

No. 124 December 2023/January 2024



# **THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET**

KERNOW BYS VYKEN!



**Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy and Healthy New Year**



**Thank you to the RNLI for attending our beaches**

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## NOTES FROM EDITOR

The Gildhouse Garland is going to be renewed on Wednesday 6 December starting at 10am. Anyone who has dried flowers, please contact Jen Spettigue on 01288 361525. All help gratefully accepted.

On another note, I know this has been said loads of times, the Packet Team need help. We wondered if anyone would like to be a Roving Reporter? This would only involve you for a report or article if you learn or have something to say, definitely not every issue!

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We always welcome input from our readers. If you want to send us an article or local information, contact us at [poundstockpacket@gmail.com](mailto:poundstockpacket@gmail.com).

**The deadline for our next edition is 18 January 2023.**

We do not necessarily endorse the views expressed by individual contributors and while we do our best to make sure all information is accurate, we can't accept any responsibility for errors. We reserve the right to edit items submitted and decide on what is suitable for publication. If you wish to copy or reuse any of our content, please contact the editor or article author for permission.

## ADVERTISING AND DISTRIBUTION

Advertising in the Packet currently costs from £35 a year (six issues) depending on the size of ad you choose. This includes delivery direct to all the homes in the parish – currently over 550. For more information please contact Karen Probets via [poundstockpacket@gmail.com](mailto:poundstockpacket@gmail.com) or Jen Spettigue, 36 St Marwenne Close, Marhamchurch (01288 361525). We do our best to deliver to everyone in the parish, but if you know of anyone who has been missed please let us know. For those who live elsewhere, copies are available at the Beach House and Wainhouse Country Stores, on our website ([poundstockpacket.org.uk](http://poundstockpacket.org.uk)) or by post; please contact us for details.

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**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December**

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# CHURCHES AND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Sun 3	09.30	Communion	BH	MJ
Sun 3	10.00	Family Service	WSM	WT(LB)
Sun 3	16.00	Christingle	M	WL
Tues 5	16.30	Christingle	St Anne's Home	Adv. Church
Wed 6	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 6	10.00	Mass	WB	MJ
Fri 8	14.30	Lessons & Carols	WB	RD
Sun 10	09.30	Communion	M	MJ
Sun 10	09.30	Morning Prayer	P	LWL
Sun 10	11.15	Communion	W	
Sun 10	18.00	Evening Prayer	WSM	LWL
Wed 13	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 13	10.00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 17	09.30	Morning Prayer	M	LWL
Sun 17	11.15	Communion	WSM	MJ
Sun 17	14.30	Carol Service	P	RD
Sun 17	16.00	Carol Service	BH	MJ
Wed 20	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 20	10.00	Mass	WB	MJ
Sun 24	16.00	Crib	M	RD/LWL
Sun 24	17.00	Crib	WSM	LWL
Sun 24	21.00	Communion	M	RD
Sun 24	21.30	Communion	W	MJ
Sun 24	23.15	Communion	BH	MJ
Mon 25	09.30	Communion	P	MJ
Mon 25	10.00	Family Communion	WSM	RD
Wed 27	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Sun 31	10.00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 31	10.00	Benefice Service	WSM	MJ/RD

You will be really welcome at any service.

At Poundstock we always enjoy a coffee or tea and a chat in the Gildhouse after the service. If you're not a churchgoer or can't make the service but would like a bit of company, you'll be more than welcome.



# CHURCHES AND SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Wed 3	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 3	10.00	Mass	WB	MJ
Sun 7	09.30	Holy Communion	BH	RD
Sun 7	10.00	Family Service	WSM	LWL
Sun 7	18.00	Evening Prayer	M	LWL
Wed 10	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 10	10.00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 14	09.30	Communion	M	MJ
Sun 14	09.30	Morning Prayer	P	LWL
Sun 14	11.15	Communion	W	MJ
Sun 14	18.00	BCP Evening	WSM	RD
Wed 17	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 17	10.00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 21	09.30	Communion	BH	MJ
Sun 21	09.30	Morning Prayer	M	
Sun 21	11.15	Communion	WSM	LWL
Wed 24	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 24	10.00	Mass	WB	MJ
Sun 28	09.30	Communion	P	RD
Sun 28	09.30	Communion	M	MJ
Sun 28	09.30	Morning Prayer	W	LWL/(SS)
Sun 28	10.00	Morning Prayer	WSM	LWL
Sun 28	11.15	Communion	BH	MJ
Wed 31	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 31	10.00	Mass	BH	MJ

Key to Churches and Leaders			
Bude Haven	BH	Rev Mark James	MJ
Marhamchurch	M	Rev Rob Dickenson	RD
Poundstock	P	Lay Worship Team	WT
Week St Mary	WSM	Worship Leader	WL
Whitstone	W	Methodist Minster	MM
Widemouth Bay	WB		



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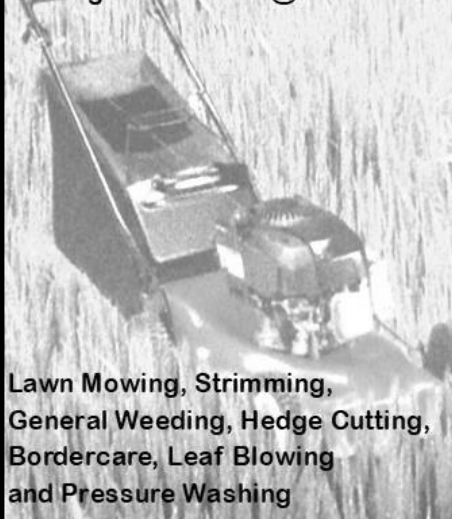
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# OH CHRISTMAS TREE...

Many of us have a Christmas tree nowadays, usually decorated and displaying the presents to be opened on Christmas morning. The tree is traditionally a conifer, such as pine or fir, which for centuries has been used to celebrate winter festivals in both the Christian and pagan tradition. Thousands of years ago, pagans used branches to decorate their homes for the winter solstice, evoking the coming spring where trees and flowers would bloom again. In Ancient Rome, firs were used to decorate the temples at Saturnalia. The festival to honour the God, Saturn involved feasting and gift-giving, also a celebration in December. The Romans used fir trees to represent everlasting life. The pagan Vikings and Saxons also worshipped trees.

In the early years of Christmas trees, they were often displayed upside down, hung from the ceiling using chains. Whilst the fir tree was the most common, others were also used such as hawthorn or even a few branches. Often they were dependent on what people could afford, with some using a wooden pyramid shape decorated with apples etc. These were to replicate the Paradise Trees from medieval German Miracle Plays. The tree was based on the Garden of Eden, with 24th December known as Adam and Eve's Day. The tree was an integral part of the play which told the story of Jesus for those that couldn't read.

All across northern Europe the tree became synonymous with celebration. The source of the Christmas tree is still disputed between Estonia and Latvia, both claiming to have the first. No-one is certain, but celebrations involving trees occurred both in Tallinn in 1441 and Riga in 1510. In Tallinn, the trees were erected in the town square by a group of local merchants who would dance around the tree before setting it alight. In Riga, there is a plaque saying the first "New Year's Tree in 1510" was there.

Today, many families have their own traditions for decorating their tree. In the eighteenth century the most common form of decoration was the candle. The use of light in order to illuminate the tree and display it in all its grandeur has been associated with Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer who added candles an evergreen tree back in the sixteenth century.

In Germany, the Christmas tree was associated with Protestantism but the tradition spread in the early 1800's. Across Europe, amongst the upper classes, the Christmas tree was increasingly popular but the British hadn't been using trees to celebrate Christmas, although decorating churches using evergreens had been practised for a long time. It was the German-born wife of George III who first



*Cont'd on p.36*

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# FRIENDS OF GILDHOUSE

Friends of Poundstock Gildhouse had an end of year celebration with a Pasty Supper where a few brains were tickled by some of Alan's torturous quiz questions.



## CRAFT FAIR & PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

On the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October, Poundstock Gildhouse and St Winwaloes Church once again held their annual Craft Fair and Pumpkin Festival.

There was a wide variety of stalls, selling locally made crafts and food. Light refreshments were served both days.

On show was an amazing display of carved and decorated pumpkins. The winners were:-


**BEST CARVED** - 1st Morwenna McCure 2nd Orin Stopher-Murray 3rd Jack 3rd Maisie Stopher-Murray.

**BEST DECORATED** - 1st Delphie Ellis 2nd Kit-Pim Kedele 3rd Ruan McCure

**BEST ADULT** - Anna Willoughby


The Gildhouse Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make it such a successful weekend including all those who helped set up, cooked and served, all the stallholders and for all of you who came along and supported us. We made a grand total of £1573.99.





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## THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

The use of plants such as holly, ivy and mistletoe in rituals and celebrations goes back to pre-Christian times. Pagan peoples such as the Druids, Norse, and Celts observed the winter solstice and the Romans, the holiday of Saturnalia. For them, the plants had spiritual significance and were believed to hold magic. To our ancestors struggling to survive another winter, plants that stayed green even in the cold and dark represented the triumph of life over death and light over darkness.

Through the centuries they were incorporated into Christian traditions, and now are an inseparable part of our Christmas observations. So, holly, ivy and other greenery such as mistletoe were originally used in pre-Christian times to help celebrate the Winter Solstice, ward off evil spirits and to celebrate new growth. In Norse mythology, holly was associated with Thor, god of thunder, and holly plants grown by the home were thought to prevent lightning strikes. Ancient Romans used holly as decoration during Saturnalia, a festival dedicated to Saturn, god of agriculture and husbandry. Holly's symbolism of the new season made it an appropriate and colourful ornament for winter festivities. Ivy too, symbolized eternal life, rebirth and the spring season. In some cultures, ivy was a symbol of marriage and friendship. In ancient Rome, ivy was associated with Bacchus, god of wine and revelry. Accordingly, it was sometimes used as trimming in ancient festivals. In pagan times, holly was thought to be a male plant and ivy a female plant. An old tradition from the Midlands says that which ever one was brought into the house first each winter, tells you whether the man or woman of the house would rule that year. But it was unlucky to bring either into a house before Christmas Eve. Some people still believe that Christmas Eve is the time to decorate the house, and not before.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that grows on willow and apple trees and, along the M5 near Taunton, at any rate, also appears to grow on poplar. The tradition of hanging it in the house goes back to the times of the ancient Druids. It is supposed to possess mystical powers which bring good luck to the household and wards off evil spirits. It was also widely seen as a symbol of love and friendship.

It is traditional to take down the decorations after Twelfth Night (5th January) on Epiphany (January 6th). But during the Middle Ages, greenery was often left hanging up until Candlemas in early February. Like other Cornish traditions, the Cornish Bush has its roots in Pagan celebrations for the winter solstice. The three-dimensional wreath represents new life and is made by weaving holly, mistletoe and ivy around a circle of withy. The beautiful festive ringlet is then topped with an

*Cont'd on p.36*





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## JULIETTOR GARDEN CLUB

Mike Stephens came to talk to us about having a wonderful winter garden – a subject he knows all about because he used to open his own sloping garden in February under the National Gardens Scheme. February might not be the first month to occur to people when planning a garden visit, but as he pointed out, Rosemoor has a specially planted winter garden that attracts thousands of visitors every year. Gone is the old-fashioned Victorian idea of pulling up the dead summer bedding plants and putting the garden to bed; these days we want something of interest all the year.

So planning a winter garden allows us to extend the season with long-flowering plants like salvias, dahlias and kaffir lillies. Evergreens such as conifers provide the basic structure of the winter garden. There are plants which flower in the winter, filling the garden with colour and scent, and these include wintersweet, witch hazel, and sweet box as well as autumn flowering camellias. Plants can also add colour and interest with spectacular stems and bark such as the willows, dogwoods and birches. Then there are the attractive dying seed heads which add an architectural note as well as being wildlife friendly.



On sunny winter days, heather beds can hum with a remarkable number of bees and hoverflies. Hellebores and snowdrops are two of the easiest and most elegant winter flowers and have the added bonus of providing nectar. Winter shrubs for bees include shade-loving Mahonia has wands of beautifully scented yellow flowers and winter honeysuckle which carries clusters of small white flowers on its bare branches and fills the icy garden with

perfume. Mike gave an interesting talk, well illustrated with slides and welcome touches of humour.



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Coronavirus test and trace hotline	119
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(Hours vary according to staff availability. Please phone before attending.)	
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MP: Scott Mann	01208 74337
Parish council chair: Stephen Blake	(see p. 24)
Parish clerk: Lynn Pluess	0776 8100 560
Cornwall Councillor: Nicky Chopak	0781 030 2061
Cornwall Council	0300 1234 100
Bude Library	0300 1234 111
Library renewal line	0845 607 6119
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# LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

## LIBRARIES

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Poundstock's two pop-up libraries, in St Winwaloe's and Our Lady and St Anne's, are available when the churches are open (all day, every day). A wide choice of books can be borrowed or bought, with all proceeds going to charity.

## 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 main shop).

**THE FOLLOWING ARE ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, BUT CHECK BEFORE YOU GO (CONTACT DETAILS BELOW).**

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Cubs: Monday 6.30–8.00 pm (01288 352786)

Scouts: Tuesday 6.30–8.00 pm

Beavers: Wednesday 6.00–8.00 pm (07855 001284)

Rainbows (Tuesday 17.45) and Guides (Monday 19.00): ring Mary on 01840 230006. Brownies (Monday 17.45): ring Louise on 07817 985661.

## MARHAMCHURCH WI

Marhamchurch Methodist Hall, 2.30 pm, second Tuesday of the month (note change of time to afternoon).

## JACOBSTOW WI

Jacobstow Parish Hall, 7.30 pm, second Thursday of the month.

## JULIOTTER GARDEN CLUB

Otterham and St Juliot Hall, 7.30 pm, fourth Tuesday of the month.

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## POUNDSTOCK GILDHOUSE

You can hire the Gildhouse for events from meetings to parties and wedding receptions. Call 01288 341537 or visit [www.poundstockgildhouse.co.uk](http://www.poundstockgildhouse.co.uk).



# DIARY DATES

## DECEMBER

- 1 Soup and Sweet Crackington Institute 12.00-14.00
- 3 Carols with Launceston Town Band and Pop Choir, Town Hall 14.30
- 3 Crackington Institute for craft and Christingle
- 3 Weaving workshop, Blanchminster, The Castle 10.30-11.30 £20
- 3 Christmas Fayre at The Castle 11.00-16.00
- 4 Scout Hut Carols and Draw 18.30
- 4 Bude Choral Society St Michaels – French Choral Music 19.00
- 4 Old Cornwall Cornish Carols at Bude Methodist Church 19.00
- 6 Renewal of Garland 10.00
- 7-10 Marhamchurch Christmas Tree Festival
- 8 Soup and Sweet Crackington Institute 12.00-14.00
- 8 St Gennys Silver Band Concert
- 8 Traditional Carol Service at Our Lady & St Anne's, Widemouth Bay 14.30
- 9+10 Bude Christmas Markets at Crooklet Beach Huts 11.00-16.00
- 15 Carol at Central Methodist with Bude Metric Brass 19.00
- 16 Mince pies and mulled wine at the Gildhouse 14.30
- 17 Carols at Poundstock Church 14.30
- 17 Bude Visitor Car Park Free Trees 13.00-15.30



# POUNDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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<i>Parish clerk</i>	Lynn Pluess	<a href="mailto:clerk@poundstock-pc.gov.uk">clerk@poundstock-pc.gov.uk</a>

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For details of how to apply to be co-opted to the Parish Council, please see the website or contact the Clerk

The parish council website carries agendas, full minutes and other documents, as well as information about the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the parish cemetery. At present, council meetings take place at 7 pm on the last Thursday evening of each month at Poundstock Gildhouse.



## Poundstock Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Chairman: Matthew Blows

Vice Chair: Brenda Alison

Secretary: Lyn Smith

Members: Sara Beckett, Stephen Blake, Robbie Pearce, Barry Rogers, Nicky Vereker, Phyllis Ward, Steve Haynes, Rachel Roberts

Contact: email :[ndp-sg@poundstock-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ndp-sg@poundstock-pc.gov.uk) or by post to:  
St Marwenne, Combe Lane, Widemouth Bay, EX23 0AA



# Christmas in Poundstock 2023

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 pm

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Widemouth Bay

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

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Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 pm

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Christmas Day, 9.30 am

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Rev Mark James led an Act of Remembrance, during the Service of Morning Prayer the names of those who died in World War I and II were read from the memorial in the Lady Chapel. Paul Brooks, retired RAF Aircraft Engineer laid the wreath.

After the Service, 7 crosses were placed - three Canadian Sailors and a Swedish serviceman at the bottom of the graveyard, then two war graves (A J Gliddon and J A Baker) and one on the Curlew memorial (Horace Ferrett) at the top of the graveyard.



As in previous years, the collection from the service will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

At 11.00am Steve Blake, Chair of Parish Council, laid a wreath on the War Memorial. Charlie Morwood played The Last Post and Two Minutes Silence was held.

## CREMATORIUM UPDATE

### **Bude-Stratton Town Council meeting on 9th November 2023 - Planning Application for Crematorium at Poundstock**

The meeting extensively addressed the planning application for the Poundstock crematorium and its Judicial Review. Councillor O'Sullivan provided insights into key planning considerations, emphasising viability, carbon footprint, and scale as reasons for council to support the motion to oppose the planning application, based on concerns highlighted by the Judicial Review. Following thorough discussions among members and the public, the consensus emerged to defer the decision until Cornwall Council provides substantial new information.



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# JACOBSTOW GUIDING NEWS

**Rainbows**  
1st Jacobstow

**Brownies**  
1st Jacobstow

**Guides**  
1st Jacobstow

The summer weather meant we had to quickly turn the District Camp into a stay at Otterham Hall. The Guides spent the first few weeks of this term completing their stage 3 and 4 of the Camp Skill Builders. They used different methods of cooking outside, making a camp oven from foil and a card board box making cakes. While waiting for them to cook, the Guides choose camp songs to make a play list.

We also have made mini bedding rolls and tested how waterproof they were ... some were more successful than others.



Four of the Guides are joining the District trip to Our Chalet in Switzerland, this is one of the World Guiding Centres. We are spending the February half term there. Lots of fundraising is taking place, including a draw, which will be drawn at our Christingle on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Jacobstow Church, at 6pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us at the service. The Guides were fund raising at the Jacobstow Autumn fair with a tombola.

The Rainbows have finished both their Camp and Explore stage skill builders, learning about road safety, what to pack when going away overnight, a long debate on "if a teddy bear is the most important thing to take with you"! We have also spent evenings on money and what values coins have and healthy eating with a fruit testing evening.

The Brownies are working on the Parliament Badge and their Christmas decorations for the District Christmas tree, which will be part of the display at St Marys Church, Launceston at the beginning of December.

All the Units have space for girls, so if you know of a 4 - 16 year girl who would like to try Guiding, do contact us. We are also always looking for adult help, so if you fancy having some fun with the next generations, please call Mary on 01840 230006.



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# OUR NIGHT SKY

## December

Saturn will be setting at about 2230 followed by Jupiter at about 0430. Both will have given us great pleasure throughout the winter evenings as always, Orion will travel across the night sky during Winter.

Last month, I told you about the recovery of the spacecraft that brought back samples from the Asteroid Beppo.. It has now been opened and the scientists were amazed and delighted with the quantity of dust and rock which it had gathered. Initial sample analysis revealed indications of water based compounds and also carbon rich material. All these compounds are essential for life on Earth, so this is the first time that there is evidence that these materials now found on this planet, could have originated in the asteroid bombardment that took place in the early history of the Solar System.

Meanwhile, NASA has launched a spacecraft to the metal-rich asteroid Psyche, and I will try to keep you informed of how that has gone.

## January

Venus will be setting in the west about 1800 followed by Saturn in the west about midnight. Jupiter rises in the East about 1700 and Mars at 2100. So we have all the major planets gracing the winter skies as well as faithful Orion.

ESA, (The European Space Agency )has just released 3 stunning images taken by the Euclid space telescope which have enormously improve on Hubble's images which themselves were brilliant and still are.

Euclid is designed to explore the evolution of the dark Universe. It will make a 3D-map of the Universe (with time as the third dimension) by observing billions of galaxies out to 10 billion light-years, across more than a third of the sky. While dark energy accelerates the expansion of the Universe and dark matter governs the growth of cosmic structures, scientists remain unsure about what dark energy and dark matter actually are. By observing the Universe evolving over the past 10 billion years, Euclid will reveal how it has expanded and how structure has formed over cosmic history – and from this, astronomers can infer the properties of dark energy, dark matter and gravity, to reveal more about their precise nature.

Euclid will take images in optical and near-infrared light; these images will eventually cover more than one-third of the extragalactic sky outside the Milky Way, and depict billions of cosmic targets out to a distance where light has taken up to 10 billion years to reach us. Euclid's image quality will be at least four times sharper than that achieved by ground-based sky surveys. In addition, Euclid will perform near-infrared spectroscopy of hundreds of millions of galaxies and stars over the same sky. This will allow scientists to investigate the chemical and kinematical properties of many targets in detail. I hope to reveal some of the findings later

My best wishes for Christmas and the New Year for all my readers

*Bill Turnhill*

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## 2ND BUDE (JACOBSTOW) SCOUT GROUP

This term has once again proven to be a busy one for all groups. Beavers completing my skills & creative badges, Cubs, local knowledge & fire Safety & the Scouts have been busy cooking.



6 Scouts took part in the 'district winter camp' during Oct at Nine Ashes, Bodmin. The weekend involved camping for 2 nights with various activities including a silent disco. The following Saturday, 3 Scouts took part in a new event called 'Budeopoly'. Based on monopoly we had to visit & photograph various locations around Bude & surrounding areas to earn points. 8 hours later & some 15 miles walked we came 3<sup>rd</sup>, super effort by our Scouts.

Remembrance Day - Leaders plus members from each group took part in the parade at St Genny's Church. Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct was a glorious day & Josie held her 'dog show', lovely afternoon with our 4-legged friends raising £191.50.

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, we held our annual 'fireworks evening' at Braywood Farm. Not sure what we did to deserve it, but the weather was perfect. The evening was really well supported, selling 101 slices of cake & selling out of hot dogs. The evening raised £565.30.

Back in the Summer Marhamchurch WI held a fundraising morning in the Triangle in Bude, selling homemade cooking plus a 'win a prize every time tombola'. Money raised from this event & the group kindly donated more was presented to the scout group. We received £350 from these lovely ladies to whom we are very grateful for choosing to support us. We have not yet decided what the money will be spent on, but we aim to spend it on a specific item/items for the hut.

Our final fundraiser for the year will be our annual 'Christmas Carol & Draw Evening' on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6.30pm at the New Scout Hut – everyone is welcome to join us.

While all this is going on we have also been busy on site: All walls & ceilings are painted, the skirting boards have been fitted & the architrave is being fitted. Now all the woodwork is in the process of being filled, sanded, chalked & painted. 2<sup>nd</sup> fix electrics are nearing completion & we have flooring in the disabled toilet. Rob Medland has started to build the 'substation' where the electrical supply will come into & on sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov, Francis Bray braved the weather & dug a trench where the team laid the armoured cable from the 'substation' back into the hut. National Grid are booked in to bring the electricity in to the 'substation' on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Fingers crossed in the new year we will have electric in the hall. The team aim to complete the new scout hut for the summer of 2024.



Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year, Jill



## AND SO TO BED

You will recognise 'And so to bed.' It a popularised phrase of Samuel Pepys who lived in the seventeenth century. He was a diarist, and in 1676 was elected Master of Trinity House – the organisation which is in charge of Britain's lighthouses. Which has nothing to do with what follows.

This is all about going to bed, but for a decent amount of time. In fact, for the whole of winter.

Mrs Tiggywinkle goes to sleep from December to March. She snores, so put in your earplugs.

The big question is not, 'Why does she snore?' but, 'Why does she hibernate?'

Hibernation seems to have two advantages: to avoid the cold of winter, and to prolong life.

But hibernating is a risky business. After you have chosen a warm snug place in a well of dry leaves, a gardener or a farmer could dig you up. And then you are sunk unless you can take some pretty swift action to get warm and cosy again.



It's also risky if the weather is unseasonal and warms up in the middle of January. Your body tells you it is Springtime, so you yawn and stretch, brush your teeth and waddle outside. A day later, the blizzard strikes, and you are sunk again.

But hibernation is not really a sleep. When Mrs. T. trots around in summer looking for slugs, she breathes about 25 times a minute, but in deep hibernation, she can go a couple of hours until her next breath; her temperature drops to roughly the ambient temperature; and her heart can beat at as slowly as 15 times a minute. You can't really call that a sleep: half-dead, I call it.

At the moment the hibernators have fattened up for the winter and have gone to their warm places: most have already gone – bats do it, badgers do it, dormice do it, frogs and adders do it, butterflies and ladybirds do it, even water voles do it, let's do it let's fall in love! (*pace Cole Porter*).

The opposite of hibernation is aestivation. It's the same as hibernation which means sleeping in winter. Aestivation means sleeping in summer (Latin *aestivus* = summer) and happens with animals go to sleep in times of extreme heat or dryness.

In Ancient Rome, the summers got unbearably hot. Rich Romans retired to the hills where they stayed in their aestivates – estates in modern speech.

Our lot will be back awake in March or April when their work will start again. In the meantime – And so to bed.

*Christopher Asbury*



## UPDATE FROM CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

A busy year!

As I write this it is only a few weeks until Christmas and it feels like Christmas was only a few weeks ago! Where did the year go?

Well, it has been a very busy year with a lot going on. Where do I start? After a lot of hard work the Widemouth Bay toilets saga is finally coming to an end and as I write this our solicitors have just sent the final contracts for the freehold transfer of the site to us for signing.

Once we are our own landlords there will be a lot of work to do upgrading the toilets and ensuring they are fit for purpose. Over the coming months they will have to close from time to time to allow builders, plumbers etc to carry out their work but, with luck, this should be done by the Spring in time for the next holiday season.

The old Parish Hall has been sold for redevelopment and the money set aside to put towards a new Hall for Poundstock. We have identified a site that may be suitable and have approached Cornwall County Planning for advice which, I am pleased to say, was very positive.

Early next year we hope to have some architect concepts to show the Parish to ensure that the design meets expectations. This will just be the first stage and we will be ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to give feedback as the process moves forward.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is now at the first draft stage after a huge amount of work by the Steering Group and in particular its Chair, Matthew Blows. If all goes well the final Plan will be put to a referendum by the end of next year.

Of course, all this is in addition to the day to day work that goes on behind the scenes. We are an unsurprisingly busy Parish Council for what is quite a small community. I write this as the Chair of the Council but there is a team of nine Councillors who all work very hard on your behalf and, of course, our Parish Clerk, Lynn Pluess, who somehow manages to keep everything running smoothly.

So, on behalf of the whole Council, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Cllr. Stephen Blake  
Chair, Poundstock Parish Council

## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

### **Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

#### **Planning Matters**

PA23/04256 Proposal: Demolition of existing link-attached dwellings and garage and construction of 3 new dwellings with off street parking and private amenity Location: Morveth Combe Lane Widemouth Bay RESOLVED to OBJECT. PA23/07018 Proposal: Proposed single-storey rear and side extension to dwelling, external material changes, proposed swimming pool and raised patio area. Location: Swallows Nest Crescent Close Widemouth Bay RESOLVED to OBJECT

#### **Agenda items to discuss and resolve a course of action and associated expenditure**

(a) The state of the public toilets and the work required...the remaining grant of £12,500 is insufficient and funding beyond 2025 via the Car Park Levy is not guaranteed. Cllrs to investigate.

(b) The Old Parish Hall was sold at public auction on 24th August 2023 for the sum of £176,000.

(c) To receive an update on the pre-app for the proposed Community Hall – Awaiting advice.

(d) Update on free parking for Councillors in the Widemouth Bay Car Park – Pending.

#### **To receive written reports and authorise any action:**

The former chairman of N.Tamerton Parish Council, Simon Beesley, has recently passed away. It was also reported a recent highway fatality on the A39 at Coppathorne junction. A 50 mph speed restriction is being called for along the A39 from Poundstock to Marhamchurch. Over the summer period there were travellers in the top car-park.

### **Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Casual Vacancies:** RESOLVED Graeme Swatton be co-opted to the Council, unanimous

#### **Public Participation - Matters raised by Members of the Public on an agenda item:**

A resident voiced concerns about the 'Rave at Kitsham Farm' predicted to host up to 500 people next year.

#### **Planning Applications**

PA23/06905 Trelay Farm Marhamchurch. Change of use for siting of water slide attraction - RESOLVED – No objection

#### **Agenda items to discuss and resolve a course of action**

(a) On the 14th August, 2023 Cllr. Tom O'Sullivan was found to have breached the Code of Conduct due to public comments he has made about Poundstock Parish Council and its members. Given his failure to apologise to the Parish Council in "an unqualified manner" as requested it is now proposed that he be censured. RESOLVED Cllr. Tom O'Sullivan be censured and a copy of the judgement be posted on the Parish Council's website

(b) Widemouth Bay Toilets. It was RESOLVED an estimated cost of £50,000 be put forward to Cornwall Council

#### **To receive written reports and authorise any action:**

Dragons teeth have been installed on both carriageways into Widemouth Bay along Marine Drive.

Cllr. Chopak spoke of an upheld complaint she had made against a member of Poundstock Parish Council who has declined to apologise, she indicated if no apology is forthcoming by the next meeting she will take further action.

Chair's Report – It was with sadness that the Chairman spoke of the passing of Mr. Reg Jewell, who was the groundsman for the Parish Council for many years, maintaining the Public Rights of Ways, Churchyard and Cemetery to a very high standard.

## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

### **Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

#### **Public Participation - Matters raised by Members of the Public on an agenda item:**

A member of the public spoke enthusiastically about the success of the judicial review against the crematorium and highlighted the financial cost to the applicants and the unfairness of the fact that it left them many thousands of pounds out of pocket, despite the fact that they won their case.

#### **Correspondence to discuss and resolve a course of action**

Public Consultation Event at Whalesborough Farm - Chairman Stephen Blake with Cllrs. Michelle Carter and Tom O'Sullivan attended the event on 3 October 2023, prior to a planning application being submitted for 67 new lodges.

#### **Agenda items to discuss and resolve a course of action and associated expenditure:**

To receive an update on the progress with Cornwall Council on the Widemouth Bay Toilets and consider cost of repairs to the building. A final offer of £37,500, to include the £12,500 already paid, was made by Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council is to explore the possibility of paying the £15,000 Car Park Levy for 2023/24 on completion of the transfer. It was noted Cornwall Council will close the public toilets if an agreement cannot be reached. It was agreed to consider the cost of essential repairs against the financial offer made for further consideration at the next meeting

To discuss D-Day 80 6-June 2024 - Following discussions it was RESOLVED to seek permission from the landowners to hold a bonfire on the historic site of the beacon, unanimous.

### **Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

#### **Planning Matters**

Information only: PA23/08007 Proposal: Change of use from F1(f) Public Worship or Religious Instruction to C3 Residential Dwellinghouse. Construction of single storey extension and internal alterations Location: Dimma Methodist Church Poundstock Bude

#### **Agenda items to discuss and resolve a course of action and associated expenditure:**

(a) To receive an update on the progress with Cornwall Council on the Widemouth Bay Toilets and consider the cost of repairs to the building. Costs were estimated at £37,500. The draft transfer and title documents were received from the Council Solicitors with comments. It was unanimously RESOLVED to respond to the points raised and give instruction to prepare the documents for completion.

(d) Traffic Calming Measure in Widemouth Bay offered by CC Highways via Ward Member. Cllr. Chopak reported the results of the recent speed monitoring data: - Deployment period – 31/8/23 to 23/10/23 Max speed recorded 55mph. Total no. of vehicles recorded 47,773 Annual average daily traffic was 1063 vehicles 85%ile was 32.8 mph. Average speed was 27.96 mph. It was unanimously RESOLVED to make an Expression of Interest for Gateways into Widemouth Bay via Cllr. Chopak.

(e) Traffic Calming Measures through Treskinnick Cross (Cllr. Graeme Swatton) - Traffic speeds through the secondary cross-road in the residential area of Treskinnick Cross, and the safety of school children at the bus stop were discussed at length. Cllr. Chopak to request speed monitoring and, for the white line road markings to be re-done and, pot holes filled along the junction to the A39.

## OH CHRISTMAS TREE... CONT'D

*Cont'd from p.9*

displayed one in Britain. Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz held a party in 1800 in which the tree had become the centrepiece of the festivities. So much so that a young Victoria had a Christmas tree in her room every year in December, decorated with lights and sugared ornaments. Very soon, the tree was embraced by wealthy families across Britain, although it would take a few more years before they would spread to the lower classes. By the 1920's the Christmas tree had entered homes of people across the nation. To this day, one of the most famous trees, a gift given by Norway to the UK, is proudly displayed in Trafalgar Square, a token of goodwill after the Second World War.

The Christmas tree has continued to endure throughout the decades. Whilst decorations and styles have changed, the symbolism and significance remains. The Victorians decorated their trees with candles, the Edwardians with ostrich feathers in a variety of colours and over time fashions come and go, and now decorations have become much more individual with families producing their own Christmas traditions.

The Christmas tree is an enduring legacy from pre-Christian times, an example of traditions, culture and celebration, enjoy yours.

*The Sheepish Farmer*

## THE HOLLY AND THE IVY CONT'D

*Cont'd from p.13*

apple and a candle and hung indoors on December 20th. Cornish tradition states that dancing in rings underneath the Cornish Bush whilst the candle is lit welcomes in the god of light. The old "kissing bunch" (as it was sometimes known due to the dancing and merriment which took place underneath it) is still hung from the central beam of the living-room in cottages and homes across Cornwall. The well-known tradition of kissing under the mistletoe evolved from the tradition of the Cornish Bush and is now practiced all over the country with people hanging sprigs of mistletoe in doorways and arches in the hope of attracting a Christmas kiss! So now you know. Come on, deck the halls with boughs of holly, for 'tis the season to be jolly.

Happy Christmas and a Very Merry New Year everyone.

*Pat Thorne*



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## FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

The Packet will always advertise local community and charity events free of charge. As circumstances allow meetings and events to take place, we all hope to get back to a more normal pattern of life with a lot more going on. But we don't 'just know' what's happening – you have to tell us!

Our deadline for the December and January edition is 18th November.

**DON'T FORGET: TELL THE PACKET!**

## DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE PARISH

**Widemouth Bay:** next to the Summerhouse (by the church, Leverlake Road); near the top of Long Park Drive by the entrance to Pencarra and Bellair, just below the junction with Edith Walk; at the back of the public toilets just above Widemouth beach. The RNLI lifeguards also have a defibrillator, available at their hut above the beach when they are on duty.

**Treskinnick Cross:** just off the A39, in the old phone box.

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## Jacobstow WI

For our October meeting, we welcomed Trevor Wiltshire who gave a fascinating talk on Isambard Kingdom Brunel, providing an insight into Brunel's family background and some lesser known stories of his life and work. As an engineer, he was certainly ahead of his time and we still marvel at his outstanding achievements today.



On 22<sup>nd</sup> October we celebrated 85 years of the Jacobstow WI with lunch at Trencreek Farmhouse. Our longest serving member, Jen Cowling cut the cake and we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and raffle.

In November local artisan glass artist Gregg Anston-Race came to talk to us about his designs and the unique processes he uses to make vessels and artworks in fused glass. Self-taught, he has worked with glass for over 25 years, developing his own techniques and style inspired by the Cornwall's coast and landscape. He demonstrated the different properties of glass when it is cut and brought with him many beautiful examples of his work which can be seen in galleries across the UK as well as in his own studio in Week St Mary.



Looking ahead:

The WI Christmas Party is on December 14th  
We start 2024 on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 with a talk on Army Life

**We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year**



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