

The Granite Towers

*A Community Magazine for
Luxulyan and Lanlivery*



*Merry
Christmas*
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 2025 & January 2026

EDITORIAL

*Season's Greetings*

Gosh, I cannot believe Christmas 2025 rapidly approaches and 2026 is just around the corner. It does not seem 12-months since I wrote my last festive editorial. I hope this edition of the Granite Towers finds you well, whether festive preparations are in full swing or you have yet to get started.

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a new addition to the Granite Towers Committee in the last edition. We would like to welcome Andrew Coward who has taken on the role of complier as Robin has taken the decision to step away after many years in the position. I personally cannot thank Robin enough for his wisdom, guidance and assistance over the past three years, it has been invaluable. As a committee "thank you, Robin" and "welcome aboard, Andrew". Robin will continue to be a valued member of the committee for as long as he wishes.

To those of you who contribute to the magazine each edition, whether advertisers, content providers or one of the team of distributors a very big THANK YOU. Without all of you the Granite Towers would not be possible. Keep your articles coming and if anyone would like to share an anecdote, story, or something about a hobby/pastime please get in contact with us at granitetowersluxlan@gmail.com. I would also request that anyone who currently sends content for inclusion in the magazine directly to Robin to please ensure this is now sent to granitetowersluxlan@gmail.com.

Is it me, or does Christmas seem to start earlier each year (I believe I raised the topic in a previous editorial of the lone Christmas tree in the local Asda – other stores are available for your festive needs!). It seems that the signs of Christmas creep into the supermarkets and shops in late August/early September, with the prominent positioning of tubs of chocolates, (which are not a par on the very large tins of chocolates of my youth which could last until Easter!) and wrapping paper and cards starting to pop up. Now Hallowe'en is done (another celebration I cannot understand the hype over) the full onslaught of Christmas fare begins. Don't get me wrong, I know the shops are competing for our trade, but do we really need to be reminded in August? After all, we all know exactly when each year Christmas is! It's a fixed date in the calendar when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Growing up I wasn't exposed to Christmas to the level we are today. My parents rarely took us food shopping as this was done on a Friday evening when the supermarket (yes, just the one) opened late in Bodmin. For those of you not familiar, the supermarket was once located in the store that was most recently Dorothy Perkins. Instead, we would spend Friday evenings at my gran's at Chark, listening to the radio (weekly dose of the Archer's) and then playing board games. Christmas started with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath in Church and opening the first door on the Advent calendar. Calanders did not contain chocolates, toys (or for the grown-ups gin, wine or beer), behind each door was a picture appropriate to the occasion; a donkey, a manger or a shepherd and on 24th the full Nativity scene. At school we would look forward to the school play whether the Nativity, Noah's Ark (where one poor child lost an ear – if you know you know!), Dick Whittington or Hansel and Gretel – I pull from my school play memories for those, with rehearsals starting after the half-term break. The school Christmas dinner was of great excitement followed by the school Christmas party. This would be one afternoon shortly before Christmas where the junior classroom was cleared of furniture for fun and games and the infant classroom was turned into the dining hall with all manner of delights to eat. We would play games such as Oranges and Lemons, Pass the Parcel, Musical Chairs, Musical Statues and many more. No-one cared about looking silly or worrying if a picture of them actually having fun was posted on the internet as social media did not exist – we were free to be children and enjoy everything that meant.

Do not get me started on Christmas decorations!! I was out with the dog last weekend (it's mid-November as I write) and as it got darker lights started to sparkle on various homes already decorated for Christmas. Through unclosed curtains I could also spy the twinkle of a lit-up Christmas tree. Don't get me wrong, I love it when the decorations go up, it really does then start to feel like Christmas, but do we really need them in November? Part of the joy of Christmas as a child was decorating the Christmas tree in church alongside other children from the village watched over by Tim and Sue Turner who would reach the higher branches for us. The tree was always kindly donated by Eddy Veerman and invariable had more decorations at the bottom than the top!

However you celebrate, whenever your decorations go up, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Until next year

Claire

The views of the editor are always personal and not necessarily those of the Granite Towers and committee.

ADVERTISING

Please note our advertising costs and new contact details, as shown in the box on page 3

LUXULYAN VILLAGE HALL BOOKING AGENT

Chris Thomas tel: 01726 850618
email: printmasterchris@sky.com

MEMORIAL INSTITUTE PLANT SWAP AND COFFEE MORNING

No more plant swaps until the Spring, but we will still be meeting on 6th December and 3rd of January from 10am. Tea/coffee and cake available at reasonable cost, not forgetting the bacon butties!

VIEW FROM THE SURGERY

One of the lighter sides of Christmas in medicine is the Christmas Edition of the British Medical Journal. The BMJ is the weekly journal of the British Medical Association and is usually quite a dry read with research papers and learning articles, but the Christmas edition takes on a lighter side. There have been articles of the health risks of being a Disney Princess – such as being poisoned by an apple or the risks of broken bones from cliff diving in Pocahontas. Another year included the health benefits vs risks of the ingredients of the Great British Bake-Off Christmas desserts. The ingredients showed health benefits, and the conclusion was that you could have your cake and eat it.

The Christmas Holiday does bring its own problems, the first being that surgeries and pharmacies can be closed for 4-days in a row. This can mean people are restricted in where they can go for help and advice, even for simple things like indigestion remedies. There are also a number of people who will realise that they will run out of their medication during the holidays. NHS 111 is available but will be busy so taking steps to ensure you have your medication and simple first aid remedies will help.

One of the partners has described 2025 as "an annus horribilis" due to mixture of events from a doctor on long term leave and several members of staff starting and leaving for lots of reasons. There have also been the government plans with ideas like the introduction of online access all day with limited time to respond to the queries. Two of the most significant is the retirement of one of the long-term doctors who has been at the surgery for over 20 years and worked hard at keeping the team up to date with good high-quality care. The other was the deputy practice manger giving me her notice after 23 years with us. One of the few people at the surgery when I started. She started as a secretary, and I think possibly whilst at college. We wish her all the best in her new role as the practice manager at another surgery. As we have all worked together for so long, they have become more than colleagues but friends, having gone through several life events together, illnesses, family events, and children's achievements and many work's Christmas parties.

So, we are all looking forward to 2026 and what it may bring. There are lots of plans in development at the surgery and with our partner practices, and no doubt in NHS England.

Season Greetings to everyone and good luck with your New Years Resolutions.

Take care of yourselves

Andy Haywood

LUXULYAN OVER FIFTIES

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 12 noon 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 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 - £45

Small adverts - 1/8 of a page - £25

Please send copy for the next edition of
"THE GRANITE TOWERS"
**February/March 2026 EDITION to the editor,
by JANUARY 10 2026.**

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

THE CURTAINS RISE AGAIN! LADS IS BACK!

LUXULYAN AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY ANNOUNCES GRAND RETURN TO THE STAGE!

The wait is finally over! After seven long years, we are thrilled to announce the triumphant return of Luxulyan Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS). Founded with such passion in 1989 and last performing in 2017, the lights are being switched back on, the set is being built, and the whole village is invited to share in the magic!

Get ready to mark your calendars, because our inaugural production as a reformed society promises to be an unforgettable treat for all ages!

Join us for Willie Winkie, a spectacular show packed with fun, fantasy, and brilliant performances. Whether you're a long-time theatre enthusiast or looking for a fantastic night out with the family, this is the perfect way to welcome LADS back!

What!? Willie Winkie

When... Tuesday 27 January to Saturday 31 January 2026

Where... Luxulyan Village Hall

This production is more than just a pantomime; it's a celebration of community, creativity, and commitment. It's a chance for the village to gather, share a wonderful evening, and support the return of one of Luxulyan's most cherished institutions.

Don't Miss Out!

Keep an eye on village notice boards and local social media groups for details on ticket sales, performance times, and how you can get involved behind the scenes!

We can't wait to see you all in the audience, enjoying the show and cheering on the cast and crew of the reformed Luxulyan Amateur Dramatic Society!

* * * * *

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

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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

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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"**

M.M.B. PLANT HIRE

Mark: 07816 852022

Brian: 07863 288963

Home: 01726 852197

Ground Works - Landscaping

13 tonne Swing Shovel

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1.5 tonne Mini Digger

AUTUMN TERM AT LANLIVERY PRIMARY

The school year has started with enthusiasm and excitement. We had some improvements to our school during the summer and now the library and main building are beautiful places to learn.

We have been busy with lots of trips and adventures. Our youngest children visited Morwellham Quay to learn about what life was like in the past. The oldest children have worked with the Cornish Heritage Trust on a project with the new site at Castilly Henge; they were able to visit the site and worked with an artist to create a willow model for the grand opening. They have also been working with the Cornish Wildlife Trust in the forest area to make new habitats and find wildlife that we already have living behind our school. We have also had trips to the beach, fire station and learnt how to ride our bikes safely on the roads.

Before the half term break, we enjoyed a science show – 'Crazy Chemistry'. It was a morning of awe and excitement looking at bubbles, flames and reactions.

Don't forget applications for reception in 2026 need to be in by January 15th. If you are considering Lanlivery Primary, please get in touch for a tour, email secretary@lanliveryprimary.co.uk. We also have spaces in our preschool.



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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.

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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**



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Festival of Christmas Trees

Luxulyan Parish Church

Saturday 6 December 2025 and
Sunday 7 December 2025
10.00am to 4.00pm

Christmas Trees designed
by local organisations and businesses

Stalls
Christmas Raffle (Saturday)
Christmas Hamper Raffle (Sunday)
Seasonal refreshments all day

Entertainment:

Saturday morning – Christmas tableau Luxulyan School (time to be confirmed)
Saturday afternoon 2.30pm 'Wicked Lollipops' raising funds for Sunshine Appeal
Sunday morning 11 am 'Sing your favourite Christmas Carol' (more details to follow!)
Sunday afternoon 2.30pm 'The Singing Barmaid' our very own Sarah Champion sings a seasonal selection of songs

(Timings subject to change)

Entry free but donations to St Austell Foodbank gratefully received

FLYING SAUCERS

UFO's were a familiar sight to Lee. Sometimes he could even predict when he would see them. He congratulated himself on having second sight, or even a sixth sense. Not many people witnessed objects flying through the air, some saucer-like, others a variety of shapes and sizes. But Lee saw this almost on a regular basis. He wasn't dreaming. He was fully awake, completely compos mentis.

This phenomenon occurred with cyclical monotony, although some occasions were more intense than others. They didn't scare him, just frustrated him. After all, there were only so many times you could replace broken crockery and scoop up spilled sugar from the kitchen floor. He'd lost count of the times he'd told Fiona to get treatment, to which she'd always wept and promised to seek help, but she never did.

The last straw came when Lee opened the kitchen door in time to dodge as a milk jug narrowly missed his ear and hit the door jamb, shattering into a shower of porcelain shards; the last of the tea set his mother had bought them for their anniversary.

'That's it,' he said, watching the remains of the milk dripping down to the tiles. 'Either you go and get this HRT or I'm off.'

He wouldn't really have left her. He loved her, and to date their marriage had been strong, but Fiona's menopausal moods were sapping his energy and patience. One thing it had done, though, was to stop his cynicism when women said they were suffering. "A fuss over nothing" had been his standard reply.

'So some women get a bit hot,' he'd been heard to say. 'That's nothing to worry about, and it doesn't last long. It's just part of life.'

The trouble was though, now it was part of his life. The heat radiating from Fiona in bed was becoming unbearable, sometimes making him seek refuge on the couch. The worst thing was her mood swings; one minute she was full of beans, the next she was sobbing that she couldn't cope.

Making a supreme effort to be understanding, he made an appointment with their GP practice and went with her when the time came. As luck would have it, the GP was new, and female. She empathised immediately with Fiona.

'My mum's going through the same thing,' she said, making Fiona realise she was consulting a person young enough to be her daughter. 'There's a newish drug on the market. My mum's been taking it for three months and she's like a different person.'

Lee didn't want Fiona to be a different person. He just wanted his wife back as she had been, accommodating, patient, able to cope with the everyday ups and downs of family life. Fiona, on the other hand, wanted to be anyone but herself; anyone who could sleep through the night and not wake up bathed in sweat, could go a whole day without thinking that everything and everyone was against her and bursting into tears at the least thing. She wanted, as she thought of it, to have a normal life. She wanted to be normal.

'There's no such thing as normal, Mum,' her daughter, Lisa, had told her. 'Everyone's different, and everyone reacts differently to different situations.'

Lisa, however, had been the first to recommend HRT. She worked in the NHS and knew that, in many cases, it worked well. Fiona, not a fan of medication unless it was absolutely necessary, rebuffed her advice, hoping that her symptoms would subside. They didn't, and after the milk jug incident Fiona finally decided that enough was enough. She'd got to the point when she would have eaten sand if it had guaranteed a proper night's sleep and relief from her debilitating symptoms.

She took the medication and, after a few weeks, felt better. Her symptoms didn't disappear, but they weren't so extreme and she was able to handle them better. Lee, thankful that his wife was a lot more like her old self, arranged a long weekend away for her birthday as a surprise.

'You know,' he said on the last day at the hotel where they were staying, 'I don't mind you getting in a state and throwing things if it makes you feel better, but why do you have to throw breakable things? My mum paid a lot of money for that tea set.'

'I know,' Fiona said, feeling guilty but not brave enough to admit that she'd always hated the tea set. 'I'm sorry.'

Lee shrugged. 'Oh, well, I suppose we'll just have to buy another one. At least we've found this place. I think we should do this sort of thing more often, book a few days away, get some peace and quiet, have something to look forward to.'

'Yes,' Fiona said, nodding. 'That would be good.' Secretly, Fiona thought Lee was looking forward to more peaceful days in general rather than days away, but she said nothing. Why shouldn't they get away more? In her opinion she'd been a good wife and mother as well as holding down a full time job. Despite his slightly chauvinistic views, Lee had been a good husband and father and had always worked hard. It was time they thought of themselves more.

The following week Lee's mother came to tea. When she remarked on the odd mugs, sporting tea bags floating around in hot water, Lee duly told her that the dog had knocked the tea tray off the coffee table and that the teapot, milk jug, sugar bowl and the last two cups and saucers had been broken. The look on his mother's face left Lee in no doubt that she thought he and Fiona were to blame, that the tray shouldn't have been left on the coffee table in the first place.

The next day, Fiona raised her eyebrows when Lee came home with a box. Unbreakable three piece tea set, she read on the side. Setting the box on the table, Lee proceeded to open it. He pulled out a teapot, a sugar bowl and a milk jug, all bright and shiny in stainless steel.

'Just in case,' he explained with a grin. 'And if we get some Pyrex cups and saucers, they should last a while. The only thing is, if they hit me I'll be out cold, so please try not to throw them. If I see another flying saucer I'm going to report it to the UFO Research Association!'

Christine McHaines

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Luxulyan School

Embracing community, shaping futures

News from Luxulyan School

EverChoir

We were delighted to be invited to take some of our school choir to perform as part of a CELT Trustee Strategy Day in October. 10 children from Oak Class went to the Atlantic Centre in Newquay and performed a range of songs from their Cornish Summer Concert. They then enjoyed staying for lunch and having a chance to talk to the Trustees and other members of the CELT Central Team who were there. We are very proud of all the children who represented the school. Our CEO (Dan Morrow), among others, emailed his thanks through later in the day – "it was absolutely superb and the highlight of the day. I found myself misting up at a few points and whilst I might be an incomer, am absolutely signed up to Cornwall in all its glory"

St. Austell Festival of Music and Speech

At time of writing we are busy preparing to enter the St. Austell Festival of Music and Speech. Our Choir will be entering and singing two songs – 'Let me tell you about a baby' and 'Cornish Creed'. We then have 9 children (from Years 2 to 6) entering other vocal classes (solos and duets) and 23 children (from Reception to Year 6) entering spoken word classes (solos, duologues and groups). We look forward to sharing with you, in the next edition, about how we got on.

Christmas

Looking ahead to December, we have lots of exciting things planned. Oak Class (Years 5 and 6) and Sycamore Class (Years 3 and 4) will be going to Luxulyan Church to take part in 'Experience Christmas'. Ash Class will be performing their Nativity Play at the Village Hall. We also have a whole school singalong at the Village Hall and our whole school Christingle service at Luxulyan Church. We are also taking the whole school to Hall for Cornwall to see Aladdin. Oh no we aren't! Oh yes we are!

Compiled by Rachel Allison
Ash Class Teacher



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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 CARNIVAL QUEEN

As the Carnival season comes to an end, we finished the season at three different torchlight carnivals, Camelford, Launceston and Okehampton. The girls won prizes in many of the categories, and it was so much fun to light up their float. Although it was a little cold, the girls really enjoyed them and loved the carnivals they represented our village in.

On Saturday 15th November, we held our first ever Queen of Queens event at our Village Hall. Rebecca was on hand to help organise and make sure the event ran perfectly, as were her parents. A huge success and enjoyed by all who came, watched, helped and entered. So many great comments and all were looking forward to our next one! At the end, the event had managed to raise over £200 for next year's Feast Week too.

The girls are hoping to compete in a few more Queen of Queens events over the next couple of months, so we will update their how they get on in the next edition, with a final round up as their reign comes to an end for this year's carnival royalty. The girls would love to thank their parents, all who helped them this year and all the lovely people who have followed their posts and updates in both the Granite Towers and their social media. We would also like to wish the readers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year, see you all in 2026!

Mark Albon (Rebecca's Dad)





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Red Moor School

THE RED MOOR SCHOOL

The autumn term at Red Moor School is in full swing. We have mock GCSE exams being undertaken as well as functional skills assessments and the students are taking all of these in their stride

– we are extremely proud of how hard everyone is working.

We had the pleasure once again of taking part in the Remembrance Parade and Church Service which is always a huge event in our school calendar and means a lot to many students and staff alike. We were very grateful to the guests that joined us on the day to make it such a special day.

We look forward to sharing more of what we are up to with you all in the new year and would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas from all at Red Moor School.

Compiled by Kerrie Rawlings, RMS Admin Team



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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
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SHORT MAT BOWLS
Give it a Try!

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Thank you to all of you who over the years have saved the stamps of your cards and letters throughout the year. Please continue to do so especially with Christmas cards coming through the door, 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!) Many thanks.



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Luxulyan and District Old Cornwall Society

Saturday 20 December - 2.30pm at Rescorla Centre, Celebration with Christmas tea, carols and storytelling from Keith Wallis. Keith is host of The Piskie Trap - a podcast series exploring the folklore, history and legends from across Cornwall, he will be telling our own Picrous story.

Saturday 17 January - Luxulyan Wassail, meet at 2.30 pm at the Memorial Institute, Luxulyan.

Thursday 26 February - 7 pm at the Memorial Institute, Talk - The Troubles and Strife of a Miner's Wife by Helen Luther

Further meetings will be held at the Memorial Institute at 7pm on these dates, details to follow - 26 March - 23 April


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CHARITY COFFEE MORNING AT THE KINGS ARMS

This is held on the last Thursday in each month from 11.00am. Following queries 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 morning
 will be 29th January
 as we do not meet in
 December.**

If you know of any deserving cause locally that could do with a little bit of help, please come along to a morning and let us know.

We ran a story writing competition earlier this year for children of Lanlivery and Luxulyan parishes and those who attended both schools as well as Red Moor School, who were between the ages of seven and eleven. We were a little disappointed to have only received two entries but extend a big thank you to the entrants. The winner and runner up were announced in the last edition. Congratulations to Lilyjane Giles (1st) and Ivy Rose Vincent (2nd). They will be presented with the prizes, a £25 (1st) and £15 (2nd) voucher in the coming weeks.

We were delighted that Verna Roberts, previously editor of the Granite Towers, kindly agreed to judge the entries and pick a winner. Verna has also provided an insight into what she looked for when judging the stories, which is below our winning entry 'The Blue Teapot'. Our second-place story will feature in the next edition.

We would like to make this an annual event so get thinking of a story for submission in 2026!

* * * * *

THE BLUE TEAPOT

Once upon a time, there was a young hedgehog named Sophia who loved to wear a pink and green dress with little white dots on it. She lived in the hedgerow not far from the big lake. Sophia loved to make cups of tea from her special little blue teapot. This tea pot was Sophia's favourite pot and she made tea every day from it.

One day, when Sophia wanted some tea, she couldn't find her tea pot. She searched everywhere; above the fridge, around the book shelves, on the kitchen table and even under the bed, but she couldn't find the blue teapot anywhere. "What shall I do?" she cried "I can't find my teapot." So Sophia decided to wait, she would search for the teapot later, hoping she would remember where she had put it. She picked up her book from the little table next to her chair and began to read, but ended up falling asleep. While Sophia was asleep she started to dream. She was looking in through a big open window at a table with a yellow tablecloth on it. Her little blue teapot was standing in the middle singing with the milk jug and sugar bowl as backup singers and the teaspoons were the dancers. They were singing "you love me, I love you, and we make tea together." The tea cups with their saucers jumped up on to the table to join in. As they were singing, they got faster and faster -spinning around until suddenly they fell to the floor with a big crash. Sophia ran to help the blue tea pot so it didn't fall to the floor but as she reached for it, another crash awoke her and she realised someone was knocking on the door. Sophia rubbed her eyes, was it her front door? what was happening?

Confused, she pulled the door open "hello little mouse, can I help you?" "I'm George" replied the shy mouse. "I was wondering if you could help me." "Of course" said Sophia and she invited the mouse inside. "I would offer you a cup of tea, but I have lost my favourite teapot" Said Sophia sadly, "Ahh" said George, "this is where I think I can help you" "Really! How?" replied Sophia excitedly "I think I found your blue teapot on the grass by the lake" said the mouse. George pulled out the missing teapot from his back pack. He had seen Sophia many times sitting down by the lake and wished he could join her. Sometimes he had waved but not spoken to her because he was so shy. This was why he was here today because he wanted to be her friend and enjoy picnics with her. Suddenly, Sophia remembered she'd had a tea party on her yellow picnic blanket the day before down by the lake. "So that's what the dream was about" Sophia thought. Sophia hugged the mouse and thanked him for bring back her teapot, over a nice cup of tea [of course] and a scone from the heart of Cornwall where George and Sophia now lived; the best of friends. The end

Lilyjane Giles - 10 years - Luxulyan School

We were very pleased to receive entries from Ivy Rose Vincent and Lily-Jane Giles, and we thank them very much.

I greatly enjoyed reading the stories. They were well imagined with some interesting details in the characters and plot.

First was Lily-Jane Giles and second was Ivy Rose Vincent. I have tried to convey the main ideas I took into consideration when judging them.

Lily-Jane's story, "The Blue Teapot, I felt would appeal to younger readers and listeners – an ideal bedtime story, about two woodland creatures in the true anthropomorphic tradition, (think "The Wind in The Willows" and Aesop's fables), with its two attractive and contrasting characters, a friendly hedgehog and a shy mouse. A dream sequence, a prized object lost and found and a happy and satisfying ending add to its charm. Lily-Jane successfully created characters giving the reader their thoughts and feelings in good story-telling style.

I liked the way she wove dialogue throughout the story and used good, interesting and varied sentence structure. Her story would be even better if written in paragraphs and if the dialogue could be set out in this form too.

Altogether, Lily-Jane has given us a delightful story. Well done!

"The Space Women" by Ivy Rose is a lively story about a girl called Shona, daughter, of a spacewoman. Shona herself goes into space – to the moon and Mars! Again, this story would appeal to younger children, especially as she builds a trial model of a spaceship from boxes and toys, and then a real one in a magical way. The fact that she finds a half of her mother's ring on Mars where she crashed provides a final resolution to the story when the other half is mysteriously delivered to her in a package when she returns home.

I liked the way Ivy Rose has imagined a very enterprising and adventurous character in Shona, and has written in an entertaining way. Her story would have benefitted from using paragraphs, but the main ideas come over quite effectively.

Well done to Ivy Rose on her entertaining story.

Verna Roberts

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SKYLARKS: MEETING GOD IN NATURE

Skylarks met in October and explored 'Light' in our lives and used a pumpkin to explain what it is like to be a Christian! We also decorated jars and made them into lanterns, finishing our session around the firepit and toasting marshmallows.

Our November session explored Remembrance and how nature can help us in times of sorrow.

We are excited about our outdoor nativity taking place on Sunday 21 December and hope as many people as possible will join in to tell the story of Christmas. Starting at 2.30 pm at the church and finishing down at LEGGs shelter, the story will end with mince pies and mulled wine. Last year was very windy but the weather cleared for the afternoon and LEGGS is very sheltered. We hope to have our live animals, dressed up characters in the story – both children and adults – it was great fun last year.

Skylarks will take a break in January but will meet in February.

Shelley Porter 07761798220



Shelley Porter



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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 Lotwithiel 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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Luxulyan

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FRIENDS OF LUXULYAN VALLEY (FOLV)

As we approach the festive season, I can't but help notice the amount of fruit and berries on the trees. I don't think I have seen as many holly berries in the over 30 years we have lived here. I also saw a kingfisher last week which was rather special.

As per usual, Friends have a number of interesting and varied events taking us through the winter. By the time you receive this Granite Towers we will have had our open day. In December we have a Slideshow of Valley Photos and Archive Display. January: Winter Tree Identification at Boconnoc. February: a talk on Quarries around Luxulyan. In March we have our AGM followed by a talk on Mary Bryant. Currently the Luxulyan Valley Partnership is in abeyance, as, at the moment, neither Cornwall Council or Cornwall Heritage Trust are able to commit to it. Friends feel that we can achieve far more in the valley through working in partnership and have asked if they can review this position.

Meanwhile I have welcomed the rain as it is key to the Luxulyan Valley being a temperate rain forest. (I realise not all will agree.)

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

Robin Stephenson

* * * * *



EMAIL FROM OXFORD

Whether the weather be fine,
Or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold,
Or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather,
Whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not!

A subject we Brits are renowned for discussing to the nth degree. It's an important consideration when planning your week; especially if you work outside, or with the natural world. For my own consideration it is currently whether I can put a load of laundry out on the washing line long enough to dry, even just a little bit, before having to resort to the overburdened tumble dryer or radiators. Wow, don't kiddies make a lot of laundry!

Apart from the laundry aspect, it's also useful when planning what needs to be done in the garden, which if I was following all of Monty Don's good advice, I'd have a much tidier garden! Take my tomatoes for instance, technically I should have cleared the plants and done something a bit more with the green tomatoes well before now. However, with the weather staying warm; me, not really enjoying green tomato chutney; and not really having the space to hang them up somewhere, I have chanced to leave them in the greenhouse as long as possible and fingers crossed, there has been a very s-l-o-w ripening of the remaining fruit. Fingers crossed that enough of them make the change before the frosts arrive. No sign of the weather turning that cold at the time of writing, though it can't be too much longer.

Another plant that I want to be a bit more on top of is some newly acquired dahlias. A local lady has been growing a small field of them for a few years and has found the easiest and most cost-effective way to deal with the corms at the end of the season, is to invite the general public in to 'dig your own dahlia'. Therefore, my approach to overwintering care is going to be key if I want to be able to appreciate my new additions next year.

I have taken to nick-naming this time of year 'Squirrel Season', it's the time of year that our dog becomes the most animated and engaged when going for a walk. She runs laps around the little bit of woodland on our daily walk. If she's lucky enough for us to take her to a local park, the hyper focus that overcomes her little doggy mind makes it challenging to get her to listen. The park squirrels are a bolshy lot, actively coming down the tree trunks to almost within reach and giving a good jawing to our noodle of a dog.

I can't quite believe we're at the turning of another year, life really seems to be racing on, and I feel like I'm treading water, only managing to accomplish the daily essentials. This Christmas will be a little different as we're heading back to New Zealand for a visit, to introduce our little girl to her far away family. It'll be fun once we get there, though I feel the journey may be a spot more challenging with a very active 18-month-old. It is a long, long way!

And of course, Christmas, if we're lucky, may be warmer. I say 'may' as there have been a lot of Christmases where the weather in Dunedin has equalled that of Cornwall.

However you spend your festive season, I hope you make a lot of good memories to cherish into the new year.

Until 2026.

Katy x

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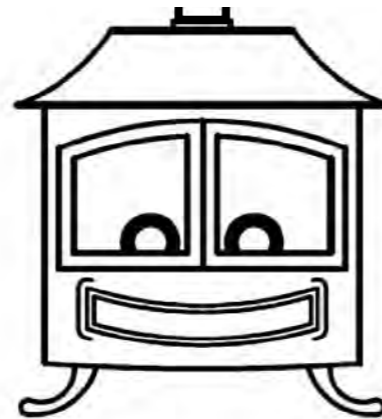
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ENVIRONMENT COLUMN

October and November saw a long-held ambition coming to fruition! We finally lined and sorted out our pond area! We thought we had upset the rain gods as it didn't rain for a week, but we have had plenty of rain since and the pond is filling up nicely. There has been a bit of adjusting to be done and Joan has done a sterling job at keeping an eye on the pond development by visiting after every rainfall. Thank you, Joan!

The pond project was the final large project that we had planned for the Glebeland but of course the upkeep is ongoing! We are planning on lots of hedgerow maintenance and nurture of our new hedgerows and some bramble clearance during the winter months. We also have some path reinstatement to do when wood chips become available.

We planned to scythe the wildflower meadow in September, but it poured down so we were unable to get on to do it. We employed a wonderful scyther,

Tom, to scythe the area over two days and alongside our own scythe expert, Ros, managed some of Little Moor too. The grass was raked up and was made into a huge grass hill which we hope will encourage slow worms and grass snakes to take up residence. We were delighted to find a harvest mouse nest in the long grass and will manage accordingly next summer.

We were saddened and disappointed to find both benches in the shelter being abused and then one totally disappeared! They were very much used by visitors to the site as well as by our volunteers. We did find out that they were broken by accident and the one that disappeared was cleared away after breaking completely. We would just like to say that a quick message via Facebook or phone call would have been appreciated. We are not ogres and know that accidents do happen – we hope that you will continue to use the site to meet with friends.

On the plus side we have had the offer of some replacement benches which will be slightly sturdier! If anyone sees anything amiss while visiting the site, please let us know so that we can put

it right. We lead busy lives and don't visit everyday and would appreciate a nudge where appropriate.

Our volunteer mornings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month, and all are welcome – a variety of tasks are available, and an extra pair of hands are always welcome! Refreshments provided.

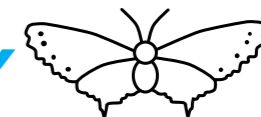
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 10 am to 1 pm:**

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FROM CHURCH



Christmas and the new year are two emotionally charged festivals. The atmosphere is Nothing to do with Christianity but rather to do with our anticipations. We want family get together to be enjoyable, we want the new year to be better. There is a hype, as if everything depends on the success of one day and then again a week later. It is that human condition of wanting to forget, just for a moment, the troubles of life. Of course it is not possible, many of us cannot switch off one emotion and then focus on another. I'm reminded of the scene in Jerry Maguire when the young gymnast is crying to Tom Cruise on the phone, gets another call come through changes the line, changes her tone from tears to joy only to discover she is still speaking to Cruise. Life isn't like that. For almost all of us there is a grief behind the smile. A darkness in the eyes that light cannot

overcome.

Christianity is the link between the desolation of despair and the joy of life. Christianity is not a one view answer but rather the multi- faceted questions. It is that state of being that can hold the dichotomy of pain and joy together; not in balance because that is our Armageddon but simply allowing pain and joy to occupy the same space.

May your empty chairs at the Christmas table recognise the pain of loss and the joy of life and this new year inspire you to peak through the dark curtains of despair to see the glory of the winter sun.

Chris the vicar

(I have a new telephone No.: 07478 732212)

* * * * *

HYGGE - a great remedy for S.A.D. to supplement what doctors prescribe

For some people, autumn into winter is a favourite time of year. I guess they really like battening down the hatches as gales roar overhead, lighting the fire and getting into preparing presents and baking for Christmas. That's not me, though.

I am one of the many who suffer from a bit of S.A.D. – Seasonal Affective Disorder - so over the years I have kept working to find practical ways of giving my mood a boost. But first, let's find out a bit more about this 'syndrome', now officially recognised by health professionals as a type of depression.

Thanks to The Talking Rooms for permission to use their illustration

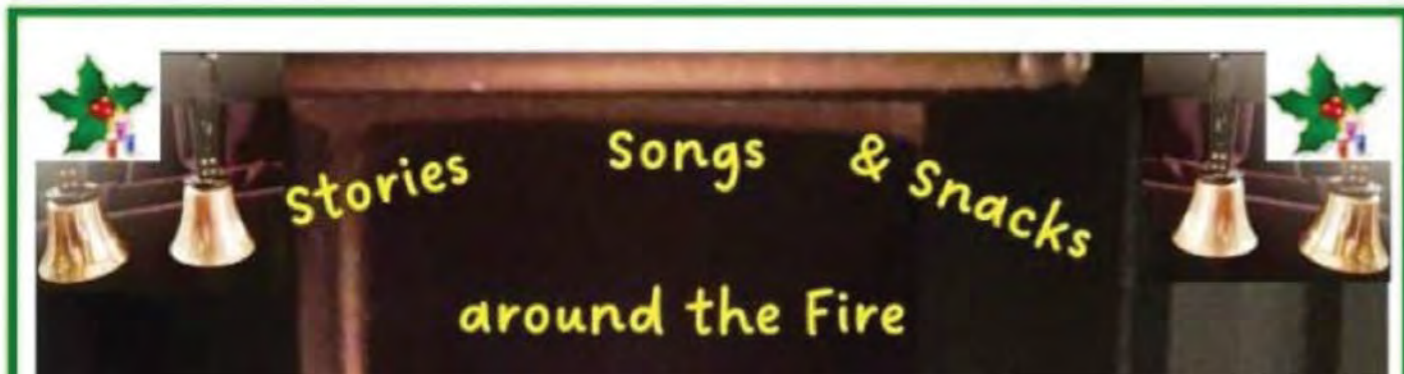


The Talking Rooms website is a useful resource, setting out the facts and correcting common misconceptions. It also offers online support: - <https://www.thetalkingrooms.com/2024/11/14/understanding-seasonal-affective-disorder-sad>.

I am not qualified to drill down into the details of precisely how decreasing sunlight and lower Vitamin D levels impact our health, but I was delighted to see this recommendation in their list of remedies. Take a leaf from the Danes, who get through long, dark winters by embracing "Hygge" - a concept of cosiness and contentment. Whether it's lighting candles, drinking warm tea, or wrapping up in a soft blanket with a good book, creating a comforting environment can help you manage the colder months. Let me add, however, in my experience you won't get the best from Hygge on your own, it's much better within a small, friendly group. Being fortunate in my garden to have a huge, tin-roofed classroom/shed, with benches and a fire we can sit round, I have learned all the tricks in the book! We have a little schedule of stories and songs, including of course some Christmas Carol favourites. Between items I build in little tastings of sweet morsels and either hot chocolate or a type of 'Hot Toddy'. It doesn't have to be alcoholic, in fact for depression it is better not to be. Warm apple juice, slow cooked in advance with some cinnamon sticks, cloves and other spices can make a fab cordial for all ages to enjoy.

The final ingredient that I love is not open to all, obviously. It is playing an accompaniment of chords for the carol singing, on my dad's old hand bells, as you see here.

Caroline Stephenson



FROM CHAPEL



Dear Friends,

Remember, remember the fifth of November' So the saying goes. As I write this, we are in the week leading to Remembrance Sunday. Remember, remember. Lest we forget. Many have marvelled at the poppy messages placed on crosses forming the shape of a gigantic poppy in the National Arboretum. Each one represents the grief and loss of those left behind. The red poppy has become an icon of the sacrifice made by so many through wars and conflicts.



"Why these red flowers?" David asked tapping his lapel. "To remember all who died in wars" I replied, stressing the word "all." The teenage exchange student from Stuttgart, Germany, fell silent, his normal banter failed him. His face showed a deep sadness. In that moment we shared the silence, the sadness, the grief together. Lest we forget.

More controversially is the idea of a white poppy. You may be surprised that the symbol of a white poppy was first introduced by the Peace Pledge Union in 1933 with 85,000 white poppies sold in 1936. But the introduction of the white poppy was marked by hostility and persecution, some women who wore the white poppy even lost their jobs. The ease by which conflict rears its ugly head as people disagree about this symbol of peace is a tragic irony. The white poppy was never intended to replace the red poppy, or cause offence, but rather endorse its symbolism and emphasise its message of nonviolence and peace. So, some people wear both red and white poppies, and not just those professing a Christian faith.

Whatever our personal preference, red poppies, white or both, it is right we remember the inestimable cost in human suffering and sacrifice caused by conflict. To adapt Winston Churchill's famous quote from a later conflict 'never has so much been owed by so many to so many.'

As we turn from looking back over past conflicts to look forward to Christmas the message of peace is found at the heart of the story of the birth of Jesus, known as the Prince of Peace. Jesus refused to fan the flames of violence, teaching to turn the other cheek, to offer one's shirt as well as one's cloak. Jesus refused to add to the pain chain of violence, being silent before his accusers, his last words were of forgiveness and peace. Later, in his letter to the Christians at Rome, Paul rejected the tit-for-tat repaying evil for evil, inviting all to live at peace with one another insofar as it is possible, and so overcome evil with good.



Red Poppies for Remembrance

Christians do not have a monopoly on seeking peace. Looking at the troubled world of 2025, nearly 2026, we could be tempted to say "never before has the call for peace been so sorely needed by so many." Yours in Christ

Revd. Iris Bray - Stenalees with Gunwen Methodist Church

NEWS FROM GUNWEN

In September, 12 young children from Lanlivery Primary School came to Gunwen to celebrate the old tradition of Crying the Neck, which was always held after the last sheaf of corn had been harvested. They experienced the short ceremony which was followed by some singing and art and craft activities.

The same ceremony, led by Ros Hayward in the evening for the adult community and in association with Luxulyan and District Old Cornwall Society, was followed by supper and singing in the Community Room. Thanks to Maryanne Thomas and Garry Tregidga from the Rescorla Centre for the Cornish music.

The Harvest Festival Service was held in October and produce was divided between the food bank and the auction held on the following day, which raised the sum of £401 for chapel funds. Thank you to all who were involved.

On Sunday 2nd November the chapel was full to witness the Christening of Cora Mary Smith at a special service conducted by Rev Iris Bray.

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

Lanlivery Church News and Services

Lanlivery Services

During the Benefice's time in transition there may be changes to services. We will endeavour to keep to our 9.30 schedule. It is likely that there will be a reduction in the number of Eucharist services in individual parishes across the Benefice.

Please check pew notes, social media and the notice boards.

December 2025

7th, Advent 2

9.30 Morning Prayer

14th, Advent 3

6.00 Carol Service

21st, Advent 4

9.30 Morning Prayer

24th, Christmas Eve

4.00 Crib & Christingle

10.00 Midnight Mass

25th Christmas Day

9.30 Worship at the Crib

28th Christmas 1

11.15 Morning Prayer at Bradoc (No service at Lanlivery)

January 2026

4th, Epiphany

9.30 Morning Prayer

11th, 1st after Epiphany

9.30 Morning Prayer

18th, 2nd after Epiphany

9.30 Morning Prayer

25th, Conversion of St Paul

10.30 United Benefice Eucharist at Lanlivery

Years' Mind remembering the anniversaries:

DEC	JAN
Rose Melanie Scorse	Elsie Saggs
Margaret Sophia Williams	Ian Crawford
Walter John Wellington	Patricia Griffiths
Valerie Christobell Lyons	Mary Beatrice Martin
Horatio Allen Griffiths	Gordon Faddy
Ray Davis	Elisabeth Jean Thomas
Jean Husband	Moyra Jean Serls
Bethan Kathryn Charles	John Maurice Higham Linfoot
	Keith David Adams
	John Andrew

Transition

While we are without a rector in the Benefice, if you require help or information, please contact the Church Office (details below) or Ellen who may be able to point you in the right direction!

Be assured that work is in hand, with the assistance of the Diocese, to appoint a new incumbent and an application is being processed!

Contact details for Lanlivery Church

www.lanliverychurch.org.uk

lanlivery@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook:

St Brevita, Lanlivery Parish Church

Rector: Vacant

Associate Priest: Revd Sheila Bawden

Churchwarden

Ellen McConnell: **01208 543491** (*note new number*) ellen.mcconnell@hotmail.co.uk

Church Office: Monday to Wednesday,
0900-1200

01208 872232

church_centre@yahoo.co.uk



LUXULYAN CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SOUP & SWEET IN LUXULYAN CHURCH

Soup & Sweet is usually provided on the first Sunday of each month at 11:45 am.

There is no need to attend the church service preceding this. The next dates are 7th December 2025 and 4th January 2026.

PRAYER WALKS

Luxulyan church organises a prayer walk in the parish once a month.

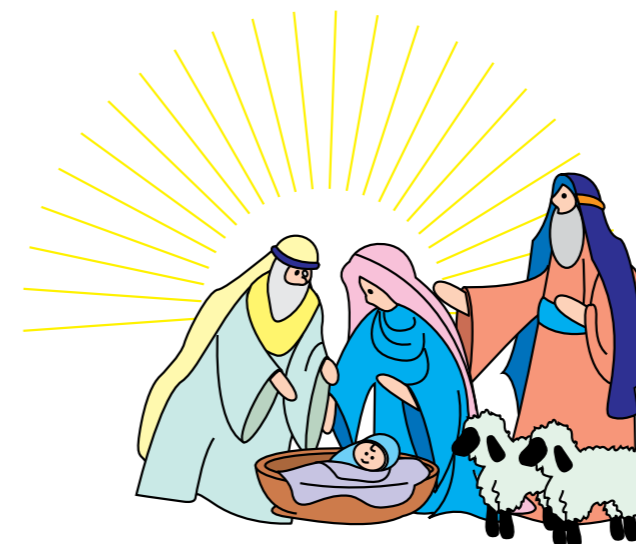
If you would like to join us or have a particular person or place that you would like us to pray about please contact Shelley on: famporter58@gmail.com or 07761 798220

ST AUSTELL FOOD BANK

– helping local people in crisis

We are happy to receive donations for the food bank at any time. Don't forget to include toiletries as well as staples such as tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, soups, and treats (chocolates etc). Toilet rolls also very welcome!

These can be left in the marked box just inside the church.



Luxulyan Church Services

Below is a draft. Note that some of our services may change. Please check notice boards, the website and social media for the latest update!

Sunday 7th December

11.00am Parish Praise

Local Worship Leaders

Sunday 14th December

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Rev Barry Browning

Sunday 21st December

2.30pm Outdoor Nativity

Local Worship Leaders

Wednesday 24th December

7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Rev Chris McQuillen-Wright

Thursday 25th December

10.00am Combined at Luxulyan

Rev Chris McQuillen-Wright

Sunday 28th December

10.00am Benefice Service at Roche

Rev Chris McQuillen-Wright

Sunday 4th January

11.00am Parish Praise

Local Worship Leaders

Sunday 11th January

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Rev Barry Browning

Sunday 18th January

11.00am Christian Unity Service

Don McQuillen-Wright

Sunday 25th January

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Rev Chris McQuillen-Wright

CONTACT DETAILS FOR LUXULYAN CHURCH

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2490/

Priest:

Rev. Chris McQuillen-Wright 07478 732212
chrismcquillenwright@me.com
(Day off—Friday)

Churchwardens:

Robin Burley 01208 831145
rabkol@aol.com
Jim Cleare 01726 850553
Jim.cleare@btinternet.com

SKYLARKS

We have made plans so please see the article on page 18.

All are welcome to just turn up (children need to be accompanied by an adult please!) but if you would like further information please contact Shelley on 07761798220.

As from 3rd of November until the 27th February Luxulyan Village Hall

will be running a warm space for anyone who would like to pop in for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chance to meet up with friends and make new ones.

We will be open from 1.00pm - 4.00pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

We will be asking for a small charge of £1. So if you would like to come along all would be welcome just turn up.

Please keep an eye out for further developments .

COUNTRY DIARY

8th SEPTEMBER 2025

Breezy with sudden showers and fitful sunny spells. Late afternoon I watch a female southern hawker dragonfly moving to and fro over the dahlia bed.

12th SEPTEMBER

This afternoon I see another southern hawker (or possibly the same) over the POND SIX area. As dusk descends a pipistrelle bat now flies here and, as the dragonfly previously, is busy feeding on the abundant supply of airborne insects.

13th SEPTEMBER

I encounter a peacock butterfly imbibing nectar from the sunlit buddleia blooms. Nearby I find a red admiral doing likewise amongst the lime green spikes of the ivy flowers. An hour later a hummingbird hawk moth hovers to feed on the buddleia nectar.



16th SEPTEMBER

Amongst the adult goldfinches on the feeders, I notice a juvenile showing the initial stages of the developing adult plumage. I can discern a faint hint of red on its forehead and a few black feathers on its neck.



19th SEPTEMBER

Cloudy and damp. Mid-morning I stand to watch many swallows swooping high and low over the tired summer leaves of the sycamores and above the meadow beyond. Within an hour they have gone and flocks of finches have replaced them in the sky space.

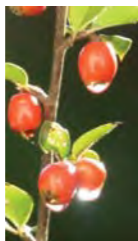
22nd SEPTEMBER

I discover a minuscule snail approximately half the size of the nail on my smallest finger. It clings to a flag iris leaf on POND TWO. At 7.17pm summer slips away. Robins sing as we arrive at the autumn equinox.



29th SEPTEMBER

I trim some cotoneaster branches bejeweled with scarlet berries and take them to the lower garden where I leave them for birds and other creatures to feast on.



1st OCTOBER

I discover a collection of cotoneaster berries in a hollow of a mossy branch. Many of them have been neatly nibbled and the seeds within have been eaten.

3rd OCTOBER

In a brief moment of elusive sunlight, a speckled wood butterfly alights on a fallen beech leaf to warm itself in the last vestiges of summer.

9th OCTOBER

Down by the stream I note that the yellow-berried holly has been browsed by a deer. Many stems and berries lie on the ground and in the water.



11th OCTOBER

The staccato contact calls of a family of long-tailed tits punctuates the calm, autumn afternoon. I discover a small frog, possibly two years old, resting in POND SIX.

14th OCTOBER

A quiet, cloudy day. As nightfall approaches, I hear the blackbirds noisily preparing to roost in the trees on Rowan Bank while, nearby, some raucous jays are doing likewise. Beyond the garden, in the distant pines, the crows continue to agitate and vocalise as darkness closes around them.

22nd OCTOBER

Mid-morning a lone juvenile starling pays a brief visit to the seed tray. I assume that it is a recent arrival from northern Europe.

23rd OCTOBER

Storm Benjamin makes landfall on a wild northwest wind along with frequent heavy showers. Large puddles reflecting a sky, the colour of molten tin, lie along the roadsides.

29th OCTOBER

A song thrush bursts into exuberant song above Willow Wood.



30th OCTOBER

The seed dispensers are a-flutter with goldfinches, greenfinches, chaffinches, bullfinches, house sparrows, siskins, great tits, blue tits, coal tits and robins. I walk down to the wood to listen for returning redwings, but I hear only the rising wind above the treetops. The mournful call of a bullfinch haunts the sad remnants of the summer garden.



1st NOVEMBER

A female great spotted woodpecker feasts on the sunflower hearts and stabs mercilessly at a male house sparrow who dares to join her on the seed tray!

COUNTRY DIARY



3rd NOVEMBER

Mild at 15°C. A marsh tit makes frequent visits to the seed dispenser taking off a seed to store in a secret place before winter takes hold. A coal tit is also stocking up from the same source.

6th DECEMBER 1979

The hazels on the hedge by our classroom are now completely devoid of foliage and the larch looks tattered. We notice tiny daffodil shoots poking through the decaying leaf litter. A lesson in the cycle of Life.

9th DECEMBER 1979

In a fleeting glimpse of sunlight, I witness the raindrops and the winged seeds of the sycamore transformed into a filigree of twinkling silver.

17th JANUARY 1981

David finds the first golden crocus in bloom and the wild arum unfurling its glossy leaves. A leaf, blown in the wind becomes a tiny wren seeking insects in the ivy boughs.

KATHRYN HILL

LANLIVERY OVER 60s

The Over 60's lunch is held at The Crown Inn, Lanlivery on the second Thursday in each month at 12 noon. December 11th will be our Christmas Lunch. There won't be the usual raffle this time, instead we ask that everyone coming brings a wrapped gift, (at least £5 in value), to be given out as presents during the lunch. If it is gender-specific, please label it accordingly. If at all possible, let Peggy know in advance of your attendance. She will have a menu so you can choose your meal ahead of the day.

January's lunch, on 8th may be subject to change if the weather is bad, but regulars will be notified by Peggy of any changes, should that happen.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, and a very Happy Christmas and New Year to one and all.

For more information call Peggy on 07879 883 083.

FRIENDS OF LUXULYAN VALLEY
– DIARY DATES

Wednesday 17 December
19:30hrs Luxulyan Village Hall

Slideshow of valley photographs and a display of our Archives and a fun, local quiz

Sunday 18 January 2026
10:30hrs

Winter tree ID at Boconnoc Estate
Parking in main car park

Please check website for details
<https://www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk>

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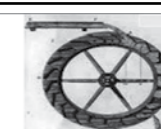
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LUXULYAN COMMUNITY CINEMA

At Luxulyan Village Hall

OUR NEXT FILMS

THERE IS NO FILM IN DECEMBER

Thursday 15th January

THE LIFE OF CHUCK

Based on Stephen Kings novella and brought to the screen by acclaimed director Mike Flanagan, The Life of Chuck is the tale of seemingly unremarkable man called Charles Krantz (Tom Hiddleston)

Film Starts 7.30pm



LUXULYAN PRE-SCHOOL

Our lovely little pre-school is located in Luxulyan Village Hall and is for children aged 2-4. We provide high quality childcare for all, and ensure we provide a fun, safe and happy learning environment at all times. Our staff are passionate about giving each child the best start to their school journey. We work closely with families to provide the best care possible. Sessions are term time only, 9am-3pm each weekday. We offer a breakfast club from 8am-9am daily. 15 hours/30 hours funded sessions are available. For more information, please contact our manager Steph on 01726 852212 or email luxulyanpreschool@gmail.com

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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
 Wendy Lewis

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

DECEMBER 2025

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 3rd	Luxulyan Over 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Saturday 6th	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Luxulyan Memorial Institute
Sat 6th & Sun 7th	Festival of Christmas Trees	10.00am - 4.00pm Daily	Luxulyan Church
Saturday 6th	LADS Christmas Prize Bingo	Doors open 6.45pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Sunday 7th	Soup and Sweet	12.00 noon	Luxulyan Church
Thursday 11th	Lanlivery Over 60s	12.00 noon	The Crown Inn
Thursday 11th	Christmas Film Afternoon	2.30pm	Lanlivery Church
Saturday 13th	LEGGS Volunteer Day	10.00am - 1.00pm	Glebeland
Tuesday 16th	Restormel Concert Band	7.30pm	Lanlivery Church
Wednesday 17th	Luxulyan Over 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arm
Wednesday 17th	FOLV - Slideshow of Valley Photographs	7.30pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Sunday 21st	Skylarks Nativity	2.30pm	Starting at Luxulyan Church

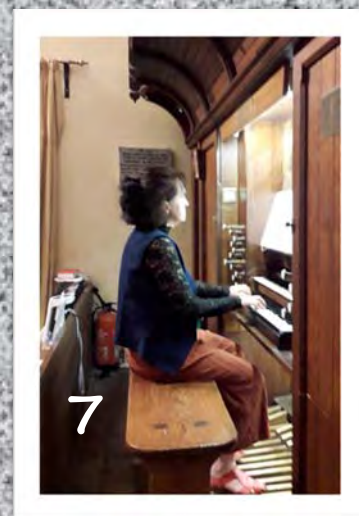


JANUARY 2026

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 3rd	Coffee Morning	10.00 am	Luxulyan Church
Sunday 4th	Soup & Sweet	12.00 noon	Luxulyan Church
Wednesday 7th	Luxulyan Overs 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Thursday 8th	Lanlivery Over 60s	12.00 noon	The Crown Inn
Saturday 10th	LEGGS Volunteer Day	10.00am - 1.00pm	Glebeland
Saturday 10th	COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026 GRANITE TOWERS		
Thursday 15th	Luxulyan Community Cinema	Film Starts 7.30pm	Luxulyan Village Hall
Sunday 18th	FOLV - Winter Tree ID	10.30am	Boconnoc Estate
Wednesday 21st	Luxulyan Overs 50s	12.00 noon	The King's Arms
Thursday 29th	Charity Coffee Morning	11.00am	The King's Arms

WILLIE WINKIE - LADS 2026

Tuesday 27th - Saturday 31st - see social media & Luxulyan Village Notice boards for more detail



1. Luxulyan sign post

3. LADS

5. From Luxulyan's Skylarks

7. Sarah Stowe at the Lanlivery organ

8. Lanlivery School hard at work.

2 & 11 From Kathryn Hill

4. Luxulyan New Pylon

6. Artwork by Lanlivery School at Gunwen Chapel

9. & 10 Lanlivery Rally