



**FREE magazine**  
**Issue 61**  
**Spring 2026**



**Tywardreath Church**

**Photo by Karen Trace**

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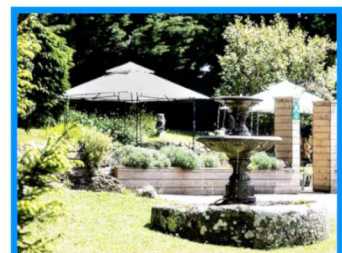
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What's on  
this spring



**Cornish Units exhibition**  
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**Spring nature walks**  
Guided walks around the 26-acre historic grounds



**Easter holidays**  
Easter egg hunt and creative activities and workshops



**Creative workshops**  
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Hello and welcome to all our readers as we step into Spring!

PL24 Community Association (PL24CA) welcomes everyone who loves this area.

Our aims are simple:

- a) To promote community cohesion in the PL24 area by operating as an 'umbrella group', offering a forum for discussion and a focal point for the community through the PL24 Community Association Magazine, Website and Facebook group.
- b) To foster inclusivity.
- c) To contribute to efforts to help improve the quality of life of those living within the PL24 area.

Membership is free to anyone who shares our values and we never share your personal details nor do we bombard you with emails!

Find out more on our new website at:

[pl24community.org.uk](http://pl24community.org.uk)

You can see what volunteers have been up to and read the magazine online – maybe mention it to friends and relatives who live elsewhere? We showcase all that is great about this area and Jo has already started putting on poems and photos sent in by our brilliant contributors.

New volunteers are joining us all the time. Thank you to those who have offered to help whenever they can with everything from litter picks on an occasional basis to delivering magazines, making magazine boxes and putting in funding applications. Printing costs for the magazine are covered by paid advertising from our wonderful local businesses, so we are delighted to welcome Daph who is joining John in dealing with all things advertising related.

We are also interested in your ideas for improving the area. Look out for us as we pop up in various places, seeking your views. When we act as one, we can change things!

Access for All at Par Station was one of the things we lobbied for, with many local people sending in emails of support. So, it is good to see that the Mid Cornwall Metro works are already underway. More information is available at: <https://midcornwallmetro.com/>

If you would like to join us, email [pl24community@gmail.com](mailto:pl24community@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

### **The Magazine Team**

Daph Appleton, Advertising and  
John Elkington, Page Setting

[pl24business@gmail.com](mailto:pl24business@gmail.com)

Alison, Secretary [pl24magazine@gmail.com](mailto:pl24magazine@gmail.com)

Proof-readers, Liz Meades, Val Stone,  
Rosemary Jephcote

### **Help urgently needed!**

#### **Litter Picks 2026**

Everyone is welcome to join our litter picks, 10am to 12 noon. Just bring along a pair of gloves and we provide the rest.

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the Burrows Centre, meet at the car park, PL24 2DD

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April at Par and Tywardreath, meet outside Cornubia on Eastcliffe Road, PL24 2AH

Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at Co-op, St Blazey, meet at the car park, PL24 2JH

#### **Could you help out occasionally by**

- transporting equipment from the storage facility at the Wetlands Reserve to the litter pick venue and returning it back afterwards?
- organising the occasional litter pick at a time convenient to you? Sandra will do the admin, and help organise it in advance, but we need 2 volunteers to run each litter pick on the day.

Contact Sandra at [pl24events@gmail.com](mailto:pl24events@gmail.com) for further information and to be added to our contact list for reminders of upcoming litter picks. Thank you!

## News from St Andrew's, Tywardreath with Tregaminion

The streams are in full flow, the snowdrops and crocuses (or croci if you prefer) are looking pretty and everywhere is recovering from the effects of the strong winds that have swept through. The tree that came down in the church grounds thankfully fell in a way that did not cause serious damage, and we are waiting for Cornwall Council to clear it in due course. Our church grounds are designated as a Living Churchyard which means it is given a light touch with managing the growth in order to allow wildlife to flourish in a more natural state. This can mean some brambles growing where you might be wishing to tend graves, so please do bring your secateurs and some sturdy gloves. We are very thankful for the volunteers (the Green Team) who meet regularly to maintain the upper areas of the church grounds and ensure everything looks neat and tidy. If you would like to join the team, they are a friendly bunch who would welcome your support.

I have recently been licensed as the Priest in Charge of Fowey church alongside my existing role here in Tywardreath and Golant. It is anticipated that the three parishes will be working more closely in the years ahead and it is expected that this will become a formal grouping known as a Benefice later this year. I am very much looking forward to all the possibilities that lie ahead for the three parishes and am very grateful to the many people who offer support, often unseen, to ensure that our churches continue to be open daily as a place of welcome for all who visit. In the book of Revelation we read "Come! Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." This is an invitation to everyone, and you are welcome to explore with us what it means to accept the free gift of the water of life as we follow Jesus.

Every blessing  
Shona

Revd Shona Hoad contact information

Tel: 07476 900623 Email:

[shona@tandgchurches.uk](mailto:shona@tandgchurches.uk)

[www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk](http://www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk)

### **Tywardreath Tots at St Andrew's for 0-4s with their carers**

Every Monday in church 10am – 11.30am in term time.

Free play, story time, singing and healthy snack. £1 per family. We look forward to seeing you!

### **Upcoming Services** – please join us.

Everyone welcome.

### **St Andrew's is open daily (10am to 3pm approx.)**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am Usually Service of Holy Communion with choir

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am

Family service with contemporary worship, crafts and coffee. Come for half an hour or an hour and a half!

Mothering Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10am

Family Service with posies of flowers, crafts and coffee. Join us and our friends from Well Street Chapel as we mark this special day.

### **Easter services**

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2pm The Hour at the Cross in Tywardreath (Good Friday)

Easter Sunday 11am

Celebration service of Holy Communion with Easter Egg hunt

### **Tregaminion – usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month at 10am (note Easter exception)**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 10am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10am Easter Sunday reflective Morning Worship

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10am BCP Holy Communion

All are welcome to this small and friendly gathering. Parking and wheelchair accessible but please note we have no facilities available as there is no water supply.

## Fourways Charity and the work of Kernow Youth

You may know about the wonderful work that Kernow Youth carries out in the local area offering opportunities and support to local young people. Many of these young people are vulnerable and seeking a particular type of support which cannot be found from the local authority or via other networks. For many years, this youth work was carried out by Cornwall Council with the support of a management committee – Fourways, which was named after the venue where the bulk of their work was carried out. When Cornwall Council stopped its youth service provision in 2015 Kernow Youth CIC was established and the Fourways charity continued to sit in the background providing support, stability and enabling accountability for those carrying out the main function with the local youngsters.

It has been an exciting season of growth and development for Kernow Youth. Over the years, they have taken increasing responsibility for themselves and raising the important funding that they need. It has been so successful in what it does that it no longer requires the background support of Fourways Charity. The trustees of Fourways are now looking to disband the charity and hand over all its remaining finances to Kernow Youth to be used for the ongoing work. The constitution requires a formal meeting to confirm the decision the trustees have taken.

To that end, an **Extraordinary General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 18th March at 7pm at the St Blazey Family Hub (formerly Fourways). Interested parties are welcome to attend.

Shona Hoad  
Chair, Fourways committee  
Email: [shona@tandgchurches.uk](mailto:shona@tandgchurches.uk)

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## Friends of St Andrew's Wetlands Reserve (FoSAWR)

### Woodlands and healthy seas: how they're more connected than you think

Ever wondered what links **St Andrews Wetland Reserve** with the sea life off **Par Beach**? You may be surprised to find that healthy woodlands are an important source of a vital element that keeps our marine ecosystems thriving – it's called fulvic acid. Fulvic acid forms when leaves, fallen branches, and even animals break down in the soil, thanks to the hard work of microbes. Because it dissolves easily in water, it travels through groundwater, into rivers and streams, and eventually flows out to sea.

Why does this matter? Fulvic acid helps plankton absorb iron more easily, allowing them to grow faster. And since plankton are the foundation of ocean food chains, more plankton means more life in our seas — from tiny molluscs to fish, seals, and even whales.

### The importance of healthy woodlands

For this natural cycle to continue, our woodlands need a steady supply of organic material returning to the soil. A healthy woodland should have **a quarter to a third of** its volume made up of dead wood, both standing and fallen, as well as felled. Different species rely on these habitats at different times; woodpeckers and nuthatches forage on standing dead trunks, while willow tits use them to create nesting holes. This is why it is so important that any trees that fall in our woodlands are allowed to stay and return to the cycle of growth and decay, rather than being taken away and burnt.

Once a tree falls, it slowly decomposes and becomes a crucial food source for fungi and minibeasts, which then support hedgehogs, frogs, birds, and more. Even the compounds produced by microscopic organisms eventually make their way to the sea, helping sustain marine ecosystems.

### After the Storms

Winter storms can leave woodlands looking battered, and it's natural to feel saddened by

the damage. But fallen and damaged trees, and timber from felled trees, continue to play a vital role in supporting wildlife. Over time, new saplings will rise to fill the spaces left behind, reaching for the light and becoming the next generation of woodland giants.

Would you like to support the Friends of St Andrew's Wetlands Reserve? You can join our Facebook Group for free and, even better, you can become a paid-up Supporter. It costs only £5 per year for an individual and £8 for a family at the same address; in this way you can help us to look after the reserve, improve access so that all can enjoy the benefits of spending time in nature and pay for the necessary insurance and equipment.

In return you will be able to gain free entry to activities run by the Friends, have your say in plans for improvements and activities at the reserve at our AGM or other opportunities, receive by email news and notifications for our events and members newsletters as and when appropriate, find out more about wildlife on the site and feel good about helping nature and the wellbeing of our community!

Please, preferably, contact us on **info.fosawr@gmail.com** and we can send you an application form to join, or if unable to email, call John on 07990 862783.

Best wishes to all  
John, Becky, Marianne and Clive  
FoSWR Committee



Volunteers after cutting back vegetation and building a dead hedge by the path around the meadow in January



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## The 2026 Wassail

The sun shone brightly and the cider flowed at the third Tywardreath and Par Wassail, the popular community event organised by ISOT (In Search of Tywardreath) our local history and archaeology group.

The event kicked off at the Ship Inn, Polmear where a steadily growing and highly appreciative crowd were entertained by some top quality Morris dancing provided by our own Tywardreath and the high octane Catseye Morris groups. This year the audience were invited to come and join in with a hand clapping dance called 'the Shepherd's Hey' led by Tywardreath's Ronnie.

After about 45 minutes of dancing, the crowd moved around to the back garden of the pub where there are some venerable apple trees that have been exceptionally prolific since we've been wassailing them. Two wassail songs and a chant were led by the Mistletoe Woman and our wonderful musicians (several of whom hadn't seen the tunes in advance - oops) before a young volunteer from the audience poured cider onto the tree roots. We concluded our festivities at the Ship with a lively Cornish serpent dance ably led by Ian that sinuously meandered and twisted its way around the beer garden with almost everyone present joining in. Thanks to Kathy & Mick for hosting us again.

We then all formed up outside the front of the pub with the musicians in the lead and set off to process up Tywardreath Hill and through the Polmear housing estate where many residents came out to watch us go past. Then the magic happened as we emerged into the orchard as the last rays of the setting sun shone on the steely grey waters of the Bay. The orchard is a magical little spot, hidden away and not widely known about, with such wonderful sweeping views out to sea. This year we were so lucky to avoid the dreadful storm of two days before and the Cornish mizzle that has followed since.



We were unable to access the old playground as some large trees had blown over but everyone was able to get a cup of mulled apple juice to toast the trees and stand by the roaring fire – both made by Mike. After singing and chanting to the trees, a great noise was made by all present to drive away any 'evil spirits' from the trees, and another serpent dance was led by Nina before finally toast dipped in cider was hung on the trees.

After this, all that remained was for the main characters to pose for some photographs. The 'Apple Tree Man' costume had been improved this year by Chris who was also under 'Oakley' the 'Dartmoor Grey Mare' a Mari Lloyd character that used to be common at Wassails. Next year we would like to invite any other costumed characters to come and join us. Tired and thirsty we all repaired to the Ship for a drink a chat and a little more music.

**David Quoroll**

## Imerys adds 21 miles to the Clay Trails!

Thanks to ongoing land restoration around the clay villages in mid-Cornwall, Imerys is launching an updated footpath leaflet for 2026, with an additional 21 miles of new permissive pathways added.

Mark Hewson, who leads Imerys in the UK explained: 'We know that access to land which is no longer actively mined is important to local people and we have been working hard to increase this access safely alongside operational kaolin pits and processing sites. We're proud to say that we now manage in total 38 miles of permissive paths, with 21 miles added in 2025 and another 5 miles to come over the next couple of years!

The trails are mixed use - they can be used by walkers, cyclists or horse riders, except in a few cases - and footpaths are for walkers only. So, we advise people to check this new leaflet before they set off. We also respectfully ask people not to stray from the paths and trails, as trespassing can be extremely dangerous, due to the presence of active mining alongside these areas.'

The leaflet includes three maps which cover the Blackpool Trail, St Stephen to Indian Queens and the Clay Trails. The Clay Trails were opened in 2005, and a total of 6 miles of this network is now on Imerys land. The routes give access to the dramatic scenery of the 'Cornish Alps', which provide an array of habitats for an impressive biodiversity of plant and animal life, alongside both historical and modern day china clay mining features.

The leaflet is available on Imerys' UK webpage - click [here](#) to view it. Paper versions are also available from Imerys head office on Par Moor Rd. To request copies, email [imlcomms@imerys.com](mailto:imlcomms@imerys.com).

### Did you know?

Imerys runs a volunteer partnership scheme which offers support to organisations. Get in touch with [dan.cocker@imerys.com](mailto:dan.cocker@imerys.com) to find out how your charity or group could benefit.

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## Fowey Grammar School Foundation

### Supporting Local Young People and Keeping the Garden Open

The Trustees of the Fowey Grammar School Foundation are pleased to share an update on the Old Grammar School Garden and our broader work supporting the education of young people in the Fowey area.

For those less familiar with the charity, the Foundation is a long-standing educational trust. We manage assets, including investment funds and property, to provide financial support for the education and development of young people from Fowey and the surrounding area. The Old Grammar School Garden is one such asset.

Earlier this year, the Town Council's lease on the Garden came to an end. Throughout that process, many residents expressed their wish for the space to remain open and accessible. We listened. Despite the lease ending and no new tenant in place, the Foundation stepped in to take on direct responsibility for the site and confirmed that the Garden would remain open to the public.

We are pleased that the Garden continues to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, and we want that to continue. To help maintain the site safely and to a high standard, we have appointed a local landscape gardener to care for the site on a regular schedule.

As with any property, this brings ongoing costs. Since the Foundation took back responsibility, the Garden has received just £135 in donations via the QR code and online link. We are grateful for every contribution, but this level of support is not yet enough to cover routine maintenance. If you enjoy the Garden and would like to help look after it, donations can be made at:

[www.foweygrammarschoolfoundation.org/garden-donations](http://www.foweygrammarschoolfoundation.org/garden-donations)

In addition to day-to-day maintenance, we are currently exploring the feasibility of connecting water, electricity, and broadband

to the site. This would help assess whether the Garden could support a small, community-facing concession or social enterprise capable of generating sustainable income while preserving its public character. We remain open to other creative ideas that could help the Garden contribute to our charitable work, and we will keep the community updated as this exploration develops.

Meanwhile, the Foundation continues to deliver on its core purpose. At our most recent board meeting, the Trustees awarded **£46,600** in grants to **65 local young people**, enabling access to university and vocational courses, educational travel, training, and specialist equipment. We also continue to provide direct support to both Fowey Primary School and Fowey River Academy. These grants make a real difference to local families, and they remain at the heart of every decision the Foundation makes. Ensuring that our assets — including the Garden — are managed responsibly helps us continue and expand this support for future generations.

We are grateful to all those who have engaged constructively with the Foundation's work and who share our commitment to both preserving valued spaces and investing in the aspirations of young people.

The Trustees  
Fowey Grammar School Foundation



The poster features a background image of a group of people looking at a document. The text is as follows:

**coeliac uk**  
live well gluten free

**LOCAL MEET UP**

**When:** Saturday 14/03/2026 between 10:00 and 11:30  
Also on the 11/04/2026, 09/05/2026 & 13/06/2026

**Where:** Par Garden Centre  
Par Moor Road, Par, PL24 2SQ

**Contact:** [Volunteering@coeliac.org.uk](mailto:Volunteering@coeliac.org.uk)

\*Under 18s should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## The Royal British Legion (RBL)

The Royal British Legion Tywardreath Branch meets once a month in the New Inn. We are pleased to say that our membership is growing, but we are always happy to welcome more new members.

In recognition of his sterling efforts in support of Royal British Legion Ceremonial duties, the Bernard Hitchens Trophy was awarded to Mike Philp, Standard Bearer of the Tywardreath Branch. Mike took over from Dave Stephens in 2006, and the photograph shows the Lord Lieutenant presenting him with the trophy.



At the last meeting, the following items were discussed:

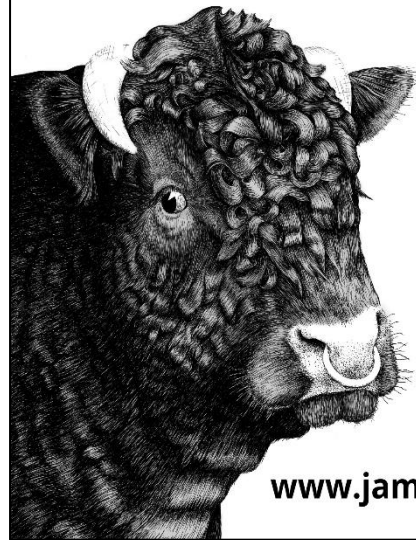
- the setting up of a Facebook page for RBL.
- Mark Bardsley, the County Chairman, reported the approval by the Lord Lieutenant of an Armed Forces Day in St Austell on Saturday 20th June. More details will be provided later.
- an invitation from the St Blazey Railway Club for horse racing on Friday 20th February and Bingo on Wednesday 25th March in aid of the Local Sea Cadets.
- we are also aiming to raise funds for a new Standard for the branch and any gifts towards this would be very welcome.

The next monthly meeting will be Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm in the New Inn.  
Warren Nicholls, President

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## Our Ukrainian Guests

In spring 2022, war in Ukraine started and the plea went out to open homes to guests. We wanted to help. It was hard with nothing officially organised, scrabbling to understand rules and bureaucracy, let alone trying to connect with Ukrainians. Eventually turning to Facebook I had 60 requests in one day. It was overwhelming. Quickly a group formed in St Austell, sharing knowledge and supporting each other in the process.

April 2022 we linked with Elena (Lena) Rozhkova from Karkhiv in eastern Ukraine. She and her husband Dima run a gastropub and cheese creamery but Lena wanted to leave with her five year old, Demyd. We put things in motion.



I remember nervously waiting at St Austell station for their train and seeing this slender figure in a bright yellow raincoat disembark holding her young son's hand, a huge smile on her face. Unexpectedly I teared up, feeling my heart fill with love.

The next weeks were a whirlwind, getting Demyd into school just two days after he arrived when he didn't even understand English. What a lot for a five year old to deal with. Our community was amazing, offering school uniforms, stationery, toiletries, clothes etc. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of St Blazey people and it helped us enormously.

Now, nearly four years on, Dima (her husband) has joined Lena and Demyd (due to medical discharge Dima's not eligible to fight) and they have settled into life in Cornwall.

Whilst Lena held a high powered managerial/business owner position in Ukraine, she currently works waitressing in St Austell (Smorgers) and in Bodmin at the council offices. She never complains. In the meantime, she and Dima continue trying to run their two businesses in Ukraine remotely, keeping the gastropub ticking over and cheese producing, still distributing across the country.

Dima is also beginning to establish a cheese production business in Cornwall. Called True Dairy, he focuses on sourcing high quality ingredients and making delicious cheeses. Currently concentrating on halloumi, feta and stratiacelli (stringy mozzarella used on pizza), we think they are the only Cornish producers of these cheeses. His determination is incredible, despite the hurdles of health and safety, milk suppliers and places to sell the cheese. Our greatest desire is to see their business flourish and find markets that will build it into a thriving income stream. (If any commercial restaurants etc are interested in the cheeses do contact them directly at [Elena\\_Rozhkova@ukr.net](mailto:Elena_Rozhkova@ukr.net)).

As well as the Rozkhov family we now provide homes for two other Ukrainian families and love all our international friends across Cornwall. It has been the most enriching decision for us and I wanted to extend my thanks publicly to our community for their support especially in those first turbulent months. Thank you.

Kathy (& Philip) Laity



Thank you to  
**Imerys and**  
**IMERY'S Pegasus Printers**  
**St Blazey**



for their ongoing support

### Tywardreath and Par Parish Council

**Devolution:** We are still waiting for the transfer of Vine Place and Polmear Orchard. It's getting very close now, so some decisions will be made soon on the detail of where we are going. To express an interest in using the old toilet block, please contact the clerk.

**Toilets at Par Beach:** The space next to the toilets at Par Beach will be available soon. If you would like to rent it from the council, please ask us for more details.

**Tywardreath Hill:** I was disappointed to receive a road closure extension until March. Progress is being made, so I do expect it will be completed before long.

**Works at Par Beach:** Some residents were concerned about the recent work at the beach. Cornwall Council has promised more communication in advance of future work.

**Allotments:** If anyone would like an allotment, please express an interest to the clerk. We currently don't have a waiting list.

**Flood Wardens:** We have just adopted our new emergency plan. This is on our website. We are looking for extra flood wardens. If you can help, please let the clerk know. Training is done by Cornwall Community Flood Forum.

**Priority Service Register:** All the utilities encourage vulnerable residents to register for additional help in the event of an outage. If you think this could apply to you, it's worth checking out on their websites as it could help you get additional support. There is a free one-stop Priority Services Register (PSR) at: [www.thepsr.co.uk/](http://www.thepsr.co.uk/). You can update your PSR request and they tell your energy supplier (the company you pay your bills to) and your electricity, gas and water suppliers. They always follow privacy laws and they never use your information for marketing.

### Potholes:

The recent bad weather has increased the number of potholes in the roads. Please report any you come across on Cornwall Council website.

Caroline Wildish, Chair



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[www.middlewaymobility.co.uk](http://www.middlewaymobility.co.uk)  
Unit 2, Middleway Road, St Blazey,  
PL24 2JH**

## Cornwall Community Flood Forum (CCFF)

If you are worried about flooding, whether that's at home, in your community or just in general, Cornwall Community Flood Forum are here to support you. CCFF is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation made up of over 210 members, many of whom have experienced flooding first-hand.

Our charity aims to support communities to become better prepared for and more resilient to flooding, primarily through writing Community Flood and Emergency Plans. These documents detail how the community might respond to various emergency events, key contact numbers, as well as locations of Community Emergency Hubs. Community Flood Plans also contain a list of community volunteers, including Flood Wardens.



The Forum, with support from the Environment Agency and Cornwall Council Emergency Management also helps to deliver Community Volunteer Flood Warden Training. This covers modules like understanding flood risk, the role of emergency services as well as the role of a volunteer flood warden. CCFF also facilitate live exercises to help test these plans and the volunteers!

Want to find out more? Contact a member of the CCFF team today via our website!  
[www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk/](http://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk/)

## Badger Wood

The early burley of the dawn chorus  
Signals the wake up of the day without alarm  
The mild rural rustle and bustle whispers  
In the treetops, the branches sway with the breeze

Tree trunks resolute reassured by their roots  
Cluster at random reaching up to the heavens  
Their soulful demeanour, protected by bark  
That never bites, a sentry for nature's haven

Leaves celebrate the sun's daily vigil  
Whilst the nocturnal sleep with a snuffle  
Full sett resting from their excavations  
Huddled muddle, amongst the bluebell bedding

Tunnels multiplexes with numerous escape exits



Brock badged as a threat to farmers' livestock  
Black sheep of the mustelid clan hedge their bets  
Scent secrets secreted, a warning signal to kin

Nature's day shift passes whilst they dream  
Of dinner in the dark a midnight feast of morsels

Opportunistic Omnivores forage for earthworms

Staple supplemented, by hedgehogs, grubs and berries

Woodland lords of the manor, groomed to patrol

Pause to sniff for ambush before they emerge  
From the underground to trails in the undergrowth

Natures dapper nightshift scout Badger Wood

Jon Best

## St Blaise Town Council

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas. This year's Carol Concert was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December which went very well and I hope that those of you that attended enjoyed it as much as I did.

We have all endured a difficult time recently due to the storms. The Council had a lot of damage in King Edward Gardens from Storm Gorette as a tree came down and damaged two others. I want to thank our Wardens, Richard Heyward, Simon from All Connections Electrical and Marcus Ankers for their sterling work. Storm Chandra followed causing flooding, and again I want to thank all those involved with the clear up.

I am so sorry that so many of you were without electric following Storm Gorette as this lasted for many more than 48 hours. I was one of them.

As the ground was so wet unfortunately, we had to close Trailblazer Park for a time due to safety concerns. However, I hope the wet weather doesn't mean we will have to close again, especially as half term approaches.

As you may know, our Deputy Mayor, Anthony Billings, has worked on a new Emergency Plan which will now need updating as we did not consider extended power cuts.

Cornwall Council have announced Six **new priorities and three principles.**

### **Priorities**

- Strong, safe, vibrant communities with more decent and affordable homes.
- A clean, green Cornwall with healthy rivers and seas.
- A resilient economy creating good growth and jobs.
- A caring place for families where children build a bright future.
- Supporting people to live healthy and dignified lives.
- Connected, safe, reliable roads and transport.

### **Principles**

- Leading courageously, putting people first with common sense decision making.
- Spending every pound wisely, caring for the very young to the very old.
- Listening to communities and celebrating Cornwall's unique history, culture and natural environment.

If you would like to make a comment on these please let the Clerk know.

We continue to hold a Councillors' Surgery on the first Saturday of each month at St Blazey Community Rooms between 10am and 11am and another between 11am and Noon at Alexander Hall. Come and discuss local issues that may be affecting you. No appointment necessary.

Finally, I attended a presentation at M Power Kernow where three young men received their certificates of training completed. A lot of good work is carried out by Duncan Mitchell and his team for the young in our area.

**Mayor - Tony Nethercott**



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or gillbutler1@gmail.com**

## Heavy Transport Bowling Club

Apparently so far this year it's been a little bit wet, not sure we had noticed... Fingers crossed that if it rains 100 days in a year, we've had those 100 and they'll be none left to put a damper on the upcoming bowls season - well maybe the odd day just to keep the green in good condition.

We've been as busy as ever in the off season (in between the showers) preparing the green, rebuilding the surrounds to the green, tidying up the gardens, putting plans together to provide a long term future for the club, and several members have been keeping their hands in playing indoors over the winter..

So, are you looking for a new challenge? Have the knees said this has to be last football/rugby/hockey season? Something for the entire family to do together? Just retired and need something new to fill the days? Want to get out and meet new people? Need a bit of help to reach those 10,000 steps a day? Then bowls is the sport for you. It's a great sport for all ages and abilities, keeping you active physically, mentally and socially.

Do you run a company locally? Would you like to sponsor or advertise with us? If so, we have space around the green for more advertising boards which will be seen by hundreds of people throughout the season. Or perhaps you're looking for something different to do for a corporate event or team building. These are some of the things that we would love to explore with you and see where we can work together and boost local companies.

If you are interested in coming along and giving it a try, we would love to have you along, so please get in contact and we can let you know more. Our opening day for the new season is 11<sup>th</sup> April from 1:30pm at our clubhouse on Cypress Avenue, just off Par Moor Road. But if you can't make it then, don't worry. Please get in contact and we can arrange for you to come down and give it a try at a more convenient time.

We are looking forward to our new season, renewing friendships, and making new ones as you come along, and remember we may sound like lorry drivers but no driving skills are necessary, nor is any connection to Imerys.

James Wombwell

**For more information contact:**

[facebook.com/heavytransportbowlingclub/](https://www.facebook.com/heavytransportbowlingclub/) or via email [heavytransportbowls@gmail.com](mailto:heavytransportbowls@gmail.com), or call James on 07976 322331

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## St Blaise Feast and Fete

St Blaise Feast and Fete committee would like to say **a massive thank you** to all those involved with this year's lantern parade and church service. Thanks to Ian Dingle for lending us Par Carnival's Road Closure Signs; to St Blaise Town Council for lending us King Edward Gardens; to Truro City Of Lights for bringing their saint lantern down; to Prodigal UPG for bringing stilt walkers and adding to our spectacle; to the Horners for leading our parade. Thank you to all the Scouts and Guides leaders, and other youth group leaders for bringing their groups and their lanterns to the parade; to the volunteers for helping us close the road and to the two gentlemen who stepped in at the very last minute to help carry the saint to the church.

Some of you may have noticed that this year we didn't hold our usual Craft and Textile fairs which had been a big part of our celebrations in the past years, as well as a big contribution to our fundraising efforts. Unfortunately, our committee has very much missed the contribution of our retired members. If you also missed these fairs, or you'd more generally like to help us with our goal of celebrating St Blazey, then please consider joining our group and pitching in.

With fundraising in mind, we also hope to hold a prize bingo event this year so please keep an eye in the usual places for announcements about this.

Ryan Chamberlain [councillorryan@gmail.com](mailto:councillorryan@gmail.com)

Thank goodness we had a good programme of winter talks this year as the persistent rain and storms put paid to several planned outdoor work parties! From the first talk by Cornwall Wildlife Trust's head of marine, Dr Dan Barrios-O'Neill at the Creation Works in November, through to Justin Hean's talk about the effects of our polluted rivers on St Austell Bay Seagrass beds, to a Tor-to-Shore update from Dr Gwen Maggs and an overview of water quality monitoring from Roger Smith in February, we have learnt loads! Each talk was attended by 25-40 people, and we are now heading for our final two talks on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Gott Hall.**

*Volunteering at the National Lobster Hatchery* by Sally Cuthbertson, plus *volunteering with a local seagrass and kelp snorkel survey group* by Janet McKay and Zac Harris. **Doors open at 6.30pm and talks start at 7pm.** Talks are free for members, £4 for non-members. New faces always welcome! If you'd like to join, your £5 membership helps support these wonderful activities (£8 for couples / families).

[www.parbeach.com/membership.php](http://www.parbeach.com/membership.php)

There were a couple of fine days (no, really, there were!!) so we could get volunteers together to remove fallen branches and a fallen tree in November, and we participated in our first Royal Horticultural Society's National New Year's Flowering Plant Hunt with Dan Ryan on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

February means 'Love Your Beach' activities for all marine groups around Cornwall involved in the Your Shore Network. We hosted a beach clean to continue removing storm debris and welcomed 'Action Nan' Pat Smith, from Charlestown and created some more great sand art!

Our work continues with site owners, Cornwall Council, the site rangers from Cormac and the Making Space for Sand team on managing Par dunes, helping to encourage native dune plants and remove fast-growing invasive species.



As the dunes form part of natural defences against flooding, their continued healthy growth and movement is important. Read more here: [www.makingspaceforsand.co.uk](http://www.makingspaceforsand.co.uk)

and on our two information boards on the dunes.

There will be planting sessions and training opportunities funded by the Buglife Invertebrate charity to learn how to undertake surveys to monitor new growth and start monitoring butterflies on the site. Look out for more information in March!



In the Spring, we'll be back to our usual 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month work parties from 10.30am-12.30pm. We're also planning another **Easter Rubbing Posts Nature Trail for families on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 11.30am-13.30pm with prizes for all participants** and a chance for children and adults to navigate round the whole site looking for the rubbing posts. Thanks so much to everyone who helps support Friends of Par Beach.

Jenny Tagney, Chair, FoPB

### Path Closure Notice

Cormac has works programmed from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 on the public footpath between the Ship Inn and the Par Sands Holiday Park. The path will be closed during the works, which are expected to last for 4 weeks. These are resurfacing works to address issues with drainage and root damage. A gate is also scheduled to be replaced with bollards. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and aim to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction period.

Chris Bond, Cormac Site Ranger

## Imerys Mid Cornwall Male Choir

The whole of PL24 will still be reeling from the news that Neil Diamond has cancelled his world tour, due to start at the Eden Project in March. However, all is not lost, Diamond fans. Our choir often weaves 'Sweet Caroline' into its programme, and it provokes a joyous audience reaction every time! Come and join in singing the 'so goods' with us some time!



The choir singing at the St Dennis VE Day commemoration (picture Trevor Rabey)

Christmas was a busy season for the Choir, as always. We sang at St Stephen with Imerys Ladies Choir, at St Denys parish church for their Christmas Tree Festival, at St Dennis Working Men's Club for the local Women's Institute branch, and again with the famous St Dennis Band at a charity concert for Cancer Research just a week before Christmas.

In the short seasonal break that followed, we were hit by the very sad news of the loss of our long-time accompanist, Dr Marlene Bowden, who had supported us since our foundation in 2008. She had retired through ill-health a year ago and battled back to some degree, but despite the support of a number of friends, her recovery was only temporary. At the time of writing the choir is keen to pay tribute at her memorial service in Fowey parish church on 19<sup>th</sup> February. She will be missed by many people in the area.

Our new season of concerts begins with the inaugural Kevrennow Cornish-Welsh Festival organised by Exeter University's Institute of

Cornish Studies at St Austell parish church at 7:30 pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, where we will represent the Cornish harmony tradition. April sees a regular concert in Trewoon which usually launches our new year programme, and in May we will be singing in a bi-annual event, a concert of the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, we have a new engagement, joining the ladies of the newly relaunched group Kowethas in Harmony at St Elwyn's church, Hayle. All this leads on to a busy programme once the tourist season gets under way, including some singing out of doors which will introduce visitors to the music the Cornish love.

Now is the time of year when we are taking on some new songs, and it is an ideal time to take on new singers. We have vacancies in all sections, tenor, baritone and bass, and for newcomers to choir singing we can advise which section is best for you. Neither reading music nor a career with Imerys are necessary; it's just the name of our major sponsor. Anyone who enjoys an informal sing in a pub or a rugby club would be welcome to come, maybe with a friend or two, and see what four-part singing feels like – it's a great feeling! We meet every Thursday at St Dennis Working Men's Club, sing from 7pm to 9pm, and then go below for refreshment. Drop in, or phone the Musical Director, Barry Hawken, on 07816 182891 for a chat.

### Legal Disclaimer

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**The Parish of Par - Part of the Clay to Coast Benefice.  
St Mary the Virgin St Blazey Gate and the Mission Church of The Good  
Shepherd Par Green.**

The start of Spring this year has certainly been challenging for many of us and we long for some dry days in which to begin enjoying the delights of the signs of spring. They are about - which is encouraging. The Parish of Par Facebook page has some beautiful photos of the early flowers blooming in the Churchyard at St Mary's.

**Mothering Sunday** -15<sup>th</sup> March - this year will be held at St Mary's Church at 10am, and we share it once more with the congregation from Leek Seed Methodist Church. This 'tradition' has been ongoing for many decades and is a great way of sharing the same faith with our Methodist friends.

A **Spring Bazaar** will be held in the Gott Hall, Par Green on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10am to 11.30am. Games of chance, homebake stall, bacon rolls, bric-a-brac and refreshments. We look forward to meeting those who enjoy the atmosphere and stalls of a village bazaar.

Welcome to the latest news on **Creation Care** in the Parish. The last few months have been cold, wet, windy and stormy! This winter has seen a significant downturn in the weather. All the more reason to turn the tide and protect our natural environment! Shop locally and live as sustainably as possible, as the saying goes 'every little helps.' Join the Parish of Par Facebook page to keep up to date with environmental issues, parish news and hints and tips on living sustainably. This year we are welcoming the local community to join us in '**Care for your Churchyard**' events. If you are keen to create an accessible biodiverse area for the whole community, filled with a wide variety of flora, fauna and wildlife, and can spare a few hours a month, then you are very welcome to come along on either or both the following dates. All you need is an enthusiasm for the natural world, a pair of gardening gloves, protective eye wear (preferable), wet weather gear, just

in case! These events will be hosted by Rachel Hopkins our Creation Care Champion who will be providing hot drinks and snacks to keep us going! Dates: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1pm to 4pm. Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1pm to 4pm. If you're interested or just want to know more about what's involved, direct message me via the Parish of Par Facebook page.

The organ at The Good Shepherd Church has recently been listed grade 2\*, and to celebrate this achievement a "**Celebration of the Trudgian Organ**" will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April between 10am and 2pm at the church. The occasion will include the history, the maintenance and the process involved in obtaining the listing, with visiting organists playing recitals of their choice, followed by a buffet lunch.

The Benefice will be holding a '**Brain of Benefice**' Quiz on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, beginning at 6.30pm with teams of up to 6 at £5pp. A Buffet Supper is included. To register, phone 01726 814017.

The Parish will be supporting **Christian Aid Week** with a **Pie & Pudding Lunch** served in the Bishop Gott Memorial Hall, at 12.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Tickets at £11 from 01726 814017.

We look forward to your continued support at the monthly **Soup N Sweet lunches** at £7.00 - served on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month. All the soups and desserts are homemade. Hot and cold drinks are included and there is no requirement to pre- book. The Hall has facilities for anyone using a wheelchair. Food served from noon to 1.30pm. The next lunch dates are 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> July & 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Visit [www.parp parish.co.uk](http://www.parp parish.co.uk) or FB **Parish of Par**.

Jill Hore & Anne Weaver

**Priest in Charge:** Revd Canon K Paul Arthur  
[chapartrebla@gmail.com](mailto:chapartrebla@gmail.com)

## Learning to love the winter

Do the shorter days of winter and early spring get you down? If that applies to you then you're not alone. A recent survey found that 42% of people say that the summer is their favourite season. It seems to me that the weather in Cornwall at this time of year can seem to be very grey and damp and make us long for the sunnier days of summer. So how can we learn to love winter and early spring? The psychologist Stephanie Fitzgerald has some ideas on how we can learn to love the winter - drawn from her own personal experience.

1. Keep socialising. As humans we are not designed to hibernate like bears, so it's important to have things to look forward to. Winter and early Spring is a good time to catch up with others, either for a coffee or to go to an event such as a pantomime. Meeting up with others can help us produce more oxytocin (a feel-good hormone) which can help to counter any low mood we might be experiencing.
2. Have a hygge day. This is where you can relax and not put too many expectations on yourself for that day. You can create a relaxing environment and maybe invite friends round for the day to join you.
3. Adapt your exercise plans. Stephanie Fitzgerald says that up to 61% of us stop exercising completely at this time of year, because it is so cold and dark and because our brains tell us we'd be safer staying warm indoors. Apparently, at least a 20-minute walk a day can reduce our stress levels, helping us to feel better. I know that I don't always feel like getting outside to walk my two dogs when the weather is really inclement. However once I'm appropriately dressed, I know I feel better for making the effort.
4. Try to eat seasonally. Cooking a meal rich in seasonal ingredients can be good for us. Research has shown that cooking can absorb us and boost our self-confidence for perhaps trying something different.

5. Explore the seasons. Try not to completely shut out winter and early spring, try to explore them. Sometimes on a lovely bright day, the sunrises and sunsets can be spectacular. Look at the trees forming new buds ready to burst into life. I know I enjoy looking for seasonal changes and looking out to see what birds are around. If the weather happens to be sunny and bright, I know I enjoy the feeling of that warmth and try to make the most of it. I know I'll be giving some of these ideas a go. I'll be making sure that I get some exercise either by walking or going for a run with friends from my running club - therefore making sure I'm doing a bit of socialising too. There'll definitely be time to enjoy some home cooked seasonal food after I've tried to enjoy the seasons by appreciating what's around me.

So, if you're feeling a bit down about the winter and early spring, why not give one or more of the ideas here a go?

### Lesley Pallett

#### Par Knitwits

Come and join us at one of our sessions in Par. We're a friendly bunch of fun loving ladies who don't take ourselves too seriously.

We meet Monday in the café in Par Garden Centre, Par Moor Road from 10am to 12 noon.

We also meet on Tuesdays in the community room in Cornubia, Moorland Rd, Par from 10am to 12 noon.

There's no obligation to come to every session - just pop in whenever you feel like. Well-behaved dogs with well-behaved owners welcome! Donations of yarn / patterns / needles / hooks etc also very welcome.

Any queries ring Marie on 07702015927 or email [meercottage@hotmail.com](mailto:meercottage@hotmail.com)

## Behind the Garden Gate

As we move into a warmer, drier and sunnier season (fingers and toes crossed!) our thoughts turn to getting out and about. I often think we take so much of this beautiful county for granted, particularly when it comes to the range of plants we can appreciate in our landscape. Having lived here a mere 11 years, I am still entranced by the sub-tropical, coastal and exotic specimens I see from the roadside when travelling around. Here at Gardens Cottage, I try (and often fail) to push the boundaries as far as I can. In recent months the winter wet hasn't helped my cause!

Spring is when we tend to spend most on our gardens, and whether it's for a few pots for outside the back door or for filling up a border, our excellent local garden centres are full of glorious plants to tempt us. But, before getting your wallet out, here are a few of my top tips for getting the best value.

- ❖ Buy early, buy small. If you have space to grow a plant on for a few weeks on a windowsill or in a greenhouse you'll get so much more for your cash. Even better, grow from seed if you can.
- ❖ "Right plant, right place". This is a phrase termed by gardening guru Beth Chatto and it's the best guarantee you can have of a plant looking as good in your garden as it does on the label. Sun, shade, damp, dry, windy, sheltered .... if we pay attention to the location our plants thrive.
- ❖ Think exactly where a plant is going to live when its planted. I can't tell you how many times I fail to do this so it's a case of "do as I say, not as I do". It's still good advice though!

And now to taking a peek behind a few garden gates. It's time to get out and visit other peoples' gardens. The **National Garden Scheme** provides the opportunity to visit private gardens (well over 60 in our county alone), all of them absolute gems.

It's such a great way to find ideas and inspiration for our own spaces. Add tea and cake to the mix and it can't fail to be a winning idea.

You can find details of all the gardens online at [ngs.org.uk/cornwall](http://ngs.org.uk/cornwall) or you can pick up one of our yellow County Booklets when you are out and about. You'll find them in local garden centres, shops and community hubs.

We have lots of gardens open within our local area, including some new ones this year, so be sure to look at the map in the middle of the book. Oh ... and by the way .... if you are looking for my very own **Gardens Cottage**, we are number 19 in the book!

See you in the garden centre!

*Sue*

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## Fowey River Lions



With the bad weather of January hopefully behind us, the Lions are planning activities for the coming months. We are excited to be back at

Havener's in Fowey on 11<sup>th</sup> March for a Bingo fundraiser. If you haven't been, these events are great fun with excellent prizes to be won. Why not come along and try it out? We recommend you reserve your table early by contacting Havener's directly on 01726 834591. Many thanks to all the individuals and local businesses who have already donated prizes. If you would like to donate something, just drop us an email on [foweyriverlions@gmail.com](mailto:foweyriverlions@gmail.com) or call us on 0345 833 7484.

Later on in March, the Lions will be helping the wonderful Marie Curie charity by providing street collectors for their Great Daffodil Appeal. Marie Curie supports anyone with an illness they're likely to die from, and those close to them. A typical two-hour collection shift raises enough to fund four hours of nursing care or five calls to their Support Line. (continues →)

If you'd like to help and have two hours to spare on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March please contact us by email or phone – we'd very much welcome your help. Our team will be taking some of the two-hour slots and will be there to support you on the day.

With Easter approaching, keep a lookout for our traditional Easter Egg draw in the pubs and shops around the area – it's a fun way to support the Lions and you could win one of the many Easter Egg prize boxes.

Want to help your community? Why not join the Fowey River Lions? We are a small team of local people who work together to help others and support good causes. Across the UK, there are 600 clubs just like ours and together we volunteer for over 500,000 hours of service.

We raise around £9 million annually to support the needs of local communities. This seems like a lot, but individually, this commitment amounts to an average of just 1 hour a week. We are part of Lions Clubs International which has 1.4 million members in over 210 countries, making it the largest service club organisation in the world but, because we are local, we can serve the unique needs of our community. Drop us an email, we'd love to hear from you and tell you a little bit more about what being a Lion means

Finally, if you haven't already done so, please log on to your Co-op account and select us as your community project for the year. It won't cost you a penny and will help us to fund our Senior Citizen's Christmas lunch in December.

To find out more about our project visit the website on:

[membership.coop.co.uk/causes/100031](http://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/100031)

Contact us by email on [foweyriverlions@gmail.com](mailto:foweyriverlions@gmail.com) or by phone on 0345 833 7484.

## **Par St Mary's Methodist Church**

All are welcome to our coffee mornings on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 12 noon. There is no charge for tea and coffee, but if you would like to donate towards the cost that will be gratefully received. Everyone is also welcome to all our events below:

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March we have a Beetle Drive in the hall at 6pm.

Our coffee morning on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May will be raising money for Christian Aid.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May there will be a Bingo Quiz with a pasty supper. If you would like a pasty, please speak to someone from the church or email us at [parmethodist@btinternet.com](mailto:parmethodist@btinternet.com)

We meet for worship every Sunday at 11am, but sometimes on the last Sunday of the month, we join our friends at Tywardreath Methodist or Leek Seed (Biscovey).

To find out what is happening at any time, visit our Par Methodist Church Facebook page.

If you don't know where our church is, we are in Chapel Road (off Par Green next to the railway bridge). The post code is PL24 2AE.

## **Par Churches Together**

We will be gathering for Lent studies on Tuesdays from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> March, at Par St Mary's Methodist at 2.30pm in the afternoon (changed from meeting in the morning) or Tywardreath Methodist chapel in Well Street at 7.30pm. The theme is: "Christian Unity in a Fragmenting World".

We will have our usual silent vigil outside St Mary's C of E in Biscovey on Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Jenny Taylor

**Cornwall v Rome** A Talk by Sean Taylor,  
Cornwall Archaeological Unit

**FOWEY TOWN HALL**

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2pm**

The year is 50 AD.  
Southern Britain is  
entirely occupied by  
the Romans. Well,  
not entirely... One  
small tribe of  
indomitable Celts  
still holds out against  
the invaders....

Cornwall

Archaeological Unit

team's surprise discovery of a very early  
Roman Fort in Cornwall that Sean believes  
housed 10,000 people – a full legion and their  
followers.



### **Photographs from your Family Albums**

Curated and presented by Alex Lewis

**FOWEY TOWN HALL**

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 2pm**

Commemorating 200 years since the first  
permanent photograph was made, Alex Lewis  
will be offering a window into times past by  
showing a selection of old photographs from  
private family  
collections. We  
know the stories  
behind some,  
others not, but all  
are utterly  
fascinating.



Tickets on the door: Members free,  
non-members £10

Includes complementary tea and coffee

Further information available from:

[kathpearce@gmail.com](mailto:kathpearce@gmail.com)

[www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk](http://www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk)

Annual Membership £18 or £30 for two adults  
at the same address

### **Fowey River Camera Club**

[www.foweyrivercameraclub.co.uk](http://www.foweyrivercameraclub.co.uk)



February 2026

Well, it certainly has been wet and windy,  
Stormy seas usually make great photos but it  
was certainly not the time to venture out and  
battle the elements. But spring is now making  
an appearance with the daffodils and  
crocuses, even if their foliage is a little muddy  
as they push up through the sodden ground.  
I have attempted to take some photos of the  
snowdrops in my area - white is notoriously  
difficult to capture, so it's definitely practise,  
practise, practise. For info, our meetings in  
February/March & April will be:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Feb / Members Talk: Gardens for Butterflies & Australia East Coast
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar / 'Open' images will be judged and a chance to view our members' work
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mar / Lesson: 'Fire' weather dependent, a trip to Par Beach
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr / Lesson: Bubbles, more fun with our cameras
- 16<sup>th</sup> Apr / Best Print / Best Image of the Year

All our competition winners are on our  
website and there really is a lot of talent  
within our members.

If you are thinking about joining us, or would  
like to learn a bit more about what we do, you  
are welcome to come along to any of our  
meetings, and your first meeting is free. We  
meet at Squires Field Community Centre,  
Fowey, fortnightly on Thursday evenings from  
Sept to the end of April. Doors open at 7pm  
for a 7.30pm start. Kettle goes on at 7pm!  
Our meetings consist of practical camera  
lessons, talks, photo editing lessons, critique  
evenings, and 4 competitions.

Our 2025-26 programme is on our website,  
along with lots of other details and  
information. You are very welcome to get in  
touch if you want to know more:

[foweyrivercameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:foweyrivercameraclub@gmail.com).

Jane Bell

(Fowey River Camera Club)

## Par Old Cornwall Society

Only two more meetings left this season; our March talk is 'In the footsteps of Daphne Du Maurier'. I'm sure many of us remember seeing Daphne walking across Par beach with her dog, visiting local shops and attending auction sales at Cornubia Hall. For several years an annual Du Maurier festival was held in Tywardreath, during which the Tywardreath Players put on plays based on her many popular books, firstly in the church then venturing out elsewhere, Trenyhton, Boconnoc, Jamaica Inn, Pont Quay and the gardens of Marsh Villa here in Par.

Our last talk of the season is on Two Remarkable Marys of Cornwall. To discover just who these two Marys are, you will have to come along to the Bishop Gott Memorial Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm to find out! Changing the time of our meetings from evening to afternoon has certainly proved popular, as our last 2 talks have attracted over 60 members and visitors. Visitors are always welcome; the charge is just £2.

Towards the end of March, some of our members will be going to the Emily Hobhouse Experience in St Ives to learn more about her and her extraordinary life. The War Rooms have been created and the Rectory restored which is where she lived for the first 34 years of her life, having been born in 1860. She was well educated, becoming a feminist, pacifist and humanitarian and in 1895, travelled to America then to South Africa where she worked to bring aid and relief to the thousands of women and children living in concentration camps during the Boer Wars. She bravely exposed the British Empire's treatment of these people, much to the disgust of British politicians. Following her death in 1926, she was given a state funeral in South Africa with 20,000 people attending and is better remembered in that country than she is in this. The museum will do much to recognise this pioneering and brave Cornish woman, and has already received a Cornwall Tourism award in its first year of opening.

It was good to learn that the organ at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Par Green has recently been given a Grade 2\* listing by the British Institute of Organ Studies. It is of importance, being one of only 6 organs left in Cornwall built by John Trudgian, whose Mid Cornwall Organ factory based in St Dennis supplied these complex musical instruments to churches and chapels in Mid Cornwall in the mid-1800s. John was born in 1843. He was originally a tin miner, then a china clay worker whose hobby was building model engines. He also built a small pipe organ for his own use which attracted much interest locally leading to him being asked to provide organs for many chapels and churches, so he and his son set up their own business.

There were other organ builders in Cornwall at this time, such as Charles M Fleetwood, based in Camborne, Brewer & Co of Pydar Street Truro, Hele & Co and Heard & Sons also of Truro. To learn more about John Trudgian, to see the organ at the church and to hear some excellent organists play, do go along to the church on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Our committee are now planning topics for talks for next season which starts in September; more details in the next edition of PL24.

**Diana Osborne** 01726 814017

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## The Spring Night Sky over PL24

March - This is a time of change in our night sky, the constellations which dominated the winter sky are exiting stage West! Orion is the most prominent, of course. Leo the Lion is following on behind.

In their place the constellations that are seen at their best in the summer are starting to make their presence felt e.g. Virgo in the SE. We are also seeing the last of what is known as the Summer Triangle; it will reappear in the East in the summer.

continued→

Of the planets, Venus is very bright as it follows the Sun down. Jupiter is still moving through Gemini and is also very bright. Two important dates must be mentioned: 20th March is the spring equinox when the Sun rises due East and sets due West. This is followed by the start of British Summer Time, when the clocks are put forward one hour, on the 29th.

April - The Milky Way is looking good now the brighter parts are above the horizon. The Crescent Moon and the Pleiades are close together and resemble the Nebra Sky disc and indicate that it is time for planting. Looking at the Plough, it is possible to see one of the stars in the handle is a double (Mizar and Alcor) Mizar itself is a binary star but you need a telescope to see that.

Mercury is in the East, rising ahead of the Sun and is pretty and bright. Jupiter is still in Gemini. Venus is in Aries and also very bright; it should be possible to make out that it has phases like the Moon.

This month we break our drought of meteor showers with the Lyrids peaking on the 22nd, The Moon is waxing towards the first quarter so it will not wash out the meteors too much. Great viewing?!

May - See if you can pick out the Double Cluster between Cassiopeia and Perseus - spectacular in a binocular. Arcturus, one of the brightest stars in the sky, hangs off the end of the Plough. The planets include Venus, which is at its best, not setting until about midnight. Mercury is closer to the horizon than Venus, and Jupiter sets after midnight. On the other side of the sky Saturn is now in Pisces in the predawn sky. The rings are always great to see. The International Space Station is always good to spot - don't forget to give the crew a wave! To find out when it will appear in your sky, locate it via [www.heavens-above.com](http://www.heavens-above.com) It is so bright it can be seen in the twilight sky.

**Brian Sheen - Roseland Observatory -  
Truro High School for Girls**

## ONE MORE TIME

I wish I'd never seen a rainbow or glimpsed a shooting star.

Seen a new moon rising, or smoked my first cigar.

Stared at the horizon and watched the colours change, walked the coast for hours or climbed a mountain range.

I wish I'd never tasted chocolate, seen a football game, stayed awake for hours to see if Santa came.

Heard birdsong for the first time, watched children as they played, felt happy, sad, embarrassed or ever been afraid.

Had that awkward first kiss, ever been in love, felt raindrops on my face as they fell from up above.

Lain upon my back watching clouds meander by, racing ever onwards across a big blue sky.

I wish I'd never travelled and seen what I have seen, been a brother, son or father or ever had a dream.

I only wish I'd never done the things that I adore and live them for the first time to have that feeling just once more.

Barry Dutton



**Heron at St Andrews Road  
Wetlands Reserve  
Photo by Kevin Dyer**

# The du Maurier Fowey Literary Festival

The 2026 Festival runs from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May and the full festival programme will be released later this month! Tickets are now available for:



See the festival website for tickets:  
[www.foweyfestival.com](http://www.foweyfestival.com)

## Save the date – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

We are excited to be collaborating with the wonderful Salt Society and Fowey Harbour Hotel on a fashion show to include favourite brands such as Mos Mosh, Fabienne Chapot, Second Female, Indi & Cold and many more. Along with a goody bag, canapes and fizz on arrival! It's going to be a great evening. Watch our socials for details and how to buy tickets

## Secret Gardens Final Call!

Calling garden owners of Fowey, Polruan & Bodinnick! Is your garden a secret gem that you would be happy to share with members of the public? Then we would be delighted if you would be willing to open your garden in aid of the festival. Being part of the secret gardens is a lot of fun. You will meet lots of interesting people from all walks of life.

Sharing a much-loved garden with others is quite special. Contact Celia: [Celia@allbut.eu](mailto:Celia@allbut.eu) or call 07887 703 757

Your support of our charity and the work we do is greatly appreciated.

To make a donation, please scan the QR code

The du Maurier Fowey Literary Festival

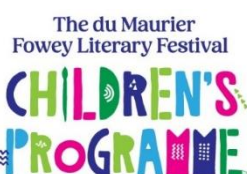


## Adult short story competition

It is not too late to enter the Adult Short Story Competition for 2026. The theme for this year is 'After Midnight'. We look forward to receiving entries from all budding authors who let their creative minds wander, resulting in intriguing and engaging short stories.

Entries must be your own work, with a maximum of 1,500 words. You must include a title, but the interpretation is entirely up to you. The closing date for entries is 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026, so there is still plenty of time to enter. For full details go to:

[www.foweyfestival.com/competitions/](http://www.foweyfestival.com/competitions/)



The 2026 competition for young writers and artists is now open for entries. The aim of the competition is to encourage young people to

engage in visual arts and creative writing, to celebrate their creativity and originality. The theme for 2026 is 'After Midnight'. We invite all young people to submit a story, poem or piece of art that is inspired by this theme.

The competition is open to all children living in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly aged 4 to 16 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026. Thanks to generous sponsorship, entry is free and prizes are awarded in each category and age group. Additionally, a Young Writer and a Young Artist of the Year will be selected.

Rules and guidance, along with entry forms can be found on the Festival website. All entries must be accompanied with a completed entry form, either an independent entry form or schools' entry form. The competition closes 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 with a presentation for winners held in May. Any queries should be directed to [angela@foweyfestival.com](mailto:angela@foweyfestival.com)

[www.foweyfestival.com](http://www.foweyfestival.com)

Email: [info@foweyfestival.com](mailto:info@foweyfestival.com)

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Bench and planters opposite Par Station

Do you use the field near Old Roselyon Crescent? PL24 Community Association is hoping to install benches, possibly with planters, to make the area more accessible. If you would like to help, please contact Alison at:

[pl24community@gmail.com](mailto:pl24community@gmail.com)



Gardens open for charity  
Cornwall 2026

Visit [ngs.org.uk](https://ngs.org.uk)  

### It's visiting time

Be sure to pick up a booklet when you are out and about to see details of gardens locally and further afield that are throwing wide their garden gates this year.

Stilt walkers Kesha Pullum and Angus Capel



St Blaise Feast and Fete  
Photos © Alister O'Loughlin





**PL24 noticeboard in Tywardreath**

**There are others in St Blazey, Biscovey and Par. You're welcome to use them to advertise your free event or community group.**

## Join our litter picks

Next one is at The Burrows Centre  
Sunday 22nd March, 10am to 12 noon.  
Contact Sandra for more details at:  
[pl24events@gmail.com](mailto:pl24events@gmail.com)



## Spring Collage

This photo was kindly sent to us by Steve Batt of Fowey River Camera Club.

We usually look for photos set in a recognisable local place, but we just couldn't resist this one!

Do you have any great photos of our area that you'd like to share?

## Poems

We're always keen to include poems too - we hope you enjoy 'Badger Wood' in this edition.



Please send photos and poems to [pl24magazine@gmail.com](mailto:pl24magazine@gmail.com)



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**Welsh Speakers - Croeso~Welcome~Dynnargh**

Any Welsh speakers in the area? Would you like to meet up with others for a friendly chat over a cuppa in 'yr hen iaith' ?

Another opportunity to speak / learn Cymraeg at Wheal Martyn every fortnight. Next 'Paned a sgwrs' are Tuesday 3rd, 17th and 31st March in the café.

Joint St David's Day and St Piran's celebrations in The White Hart St Austell on Saturday March 7th. See local press for details or contact the email below. 'Dewch i ddathlu bywyd Celtaidd'

Mae grŵp bach yn cwrdd tua unwaith y mis am hwyl a hiraeth. Cysylltwch i drefnu mwy.  
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**Feeding the tree in Polmear Orchard  
at the Wassail in January 2026**  
Photo by Deborah Hazeldean

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