

The Stoke Climsland Newsletter

Issue 23 November 2020

WELCOME to The Stoke Climsland Newsletter.

Well, it's approaching mid-November and here we are with Issue 23. Another combination of information, pointers towards more information and a few advertisements. The information is important as we hope that it will help you cope with Lockdown V2. We are already thinking of our Bumper Christmas Issue and would ask that you let us know of anything going on or any stories that you would like to share with others. Is it too soon to start featuring events in 2021? Something for us all to look forward to? Keep safe and keep following the guidelines. Covid-19 hasn't gone away and won't for a long while.

*Deri Parsons
John Wilmot*



Remembrance Sunday in Stoke Climsland was very different this year. Instead of a jam-packed church service, there was just a small contingent paying their respects at the memorial. But the pre-recorded Service of Remembrance has been seen by over 200 households so far and was watched 'live' by nearly 100 on the day itself. The virtual collection plate has raised £70 so far for The Royal British Legion. You can still watch and donate via the Facebook page and YouTube channel - Stoke Climsland Parish Church.

A number of people have asked what is happening to our Services at Christmas? We have already drawn up a schedule. However, the new and existing restrictions, if they come back into force at the beginning of December, will mean that there undoubtedly will be some changes to what we traditionally do. Both the Worship Leaders and the PCC are working towards getting as much of a 'normal' feel to the Services within the restrictions that are placed on us and will announce in the next couple of weeks what that means. We can assure you that nothing will stop us celebrating the birth of Jesus this year; it just may be in a different form to what we are all used to.

See page 2 for full information about the next few Newsletters

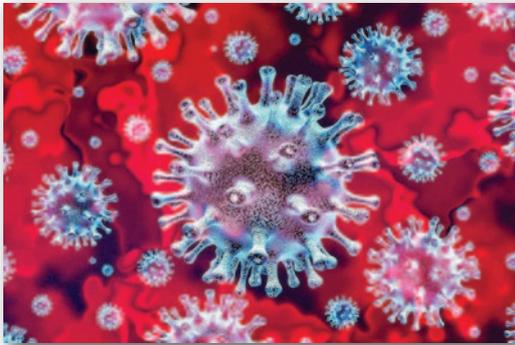
It's not too soon to send us your contributions to our Christmas issue. It's your Newsletter - please help us to make it a festive one that will take our minds off lockdowns, economic meltdown and illness. Just for a few days!

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

We are never troubled by too much in the way of correspondence from our readers but recently we have had several e-mails expressing concern about the same issue – Lockdown V2 is seemingly being taken less seriously than Lockdown V1.

Yes, there are differences between the two (more shops open, schools, colleges, and universities open etc) but there are still rules to be followed. Too many of us are still ‘popping out’ for the sake of it rather than for the bare essentials. The ‘Stay at Home’ message seems to be lost on many. Perhaps there is some complacency because the relevant numbers in Cornwall are low? That may have been the case but, the virus has not gone away, and the numbers are rising. We do need to abide by the rules, not just because they are official but because they are there for our own protection. The original mantra of ‘Stay Safe, Protect the NHS and Save Lives’ is still very relevant. You know it makes sense!



And the recent announcement of a vaccine should not lead to more complacency and should not distract from the message of social distancing and minimising transmission. While there is evidence that the Pfizer/

BioNTech vaccine seems effective in preventing Covid-19 developing in those vaccinated, we do not know how long this immunity lasts for. We also do not know whether those who had the vaccine were less contagious and therefore less likely to transmit the virus to others. There are also potential logistic issues with the delivery and storage of the vaccine, which needs to be kept at a maximum temperature of -70 C. Hospitals and general practices generally do not have facilities for bulk storage at these ultra-low temperatures. We need to keep our expectations grounded and, very importantly, do not let optimism prevent us from being vigilant.

This poster, which turned up in our inboxes, was not intended to be part of this editorial, but seems wholly relevant in the circumstances.



FUTURE NEWSLETTERS



The dates for issues through to Christmas and beyond haven't changed. Plans for the Christmas issue remain as before.

All issues will be published on the Facebook page for The Old School as well as on the new website www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk

THE ISSUE ON DECEMBER 16th WILL BE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PUBLISH THIS ONLINE AND AS A PAPER ISSUE

We need some help with this. Send us news of your Christmas plans (taking account of Covid restrictions), stories from earlier Christmases, pictures of your children's Christmases, any Christmas neighbourhood activities and anything else that will help us all to make the best of Christmas 2020.

You can start sending contributions NOW - the sooner the better.

PUBLICATION DATES

We will be publishing Newsletters on the following dates

- November 20th
- December 3rd
- December 16th
- January 5th

In each case, the deadline for submissions will be 2 days before publication date but PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DERI PARSONS EARLIER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. It makes the job of building an issue so much easier for us.

ALMOST 1000 LITRES OF DELICIOUS, UNSPRAYED, LOCAL FRUIT JUICE

What a great apple-pressing! Thanks to brilliant helpers including Chrissy and Dave Wallis, Al Guy, and Dave Shorten who kept going all day and ensured that social distancing could really work. Everyone lined up carefully 2 m apart in their masks while waiting their turn to drop apples into the crusher. It has been a bumper year for all fruit (nuts too), but these later apple varieties have time to build up good flavour, keep well if stored undamaged, and have enough tannin in their skins to make really good cider. (If you still have a tree-full you could borrow our smaller crusher to use at home and save them from going to waste – ring Richard on 01579 370411).

Thank you to Edah and to Simon Streatfield for making delicious apple cakes and even a pie! And to all of you who came along.



Text and photograph by Caroline Vulliamy



OVER 1000 NEW FRUIT TREES

Free trees! Do not forget!

Tamar Valley Orchard Volunteers' offer of one fruit tree for every garden in Stoke Climsland Parish is still going on. Those grafted this spring will be ready to plant next spring, and to have one please sign up as soon as you like. Help with next year's grafting sessions (February to March) when we will train you on the spot, and you may even graft your own tree! We are aiming for 1,000 new young fruit trees in total. Pears? Apricots? Phone Richard to get added to our list.

It is a three-year project, funded by Tamar Valley Orchard Volunteers Group. Sign up as soon as possible to help, or for the free fruit tree of your choice as our contribution to the 'Forest for Cornwall'.

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LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED LARGE QUANTITIES OF EACH ITEM ON THE FOLLOWING LIST:

HOMELESS SOUP RUN

- 10 X SLEEPING BAGS
- 10 X 1 MAN TENTS
- 10 X FLOOR CAMPING MATS
- 100 X GLOVES, HATS, WARM SOCKS
- 100 X CHOCOLATES
- 100 X SWEETS
- 20 X SMALL SANITARY
- 100 X SMALL TOILETRIES
- 100 X TOOTH PASTE AND BRUSH
- 70 X WRAPPING PAPER ROLLS
- ANY OTHER SMALL USEFUL ITEMS

VULNERABLE COMMUNITY PARCELS

- 80 X CHRISTMAS CRACKERS
- 80 X CHOCOLATES
- 80 X SWEETS
- 80 X MINCE PIES
- 80 X EDUCATIONAL GAMES, TOYS
- 60 X STATIONARY
- 80 X FAMILY FRIENDLY DVD'S
- 80 X PUZZLES & COLOURING BOOKS
- 80 X SCARVES, HATS, GLOVES & SOCKS
- 50 X DIARIES AND CALENDARS
- 80 X TOILETRIES AND SMELLIES

LAST DATE FOR DONATIONS 14TH DEC - DISTRIBUTION 19TH & 23RD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THESE DIFFICULT & UNUSUAL TIMES!

Contact: 07769 848307 www.lighthousecommunitycentre.co.uk
Unit 24 Liskeard Business Park PL14 3UT

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE OLD SCHOOL?

In short - not a lot at the moment. But we're hoping to reinstate some activities as soon as the current lockdown eases. But for now, this is where we are. Leave a message on 01579 370493 for more information.

THE ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC continues 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 at The Old School on Thursday 19th November and then at 2-weekly intervals after that.

THE LIBRARY has closed until further notice.

THE OLD SCHOOL BOOK CLUB continues as a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 17th November at 9-30 am. The book for discussion is *An Italian Education* by Tim Parks. Copies are now available; please email Helen Cadiot on helen.cadiot@outlook.com who 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.



FRIDAY LUNCHES have been stopped for the duration of the lockdown. We will circulate information about their resumption as soon as the Covid regulations allow this.

THE TAKE-AWAY MEALS CONTINUE

The December Saturday Night Treat will be on 5th December from 6.30pm. It will be a Thai Chicken Massaman curry, Jasmine rice and vegetables Thai style. You need to book ahead - just call 01579 370493 and leave a message saying how many meals you want. The cost will be £7-50 per meal, payable on the night. You will need to observe strict social distancing rules when you come to the kitchen door in the car park.



RECYCLING Ali Humphreys is planning to be at The Old School car park from 8.30 - 9.15 am on December 3rd. But check in the Newsletter for confirmation of that date.

THE OLD SCHOOL MARKET will happen on December 5th, 10am-noon, as scheduled, but assuming that the current lockdown restrictions have been lifted during the previous week. We will keep you updated but we hope to have these stallholders present.

Sue Cook - Stained glass gifts
Karen Cooper - Personalised gifts and cards
Jeremy Dawe - Traditional meat from Trehill Farm
Chris George - Wood turner, Gifts
Michael Harford - Wood crafts
Dawn Hunn - Vegetables
Sandra Jane - Leather goods
Val Kidman - Home made preserves, jams and freshly baked cakes
Linda Losty - Aprons, masks etc
Ian Macdonald - Cross-stitch, tapestry and picture framing
Di Nash - Gifts and hand-knitted etc
Neil Robyns - Artisan yogurts, cream cheese, cheesecakes and pies
Derek Schofield - Apple and other juices, vinegar, cordials
Dale Wood - Honey

The Market will be held indoors. Car parking will be available as usual. Please enter the building through the main door and follow the signs, keeping a proper distance from others. The exit will be via the kitchen corridor. Please do not double back on this route - walk round the building.

Since all three rooms will be used for stalls a more restricted breakfast will be available. Please follow the signs - do not enter the kitchen or open the kitchen hatch.

If you need help please ask - volunteers will be present for the whole time.

SOUTH TAMAR ART TRAIL

The Art Trail, due to run from 14th - 22nd November, has been postponed. It is hoped to be able run it in December so look out for alternative dates or contact Melanie Guy via meljoyguy@hotmail.com for information.

A BIT OF LOCKDOWN RELIEF

Friends of Stoke Climsland School

THE BIG PTA QUIZ 2020

SIGN UP TO TAKE PART IN OUR BIG PTA QUIZ 2020 & HELP RAISE FUNDS

Thursday 19th November
6 pm start

Online virtual family Zoom quiz.
Register your interest on the NEWS section of the school website.
Suggested donation of £5 per team to participate.

GET YOUR QUIZ ON!

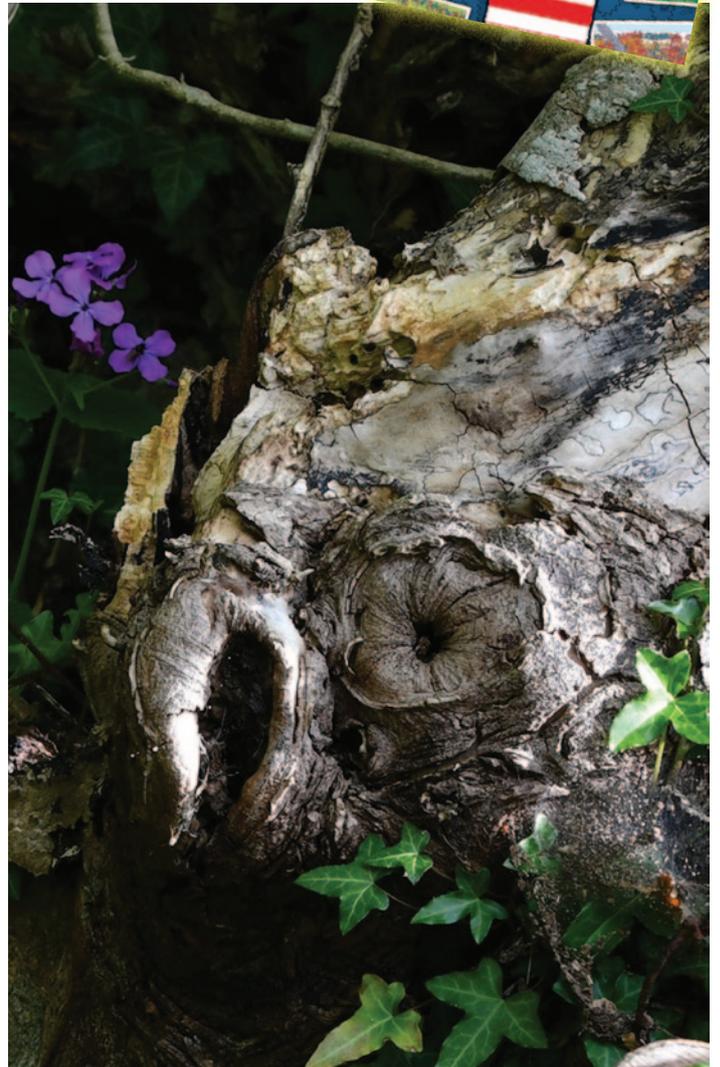
Get your thinking caps on with friends and family and put your knowledge to the test at the Big PTA Quiz 2020.

Parentkind Member Association

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OUR WALLY WITH THE CAMERA

Can you identify this tree? If so, you'll know where our Wally with the Camera was standing when the shot was taken. If you do, let us know and we'll send you a virtual prize of your own choosing. No virtual expense will be spared on this ... but the real expense will remain the same ... zero!



WORDSEARCH

The names of fourteen locations in the Parish are hidden in the box. See if you can find them. The solution can be found on Page 10.

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One of the major differences and knock-on consequences of Lockdown V2, however much shorter than the original restrictions of Lockdown V1, is the timing of the year. Psychologically, a springtime and early summer period, as scary and serious as it was and still is, but with longer and warmer days, always led to a sense of hope of new beginnings and a return to normality. Move on eight months and now faced with the cold, wet, dark days of winter with no end in sight, then the mood is much less positive. Even for us in farming, despite the completion of a long and protracted harvest season and most livestock now in the barns, with a winter-long daily routine of feeding, bedding and mucking out, we also face the long winter evenings without any social gatherings at the pub, clubs or talks.



So welcome news of literally a lifeline from our oldest farming charity – the RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution), in launching an on-line Wellbeing, Community and Counselling Service for farmers and their families across England’s Regions and Wales. Managing Wellbeing and Good Mental Health through one-to-one support is essential in tackling such issues at an early stage, as sadly UK Agriculture has one of the worst track records for stress, depression, anxiety, and suicides. So often

attributed to the relative isolation of both our work patterns and location, business and financial pressures, even family relations, it can be further challenged by the lack of social interaction or release to share your problems. For more information on this new RABI initiative, go to www.qwell.io/rabi for adults, whilst for u18’s, go to www.kooth.com/rabi More locally Cornwall YFC have developed their own #mymindmatters campaign. Finally, Cornwall Farming Health Hub can signpost to the RABI and Farming Community Network Farming Helpline on www.farminghealth.co.uk

So as we all look to the future in the hope that an effective vaccine for Covid-19 is around the corner, let us all throughout our own communities seek to help each other, stay in touch by safe means and guard our mental health. By working together, we can all remain well, protect the NHS, and save lives, plus keep it local – and remember each and All Mind’s Matter!

Down on the Farm.

THE NHS COVID APP
A REMINDER TO DOWNLOAD IT

The NHS Covid App is an important part of the Government’s strategy to limit the spread of the virus.. For it to work effectively it needs the majority of the population to download it to their mobile phones. If you have not downloaded it yet please do so - it only takes a few seconds and downloading it will be an important step in getting the virus under control. You can get it free from the Apple Store or Google Play.



What does the app do?

- **Trace:** find out when you’ve been near other app users who have tested positive for coronavirus.
- **Alert:** lets you know the level of coronavirus risk in your postcode district.
- **Check-in:** get alerted if you’ve visited a venue where you may have come into contact with coronavirus, using a simple QR code scanner. No more form filling.
- **Symptoms:** check if you have coronavirus symptoms and see if you need to order a test.
- **Test:** helps you order a test if you need to.
- **Isolate:** keep track of your self-isolation countdown and access relevant advice.

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SHOP LOCALLY DURING THE LOCKDOWN



CHRISTMAS IS COMING: SHOP LOCALLY AND ONLINE

We have always advocated shopping locally – a huge shout out for the Village Stores and Post Office – and we we'd like to remind you of the recent initiative of Lucy Hard. Lucy has started a Facebook group called the Stoke Climsland Virtual Christmas Shopping Market. The idea of the group is for local crafters to showcase their crafts or services so that we can try and buy locally this Christmas. Most importantly it is a group for local people to show what they do, and we can support them and each other through this unusual time and make Christmas shopping enjoyable - from the comfort of our armchairs without the urge to rip a face mask off.

Want to find out more? Just put **Stoke Climsland Virtual Christmas Shopping Market** into the Facebook search bar and you will soon be entering a world of talent that you probably did not know existed. We're not sure how many members there are now but the array of gifts on display is very impressive. Take a look and remember, if you buy something, you are supporting a local enterprise.

Lucy would like to raise funds for the community whilst we all shop, so to become an approved local seller there is a £5 charge to join. If you are interested, pop Lucy a message and she will get you set up.

NEED BOOKS?



Independent bookshops have set up a website in competition with Amazon. These bookshops guarantee 30% discounts and aim to please 'the socially conscious online shopper'. The website is www.bookshop.org



Cornwall Christmas Box

Cornwall Christmas Box provides Christmas Dinner in a box for the poorest families in Cornwall. Each box contains enough food for Christmas dinner with all the extra little goodies and treats like mince pies, biscuits and Christmas pudding, which all go to make up a feast for a family in need. We cannot accept fresh food but there are plenty of good things to eat that can still be included. A typical box costs around £30-£40 and they are distributed through various local organisations. Help to fund these boxes is needed.

If you have any question be sure to get in touch – either by email (hello@cornwallchristmasbox.co.uk) or via Messenger on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cornwallchristmasbox/>). There is a local collection point for boxes and that is at Darren's Cars in St Anne's Chapel.

Now is the time to reduce the distances we travel and to avoid large crowds. This is where shopping local helps – not so far to go and not so many people to interact with. We know that shops selling non-essential items will be closed but many of them are offering delivery and/or click and collect services. Check with your favourite local store to see if this is what they are doing. Although restaurants, bars and pubs must close, they can still provide takeaway and delivery services. Once again, check them out and try and consider giving them your custom.

THE VILLAGE STORE AND POST OFFICE

The Post Office counter remains open from 9 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday and 9 am - 12.30 pm Saturday. And the shop is open 8 am - 6 pm Mon-Friday; 7 am - 12.30 pm Saturday; 9 am - 11 am Sunday.

A 'call and collect' service is available and the shop will continue to deliver to vulnerable or self-isolating customers.

Social distancing at 2 metres operates and this means limiting the number of people in the shop at any time. All customers visiting the Shop or Post Office must wear a face mask or face covering at all times unless they are exempt from this rule.

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED 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.

Orders can now be placed for Christmas. See the notice on page 8 of Newsletter 21.

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Hello everyone.

Well, here we are in the second lockdown (sorry, 'intervention', the Government said we would not have a second lockdown for England. How much did they pay someone to come up with that new name?). Whatever, Cornwall continues to be good at minimising the effect of Covid-19 infections. We hope that anyone who does contact the virus comes through the other-side safe and well. Sadly, some do not, and we have to think about the loss that brings to a family. Funerals are not the same in these difficult times.

Cornwall Council continues to publish information on its website and Facebook if you are OK with these digital media platforms. If not, then continue to keep the 'old' adage – 'social distance', frequent hand washing or use of sanitisers, and wear a face mask if in contact with other people when out and about – but don't be 'out and about' unless really necessary. Maybe easier said than done, but we do have a great shop in the village, much better than standing in a long queue at one of our larger supermarkets and wandering up and down aisles and check-outs. Last week a contact said they were in a large supermarket just buying a few essentials and found the queue for the check-out was an hour long! Stay local, shop local and walk local – go and visit the ducks at Venterdon pond. They will be happy to see you and give you a friendly 'quack'. The strongest message we hear from the various TV announcements is that social distancing and minimising mixing with other people are the key factors to reduce the infections. Maybe easier said than done?

Keep up to date by looking at: www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health-cornwall/information-about-coronavirus-Covid-19/

Our volunteer group remains active if you need any further help please contact our co-ordinators who will try and assist: We continue to offer the prescription collection service. If you need collections due to your medical conditions, or the situation here gets worse the collection service will be there for you. 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 right.

THESE ARE THE MAIN RESTRICTIONS THAT APPLY TO US IN STOKE CLIMSLAND FROM NOVEMBER 5TH



Pubs and restaurants closed but takeaways permitted



Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



No households mixing indoors, or in private gardens, unless in your support bubble



Stay home – only leave for specific reasons including education and work



Schools, universities and colleges remain open



Outdoor recreation encouraged, you can meet one person outside your household

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. Please continue to follow the Government and Cornwall Council guidelines.

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VIRTUAL SHOW CALENDAR

The Stoke Climsland Virtual Show Calendar 2021 continues to be available from the village shop.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN STOKE CLIMSLAND PARISH

The Stoke Climsland Climate Action Group (SCCCAG) was set up 18 months ago to start to consider how, as a community, we can move to a low carbon lifestyle (net zero). Unfortunately, Covid-19 has topped everyone's agenda for the past 9 months and, with the current lockdown, continues to do so. However, climate change has not gone away; we need to think about it and do some planning for the future.

Anyone watching the news these days will be aware of the impact of climate change on the planet, forest fires in Australia at the beginning of the year to those seen in California recently. However, climate change has different impacts across the world. In the UK, for example, the major risks of climate change are flooding, heat waves and droughts, which can affect our landscape, living conditions, food production, our wildlife, and our health. The poor grain harvests this year, as a result of the spring drought and a wet August, are a good example.



Why should we be concerned about climate change in Stoke Climsland? Because it is happening here! We need to protect our landscape and wildlife for ourselves and future generations; and of course, our own health and particularly the health and safety of the more vulnerable. What can we do? We can help to reduce our carbon emissions by moving to a low carbon lifestyle. This could mean changing some of our behaviours and habits. It does not mean that everyone has to make the same changes. A low carbon lifestyle is one which suits the individual, consistent with their own identities and motivations.

A recent carbon audit of our parish revealed that road transport accounted for 37% of carbon dioxide emissions.

Household energy consumption accounts for a further 30%, and, whilst we do not have a local estimate, waste accounts for 6% of emissions on a national basis. It's easy to see that there are many aspects of our lives to bear in mind when considering how to move to a low carbon lifestyle. How do we reduce energy consumption in our homes for example? It is known that, with better insulation and double-glazing, significant energy reductions can be made. Can we go further and install renewable energy heating systems? As a rural community how do we reduce transport emissions? Do we need to make our next car purchase an electric one? Do we look to restructure local shopping so that we can walk, or cycle more and not need to use a car? There are a host of things that we can do but, above all, we need to talk and discuss this as a community. There are many changes we can make in our everyday lives and it would be good to share ideas. On a larger scale we may wish to take part in a community initiative, for example communal transport or renewable energy.

We are looking for support across the community. Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts and ideas. You can email us at scccag1@gmail.com

Martin Howlett – Interim Chair SCCCAG

(Editor's note: As well as letting SCCCAG know your thoughts and ideas, we would be keen to know what practical measures our readers are taking to respond to the challenges of Climate Change.

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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE PARISH

VENTERDON
CHAPEL



Services at Venterdon Chapel are suspended for the time being.

PARISH CHURCH

During the next few weeks, while it is not possible to have a normal Service, we will continue to stream a Service on Sunday at 10 am, which will be filmed behind closed doors.

We will continue to be open from 1 - 4 pm on Wednesdays for Individual Private Prayer.



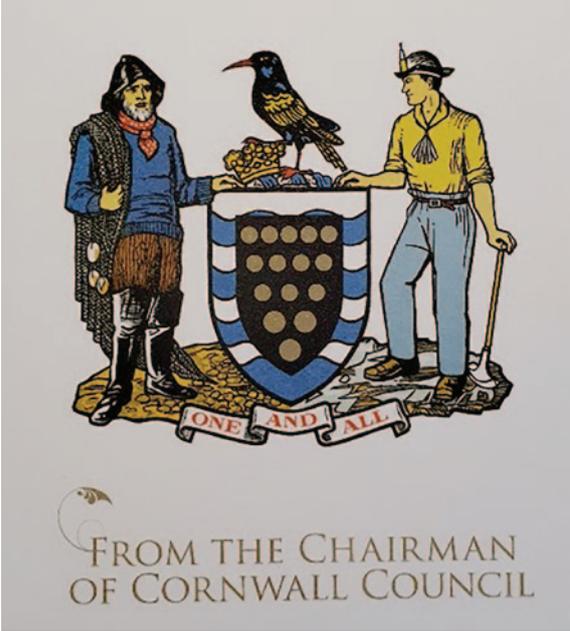


A surprise recently came through the post in the form of an envelope that was addressed to the Leadership Team. Enclosed

in the envelope was a card from the Chairman of Cornwall Council. It turned out that our local councillor, Neil Burden, had nominated the Scout Group for a Cornwall Civic Award, the highest award that Cornwall Council can offer. The Chairman was delighted to inform us that, after careful review of all the nominations, the Awards Panel was unanimous in its decision that we should be the recipient of this award. The Panel was particularly impressed with the amazing way in which everyone works together as a unit. It is great to know that the work we all do as leaders at 1st Stoke Climsland is recognised across Cornwall.

It has been great being able to return to Scouting after a long break during the initial Lockdown. Although we had been running meetings over Zoom to be able to provide a form of "Virtual Scouting", nothing can compare to the feeling of meeting face-to-face and being able to see the smiles on everyone's face.

Since resuming meetings, all sections have been meeting outdoors and enjoying being together



again even if it is in smaller groups than we are used to. There has been a lot of emphasis on scouting skills and socially distanced teambuilding.

There have been many tweaks and changes that have been incorporated to our scouting evenings to allow for social distancing. One example of this is could be seen when the Explorers were practicing and improving their fire lighting skills. Normally there would be small groups working together to create a fire, however each person was allocated a space to create their own fire. This actually worked better than expected and the resulting view was quite cinematic as dusk was starting to fall.

Unfortunately, with the latest Lockdown, the Scout Association has changed the guidance which means that face-to-face Scouting has had to cease for the duration of the lockdown. However, we will still continue meeting virtually over Zoom and will be back to doing that we do best as soon as we are allowed.

Tris Cocks, Group Scout Leader



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I never imagined that this year's self isolation, spent mainly in the garden, would lead to a friendship with that rather un-loved bird, the Collared Dove. All season, a pair of very confiding and vocal Collared Doves have spent most of their time in the garden, paying close attention to us and glad of any water and crumbs I put out for them. They successfully reared two lots of squabs, both broods using a flimsy nest of fine birch twigs, precariously balanced on the overhanging branches of a buddleia.

By late summer, the bed below the buddleia was long-due a refurbishment. A tangle of Day lilies, Montbretia and a very weedy Michaelmas Daisy hadn't flowered for several years as

they were so overshadowed, so with daily sessions with spade and pickaxe I gradually cleared the tangle of running and fangy roots and woody corms.

My efforts were watched all the time by the fifth squab, a singleton this time, the doves' third brood. He was nearly full-grown and bulged over the sides of his nest. We even chatted to each other. Or I did anyway. This Number Five was completely unfazed by my presence just below, and cocked his head, still fuzzy with wisps of down when I spoke to him, watching me with his beady eye.

I had nearly finished the digging, went into lunch and when I emerged about half an hour later I was distressed to find the nest dislodged, bits of lining and feathers on the ground below, and no squab. I reckon a Sparrowhawk had been keeping an eye on proceedings and struck while I was gone. The adults called all afternoon and then they too disappeared. I suppose they considered their efforts were over for this year. Some weeks earlier I had



released a Sparrowhawk who had apparently chased (and eaten) a Blackbird into our rather decrepit fruit cage, and then could not find its way out. And we have seen it swooping through the garden at other times.

Recently, a flock of seven or eight Collared Doves made repeated flyovers. Was this our summer family and friends?

Mary Atkinson

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We are starting to put together the next issue of The Valley newsletter that is due out in March 2021, and I am seeking relevant news, updates, and events to feature. As we were unable to produce a newsletter this summer, this issue will include a spread dedicated to celebrating 25 years of the Tamar Valley AONB. We would like this issue to be positive, upbeat, and forward-looking - goodness knows we need it!

This newsletter will be printed, with 6,000-8,000 copies being distributed throughout the Valley (subject to any restrictions imposed at that time), as well as being available online.

If you have any information you'd like to be considered for inclusion, please send to me (Charlotte Dancer cdancer@tamarvalley.org.uk), along with high-res images and logos (if required) by **w/c 4th January 2021** (if you could let me know in advance that you have something to send me, that will help me to plan, thank you).

The events section will include events from 1st March - end August 2021 (difficult to plan for at the moment, but I will include a disclaimer advising people to make contact with each organisation beforehand and to follow latest government advice). Word limits for brief updates - 160 words, longer articles - 350-400 words. Please feel free to forward this message on to others who may have news to share.

FOOTNOTES

GUNNER RICHARD STIDWELL – STILL REMEMBERED

Gunner Richard Stidwell, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, died of pulmonary tuberculosis and was buried in Stoke Climsland graveyard on 8th August 1918. Every

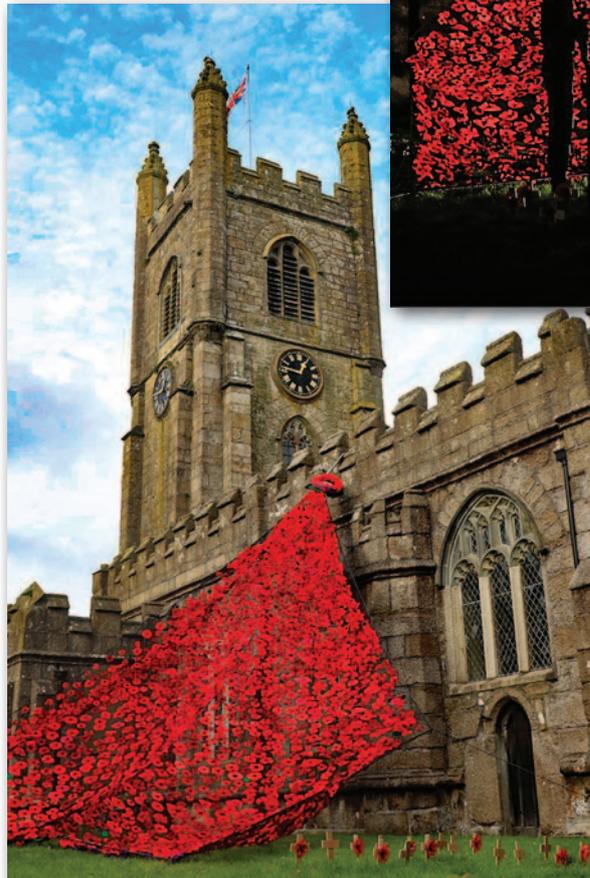
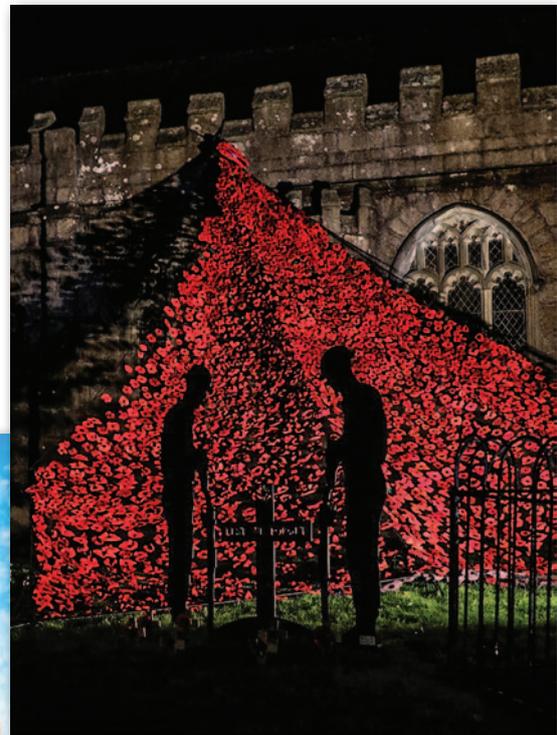
year near Armistice Sunday, a poppy wreath is placed on his slate headstone. It is always accompanied by a note that reads 'From his Comrades in Arms in the 1st, The Queen's Dragoon

Guards'. It is good to see that the tradition has been continued this year. Many thanks to the anonymous layer of the wreath. Gunner Stidwell is not forgotten.

This might be an appropriate place to let you know that copies of the biography compilation for all those names on the WW1 Memorial are still available for a modest cost (donated to the Royal British Legion) from Deri Parsons (01579 370319).

CALLINGTON POPPY CASCADE

This cascade is in front of St Mary's Church, Callington, seen by night and by day. It will remain there for another couple of weeks.



Photos by David Crawley