



THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET

KERNOW BYS VYKEN!



See "Making Space for Sand" article on p.25

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NOTES FROM EDITOR

Happy New Year everyone! I do hope you had a good festive break and ready to take on 2024.

We are looking for some administrative assistance to help us with the Poundstock Packet. If you have some spare time from one to four hours per month and have some administrative experience please contact Jen Spettigue (01288 361525) or email us at poundstockpacket@gmail.com. You will need access to a computer. We are happy to provide work experience for students aged 14+ that are interested in English, media or business.

Also if you would like to be a roving reporter or send some articles in, please do get in touch.

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.

The deadline for our next edition is 18 March 2024

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 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) or by post; please contact us for details.

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WIDEMOUTH TASK FORCE

Widemouth Task Force, Cormac, Cornwall Council, The Bude Valley Volunteers & Cornwall Wildlife Trust (Making Space for Sand project) came together with the local community in the sunshine on 6th January to install over 250 old Xmas trees in our annual sand dune restoration project at Black Rock.

The trees will help stabilise the sand which in turn will form a firm foundation for marram grass to be planted at a later date, once established the created dunes will protect our coastline also creating a new wildlife habitat and a place for other plants to establish over time.

Thank you everyone for your help and also to Mark and Helen Labroy at Black Rock Cafe and the 2 donations made to WTF!

LOVING WHERE WE LIVE!

Ado Shoreland

Please also see article on p.25

WIDEMOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Lovely to see the Widemouth community coming together to celebrate. Big thanks to Nicky and Rachel for organising and to Black Rock Cafe for delicious meal and looking after us all. Thank you to Lynda Bolding for photographs. £120 was raised with the raffle with money going to the Air Ambulance.



CHURCHES AND SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY TO 10TH MARCH 2024

Sun 4 Feb	09:30	Holy Communion	BH	RD
Sun 4 Feb	10:00	Family Service	WSM	LWL (LB)
Sun 4 Feb	18:00	Evening prayer	M	LWL
Wed 7 Feb	09:00	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 7 Feb	10:00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 11 Feb	09:30	Communion	M	MJ
Sun 11 Feb	09:30	Morning Prayer	P	LWL (SD)
Sun 11 Feb	11:15	Communion	W	MJ
Sun 11 Feb	18:00	BCP Evening Prayer	WSM	LWL (SD)
Wed 14 Feb	10:00	Ash Wednesday	WSM	MJ
Wed 14 Feb	19:00	Ash Wednesday		RD
Sun 18 Feb	09:30	Communion	BH	MJ
Sun 18 Feb	11:15	Communion	WSM	RD
Sun 18 Feb	09:30	Morning prayer	M	LWL
Wed 21 Feb	09:00	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 21 Feb	10:00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 25 Feb	09:30	HC	P	RD
Sun 25 Feb	09:30	HC	M	MJ
Sun 25 Feb	11:15	HC	BH	MJ
Sun 25 Feb	10:00	MP	WSM	LWL (LB)
Sun 25 Feb	09:30	MP	W	LWL (SS)
Wed 28 Feb	09:00	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 28 Feb	10:00	Mass	WB	MJ
Thu 1 Mar	14:30	World Day of Prayer	WSM	LWL
Sun 3 Mar	09:30	Communion	BH	RD
Sun 3 Mar	10:00	Family Service	WSM	LWL (LB)
Sun 3 Mar	18:00	Evening prayer	M	LWL
Wed 6 Mar	09:00	Morning Prayer	Zoom	MJ
Wed 6 Mar	10:00	Mass	BH	MJ
Sun 10 Mar		Mothering Sunday	All churches have a service	

CHURCH SERVICES – CONT'D

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	LWL
Whitstone	W	Methodist Minster	MM
Widemouth Bay	WB		

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.

BUDE ORCHESTRA VACANCIES

The Bude Concert Orchestra gives three concerts a year in Bude, two at The Parkhouse Centre and one at a Bude Church. The Orchestra currently has vacancies for violin and viola players and bassoonists.

In order to tackle the repertoire, you would need to be the equivalent of Grade five or above. If you are interested in joining the Orchestra please do get in touch by email budeorchestra@gmail.com or phone 07811 648374

BUDE CONCERT ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2024 7.30PM

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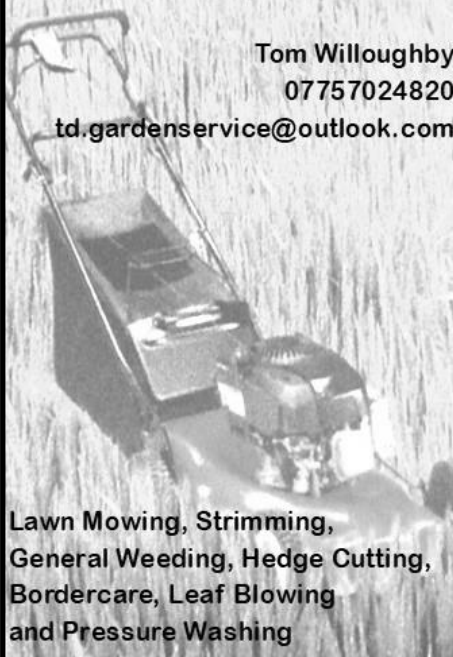
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PACKAGE TOURS TO THE UK

We get loads of winter visitors, mainly birds. Why? Because they can fly, stoopid!

They came pouring in in November and December, and ate all the fruit which had been ripening especially for them. Hips and haws and holly berries. That lovely holly tree down the lane which had so many fine berries is now stripped. The Christmas bird was well and truly fattened.



The lovely culprits are mainly types of thrush. Fieldfares and Redwings are the main berry-noshers.

The Brambling is more difficult to spot unless we have a really cold blast. Then, you'll see them on your bird table and you'll mistake them for chaffinches.

Loads of chaffinches pack their bags in Kyiv and take a flight here, some of them from Ukraine; hardly surprising. They enjoy the gluts of beech nuts in their shells (as opposed to shells in their beach huts on the Black sea).



Meanwhile, the old favourites stay here in the UK. The Robin is the darling.



So are the Blue Tits, Blackbirds and Great Tits. You will soon hear the Great Tit doing his Spring song: "Teach...er, Teach...er, Teach...er".

Shelley, like the squirrel, has it in a nutshell: "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

[Photos – Unsplash]

Christopher Asbury

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JUBILEE CLUB



Members of The Jubilee Club enjoying their Christmas Lunch at Britannia Inn Par.

They will be organising more trips in 2024

Please contact Diana Hall on 01840 261366 for more information



JUBILEE CLUB

The Jubilee Club have organised a Coach Trip

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OTTERY ST MARY on

MONDAY 11TH MARCH

You are very welcome to join us

Pick up at Wainhouse

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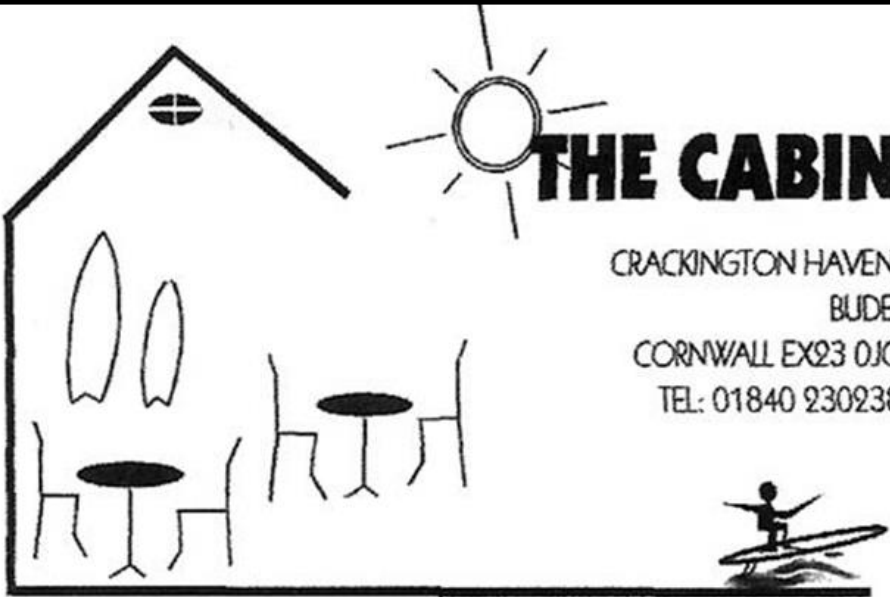
MINCE PIES & MULLED WINE AT THE GILDHOUSE

On 16th December we had a very nice afternoon and received good support from the parish.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, mince pie bakers and tombola prize donators.

We raised a total of £128.51 towards the costs of printing the Packet.





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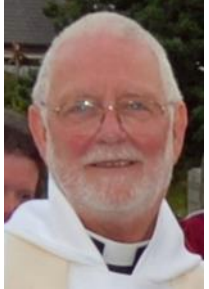
IN MEMORIAM

Many will be sad to hear of the recent deaths of two former Poundstock residents, Revd George Rowe and Mrs Sybil Dickenson, both known and loved by so many here.

Revd George died suddenly just before Christmas in Chiddingfold, Surrey. His funeral took place on Wednesday 17 January at St Mary's Church, Chiddingfold, where he was a member of the ministry team.

George and his wife Sara moved to Widemouth Bay after George's retirement as a primary head. George had long felt a call to ordination and saw his opportunity; after training, he was ordained at St Mary's Church, Week St Mary, in June 2008 and served the church in this area until he and Sara moved to live nearer their family in 2015. Apart from his much valued ministry and pastoral commitments George was well known here for his interest in the Cornish language and for his love of music and gift for playing the church organ (which he delighted in calling 'the mighty Werlitzer').

Sara and George were a devoted couple and her passing in 2020 was a great loss, but it did not diminish George's joy of ministry and he continued to serve in his new home. He was deeply cared about and appreciated wherever he ministered; like Sara, he will be fondly remembered and very much missed.



Mrs Sybil Dickenson died peacefully on 12 January 2024 at the age of 102. With her husband Christopher she lived at Box's Shop for many years, only retiring to St Anne's Home, Whitstone, in the last year. Her funeral will be held at St Mary's Church, Week St Mary, on Saturday 27 January. We apologise for the lack of an obituary in this issue and hope to be able to include one in the next Packet.

We pray for George's children, Gillian, Emma and Adam, and for Sybil's son, Revd Rob, and their families, and for all those who mourn the loss of George and Sybil. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

LAMB, HOGGET OR MUTTON?

I'm looking forward to seeing lambs gambolling in the fields hereabouts, they remind me that spring and Easter are on the way. At Easter we always eat sheep of some variety, but not always lamb. It's great to be able to have a choice as lamb, hogget and mutton have quite different characteristics: Lambs are usually eating grass from 1-3 months old and local lamb will be very tender by mid-April, but the longer they've been out on grass, the better the flavour.

A late Easter is better than an early one for eating lamb, but lamb is still 'lamb' for up to a year. 'Hogget' refers to animals between 1-2 years old, and is a delicious combination of tender lamb and full-flavoured mutton. Hogget can be cooked hot and quick like lamb, or low and slow – anywhere in between and it might toughen up whereas older animals which have had a good couple of years grazing on pasture and preferably wild herbs and mixed grasses are full of flavour and taste wonderful after a long, gentle cook. If you want a fall-off-the-bone slow roast, mutton is for you.

Mutton

Of the sheep is cast away nothing,
His horns for notches - to ashes goeth his bones, [1]
To Lordes great profit goeth his entire dung [2]
His tallow also serveth plastres, more than one, [3]
For harp strings his ropes serve everyone,
Of whose head boiled whoel and all
There cometh a jelly, and ointment full Royal.
For ache of bones and also for bruises
It is remedy that doeth ease quickly,
Causing mens stark points to recure,
It doeth sinews again restore to life.
Black sheeps wool with fresh oil of olive, [4]
The men at armes, with charms, they prove it good
And at straight need, they can well staunch blood.

Thirteenth century verse



[1] In the old breeds of sheep, the ewes also had horns, the short rough ridged horns proved perfect ends for the bows, where the bowstring was fastened on; when the bow was bent and the loop of the bowstring slid down, it hooked into the bone notches.

[2] Sheep were folded into the lord's fields each night to fertilise them. Shepherds were instructed to look for bare patches of soil and set a scratching post there to encourage the sheep to congregate.

[3] The lanolin from around the ewe's udders. Still in use and very good for chapped hands.

[4] The clean oily (yolk) wool will matt across a wound and cause the blood to congeal. A spider's web can be used the same way.

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NOTICE FROM SOUTH WEST WATER

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- Fats, oils and cooking grease
- Medication (such as pills or liquid)
- Household hazardous waste (such as paints, pesticides, cleaning products)
- Plastic bags
- Nappies
- Sanitary towels, including tampons, applicators and wrappers

All these items can accumulate into huge sewer blocks called fatbergs, which are unhealthy to say the least.

The facts behind the horrendous story about a fatberg in Whitechapel, London and another in Sidmouth, Devon are hard to believe. The London one weighed 40 tons and was 250 meters long and took weeks to break up and was then used to run a London diesel bus! A part of it is on display at London Museum.

With medicines, our bodies use and discard, which in turn goes into water systems and further into the sea. This is not good for marine life or ourselves. Did you know that when water is tested for pollution, one of the main tests for how good the sewage system, is for paracetamol which has gone through the sewage system as part of pee?

Plastic - we all hear how fish and birds mistake them for food, but in a fatberg plastic and sanitary goods “help” to cement the waste together.

I was talking to a sewage worker and he said even if the sewage plant is environmentally friendly if they test and find there are traces of hazardous waste all the sewage has to be taken away at enormous expense.



Picture is from a display at the London Museum



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Boscastle	01840 250209
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
Recycling centre/tip (Tiscott Wood)	0845 630 0300
Samaritans	116 123
National Childline	0800 1111
Police – non-emergency	101
Farming Community Network	0845 367 9990
Bude Food Bank	01288 448748
Citizens Advice (Phone advice line, operates 10–4, Monday–Friday)	03 444 111 444
CCS helpline/Age UK Cornwall	01872 266383
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Western Power (power cuts)	0800 678 3105
PCC Secretary, Poundstock: Liz Jones	079040 88779
Jacobstow WI: Mrs J. Baker	01840 239829
Marhamchurch WI: Mrs P. Hazeldine	01288 682193
Poundstock Skittles: Pam Gilhespy	01288 361570
Poundstock Ringers	079040 88779
Juliotter Garden Club	01566 781559 or 01840 261237
Rebel Cinema	01288 361442

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

LIBRARIES

Bude Library is currently open 10.00–5.00 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10.00–1.00 Saturdays. Reserve books by phone (0300 1234 1111) or online at capitadiscovery.co.uk/cornwall/login.

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).

SCOUTS AND GUIDES

Cubs: Monday 6.30–8.00 pm (01288 352786)

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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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BUDE BRIDGE CLUB

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

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.

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

- 6 Charity coffee and cake event - Cornish Coasts— 08.00-15.00
- 8 Jacobstow WI – Talk from a WI County Climate Ambassador
- 9 Will Keating and Special Guest – St Endellion Church – 19.30
- 10-11 Pencarrow Snowdrop weekend – 10.00-16.00
- 15-17 Marhamchurch Panto – Aladdin – 19.00
- 16 Bingo at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club – 18.30
- 16 Porridge Panto at Crackington Institute – 19.00
- 17 Porridge Panto at Crackington Institute – 14.00 and 19.00
- 17 Bude Metric Brass - Band Together - Bude Methodist Church –19.30
- 10-18 Half-Term Activities – Rosemoor
- 24 Bude Finds Day! – Bude Castle – 11.00-15.40
- 24 Cornwall Youth Choir – Otterham and St Juliot Hall 18.30
- 27 Juliotter Garden Club – The Humble Spud

MARCH

- 2 Bude Concert Orchestra – Parkhouse Centre – 19.30
- 2-3 Community Open Weekend at RHS Garden Rosemoor
- 4 St Piran’s Day
- 6-7 Cornwall Garden Society Show 2024 Royal Cornwall Showground
£10 advance tickets/£12 on gate
- 11 Jubilee Club – Otter Garden Centre. Pick up from Wainhouse
- 16 Lee Quinney as Elton John – Parkhouse Centre – 20.00
- 16 Scarey Conference – The Castle, Bude – 09.00-18.00
- 26-28 Launceston Youth Musical Theatre presents Shrek the Musical
– Launceston Town Hall – start time depends on day
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

POUNDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

www.poundstock-pc.gov.uk

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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 PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

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CORNWALL YOUTH CHOIR TO PERFORM AT OTTERHAM

Some of you may remember my articles about Cornwall Youth Choir in previous issues. Last year we performed at Otterham with the Boscastle Bouys. I am pleased to say that we are now returning to do another concert. If you would like to see us perform, please see page 26 for the details.

After Cornwall Youth Choir's success at the INTERKULTUR competition at Hull last year, where we won two gold diplomas and a special award, we are determined to spread the Cornish heritage of singing further. We are flying the Cornish flag on an International stage!

We have recently been singing in many concerts, including Cornwall Air Ambulance's Charity Christmas Concert and a fundraising concert for Ukraine in Truro Cathedral. Looking forward, we are attending a competition in the Bristol Music Festival in early March.

As a registered charity, we are once again raising funds to enable us to travel up country for the competition and we would be extremely grateful to anybody who wants to come and see us perform in Otterham.

Jack Knight

WATER ON THE ROADS

There has always been a problem of a pond of water on the road from A39 to Widemouth Manor. Many times workmen/council have worked to drain it properly, but fail to get the water to actually drain away. Mainly because the repairs are done when it is dry! There is the long existing pond below Widemouth Beach House/shop which occasionally silts up with sand. This one had the road closed for weeks, but failed to improve it.

Now there is a new dangerous pond below The Manor just on the corner.





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MAKING SPACE FOR SAND

If you walk along the sand dunes between Widemouth and Black Rock you will see a post with facilities to take a picture of the view and all about “Making Space for Sand”. A picture of this is shown on the front page. The post tells you how to “Become a Community Scientist” with a QR code to take you to a website. This is the link www.makingspaceforsand.co.uk

“Planting” old Christmas trees is part of this project. Over the next few issues, we hope to share how this project is progressing.

These photographs show old trees being planted and how previous years trees have allowed marram grass to grow in the sand. They also show how the Black Rock dunes are being eroded.



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JACOBSTOW GUIDING NEWS

Rainbows
1st Jacobstow

Brownies
1st Jacobstow

Guides
1st Jacobstow

November and December were busy months for Guiding in Jacobstow; as well as our usual weekly meetings we had the addition of lots of seasonal community events too, starting with the Autumn Fair at Jacobstow Parish hall where the Guides ran a Teddy Tombola and Games stall.



All the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides made decorations for one of eighty Christmas trees at the Christmas tree Festival hosted by St Mary Magdalene Church Launceston

Remembrance Service was held on the afternoon of 12th November at St Genny Church, a great turn out of Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts and Cubs with the young people taking part in the service.

The annual Christingle service was great fun with the rainbows transformed into Angels to sing Away in a manger and the Brownies sang a fantastic rendition of the Twelve "Cornish Days of Christmas"



The New year has started with the guides who are going to Our Chalet (the Guide World Center in Switzerland) in February getting in some walking training ready for all those mountain walks



If you know a young person who would enjoy getting out and about and trying new adventures, Rainbows (4-6years) Brownies (7-10 yrs) or Guides (10-15yrs) Please Call Mary, Louise or Jane and give it a go!



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OUR NIGHT SKY

February 2024

Saturn will be setting shortly after the Sun, while Jupiter continues westward until it sets in the North-west about midnight, while Orion sets about 1 am. Venus and Mars rise in the South-east shortly before the Sun, but will be lost in increasing daylight.

There are five total NASA-sponsored payloads on a spacecraft heading to the lunar surface on December 24th. It's called the Peregrine Lunar Lander, named for the fastest flying bird on Earth. If all goes to plan, the spacecraft will fly into the moon's gravitational tides, then meticulously lower its orbit until eventually touching down on a region of ancient lunar lava flows known as the Bay of Stickiness, or Sinus Viscositas.

One of the modules, "Peregrine ion trap mass spectrometer," or PITMS, will be investigating the lunar exosphere, which is a thin gaseous envelope around the moon, by using mass spectrometry. Mass spectrometry simply refers to the technique scientists use to measure the mass-to-charge ratio of ions, which are charged particles like hydrogen atoms that hold a positive proton, but no negative electron to balance the proton out.

"The science results from PITMS will aim to improve our knowledge of the abundance and behaviour of volatiles on the moon and how they respond to disturbances such as rocket exhausts.

March 2024

Jupiter will be setting about 2200 in the middle of the month, followed by Orion an hour later. Mars and Saturn will be rising in the East but will be lost in the morning sunshine.

The Hubble Space Telescope captured an image of a stellar explosion throwing out sheets of debris in the nearby Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy on July 7, 2003. Since its 1990 launch, Hubble has changed our fundamental understanding of the universe; with over 1.5 million observations and 20,000+ papers published on its discoveries, Hubble is the most productive science mission in the history of NASA.

Another image, this time of Saturn taken in 2020 by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Two of Saturn's icy moons are clearly visible and Hubble found a number of small atmospheric storms. These are transient features that appear to come and go with each yearly Hubble observation.

Cont'd p32

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GARDENING COLUMN BY THE OLD COMPOSTER

After a very unseasonable start, winter came back with a vengeance but as I write this warmer (and wetter) weather is, once again on the cards. There is apparently very little happening in gardens this time of year, but look closer and you will see that, in fact, quite a lot is already emerging ahead of 'official' spring and we have daffodils, camellias and mahonia all in flower and the bluebells are showing. These, and others I write about, are plants you can grow to encourage bees into your garden.

In the insect world too, quite a few things are active and none more so than bumblebees, which should be hibernating but, because of the climate emergency and warmer winters, are not. I don't know about you but every time I see a bumblebee my morale takes a little leap upwards. They are wonderful beasts. We have a large garden and we try to grow nectar-rich flowers all the year round. I hope the information that follows might help others with ideas for flowers that the bumblebees evidently like, particularly during the harsh winter months.

One group of plants that can flower from summer and well into autumn are the calaminths. They will provide food for the new queens before they go into hibernation. Calaminths (catmint is but one variety) are aromatic, dainty-leaved plants, with typical mint/sage/dead nettle types of flowers, white, pink or blue. They have good drought resistance, the flowers are attractive to butterflies and bees and the leaves can be dried for use in pot-pourri.

But as we move into deeper winter, it can be a tricky time for flowering plants. The ivy is still flowering in some places, and that can be a great source of pollen and nectar. Indeed the ivy bee relies on the food from ivy flowers. This species is a recent arrival to England and we had them in our garden well into winter. If you are lucky enough to be able to grow winter daffodils (*Sternbergia lutea*) in your garden then this provides excellent food for winter bees (and butterflies, many of which were still to be seen in late December). We can't grow them, our clay soil is far too wet.

Also flowering during the depths of Winter, is the cheery sight of Mahonia, a useful, very tough, shrub covered in large spiky evergreen leaves (which can be very sharp) and carrying clumps of long racemes of bright yellow flowers. Different varieties flower at slightly different times, starting in late November and carrying on until the early Spring. They are very attractive to bees, and also scented but can get quite large so should be pruned, which



Mahonia

can be done at any time of the year without damaging the plant. However the best time is soon after they finish flowering, generally March to

Cont'd p36

OUR NIGHT SKY

Cont'd from p.29

The banding in the northern hemisphere remains pronounced as seen in Hubble's 2019 observations, with several bands slightly changing colour from year to year. The ringed planet's atmosphere is mostly hydrogen and helium with traces of ammonia, methane, water vapour, and hydrocarbons that give it a yellowish-brown colour. Hubble photographed a slight reddish haze over the northern hemisphere. This may be due to heating from increased sunlight, which could either change the atmospheric circulation or perhaps remove ices from aerosols in the atmosphere. Another theory is that the increased sunlight in the summer months is changing the amounts of photochemical haze produced. Hubble's sharp view resolved the finely etched concentric ring structure. The rings are mostly made of pieces of ice, with sizes ranging from tiny grains to giant boulders. Just how and when the rings formed remains one of our solar system's biggest mysteries.

I do recommend visiting NASA's web site where you can find not only brilliant Hubble images, but also those from the James Webb telescope – a veritable feast for the eyes!

Bill Turnhill



Ed Bragg - North Cornwall

e.bragg@hotmail.co.uk 07535 938140

UPDATE FROM CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

A year of change...

Since my last update in the Packet I am pleased to report that we have completed on the purchase of the Widemouth public toilets and they now belong to the Parish. In addition, we also managed to negotiate an additional grant from Cornwall Council for the long list of improvements that we know need to be completed.

These include new double glazing throughout, repairs to the roof, new cubicles, new basins and hand dryers, a flushing system for the gents urinals (which should help get rid of the smell), assorted electrical work and some other smaller jobs.

During the coming months we will have to occasionally close the toilets for a few days at a time while the work is carried out. Obviously, these closures will be kept to a minimum and we will avoid any busy holiday times such as Easter and the summer.

Those of you who live in Widemouth will know of the continuing problems with the sewage pumping station in Madeira Drive. South West Water have acknowledged this and after a lot of survey work in the latter half of last year they are now completely replacing the pipe from Madeira Drive all the way to the Hele Bridge works.

This new sewage pipe will take a completely different route as the old route through the gardens of the houses on the North side of Madeira Drive and across the fields is no longer practical. As many of you will have already noticed, this means that Marine Drive has had to be closed and will be for some weeks while the work is carried out.

But, and this is important, Madeira Drive will not be completely closed as access will be possible for residents at all times, albeit with some inconvenience, so please drive carefully.

For anybody that missed the announcement, Cornwall Planning officers have now turned down the planning application for a crematorium on the A39 in Poundstock. Originally, they granted planning approval in November 2022 but this was overturned at a Judicial Review last autumn. The applicants do have the right to appeal but the Judge in his summing up highlighted six key reasons for his decision - a record for a Judicial Review.

Finally, this year there are some important decisions to be made about a new Community hall for Poundstock. This is a significant infrastructure project for the benefit of the whole Parish, not just your Parish Councillors (although it will be nice to have somewhere warm to meet for a change!).

There will be a series of meetings announced this year and it is important that as many of you as possible attend so we have an informed opinion on the way forward.

Meanwhile, if you have read anything here that concerns you or you would like more information please check the Parish Council website www.poundstock-pc.gov.uk where you may find the answer you are looking for or you can email us with your specific query.

Stephen Blake
Chair, Poundstock Parish Council

EXCERPTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 26th October 2023

Present: Cllrs. Stephen Blake, Michelle Carter, Max Faulkner, Eric Harris, Pamela Idelson, Jeremy Petherick, Graeme Swatton and the Clerk. Apologies: Cllrs. Steve Haynes and Tom O'Sullivan.

Planning Matters: PA23/07136 Proposed: First floor extension Penn Bos Long Park Drive Widemouth Bay Bude (PA23/01736) - No Objections. 460/23 PA23/08305 Proposed: Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of replacement agricultural storage building - Lundy View Chalet Millook Coast Road Bude (PA23/08305) - No Objections.

Traffic Calming Measure in Widemouth Bay Cllr. Chopak reported results of recent speed monitoring data: - Deployment period – 31/8/23 to 23/10/23 Max speed recorded 55mph (on the 30/9/23 @22:25pm) 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. The positioning of gateways either side of Widemouth Bay on both carriageways giving the appearance of road narrowing were discussed at length. It was unanimously RESOLVED to make an Expression of Interest for Gateways into Widemouth Bay. Traffic Calming Measures through Treskininck Cross - 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.

Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 23rd November 2023

Present: Cllrs. Stephen Blake, Michelle Carter, Max Faulkner, Eric Harris, Tom O'Sullivan, Graeme Swatton and the Clerk present. Apologies: Cllrs. Steve Haynes, Pamela Idelson. And Jeremy Petherick.

A member of the public spoke of a cherished walking trail, between Hele Bridge and Pinch Hele on land which is to be put on the open market. In response to this a group has come together, 'Friends off Hele Trail' to raise awareness and funds to secure the purchase on the land in question. He asked for the support of the Council and the Chair responded positively asking that they keep the Council informed

Planning Matters: PA23/08007 Application for Change of use from Public Worship or Religious Instruction to Residential Dwelling House. Construction of single storey extension and internal alterations Location: Dimma Methodist Church Poundstock - PA23/08007 RESOLVED - No Objections. PA23/08862 Alterations and extensions to dwelling Higher Causewell Highfield Poundstock RESOLVED - No Objections. PA23/08820 Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval: Three Dwellings (plots 1-3) The Cottage Leverlake Road Widemouth Bay RESOLVED - No Objections.

To receive an update on the progress with Cornwall Council on the Widemouth Bay oillets and consider the grant offer: The Chairman gave a summary of the grant award letter detailing the additional £12,500. The total grant offered will therefore be £37,000

EXCERPTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 23rd November 2023 cont'd

(the £25,000 of which £12,500 has already been paid, the rest to follow on completion of the transfer and the additional £12,500). On completion, the remaining grant to be paid will be £25,000. RESOLVED to accept the Grant Award

To receive written reports and authorise any action: Poundstock Ward Member's Report – a) Cornwall Councils Cabinet Committee approved a two devolution deal, which includes £500,000 to support Cornish distinctiveness. Cornwall Council has overspent by almost £15 million in the first six months of the 2023/24 financial year. The Tamar Bridge between Plymouth and Cornwall forms part of the A38 and is owned by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council, a petition asks for the bridge to be central government owned and for the tolls to be abolished, is currently under debate.

Ordinary meeting of Poundstock Parish Council held 14th December 2023

Present Cllrs. Stephen Blake, Steve Haynes, Michelle Carter, Max Faulkner, Eric Harris, Tom O'Sullivan, Jeremy Petherick, Graeme Swatton and the Clerk present. Apologies: Cllr. Pamela Idelson

Planning Matters: PA23/09255: 3 Bedroom Dwelling following the Demolition of the Existing Dwelling House and Conservatory Location: 15 Atlantic Close Widemouth Bay Unanimously RESOLVED to object with various comments. PA23/06490: Relocation of existing wind turbine. Construction of an overflow car park, panel tennis court and the creation of an outdoor event space. Change of use of land for the siting of 68 additional holiday lodges Location: Whalesborough Farm, Marhamchurch EX23 0HD - RESOLVED to respond as the adjoining parish, being particularly concerned about the direct impact on our community, to ensure the well-being of our residents and environment, directly impacted by the proposed holiday lodge development, echoing the views of our wider community as follows: 1. Overdevelopment 2. Traffic Issues. 3. Sewage System Overload. 4. Light Pollution. 5. Noise Pollution. 6. Environmental Impact and Loss of Farmland. 6. Visibility Concerns. 7. Impact on Existing Businesses. 8. Economic Impact Assessment.

Update on Widemouth Bay toilets: - The Chair officially declared that the ownership of the public toilets has been transferred to the Parish Council.

To approve quote and appoint architects for the new hall for Poundstock. unanimously RESOLVED to defer to the next meeting.

Discuss condition of tombs in the closed Churchyard: - Cllr. Eric Harris, the portfolio holder for the churchyard reported on two ancient chest tombs with slate tops, noting that one of the tombs could not be located. Cllr. Harris to collaborate with the clerk to review the listing, locate the missing tomb, and assess any immediate safety concerns, recommending emergency remedial work if needed

GARDENING COLUMN BY THE OLD COMPOSTER

Cont'd from p.31

April time. This will give them the best chance of producing flowers later in the year.

This year, some of the salvias survived in a sheltered spot and are still undamaged so they provided nectar for some busy late queens, particularly the tree bumblebee and buff-tailed bumblebee. February is a difficult month, but the winter-flowering cherry should still have



blossom, and the Hellebores (of which the Christmas rose is one) are in full bloom and what an amazing sight they are. The really essential winter (non climbing) honeysuckle (*Lonicera x purpusii*) provides fresh flowers and nectar for all manner of bees well into the spring – if you have a large specimen of it, it is worth picking a small branch and bringing indoors for its wonderful perfume. The first crocuses, snowdrops and aconites may be flowering and the bees like these, as well as the winter iris (*Iris unguicularis*). Winter-flowering clematis (*Clematis cirrhosa*) are adept climbers and the flowers are loved by bees. This sturdy plant is very resistant and

Hellebores

can be a great choice for a beginner or amateur gardener. Try to plant this close to your home to enjoy its stunning scent. Much like winter honeysuckle, this will provide a suitable forage source for bees and pollinators through the colder months.

If you have heavy clay soil, like us, do absolutely nothing to it, that's right – nothing! Probably the only time you'll be told to do nothing in the garden. The soil will be too cold and wet to plant anything and impossible to dig; if you walk on it, it will get compacted and more difficult to deal with in the spring. However there are other jobs in the garden that can be done, indeed must be done at this time of the year and none more important than pruning. Pruning mature fruit trees – apples and pears – so as to maintain their shape as well as keep them healthy and productive should be done now when the trees are dormant. The first pruning principle is the three Ds: take time to examine your tree and remove any branches that are dead, diseased or damaged. If you are unsure about pruning look on the internet where you will find some very useful instructions.


Happy Gardening


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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 April/May edition is 18th March.

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

We saw out Jacobstow WI's 85th year with our traditional Christmas Party - hot fruit punch, a lovely festive spread of food, a Quiz and games.

After a rousing rendition of a Cornish version of the Twelve Days of Christmas, we enjoyed singing lots of Carols and exchanged Secret Santa gifts. A good variety of foods was also collected and donated to the Bude Food Bank.



2024

To start the New Year we enjoyed an excellent talk by Toni Martin on Army Life from a female perspective. Toni served in the Logistics Regiment of the British Army for more than 20 years and following her training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, she served in a wide variety of roles in locations across the world. For her work in designing and delivering a new course of training for those working in operational support roles, she was awarded the MBE. We had a fascinating insight into Service life and the challenges and opportunities it offers.

Resolutions Members were asked to vote for their preferred Resolution for 2024. This year the shortlisted topics cover:

Dental Health Matters - to address the shortage of NHS dentists and review NHS Contracts to ensure access to all

Impacts of poor housing conditions - to increase affordable housing and to improve standards of available housing

Say 'no' to gambling advertising - to tackle the increase in gambling issues which currently cause around 400 suicides per year

Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System - to reform the criminal justice system, particularly in respect of pregnant women and those with children and to reduce the number of women who have committed non-violent crimes from being imprisoned.

Looking ahead:

February 8th Talk from a WI County Climate Ambassador
April 11th Annual General Meeting



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