

The Granite Towers

*A Community Magazine for
Luxulyan and Lanlivery*



April & May 2026

EDITORIAL



We were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend Robin. Robin was a long time Granite Towers committee member and complier, only recently giving up the role due to ill health.

Robin regularly contributed to the Granite Towers in the guise of Erithacus via A Travellers Tales (many of you may have worked out who the contributor was as Erithacus is the Latin for Robin).

We dedicate this edition of the Granite Towers in memory of Robin.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ROBIN BURLEY

On Monday 2nd February 2026, Robin, aged 79 years of Trevellion, passed away peacefully at Windmill Court care home, St Minver. Dearest husband to Arlene, Dad to Chris, Father-in-law to Giannina, Granddad to Arturo. Robin will be dearly missed by his family and his many friends. He is much loved and will always be.

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Memories of Robin

When Robin and Arlene moved to Cornwall, they became active members of Luxulyan Church, and soon Robin was singing in the Choir, Christopher an acolyte, and Arlene stationed in the front, or nearly-front pew. At that time Robin was often called abroad on work, and I remember him coming to church one Sunday and casually remarking that he had left Frankfurt that same morning. He was quite interested in writing music on his laptop, which could usefully occupy his waits at distant airports, and we included some of his music in Communion services. When the Band failed to commit to the usual Christmas carol engagement one year, Robin was quick off the mark, rounding up singers, which led to the establishment of the now-traditional Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. He worked very hard at whatever was needed, fundraising, Churchwarden, PCC planning, and much more. He and Arlene have always been very hospitable, and with a varied selection of alcoholic beverages and snacks on offer, making PCC meetings held at Trevellion Barn into convivial affairs. And who could forget the delicious vegetable-derived soups that he made for Soup n Sweet lunch? When Covid came along with no public gatherings allowed, Robin proved himself a techno-adept, and the services were streamed on Zoom, which must have cost him a great deal of extra-curriculum time. Even the Nine Lessons went out on Youtube one year. But it was not all hard graft! Many of us enjoyed seeing photos of his New Years Day swims, on one occasion at least dressed as a Sister Nun. I heard about his kayaking to St Winnow church on the River Fowey. His acceptance speech of the St Piran Award was sung, not spoken, to the amazement of the congregation. He was an ideal Chairman, including to St Austell Choral Society, showing clear direction without coercion, always allowing independent viewpoints to be heard. Thank you Robin for everything that you have done over the past 30 years.

Anthony Trodd

CHLOE SCOTT - ARCHER

I started the 2025 season with two main aims. To hit the 690/720 mark and to get picked for the World Youth Championships in Canada and hopefully reach the top tier of qualification scores for this. At my first competition of the season, I shot a 688 and later that month at the National tour stage one I shot a 681 followed by four great head-to-head matches to stand on the podium in 3rd place alongside two senior GB archers.

The season was quite a challenge at times with some difficult weather conditions, but my scores remained consistent and by July I was regularly hitting over 685/720. At our own club shoot in July at Colquite Estate I managed a 692 and a 690 out of 720 so came away very pleased. I was selected to represent GB at both the European Cup 2nd leg and the World Youth Championships. At the European Cup I finished the qualifiers as the highest ranked female but was knocked out in the quarter finals. I returned home with a bronze medal in the mixed team event.

On our way to the airport ready to travel out to Canada we got the devastating news that Air Canada had gone on strike and despite a lot of time and effort by the management team to find alternative transport for us all it wasn't to be and they could only send a reduced team of three over 18 compound archers.

I finished the outdoor season representing Devon and Cornwall at the National team competition where I got to shoot with my dad in the mixed team, not something you can do in many sports. I finished the outdoor season ranked number one in the under 18's women, number two in the under 21's and 15 in the senior rankings.

The indoor season was mixed as I had an injury for two months but represented England in the Home Nations event at the Indoor nationals where we came away with gold in the team event and in Hampshire at the beginning of February, I shot a junior and senior national record. Over the winter I have been training with the junior and senior GB squads and I'm aiming to get selected to represent GB at the European Cup and the European Championships later this year for the under 21 team.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Luxulyan coffee morning group for their very kind donation. It is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference as all of my training is at the National Sports centre at Lilleshall and 95% of my competitions are at least a 3-hour journey away.

Looking forward now to the 2026 outdoor season. (Picture on the back page)

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LADIES' KEEP FIT LUXULYAN

Ladies up to 80+ meet in the village hall on Mondays 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

We run 3 terms of 12 weeks led by our expert personal trainer/fitness instructor Emma Youlden. Our activities are strenuous but adapted to the individual needs of all members, with a range of capabilities.

The fees are £30 per term or £4 for individual sessions. If you are interested in joining the class, have a chat with **Wendy Lewis**

Tel. 07852 112539

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LUXULYAN OVER 50s CLUB

Luxulyan Over 50s is a club that meets on first and third Wednesdays every month for a modestly priced lunch and friendship at **the King's Arms, Luxulyan at 12noon for 12.15.**

Members are phoned or e-mailed a few days in advance to select from a choice of two, their main and sweet courses so that delays are kept to a minimum. If you have any suggestions for something different on the menu, please let Tracy know, bearing in mind that our meals are produced to a budget.

Subs are £2 per year, and a raffle is held at each meeting which helps with the cost of the Christmas meal. You can also join the Christmas Club, where we put a £1 at beginning of month into the club, which will also help offset the cost of your individual meal.

New members are welcome, so please telephone Val on 01726 850045 for details.

CHAIR YOGA IN LUXULYAN

Now available at Luxulyan Village Hall are sessions for Chair Yoga led by Tracy. Sessions are from 10 am to 11 am on Fridays, cost is £8 per session.

No need to book, just come along and join in. Tracy is a great teacher and will be sympathetic to your aches and pains – to a certain extent anyway!

ADVERTISING

Please contact Jim Cleare on 01726 850553
jim.cleare@btinternet.com

Ideally, 1/4 page submissions should fit into a four to the page format

13.5 cm height x 9.5 cm width.

Note we do not construct adverts; they should be supplied in finished form.

PLEASE NOTE OUR PRICES AS FOLLOWS FOR SIX ISSUES PER YEAR:

Large adverts - 1/4 of a page - £50

Small adverts - 1/8 of a page - £30

Please send copy for the next edition of
"THE GRANITE TOWERS"
June/July 2026 EDITION to the editor,
by MAY 10th 2026.

EMAIL ADDRESS for Granite Towers copy:
granitetowersluxlan@gmail.com
Photos for front or back page to Ellen McConnell
ellen.mcconnell@hotmail.co.uk
See page 10 for all deadline dates.

LANLIVERY FEAST WEEK 2026

Sunday 10th May - Saturday 16th May

SUNDAY 10th May

5.30pm WELL DRESSING at the Well
6.00pm FEAST SUNDAY SERVICE with the Benefice Choir.
Followed by Wine, Cheese and nibbles, sponsored by the Feast Committee.

MONDAY 11th May

6.30pm ROUNDERS - In the Playing Field. All ages welcome.

TUESDAY 12th May

6.30pm FOOTBALL – Kick off at 6.30pm - In the Playing Field. All ages welcome

WEDNESDAY 13th May

6.30pm DUCK RACE - Meet at Polcan Bridge. Tickets available from any Committee Members and on the night. Presentation of prizes in the Crown Inn at 9.00pm.
7.30pm GAMES IN THE CROWN INN

THURSDAY 14th May

7.30pm QUIZ NIGHT in the CROWN INN
£2 per person, maximum of 6 in a team. Raffle.

FRIDAY 15th May

7.00pm BARN DANCE / CEILIDH with "SPLANN". In Lanlivery Church.
Ticket entry £10 per person, children under 16 free. Tickets available from any Committee member or Cath on 07799 752575 or Ali on 07725 836464.
Bring your own refreshments, drinks, nibbles etc and cup/glass. None provided.
No unaccompanied children.

FEAST SATURDAY

9.00 - 10.30am PRODUCE SHOW STAGING
Schedules in the Granite Towers and from Committee members.

1.30pm FEAST DAY SERVICE - please note the earlier time.

Followed by the Fancy Dress in the Church.
Classes to include Pre-school, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, Seniors, Groups

2.30pm FLORA DANCE - To the Playing field from the bottom of the Church steps, accompanied by ST. PINNOCK BAND.

Followed by an afternoon of Team Games, weather permitting.

3.30pm TEAS Will be served in the Church from 3.30pm.

Donations of cakes gratefully received.

5.00pm PRESENTATION OF PRIZES - in the church – all entries to be removed by this time please

The theme for this year's Scarecrows will be "SPORTS"

*Tickets £10
Under 18's £5*

*Raising money for
St. Brevita's Church, Lanlivery*

Spirits, Spirituality and a little Silliness!

Flute, Soprano and Organ Recital




with Samantha Rowe and Anthony Trodd

Friday 17th April 2026 at 7pm
St Brevita's Church, Lanlivery
PL30 5BT

Samantha grew up in St. Neot before moving to London in 2019 to study music at the Guildhall and Royal College of Music. Now enjoying a busy freelance career as a soprano and flautist, she is delighted to be returning home to collaborate with organist and pianist Anthony Trodd.

Programme to include: Debussy Syrinx, Gluck Dance of the Blessed Spirits, Mendelssohn Theme and Variations, Boyce Gavotte, Sibelius Be Still My Soul, Clarke Zoom Tube, Coleman Danza de la Mariposa, Gilbert and Sullivan favourites and much more!

Call Samantha on 07887 573891 to reserve tickets in advance or purchase on the door.

LANLIVERY FEAST PRODUCE SHOW

SATURDAY, 16TH MAY 2026

Please bring your entries between 9.00am and 10.30am

Produce

1. 4 brown eggs, 1 to be cracked.
2. 4 duck eggs, 1 to be cracked
3. Longest stick of Rhubarb
4. 5 Radishes, any variety
5. Bunch of fresh mixed herbs.
Minimum of 3 varieties
6. Tray of seedlings

Floral

1. Rainbow Vase
(one bloom from each colour range)
2. Flower arrangement in a Ladle
3. A vase of 3 flowering shrubs

Cookery

1. 4 Cheese Scones
2. Homemade Cordial
3. Green salad on a tea plate
4. 4 fingers of Shortbread
5. Lemon Drizzle Cake
6. Jar of homemade jam

Handicraft

1. A Spring wreath, any medium
2. Photograph "Spring in the village"
3. Up-cycle a household item into something useful for the garden
4. A crotchet item
5. An item made from wood

Children

Pre-school

An animal made from vegetables
Picture of a flower

Key Stage 1 and 2. (To be judged separately)

1. Drawing of a vegetable super-hero
2. A digital garden design
3. A bug house

All entries to be removed by 5pm please.

Cornish Telegraph - Thursday 05 February 1914

LANIVET AND LANLIVERY

The following verse refers to the feasts of Lanivet and Lanlivery:
The nearest Sunday to the last Thursday in April, Lanivet men fare well;
The first Sunday after the first Tuesday in May, Lanlivery men fare as well as they.

Whilst going through old papers and documents Ellen came across hand-written poems by Mary Pollard Snr. As Lanlivery Feast is just around the corner, we are sharing a couple with you this edition.

Feast Day

Feast meeting was in January, no one hardly there,
Even if we cancel it, will anybody care?
A unanimous agreement, tradition must go on,
So, inspite of all the apathy, we soldier bravely on.
Today's the culmination, everyone has played their part,
(Didn't really doubt them, thought we did wonder at the start).
And so the Feast continues, as it has done in the past,
Yes, we all enjoy it, and we're sure that it will last.

Our Produce Show

The entries are all looking fine,
The trophies have all had a shine,
I've picked fruit, veg and flowers,
I've stood cooking for hours
But I can't find this lim'ricks last line.

LANLIVERY CHURCH

COFFEE MORNING

A FUNDRAISING EVENT



TUESDAY 14 APRIL

10.30 to 12.30

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**JANUARY '26 – GORETTI, INGRID AND CHANDRA;
A TRAGEDY FOR TREES OR CHANCE FOR NEW GREEN SHOOTS?**

We've had more than 10 years now of our Met office copying America and giving names to incoming storms. Are they memorable for that or because they arrive more frequently and create more damage? Whatever the implication of naming, storms are clearly becoming a major headache for landowners. This January each storm came from a different wind direction, and as their roots were in very soft, wet ground, the result was hundreds of trees pole-axed within a couple of weeks. If you have recently walked from Luxulyan to the viaduct or through the valley you will be fully aware of the massive damage, especially where one route of the Saints Way is now impassable.

The challenge of course, is nature will recover and new plants will become established, over time, but that doesn't help the walkers who find they must turn back or scrabble through the debris. They want the chainsaws out ASAP! Pondering the challenge, Meadow Barns staff, supported by Luxulyan church, shop and pub, decided to assemble an application to Great Western Railway funds, for a youth project in the school summer holiday.

We created and fully costed a scheme – with suitable professionals supporting – to deliver training in tree surgery, wood crafts and 'Meet & Greet' skills, which also should include business advice so the young people get a taste of running a new enterprise to make and install way-marker signs for the Saints' Way, plus designing, making and selling decorated wood platters.

We believe these activities would deliver multiple benefits - improving fitness, catering for those growing numbers with ADD-type disorders and addressing barriers for young people taking first steps onto the career ladder. Holiday can give the teens that much-needed break from normal school routine, where they may be sitting down most of the day, swiping or clicking away to navigate screens. We also invite those in their twenties to come on board as leaders in a collaborative TWEENS Team, where the new opportunities may be experienced by all - like a grown-up type of Forest School.

Looking at the prototype gold signs and gold flowers, we chose '**Good as Gold Project**' as the name and now we await a decision from GWR on whether they will provide a grant. Fingers crossed! But there are other avenues to explore if not successful.

So, if you know any young person aged from 10 to 30 years, suitably '**Good as Gold**' in their motivation to take part, please bring or send them to one of our free 'Walk and Talk' opportunities, meeting at 10.30 on Monday 13th April, in the station yard, Tuesday 14th in church or Thursday 16th by the Institute with a long walk to follow. Or, for families with much younger children there is a Wednesday 15th Workshop and Walk to the Wheel-pit, bookable using this link:- <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/104846>

Kay Baker & Caroline Stephenson

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EMAIL FROM OXFORD



Where has the time gone? These past couple of months have zipped past! It's heartening to see the lighter evenings return. Regardless of happenings in the bigger world human picture, the day-to-day pattern of the natural world continues in all of its own drama and flourish.

April and May are certainly months of flourish with an explosion of activity. A sunny clear day where the birds and insects are busy around you, with perhaps a good view over a stretch of water (sea from my choice), it's hard to beat the uplift from taking it all in for a few minutes.

Last summer I noticed an inordinate number of ladybirds, something of a phenomenon not seen since the 70's. If the same happens again this year, you have to wonder on the impact this will have on species they feed on and in turn are then preyed upon. What change or difference will we notice then, if we're paying attention? I've certainly seen a large number of ladybirds congregating in the garden this spring. Of course, they will naturally gather to overwinter together, so perhaps they hadn't quite dissipated? Something for my curious mind to keep a note of over the coming months.

Spring has sprung the grass is riz, I wonder where them birdies is.... the first part of a little spring ditty written by an anonymous someone back in the day, and one I remember singing along to in Lanlivery School, many moons ago. I can't remember anymore of the words, but it was a fun song to sing along to, and it remains a fun little quip that pops up every now and again.

With Amelia reaching an age where words are now interesting, I'm starting to try to recall some of the many songs and lullabies I sang as a child, to provide some variety for me as much as her. Thank goodness for books that hold the version I remember. I recently found a nursery rhyme book written by Iona and Peter Opie. They studied for years collecting as many nursery rhymes, folk ballads and other verses as they could. There's about 800 in the book, many of them obscure little ditties, but still fun to read. Considering most of the nursery rhymes were made up to describe something or someone at one time, the mind boggles at their original meaning and intent.

There's also the wonderful world of fairy tales to explore. If you stick true to the originals, then they can be a hard read with usually someone coming worse off and not necessarily ending happily. The tales were designed to pass on an important moral or meaning to the next generation. Or you can take Disney's view where there may be darkness on your journey, but there's usually a happy ending, of sorts. Currently our household subscribes to Disney's version where there's always a silver lining.

Looking out for the silver linings in day-to-day life helps me to practice being grateful for all the positivity surrounding us. This in turn helps me to notice how many positive things are occurring around me, much more than the negatives by a long shot. It's a good practice to cultivate, especially on those blue days when the doom and gloom feels overwhelming.

With all the fun festivals and celebrations that are becoming a regular occurrence for the warmer months I can't help but think of the song written by Milton Ager and Jack Yelleny (1929)

Here is the excerpt that springs to mind:

'Happy days are here again! - The skies above are clear again! - Let us sing a song of cheer again, - Happy days are here again!'

I recommend looking it up online for the full version, you can't help but feel quite jolly. Until next time.

Katy x



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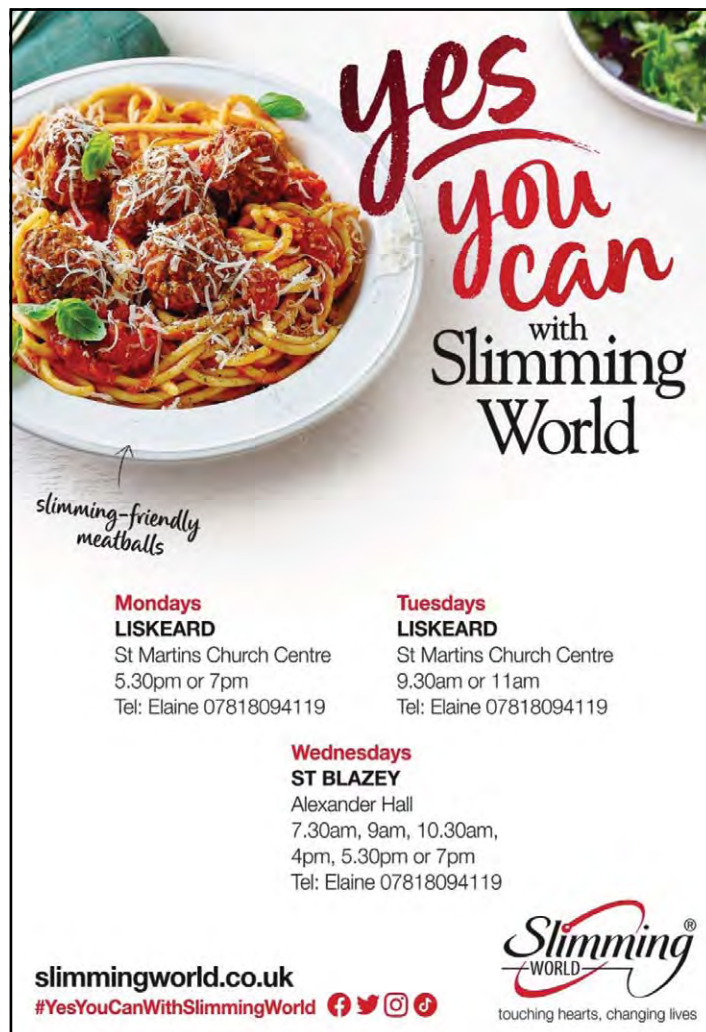
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Luxulyan School

Embracing community, shaping futures

News from Luxulyan School

Go Cornish Update

We celebrated St. Piran's Day with a special assembly to mark Cornwall's patron saint and to learn more about Cornish heritage and traditions. During the assembly, we sang a selection of songs together, some of which included a chorus in Cornish. It was wonderful to hear everyone joining in and practising the Cornish language. We also listened to the story of St. Piran and learned about how he discovered tin and why he is such an important figure in Cornish history. To finish the assembly in true Cornish style, everyone joined together for a loud and enthusiastic Trelawney shout, which brought lots of energy and excitement to the hall. To continue the celebrations, we were delighted to enjoy traditional Cornish pasties for lunch, which were very much appreciated by everyone.

Kryw Kernewek (Cornish Crew) also met recently to discuss plans for the coming months. During our meeting, we shared ideas about how we can continue celebrating Cornish culture both in school and with the community. We have therefore decided that we will once again hold the Great Luxulyan Cornish Show this year as part of Feast Week. More details coming soon – watch this space.

Music Lessons

We are delighted to welcome a visiting music teacher from Cornwall Music Service Trust (CMST) to the school each week. During these sessions, several pupils from across the school are having the opportunity to learn and develop their musical skills through piano and brass lessons.

The children have shown great enthusiasm and are enjoying the chance to learn an instrument, practise new techniques and build their confidence as young musicians. It has been lovely to see and hear their progress already.

Staff working nearby have also become very aware of the lessons taking place – the sounds of budding brass players often drift through the staffroom door! While the noises have been... enthusiastic at times, they are all part of the learning process, and we are sure that with practice those first bold blasts will soon turn into beautiful music.

Compiled by Rachel Allison
Ash Class Teacher



Nikki's Childcare
Registered Childminder

Ofsted Outstanding

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A GUIDE TO THE DEADLINE DATES FOR COPY FOR THIS MAGAZINE

Deadline dates are generally the
**10th of the month preceding
publication of the edition.**

Editions are April/May; June/July;
August/September; October/November;
December/January; February/March;

THUS:

May 10 for JUNE/JULY edition
July 10 for AUG/SEPT edition
Sept 10 for OCT/NOV edition
Nov 10 for DEC /JAN edition
Jan 10 for FEB/MAR edition
Mar 10 for APRIL/MAY edition

NOTE THAT IF YOUR SUBMISSION IS
LATE, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO
INCLUDE IT.

WHILST WE DO PRE-ALLOCATE SPACE
FOR REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS,
PLEASE USE IT OR YOU MAY LOSE IT!

LUXULYAN AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY SUMMER PLAY

'ALLO 'ALLO TRIBUTE / LADIES DAY OR SIMILAR

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Whether you want to tread the boards, help with props, or just join a great team, we want you.

KEY DATES • READ-THROUGHS: March 16 & 23 • AUDITIONS: March 30
• REHEARSALS: Mondays & Thursdays (7-9pm) from April 6th • PERFORMANCE: July 8-11th

Contact us today to get involved, whatever the date, it's still not too late to volunteer!
Director Mike Wills, 07917 848764

Luxulyan Pantomime 2026

As the curtain falls on our 2026 pantomime season, we want to express gratitude to our audiences for filling Luxulyan Village Hall over the five shows of Willie Winkie. We had several new performers on stage, a few with more experience, but this was our first performance since 2017 and so we did not know how well received it would be. Our small cast and crew worked tirelessly to present a tuneful, colourful, fun and entertaining show.

Thank you for bringing the magic to life with every cheer, hiss and boo, and just a little friendly heckling! Your energy transformed every performance into an unforgettable celebration of community spirit.

While our Dame hangs up her wigs and is still trying to remove all traces of glitter and make-up our planning for a 2027 Pantomime begins. Keep an eye on our social media for audition announcements later in the year. If you would like to get involved in any other way, with or without experience, please get in touch.

Thank you for making our 2026 Panto revival a success and for giving us the encouragement to carry on. Special thanks go to:

Alan Porter for his technical skills and fabulous lighting

Kay Baker and The Village Shop for sales of tickets and for promoting the panto

Luxulyan Church - for additional rehearsal space

Luxulyan Parish Community Fund

At the end of June 2026 we hope to bring a play to the stage. If this is more your thing, once again, please do get in touch at ladsluxulyan@hotmail.co.uk or follow us.

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THE RED MOOR SCHOOL



**Red Moor
School**

Learning at our school is always full of energy and exciting opportunities, and recently our students have been busy making a difference in lots of ways! They rolled up their sleeves for a beach clean, helping to care for our local environment and seeing how even small actions can have a big impact. In class, they brought stories to life by making puppets for a collaborative film project, working together and sharing their creativity with the wider community. A visit to IKEA gave them a chance to explore design and problem-solve, while a Tai Chi assembly helped everyone relax, focus, and think about wellbeing. Our budding engineers have also been experimenting with LEGO robotics, building skills they can use to inspire and help others. Through all these activities, our students are learning, exploring, and strengthening connections with the community around them—discovering just how much fun it is to make a positive difference!

Compiled by Kerrie Rawlings, RMS Admin Team

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MARCH AT LANLIVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL

For St Piran's day our youngest children, Little Foresters class, joined other schools from the area at the parade in Bodmin. They walked through the town and gathered to sing songs and join in with the dancing. They then continued on to the church, where each school performed their own song. Our pupils were the youngest children there and stood on the stage with confidence and enthusiasm to sing their song.

We have also celebrated World Book Day. Children came to school in fancy dress as their favourite book characters: Matilda, superheroes, witches and animals. Parents joined us for the start of the day to share books with their children in the classrooms and enjoy a breakfast snack.

Also in March, the oldest children, Eagles Class, have written their own song. They were thinking about the environment and climate change to come up with the lyrics. Our music teacher, Mrs Butlin, helped to put the song together and it is sounding fantastic. In a couple of weeks, they are going to be performing their song to the other schools that are part of our Trust in a shared event.

Don't forget, we have a Forest Tiddler group running every Monday from 1:45 - 2:45pm. It is a fantastic opportunity for local families with young children to meet together with some fun activities. There is no charge, please contact secretary@lanliveryprimary.co.uk to book a place.

Lauren Howell, Head of School

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FRIENDS OF LUXULYAN VALLEY

What a wet winter!! I have never seen the river so high in over 30 years and speaking to one farmer he had never seen it so high in 67 years. The valley is part of a temperate rainforest after all!

By the time this goes out we will have had our AGM. We have a full and exciting events programme going well into 2027. In conjunction with Cornwall Council's ranger Chris Bond we also have volunteer days. Please look on our website <https://www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk> or Facebook.

In January we had a really interesting tree identification walk at Boconnoc. The highlight was probably seeing two stags having a full-on rutting fight. In February David Skelhorn gave an informative and illuminating talk on the Luxulyan valley quarries. It is amazing how many there were.

FOLV are involved in meetings, in March, with Cornwall Heritage, Cornwall Council and Parish Councils which hopefully will decide how we are going to work in partnership. Cornwall Wildlife Trust should also hear if their bid for lottery funding was successful, for their Tor to Shore project. (Helman Tor down to Par beach).

In April we have a talk on the Tregargus valley and in May we have a guided tour of St Andrews wetland in Par, as well as pond dipping at Lanjeth Water Gardens,

We have an event every month, a free quarterly newsletter where you see detailed write ups and articles. If you are not already members of FOLV and are interested in joining please contact folvmembership@gmail.com

Robin Stephenson



LUXULYAN COMMUNITY CINEMA
At Luxulyan Village Hall - **OUR NEXT 2 FILMS**

THURSDAY 16th APRIL - THE CHORAL

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes)- driven, uncompromising and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

THURSDAY 21st MAY - ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

Washed-up revolutionary Bob (DiCaprio) exists in a state of stoned paranoia, surviving off-grid with his spirited, self-reliant daughter, Willa (Infiniti). When his evil nemesis (Penn) resurfaces after 16 years and she goes missing, the former radical scrambles to find her; father and daughter both battling the consequences of his past.

Film Starts 7.30pm Licensed Bar

In Memory of Alice Antonia (Toni) Olsson
8 November 1938 – 6 February 2026

Toni was a much-respected churchwarden at Luxulyan Church during the 1990's and was instrumental in setting up the churchyard as a 'Living Churchyard' when the Churchyard was 'closed' in the late 1990s. Toni was a committed member of the churchyard team until she could no longer attend; Toni was much more!

In the early 1980s Toni was a founder member of LAND – Luxulyan Against Nuclear Development. The Central Electricity Generating Board had identified land on the outskirts of Luxulyan as a potential site for a nuclear power station and was carrying out test drilling at Lower Menadue Farm. Members of LAND including Toni lay down in front of the drilling rig or chained themselves to it. They laid siege to the rig from mid-May until the end of October but, after a High Court ruling, they left the site in a peaceful manner. Toni was extremely proud of her role in preventing the construction of a nuclear power station here and in establishing Luxulyan as a Nuclear Free Zone.

Her brother summed up Toni entirely:
'Among other things, Toni was (in no particular order, and far from a complete list) Teacher, Musician, Peace Campaigner, Raconteur, Life-long Dog Lover, Party Giver, Voracious Traveller (but never by air), Internationalist, Gardener, Enthusiast, Nature Lover, Home Support Worker, Bridge Builder, Worshipper (in many traditions), Funlover, Host to Foreign Students, Treasure Hunt designer, Supporter of Local Initiatives, Inspiration, Family Researcher, Soldier of Christ, Staunch and Loyal Friend, (and, almost always, late!).'

Toni will leave a huge gap in many, many people's lives and we will miss her - from all at Luxulyan Church.

Shelley Porter

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING AT THE KINGS ARMS

This is held on the last Thursday in each month from 11am. Following queries as to what happens to the money, it is decided as a group of those present at that particular morning for it to go to locally where we think it can do some good. £3 will get you a cup of tea/coffee, a piece of cake and a raffle ticket. If you have a small raffle prize to donate that would be good as well. The next meetings will be 25th April and 30th May. Most recently a total of £450 has been given to local good causes. We will save some more and then distribute it!

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LUXULYAN PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

Did you know that Luxulyan Parish Community Fund (LPCF) supports community projects within the parish of Luxulyan with grants of between £250 - £5000? Organisations outside of Luxulyan Parish can apply provided they can demonstrate the benefit to residents of Luxulyan Parish. The LPCF currently receives its income from West Cornwall Wind Farms, owners of the Lestoon wind turbine and from the Luxulyan and Tredinnick Solar Farm. Application form and full details can be found on the Luxulyan Parish Council website.



LUXULYAN SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Short Mat Bowls is a game where all people of any age can play together both competitively and recreationally. Physical strength plays a small part in the game while skill and strategy are the real factors. Whether you are looking for new friends, light exercise, social or competitive interaction; Bowling has it all.

New people are always welcome. Please join us at any of our club 'roll-up' sessions. Come as you are and please bring clean flat soled shoes (no heels) to protect our mats.

Roll-ups run on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Luxulyan Village Hall.

If you would like to know more please contact, Pat, our Secretary at
 T: 07980 861229
 E: luxulyansmbc@gmail.com



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The Hive Cafe is located at Acorn Camping and Glamping in the Luxulyan Valley World Heritage Site. Look out for our seasonal menus, daily specials, picnic boxes, events and opening times.

The Hive offers a buzzing space for coffee and connection, a family space to explore the outdoors, local information and walk guides and a tranquil space to meditate and connect with nature.

Here at Acorn, known for the Hobbit Huts, we have a history of showcasing the valley through our events inspired by Acorn Adventures CIC using creative ways to engage with families, schools and communities. Keep an eye on our social for what we are up to and check out our website at: **ACORN CAMPING & GLAMPING - Website**



Having your cake and eating it

I've always liked the name Aaron, so when, in my late teens, I took my boyfriend home, I was pleased to introduce him to my family. I'd taken boys home before, and my parents always made an effort to put them at ease. Things didn't go quite so well with Aaron. My mother warned me against him after only the second meeting. He was arrogant, full of bull, she told me then, and many times more. I didn't see him that way though, not at first anyway. I thought he was clever and knowledgeable, that I was the only girl he'd swept off her feet and whispered sweet nothings to, but then I was only eighteen.

I suppose it was that party that opened my eyes. The lascivious looks he gave any attractive girl that came near to him and, well, I know mistletoe is an excuse to kiss someone, but honestly, trying to break the record for the world's longest embrace wasn't my idea of getting into the Christmas spirit.

I thought perhaps it was the Christmas spirit that made him act like Casanova on steroids, you know, the mulled wine followed by two lagers and a vodka, but apparently not. It probably helped, but I began to notice those lascivious looks even when he was stone cold sober.

'Finish with him,' my mother advised, but of course I didn't listen.

'He had a bad experience,' I told her, repeating what Aaron had said to me. *'He was let down and now he thinks all girls are the same.'*

'Including you?' Mum asked.

'No!' I said. *'He says I'm the only thing that stabilises him. I'm his rock, but after what he went through he's not ready to put all his trust in one person.'*

'So you're going to be his doormat, is that it? Something to come home to and wipe his feet on?'

I ignored her. Give him a few months, I thought. Let him see I'm not like the other girls he's been out with. Don't nag, give him time and he'll change.

'A leopard doesn't change its spots,' Mum insisted more than once.

I must have had an inkling as to his true character, because I began steering him away from certain events. I tried not to lead him into temptation by taking him to places where he wouldn't be tempted. I mean, how many birds do you normally see in the botanical gardens? Winged birds yes, but dolly birds? A whole coach load of them, all in mini-skirts and false eyelashes. Aaron's eyes were out on stalks, and his attention was definitely on the animal, not the vegetable or mineral.

The inevitable last straw was when we went bowling with a group of colleagues from the office where I worked. I warned Aaron that if he gave any woman more attention than me I'd finish with him. He said I was being paranoid, and that his flirting didn't mean anything.

Needless to say my threat didn't work. One of our team, a girl named Sharon, was a buxom blonde with legs as long as a giraffe's and an ego to match. I knew Aaron would go for her as soon as he laid eyes on her, and I was right. He showed her the correct way to hold the ball and guided her arm into the throwing position. The tuition lasted long after she'd got the hang of it.

Every time he saw me glaring at him he came back to me, smiling sheepishly and making an effort not to totally ignore me, as though I was the bridge between his two personas. He seemed to think I was a bottomless pit of patience and acceptance, which, I realised, I had been until then.

Suddenly I had a vision of what sort of life I would have if we stayed together. The phrase that came to mind was: Having your cake and eating it. I imagined spending my life turning the other cheek as well as a blind eye, and after much soul-searching, decided I wanted to be able to see out of both eyes with both cheeks facing frontwards.

When I told him it was over, I thought he'd just shrug and take it on the chin. After all, there were plenty more birds in the botanical garden, probably some with stiffer lips and broader minds than I had, but somehow he seemed shocked and offended, as though he thought I'd want to hold onto him no matter what.

Ten happily married years and two children later, I bumped into Aaron. I wasn't surprised to hear that he was on his second divorce, was financially crippled by maintenance payments and physically crippled by a heavy spade wielded by a jealous husband.

As I said to Mum, the trouble with Aaron was, as well as wanting his cake and eating it, he wanted crumpets too, and crumpets don't taste the same once they've been burned.

Christine McHaines



The Friends of Luxulyan Valley

Why not join us and support the conservation of this World Heritage and Wildlife area on your doorstep? Membership details are on our website

www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk

or contact Robin Stephenson (Chair) on **01726 852109** or Claire Eich (Membership Secretary) on **01726 850781**

Guests and new members are always welcome at our events - see **"Dates for your Diary"**

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SKYLARKS: MEETING GOD IN NATURE



Skylarks met at LEGGS on Shrove Tuesday and made pancakes! We ate them and explored why we traditionally eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (to use up rich foods before the fasting of Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday). We took part in pancake races over obstacles and explored the challenges of Lent running up to the important celebration of Easter. We discussed what we could give up or take up for Lent. Interestingly, some of us were challenged to sit and do nothing for 30 minutes a day! We looked around at the first signs of spring – the snowdrops, daffodil heads, celandines, and catkins and looked at the damage the winter storms had caused. We decided that the fallen tree was beautiful too!

Our next session will take place on Saturday 4 April at 10 am when we will be exploring what Easter means to us; Easter Eggs may be involved as well as other activities to help us understand Easter. All ages welcome to join us. For further information contact Shelley 07761798220

Shelley Porter



Lotwithiel Bowling Club, established in 1926, is a friendly and inclusive bowls club which welcomes players of all ages and abilities. No matter whether you are a seasoned bowler or are just starting out, and regardless of whether you are ultra-competitive or merely seeking some gentle exercise in a welcoming environment, Lostwithiel Bowling Club will offer you the warmest of welcomes.

This year we are running evenings on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month (from 18:00), so why not come along and try your hand in the idyllic setting of Lostwithiel Bowling Club. A pair of flat-soled shoes is all that you will require.

For further information, please visit our website at lwbc.uk, or telephone our Club Secretary (Penny Philip) on **01208 873 169**



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LIFE ON A SMALL HOLDING



As I sit here and type this I look out of the window at my very boggy ground. Most people are probably the same as me – mastering the doubtful art of skating over mud whilst carrying buckets of precious feed. I went away for a week of darkness in Spain (it was sunny outside, but I spent my days underground). When I came back, there was a pair of healthy lambs. Now, a couple of weeks later, the other two ewes are still not looking like they want to lamb. But the two piglets are both now friendly, one of them, Sandy, was very shy but both she and Irvine lay down for tummy rubs now. I let them out in the garden today as I was shifting compost and they followed me everywhere!

There were two doors not properly fixed to the calf pens, and one had a block wall part knocked down. So, on a rainy day (choose any of the week), I got the cement out and started work. This was made a bit more trying with Charlie the spaniel dropping his toy at my feet to be thrown and the two piglets running off with tools. Then Ashley the Jersey came in and decided my block laying wasn't straight enough, but she didn't use the spirit level, so I had to relay them.

My friend (and pet sitter) saw an ad for a load of timber going free. He enlisted me, Brendy (my 10ft trailer) and Landy to collect it all. Four trips later, it was all home. Now, I can barely get into my woodshed, let alone cut logs from the stack of timber in there and my ready use pile of logs, for my evening fire, is rapidly dwindling. The space next to it, where I am ready



to build a lean to shed for drying damp timbers, is now full of this new wood. I'm not moving it, so will have to figure a way of building around it. When there is a break in the rain...

In the last storms, I had a tree that had leaned over near a shed but luckily caught up in the canopy. A friend came out with his mate. The idea was to pull it upright with his mate's tractor, then keep pulling until it leaned over flat the other way, where it could stay in the scrub and just the bit on my unmade road would need to be cut out. I was sent up a ladder against the leaning tree to balance in a wet branch and attach the strop. First pull and the winch wire broke, with a loud crack. After splicing it together, the driver's work mate was sent up the tree. Second pull and another loud crack – this time, it was the shackle pin. The mate had hung the shackle upside down. (Proof that it takes a girl to do things properly). Tree finally down, I now have the next few years of wood, which will take many days to cut up, when I get the time...

Tracy Elliott

PLANT SWAP AND COFFEE MORNING.

Yes! Plant Swaps are now under way, starting at 10am on Saturdays 4th April and 2nd May at the Memorial Institute. If you are unable to bring anything to swap then you can purchase any of those on offer for a donation or just come and enjoy the company and tea/coffee and cake available at reasonable cost, not forgetting the bacon butties!

ST. PINNOCK WI

meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month
from 2.15 - 4.00pm at

East Taphouse Community Hall.

We are a very friendly group and you would be made most welcome. Speakers and outings arranged.

Just turn up or email eileenawilliams44@gmail.com

CHURCH BRASS

For many years the brass in church has been beautifully cleaned several times a year by John. Sadly John is longer with us, but we would like someone else to take over if they feel able to do so. It is a matter of taking the items down, and cleaning them. Probably easiest for you to take them home to do so. If you are interested, please contact Church Warden Jim Cleare in 01726 850553 or jim.cleare@btinternet.com. Many thanks.

BOOKING FOR LUXULYAN MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

To book the Institute, £10 per session:
Contact Luxulyan Parish Council Clerk by telephone or email: Mrs Christine Wilson, 01208 831283, clerk@luxulyan-pc.gov.uk

POSTAGE STAMPS CAN MAKE MONEY

Thank you to all of you who over the years have saved the stamps off your cards and letters throughout the year. Please continue to do so as they help a group of disadvantaged Girl Guides go to camp. Please trim off excess envelope, leaving just 1cm round the stamp and leave in the box in church which is on the large unit opposite the door. British and overseas ones accepted (the overseas ones fetch more money!) If anyone has a childhood stamp album that they did not want to throw away but didn't know what to do with it – well Guides can make use of that as well! Many thanks. For the next few weeks, we can also take old mobile phones, tablets, foreign coins (even old ones), jewellery & watches.

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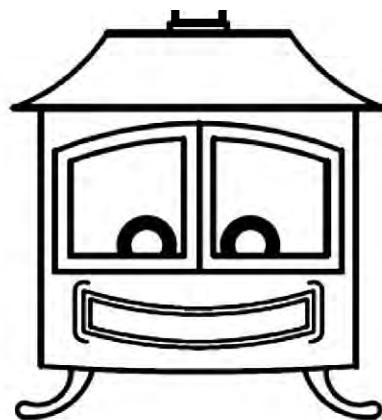
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ENVIRONMENT COLUMN

Just as the last Granite Towers went to press, we had encountered Storm Goretti and the entrance to LEGGS had been totally destroyed and no one could enter! The wassail had to be cancelled for this year (but we will do it again next year storms notwithstanding!).

The tree took some moving from the entrance and had also brought down a number of other trees from the churchyard wall which required attention. Many thanks to Steve Lewis for working many weekends to clear the tree and for replacing the

fence and the gates in the coming weeks. Also, thanks to Sandy and Dave for clearing the trees from the churchyard wall that were causing an obstruction. We have had lots of help to clear the smaller branches for the dead hedges but of course there is still much more work to do!

We look forward to spring – the snowdrops, the daffodils and catkins have already made an appearance – and our volunteer mornings are definitely warmer already! The site has benefited from the enormous amount of rain that we have had this winter, and our pond is practically full! We have some work to do around the pond to make it more beneficial to wildlife. We also have to put the birdboxes back up that fell

down in the winter storms!

The good news is that the site is fully open to the public again, but please do take care of the uneven footpaths. We love the fact that people are using the picnic tables and the shelter to rest and refresh but please take your rubbish home with you. It blows around the site and gets caught up in the undergrowth, is unsightly and a danger to wildlife! Many thanks.

Our next volunteer mornings are Saturday 11 April and Saturday 9 May anytime between 10 am and 1 pm. Refreshments provided and tasks suitable to your abilities!

Shelley Porter 07761798220

GIANT PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

In aid of LEGGS annual rent!

Saturday 18 April 10 am to 12 noon

Luxulyan Memorial Institute

Lots of plants for sale, raffle, refreshments and bakes for sale

All welcome!

LUXULYAN CARNIVAL ROYALTY FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

2026 has been a quiet start for Rebecca (Carnival Queen) and Evelyn (Attendant) with only two Queen of Queen events being held. Although they have represented the village, they were sadly unplaced in the royalty classes. They did place in the open classes. March 2026 will see the girls reign as Luxulyan Carnival royalty come to an end. We're pleased to say they have been selected to represent Southgate Carnival Group for the coming year. Both girls and families would like to thank Luxulyan Feast Week committee, Granite Towers and the community for their fantastic support throughout the year. It will not be a full goodbye for Rebecca yet as she will continue to represent Luxulyan as a retiring queen for this coming year's Queen of Queen competitions. The girls have loved the opportunity to have done this and wish good luck to the next Luxulyan royalty and can't wait to meet them.

LANLIVERY OVER 60s

The Over 60's Lunch Club meets at The Crown Inn, Lanlivery, on the second Thursday in the month.

Everyone is welcome for a relaxed lunch with friendly chat, a quiz and raffle. Lunch is from 12 noon onwards.

For more information, please call Peggy on **07879 883 083**.

Our next meetings will be held on Thursday 9th April and Thursday 14th May



Granite Valley Bowls, situated here in Luxulyan at our village hall, would like to thank the Luxulyan Coffee Morning Club for the generous donation of £150. This will be used in many ways, including purchasing new equipment. Our members and committee are extremely grateful and will be hoping to support the next date for their coffee morning.

Our club has only been going just over 14 months now, and we have had an amazing first winter league season. Just five points separating four teams from second to fifth in the league, where we finished. We are a small club made up of just 15 members but would welcome anyone to come and have a try. We practice on both Mondays and Wednesdays, starting at 2pm. We have starter bowls, and all you would need to bring is a pair of flat shoes/slippers to get started. We are also a disability friendly club, with equipment for use. Plenty of help from our members and a friendly atmosphere are guaranteed, and the first three sessions are free. A great way to enjoy light exercise and take up a new hobby. Hopefully see you soon. For more information see us on Facebook or call us on 07779 473544

Mark Albon (GV Bowls Treasurer)

FROM CHURCH

“Do not be afraid”

Dear friends,

As I write, it's Saturday, the week before Mothering Sunday and it hasn't rained, well yet anyway. The sun is shining, the spring flowers are out revealing beautiful colours and giving us a glimpse of those signs of new life.

As we come again to this Easter season, we reflect that in Mark's Gospel, that it is some women who first discover the joyous Easter news. The stone is rolled away and an angel tells them, 'Do not be afraid'. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.' We then read that they were indeed afraid as they walked away, and who can blame them?

When reading the Gospel's, I find myself again and again grateful for the disciples. A more human group of individuals you would be hard pressed to find. They can be egotistical, over excited and even selfish at times. They betray, deny and desert their Lord and teacher. Yet they also gladly give up their jobs, security and homes to follow this same Lord. They are a mass of contradictions.

Loyal yet fickle. Believing yet argumentative. Devoted yet sometimes displaying a scandalous lack of faith given what they had witnessed. We can, I believe, all find something of our own life journeys in those disparate groups of women and men chosen by Jesus to be his closest friends. They are like us, experiencing the same fears, uncertainties, loves and delights. Nowhere is this more the case than during the events of Easter.

Here the disciples experience enormous loss, not once but twice. The loss of Jesus' death then the loss of his return to God. After the last of these, at the Ascension, I feel for the disciples most of all. They know that Christ is risen, they know that no matter their foibles or failures, he has conquered death and entered into glory. And yet, they are left bereft, confused and uncertain as to what to do next.

However, something extraordinary then began to happen. As the disciples and others encountered the risen Jesus, new signs of life began to appear. They begin to spread the good news, to speak of all they had seen and shared with Jesus and the church was born.

This new life spread to all the areas of the known world through the bold and unashamed proclamation of the disciples, who themselves had been transformed from a group of terrified and deserting former followers into the founders of Christendom.

The words 'Do not be afraid' appear many, many times in the Bible, in varied contexts. I think we should all take them to heart for comfort in times of fear and uncertainty.

The life changing message of Christ took hold because his friends and followers spoke up, in the face of harsh persecution. Many lost their lives but, undeterred, more and more came to faith and the Jesus revolution began.

A good starting point would be to remember the angel's words at the tomb; 'do not be afraid'. The message of Easter is one of new life after desolation. It is a message which is unchanged through history. The God who reached out to that eclectic group of first followers in the person of Jesus, is still calling out to us, willing us to stop struggling against Him and to come home.

Far from an offensive message, the teachings of Christ are about love, forgiveness, tolerance and peace. There is nothing to be ashamed of and everyone who calls themselves Christians should speak up and pass on the good news that "Christ is risen". What is there to be afraid of in light of that? A very happy and Blessed Easter to you all.

Love and prayers, God Bless

Fr Simon

NEWS FROM GUNWEN

A funeral service was recently held for Melita Caley, who passed away on 11th January 2026. She had an extensive knowledge of all aspects of gardening and was well loved by all who knew her. Melita was a valued member of Gunwen Chapel, the WI, and the Old Cornwall Society, and the community joined her family in paying their respects.

Our Anniversary Service will be held on Sunday 5th April 2026, Easter Sunday, and will be led by Sheila Allen. All are warmly invited to attend.

For more information about all our services and other events please see the St Austell Methodist Circuit website or contact Keith Truscott on 01208 75532.

Best wishes from all at Gunwen Chapel.

Judy Uden

FROM CHURCH

If the post-Easter narratives of the Bible tell us anything, it is that we are called to recognise where God is at work — including within ourselves, through the many gifts we have been given. The question then becomes: do we sanitise God, containing him within the boundaries we feel comfortable with?

Nina Simone began life singing in church. Her mother was convinced that her God-given talent should be used solely for the glory of God — meaning gospel music, and nothing else. When Nina began to write and perform popular music, her mother condemned it as the devil's work. A powerful voice in the black liberation movement in America, a one-woman propaganda machine for justice and equality. Her passion was rooted in a childhood experience. At an early concert where she was the sole performer, her parents were made to give up their front-row seats because they were not white — her parents' quiet acceptance of their humiliation, made its mark. Her voice and talent were ultimately put to God's use — just not in the way her mother had imagined.

History has taught us we cannot confuse the work of God with the institution of the Church. More often than not, the work of God has continued despite the Church. Since its earliest days, the Church's true calling has been to recognise God outside its walls — beyond worship, beyond respectable society.

We are called to see God in the broken, the despised, the rejected, and the suffering. It is in the forsaken places and the forsaken people that we encounter God most truly.

Chris McQuillen-Wright

FROM CHAPEL



Dear Friends,

They say seeing is believing. Although in this modern world of AI – Artificial Intelligence - sometimes even that which we see is sometimes not real. Things may not be as they seem. So it pays to be sceptical. There is nothing wrong in asking questions, for searching. There is nothing wrong in finding out for ourselves.

As we celebrate the Easter season we may hear the story of Thomas, who has gone down in



history as Doubting Thomas. A few years ago I wrote this poem in honour of Thomas:

Doubting Thomas

They call me Doubting Thomas – a funny sort of name – but then I was not with them that night when Jesus came. They call me Doubting Thomas because I had not seen the scars on Jesus' hands and side where nails and spear had been.

They call me Doubting Thomas because I gave my word I would not take it from them until I'd seen my Lord.

They call me Doubting Thomas and yet he came again to those of us he calls his friends - including me with them!

They call me Doubting Thomas but I have seen him now in all his risen glory, to him I kneel and bow.

They call me Doubting Thomas and nothing now can take the meaning of his risen love within my life will make.

But there is more to Thomas than simply the doubts he may have had about the reports that had come to him from the other disciples. He was still there with them after Jesus' death. He was there with the disciples when they went out fishing. Just being with the other disciples, Thomas gradually came to faith, as he famously honoured Jesus with the words "My Lord and my God." And there is a well-attested tradition that St Thomas took the Christian gospel to India. That took a lot of faith.

Doubting Thomas? I don't think so.

Every blessing

Revd. Iris Bray - Gunwen with Stenalees Methodist Church

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COUNTRY DIARY

6th JANUARY 2026

Snow and ice cause chaos on Cornish roads. I keep the birds well supplied with food and a squirrel feasts on some acorns that I have saved for such conditions.

**8th JANUARY**

After a period of deceptive calm, early this evening Storm Goretti hits hard soon after 7.00pm. Wind speeds of up to 99mph are recorded on the Isles of Scilly. Here it roars like a giant down the chimney with terrifying gusts. Our Duchy is badly affected with the west especially suffering. The north coast experiences wind speeds of 120mph. Tens of thousands of properties across the county are without power.

9th JANUARY

The full extent of the damage caused by the storm becomes apparent with St. Michael's Mount alone having lost 80% of its trees! Such carnage is replicated across the Duchy and beyond. Today, in contrast, is calm and chilly. I feed the birds at first light, unable to imagine how they could have kept safe during the tumult of the savage night.

12th JANUARY

Mild and dry after some overnight rain. Mid-afternoon a song thrush chirrups loudly on Rowan Bank and I find the first snowdrop in bloom. A sense of renewal and optimism pervades.

**13th JANUARY**

Fat, pink camellia buds litter the ground where the bullfinches have dropped them. The tawny owls are very vocal tonight.

**17th JANUARY**

High up in an ash tree a blackbird feasts on the ripe berries of a thick festoon of ivy, the leaves shimmering in the afternoon sunlight. The sky is ice blue.

**22nd JANUARY**

A wet day. A glorious array of snowdrops illuminates dark corners of the garden and lifts one's spirits.

23rd JANUARY

Storm Ingrid ushers in yet more rain and gales.

25th JANUARY

Calm, dry and sunny.

26th JANUARY

Storm Chandra arrives like an unwelcome guest and brings over 51mm of rain in the St. Austell area and causes floods around Cornwall.

27th JANUARY

I watch as the sunlight sets a raindrop pulsing like a mesmerising, flashing beacon. A female blackcap pays a nervous and brief visit to the suet dispenser. Later a confident goldcrest flies in.

**31st JANUARY**

This has been the wettest January in Cornwall since records began in 1836!

1st FEBRUARY

The bluebell shoots are well through but some have been nibbled by rabbits.

7th FEBRUARY

Mid-morning I hear the first chaffinch song of the year. It cascades through the tracery of the winter-bare branches and the breath of the north wind. It heralds the approach of spring. The hazel catkins have developed, pushing off any remnants of dead leaves.

9th FEBRUARY

16mm of rain has fallen in the last 24 hours. The deluge continues. It seems ENDLESS!

10th FEBRUARY

More rain!

14th FEBRUARY

Cooler but dry and sunny. The ponds reflect the golden sunlight, and the 'Freedom Bell' camellia is in bloom.

18th FEBRUARY

February 'Fiil-Dyke' continues with rain all day. 28mm have fallen in the past 24 hours.

21st FEBRUARY

Through the relentless rain I hear the tuneless, rambling song of a missel thrush and the pensive, mellifluous melody of a blackbird nearby.

**28th FEBRUARY**

Becoming dry. Goldcrests and long-tailed tits have recently joined the regular visitors to the feeding area. The butter-yellow of the gorse blossom and the daffodils now offer welcome



COUNTRY DIARY

sustenance to early pollinators. The hawthorns show tiny white dots of leaf buds alongside remaining, shriveled haws.

4th MARCH

Two bumble bees seek nectar in the sunlit, withered blooms of some snowdrops.

7th MARCH

Dry and mild. Through the sound of the turbulent stream, I hear the first chiffchaff call of the year.

10th APRIL 1980

In the woods at Cotehele we find many dog violets and windflowers. High up in the tree canopy two green woodpeckers utter their distinctive 'yaffles'. The Ladies' Smocks begin to bloom. We discover an oil beetle and, on some stinging nettles, a peacock butterfly caterpillar.

11th MAY 1980

As we walk in the garden, we are suddenly made aware of a very familiar sound. The swifts are announcing their return with much exuberant screaming as they sweep the morning skies. Welcome back.

KATHRYN HILL

MAY

Welcome to the queen of months
Happy, dancing May.
Pagan Maypoles now long gone
But May's bright spirits stay.

She wears a dress of many flowers
And a coat of many colours,
In the prettiest of month of the year award
It's May that does the honours.

Delphiniums, Acanthus and Aster
Sway in the balmy breeze.
Marigolds and cornflowers
Grace our borders with ease.

Fledglings try their newborn wings
To make their maiden flight,
From nest to branch or maybe fence,
It's such a wondrous sight.

Soon we'll hear their birdsong
Filling our hearts with cheer.
And life bursts into our gardens
Now that May is here.

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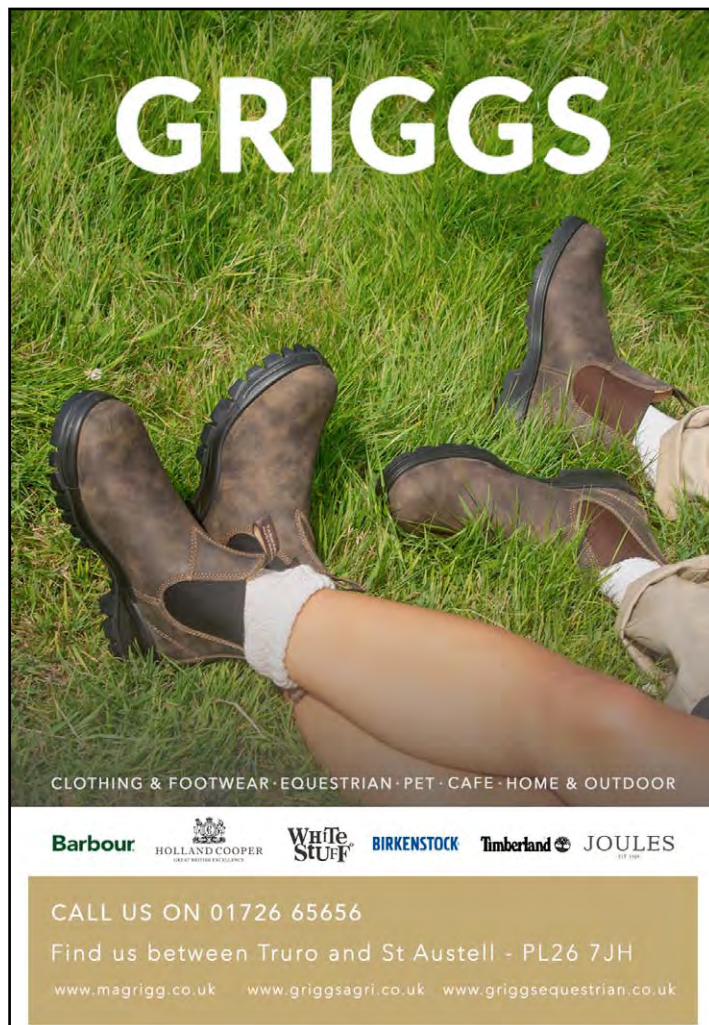
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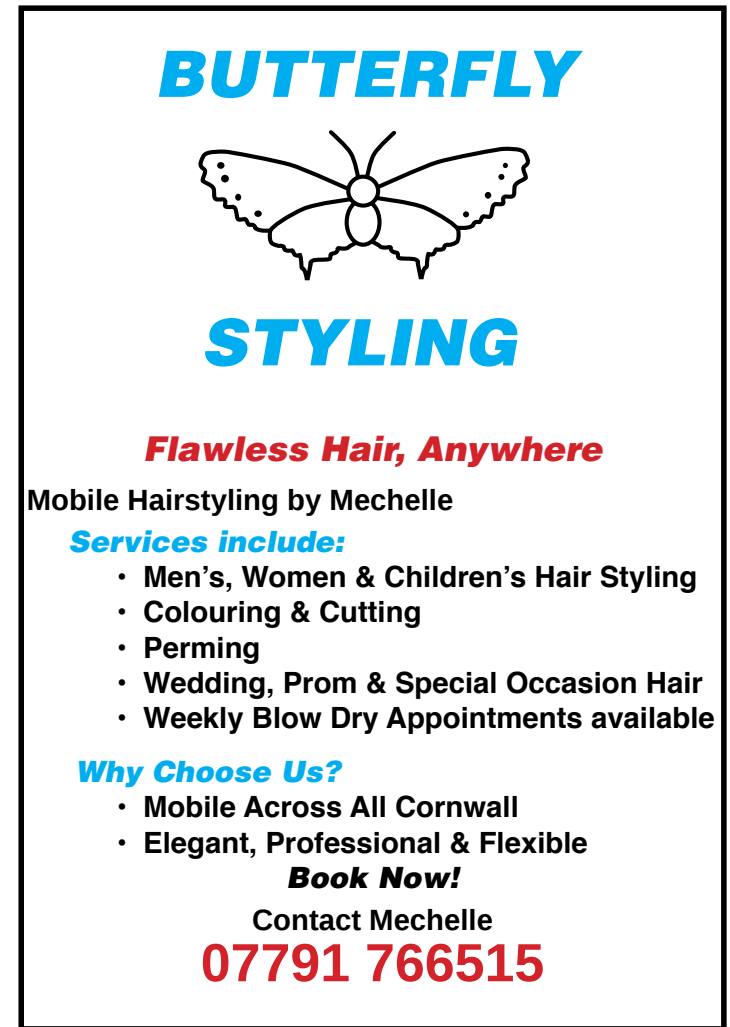
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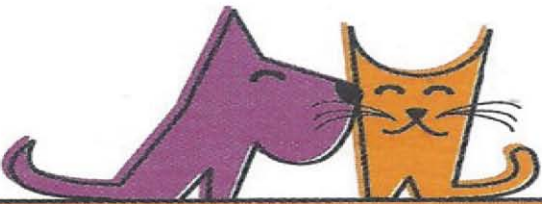
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FRIENDS OF LUXULYAN VALLEY – DIARY DATES

Wednesday 15 April – 19:30

Luxulyan Village Hall

Talk - Tregargus China stone mills

A talk on the fascinating China stone milling valley, where there are still many buildings remaining

Sunday 17 May – 11:00

St. Andrew's wetland walk
 Guided tour of the Reserve.

Meet at the reserve

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Please check website for details

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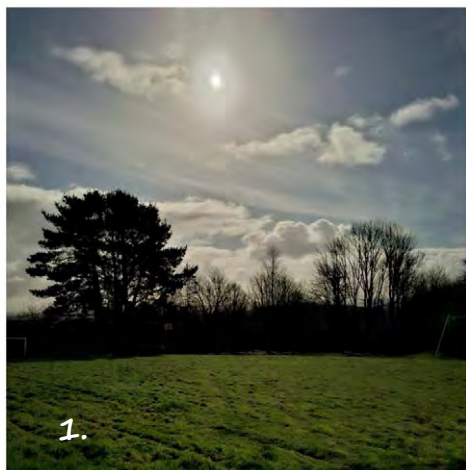
DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

APRIL 2026

Wednesdays	Luxulyan Short Mat Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm 7.00 - 9.00pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Fridays	Chair Yoga	10.00 - 11.00am	Luxulyan Village Hall
Fridays	Luxulyan Short Mat Bowls	7.00 - 9.00pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Wednesday 1 st	Luxulyan Over 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Saturday 4 th	Plant Swap & Coffee Morning	10.00am	Luxulyan Memorial Institute
Saturday 4 th	Skylarks	10.00am	LEGGs, Glebeland
Sunday 5 th	Soup and Sweet	11.45am	Luxulyan Church
Thursday 9 th	Lanlivery Over 60s	12.00 noon	The Crown Inn
Saturday 11 th	LEGGs Volunteer Day	10.00am - 1.00pm	Glebeland
Tuesday 14 th	Coffee Morning	10.30am - 12.30pm	Lanlivery Church
Wednesday 15 th	Luxulyan Over 50	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Wednesday 15 th	FOLV - talk	7.30pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Thursday 16 th	Luxulyan Community Cinema	Film starts 7.30pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Friday 17 th	Concert	7.00pm	Lanlivery Church
Saturday 18 th	Plant Swap & Coffee Morning	10.00am - 12.00pm	Luxulyan Memorial Institute
Tuesday 21 st	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	2.00pm	Lanlivery Church
Thursday 24 th	Charity Coffee Morning	11.00am	The King's Arms

MAY 2026

Wednesdays	Luxulyan Short Mat Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm 7.00 - 9.00pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Fridays	Chair Yoga	10.00 – 11.00am	Luxulyan Village Hall
Fridays	Luxulyan Short Mat Bowls	7.00 - 9.00pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Saturday 2 nd	Coffee Morning & Plant Swap	10.00am	Luxulyan Memorial Institute
Sunday 3 rd	Soup & Sweet	11.45am	Luxulyan Church
Wednesday 6 th	Luxulyan Overs 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Saturday 9 th	LEGGs Volunteer Day	10.00am - 1.00pm	Glebeland
Saturday 9 th	Spring Quiz	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Sunday 10 th	COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY 2026 GRANITE TOWERS		
Sunday 10 th - Saturday 16 th	LANLIVERY FEAST WEEK For full details see pages 4 & 5		
Thursday 14 th	Lanlivery Over 60s	12.00 noon	The Crown Inn
Sunday 17 th	FOLV - Guided Walk	11.00am	St Andrews Road, Par
Wednesday 20 th	Luxulyan Over 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Thursday 21 st	Luxulyan Community Cinema	Film Starts 7.30pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Thursday 30 th	Charity Coffee Morning	11.00am	The King's Arms



Cover: Gorse and the sea from Penpell - Caroline Stephenson

2. LEGGS Damage by Storm Gorette - Shelley Porter

4. Induction of Revd. Fr Simon Bone at Lanlivery as Rector of the Benefice of the Lostwithiel Parishes.

January 2026 - Verna Roberts

1. Moon over Lanlivery Playing Field January 2026.

3. LADS Panto.

5. Chloe Scott, Archer

6. Luxulyan Royalty— Mark Albon