



# The Stoke Climsland Newsletter

Issue 30 February 2021

**WELCOME** to yet another Stoke Climsland Newsletter. Spring is definitely in the air and we are all awaiting news of the next phase of the Lockdown from the Prime Minister next week. We can anticipate some relaxations and we are told that they will be "cautious and prudent". Read what you will into these words but it would probably be wise not to expect too much, too soon. Is it being overly optimistic to be able to start looking forward to the gradual reintroduction of activities in the Parish? Let's hope so. But, as many of us keep saying, there are far worse places to be locked down in than Stoke Climsland. Which is a good reason for us to fill up the front cover with some rather nice images of parts of the Parish. Where better to stay local?

*Deri Parsons and John Wilmot*



Pictures from:  
Top: Double Rainbow by Di Bujold;  
Right: Kit Hill by David Price; Left: Broadgate by Warren Wise; Below: Panorama by Rob Stewart



This issue of the Newsletter is published on The Old School page on Facebook and can be viewed and easily downloaded from [www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk](http://www.theoldschoolnews.co.uk). The next issue is due out on March 4th.

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)

# COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritisation

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

Due to the tremendous success of the vaccination teams, both locally and nationally, the roll-out across the various priority groups is proceeding speedily. Here is the latest information bulletin from Tamar Valley Health.



**VACCINE ROLL-OUT INFORMATION**

If you are over 65 (Cohort 5) or 18-64 with an underlying health condition (Cohort 6) please contact the surgery (01579 382666) to make an appointment. If you are in Cohort 6 but between the ages of 16 to 18 you will need to book an appointment at the Pensilva clinic (01579 362249) due to the differences in licensing of the vaccines.

The health conditions that will be covered in Cohort 6 are not the same as the eligibility for the annual influenza vaccination. This list is not exhaustive but the main risk groups identified are set out below:

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

Please ring the surgery to make an appointment or if you have a query. We are getting a lot of enquiries from this group of patients asking if family members of a similar age can have the vaccine at the same time. We must follow the government guidance and are unable to offer family members a vaccination if they are not in one of the eligible priority groups. We will contact all our patients when it is their turn to book an appointment. Thank you for your patience.

In addition to the above, if you are in an eligible group, you can book an appointment (online or by calling 119) at a mass vaccination centre currently either at Home Park in Plymouth, Wadebridge Showground or Stithians Showground in Truro.

**NEW CASES OF COVID IN CORNWALL**

**GOOD NEWS**

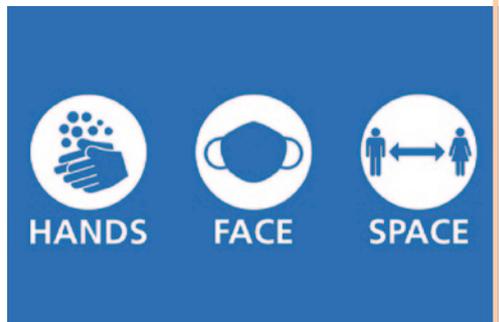
AND

**BAD NEWS**

**The good news?** As of the latest data, the number of new cases of Covid-19 in the county has fallen by more than a quarter in the past week, with 65 out of the 72 cluster areas recording just ten cases or under over the space of seven days.

**The bad news?** We (Altarnun and Stoke Climsland) are one of the seven areas that now has more than ten cases showing. In fact, our weekly figure is now 15, an increase of three.

The message for us all is that the virus is not going away and we still need to take all the precautions we can. Let us all follow the government guidelines and not think that we are exceptions to the rules. They are there for our benefit. Do not take a chance with other people's health.



I am writing this article on Valentine's Day (14th February). Yesterday I received my NHS letter inviting me to book an appointment for my first dose of the Covid vaccine. This will allow you to identify in which age bracket I fall – 65 to 70 (you may correctly assume that I am not younger and extremely vulnerable!). I am, therefore, 'Priority 5' and my 'Risk Group' is based solely on my age. Suddenly I can see myself as others see me – old! I am reminded that when I was young it was quite normal for men to expect to retire at 65 and to die by the time, they were 70. I would at that time have clearly identified someone aged 65 to 70 as old; now I am not so happy with the identification. Life used to start at 40; then it was 50; now it is 60+. It is clear that how we look at things is largely dependent on the perspective from which we view them. How we identify, or categorise, ourselves clearly changes with time.

# census 2021

The need to categorise things, and people, seems endemic in our modern society. We appear to feel the need to put everything, and everyone, in their correct box. Perhaps the largest such exercise will be taking place during the month of March – in particular on the 21st – which is 'Census Day'. Once every ten years we seek as a nation to get a 'snapshot' of our population. This is primarily a statistical exercise, the results of which are meant to help with the planning of such provisions as healthcare, housing, education, etc. It enables us to track changes from decade to decade. However, it not only records facts it also highlights attitudes.

Every Census there are new questions added to reflect changes in society (and probably some deleted as they are no longer relevant). This Census there are three new questions. One on 'Veteran' status – i.e., have you served in the UK armed forces; one on 'sexuality'; and one on 'gender identity'. The last two are clearly a reflection of rapidly changing attitudes and identities in those two areas. People are seeking to identify themselves, and be identified, much less rigidly that they have been in the past. I should point out that answering these last two questions will be optional for this Census.

I am reminded of going into hospital one time as a young man and being asked to fill out an admission form. One of the questions was on 'religion' – the choices, as I recall, were: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational, Salvation Army, Other Protestant, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and Other. Being an awkward young man, yes, I know I can be an awkward old man as well, I filled in the 'Other' box with 'Christian'. In fairness to the hospital the main reason for the categories was not to question my faith but so that they knew which Chaplain to refer me to; but for me I did not wish to be 'categorised' in any of the ways suggested. I saw my principal identity as being a Christian – a follower of Jesus Christ – and that had nothing to do with denomination.

In light of the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic, it would be nice to think that humanity could find a common identity and battle this disease in a united fashion. We might want to extend that wish to cover the fight against Climate Change. What we see in reality is very different. When there are still large numbers of people that deny that these two problems even exist, the hopes of presenting a united front are minimal. What then can pull the vastness of humanity together to find a common identity?

In the Bible, in Paul's letter to the Galatian Church, we find this verse: 'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.' Here Paul was addressing the key divisions of his day – on the grounds of faith (Jewish or non-Jewish), on the grounds of status (slave or free-man) and on the grounds of gender (male or female). Being on different sides of each of those divisions could result in having very different perspectives and expectations. But Paul says that these divisions mean nothing when people from either side put their faith in Jesus. I believe that all of the things which divide us, or categorise us, or identify us, today can also mean nothing when we follow Jesus. I believe that humanity can find its true identity only in Jesus who is the perfect of example of what God made us to be in the first place – formed in His image.

*Keith Browne*

### Window Cleaner

Established for over 20 years

Gutter clearing and unblocking

Gutter and Fascia cleaning Exterior walls cleaned

For a FREE estimate telephone Mr Williams

01579 384435 or 07990 996886

### Graham's Gardening Services

Lawns, Strimming, Trimming, Mowing and  
Minor tree work.

Extremely reasonable rates

Please call me on **01579 386885**

Reliable - and will always

return your call



## THE CHURCHES IN OUR PARISH

### METHODIST CHURCH



Whilst current restrictions remain in place, there will be no services at Venterdon. We will let you know when we can restart as and when the situation changes.

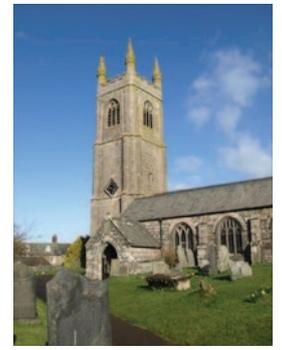
During the current Lockdown the PCC has made the decision to close our church building for Private Prayer and Services. However the Church is still alive and well on-line with the Zoom Prayer Meeting every Monday at 6:00 pm, Zoom Men's Breakfast every other Saturday at 9:15 am (contact John, [j.chaldecott@talk21.com](mailto:j.chaldecott@talk21.com) for joining details) and a LIVE Streamed Service every Sunday at 10:00 am with the addition of a Zoom Coffee and Chat afterwards at 11:00 am (contact Rob, [wellhouse01@gmail.com](mailto:wellhouse01@gmail.com) for joining details). We are being joined in Sunday Worship remotely by The Parish of Choppington in Northumberland for the coming months as they have also closed their Church building so some of our readings and prayers will include contributions from Revd Terry Moat who has visited us several times in the past six years.

A 'Knowing Jesus' Discipleship Course during Lent 2021 will be held via Zoom. For further details, and to register please contact Keith Browne via email at [keith.browne@aol.com](mailto:keith.browne@aol.com) or by phone on **01579 362611**.

We thank you all for Zooming with us and watching Services on-line during these difficult times and both of us are monitoring the Covid situation along with the ever changing regulations on a daily basis. If the situation changes then we will let everyone know via the local social media channels, the Newsletter, the weekly Pew Sheet and the Church of England 'A Church Near You' website.

Blessings and Stay Safe

*Rob and Steve (Churchwardens)*



### PARISH CHURCH

## THE NEXT NEWSLETTERS

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

We are now producing Newsletters at about fortnightly intervals. The next issue will be published online on March 4th

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

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

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




**Tre, Pol & Pen**

**Farm Shop Open**  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
09.00am - 05.00pm

Home Delivery or Call & Collect  
service available

\*see our website for details

call us on 01566 706527  
[www.trepolandpen.com](http://www.trepolandpen.com)

Fully stocked Butchers and Deli counter,  
fresh fruit, veg, dairy & bread



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

Many people in Cornwall are facing financial hardship due to the impact of the pandemic and many are struggling to put food on the table, stay warm, and buy essentials. Cornwall Council has secured a government grant to provide additional financial and practical help to local families. The Covid Winter Grant can be used to provide financial help to any households who are facing financial hardship and who would benefit from this support. The fund is £1.8 million from central government and 80% of the cash will go towards families with children while the remaining money will go to other households struggling because of the pandemic. Over £650,000 of this funding has already been allocated towards funding Free School Meals provision during the Christmas holiday period and February Half Term.

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

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

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

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

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



## YOUR CHANCE TO BRIGHTEN UP THE JUBILEE TREES

We, the WI, have had permission from the Parish Council to ask Stoke Climsland Parish Associations/Clubs/Organisations etc. if they would join us as a joint venture to decorate the Jubilee Trees on the Green.

The Theme will be Easter-related and each organisation will be allocated a tree to decorate. Decorations will be put up from the 27th March, which gives everyone a week to put them up before Easter - Socially Distanced of course. Decorations must be removed by the organisation from the 10th April.

Please bear in mind that the decorations must be waterproof. We would not like to see soggy paper chains on the grass and elsewhere.

We hope every organisation would join us. To book a tree please contact Bonny Lightfoot on [bonitalightfoot31@gmail.com](mailto:bonitalightfoot31@gmail.com)



### A.N.JEWELL

**Local Painter & Decorator**



Over 20 years experience

Clean Professional Service.

For all your interior and exterior paint and paper finishes.

Free Estimates.

Competitive Rates.

Phone: 01579 370126  
Mobile: 07597 307544

16 Monks Hill  
Treburey  
PL15 9PZ.



### Shrubbery Jubbery

Garden Maintenance and Design

Tracy: 07395 110936  
[shrubberyjubbery@gmail.com](mailto:shrubberyjubbery@gmail.com)

## Stoke Climsland Charity Trust Covid 19 Hardship Fund

Applications are invited from any parishioners in need of financial assistance due to Covid 19. Confidentiality and sensitivity are guaranteed.



PLEASE CONTACT:  
parishclerkscpc@gmail.com  
07878368857

## Stoke Climsland Charitable Trust EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Yes, that is FREE MONEY for your education!

To be eligible you need to:

- Be under 25 years old
- Have attended Stoke Climsland Primary School
- Have a parent who lives in Stoke Climsland
- Be currently undertaking academic or vocational training
- Educational travel, musicianship, sport and many other activities are also eligible!

Applications are invited  
for consideration bi-annually  
in March and October

To apply, please email:  
parishclerkscpc@gmail.com



## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Cornwall Council has been alerted that someone is going around putting up new bright green 'Private Road, No Public Right of Way' signs, some legitimate and others not. The one referred to specifically is on the Lockett to Horsebridge footpath (Gold Priority Path 53/19/1), which is clearly a Right of Way and that is still the case, but the new sign says it is not.

Whilst one can empathise with farmers or landowners that they worry about livestock and litter, and that their land should be respected, people should not be misled into thinking the right of access has been changed.

Cornwall Council have advised that they will investigate this but, in the meantime, that the public footpath is still open to the public. It would be interesting to know whether there are any other instances of this activity in the parish. If so, please advise Cornwall Council.

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

**OLD SCHOOL MARKET** As things stand at the moment, it looks unlikely that a Market will be possible in March. However, if the situation changes we will let you know in the next Newsletter, due on March 4th. We're sorry about this uncertainty but hope that it will be possible to resume a regular Market a little later in the year, particularly when the weather makes an open-air event more practicable.

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

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

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

**TAKEAWAY MEAL** The next is on Saturday 6th March when Edah will cook a Malaysian Nasi Lemak and Chilli Sambal (rice cooked in coconut milk), chicken curry plus condiments. If you haven't yet enjoyed one of her lockdown take-away meals then you're really missing something special.



The meal will be available from The Old School car park kitchen door from 6.30 - 7.30 pm. The price will be £7-50 per meal as before.

You will need to book in advance by calling or leaving a message at the office (details above).

### OLD SCHOOL 200 CLUB

#### February

5th	A Twist
21th	L Galer
19th	Thelma Wilson
26th	D Glassborow

Despite the current closure of The Old School the 200 Club welcomes new members. For further information and an application form please contact the office (details above)

**BOOKING THE OLD SCHOOL** The Health and Safety Executive has identified situations where it is possible to hold training sessions, despite the lockdown. These 'mandatory training' events would cover matters such as first aid, health and safety, manual handling, fire and catering where having trained personnel is a legal requirement for an organisation to function.

The Old School can be made available for such sessions which can be arranged, when needed, by any organisation. The Old School is 'Covid Secure' so, with 7 days notice, could be used. Since there are no other activities happening at present, an organisation would be the sole user of any suitable room or rooms but would, of course, be required to observe the rules (concerning record keeping, personal hygiene, social distancing etc) which are set out in The Old School's Covid security document. Any charges for the use of the premises would be minimal.

To enquire or book please contact **theoldschool78@gmail.com** and copy the email to **pendaviesgregory@gmail.com**

*Pen Davies-Gregory*

The Old School has an IT Club and the IT Club is available to help with all matters to do with computers, email, zooming and internet access. The IT Club is setting up a special training session for those who want to take photographs with a smartphone.

To find out about getting help from the IT Club see the notice on page 9. Help is available for users of smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktops.



To find out about taking good pictures with a smartphone see the item on page 12.



## THE SORRY SAGA OF DOG POO CONTINUES

It was just about 12 months ago that we noticed a bag of dog poo placed almost reverentially on a stone at the entrance to Sheba woods down by the ford. A shrine to St Faeces, the patron saint of dog excrement, we thought at the time. It's still there and the least we could do was to mark its first anniversary and sing 'happy birthday'. If you were responsible, it's still not too late to take it away – and not by tossing it in the hedgerow or by the side of the track as many of your fellow dog walkers do.



From The Guardian of 30th January

It is not a problem to be sniffed at.

A year into the coronavirus crisis, local media, council newsletters, social network users and disgruntled environmental health experts across the UK are warning that the country is in the grip of a dog mess emergency – and that new puppy owners are shirking their responsibilities to clean up after their lockdown pets.

Of course, the poo problem is nothing new, and the subject has long engendered a passionate response from those who have found themselves stepping in it. But even by those standards, Facebook, Next Door and Twitter have been aflame with anecdotal evidence of an escalating issue since the pandemic began – and in the third lockdown, many suggest, matters have got out of control. You might, if you had a tolerance for bad puns, call it a poo-demic – and the issue is growing excrementally. ...

"Oh, there's absolutely been an increase," said Andy Coleman, who runs the **dogfoul.org** website (slogan: "We Watch. You Pay"). "There's so much dog poo this year. It's gone up and up and up."

...

With an estimated 9 million dogs in the UK each producing about 340g of waste a day – or slightly more than 3,000 tonnes between them – the issue is of more than merely scatological interest. "It's full of viruses and bacteria," said Coleman, an ecologist. Children playing in parks are more likely to touch the ground and risk infection. "And if it's going to landfill in these bags, they don't degrade. There's no obvious solution at the moment."

## IF DOG FOULING AFFECTS YOU IN ANY WAY, READ ON...

The Parish Council has received multiple complaints relating to dog fouling in the parish. This seems to have increased since lockdown and may be a result of people having more time to walk their dogs.

Cornwall Council have also noted and responded to this problem with the 'We're Watching YOU! Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign'. You can find out more about this campaign and register your support for it at the Cornwall Council website. You can also report dog fouling to the Cornwall Council Waste &

Recycling team via the Cornwall Council website.

Part of this campaign was to train 100 town and parish councils to use a new 'no contact report card' to make reporting dog fouling easier. Cllr Caroline Vulliamy has been trained in this method of reporting and has a supply of the reporting cards, which are available to any member of the public who wishes to receive them. Caroline can also give guidance on how to use the cards to report an issue effectively.

Stoke Climsland Parish Council is tackling this issue and you will see the 'On the Spot' fine poster has been put up on all the local notice boards to help educate residents and encourage them to clean up after their dogs.

In the end it is up to the dog owners to do the responsible thing. So please make sure that you bag it and bin it or take it home. Your fellow parishioners will appreciate it, as will anyone using a local beauty spot.



**We're watching you!**

9 out of 10 dog owners  
clean up after their dog  
Are you the one who doesn't?

Bag that poo,  
any rubbish bin will do  
#LitterlessCornwall



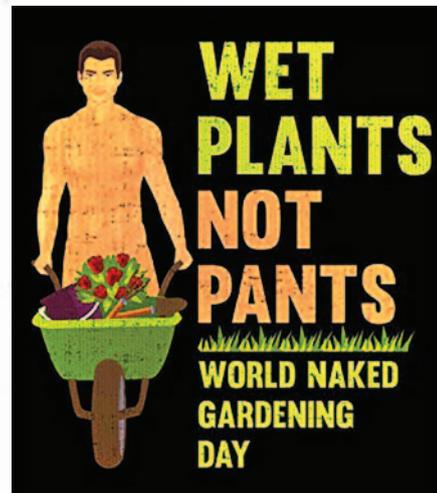
## FROM A READER

We are always glad to hear from our readers, especially when they bring little gems of information to our attention. We are happy to pass on one such and mention that Saturday 1st May is 'World (yes, World) Naked Gardening Day 2021'! There is a website – just type in **Naked Gardening Day** to Google and proceed from there. Our reader asks that we let you, the people of the Parish, know of this event, so that you can join in. Our reader also mentions that they will be supporting this all-day event in their garden – or indoors if wet and cold. Yes, on 1st May, their Adonis/Venus like form will be there in their garden in the guise in which they were born. In the interests of Covid-19, crowd control and traffic management, we are keeping our correspondent anonymous.

Are you tempted to try naked gardening yourself? If so, there are some things you should not

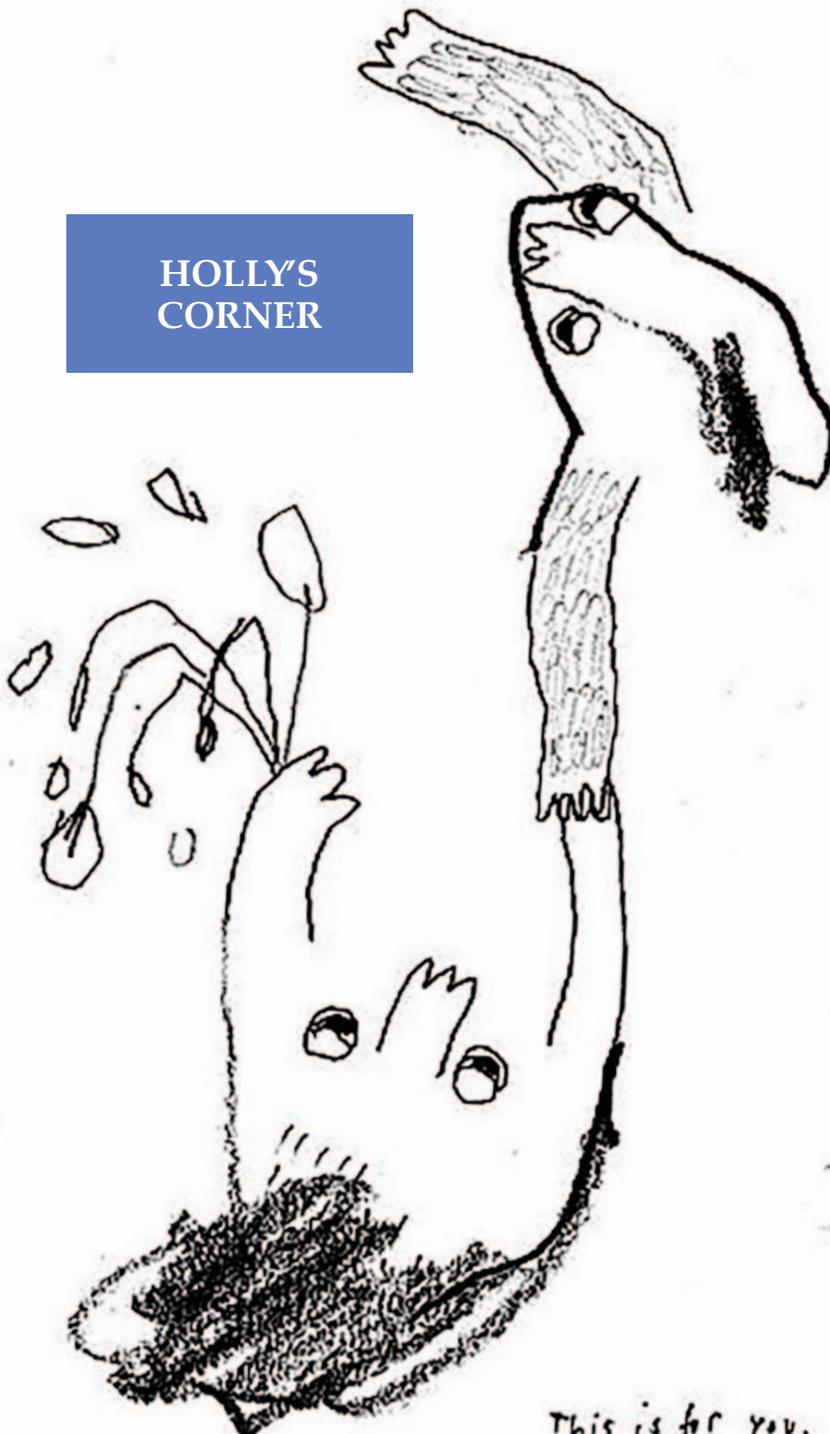
do. For instance, you should not plant roses or do anything with cacti. You should avoid using power tools. Definitely stay far away from nettles and

thistles, and do not forget the sunblock! And, within the realms of decency, we would be happy to publish any photographs of buff gardeners.



*This is for you.  
I found it on the ground.*

## HOLLY'S CORNER



## WANT TO ZOOM BUT DON'T KNOW HOW? WE CAN HELP

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

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

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



“Those people are spending a lot of time peering out of their nest-box” said the Sparrows to each other, as we were looking out of the window at them investigating last year’s nest holes in the wall.

A pair of Stock Doves appeared in the garden a few days ago. They are the first for a couple of years. They used to nest in the garden. Unlike Wood Pigeons and Collared Doves, they are extremely wary, and you often



hear their distinctive call before you see them. And a fine Fieldfare came down to feed on a chucked-out apple near the bird table. His rump was a pearly grey. The continuing cold and frozen ground is beginning to put the pressure on the birds. A couple of Robins are spending precious energy seeing each other off, rather than feeding, whereas our two gorgeous male Bullfinches feed side by side quite amicably. A Brambling and a Yaffle have been seen feeding at garden feeders in Higher Downgate during the cold spell. Great-spotted Woodpeckers are often seen at feeders, but I do not think I have heard of a Yaffle, the bigger Green Woodpecker, using a feeder before.

I am writing this in the grip of Storm Darcy, with no snow down here, but that bitter wind and sub-zero temperatures. Walking round my various forms of snowdrops in the garden. I do not think I will find among them in the next few years, a rare and priceless variety! There are no bees around to pollinate them, with the occasional resulting hybrid. Not that I am fussed. All snowdrops are a joy at this time of the year.

Just over a week ago, I was digging in the sun! The most heartening sight is I think, and hope, that our big Wych Elm in our garden hedge, which was dying back piecemeal last summer, and I diagnosed as the dread Dutch Elm Disease, is MAYBE, not dead at all? We will



not be too hasty to take it down, but at least see how it does this season. Much used by our local birds for perching, looking out from, feeding in, and nesting on, it would be a tremendous loss. Perhaps it was just drought-stressed last year? But the disease was around again last year, as we lost 2 other elms in our hedge. So far, such twigs and buds as I can reach, are alive.

Milder again as I send this note off to the Editor, and relieved to be able to get stuck into the gardening again. We have just been visited by two drakes and a duck Mallard on our pond. I do not know whether to be pleased or bothered!

*Mary Atkinson*



Photographs: Top left: Bullfinch; Top right: Goldfinch; Right: Great Spotted Woodpecker



**HCPC registered Chartered Physiotherapists offering individual assessment and treatment programmes**

- **Spinal conditions:** back/neck pain including sciatica/ nerve pain and whiplash
- **Sports injuries**
- **Sprains & strains**
- **Arthritic joint pain**
- **Pre & post-operative rehab**
- **Biomechanical assessment**
- **Targeted strengthening/rehabilitation programs**
- **Acupuncture**
- **Shockwave therapy:** tennis/golfer’s elbow, Achilles tendinopathy, plantar fasciitis and more
- **Electrotherapy** including ultrasound
- **Kinesio-taping**
- **Manual therapy** including joint and soft tissue mobilisations, myofascial release
- **Onward referral** to specialist consultants if required

For further information e-mail  
**enquiries@treburleyphysio.co.uk**  
Call us on **01579 371081** or visit the website  
**www.treburleyphysio.co.uk**

## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

For many of our readers, the idea of a Parish Council is all a bit redolent of "The Vicar of Dibley" (notwithstanding the confusion between Parish Council and Parochial Church Council). But basing your judgement on watching 'The Vicar of Dibley' is definitely not valid. Neither are the recent antics of Handforth Parish Council, for that matter.

What Parish Councils offer is a chance to serve your community and to get to know it better. Parish Councils are ultra-local, acting as statutory consultees for planning applications and providing some basic but essential services. They are also a forum to discuss issues of common interest – transport, highways and policing, to name but three.

Stoke Climsland Parish Council is the second tier of local government in Cornwall and being a councillor can be both rewarding and satisfying, with a few Dibley-esque moments along the way. If you're interested, now is a good time to

find out more and to get involved in and help your local community. As you might already know, elections are planned for May 6th 2021, so if you are interested in standing for the Parish Council, please see this link for some useful guidance: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england> You can collar one of the existing councillors and ask them what it's all about and you can also contact the Parish Clerk at any time for an informal chat on: [parishclerkscpc@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkscpc@gmail.com)

Of course, you can come up with a host of reasons why you shouldn't think about standing. Here are just a few of them:

1. **"I'm too young."** If you are eighteen (the age limit dropped from 21 to 18 way back in 2007) you are old enough.
2. **"What's the point of just joining a talking shop, they don't do anything."** Have you ever been to a meeting?
3. **"I'm too busy and couldn't commit to attending every single meeting"**. Meetings are rarely more frequent than one evening a month and missing the occasional one is acceptable. Most meetings only take a couple of hours.
4. **"I haven't lived here very long and don't know the area well"**. If you are a Commonwealth/EU citizen and have lived or worked in the parish for a year or already have your name on the electoral roll, you are eligible.



5. **"Our parish council is full of old fogeys."** Join up and change it then.

6. **"I'd look a fool because I won't know what's going on."** You will be eased in gently; there is help, advice and training available. The clerk is the officer of the council, and she will be able to explain the rules.

7. **"I'll have to let everyone know all about my business and personal affairs."** The declaration of interest form completed at the outset asks you to list business interests within the parish area, to guard against bias when parish issues are debated. As for personal affairs, get real, everyone knows about those already!

8. **"I'm too lazy, and not interested in my community."** An excellent reason for not joining.

9. **"I prefer to let others do the work, and then criticise from the side-lines afterwards"**. Another valid reason for not joining, but do bear in mind, that expounding your views in the Post Office or elsewhere in the Parish, rather than in a council meeting, will not change a thing locally. And if you can't be bothered, does that really give you the right to criticise those who do make the effort?

**"The complete bathroom installation service"**

New bathrooms fitted, floor and wall tiling specialist

General Plumbing including:

- Bathroom makeovers
- Dripping taps and burst pipes
- Pump and cylinder changes
- Radiator upgrades and additions
- Specialist in Leadwork
- No job too small
- No Call out charge

**W.Hale Plumbing**

Friendly Service, Quality Work

NO VAT  
City and Guilds Qualified  
established 1983

Call William Hale on  
**Tel: 01579 362132 Mobile: 07826 699719**



## A REMINDER FROM THE VILLAGE STORE AND POST OFFICE

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

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

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

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

FOR ORDERS: please call us on **01579 370201**, or email **sue-watts@btconnect.com**

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

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

## SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

New phone and want to get the best out of it? We have a chance of arranging a special Smartphone Photography Course for people living locally. The initial session will cover

- What makes a good photo
- Adjusting your exposure
- Why use a smartphone
- The law and photography
- A reflective challenge to take away and bring to the next session

This will be followed by sessions looking at sharing photos and file size and adjusting photographs in post production apps, healing, rotate, dodge and burn.

We need six people to make this viable so, if you are interested in this, please contact Deri Parsons (**01579 370319**, **ositclinic@gmail.com**)



### GIST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD 53-54 Fore Street Callington

WHEN YOU NEED  
SOMEONE TO  
TALK TO  
WE WON'T KEEP  
YOU HANGING ON

**01579 383 456**  
[www.gistinsurance.co.uk](http://www.gistinsurance.co.uk)



### BEN'S BOILER SERVICES SERVICING & BREAKDOWNS

Gas - Oil - Aga

Landlord Gas Safety Checks

General Plumbing

Fully Insured

15 years experience

**Tel: 07930 890699**



Reg No.577203



Email: [bboilerservices@outlook.com](mailto:bboilerservices@outlook.com)

As we creep ever closer to the first anniversary of Covid-19 on March 23rd, for us in the farming world, we remember our own 20th Anniversary, that of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). For those of us close to the centre of the notifiable disease epidemic, 19th February 2001 saw the start of a most devastating time for the UK Livestock Industry, with only the border of River Tamar and a favourable prevailing south-westerly wind saving us from compulsory destruction of our herds and flocks, which was so sadly the fate of nearly 400,000 stock on 4500 farms in the 173 confirmed cases across West and North Devon. Cornwall recorded just 4 cases.

Comparisons of the Coronavirus Pandemic of today with that of the 2001 UK Epidemic of FMD may seem insensitive, but in so many ways parallels can be drawn in epidemiology. Firstly, on both occasions a single case of transmission occurred by questionable practice or culture, with infected Fruit Bats in a live market in Wuhan, China, jumping species to humans, to that of waste swill-feed from international flights at Manchester Airport being fed to pigs, then transported to a slaughterhouse in Chelmsford, Essex. Neither practice was illegal but was questionable in wider society.

Yet it was the rapid spread between species travelling across the UK markets and livestock farms, just as humans commuted daily in the case of Covid-19, that led to the epidemic a few days later. Sheep sold in Longtown Livestock Market, Cumbria, transported to SW Abattoirs including Jaspers at South Petherwin; by association the first Cornwall case was at Treburley. Prompt action to slaughter all affected stock saved the suffering of many of the neighbouring farmers. Had the outbreak been 10 days later, with the introduction of the controversial 'contiguous cull' to mass slaughter all stock within a 3km radius, it would have wiped out all the stock in Stoke Climsland Parish!

Thankfully, we all were spared the devastation of the total slaughter of the 6 million plus cattle, sheep, and goats, plus pigs from the 2038 cases over the course of 2001 that brought the eventual eradication of FMD in the UK. However, as with Covid Lockdown, we all were subject to national restrictions imposed on all animal



movements, all Livestock Markets were closed for 12 months, rural tourism was shut down along with public footpaths, Agricultural Shows and Rural Events, horse racing, show jumping and eventing, plus many other sporting events cancelled, even the 2001 General Election was deferred until June. All sound familiar?

As to the legacy 20 years on? We still do not have a vaccine commercially available to protect our stock, despite FMD being endemic in some countries around the world. There is a permanent rule of livestock prohibiting movement or trading within 6 days (21days initially) of any purchase or sale on/off farm, along with 21-day quarantine or isolation from other stock on farm. In addition, transportation of multi-species is discouraged. Biosecurity, cleansing and disinfection of farm transport to and from markets remain – a long way from the farm entrance 'straw mats' but at least a reminder of best practice, much like 'wash your hands'.

So, in the hope that, as with Covid, we overcome disease through science and discipline, a reminder that once in a generation – 1967 was the last epidemic before the 2001 outbreak - everyone remains vigilant. In the spirit of 20 years ago, 'prepare for the worst but hope for the best'.

And Remember to 'Stay Safe, Protect the NHS and Save Lives', plus keep it local – from us all Down on the Farm.

# WALTER C. PARSON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

FAMILY RUN FOR 7 GENERATIONS



Callington, The Old Police Station  
1 Saltash Road, Callington, PL17 7BB

Tel: (01579) 382 000 • [wcp ltd.com](http://wcp ltd.com)



The  
Walter C. Parson Group

Crownhill • Callington • Exeter • Ivybridge • Newton Abbot  
Plympton • Saltash • St Judes • Tavistock • Torpoint • Torquay

Hello everyone, we hope you are finding ways to keep safe and well. At the time of writing this article it is very cold and threats of icy weather and even snow, but a suggestion that less cold weather is on the way! Thankfully, being deep in the South West we can enjoy warmer weather than seems to be occurring on the east coast and those 'oop north'. Maybe this is time to be thankful if we can indeed work from home and for those children who can be 'home schooled'.

But as we think about it, there are many in our community who cannot stay at home and have to provide us with all those things we need to live our lives both safely and with nutritious food. We know there are many who are still becoming infected, those who need to be taken to hospital whether it be into their care or into the intensive care units. There are those who continue to care for our loved ones who have to be looked after in the care homes or nursing homes. Then what about all the 'essential' shops that remain open? The workforce who are there serving us, stacking the shelves, the delivery drivers whether it be delivering goods from the warehouse to the store or those who deliver to our doorstep, so we do not need to go out like they do? There are the first responders, the emergency crews who must turn out at the drop of a hat whatever the time of day



or weather. Then there are the teachers and staff who turn up to educate those children of 'essential' workers. There are the utility workers who continue to maintain our supply of electricity, gas and water and dare we say, even our sewerage!! Gosh when you think about it, even as the UK government say 'stay at home' there are many who just cannot do that otherwise what would we then do? We must really be thankful to all those who continue to provide for us.

Be assured that when you shop locally (whether it be meat or vegetables) our farming community will have had a part in providing you with fresh seasonal food. Support local, shop local, the village store details are in this newsletter.

We hope that the vaccination program is continuing (as the government would say 'at pace') and the 65 and above groups are next. It seems to be going well.

SCARPER continue to work on our 'emergency' plans. We are not there to deal with the day-to-day issues of filling grit bins or chopping down fallen trees. These are matters for the utility services or the Parish Council. Our role kicks in if there is an immediate threat to human life and sustained incident. If we can use our resources to assist to mitigate the risk to human life then we can help in some way, but not take over the responsibility for an incident.

In SCARPER we are looking at how we can support the community in event of local emergency or problem. We need to be informed of those in the local Parish community who might need to have extra assistance when a challenging situation arises, be it cold weather, loss of electrical power, a fire or other exceptional issue. In such an event the emergency plan will be activated and SCARPER would be in a position to inform the emergency services who needed extra assistance to ensure their safety. If you feel this might apply to you then please contact Nigel Cooper (contact details on the next page) and he will add you to our list. If you are a neighbour of such a person but they might not get this message, then please contact them (complying with current Covid restrictions) and ask them for their permission to pass their name onto Nigel. In all cases we will respect the privacy of those who have notified SCARPER and the information will only be used if a situation arises and will not be shared outside the response group.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stay safe, please try, and keep well and continue to follow the Government and Cornwall Council guidelines.

## FOR ANY GALANTHOPHILES

We keep saying that  
Spring is here (and  
then it goes Arctic)  
Well, here, at last, is  
the evidence

Photographs by Deri Parsons



## WHEN HISTORY GETS PERSONAL

I've been working on my family history for nearly 30 years. The commitment comes and goes – bursts of activity separated by long periods doing other things, but I have a substantial record of much of my family back to the 17th century. It's largely located in South Gloucestershire, Bristol (where I grew up) and Bath with significant slices of Devon and the Welsh borders.

About 10 years ago a distant cousin suggested that we'd both learn a lot if we took DNA tests. So we did; it cost quite a bit but we did discover some useful stuff and, over several years, I took more and more tests, driven on by the novelty of the experience and by the information that these provided. I progressively became more and more interested by what some of the tests were telling me about my deep ancestry – the period before written records existed.

It is widely accepted that modern humans (our species) evolved in Africa. But the date of that evolution is less certain: current estimates suggest some 300,000 years ago. Significant and sustained migration out of Africa occurred about 70,000 years ago and we are all linked to common ancestors descended from that migration. But two of my DNA tests tell different stories about that ancestry.

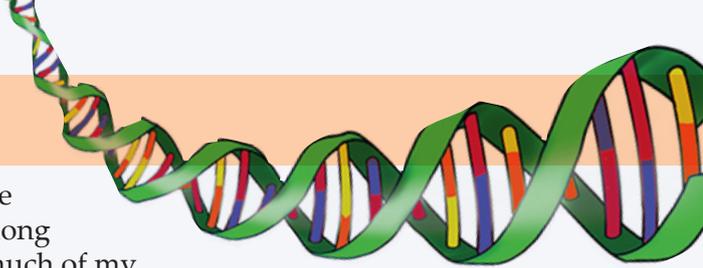
One of the tests is concerned with male inheritance and, in my case, that traces a route for my ancestors through Arabia, into eastern Europe, through the Balkans and central Europe to the Belgian or Netherland coast and into Britain about 3000 years ago. The other test is concerned with female inheritance (we all carry some DNA inherited only from our mothers) where the route crosses the Sahara from east Africa, heading towards the north African coast in the region of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco but with no known link into Europe.

So how do I reconcile these? One reality is that there is far more information that supports my male inheritance route than that which supports my female inheritance route. This means that the question to be answered is more likely to be how the female line of descent linked with the male line than the other way round. So, if I think back in time, at what points in history did a woman of direct African origin link into a north European family? If I look at the possibilities it's clear that this is not necessarily a question about race or skin colour.

- I can certainly discount the 20th century immigration into Britain of people of African origin: that would show up in records, but doesn't.
- Bristol was a major centre for the slave trade, especially in the early to mid 18th century, and many people of African origin came to Bristol as servants. But most of those were male and I have completely failed to identify any link from this period.
- Often, in earlier British history, people of African origin came to this country (there were, for example, several black people at the Tudor royal courts). But numbers were small and predominantly male.
- There was trade into Britain from Spain and Portugal over a long period; this could have resulted in families whose origins were north African settling here but almost no records of these families exist.
- The Roman armies occupied Britain for a long period. Rome recruited soldiers from around the Mediterranean, including the north African coast, and civilian families followed the armies and settled in Britain.
- Before the Romans came there were, over a long period, Neolithic peoples coming into Britain; most of these would have come from the near-continent but could have included families carrying female-line DNA identical to mine.

Take your pick! Unless something unexpected turns up in records (most generally available since the mid-16th century) this is a mystery that will never be solved. But it is fascinating to speculate and I'm really very pleased that I can point directly to a bit of African lineage. Probably the best I can hope for is that many more people take DNA tests and a few of them will find that they have the same characteristics as mine, so that we can fill in some of the gaps.

*John Wilmut*



We offer interactive property videos  
and aerial photography for our  
properties. [CLICK HERE](#) for further  
information.



Contact View Property for a free market  
valuation of your property - 01566  
706706/01822 614614. Award winning  
dynamic modern property agents.

## WORKING TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The first step to reducing carbon emissions is to reduce the amount of energy we use either by increasing energy efficiency or taking actions which reduce our demand.

There are some simple everyday actions we can take such as:

- Closing curtains on winter evenings
- Switching off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Wearing more clothes indoors in the winter

And we can go further by

- Changing the lighting in our homes from incandescent and halogen bulbs to more energy efficient LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes). This could reduce your carbon emissions by up to 65kg per year and could save £40 per year in electricity bills.
- Installing insulation or draught-proofing which will reduce carbon emissions and keep your energy bills low by reducing heat loss.
- Getting a smart meter installed. Energy suppliers are required to offer smart meters to all their customers at no extra cost. You will also be offered an in-home display which shows your energy usage in pounds and pence, enabling you to identify changes you can make to reduce your energy bills.

For more advice on home energy, the Energy Saving Trust is an excellent source of information <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk>

### STEPS FOR REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND AND INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE HOME



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS AVAILABLE

#### National Schemes

*Energy Company Obligation (ECO)* is a scheme that obliges energy companies to install energy efficiency measures in the homes of those who need them most, for example in low income and vulnerable households.

*Green Homes Grant scheme:* Information on this scheme was outlined in the Stoke Climsland Newsletter, issue 19 (October 2020). In November 2020, the scheme was extended by 1 year to 31st March 2022. Just to briefly recap, if you are a homeowner or residential landlord you can apply for a Green Homes Grant voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient and low-carbon improvements to your home. The voucher must be redeemed, and the improvements completed by 31 March 2022.

*RHI Scheme* is a government scheme to support renewable heating systems like heat pumps and wood boilers. If you install a system that meets all the scheme requirements, you can be paid for every unit of renewable heat you produce for a number of years. The scheme closes to new applications on 31st March 2022.

*Smart Export Guarantee (SEG)* If you have installed solar PV panels or other renewable electricity generation in your home or business, you may be able to get money through the SEG. Under the SEG, you can be paid for every unit of electricity that you feed back into the grid from your renewable system. You will not be paid for any electricity that you use yourself.

#### Local: Cornwall Council offers the following scheme

*Winter Wellness* The Cornwall Winter Wellness campaign is a Council backed initiative offering a range of services to assist you in keeping warm at home. This includes energy advice, home visits and access to heating and insulation grants. It is aimed at residents in poor health. If you are living in a cold or damp home, or are caring for a vulnerable person, you are encouraged to call the free phone advice line on **0800 954 1956**

For more information on these financial support schemes visit: <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk>

If anyone has used any of the above financial support schemes, it would be useful to hear about your experience. Please send in any comments or advice which you think would be helpful to others (email: [scccag1@gmail.com](mailto:scccag1@gmail.com))

We plan to address renewable energy in the next edition.

Susan Davies  
Energy & Transport Group  
Stoke Climsland Climate Change Action Group