



# POUNDSTOCK PACKET







As millions of viewers saw on their TV screens, Poundstock was the centre of a good news story on 30 December, when a wedding planned for the following day was rearranged at the very last minute. Rachel and Daniel Kensit were just putting the finishing touches to the decorations for their reception in the Gildhouse when they heard that Cornwall would be moving from tier 1 to tier 3 within a few hours, meaning that although the wedding could still take place their fairytale reception wouldn't be able to go ahead.

Their response? Why don't we do it now! And thanks to superhuman efforts by the Revd Douglas Adams, the churchwardens of St Winwaloe's, the caterers, the florist and the photographer, that's exactly what they did, giving them, their family and friends a day they'll never forget.

For the Gildhouse dressed in its best, see p. 18.

While we're in lockdown again, don't forget that the Packet is always available online; see our website, poundstockpacket.org.uk

**If you are isolated or lonely or need help**, you are not alone. Contact the Packet or the Parish Council and we will do our very best to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Distributed free to every household in Poundstock parish Produced every two months

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We always welcome any input from our readers. If you want to get in touch or to send us an article or local information, contact the editor: Liz Jones, Langford Hele Farm, Marhamchurch EX23 0HR. Tel. 01288 361147. Email: poundstockpacket@gmail.com

#### The deadline for our next edition is 20 March.

Would you like to advertise with us? We run your ad for a year (six issues) at a very modest cost, which includes delivery direct to every household in the parish. We are about to upgrade our format so that all ads appear in full colour. For more information please contact Jen Spettigue, 36 St Marwenne Close, Marhamchurch, tel. 01288 361525 or Liz Jones (as above).

We do our best to deliver to everyone in the parish. If you know of anyone who has been missed, please let us know. Copies of the magazine are available at the Beach House and Wainhouse Country Stores, by post for 50p + postage or via email; please contact us for information.

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The editorial board does not necessarily endorse the views expressed by individual contributors and we can't accept any responsibility for the accuracy of information provided. We reserve the right to edit items submitted and decide on what is suitable for publication.

### Here we are again!

You don't need me to spell out the effects of lockdown, and this time it feels worse, with winter outside instead of 2020's beautiful spring. But we have the promise of a vaccine – some of you may have had it already – and by the time of the next Packet, many of us will be protected. That has to be good news.

Meanwhile, if you're staying in and having difficulties with activities like shopping, or if you're just feeling shut in and lonely and could do with a friendly chat, please remember that the Packet and the Parish Council have joined forces to offer help. Contact either of us and we'll do all we can to find someone who can make a difference.

And if you're able to offer a hand or a friendly phone call, do let us know so we can pair you up with someone who needs you. As is often said, we're all in this together, and the only way through is for us all to help each other.

Liz

#### Watch out for a new-look Packet

The Packet team have been busy during this latest lockdown, looking at ways to make your magazine more accessible and readable. We've used A4 format since we began, for no better reason than that in the early days it was cheaper to photocopy the pages on A4 paper and staple them together. Things have moved just on a bit since then, but although the Packet is now professionally printed and stapled as a booklet we have kept to the A4 size. After a lot of thought, we've decided that it's time to move on to something smaller and easier to handle, something readers will find more convenient to use.

And so, after research and consideration, the committee have decided to switch format to A5: that's 14.8 cm by 21.0 cm or roughly 6 inches by 8, half the size of this Packet. Of course, to keep the same amount of content we'll have double the number of pages, but obviously each page will be smaller. The resulting magazine should fit in the hand more easily and we hope you'll find it comfortable to use.

At the same time, we have another great opportunity: to print the whole magazine in colour. The Packet was black and white only until ten years ago, when issue 45 was our first to feature colour pictures. Since then, we've been rationed to a third of the magazine in colour, and it's often been a struggle to do justice to the pictures we're sent, to say nothing of advertisers having to wait months or years for a colour space to be available.

We hope all this will happen soon, once we've been able to renew our advertising and offer people space in our new, attractive magazine. Current restrictions aren't helping, of course, but we're doing our best to make the necessary changes as quickly and as effectively as we can. Meanwhile, if you have any views about this, why not let us know? We always want to know what our readers think and we will be very interested to have your comments and ideas.

We're also always keen to have your articles and contributions. While winter reigns outside and covid keeps us all cooped up, often alone, it's an ideal opportunity to take the plunge and see what you can come up with. How have you filled your time during lockdown? Tell us about your ups and downs, what helps and what doesn't. Do you have a favourite pastime, a much loved book, a great recipe, a piece of music that always cheers you up? And what about the future, when we finally emerge from our isolation and meet each other again? Is there something we can do that will change our lives for the better? We would love to hear from you.



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### **The Farming Column**

I found this poem by Christina Rossetti and I felt it could just about sum us all up now.

### **The First Spring Day**

I wonder if the sap is stirring yet,
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate,
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun
And crocus fires are kindling one by one:
Sing, robin, sing;

I still am sore in doubt concerning Spring.

I wonder if the springtide of this year
Will bring another Spring both lost and dear;
If heart and spirit will find out their Spring,
Or if the world alone will bud and sing:
Sing, hope, to me;
Sweet notes, my hope, soft notes for memory.

The sap will surely quicken soon or late, The tardiest bird will twitter to a mate; So Spring must dawn again with warmth and bloom.

Or in this world, or in the world to come: Sing, voice of Spring, Till I too blossom and rejoice and sing.



Loved this variety- it's called 'Grumpy'

Snowdrops, those symbols of hope and purity. There are around 2500 different varieties, many thought to stem from floral souvenirs, brought back from the Crimea by returning soldiers, that interbred with the common variety to produce the many hybrid cultivars seen in our gardens today. They aren't native to us, being European plants originally, and they have been much admired especially by the Victorians although they thought to see a single snowdrop was to foretell death and would never bring them into the house for the bad luck they would bring. This could be because they are poisonous! And that's why the animals leave them alone too.

Snowdrops do have a good use, though; Galantamine is produced from them which is used to treat Alzheimer's.

They are protected under CITES and the trading of bulbs is highly regulated. Individual bulbs have sold for over £1000.

Pencarrow House in Egloshayle has (in normal years) snowdrop walks in February; maybe we can see them next year.

Meanwhile, I'm getting ready for lambing, vaccinating ewes and making sure they are in good order. They were all checked last autumn before the tups (rams) went in and any with loose teeth, lameness or damage to their udders were culled. It's the best way to keep the flock healthy without using antibiotics; we'm trying to keep them for the folks as need 'em.

Sheepish Farmer

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### Foxy



We love him, we hate him

For O level English, I did Chaucer's Nun's Priest's Tale. My teacher was an erudite man who also taught Latin. His standing was somewhat demeaned because he had a moustache a bit like Adolf's, and we nicknamed him 'Flush Brush'. Anyway, Chaucer explained how Chauntecleer – a cockerel – loved Pertelot – a hen – with a love that was more than a love. Then along came Foxy. Say no more. Tragedy.

Over a thousand years before Chaucer there was Aesop. He told of a cunning fox who saw a crow who had a big lump of cheese. Wily fox put his head in his paws and thought a big thought. He marched boldly up to the crow and said, 'What a beautiful crow you are! Such shiny feathers!'

The crow went red with embarrassment, but remembered to hold on tightly to the cheese.

'And I bet you have a lovely voice. I bet you sing sweetly.'

The crow loved the flattery, took a deep breath, opened her mouth and sang. She sang with a raspy breaking voice while foxy walked off smugly with her breakfast.

But why do we have mixed feelings about Foxy? The pro-hunt people have loads of pro-hunt arguments, and the anti-hunts have the same. Town Fox ransacks litter bins and knocks dustbins over, while Country Fox scoffs bunnies and ducklings. We hate him when he savages our chickens, and we love him for his cleverness.

I don't think there's another animal which excites so many opposite ideas ... except snakes ... and bats ... and slugs ... and spiders ... and rats ... and we all hate ticks unless Flush Brush gives us one for our good work.

Christopher Asbury



[You could add leeches to that list. Early medical practitioners clearly thought they were the bees' knees, but the idea of having them 'applied' when you aren't feeling well makes me shudder. And coming back from a walk in the Australian bush and finding you have a passenger ... ugh. Any other ideas? Ed.]



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### Churches



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Warden: Judith MacDonald 01288 362254

Rector: Rev. David Barnes 01288 341670

d.barnes645@btinternet.com

Sadly, our churches remain closed except for services (see below). However, since the situation is still so uncertain please contact the rector or wardens for up-to-date information.



**St Winwaloe, Poundstock**Wardens: Hilary Kenny 01288 361504
Barry Smith 01288 361716

### **Zoom services**

While normal services are suspended, we continue to have Zoom services every Sunday and Wednesday morning and everyone is most welcome to join in. You will need an invitation, which is automatically sent out to all those on the email list; if you aren't on the list but would like to be, please contact Lesley at lesleymbooker@gmail.

### The future of Bangors Chapel buildings

Since Bangors Chapel closed two years ago, there has been considerable speculation over the future of the buildings and the land, including the suggestion that it might be bought by the Parish Council as a replacement for the parish hall.

Bangors Chapel was an important part of local life for nearly two hundred years. After meeting in members' homes, in 1840 the early congregation raised funds to buy a piece of land at Bangors Green from Mr William Marks, for the sum of £15. Thanks to their generosity, building swiftly began and the first chapel was opened later that year, regularly attracting Sunday gatherings of well over 100 at morning and evening services and running Sunday Schools during both morning and afternoon.

In 1950, the chapel trustees purchased land opposite the chapel, planning to use it for a new Sunday School building, a car park and, ultimately, a new chapel. In 1987 the old chapel was sold for £20,000, to be converted into a dwelling, and work began on a replacement building for worship. This was opened in August 1988 at a cost of £30,000, plus £6,000 for furniture, lighting and heating. It is a comfortable, well-planned building and, with its adjoining hall, kitchen and storerooms, served the Methodist family well until 2019, when the congregation reluctantly and sadly decided that continuing was financially impossible and the chapel was closed, exactly 31 years after it was opened. Since then, the building has been available for rent and, until Covid restrictions, was used regularly by the Parish Council and the Hi-5 Talk Time Cafel, among others.

This week, Cornwall Council Planning Department gave notice that plans have been submitted for outline planning permission for the existing buildings to be demolished and two houses built on the site. The applicant is Tim Stokes, on behalf of the Bude and Holsworthy Methodist Circuit, the owners of the property, and clearly it is in their interests to increase the value of the site as much as possible if it is to be sold. You can see the details of the proposal on the Planning section of the Cornwall Council website; the application number is PA21/000256.

During the public consultation as part of the development of Poundstock's Neighbourhood Plan, many people suggested that the Parish Council should purchase the chapel as a community resource and adapt it as a replacement for the old parish hall; it is certainly in a very convenient and accessible location. The Council has the power to register the chapel as a community asset if there is the will and community support and will be discussing this at their meeting on 26 January; unfortunately this is after we go to print, but all details will be available from the Parish Clerk or the councillors (see p. 21 for contact details). If you would like to make your views known concerning the future use of the chapel and the possible development of this site, please write to both the Planning Department and Poundstock Parish Council.

Meanwhile, this is a sad time for those whose self-sacrifice and generosity contributed so much to the building of the chapel at Bangors, but they can take comfort from the knowledge that, whatever its future, the chapel has contributed greatly to the life of the community that surrounds it.

# Kids' page

### Welcome to the Kids' page!

Do you know where this picture was taken? Here's a clue: it's an anagram of Alec Vance.

An anagram is when you take all the letters of Alec Vance, jumble them up until you get the answer. If you are stuck, the answer is at the bottom of the page.



WHY DON'T LOBSTERS SHARE THEIR SWEETS?

BECAUSE THEY ARE SHELLFISH.

WHAT DID THE LEFT EYE SAY TO THE RIGHT EYE? BETWEEN YOU AND ME, SOMETHING

### ...And teenagers

Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May.

... What was the third child's name? (Answer at the bottom of the page.)

### **PREHISTORY**

**Everybody** knows everything about dinosaurs. But very few of us know about archaeopteryx. Archaeopteryx was the first bird – halfway between a dinosaur and a bird.

Impress your friends with two things: (1) that you know this, and (2) that you can spell archaeopteryx.



PS Google Archaeopteryx and find out more.

### **MODERN LANGUAGES**

I used to teach French: here is a tip about speaking it.

You have heard French people speaking English with that gorgeous French accent; you know: 'Ello. Ow are yuu? Eets ar bootifool day, non?'



Well, practise speaking like that, and then choose something from your GCSE or A Level oral practice and copy the funny accent. *Eet works, ma fwens! Ça marche bien, sans doute!* 

It works in GERMAN and SPANISH too!

contse

Answers: The photo was taken at Cancleave, and the third child's name is Johnny – of



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### **Our Night Sky In February 2021**

We have now lost Jupiter and Saturn in the evening sky, and I wonder how many of you saw the near conjunction on Christmas Eve, the closest approach being clouded out, typical astronomically! However, they will be reappearing in the morning sky with Venus, but will be too close to the rising Sun to be visible. Meanwhile, Mars continues to be visible high in the southern sky after dark, but is fading in brightness as we speed away from him on our faster orbit. He sets about 1.00 a.m.

NASA has announced that the James Webb Space Telescope (sometimes called JWST or Webb), a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-metre primary mirror, will be launched on an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana, hopefully in 2021. However, its launch has already been delayed by a number of years, so keep your fingers crossed! The Webb telescope will be the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide. It will study every phase in the history of our universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own Solar System.

The Webb telescope was formerly known as the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST); it was renamed in September 2002 after a former NASA administrator, James Webb. This telescope was meant to replace the highly successful Hubble Space Telescope which has been providing extraordinary images of the universe, and long may it continue to do so.

Several innovative technologies have been developed for Webb. These include a primary mirror made of eighteen separate segments that unfold and adjust to shape after launch. The mirrors are made of ultralightweight beryllium. Webb's biggest feature is a tennis court-sized five-layer sunshield that attenuates heat from the Sun more than a million times. The telescope's four instruments – cameras and spectrometers – have detectors that are able to record extremely faint signals. One instrument has programmable microshutters, which enable observation up to 100 objects simultaneously. Webb also has a cryocooler for cooling the mid-infrared detectors of another instrument to a very cold 7°K (–447°F) so they can work.

I hope to tell you about some of the discoveries made by this astonishing telescope when it is finally launched, and successfully placed in its position in space.

Bill Turnill

### **HEALTH AND WELFARE**

Never have we been more concerned with health and welfare than recently as a result of the pandemic. As a consequence, the Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney has come into its own. Readers will know that I am a great fan of this and of its sister LPA, the Property and Financial Affairs LPA.

The Health and Welfare LPA is used by you the donor to appoint an attorney to make decisions on personal welfare. This can include health care and medical treatment decisions and might include decisions about:

Where you should live and who you should live with

Your day-to-day care, including diet and dress

Who you may have contact with

Consenting to or revising medical examination and treatment on your behalf

Arrangements needed for you to be given medical, dental or optical treatment

Assessments for any provision of community care services

Where you should take part in social activities, leisure activities, education or training

Your personal correspondence and papers

Rights of access to personal information about you

Complaints about your care or treatment

One of my friends has been a welfare attorney for both her parents, allowing her to ensure that they continued to live and die in their own home. My friend refused consent to her father being given CPR when he went into cardiac and respiratory failure. He had severe dementia and various cancers, and was obviously extremely frail. CPR was unlikely to have any chance of success. It would also involve significant pain and injury to him, with an admission to hospital where he was likely to die. The paramedics came to his home and he was able to die in the comfort of his own bed and his own home, surrounded by his family.

It is essential for the donor to make a good choice of attorney. It is also essential that the attorney knows how to correctly go about the business of making decisions. I unhesitantly recommend this to readers, together with the Financial Affairs LPA.

John Busby



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### 1<sup>st</sup> Jacobstow Rainbows

The Rainbows have continued to meet by Zoom during the autumn term and will be continuing virtually for a while to come.

The girls have worked on the Make Change skill builder, which involved learning about charities. The Rainbows all voted for the RNLI as the charity

they would like to raise money for. They have rewritten fairy tales to have a different ending and have grown

bulbs to give to someone. My bulbs are just coming through.

This was the last skill builder that Bethany and Ruby needed to complete the Rainbow Gold Award. They both had gained the Bronze and Silver Awards during the summer term.

There are six Theme Awards that they had to achieve, each requiring an interest badge, skill builder and three hours from each theme of activities in the Unit. With meeting virtually, the girls and their families, worked on the activities at home. Pictures came in on a regular basis and one brother has probably achieved the Award too!

The girls were awarded their Gold Awards virtually, at the Christingle service.

As we were unable to attend any Remembrance events, the girls painted pebbles

with poppies and put them on their local war memorials. They painted pictures of poppies, using their fingers, to put in their windows.

For Christmas we made Christmas trees from folding paperback books and magazines (the Farmers' Guardian is particularly good). We also made snowmen from socks filled with rice. Families were made.

Finally we finished the term with a virtual Christmas party. Lots of food was eaten, as usual, and games played. The favourite game for Zoom is the scavenger hunt and this one had a Christmas theme. We sadly had to say goodbye to three of our Rainbows, as they move on to Brownies.

We are looking for new Rainbows, so if your daughter is aged 5-7 and would like to join us virtually, please contact me on 01840 230006 or go to the Girlguiding UK website and register your interest. Equally, if they don't want to join virtually, I

can put them on the waiting list for when we can finally meet again in person.

My thanks needs to go to all Rainbows' mums and families, who have joined in with our activities – there are some very talented people who can do amazing things out there – and Louise and Rebecca, for attending each week with me.



On 8 December Jacobstow Rainbows, Brownies and Guides held a virtual Christingle Service, instead of joining together at Jacobstow Church, as they normally would. Heather Aston led the service and the Osborne family provided live music.

The Brownies performed a poem that they had written and the Guides read the Christmas story and led the prayers. Friends and family joined us from around the country and everyone had made their own Christingles to bring with them.

During the service Bethany and Ruby were presented with the Rainbow Gold Award, which they have both worked hard to achieve. They have gained all twelve Rainbow interest badges (they only need six for the Award) and both agreed that the Family Tree badge was one of their favourites.

At the end of the service we all lit our Christingles and then of course ate the sweets and fruits.

Many thanks to everyone who took part.

Mary Andrew





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What a busy term the autumn term was at Jacobstow School. Despite the changes to rules and routines as a result of some of the Covid-19 restrictions and advice for schools, we were still able to pack in an awful lot of learning, fun and excitement.

We welcomed our new Reception intake into the school, joining together our nursery and Reception children in one large area, which has enabled us to staff and therefore open our nursery full time during the school day and week. We are really excited that our nursery numbers have been growing and that we have been able to welcome a lot of new families to our school community.

Over the summer holidays our classrooms and some of our shared areas were redecorated and are now lighter, brighter and more spacious, which has been really exciting for the staff as they have been able to make their learning environments even more inviting and appealing to children.

Our Little Stars Class enjoyed the topics of Superheroes and Sparkles and Sprinkles where we learnt about festivals and celebrations. In Mercury Class they also looked at the topic of Superheroes — thinking first about local superheroes and then moving on to our hospital staff, learning about how our NHS has changed over time and all the important roles they play, as well as learning about the vital job the Air Ambulance does. In Saturn Class, the children really enjoyed a step back in time as they found out whether the Vikings were vicious and if they really had horns on their helmets. They also enjoyed a Viking dress-up day. In Neptune Class, they explored the human body and all of its miracles, gruesome bits and all those facts that make everyone giggle!

In the lead-up to Christmas, we were able to share a virtual Twelve Days of Christmas with our parents, sharing songs, poems and jokes across the different classes in school. We ended our term with a Christmas dinner cooked by Jo and Donna, a Christmas party lunch on the last day of term, a whole school and family celebration assembly via Zoom where we recognised and celebrated all of our children's achievements and we even managed to fit in time for a visit from Father Christmas, also via Zoom! Thankfully, while we enjoyed our lunch his elves dropped off the presents for the children at the front door and then Mrs Maloney (aka Santa Claus), Mrs Stokes and Miss Jackson (aka the Elves) delivered the presents to each class.

We have been so lucky to have had such kindness, support and understanding from our parents and families as we have had to make changes to our usual communications and plans for drop-off and collection of children. However, throughout all of the changes, the adaptations and the traditions we have had to rethink, we have had the inspiration of our resilient, enthusiastic and bubbly children who have kept us all going and given us the inspiration to think of new ways to try and deliver the best experiences we can.

Mikaela Rofe, Headteacher, Jacobstow Primary and Pre-School

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### Poundstock Gildhouse looking its glorious best for the wedding of Rachel and Daniel Kensit on the 31st – no, the 30th! – of December



### Gildhouse opening for 2021

With a picture like this, it would be good to report that the Gildhouse has its usual programme of talks, music and visits planned for the season ahead. Sadly, that's not to be, at least not yet. The committee very much hope that restrictions will be eased in time for Wednesday openings to take place and are making contingency plans for this to happen if and when it's safe, but other events will have to wait.

We are grateful to the Friends of the Gildhouse for their continued support at a time when it is impossible for us to carry on our usual fundraising. If you would like to become a Friend it costs just £10 for a year's membership, and you will be helping to keep this wonderful building safe for future generations. Contact Jen Spettigue (contact details on p. 3) to find out more.



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### **Poundstock Parish Council Minutes**

We apologise that minutes weren't available for the most recent meeting of Poundstock Parish Council (November 2020) as we went to press. Some of the council minutes are available on the Parish website: approved minutes up to and including June 2020, draft minutes from July to October 2020.

Currently Parish Council meetings are held via Zoom. Meetings are normally held on the last Tuesday of each month; the January meeting was planned for 26 January and the February meeting for 23 February. The public are welcome to attend these meetings; for an invitation or more information, please contact the parish clerk (details below).

Unfortunately we had to go to press before the January meeting but the agenda included the following topics:

Discussion of the planning application for outline permission to demolish the existing Bangors Chapel buildings and replace them with two houses

Repairs to a 17th century churchyard memorial (a listed gravestone which is on the point of collapse)

Draft lease for the public toilets at Widemouth Bay

Terms of reference for the parish hall working group

Possible registration of Bangors Chapel as a community asset.

Over the past few months the Packet has been approached by members of the public with various concerns and these been passed on to the Parish Council. These include:

Concern over access to Wanson Mouth, which has recently been closed off to the public

The lack of information concerning the Neighbourhood Plan (the page on the PC website is a year out of date) and fears that this has been delayed, with no councillor now on the Steering Group

The lack of progress on replacing the now derelict parish hall, and the feasibility of building a new hall compared with buying and adapting Bangors Chapel.

Up-to-date information on the two vacancies for Parish Councillors reported in the autumn of 2020.

We ask a great deal of our Parish Council, which exists for the people of Poundstock, but it should never be forgotten that all our councillors work on a voluntary basis and give their time and expertise for the good of the parish.

### **Poundstock Parish Council**

www.poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Chairman Steve Pawley Marlborough House, EX23 0EE0 01840 230697

steve.pawley@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chair Alison Rowland Coppathorne, EX23 0DD 01288 361239

alison.rowland@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Councillors

Brenda Alison 01288 361491

brenda.alison@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Kerensa Cobbledick Silverdown, EX23 0DH 01288 361459

kerensa.cobbledick@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Brian Furse Higher Trewint, EX23 0EQ 01840 230342

brian.furse@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Colin Gilbert Auverne, Vicarage Lane, EX23 0AU 01288 361894

colin.gilbert@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Pamela Idelson Trebarfoot Manor, EX23 0DH 07540 573740

pamela.idelson@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Paul Curtis The Firs, Vicarage Lane, EX23 0AU 01288 362195 or 07791 192021

paul.curtis@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

Robbie Pearce Downs Barton, EX23 0AX new appt; contact details from the parish clerk new appt; contact details from the parish clerk

Council Clerk Lynn Pluess Trevoulter Barton, EX23 0DH 07768 100560

clerk@poundstock-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council website publishes agendas and minutes for council meetings, together with details of councillors and how they can be contacted. For further information, contact the Parish Clerk.

### **Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Very few people would deny that 2020 was truly an 'annus horribilis', and that 2021 has started a little better with the anti-virus vaccine campaign bringing a glimmer of hope. Covid-19 has wrought many changes to way in which we live our daily lives, and has brought out both the best and worst in people. There have been innumerable and unspoken acts of kindness and support, and also a lot of selfish and irresponsible behaviour, not all of which can be laid at the door of visitors to the South West. Contradictory advice has not helped, but Cornwall Council's own Covid online help is very comprehensive and regularly updated.

This has been a difficult time for all public services, and the Parish Council has been no exception. The initial lockdown gave us little time to prepare, and in common with

other bodies learning to manage Zoom meetings was a steep learning curve. I do not find it the most effective way of dealing with anything other than straightforward issues. Discussion is difficult because of transmission delays and frozen screens, and the normal personal contact which is a vital part of a team activity is just not possible. I look forward to the time when face-to-face meetings are permitted.

The Parish Council has only 'met' once for a short planning meeting since the last full meeting in November, so there is very little to report at present. There are several outstanding matters carried forward to be decided at the next meeting but decisions will come too late to meet the Packet deadline this month.

Meanwhile I hope that we shall be able to look back on this year and conclude at the end of it that we managed to turn it into an 'annus marabilis' with positive results and ambitions achieved.

Steve Pawley, Chairman Poundstock Parish Council



### **Jacobstow WI**

At this time of year, like most organisations, we'd usually be busy preparing for our Annual Meeting, organising the new programme and taking stock of last year's activities – but not this year! Our last meeting took place in March and it looks as though we'll have to postpone this year's Annual Meeting. Our membership year has also been extended to March when

we'll be collecting subscriptions for 2021/22.

In January we were eagerly anticipating a talk about Bees and Beekeeping and in February we were to learn more about the Reverend Hawker. Hopefully we'll be able to rebook some of our planned speakers and events once we're able to start meeting again.

There's always something going on in the background and we've just voted for this year's resolutions for the next WI national campaign. This year's ideas cover health matters, racism and discrimination, creating wildlife-friendly communities and stopping the destruction of peat bogs, so quite a variety! The Royal Cornwall Show is now scheduled for September and the WI Competition theme is 'Renewing Enchanted





Cornwall' after Daphne du Maurier's memoir.

We're joining with other WIs to take part in some online meetings with talks on a range of topics and this is a great way to meet other members from across the county, without needing to travel.

If you're interested in joining the WI, visit <a href="www.cornwallwi.org.uk">www.cornwallwi.org.uk</a> where you can find your nearest WI group and find out more about what is going on in the county. Contact numbers for Jacobstow and Marchamchurch WI presidents are listed on the back page of the Packet. Even in lockdown, there are online meetings and courses being held, so do get in touch!

Jill Baker

### Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Poundstock will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

'A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and

funding in the places where they are most needed,' Heidi Clemo, Cornwall Census Engagement Manager at the Office for National Statistics, said.

'This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.'

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk.



### **Toads on Roads**



It's that time of year again. Common toads are sensing the coming of spring and will soon be becoming amorous. They are very particular about where they breed and often migrate back to their ancestral breeding ponds each year. They follow the same route, regardless of what gets in their way, which sometimes leads to them crossing roads. We get a toad vs traffic scenario and the toads inevitably come off worse.

The Toads on Roads project, organised by the charity Froglife, registers these sites as 'migratory crossings' and helps coordinate local Toad Patrols. Patrols can apply to their local council for road warning signs to be installed and

actively help the toads across the road. The Toads on Roads project has been running for over twenty years; there are numerous crossings nationwide, and as you'll know if you've been reading your Packet over the past few years, Poundstock has its own toad crossing with local people doing their utmost to preserve our toad population.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer to help with the project, contact Brenda Alison on 01288 361491 or email Brenda.alison@outlook.com, or visit the Froglife website at www.froglife.org.



### Diary Dates

#### February

- 16 Shrove Tuesday
- 17 Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent

#### March

- 5 St Piran's Day
- 14 Mothering Sunday
- 21 Census Day (see p. 23)
- 28 British Summertime begins

#### FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

The Packet will always advertise local community and charity events free of charge. As soon as circumstances allow meetings and events to take place, we will be delighted to publish the details: the deadline is 20 March for events in April and May.

### Don't forget: tell the Packet!

### Defibril lators in the parish

There are three, all in Widemouth Bay. One is next to the Summerhouse (at the church in Leverlake Road), one is near the top of Long Park Drive by the entrance to Pencarra and Bellair, just below the junction with Edith Walk, and the third is at the back of the public toilets just above Widemouth beach. The RNLI lifeguards also have a defibrillator.

### Local Contacts

MP: Scott Mann		01208 74337
Parish council chair: Steve Pawley		01840 230697
Parish clerk: Lynn Pluess		0776 8100 560
Cornwall Councillor: Nicky Chopak		0781 030 2061
Cornwall Council		0300 1234 100
Jacobstow WI: Mrs J. Baker		01840 239829
Marhamchurch WI: Mrs P. Hazeldine		01288 682193
Poundstock Skittles: Pam Gilhespy		01288 361570
Rebel Cinema		01288 361442
Bude Library/One-Stop Shop		0300 1234 111
Library renewal line		0845 607 6119
Recycling centre/tip (Tiscott Wood)		0845 630 0300
National Childline		0800 1111
Police – non-emergency		101
Farming Community Network		0845 367 9990
Bude Food Bank		01288 448748
Citizens Advice		03 444 111 444
(Phone advice line, operates 10–4, Monday–Friday)		
CCS helpline/Age UK Cornwall		01872 266383
Floodline		0845 988 1188
Western Power (power cut)		0800 678 3105
Doctors' surgeries:	Neetside	01288 270580
	Stratton	01288 352133
	Boscastle	01840 250209
NHS non-emergency helpline		111
Stratton Hospital		01288 320100
(Minor Injuries Unit is open 24 hours a day. Currently		
patients are advised to phone before attending.)		

### Local Organisations

#### Libraries

Bude Library is currently open 10.00–3.00 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10.00–1.00 Saturdays, click and collect only. Reserve books by phone (0300 1234 1111) or online at capitadiscovery.co.uk/cornwall/login.

While the churches are closed, Poundstock's two pop-up libraries, in St Winwaloe's and Our Lady and St Anne's, are not available.

#### Poundstock Post Office

Still based in the old shop at Cornish Coasts Caravan and Camping Park on the A39. Open Mondays and Thursdays, 9.00–1.00 (ask at the new shop).

The following details relate to precovid meetings. We apol ogise that with **THINGS BEING SO CHANGEABLE IT'S** impossible for us to give up-to-date information. Please contact each organisation for the current situation.

#### Scouts and Guides

Cubs: Monday 6.30–8.0 pm (01288 352786)
Guides: Monday, Jacobstow parish hall

Scouts: Tuesday 6.30-8.0 pm

Beavers: Wednesday 6.0–8.0 pm (07855 001284) Rainbows, Brownies and Guides: ring Louise on 078

1798 5661 for more information.

#### Marhamchurch WI

Meets in Marhamchurch Methodist Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

### Jacobstow WI

Meets in Jacobstow Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month.

#### Juliotter Garden Club

Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in Otterham and St Juliot hall at 7.30 pm. More info from Alan on 01566 781559 or Paul on 01840 269178

#### Launcel Is/Bude Dog Training/Agility

Puppies, pet dog training, problem dogs, clicker training, socialisation. Classes for all ages and abilities, Bangors Chapel hall, Mondays from 6.30pm. All profits to charity. Details from 01566 86500 or 01288 321922.

#### Bude Bridge Club

Meets Tuesday and Friday evenings and Wednesday afternoons in the Parkhouse Centre. Further information from www.bridgewebs.com/Bude or ring 01237 471111.

#### Widemouth Bay Summerhouse

A friendly group (and their dogs) meet alternate Fridays at 2pm in the Summerhouse (by Widemouth Bay church). More information from Jann Bowers, 01288 361931.

#### Whist drives

Whist drives normally held at the Bray, Marhamchurch, on Thursday afternoons are suspended for the moment.

#### Bangors Chapel Hall

Although the chapel has closed the hall can still be hired. It has easy access and parking, and is very convenient and comfortable. Ring Debbie Marsh, 01288 488195.

#### Poundstock Gil dhouse

You can hire the Gildhouse for events from meetings to parties and wedding receptions. Ring 01288 341537 or 01566 781559, or visit www.poundstockgildhouse.co.uk.