass on all those empty flowerpots, extra rooted cuttings and surplus herbs, forks and spades – plus refreshments of course. And it doesn't have to be just garden things – so book your table now.

### AUGUST

**Opening Days – 14th and 15th** Hosted by The Old School, with displays by the groups who hold events and activities here regularly. So if you have ever thought about any of these, this is an opportunity to find out more! Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

**Children's Summer Activities – 16th - 20th** Provisionally, every day for one week in the summer holidays, for children of 6 to 11. Run by The Old School, with all safeguarding and regulations in place. We would like extra information on what YOUR children would enjoy most, so please contact Caroline on 01579 370411. We have in mind so far – sports and skateboarding, arts and crafts, wildlife walks, acting and play writing, music and drumming, or making your own instruments, bicycle mending, whatever else... a morning or afternoon of each. We are thinking of continuing with a Childrens' Wildlife Group.

**Play – The Canterbury Tales – performed by David Mynne.** This will be performed outside if at all possible, so if it's a fine day, look for more tickets on the door.

### SEPTEMBER

**Music! The Line-Up – 11th** They describe their music as "...a mix of Acoustic, New Country, Motown, R&B, Classic Rock & Pop tunes". We'll have an evening with limited numbers, and supper to your table. So think about booking NOW.

**Family Trees exhibition – 11th - 19th** Hosted by Stoke Climsland Parish Archive, and coinciding with Heritage Open Days.

**Apple pressing day - provisionally 26th** Start collecting your juice containers.

## EAST CORNWALL MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The ECMHA had their first event of the year today – by Zoom. We were joined by people from distant parts of England and of Cornwall for a super slide talk by Susan Pittman. Susan has been visiting the Tamar since the 1970, first to sail and then to follow her own interest in landscape history as well.

Her slides covered the whole period and she studded an imaginary journey by water downriver and as far as Drake's Island with anecdotes and memories. Photos of raft racing from Halton Quay to Calstock, Basil Greenhill of the National Maritime Museum with his replicated prehistoric canoe, and the launching of the restored Shamrock at Cotehele wharf in NT style with strawberries and cream (some of us remembered these events from the other side!)

A surprising memory was her photo of Lockett Mine with both engine houses with roofs complete and no screening trees. But most surprising of all for us were the views taken from Drake's Island out in Plymouth Sound, its beaches with the little boats of the Outdoor Centre which used to be there, and its 20th century guns pointing out to sea across jagged rocks.

The ECMHA is lining up a programme of walks, talks (some possibly also by Zoom), and workparties, open to everyone and we'd love to see you.

- We are planning the talk on Wheal Martyn postponed last year, by Malcolm Hayward at The Old School. We'll be limited to 26 in order to maintain social distancing, please book in advance. Followed by a guided walk given by Malcolm to Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum.
- A talk by Richard Westacott-Jones on local stoneware jars of the 19th century – like the unique survivor we found in the cottages' roof.
- A zoom talk by Peter Cloughton on medieval leats.
- And – not least! – it's time to join in with workparties bramble bashing on our sites to tackle two years growth!

Dates to follow, or do phone us for more info soon, on 01579 370411



## FROM THE PARISH ARCHIVE

Do contact us if you would like to do any research of your own, help in the Archive or with Exhibitions.

And by the way, we're always looking for typists! If you'd like to volunteer an hour or two to typing up a document from a hand-written copy - just tell us!

For more information, phone us on 01579 370411 or via The Old School on 01579 370493 and thank you !

## WALKING OUR LOCAL FOOTPATHS

This Parish has a fantastic number of beautiful footpaths, ranging from hilltop to riverside to shady woods. This week, as on most Wednesdays since we were allowed to walk in



two's and threes, the Archive Volunteers walked another one new to us, and will be writing about its history from the fascinating and unexpected things we found along the way, plus a little research in local documents afterwards.

Exploring as many walks as possible this year we have found that each one has turned out to have a particular theme, often related to their origin. Our walk this week immediately brought to light one big surprise which may be key to the parish's early years. Like each of the others we'll be writing it up next, for our forthcoming web site.

## AND WHY NOT JOIN A NEW WALKING GROUP?

BEFORE SETTING OUT ON A WALK ...



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# Marvellous Mural Making

*A Covid-secure free event for the whole community*

Drop by to enjoy painting four murals of local landmarks.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Time 10am 1pm - stay for as little or as much time as you wish.

At St Mary's Square Callington

For more information, please contact:

Louise James (Family Worker) on (01579) 388840 [ljames434@btinternet.com](mailto:ljames434@btinternet.com)

Or Naomi Sparey (Student Minister) on 07763 211233 [nimsparey@hotmail.com](mailto:nimsparey@hotmail.com)

An event brought to you by **The Methodist Church** 

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11-17 July 2021

Launceston – Blisland – St Endellion  
Stoke Climsland – Tavistock

### WELCOME BACK TO LIVE MUSIC

For the first time in 20 years, the world-renowned Brodsky Quartet comes to the South-West with a wonderful programme of music for all to enjoy. Rising young stars join in the fun with cutting-edge performances, celebrating Schubert's great masterpieces and much more.

Full concert programmes,  
tickets and venues  
on the website:  
[dantefestival.org/2021](http://dantefestival.org/2021)

*Carn to Cove*

Cornwall Music  
Education Hub



These events will be managed in a COVID-19 safe manner  
with social distancing – check website for details

## LOCAL EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY / RENEWABLE ENERGY: GROUND SOURCE AND AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Heat pumps are an effective and energy efficient way to create hot water to heat your home. The type of technology used is similar to that which keeps your fridge cold, except in reverse. They work by absorbing heat from a source and transferring it to a liquid, which is

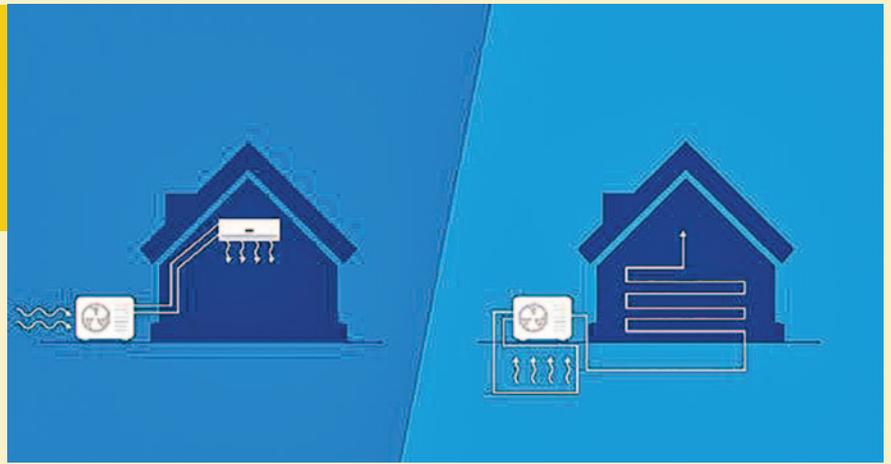
compressed to increase the temperature further. The heat is transferred from the liquid into water which is used to provide heating for a property, either through radiators or underfloor heating. Heat pumps have some impact on the environment as they need electricity to run, but the heat they extract from the ground or air is constantly being renewed naturally; that is, is renewable.

### Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs)

These circulate a mixture of water and antifreeze around a loop of pipe that is buried in the garden. Heat from the ground (which is fairly fixed at a constant 10-13°C all year) is absorbed into the fluid and then passes through a compressor that raises it to a higher temperature, which can then heat water for the heating and hot water circuits in the house. The cooled ground loop fluid passes back into the ground in a continuous process. The ground loop can be laid horizontally in a trench about a metre below ground and the space needed for the loop depends on many factors including the heat requirements of your home. If there is not room in the garden to do this, vertical boreholes can be drilled to extract heat from much further down (typically 90-160m deep, depending on heat requirements).

### Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs)

These take the warmth from the air outside (even when its freezing) and use it to heat the home. A liquid refrigerant that has a very low boiling point is pumped on a loop between two heat exchangers. The refrigerant takes on heat energy from the outside ambient air temperature and turns it into a gas as it warms up. The gas is then compressed back into a liquid, which increases its temperature further. The warm refrigerant then goes through a heat exchanger, which transfers the warmth to a separate body of water for circulating round the central heating system. There are 2 main types of ASHP: The most common type in the UK, air-to-water heat pumps, work with a wet central heating system by transferring the heat from the outside air to water. Air-to-air heat pumps typically use fans to circulate warm air around the home and cannot be used to heat water.



### POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND

- The ground loop, whether horizontal or vertical will require space and depth; the ground must be suitable for digging and accessible for digging machinery. Putting in vertical pipes needs specialist digging machinery and installation is more expensive. Horizontal pipes need a lot more space.
- Installation costs £14,000-£19,000. Savings on fuel costs depends on the heating system you are replacing; the highest savings are made replacing old electric heating systems, with more modest savings for LPG and solid fuel and much lower savings for replacing gas and oil boilers.
- According to the Ground Source Heat Pump Association, GSHPs have very low running costs.
- Domestic GSHPs are generally allowed as permitted developments but it is advisable to check with your local authority as to whether planning permission is needed.

### POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND

- You will need a place outside your home where a unit can be fitted to a wall or placed on the ground, with plenty of space around it to get a good flow of air. This external unit is connected to an internal unit containing circulation pumps and hot water.
- Generally, ASHPs are easier to install and therefore cheaper (£9,000 to £11,000) than GSHPs. Savings on fuel costs depend on the heating system you are replacing. Figures indicate highest savings for replacing old G-rated electric systems and LPG boilers but replacing new A-rated gas or oil boilers resulted in increased fuel costs.
- The size of the ASHP will vary depending on your home's demand; the bigger the home, the bigger the pump unit needed.
- GSHPs are more efficient than ASHPs because heat is transferred through the ground via the movement of water and water has a greater capacity to hold heat compared to air.
- Due to fluctuating air temperatures, ASHPs must work harder to produce heat when the outside air temperature is lower. So, in the colder months, they are less efficient than GSHPs.
- ASHPs may need planning permission so check with your local authority. As the unit is above the ground, it will produce a noise similar to that of an air conditioning unit, which could be bothersome to you or your neighbours.

## General advice on heat pumps

- Replacing your current heating system with a heat pump can lower your home carbon emissions and the highest reduction is achieved with the replacement of solid fuel.
- Heat pumps work best when producing heat at a lower temperature than traditional boilers. Therefore, to be effective, it is essential that your home is well insulated, and draught proofed to minimise heat loss.
- Heat pumps can perform better with underfloor or warm air heating than radiator systems because of the lower temperatures required. Larger radiators may be needed to be effective.
- You will still have to pay fuel bills with a heat pump because it is powered by electricity. Whether you save money on your fuel bills depends on the heating system you are replacing. If your old system was inefficient and/or the fuel you are replacing is expensive, you are more likely to see lower costs with a new heat pump. Heat pumps may not be the best option for homes using mains gas.
- If the heat pump is providing hot water, then this could limit overall efficiency and you could consider solar water heating in addition.
- Your installer should explain how to use the controls to maximise efficiency.
- You may be able to receive payments for the heat you generate through the UK Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme (the scheme closes to new applications on 31st March 2022)
- If you are planning to install a heat pump, you need to register the energy device with your Distribution Network Operator (DNO). Usually, your installer will register the device for you.
- Before installing a heat pump, it is advisable to find an installer who is certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme for information, advice and to get a quote.

## Further Reading

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk>

<https://www.cse.org.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk>: how to register energy devices in homes or small businesses and the domestic renewable heat incentive (RHI)

<https://mcsertified.com>: to find your nearest MCS certified installer.

*Susan Davies*

Energy and Transport Working Group, SCCCAG  
Supporting your Parish and Cornwall Council Climate  
Emergency Declaration

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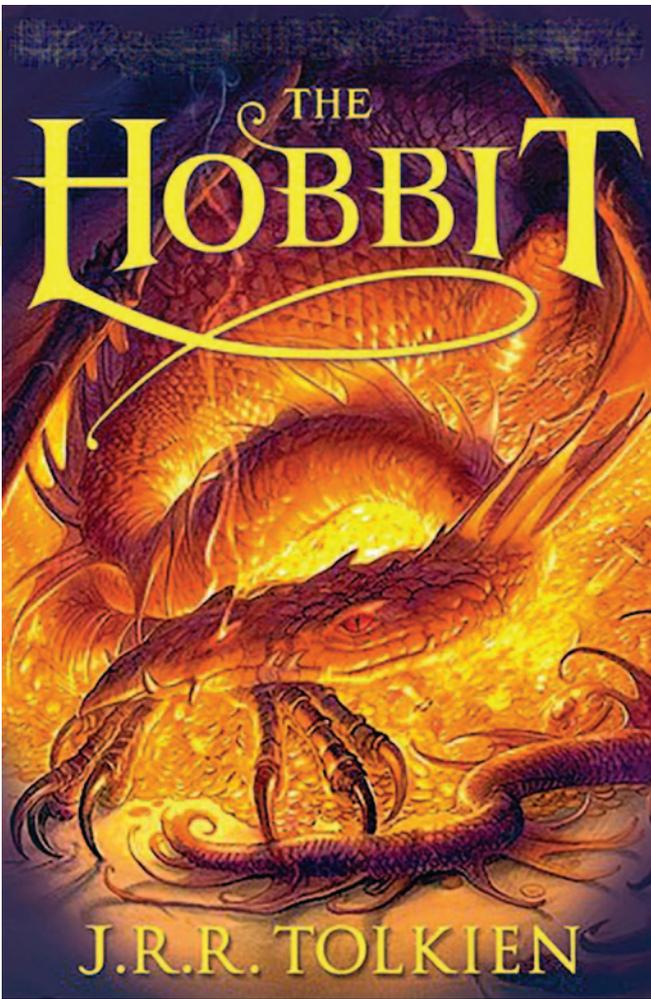
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## A HOBBIT'S TALE - THE SHIRE AWAKENS

Prior to the pandemic Ben Towe, Headteacher at Stoke Primary School, and I had been discussing the idea of adapting Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' as a theatrical production for the school. Several years ago, I had drafted a rough version of the play for my son's primary school, which had been great fun. I now had copyright permission to do a full adaptation. It had struck me that the story was actually an ecological parable for our times with its themes of greed, power, exploiting the earth and also loyalty and bravery; it is indeed an ordinary, 'little' person - or hobbit - who does so much to save the day. We therefore began planning a production of the play for July 2022.

I was keenly aware that the parish council had already declared a climate emergency and adopted the aim of the parish to be carbon free by 2030. We then began to make connections with these developments, that is, the theatrical production of The Hobbit and the wider aspirations of the parish concerning climate change. To this end we discussed the idea of a more ambitious, community event,

which would be a Festival of Climate Change related cultural and environmental activities. The focal point of the week would be 'The Hobbit', which would be performed in a marquee on the village green with a large cast of children and adults.

We discussed the idea with the two climate change groups in the parish, SCCCAG and SCEN, who shared our enthusiasm and then had conversations with people from various groups in the village, such as SCATS, who also showed interest.

On the final Saturday, the marquee could be given over to a Climate Festival drawing people from across the 'shire' with the whole week involving activities, fun and serious, from Middle Earth suppers at the Old School Inn at Bree, Middle Earth ale at the 'Prancing Pony' social club, to cultural events in the parish hall.

After the extended isolation, fragmentation, and loneliness of lockdown, keenly felt by many in our rural community the aim is to celebrate, hopefully, emergence from lockdown and invite participation from anyone and everyone of all ages and backgrounds living within the parish.

We will be drawing up our 'plans, policies and devices' in September but do please get in touch to share any thoughts or ideas.

David Oddie  
01579 370642

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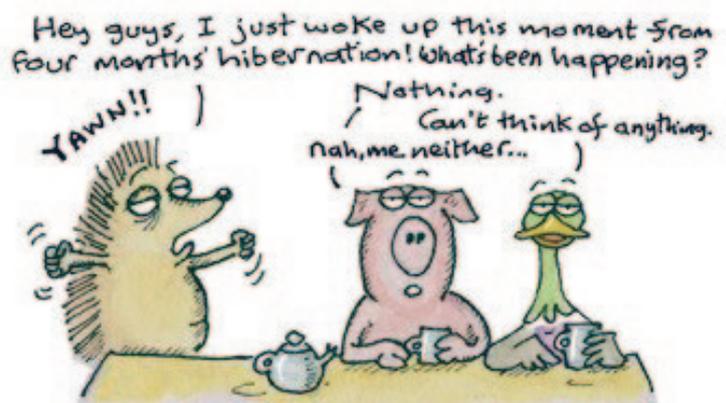
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**Stoke Climsland Village amble PART 1, 1066-1700 – routeways and longhouses**

We met on Thursday evening at 7.00, for the first monthly walk around our Villages. We finished at The Old School where the manageress Edah Joll, whose suggestion this was, had provided a fantastic cake of strawberries and cream to go with our coffee.

Stoke was more complicated than some, because it's a larger village and contains the definite signs of change over the centuries. So through it we are able to read quite a lot of the story of Stoke Climsland parish. We began with the name – derived from Clismeston which was the name of the whole Manor (now parish) in the Domesday Book of 1086; it meant 'stoke' (outlying grazing pastures of) Clismeston (Climson). Climsion is just ½ mile along the road, and the centre of the medieval manor, where any resident Lord of the Manor would have lived until the whole manor became royal property before the Normans arrived.

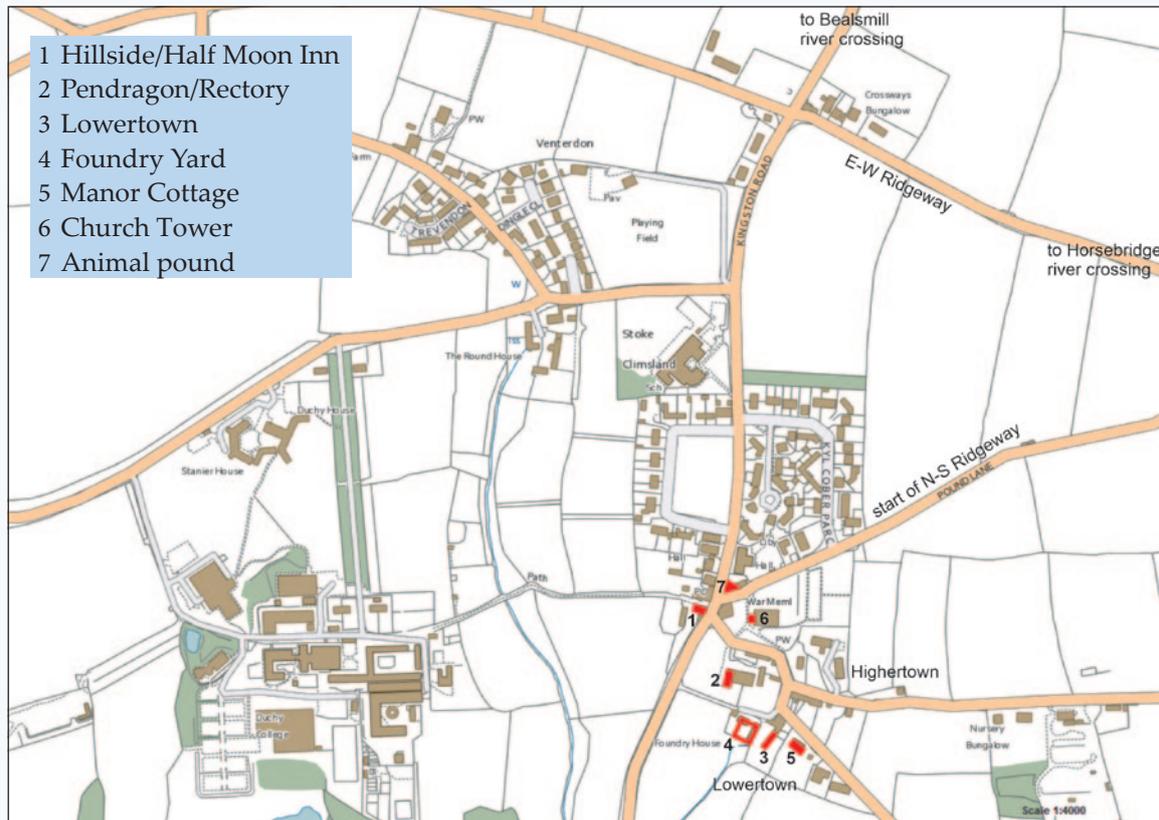
This spot is close to the crossing point of two very ancient ridgeways (S-N and E-W), at the start of Rowden Lane. It was also where the early routeway from the settlement at Callington passed through on the way to Launceston via the river crossing at

Bealsmill, and crossed the ridgeway route which came up from the ford (later bridge) at Horsebridge, and Tavistock beyond. This was the natural choice for the building of the new 'patronage' Church (of which, more another time), when the original Celtic chapel and holy well of St Mallet on Mollett Down in the NW corner of the manor was replaced closer to where most people lived. Built on this high spot, it would be visible from a distance, a key feature of churches paid for by rich patrons. Was the patron here Tavistock Abbey? A medieval king? Or wealthy local families?

Our medieval records of the farms and families are very detailed because once the Duchy of Cornwall was created in 1337 they not only made, but have kept good rental records every 7 years which were really like a good survey. So we know how many farms there were here, and where. They were dispersed across the centre of the manor, leaving Kit Hill, Trecombe and Mallet Down (beyond Penpill Cross) as open grazing. We know that Stoke had one or two farms and mostly from their building features we know that Hillside, the Rectory, Lowertown and Manor Cottage were all longhouses in style. They could have dated from the 1300s to the 1600s, and all have later changes or additions.

The earliest appears to be Hillside, which may have had two cob-built walls until about 20 years ago including its long side wall. Its most obvious changes were when it became a coaching inn in 1700s with a range of yard, carriage houses, stables and smithy added behind it and a gracious Georgian wing with fine multi-paned windows facing south down the hill towards hopeful customers. The famous photograph of later years shows its sign, the 'Half Moon Inn' and tiny snug next to the front door. During WW2 this became a hostel for Land Army girls and then it was let by the Duchy until sold when it and the smithy became several dwellings.

Another was the Rectory – not today's, which was built in the 1700s and enlarged in the mid-1800s – but the building it replaced which, with its ash house, well, and arms of Prince Henry in stained glass, survives as a drawing made prior to its rebuild, and in 'Terriers' of the 1500s and 1600s when Church property was recorded throughout Cornwall but only Stoke Climsland's in such detail. The Rectory Farm's yard included the roadside barn which has examples of all our local stones in its side wall.



Lowertown appears to include a longhouse style building too – a longhouse would be built on a slope. Originally the downhill end housed cattle and uphill people. Longhouses were along the lines of croft houses and this was the medieval style throughout what was called the 'highland zone' covering the north and west of the country, where a pattern of dispersed farmsteads existed rather than villages. Several well preserved longhouses can be seen on Dartmoor.

Lowertown is fascinating because this is where the Pennington family lived. They were well known bell founders throughout Devon (Exeter) and Cornwall (Stoke). Foundry yard must have been theirs and may yet conceal remains of the pits they would have dug to cast the bells for Stoke's church amongst others, though usually bells were cast on site in a churchyard and local people would bring the metal to be melted. Fittingly, our Penningtons are buried opposite the door of the Church tower. Lowertown's name comes from 'ton' for farmstead or main place, with 'lower' added.

Manor Cottage has a very fine roof structure in amazing condition, and its chimney design is of the 1500s. Inside are carved granite features dating from the 15-1600s. This was a very upmarket house, and could have been built for the Duchy's local agent for Cornwall. The 1500s was the period of the 'great rebuild', when many cob or half-timber buildings were rebuilt in stone. On Hingston Down a Calstock family of stonemasons had a quarry from which they produced beautifully carved granite doorways, lintels, fireplaces and window mullions for farms throughout that parish, usually with motifs relevant to the family including dogs, oak leaves, fish or round balls (tin?). Two granite fireplaces in Manor Cottage have carved initials WH, stars, flowers, and a round ball enclosed by a spire shape.

A later alteration to Manor Cottage was quite typical of early farmhouses which were all 'vernacular' buildings, designed for the needs of the owners. During the 1700s we enter the 'polite' period, when all houses were expected to be more formal, with a door in the middle and symmetrical arrangement of sash windows on either side. This often happened on the rear of the house, with a garden or even a driveway as part of the new arrangement. Manor Cottage was also given slate hanging and makes the most of the view.

Granite features were rare in this parish due to the difficulty and expense of transport, though there are one or two recognisable products of the same family of stonemasons further down the Tamar where they could go by boat. So during the 'great rebuild' the farmhouses in Stoke Climsland and other parishes were mostly rebuilt in local slate-stone or 'killas' with wooden window mullions and lintels, though often with a granite upright on one side of the fireplace.

But with the 1700s and more readily available wheeled transport, granite began to appear more in local buildings. Several cottages in the parish have squared granites used to strengthen the corners of their main walls, but still with wooden lintels. As time went on they would be built with neat granite quoins from top to bottom, alternately long or short, and had granite lintels too. The exception was Church towers which from early on might be made of well-cut close fitting squared granites, called 'ashlar'. And at Stoke the Church House also had granite features.

To find out about Church House you'll have to wait for the second part of this rather lengthy report. Meanwhile, do join us for the second Village Walk around Venterdon. Look for details on posters and in the brand new Old School web site [www.oldschoolstokeclimsland.co.uk](http://www.oldschoolstokeclimsland.co.uk)

We rounded off our walk with coffee and a massive and delicious cream and strawberry cake provided by Edah Joll. If you are interested in the history of our area, or more walks, don't hesitate to contact us at the Parish Archive or phone 01579 370411.





Pictures by Deri Parsons

## IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOUR NEIGHBOURS GET UP TO

Several years ago, Mrs P and I were walking the Blue Hills section of the Cornish Coastal Footpath and came across a British Motor Cycling Club sign. Intrigued, I did a little research and discovered that this near vertical stretch was used by the BMCC during one of their trials - the John Aley Summer Trial. By definition, a trial is a test of some description, and this trial is certainly a test. A test of skill, mechanical reliability, stamina and let us be honest about it, the rider's sanity. Those taking part compete against the challenges set by the organisers, and not against a fellow competitor. In order to achieve success, riders must arrive at the various places along the route at the designated time. Penalties are for those who arrive early or late or fail to compete the route within the time allocated, and for making mistakes in areas known as 'Observed Sections' or 'Special Tests'. In reality, for Observed Section you can substitute steep hill, and this is where the Blue Hills section comes in. The Special Tests are usually of the short, timed stop and start style. The John Aley is quite an endurance test. It is just under 300 miles and stretches over 12 hours or so. It starts in Somerset at midnight and much of it is done through the hours of darkness.

Who in their right minds would want to take part in something like this, I hear you ask? Steve Leonard-Williams from Higher Downgate, that is who. The least we could do was to go down last weekend, enjoy the sun and scenery and experience the event first-hand. And it was a great occasion for we spectators. As Steve wrote on his Facebook page afterwards "The first long-distance trial since we were all locked up and my faithful but elderly steed didn't miss a beat. A mixture of minor lanes and 16 'observed' off-road hill sections ranging from 'enjoyably challenging' to 'frankly terrifying'. No sleep and 300 miles ridden since the start fuelled by a diet consisting of rather too much cake and caffeine". Well done, Steve. Here's to next year?

Deri Parsons



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### 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 8 am - 11 am Sunday.

If you 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. Do bear with us; in line with current guidelines, please 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 .