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Summer 2020

Lockdown Special



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&  
**METHERELL**  
**NEWS LETTER**

DESIGN: Sue HENCK

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## SUMMER 2020

It saddened me to look through the last Hamlet at the list of planned events. So much thought and effort goes into putting on a club, group or one-off occasion. Above all, they help knit us together and give a sense of belonging in our community.

Then, our local businesses, a number of which advertise in the magazine, with some put on hold for the time: we rely on these to look after us, to provide us, as they do, with on-the-door-step services. They help make our villages not just a dormitory but a place where people work, live and send their children to school.

Although the usual Diary is redundant, we decided to go ahead and publish this Summer's Hamlet after requesting contributors to let us know what **has** been going on. Some have contributed their thoughts and feelings about the present circumstances, or written about their memories or other issues they have an interest in. We could just have put it on the village and parish council web sites but decided to continue with paper copy in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. Especially as, having contacted our loyal deliverers, they were willing to carry out this essential task. So thanks to them, to our contributors and advertisers.

We pay tribute to all those who have carried on working - N.H.S. and care workers, council workers, teachers, shop staff, post, milk and delivery folk with apologies to anyone who has been left out. A special thanks to Adrian and Mandy for keeping the village shop so well stocked and for always being friendly and good humoured. Also Calstock Parish Council Volunteer Scheme and the neighbours who have supported the vulnerable through shopping, collecting medications, calling and e-mailing; those who have been busy making protective clothing for local NHS and care facilities; and the families and youngsters who have helped keep us safe by following the guidelines and staying positive. A special commiseration to all those young people whose education has been compromised but who have soldiered on even whilst distanced from their friends, with support from their families and, unless continuing in school, remotely, by teachers. Thanks finally to all the many walkers who have kept the lanes litter-free and dogs who have cleared up after themselves!

Meanwhile, we'll carry on taking sensible precautions during this extraordinary time. And a special request to send your thoughts on the pandemic to the Parish Archive as requested by Lynda on page 22.

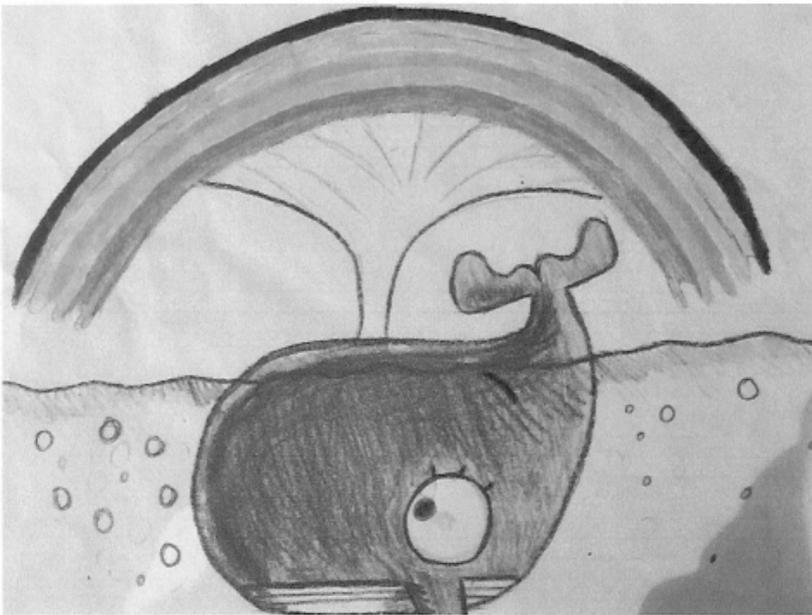
Sally Eccles, Ed.



## What I Think Of Covid-19 - Hollie Evans, age 11

This year we are making history. We have all been affected by Covid-19 and have all reacted differently. Finding new ways to keep in touch with friends and family, and trying to find new hobbies or projects to entertain ourselves, has become the new normal. I cannot really remember what it was like before social distancing and I am really missing hugging my grandparents and my family that do not live with me.

I hope that Covid-19 will soon be over but, in the meantime, I have been keeping myself entertained by doing lots of drawings with Rob Biddulph #DrawWithRob. I have helped Rob set a new world record for the largest online art lesson. Rob had to teach at least 10,000 to draw a blue whale ... but in the end he had 45,611 people from across the world join in, together we broke the world record and will now be in the Guinness Book of Records! Here is the blue whale I drew with Rob. (Sorry readers can't see it in colour. Ed.)



I have also been keeping myself busy by learning how to bake brownies and bread. I love going on family talks around the village with my dog Barley. Barley has been missing his doggie friends too.

I have been doing my home schooling; my mum is a big help but not so much if it's fractions, sorry mum!

Stay safe!



*Harrowbarrow in the time of Coronavirus* by Mary Martin

Covid has us in its spell  
There's no news here our fears can quell.  
Doctors, nurses, workers key  
All die through lack of PPE.  
The selfless acts of those who care,  
The lonely old who are so scared.  
The government has changed its tack  
And now it wants the experts back.

Trump recommends we all drink bleach.  
Can no one get that man impeach'd?  
Shops fail, banks moan and demand furlough  
Quick, get another glass of Merlot.  
And all the while the blackcaps sing  
With blossom our sweet valley springs.  
The BBC performs its role -  
Informs, protects, diverts, cajoles.  
Some verse to soothe the troubled mind  
And music helps us to unwind.  
Priorities now shift a gear  
And former troubles take the rear.  
The cupboard store holds fascination  
Inventive cooking feeds the nation.  
Shoppers now have come to see  
That localism is the key.  
Our TGL\* has lots in store  
Deliveries from door to door.  
The Shop a lifeline with much stock  
Good cheer and help there like a rock.  
New walkers pass the garden gate  
And Bikers race at furious rate.  
Paths and lanes discovered fresh  
By forced release from work's tight mesh.  
For hours and weeks I've dug and barrowed  
To make some tilth for beans and marrows.  
And shifted stones and hacked out mocks\*\*  
To keep my mind from off the rocks.  
Rain at last so forced to shelter  
Try to write a corny belter.  
Time to release the inner bard.  
Surely it can't be that hard? (\* Tamar Grow Local Mocks \*\* Tree stumps)

## Village Hall Matters



**Community Association** - the Village Hall will not be open or holding any form of meeting until proper government guidance is forthcoming.

### **Village Website**

Please contact Karen Ward if you wish to post village news on the website:  
karen.willowview@btinternet.com tel no: 01579 351971.

### **Welcome Packs**

Even in these unprecedented times, folks are moving into Harrowbarrow and Metherell. Jean recently spent the day putting together 5 packs. Due to the on-going social distancing advice, she drops a pack at each address with a covering letter explaining why new residents will not be given a personal welcome as is the normal case. Please contact Jean if you are new to the area and would like a WELCOME PACK with details of local businesses, groups you can join and other useful information.

Jean Miller 01579 351081 / jean.g.miller@btinternet.com

### **Hall Maintenance**

Many thanks to those who have been keeping an eye on the hall during its closure. Alan (Sturt) has been carrying out some maintenance and redecoration of the village hall and its environs, including the outdoor recreation area. He aims to provide a space to play croquet, which could also be used to play outdoor badminton. Thank you Alan for your hard work and forethought. Soon he would like to improve the markings of the indoor badminton court; however, his octogenarian knees really need some young help with this. Badminton court users perhaps? Phone him - 01579 350639 - social distancing would of course need to be observed.

### **Friendship Group**

Hello from Lorraine to all Friendship Group members and anyone who would love to come. As soon as we are released from our enforced 'staycation' Friendship Club will start up again. I shall have more details to pass on as soon as I get the go-ahead. So, to all our friends and to those who would like to try us out Stay safe, stay well and watch this space.

### **Art Group**

There will be no sessions until the hall is up and running. Jean will keep the usual members of the group informed when that is likely to be.

## **Chiropody**

Although we think Neil is doing home visits, the village hall sessions have had to be put off until we are advised to re-open the hall.

### **Walking Group by Jean Miller**

The Walking Group **Out and About** has not met for a walk around the Tamar Valley since the second Wednesday in March when we enjoyed the daffodils in bloom in Catherine's wood. However, I am delighted to report that the Out and About leaflets have been selling like hot cakes at the P.O. throughout the lockdown and it is with grateful thanks to Ian MacDonald who has been able to keep up with the demand! I am in the process of updating the 20 leaflets but have only managed so far to re-walk about a third of them with the Out and About group. I have had a couple of comments from people re directions so I am trying to incorporate those comments into the updated leaflets.



### **Social Committee by Eileen Sturt**

Your Social Committee had such great plans for 2020. We missed the Cancer Sale, May Day and V.E. Day street party in the hall, the Annual Show, planned films, Luncheon Club, SHAME plays, Friendship Club, Knit and Natter, Bowls, Scouts, Badminton, and several concerts. The Open Gardens and Scarecrow Trail were cancelled, the proposed Community Yard Sale will not take place this year, nor possibly the Beer Festival. The boules court, table tennis table and picnic area are still not available for use, and the children's play park is closed. Maybe the Christmas coffee mornings and craft fairs will bite the dust too if there is a spike in coronavirus cases. Still, it is better to be safe than sorry!

### **Village Hall Outdoor Recreation Area by Eileen Sturt**

Please Help us to Gain Funding for further improvements  
(It will only take a few minutes of your time if you have access to the internet. Please pass the below on to your friends and family members)

A grant has been applied for, from The Calor Rural Community Fund to provide safe, more level access to the boules, table tennis and picnic area, for everyone, especially wheelchair users and pushchairs, and to buy a wheelchair-friendly picnic table on an attractive paved base.

The grant depends on Crowdfunding. 'Likes' and 'shares' on our page of the Calor website each earn one point whilst 'pledges', no matter how big or small, earn 10 points each. The applicants with the most points



go forward to Calor for judging on merit. The page went 'live' on June 4th and the campaign will end on July 15th so there is still time to visit our page to earn some points to help towards reaching the final. Even if we are not chosen for a grant, reaching the final earns us £500, a still welcome sum to add to the pledges already made. The competition is fierce so PLEASE , act now, visit our page and support your very own village.

We are worth it!

[https:// communityfund.calor.co.uk/safe-wheelchair-access-to-recreation-area](https://communityfund.calor.co.uk/safe-wheelchair-access-to-recreation-area)

## **SHAME's hunt for a virgin is put on hold!**

by Rick Stead Chair

What strange times we are living in. Such strange times call for even stranger happenings. For the first time in its history, Shame took to cyberspace to conduct a committee meeting. After a couple of minutes of faff we IT Luddites sorted it out and actually managed to communicate. Sadly, after much deliberation, we have come to the conclusion that with the likelihood of some form of continued social distancing for the remainder of this year at least, and the real possibility of the village hall being closed for the foreseeable future, at this stage we feel we have no choice but to postpone the village panto for a year until Spring 2022. But all is not lost...When lockdown occurred we were part way through rehearsal of our 3 witches plays. Our ambition is still to perform these in February of next year though this is, of course, entirely dependent on the cast being able to get together and rehearse, and the audience being able to attend, which given the largely "older" (cough cough) nature of both, is clearly not a given! We will make a final decision on this in the early Autumn and if, in the interim, any hope comes to light of resurrecting the panto you can rest assured we will grab it with both hands...Oh yes we will! So, watch this space. We should have more detail in the next HAMLET. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well and, should you wish to contact SHAME for any reason, please call me on 01822 834264.

## **Rainbow 200 Club**

The 200 Club raises money for the upkeep of the village hall. The fund pays out £10 per week and £50 the last Saturday of each month. Cost - £15 per number per year, all prizes paid in cash. You have more chance of winning a weekly £10 or monthly £50 than winning



anything on Lotto! We'd like to increase the number of members especially as the village hall is not gaining revenue at the moment due to lockdown. If you are able to contribute it would be much appreciated. You can either speak to Mandy in the Post Office or go to the village website: <http://harrowbarrow-metherell-village-hall.btck.co.uk/>, print off an application form and drop it into the post office with payment. Cheques to 'Harrowbarrow & Metherell Village Hall.' Thank you to those members who continue to support our village hall and to Mandy who gives freely of her time to collect the fees and deliver the prizes.

### *People... ..People... ..People*

*Congratulations to:* Merryn Cocking on achieving a 1st Class Honours Degree in Music at Falmouth University. She achieved this though back home since March due to the lockdown and despite her finals involving more composition than performance, as was originally the case. Her next plan is to study for a P.G.C.E. in Primary Education at Plymouth Marjon University. On the 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day she was out to play reveille on her trumpet to the delight of Nicholas Meadow residents.

*Welcome to new residents:* Mary Telford & Ben Donnelly at Westlands, from Tavistock, with other family members Georgia & Harry (Ben's kids both at uni.), Judith (Mary's mother) and dogs Ruby, Henry and Bella, cats Pepper and Twiglet and tortoise Hector. On receiving a Welcome Pack, Mary emailed, "We have already discovered what a lovely community we have moved into - we were blown away by the kindness of everyone in helping us find Twiglet, who went missing for 5 days when we moved in. So many people knocked or rang with news, or asked how the hunt was going when we were out and about; it was just amazing! Luckily he came home safe and well - so thank you to everyone who helped us find him."

*AND*

Zillah & Matt Robertson and their 4 dogs at 6, Callington Rd from Saltash with their 3 spaniels (who have never seen so many rabbits!). They say they are very much enjoying it here and the neighbours have been lovely.

*Congratulations and all happiness to* Kate Pridham & Jack Bennett on the birth of their daughter Evi Mae, now nearly 5 months old, on 23rd January

*Congratulations to:* Callum McGinley on gaining a place at Callywith post-16 College in Bodmin for the next academic year. Callum has been working hard at home with the help of the family since lockdown and

awaits his GCSE results shortly which, like all students of his age group, will be based on his mocks and on teachers' assessments.

*Congratulations to:* Rachel Buxton who has graduated in Medicine and who sent the following:

*A Graduation to Remember - Bristol University*

A graduation at home was not something that I had ever considered before February 2020 but, for us all, things have changed dramatically this year. Bristol University set up a 'zoom graduation' for our entire year and it was incredible! With the dress code set as dressing gowns and home-made mortar boards, we knew we were in for a different experience than we would have had otherwise.

It was amazing to see all of my fellow colleagues and teachers united together on one screen and I felt very privileged still to be able to celebrate the end of our degree.

This was an empowering day and I look forward to starting my career as a junior doctor. With Bristol being the first university to graduate online it highlighted the things we are all able to do and achieve even in difficult and unexpected times.

**Sadly, five villagers have recently died. Our sincere condolences to their families, friends and neighbours.**



**Joan Hicks** who died on the 6th January aged 87. Joan lived in Rising Sun all her life where she was brought up with "big brother" Gerald and sister Roma. Joan cared for her mother for many years until she passed away aged 101 years. Joan worked at Rising Sun Nurseries for many years and also enjoyed keeping her fruit and vegetable garden at home. Joan is greatly missed by all her family and her companion Pip the border terrier.

**Doreen Steer** who passed away on 11th March shortly before her 90th birthday. A St Dominic lass whose family were market gardeners, Doreen married Dennis, also a market gardener, and the couple worked together to expand their business and bring up their family at Treragin. They celebrated their 65th anniversary in 2015 shortly before Dennis passed away. She loved walking and, in her younger years, cycling; she took great pride in her garden which was always beautiful and full of colour; and she enjoyed baking, especially a real Cornish pasty. A much loved and respected figure at Lunch Club and who always supported village events, Doreen will always be remembered and missed for her friendship and good humour.

**Joyce Jarvis** (née Collins) who died peacefully aged 89 at Cedar Grange, Launceston on 28th April. Joyce was born in and lived most of her life at Coombe, Harrowbarrow, where she was brought up, then lived after marriage to Philip. The couple later built and lived in the bungalow at the bottom of the Coombe before moving to Launceston eleven years ago.

**Geoff Husband** who died aged 84 at home in Metherell on 13th May shortly after he and Pauline celebrated their 65th year of marriage. His working life was as a secondary school teacher of Maths with his last position for 17 years at Tavistock. He and Pauline also ran Trehorner Caravan Park and shop in Lower Metherell before moving to their present home nearby. He loved wild life. Known to Hamlet readers as a keen birder, Geoff wrote regularly and with enthusiasm for a number of years. His very fine art works often reflected this, with his tender and beautifully executed entries in the Annual Show receiving much praise. A terrific sportsman, Geoff refereed rugby, ran the table tennis team at the Boys Brigade hall in Metherell, and enjoyed tennis. However, Geoff's greatest passion was of course cricket, with a lifelong commitment to the sport. (All recorded in detail in the local press). Starting at secondary school age, he played for teams in Cheltenham, Bristol, Exeter, Tavistock, Lanhydrock, Menheniot and Callington, with his last game in August 2019, at and for Gunnislake Club, of which he was a member since 2009. In 2016, after 28 years as manager of the Cornwall Over 50s, he was awarded the terrific accolade of the Arthur Lugg Cup for services to senior cricket. A brilliant innings!

Pauline thanks neighbours and friends for all their kindness and help over the last few weeks and says she is touched by the many cards and letters received in tribute to him.

**John Pote** (with Sue's tribute to her husband followed by that of his friend and colleague.)

After 12 years of living with cancer, we finally said our goodbyes to John on 1st April. Until the end, his positive attitude shone through, with always a cheeky smile and time for a chat. Fun, laughter and a good tale were paramount to John. His family and friends meant everything to him. Three children, six grandchildren, wider family and countless friends will bear witness to this. Everyone will have their own special memories and stories to tell of him.

John always lived in Calstock Parish and over the years became a well known, well loved character. Born in 1946 in Albaston, the second of six children, he went on to live in Gunnislake, Calstock, St. Ann's Chapel

and, for the last 23 years, Harrowbarrow. The family were well provided for by John's hard working parents. Naval father Ray grew strawberries and anemones for extra income, harvested by the family and sent by train to Covent Garden. John's happy schooldays at Delaware were followed by a career in the motor trade. (His motor trade story, as told by friend and colleague David Martin from Central Motors, follows below.)

Hobbies came in the form of a great passion for football and motor racing, closely followed by 4 x 4 Off Road Racing and the East Cornwall Vintage Tractor Club. As a teenager he had trials for Bristol Rovers and Plymouth Argyle. Locally, his peak years were spent with Bere Alston Wolves who featured strongly in the area. John also played for Gunnislake and spent many happy years playing for, then managing, the successful, well respected Calstock team. He "retired" from football on several occasions but actually played his last full game at 60+ years. Following one of his retirements, he spent several years as a successful youth team manager with Pensilva Football Club. John organised Tractor Runs with the Tractor Club, raising hundreds of pounds for 'Marie Curie End of Life Care'. Travelling was another favourite and, over the years, he attended most of the European Formula One Grand Prix events. In his younger days he enjoyed driving his small collection of American cars, including a Chevrolet Camaro and a Ford Mustang. Family holidays to Europe and California leave us with lots of happy memories. Off Road Racing took him to Germany with fellow enthusiasts. Trips to Anfield to watch Liverpool play were another firm favourite, perhaps sparked by seeing celebrated local lad Mike Trebilcock score twice in the FA Cup Final for Everton on television.

Closer to home he was an avid participant and spectator at Stock Car and Hot Rod events, car racing on oval circuits. During the mid 70s/early 80s John supported his Gunnislake friend Alan Murton who raced Stock Cars, driving him all over the country to meetings, with Central Motors kindly sponsoring them by providing a converted ambulance as a tow vehicle. Spectating continued right up to last Summer. He loved the weekends away and time spent with his "Irish Family," friends from Northern Ireland whom he supported enthusiastically.

Recently, more sedate interests became the norm. Visits at home from caring friends and neighbours, afternoons watching National Hunt horse racing on the tv and fortnightly catch-ups at the Luncheon Club.

It is the family's hope that in the autumn we can hold a Celebration of Life Service and all get together and share our memories.

## David Martin's memories of John

We first met in 1967 when John was working at Tavistock Carr's Garage, a large BMC /British Leyland dealership. John was manager of the parts department and I had just taken over Central Motors from V W Niblett and son at Newbridge Hill, Gunnislake. Deliveries of parts were slow in those days and, as the bus station was across the road from Carr's Garage, John often supplied parts to us via the Western National bus service. The service bus would blow its horn coming up Newbridge Hill and stop briefly outside Central Motors for us to collect the parts that John sent via the driver. He also dropped parts off to us on his way home from work

I got to know John very well and eventually persuaded him to leave Carr's Garage to work at Central Motors circa 1969. He had a wide variety of roles, dealing with parts and customers and preparing work schedules; we also ran a taxi/wedding car service with John as driver.

With John's input, Central Motors flourished and in 1972 we took over Astro Motors at Southover, St Ann's Chapel, John moving in to the bungalow on site. As he took charge of running the St Ann's Chapel site, especially the car sales side of the business, Central Motors continued to expand. John worked out of a small office, overseeing all the operations of fuel sales, workshop and car sales, accompanied by Butch, a character hopping around on three legs (not always the same three!) In the 1980s, a new canopy was installed and fuel sales went 'self-service' with a new shop area, followed by a new workshop. The Newbridge Hill site was sold, the two workshops amalgamated at Southover, with all operations on one site. A car showroom was added with John expanding this side of the business, building up an enviable reputation of good customer service.

After more than 30 years at Central Motors, he decided to branch out from the motor trade, which had altered vastly over the years he had been involved, to start his own garden maintenance business.

We continued close friends, with John popping in for his daily papers early mornings, or coming to the workshop reception, always at 10.30am, when he knew there would be a cup of tea waiting for him. In latter years, time was spent reminiscing about the many stories and amusing incidents of our times together at Central Motors.

### Calstock Parish Council



Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the Parish Council office remains shut. However the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are working from home responding to messages and council business 0900-1700 Monday to Friday. Messages are also being checked over the weekend to see if

any members of our community have requested help.

Our workmen continue to work on the outside areas, monitoring the parish and carrying out their regular duties of grass cutting, strimming, general maintenance and litter picking.

Our volunteering scheme is still operating and we thank all of those who have offered their help and support. Although life is getting back to a sense of normality for some people, there are still others who are isolating. Our volunteers have offered to help with shopping, prescriptions, gardening – even dog walking. They are genuinely keen to help so please do let us know if you need anything, bearing in mind the volunteers should not be entering your houses so are unable to help with domestic or personal care.

At the time of writing our Neighbourhood Development Plan is just about to be submitted to Cornwall Council. You may feel that this seems a long time to have waited since our public consultation last year. An editing group had to consider every comment we received from each individual and make recommendations to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee on how to proceed. The plan was adjusted accordingly and several other documents were required to submit to Cornwall Council alongside the plan. Cornwall Council will be checking the plan for compliance against the National Planning Policy Framework and the Cornwall Local Plan. Following this, Cornwall Council will publicise the plan (Regulation 16) and arrange for the independent examination. This will consider whether the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. If successful at the examination stage, the local authority will arrange for a neighbourhood plan referendum. At the moment, all referendums have been postponed until May 2021 but if the plan is successful at the examination stage its policies will carry some weight when considering planning applications.

We sincerely hope that all Hamlet readers are keeping well and have not been unduly affected by the pandemic. Thank you again to those who have helped us and our community.

### **Tamar Valley Methodist Church by Ruth W.**

We have continued to keep in touch with our Church family by telephone and email and we get a weekly letter from our Minister together with a Service for each Sunday. You may have noticed that we also use the Cross outside the Church to highlight the seasons of the church year with a display which is changed frequently. Do have a look or a rest on the seats provided. The builders have resumed work on our new extension which we look forward to opening and using when we can re-open our building.



### **St Luke's Hospice Plymouth Fundraising**

As we will not be opening our gardens in July we decided to find other ways of raising funds for the charity. We are pleased to report that we have now sent £1,080 to the Hospice. Many thanks to all those who have generously donated money and plants and who bought plants and bird boxes. Thank you to Brenda and Maggie for their brilliant stalls and to James for his supply of bird boxes. Nina, a key worker at the Hospice, rings a bell when she receives good news and did just that when she received our donation. The Hospice is hoping to re-open their large shop in Plymouth though the Tavistock and Callington ones are still closed, with many volunteers coming into the vulnerable category.

So far we have not received any news of blue tits having taken up residence in James' specially designed boxes. Interestingly, the report below gives news of a very different nesting spot for them.

#### **Feathered Lodgers by Shirley Morse**

Our post box is fixed to a tree stump at the bottom of the track and, for the third year running, birds have decided it was an ideal maternity ward. I first realised this was happening when I unlocked the box and found a little layer of moss inside - which I removed. A couple of days later there was even more in place so, kind-hearted soul that I am, I left it there. I taped three pieces of garden string across the width of the opening, wide enough apart for birds to fly between but too small for letters to be posted. My daughter provided a wooden bread bin which I put on the ground beneath with a note taped to the post box, 'Birds nesting. Please put mail in box below'. Weeks went by until I unlocked the post box. A couple of broken eggshells were perched on top of masses of nesting material but the birds had flown.

The following spring, moss re-appeared in the post box. This time I was prepared! Bread bin in place, string across the opening and note to the postman. A few weeks later a friend poked his mobile phone into the post box and photographed a Great Tit sitting on her clutch of eggs.

So I was not at all surprised that the event took place again this year. This time it was Blue Tits. Two months passed before we checked. The nest was empty and I removed ten centimetres depth of tightly packed moss and hair. The only obstruction that the postman now has to worry about is a foxglove that has grown very tall, partially covering the opening. That is, until next spring!

## Allotment update : Kee-e-e-p Planting!



We are still planting at the allotment, following gov. recommendations, keeping to individual visits which we coordinate with the use of WhatsApp.

We grow seedlings at home for planting through the plastic and each of us chooses crops to sow. Rachael has green summer cabbage and pickling onions. I planted chick peas, red and green coleslaw/salad type cabbages and cape gooseberries. We also have soya beans. Others are bringing on chillies, sweet peppers, aubergines, courgettes, squashes and outdoor tomatoes; also a variety of beans and winter greens. We decided this year to try crops with long harvesting seasons where we have longer to enjoy more of the plants' bounty, some of the older varieties such as Cottagers, an old winter greens variety which offers early sprouts then flowers and later leaves. We have increased our fruit area. I found several strawberry plants which I'd feared the deer had eaten off! We are trialling the hydroponics at home. The alpaca hair as a growing media isn't working - we might need to wash it as it floats! We also decided to try the higher protein crops for our veggie members. We are growing early potatoes in bags though many now prefer rice, pasta or noodles..... The fence extension to keep deer and rabbit out seems to be effective. Now we need to beat birds and aphids!

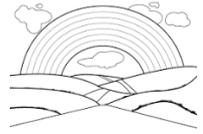
## *Pets Corner*

*Villagers who are new to the area often include their pets in response to the Welcome Pack request for family names. In a time of crisis such as the present, there comes perhaps even more awareness of how valuable our relationships with our family animals are, with the below becoming very pertinent:*



**Jasper** the Pridhams' family cat which featured as LOST in the last Hamlet happily turned up, as bonny as ever, a few days after.

**Buddy**, a beautiful Black and Tan Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, a familiar figure having walked many miles around the villages over the years with Julie, has passed away. Buddy needed a routine dental procedure, with the family reassured that he would be fine, but he was tragically taken from them on the June 10th aged nearly 10 years, leaving his Tri-coloured companion Royal and his devastated family, Mike, Julie, Claire and Jamie. He will be greatly missed.



### *'The Wonders of Nature' by Mary Davies*

*Nature* gives so much enjoyment and is a refuge and respite from the human world, dominated as it is at present by coronavirus.

- Flowers* How many colours, petals, shapes, leaves, and scents?  
*Trees* How many species with different shaped leaves, some changing their colour in autumn?  
*Birds* Such an amazing variety of species and form, with some flying thousands of miles to be here!  
*Insects* The colour and silent flight of the dragonfly and the silk-like threads of the spider's web glistening with dew.  
*The grasses* All helping to make our green landscape.  
*Animals* Too many to count, including our love of dogs, cats and horses.

*The sun, moon, stars, planets, clouds and rainbows -  
In the sky, the air, on and under the earth and in the water.....*



### **Spring Bird Watch by Geoff Roberts**

These are unprecedented times but to see our villages pull together, be it to clap the key workers or reach out a helping hand, has been very reassuring. It has been an opportunity to meet with our fellow villagers and it was during one of these meetings that I found out that the Sparrow-hawk that visits our garden has a nest just across the road.

I hope you have all been able take time out and notice the wildlife that visits your gardens be it day or night. I have had a very productive few months, including the call of a Cuckoo in the fields below in early May, something we have not heard for many years, whereas it used to be an annual call when I first moved out to Harrowbarrow over 40 years ago.

Take time to look up and see Swifts, Swallows and House Martins and Buzzards a-plenty soaring overhead or a Sparrow-hawk speeding at low level in the garden looking for a drive-through bird feeder. I have spotted a Kestrel hovering over the fields above the village and, for the first time outside of Wales and Buckinghamshire, a Red Kite soaring around Kit Hill. Cornwall has had quite a few reported sightings of these wonderful birds of prey expanding out across the country and, although they may not be everyone's cup of tea, hopefully we can make room for these magnificent birds.

I have seen many species of our frequent visitors successfully expand their fold, Blackbirds, Robins, Greenfinches, House Sparrows etc.

Keep safe, remain vigilant and hopefully we will get this virus on the run. In the meantime, enjoy your surroundings and look out for the deer, badgers, foxes, rabbits, and hedgehogs that perhaps frequent your garden.

### ***St Dominick Park's Resilient and Resourceful Residents by Roy Hallett***

There has been so much going on since my last article about the centre. Since it opened we have had some difficult times to overcome. After very successful evenings of a curry dinner, a Burns night dinner and local music duo entertainment, there were two charity events that raised funds for Macmillan's and Children in Need. The quizzes were very popular until an electrical fault meant we were forced to close until it was fixed. Then came the virus and we had to find ways to keep the centre's spirit going. We have had a few birthday greetings outside homes (including my eightieth) and on the green, keeping government distance rules. It surprises me how residents come up with ideas : virtual on-



line Bingo, quizzes, the diet club about to get going and contact with many through the park web page We have been keeping up the clapping for the NHS with one resident leading the occasions by playing his euphonium.

The closing of the centre has given a few of us time to finish jobs that had been overlooked. New kitchen units have been resourced and new entrance doors have been fitted. We are looking forward to reopening in the near future. We are all safe and looking out for each other. Rather than breaking our spirits it has made it stronger, so long may it last!

### ***Metherell Memories Help Combat Lockdown by Tony Dwelly***

Sitting here during lockdown, looking down across the fields we played in as children, brings back many memories.

I was brought up in Metherell with my older brother and younger sister. My mother kept the village shop, now a house called Westlands. I have great memories of playing football in the road outside as it was very rare for a car to come by. Summer holidays, a group of us would go down to Cotehele Quay via Comfort Wood where Dick Cooper and Ralph Hunn had their market gardens. Of course, we helped ourselves to a few strawberries on our way.

Cotehele was a play ground to us, with no one around much in those days. One day that really sticks in my mind was when we borrowed a fishing boat from Stan Langsford. We knew nothing about tides and thought how easy it was to row up towards Calstock. When we turned to row back against the tide it was like we weren't moving. (We were late home for tea that night.)

My best memories are of going over to Tree Farm where I spent hours with Michael. My first memory was taking the cart horse up the lane to the field at the top of the lane. Michael's dad Jack sat me on the horse. "Don't do anything," he said, "when you get to the field, the gate is open, the horse will stop at the gate and you can climb down the gate".

Friday evenings, we would go out to the pictures in the tin hut behind what is now Pearse's at Drakewalls. After watching the Indians riding bare back and steering the horse by its mane, I decided when we got to the field I would pull the horse's mane, but this confused the horse and he started going round in circles in the road. Panic set in but once I left his mane alone, he went to the gate so I could get off.



The horse was soon replaced by a Ferguson T20 petrol TVO tractor which made a huge difference. One day we were saving hay (in the path-field down below what is now Nicholas Meadow) with a stationary baler fed by three men with pitch forks and a man behind manually tying the knots in the cord on the bales. The T20 would sweep the hay into the men with pitch forks. All was going well until, all of a sudden, flames! The T20 had an underneath exhaust and a spark had caught a row of hay on fire. Men running with their pitch forks soon had it under control and not much was lost.

The T20 was soon replaced with a Massy Ferguson 35 and a Jones pick-up bailer. Hard to believe now that, at the age of nine or ten, I was allowed to drive this tractor. All went well until the afternoon we were saving hay for Clare Hunn down at Clampitts farm when I managed to drive over Cliff Jury's bike. I was so nervous of Jack Tancock's reaction but all he said was, "There's nothing a new wheel won't fix".

Saturdays, I went on the milk round with Michael and Ralph Hunn and, at lunch time when we returned, I would go in to find Minnie Tancock had made pasties, not just one but every Saturday. I have to be careful saying this because my wife makes a lovely pasty, but I have never come across a pasty like Minnie's and even now when I go past some sixty

years later, I can still taste and smell those pasties.

Minnie was a lovely lady and I have fond memories of her, whether she was in the garage chopping wood and singing hymns, or washing milk bottles and bottling milk. I even have memories of her trying to get up from a kitchen chair after Michael had tied her apron strings to the back of the chair which happened on regular occasions. I could go on and on recounting memories; our childhoods are so short and I wonder how we fitted it all in. The answer is simple: we had no TV, computer, iPad or smart phone. What we did have was the great outdoors.



### **After our dry Spring, Jack Spiers Remembers the Drought of 1976**

On Tuesday 1st June 1976 I heard on the wireless there was a light covering of snow on the western scarp of Dartmoor. By walking up the road to a vantage point at the entrance to Brendon Farm and looking east down Summers Lane to North Hessary Tor on Dartmoor, I could just discern a white smattering of snow. From that date the sun shone relentlessly day after day.

Towards the end of June, Virginia and I took the train to Salisbury and, rucksacks on our backs, walked to Lyme Regis over Cranborne Chase, Hambledon Hill and Bulbarrow Hill, down to Milton Abbas across the downs around Cerne Abbas and onwards to Bridport, up and over Golden Cap to Lyme Regis. It was baking hot all the way, grass fading on the uplands and spring barley struggling to survive on the thin chalk soils.

At the end of July, there was a violent electrical storm with masses of forked lightning and deep rolls of thunder - all rather frightening - so much so that we decamped to the back bedroom and drew the blinds though I don't recall there being any rain.

Opposite us, the pasture fields, grazed by Harold Maunder's South Devon bullocks, were brown all over by August with little grass, though the cattle seemed content and spent a lot of time lying down. Interestingly, MAFF experts eventually pronounced that stock did not require extra feed as the warmth meant they were not losing condition/weight.



August was dry but, at the end of the second weekend in September, there was another storm which signified the end of the notorious drought.

## Latest TAPS Information

Our monthly meetings are postponed until further notice. We are still available to support anyone who needs us and have members who have experience of various surgical procedures, radiotherapy, and hormone therapy. If you are recently diagnosed and just want to have a chat about your treatment or options, don't hesitate to make contact. TAPS membership is free and open to men and their partners. For more information please contact Chris Greensted on 01822 834797 or email [tapsinfo555@gmail.com](mailto:tapsinfo555@gmail.com).

Other excellent sources of support are:

Prostate Cancer UK (PCUK) 0800 074 8383

Tackle Prostate Cancer (UK): 0800 035 5302

The Chestnut Appeal: 01752 792736 (Derriford Hospital)

The Mustard Tree Centre: 01752 430060 (Macmillan Cancer Support)



## Calstock Parish Archive - History in the Making

*Let us have your experiences of Lockdown!*

We've all been going through difficult times and the archive is no exception. We have been unable to put on any exhibitions or make much progress on cataloguing, though some volunteers are working from home. Although the cemetery chapel which now houses the archive remains closed, we started a new project at the end of April. To explain: the outbreak of Covid-19 has been the most momentous event to have affected the whole parish since WW2 and as such it is important that we have a record for the archive. We have memories from local people of WW2 and would now like to make a record of people's experience of LOCKDOWN. So far we have only received a dozen contributions. We are hoping you can help as we know your contribution would be a really useful social record in the future. PLEASE could you write down your stories and comments - the highs and lows, how it has affected you and your family, how you are adapting. It can be six lines, it can be 6 pages, whatever you like but please, please can you support our project? It would be great to have a record for future generations. Also if you have taken any photographs we would be pleased to have them.

Please send your thoughts to: [lynda.harman@btinternet.com](mailto:lynda.harman@btinternet.com)

Written contributions are also welcome and can be posted through the door of The Farm, opposite the Post Office.



*Thank you to our wonderful community*  
from Rachael, Simon and Sara at **Tamar Grow Local**

A heartfelt thank you to our families, friends & neighbours in Harrowbarrow and Metherell for all the offers of help we've had at Tamar Valley Food Hubs over the past couple of months: especially to Andy & Rachel Partridge, Val Holman, Tom Forster & Dave Hansford who have given so much time helping with deliveries, & to Lois Horsham who spent a day with us, gently letting customers know that their orders would be with them a little later than normal on our busiest week! We've been adapting our working conditions for safety & to keep up with demand during the pandemic, tweaking timings & delivery routes to maintain a full service. Thank you to everyone who's been shopping with us, it's been lovely having many new customers' faces, meeting & seeing everyone in our villages. Also we couldn't have been able to keep going without our wonderful growers and producers who have managed to continue supplies, never once increasing prices and really showing the resilience of our local food community in the valley. Thank you again and, once we're out the other side, please do consider sticking with us and the other small businesses which have kept going in very difficult times. It means such a lot and keeps the cogs of our local economy turning.



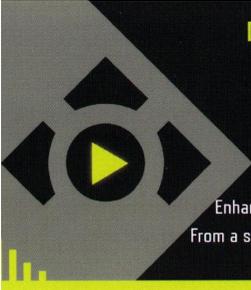
Dru Yoga teacher training course has started online but will move to Harrowbarrow & Metherell Village Hall as soon as it re-opens. Call **Anne Smale** for a chat 07818 625567 Dru South West & Dru IT team southwest@druworldwide.com

### **WI news from Kathy Thomas**

We have tried to keep in touch with our members by email and phone but not yet attempted Zoom. Cornwall Federation has sent us links to a variety of online activities and resources to keep us busy while we are unable to meet in person. In the villages, work has gone on in and around the Metherell phone box, which was refurbished last year by a hard working group of members and now has a smart coat of paint and advertises from local businesses. The blue tub was planted with 100 bulbs to celebrate the centenary of WIs in Cornwall and they gave a great show in spring. Several members contributed to the VE Day decorations with flags and poppies. We have now been given a large planter, thanks to generous neighbours. It is beside the phone box and will shortly be planted up to become a colourful attraction on those walks around the villages.



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