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Spring 2024



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**REGULAR Activities, Clubs, Committees,
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Held at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

USE THEM OR LOSE THEM !

Community Association: 3 meetings p.a. *Jean Miller* 01579 351081

Hall Management : 2 monthly *John Roberts* 01579 351911

Social Committee : monthly *John Roberts* 01579 351911

Hamlet Committee: 3 monthly *Jean Miller* 01579 351081

Film Club: 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm *Eileen Sturt* 01579 350639

Yoga: Monday 7pm *Juliet Johnson* 07871714401
julietmiayoga@gmail.com

Pilates: Mat: Thursday 7pm-8pm, **Chair :** Friday 1.15-2pm
Jayne Dowdeswell 07838 842943
movementmedicineuk25@gmail.com Website: movementmedicine.uk

Knit & Natter: 1st Friday 2-4pm *Margaret Willson* 01579 351208

Short Mat Bowls: Thursday 2.30-4pm *John Eccles* 01579673196

Art Club: Monday more or less fortnightly 2-4pm *Jean Miller* 01579 351081

S.H.A.M.E. Amateur Dramatics: 1st Wed 7pm *Frank Ellwood*
07786338061

Guided Walk: 2nd Wednesday 2 pm. Start at the village hall car park *Jean Miller* 01579 351081

W.I. 3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm *Kathy Thomas* 01579 350659

Scouts & Cubs: Tuesday term time 6.30 -8.30 pm
tamarvalleyscouting@yahoo.com

Group Scout Leader *Louise Morton* *louisemorton69@yahoo.co.uk* ;
Group Chair *Suzy Dyter* *suzy.dyter@stcmat.org*

All Saints Church Community Coffee Morning: 1st Wed 10am - 12 noon *Kathy Thomas* 01579 350659

Community Vineyard *Rachael Forster* : *hmvineyard22@gmail.com*

Annual Show Committee *Steve Matcham* 07971991024



Village Hall Bookings Secretary: Jill Roberts (01579 351911)
A most suitable place for a new start-up club, private or family event such as a children's party, anniversary or wedding. Atmospheric lighting effects available - just ask when booking. Please contact Jill during reasonable hours.

Village Hall Website: <https://southwesteventsvenue.co.uk/>
'Venue in the Valley'

Harrowbarrow and Metherell Community Hall

The website includes info. about the facilities, a location map, a gallery of pictures and a contact form. **Please use** and broadcast it to friends & family to encourage more bookings, particularly at the weekends.

Hamlet

To include a piece in the summer edition please contact Sally by 1st June with details of events for July/August/September

Sally (Editor) sallyeccles1@gmail.com 01579673196

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,

contact Jean and let Sally know if you'd like a welcome in Hamlet

Jean (Chair) jean.g.miller@btinternet.com 01579 351081

Hamlet delivery: Thank you to Michelle Ptak for promptly stepping in to do the Nicholas Meadow/Norris Green round and to those who, in response to the request in Hamlet, offered help. Thanks also to Roy and Jenny Hallett who have retired from the St Dominick Park round with Carol and Allan Andrews kindly agreeing to take on the challenge of this 80 plus round. In total there are 20 deliverers to drop off 700 copies! It is through volunteers like these that the newsletter can carry on.

Advertisements: Thank you to Anita Nash, who, after a long stint as advertisements secretary, has retired. Ruth Dance has kindly taken on the mantle and sent out this year's invoices.

Thank you to our regular advertisers for continuing to flag up their businesses in Hamlet. It is through their support that the newsletter comes free of charge to every household in Harrowbarrow, Metherell, Honicombe Park and Edgcumbe Way. If an advert needs updating please let Sally know.

New advertisers: Please contact Ruth Dance : ruth_dance@hotmail.com if you are interested in placing an advertisement in Hamlet. Cost £40 p.a. with the first one free of charge.



Harrowbarrow & Metherell
Community Association
(Registered Charity Number 287632)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That the 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Games Room of the Village Hall on Monday 20 May at 7 p.m.
AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome and to receive Apologies for absence (please let the Secretary know if you are unable to attend 01579 351081 / jean.g.miller@btinternet.com)
2. To approve the Minutes of the 40th AGM (22/05/2023)
3. Chairman's and Trustee's Report
4. To receive accounts for the year ended 31/03/2024
5. To consider and accept the Accounts
6. To appoint an Independent Financial Examiner
7. Annual Reports from: i) Hall Management ii) Social Committee
iii) HAMLET & Welcome Packs iv) HAMLET Film Club v) Technical Team
Annual reports to include forthcoming events
8. Election of Officers & Standing Committees (please let the Secretary know if there are any nominations for committees)
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of the AGM for 2025

Quick check of Up-coming events in the Village Hall

March 19th **Film:** All the Beauty and the Bloodshed

April 8th **Lunch Club**

April 16th **Film:** What's Love got to do with it?

May 6th **May Day Celebrations**

May 13th Lunch Club

May 18th The Big Breakfast in aid of Cancer Research UK

May 20th **Film:** Saving Grace

June 7th & June 8th **SHAME** drama: 'Murder in the Village Hall'

June 10th **Lunch Club**

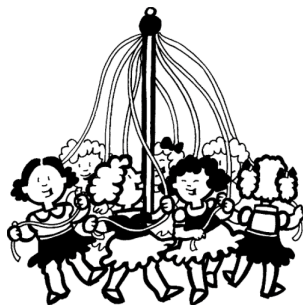
June 16th **Film:** The Great Escaper

July 14th **Annual Village Show**

July 21st Harrowbarrow **Open Gardens** day

May Day Celebrations Monday 6th May

This year's May Day Celebrations are well in hand. Once again we have the popular Family Dog Show, Circus Acts, Music on the Lawn, May pole dancing by Harrowbarrow pupils, and some of the veterans. There will be 'Beat the goalie', many games and side shows, trade and craft stalls.



A licensed Bar run by the Carpenters Arms, Burger and Chip stand with Lil Pizza Heaven. Not forgetting the grand draw & the best cream teas and cakes in the area.

If anyone wants a stand, please email Graham Carter: gpcarter7@aol.com.

Art for All *in the Village Hall*

Monday 2pm to 4 pm

Come and join our friendly group in the Village Hall.

We meet more or less fortnightly helping and encouraging each other and as we are all still learning we enjoy having occasional workshops run by invited local artists.

Drawing, pastels, ink, acrylics, watercolours, water based oils, charcoal and mixed media. We are all trying some new skill and enjoy having a go! It is a special time set aside to paint or sketch in company, and enjoy a chat with a drink.

Spring Sessions as follows:

Mondays ~ 15th & 29th April, 20th May, 17th June, 1st, 15th & 29th July.

The cost this term will be £15 to cover room hire and refreshments

Beginners are most welcome.

Why not arrange to come and visit the group?

Please contact Jean Miller on 07825 092392 for more information.



'Out & About' walking in the area

10 April 08 May 12 June 10 July 14 August 11 September

Our walks take place on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and begin at 2 p.m. from the Village Hall car park (dates below). Well-behaved dogs on static leads are welcome to come along. Be prepared for any weather and wear stout walking shoes.

Contact Jean Miller : 07825 092392 or jean.g.miller@btinternet.com

SHAME's 'Murder in the Village Hall' : 7th & 8th June

Relax - the murder hasn't happened yet!

SHAME are pleased to announce the next production will be a murder mystery, 'Murder by Mattress', written by Lesley Gunn. The format follows a similar pattern to our last, highly successful, murder mystery with a return of some of the key characters.

Seating will be café style around tables. Bring your own food but there will be a bar, and tea/coffee available at the interval.

Audience participation is actively encouraged and you will have the chance to quiz the characters before deciding "Who dunnit!" A bottle of wine will be presented to each table correctly identifying the culprit. By the time you are reading this, auditions will be completed and rehearsals will be in full swing.

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June. Curtain up at 7.30pm

Tickets will be available from the Post Office and other sources nearer the time, priced at £8.00 pre-paid or £10.00 on the door, subject to availability.

If you are reading this and feel a hankering to be involved either on stage or in a supporting role please contact me, Frank - 07786338061. Thanks.



Cancer Research UK Update

Fundraising plans for 2024

May 18th: The Big Breakfast at the Village Hall from 9am until 1pm. Further details regarding booking will be available nearer the date.

September 28th: Quiz. Teams of 6. Bring your own drinks and nibbles

October 19th: Annual Pink Coffee Morning.

All events will take place at the Village Hall. If you are able to help at any of these events, contact Jenny on 01579 350546

PEOPLE.....PEOPLE.....PEOPLE

Sadly the below villagers have passed away. We send our sincere condolences to their family and friends.

David Hart: David, from Dunplowin, Harrowbarrow, died in December. Our sympathy to David's wife Christine and family.

Mary Spicer: A long-established villager, Mary was well known, and a lively and skilful member of the Short Mat Bowls Club. Our sympathy to Mary's husband Trevor and family.

Sue Pote : Sue will be especially remembered for her enduring support of, and fund-raising for, the Marie Curie charity. She and her husband John, also deceased, were popular and highly respected members of the village lunch club, known by many for the services provided by their business. Our condolences to Jude, Craig and the rest of the family.

Alan Sturt : Sussex born, Alan became a man of the West after moving, first as a boy to Torquay then, after marrying Eileen, to Bristol and Plymouth, and finally to Cornwall where the couple bought a run-down , so called 'Gentleman's Residence' at Bray Shop which they renovated. After a number of years working as a manager/ designer in the business sector Alan became a mature student at St Mark & St John gaining a degree in craft, design and technology & a teaching qualification. This led to positions at Saltash School, a year's Teacher Exchange to British Columbia with Eileen and their two children &, later, Launceston College. The couple's final move was to The Coppins in Harrowbarrow where their beautiful house & garden, often a venue for charity coffee mornings and suchlike, bore the stamp of Alan's craftsmanship and love of nature. As keen travellers as well as caravanners, Alan and Eileen made many trips abroad together, especially upon retirement. Alan travelled alone to South Africa, however, where he helped build a children's play area for an Early Learning Centre. As a walker, he not only embarked on the remote Machu Picchu trek but, closer to home, did a sponsored walk around the Cornish Coast for the R.N.L.I. After retirement he became a volunteer for the Citizen's Advice Bureau then, in the last ten years, for the National Trust at Cotehele, where he used his many practical skills as a "fixer of broken things" !

Our community is hugely indebted to Alan whose commitment to keeping the wheels turning went largely unnoticed except by those of us who knew him well. He spotted when things needed mending or

touching up at the village hall and quietly got on with it. His friends too benefited from his practical, generous and compassionate spirit. He was always fond of sport, having played football, cricket and squash before tackling the challenges of golf, initially at St Mellion and then at Tavistock Golf Club. Latterly he joined the Village Luncheon Club, finally admitting he was old enough! One of his last commitments was as treasurer for the Short Mat Bowls Club where he played the game with his usual aplomb and bonhomie. He will be much missed.

A message from Eileen

I would like to say 'thank -you' for all the cards and lovely messages I received following Alan's death in December. It was a great comfort to realise the extent of the regard in which he was held by friends and neighbours. His best possible legacy would be for his 'Mr Fix it' reputation to be carried on by a new generation of volunteers to keep our precious village hall and its grounds in tip-top condition. Alan asked that any donations at his funeral should go to The Children's Hospice South West and the Cornwall Air Ambulance. £102 was duly sent to each.

My Grandson James and son-in-law Ian walked up Snowdon by night to reach the summit by dawn in Alan's memory, knowing he would have loved to be with them. Their sponsorship was for St. Luke's Hospice in Plymouth where Alan spent his last weeks, cared for by the wonderful Hospice staff, and surrounded by his family.

Best wishes to Michael (Mike) and Sydney Enright who have moved to the south-east to be near their daughter and family after residing in Harrowbarrow since Mike's retirement from the Navy 25 years ago. Mike will be remembered for his membership of the Community Association and Hall Management committees, and Sydney of Cancer Research UK, as well as the W.I. The couple were also founder and committee members of the Short Mat Bowls group, helping to gain funding for the equipment, encouraging and teaching new members, and playing regularly in club matches at home and away.

Congratulations to Jonathan and Rachael Elliott of Rising Sun who have welcomed their first child, Imogen.

Congratulations to Stefano Mazzeo, director of 'The Message of Lourdes' film which was first shown in front of a live audience at Harrowbarrow village hall, and which has won Best Historical Film at the Star International Film Festival in Florence, Italy, and also been nominated for

the Mirabile Dictu award for best film in Rome under the Pontifical Council for Culture. Its end credit song 'All is for the Lady, Bernadette's Song' was also nominated and won a Best Music Video award.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Clare Bullimore who, after many years as Deputy Clerk, has now been officially appointed as Clerk to Calstock Parish Council.

Mary Martin's Summer Exhibition

Tamar Valley Centre, Cemetery Road, Drakewalls

Free Entry - All Welcome

2pm to 6pm Saturday 25 May

AND

11am to 6pm Sunday 26 May until Sunday 02 June

For more details 01579 350696 / virginiaspiers@icloud.com

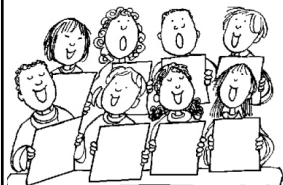
This new collection of over 50 oil paintings reflects Mary's continued involvement with and appreciation of her beloved home area. After longterm study and decades of painting out-of-doors, Mary still works quickly to capture those rare and fleeting effects of light that excite and inspire her to paint familiar landscapes transformed into richly-coloured, special places of universal appeal. Different tides, times of day and seasons (including unusual touches of ice and snow) are closely portrayed, revealing the fragile beauty of this land that deserves our attention and careful protection. Bluebells spill from ancient hedge-banks, drift across ferny woodland and soften the edges of the worked stone littering the flanks of Kit Hill. Rare fields of cultivated daffodils catch attention, their brilliant yellows contrasting with pale pheasant-eye varieties found in regenerating sun-dappled woodland. Flamboyant magnolias tower above the semi-wild garden and, in the mature orchard of local varieties planted by Mary and her husband James, are canopies of translucent blossom and boughs of fruit. She has also ventured to the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor to capture the ephemeral mist as it hovers amidst the effulgent may blossom of stunted thorns. Included in this exhibition are five paintings portraying earlier days when market gardens, salmon fishing and historic cherry orchards were still valued and widespread features of the Tamar Valley.



'The Tree of Life' Concert

Sunday 28th April 3pm in Calstock Arts (Old Chapel)

Calstock Singers' Spring Concert is entitled 'The Tree of Life'. Sarah Gard, our new musical director, has put together an interesting and varied programme which we are sure you will enjoy. We have welcomed several new singers recently and preparations are going well. We look forward to an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment, so do come along.



Entry is by donation on the day but you will require a (free) ticket, available from Jenny 01822 835889 or Limekiln Gallery at Calstock.

Refreshments available.

CALSTOCK Parish Council NEWS

At our January Council meeting, a very emotive presentation was given by the Mayor of Liskeard (Simon Cassidy), Darren Tait (Darren's Taxis) and Yuliya Teplova on the benefits of twinning with a town in Ukraine.

There would be mutual benefits for both communities especially to help school children who are struggling to learn in horrendous situations.

Alastair Tinto will lead a steering group to look into this in more detail and the Parish Council was fully behind the scheme in theory.

The Parish Council has undergone a staffing review and an Outside Services Leader has been recruited. This role replaces the Deputy Clerk post and the main purpose will be to lead a team to ensure our grounds work, outdoor furniture and property are kept to a high standard. We are keen that the role will also further develop volunteer-led projects and working with the communities across our parish will be pivotal. It's an exciting development for the Parish Council. Under the staffing review Clare Bullimore has been appointed as the Clerk to the Council.

Our Food Action project will continue and will be on the second Monday of the month. Callington Town Council has also started a delivery which is on the last Thursday of the month.

To book a delivery in Gunnislake please contact us, to book for Callington please contact them directly on enquiries@callington-tc.gov.uk or phone them on 01579 384039.

Clare Bullimore, Clerk, 01822 748847

clerk@calstockparishcouncil.gov.uk



Mobile library - Thursday, every 4 weeks

Next visit : Thursday 4th APRIL

Honicombe Park 15:05-15:25 Lower Metherell 15:35-15:55

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News of the Calstock Footpath Society (CFS)

In the last issue I wrote that the Calstock Footpath Society might fold following the AGM so here is an update. Help is definitely needed! Due to a lack of members with energy, enthusiasm and youth the society may be forced to close after almost 40 years. CFS has, over the years, supported by the Calstock Parish Council, kept our 40 Parish Footpaths in good walking order. Monitoring our footpaths by the CFS members has helped boost the use of them by locals and those from far afield holidaying in our beautiful Tamar Valley. More members are needed not only to help keep CFS alive, but also on the committee. At the AGM it was agreed to elect Juliet Hilary as Chair and Jean Miller as Treasurer and to use the next three months to promote CFS. Whether we stay alive or close will rely on people stepping up to the plate and breathing fresh air into the society. An extraordinary general meeting will take place by the end of April.



Not 'Disorienting' at All! by John Eccles

In the winter edition of Hamlet, I read the fascinating piece by Rebecca Nesbit about Orienteering. As I frequently walk on Kit Hill, I was tempted to try it out.

Fortunately, Becky is our neighbour, so I was able to get reassurance from her that, even considering my advanced years, she was confident I'd cope with the shortest course. I spent my daily walk during the week leading up to the 4th February event, traversing as many of the paths and tracks as I could, on this wonderfully interesting hill that we are so lucky to have on our doorstep. I even had the temerity to go for a walk with two other local entrants, Hilary Dent and Michelle Rose, and pretend that I knew what would be involved on the day.

All participants met in the middle car park, to sign on, be warmly welcomed by the stewards, given our electronic 'dibbers' (more later) and offered advice by experienced orienteers. At the Start we were given 1:7500 detailed maps of our trail with control points clearly marked. At each control point, as well as at the start and finish, was an electronic detector attached to a stave into which one's dibber was put, to record the time; each control point was marked with a red-and-white pennant.

As my only aim was to get round the course, I strolled along using my map and compass recording my time at each control point; I certainly wasn't tempted to emulate most of the other entrants whose aim was to get round as fast as possible! On finishing the course and handing in my dibber, which was then put into a reader, I was amazed to be given, immediately, a print-out of the times that I'd and how long I'd course.

I must say I taking part in my Congratulations such a super sure that the 84 pleasure.



reached each control taken to get round the

thoroughly enjoyed first orienteering event. Becky, for organising occasion from which I'm entrants derived great

HARROWBARROW & METHERELL VILLAGE SHOW

A Summer Date for your Diary - Sunday 14th July

On a cold but bright February morning, cheered by the fact that the incessant rain has stopped for now, balmy July weather and the Village Show are difficult to envisage: but thoughts of summer and thinking about entries to the Show are things to brighten the final days of winter.

The Show schedule (*see the last Hamlet*) lists the wide range of classes where you may demonstrate your gardening skills, your craft, art, culinary and bottling talents for the villagers to admire.

An important change compared to years past is that the show will be held on a SUNDAY, as explained in the previous Hamlet:

Comment had been made that preparing entries on a Friday afternoon is difficult, with it being the end of a working week and near the end of the school term.

Taking this on board, the Committee decided to move the day to Sunday. By moving the show to Sunday, entries can be brought to the hall from 5pm on Saturday 13th July and from 8.30 am on Sunday. We hope that, having Saturday to prepare, entrants will enjoy a more relaxed approach meaning more entries in such categories as baking, younger persons' craft, flower arranging and produce, avoiding the inevitable rush which comes from trying to organise it all on a Friday evening.

We feel that the Show is an important event in the village calendar as it gives everyone, young and old(er), an opportunity to shine in the different classes - in art, craft, photography, flowers, cookery and produce as well as in vegetables and fruit. The prize of a rosette or, even better, a cup is an incentive though it is the taking part which brings the greatest satisfaction. We hope the newer residents in the villages will involve themselves in this popular and enjoyable village activity. We would also like to encourage as many children as possible to look at the Schedule to see what art, craft, modelling or photos they might enter. The prize for children as always is a lovely rosette - a work of art in itself, worth the trouble of entering.

The message is the same as last year: "Calling out to the artists, those who sew, the woodturners, pickle makers, wine and cider makers, all those who would like to show off their skills on a bigger stage." It is always very satisfying to witness, if only on one summer Sunday afternoon of the year, the quality and range of skills, and vegetables and other produce grown by our small population. The Show is very well supported every year but we would like to reach out and unlock new and wider talents in all those areas and classes on offer, and give everyone the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful community event in our village hall.

On the Trail of Daphne du Maurier by Anita Bowden

Cornwall has many wonderful places but following a theme can give a visit more interest. Daphne du Maurier has lately fallen out of the spotlight of television and film production but in her day was as popular as Ann Cleeves and Ian Rankin are today.

She was not born in Cornwall but came here on holiday with her sisters to Bodinnick which is reached from Fowey by a regular ferry or by road from the other side of the river. Her husband Gerald du Maurier was a famous actor manager and the couple rented a cottage nicknamed the Swiss Cottage by the locals though it was once used as a net store by fishermen. The du Mauriers spent their holidays swimming, sailing and discovering remote coves in the then sparsely populated Cornwall. What follows are some of the places where Daphne set her exciting stories:

Jamaica Inn in the village of Bolventnor on Bodmin Moor is now just off the dual carriageway but in Daphne's day it was an isolated place. She was riding on the moor with a friend when they got lost in the fog. Following the lights, they found their way to Jamaica Inn where they spent the night, and it inspired her to write a dark tale of ruthless smugglers. The granite walls and great fireplace are still there though the rest is much changed.

Rebecca, another much-loved novel, became a favourite of television and film directors with a number of adaptations made. The first starred Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine and used as its setting the beach at Polridmouth Bay. A later television adaptation was filmed in Caerhayes Castle and on its beautiful beach. (Caerhayes garden is well worth visiting in springtime with its world famous collection of rhododendrons, magnolias and azaleas.)

The setting for another smuggling story, *Frenchman's Creek*, is the Helford River with its renowned oyster fishery. The not so well-known *King's General* was set in Tywardreth, the film planned but sadly never made. The prison in the story was based on Launceston Castle, notorious as the worst in England, and later used for Winston Graham's *Poldark* stories.

The last book I'd mention, though there are many more, is *My Cousin Rachel* which was mainly inspired by Menabilly, Daphne's beloved home for many years. The house is near Bodinnick and she

got the idea for the story's sunken garden while walking in the garden at Menabilly.

I hope you take pleasure in visiting the places Daphne set her exciting stories in and, in the meantime, might also enjoy her books.



*Strands of Time: The Story of the Edgcumbes at Cotehele in stitch
(Part 2)*

by Hannah Reynolds

Following on from the article in the winter edition of Hamlet...

A practically new team assembled in 2019 to begin on the third of four embroideries depicting Cotehele's history. Katy Choroszewska and Maureen King remained from the original (2006) group, and they welcomed six newcomers. The veterans devised a series of exercises for them to work through, with things just getting started

when Covid arrived, holding up work for nearly two years. In October 2021 the team continued with the exercises so everyone could get up to speed again. These included stitching a sphere (the aim, to get straight stitches to form curves), practising particular stitches to create texture and patterns, and embroidering hair - fabric was printed with bald heads and the task was to stitch realistic hair - curly, plaited, beards, brown, grey, even a pink punk hairdo - not really 1600s style, but... imaginations were used!

The exercises took several months, but the experienced embroiderers began work early on while supervising the rest. As most of the group lacked experience, working on a frame this size and a project of this scope, artist Katy produced a practice panel of the same size and design but without colour. This is actually the more difficult panel to work, as one's instinct is to fill the whole space with stitches rather than embellish. However, it allows the sampling of stitches and patterns in the area/shape to be worked before starting on the actual panel.

Even experienced embroiderers can struggle to get things right. The cat on panel three is Kitty, who belonged to Maureen. Kitty took several weeks to complete satisfactorily, and has the honour of



having the very first stitches not to be unpicked and reworked, making the seemingly insignificant 21st February 2022 a momentous day. Kitty is the marker by which time spent on panel three is measured.

The embroidery covers the 1660s to 1789, which includes the period known as "Romantic Cotehele" when the house was furnished with antiquities and opened to the public. In the 1660s, Royalist Colonel Piers moved away from Mount Edgcumbe near Parliamentary Plymouth, to Cotehele, which he remodelled. The house remains in his layout to this day. Piers is depicted giving his wife a gold watch which he left her in his will. They stand with a rather shady-looking lawyer, nicknamed Seamus the Shifty Shyster. An interesting event in 1675 was when Anne Edgcumbe died, was placed in a coffin and



interred in the family crypt. The sexton came along to steal the wedding ring from her finger - at which point, Anne sat upright, presumably giving the sexton the fright of his life. Anne returned home where she lived for many more years. She is depicted in the richly decorated red bed with which she is associated. Both Mount Edgcumbe and Cotehele House feature, the latter with the figures on the sundial above the archway. The number 5 is embroidered upside down, as per the 5 on the building.

The design shows the arrival of furniture and tapestries at Cotehele from Mount Edgcumbe in the 1760s with footmen hard at work. We also have Lady Emma looking fondly at her pet pig Cupid who would travel with Emma to London, and allegedly joined the family at the dinner table. On the embroidery he is shown, not enjoying a hearty repast at the table, but looking resplendent in a blue bow eyeing an apple.

The embroidery ends in 1789 with George III and Queen Charlotte's visit on 25th August. Charlotte wrote in detail of the visit in her journal, noting the family pewter and the jugs marked sac (sherry) and whit (white wine), dated 1643. We don't know what the conversation covered, but surely they discussed events across the Channel - the French Revolution was well underway, not so very far

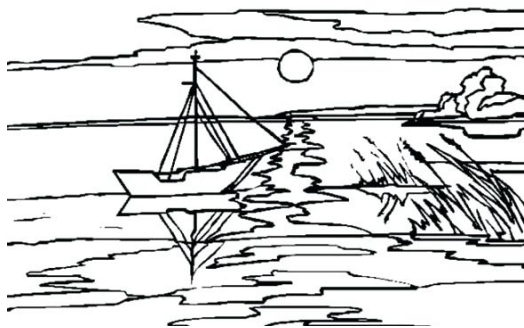
as the crow flies. The very next day The Declaration of the Rights of Man was announced.

Always one part of a panel causes headaches. On number one, it was the thatched roof, on the second, the stone of the house. Panel three was no exception. When Katy presented the cartoon to the Cotehele committee, they were pleased, but wanted the Tamar running through it. The river proved tricky to embroider as Katy had designed solely indoor scenes, and the river runs from the top right, through the middle and down to the bottom left. This panel, which features 39 people, one cat, one mouse, a pig and a snail, will be finished this year.

As the embroidery team worked, Katy researched and drew the final panel, Victorian times - 1947, when ownership of Cotehele was transferred to The National Trust. There are a lot of people on the last one, which means they are drawn smaller than previously, which will mean even finer stitching. Scenes include: Henry Fox Talbot, step-brother to Lady Caroline, with his camera; The Prince of Wales at a tea-party, where the cat - Nessa, who belongs to the House & Collections Manager - sits, perhaps hoping for a saucer of cream; children in dressing gowns walking across the courtyard

“like Wee Willie Winkie”, as Lady Hilaria recalled, when the family returned, once again, to Cotehele during the war.

The river, to be machine stitched, runs along the bottom, to match the first panel. The background will be in mille fleur style, with a mix of flowers including



daffodils, with poppies around Second Lieutenant Piers Edgcumbe, heir to the Earldom, Mount Edgcumbe and Cotehele, who was killed near Dunkirk in 1940. He waves goodbye as he walks away, leaving 51 people, 2 dogs, 9 fish, a cat and a teddy bear.

The Embroidery Group meets most Fridays year-round above the second-hand bookshop at Cotehele, and welcomes visitors from 10.30 to 2.30-ish.

***Calstock Parish Archive* by Lynda Harman**

The archive re-opened in February after the winter break. We still dealt with enquiries via the website including one from the BBC. This time they needed photographs for an episode of Countryfile. We've also been asked to supply pictures for Cotehele and the Tamara Project.

We have just received an amazing bag full of letters and invoices concerning Cork's Bazaar dating from the late 1880s to early 1900s which are fascinating to look through. Cork's shop was in Fore Street, Calstock, where the 'Salmagundi Gallery' is now. He sold stationery, pens, books, postcards, picture frames, paint and many other things. After he died, his daughter Ivy took over the shop.

If anyone has any old papers/programmes etc which are no longer wanted, please think of the archive before throwing them away and of course we'll gladly copy things if you want to keep them. It is so difficult to collect information from earlier times, so we also welcome modern information for use by future generations. If you have images or minutes of current events and club meetings that you would be willing to share, please could you email them to me, or let us borrow them to copy. In this digital age it is going to be more difficult for future researchers. My contact details are: lynda.harman@btinternet.com Tel 01579 351413.

Opening hours

Tuesday 10.00 - 2.00 Wednesday 12.00 - 4.00 Friday 10.00 - 2.00

Calstock Parish Local History Group

If you're interested in local history please join us. The Calstock Parish Local History Group meets once a month with talks in autumn/winter and outings in spring/summer.

Membership is only £7 a year and includes three newsletters packed with articles about local history, and discounted entry to our talks and outings. Get in touch if you'd like to join or find out more. Non-members are always welcome at our events.

Saturday 27th April - A talk about the Wars of the Roses.

Our speaker Philip Photiou was born and lives in Plymouth and is the author of two books, Plymouth's Forgotten War, a non-fiction work, and The Wrath of Kings, a novel set during the Wars of the Roses. The talk will be at the Methodist Church in Albaston. Start time is 7.30pm; members £1.50, visitors £3. No need to book.

May and June outings TBD. Get in touch if you'd like to be added to the mailing list or to be contacted about these events.

Tish Valva,
Membership Secretary CPLHG
01822832414 or tishvalva@mac.com

Spring Bird Watch *by Geoff Roberts*

Apologies to you all - I missed writing in the winter issue due to



travelling back and forth across the country and of course there was the small event of Christmas which we celebrated with a house full.

Since my last report we have had our winter visitors arrive for the glut of autumn fruits and berries on offer that have laden our hedge rows and trees. We have had the RSPB big bird watch which hopefully a few of you took part and gave

in your results - it is an important information gathering exercise which gives the RSPB an early insight into bird numbers' decline or their capability to grow in numbers. Two species that do very well, especially in our garden and surrounding fields, are Pheasants (with up to 40 million released for the shooting season you would expect an invasion of some sort) and Wood Pigeons.

There have been many large flocks up this end of the village of Stock Doves, Linnets, Chaffinches and Goldfinches under a watching eye of Sparrow hawks. Among these flocks may be the odd, unusual species so keep a close eye and enjoy the spectacle that they put on.

The next RSPB bird watch is in Spring so watch out for details and please take an hour of your time to record the birds visiting your patch.



Tamar Valley Bus

The good news is that there is now a brand new bus after many headaches and delays. It just needs now to get the livery put on it !

April '24- bookings for ** trips available from Tuesday 12th March

Mon 1st	EASTER MONDAY				
Tues 2nd	Launceston shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Wed 3rd	Afternoon Tea	£5	1:30	4:00	Mavis
Thur 4th	Craft 4 Crafters Westpoint**	£8	9:30	5:00	Mavis
Fri 5th	Tavistock shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Mon 8th	Friendship Club				
Tues 9th	Saltash shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Wed 10th	Otter Nursery**	£9	9:30	5:00	Mavis
Thur 11th	Callington Library	£2	1:30	3:00	Andy
Fri 12th	Tavistock shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Mon 15th	Truro	£5	9:30	5:00	Mavis
Tues 16th	Launceston shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Wed 17th	Boscastle **	£7	9:30	5:00	Mavis
Fri 18th	Tavistock shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Mon 22nd	Gunnislake and District U3A				Carol
Tues 23rd	Saltash shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Wed 24th	Pub lunch	£5	11:00	4:00	Mavis
Thur 25th	Trago Mills	£2	10:00	4:00	Mavis
Fri 26th	Tavistock shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol
Tues 30th	Launceston shopping	£2	9:30	2:00	Carol

To book trips and outings ring Mavis 01822 833412 (Mon-Fri 10 -5). For more information about the regular shopping trips ring / text Carol on 07423176732.

A.I. An Artificial Masterpiece !?

Chat GPT was given this instruction with the result below. I am considering asking it to take over the editorship of the newsletter!

Write a short poem of no more than 10 lines about a community newsletter called Hamlet which shares news about the villages of Harrowbarrow and Metherell!

In Hamlet's quiet, a newsletter's grace,
Harbouring tales of each quaint place.
Harrowbarrow's fields and Metherell's stream,
In ink, their stories intertwined, it seems.
Through Hamlet's pages, community thrives,
In every word, their spirit survives.
A shared narrative, strong and bright,
In the newsletter's embrace, they unite.

~~~~~

**Thank you to those property owners** for going the extra mile in getting the roadside verges and hedgerows cut back, and for completing the task in time before the bird nesting season. Of particular help is the re-exposing of road signs and traffic warning notices, which goes a long way in maintaining road safety in the area. In an area like Harrowbarrow and Metherell where the roads are narrow and the corners dangerously exposed to sudden traffic, walkers with or without children, dogs, buggies etc are very aware of the need for extra care and drivers of vehicles to keep a low speed and an extra watchful eye on potential accidents.



Happy  
Easter

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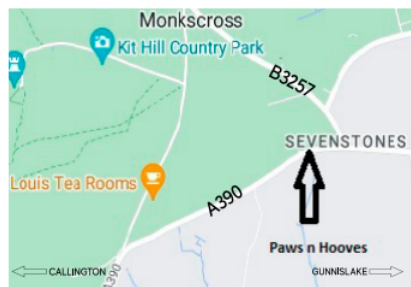
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