

MOUNT & WARLEGGAN LIFE

July / Aug

Number 119

Non-Parishioners 50p

NEW OPENING TIMES FOR VILLAGE GREENS

Lockdown Life continues, we have now spent more of 2020 living with restrictions than without. We are to be congratulated, as a community, for the ways we have helped each other and supported those in need.

Village Greens has continued to supply food boxes to customers each week. The loaves of bread have been popular, we've now sent out over 200 since the middle of March. We recently got a sack of flour grown and milled in Cornwall, so the bread has some pretty strong local credentials, which we suspect has rarely happened in the last 100 years (interested if anyone has any historical knowledge on this subject.)

But by far the most popular snack is the humble sausage roll. We've shipped out over 500 of these little beauties, all made with minced pork from piggies raised in Warleggan. Laid end to end we could make a double row of them along the entire frontage of the Village Hall.

We are committed to continuing with the box scheme until regulations allow us to re open as a café and shop. We look forward to that, whenever it might be, and have our eye on September as the earliest possibility.

OUR INTENTION IS TO TRY OPENING FROM AROUND 3PM ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON, THROUGH UNTIL EARLY EVENING, OFFERING HOT DRINKS, CAKES AND A SIMPLE MEAL, ALL MADE WITH AS MANY LOCAL INGREDIENTS AS WE CAN GET OUR HANDS ON. WE WILL PUBLICISE OUR PLANS AS THEY TAKE SHAPE

Meanwhile, you can find us on Facebook @village greens, you can email feastofbodmin@gmail.com and sign up for regular news and ordering information, or get in touch by phone 07815619754. You can also find more information at www.warleggan.wordpress.com.

We ask that all orders are with us by midday on Monday for collection at the Hall between 3pm and 4pm on Thursday.

Thanks for all the support, from volunteers, customers, suppliers and our depot, The Village Hall. We are nothing without you.

UNSUNG HEROES AWARD

Di Wells and the team are to be presented with an 'UNSUNG HEROES AWARD' by Kate Holborow, High Sheriff of Cornwall, at a small ceremony at the Jubilee Hall at 3.00pm Friday July 31st. This recognises the work of the Village Greens in the community over 10 years and in particular assistance in providing groceries and vegetable to the locality during the COVID-19 pandemic. Numbers in the Hall are limited but if it is a sunny afternoon we will hold the presentation in the parking area outside to which all are most welcome to attend.

RED IN TOOTH & CLAW

30.04.20 The rain that arrived this week was welcome, it will get the grass growing, and with the lambs growing fast there's a lot of hungry mouths to feed around the farm.

One lamb met an unfortunate end when he was attacked overnight by a predator. His mum has been brought in and given a new lamb to adopt, they will hopefully soon turn into a happy family who are ready to go back out in the field.

Meanwhile, cameras have been set to try and catch a glimpse of any intruders. No incriminating evidence from "lamb cam" has been forthcoming so far, and no further attacks have taken place. I've spent the last few nights on guard duty in the field, an activity now known as a "shleepover."

The orchard is looking pretty, the apple trees weighed down with blossom. Let's hope this leads to a bumper harvest in Autumn. Wild garlic, bluebells and gorse flowers are welcome signs of seasonal progress, filling the air with scent.

I'm still chatting to my Mum every day, she's a bit worried that the Government will forget to "let her out" and she'll be kept on lockdown forever. Obviously it's my job to comfort and reassure her. So I've started calling her "the skeleton in the closet" I'm sure that's helped.

06.05.20 It's been a steady week on the farm, no births, deaths or marriages! The sheep have been moved to our biggest field and the lambs are racing around doing their own version of Olympics. You may think sporting events have all been cancelled, but little flocks of lambs everywhere are testing their abilities in running, jumping and other disciplines. Occasionally this leads to a minor injury and someone has to limp off to the sidelines, but so far no one has needed an emergency "Lambulance"

Other lamb pastimes include lying very flat in the field and playing dead, and we have some fully qualified members of the "Lamateur Dramatic Society"

It all makes a change from some of the busy days when it was raining and quite a few lambs needed rescuing, noted in the diary as "Larmageddon"

27.05.20 It's almost time to shear the sheep, they are lying in the shade panting during the hottest part of the day, as would we all if still wearing our thick winter coats.

As a child I loved watching the men "clipping" as it's called in Yorkshire. They would work in a group, laughing and joking, or quietly concentrating. Most of the sheep were small framed moorland breeds, with curled horns, which are a useful handle for the shearer, but can get snagged in clothing, requiring my Auntie's sewing box in the aftermath to replace lost buttons and repair shirt seams. The blades of the hand shears would ring out in a steady rhythm, or clatter to the floor with a muffled curse if the sheep kicked vigorously. Once the flock was released back into the field there would be a prolonged cacophony of bleating as ewes and lambs re-united with each other, having become separated in the gathering pens.

Mother is doing just fine in her solitary confinement. My heart lurched when she announced she was going outside "to kick the bucket." I feared the worst, until I realised she was referring to an old bucket embedded in the garden soil which she would like to remove, rather than imminent demise.

Di Wells



WHAT NOW?

Every week Cornwall councillors have a virtual briefing on diverse issues and last week's was on the Cornish economy. If I recall one phrase it will be it that Cornwall "was in one of the hardest hit regions in one of the hardest hit countries in the world". A second spike would not only put lives at risk but may lead to a further lockdown, which would have devastating consequences for businesses all over Cornwall. The cost of supporting people during the crisis is eye-watering. Cornwall Council alone has paid out £230million of government grants and the pressure to get the economy moving again safely is high. Cornish seaside towns such Newquay are suffering the worst economic crisis of any towns in England and Wales.

Here we are dependant on a small but not insignificant tourism trade based around self catering properties and B&Bs. Visitors are coming and the advice to them from Visit Cornwall is to book not only your accommodation but attractions and dining reservations. We are likely to see substantial numbers of visitors and we need to remember that we live in a beautiful place which others want to see. We need to welcome our visitors and think about those businesses that need their money to survive this summer and the coming winter.

The economic effects of the pandemic are profound and will take time far beyond these summer months to resolve. Cornwall Council is working to help rebuild the economy which is why we're calling on the Government to provide more support in the form of business grants and extended furloughs to help with Cornwall's recovery. Keep safe.

Meur ras/Thank-you

Martin Eddy Lib Dem Cornwall Councillor

e.mail: martin.eddy@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

Tel: 07453 295622 / 01208 821613

Should you have a problem or need help, please don't hesitate to contact me.

THOUGHTS FROM TIM STEPHENSON – LOCKED DOWN AT HOME IN WINCHESTER

We know the key issue. Outsiders might infect secure, remoter parts. Hence lockdown, and quite right. After a vital one day visit, ironically on 23 March, we said a long farewell to beloved Wooda - we actually spoke words - reckoning that we might not soon see her again. So it proved, with our contact confined for over three months to the kind reports and photos of the four nearby who have done such cracking jobs, and to whom all possible thanks.

After 4 July we will join the ebb, not the flow, of human tide, still watchful, but not fearful, and aloof but no more distant. Not going to Warleggan is one thing. Not being able to is quite another. This is nothing amid the bigger picture. It is a loss that cannot be measured or touched. But it is no less real, and we want it to end.

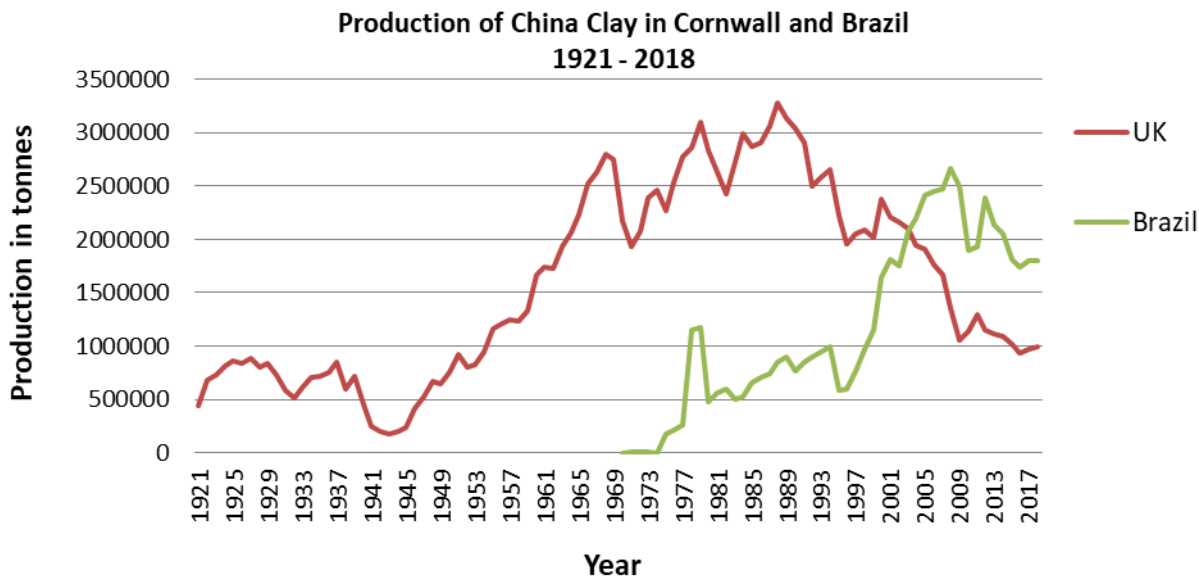
We very much look forward to seeing our friends in Mount and Warleggan again.

Katinka Peter

*Katinka wrote about the china clay industry in Cornwall for a geography project at her school in Germany. **PART II FOLLOWS ...***

I wanted to find out how the industry had developed and found many reports prepared by the British Geological Survey online. The reports go back to 1913. I found data from 1921 to 2019 for Britain, and for 1970 to 2018 for Brazil. I typed up all the data and made them into a line diagram.

Comparison of production of China Clay in Cornwall and Brazil



In 1921 Cornwall produced around 442,817 tonnes. There was an increase in production up to 1930, until a decline due to the Great Depression. It climbed again until around 1937. The Second World War caused a significant decline in production, but after that there was a rapid increase up to around 1966. From then on production rose and fell until a peak was reached in 1989, where 3,139,672 tonnes of china clay were produced. After that it steadily declined to 996,000 tonnes in 2018. Although Brazil started mining china clay earlier, data was only captured from 1970 onwards. At the beginning production was choppy, with a strong increase in around 1977 that decreased again only 3 years later. The production gradually rose until it overtook china clay production in Cornwall with 2,197,920 tonnes in 2004. Since then production in Brazil has declined slightly, but remains high, with 1,800,000 tonnes of china clay produced in 2018.

Part 3. Environmental Consequences

China clay production plays an important economic role in the UK. However, mining companies have had challenges in meeting their environmental responsibilities. One big problem is the disposal of waste. For every tonne of extracted clay, there are nine tonnes of mica waste (slag). This waste is dumped back on the land, which, over the past 250 years has changed the local skyline considerably. It is impossible to use the land for farming, and some people may find the clayhills ugly, though others call them the Cornish Alps. These days, though, less slag is dumped. A lot is used for other industries, such as making secondary aggregates for building and roads.

Water pollution is a significant challenge. Until recently, water used in the hydraulic mining of china clay used to run straight into rivers and the sea making them white. Whilst clay and associated waste products are not poisonous, they suffocate or damage invertebrates and small fish. Nowadays the runoff is piped but still causes water pollution due to poor pipe maintenance. Imerys, the only mine owner in Cornwall since 1999, has come before courts several times to answer charges of polluting the area's rivers. For example, in 2017 Imerys had to pay a £100,000 fine for flushing poisonous chemicals out of tanks and into its effluent system, from where it entered a river.

A third problem is that china clay mining is a very energy-intensive industry. Imerys uses around 500 million kWh of electricity each year in Cornwall. About 40% of this is used in pumping and wet processing of the clay. Drying accounts another 30% of consumption. Its high use of electricity means that Imerys has to pay an expensive climate change levy (CCL) of around £1.6 million a year. As a consequence Imerys has recently fired 300 local staff and moved its high energy operations overseas.

Katinka Peter

NOTES FROM THE VICARAGE ...

Dear Friends,

As I write this a Church of England team is grappling with the complexity of our churches opening again in a safe way. The period of lockdown has been a hard time for many for almost every reason you might think. Now, it feels like the brakes are off, and yet, we know that to cast all care aside is not a good idea. Locally we too have the chance to consider again what has changed for us this last little while, both personally and corporately, that is, as village, church and community.

Years ago I was a participant in a training course. The training course was designed to equip attendees with new theory and to practice newly learnt skills. The course was four and half days long, but ended on a Thursday evening - not so the participants could have a long weekend, but in order to enable immediate practice in the workplace of what had been learnt on the course.

Equally, in Western Australia, once a year I went well into the bush to a retreat, miles from anyone and anything, except a source of water from a rock pool. The retreat was a full week long under the outback sun and canvas. It was always good.

The hard part of both these experiences was integrating the 'work' that was done in retreat and the course, into one's daily practice and behaviour.

As we seem to head towards coming out of lockdown, we have an opportunity to integrate what we value and have learnt from this imposed experience. Indeed it seems that as a nation we are wondering what the new 'norm' will be. How will we 'be' as a nation as we emerge from this pandemic over time? What lessons have we learnt? What do we value most now and what will we let go and not be so precious about? How we will incorporate our thinking today into reality and cultural change tomorrow?

These questions, of course, can be asked of our own lives and that of our families, village, church and community. Some of us have learnt new skills, some of us have enjoyed solitude, others have not, most of us have become more aware of 'the other' and hope that we will be able to hold fast to that which is good and let go of that which no longer has relevance in our lives.

The key will be not to linger too long, if at all, in the old 'norm'.

Philip

‘AND PEOPLE STAYED HOME’

And people stayed home
And read books and listened
And rested and exercised
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped
And listened deeper
Someone meditated
Someone prayed
Someone danced
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways, dangerous meaningless and
heartless,
Even the earth began to heal
And when the danger ended people found each other, grieved for the dead people and
made new choices and dreamed of new visions and created new ways of life and
healed the earth completely just as they were healed themselves.

Kathleen O’Meara’s poem written in 1869, after the famine

(Editor : Sent to me by Jenny Hill-Norton & quite pertinent for this present time)

SURPRISED BY SPIDERS

Houses and spiders are bedfellows, whether it’s that spindly-legged house mate the Cellar Spider *Pholcus phalangioides*, spinning Dickensian-style wefts across door frames and corners just a few hours after cleaning, or the beefy House spider (*Tegenaria* spp.) scuttling tarantula-like across the lounge floor in early autumn, or lurking menacingly in the bath.

House spiders rarely grace our rooms these days, perhaps because we have many, many Cellar spiders. The naturalist Brett Westwood watched the battle between these two unlikely competitors in his home. He describes how the House spider, though physically superior, was immobilised by thin tangles of silk thrown from a distance by its deceptively frail cousin, quavering frantically in its sanctuary on a few vapid threads. The Cellar spider cannot, however, survive the UK winter outdoors but with the human population and house building on a seemingly permanent upward trajectory, its future success seems assured.

I am happy to share my living space with spiders and assumed my children would too, but some years ago I was startled to find one frantically applying masking tape to the gap between skirting boards and bedroom floorboards to prevent unwanted night-time visitors. I admit I am not enamoured by them dropping on my face in the small hours or finding a hairy horror (of the arachnid variety) in my bed, but this seemed a little extreme; rather than viewing this as a personal failure I should have marvelled at the drive and ingenuity driven by arachnophobia.

Over the years I have noticed various types of webs on Treslea Downs. Tetrahedron ‘tipi’ webs grace the lower parts of gorse bushes and fringing rough vegetation, while classic orb webs strung vertically form a glistening tapestry on misty mornings, marking the start of autumn. More interesting are the funnel webs woven low into the short grassland. First apparent at the end of a mild winter, they grow progressively larger

and more visible as the inhabitants successfully harvest insects from through spring and summer, and on into autumn.

Each web with its specialist species exploits a slightly different habitat but in mad moments I envisage instead a spider meritocracy riven by class divide: the bush-dwelling elite looking down smugly on the less fortunate masses struggling in their crowded grassland spider slum, obliterated at random by the pony hooves and masticating Highland cows.

On more rational days I wonder whether the rate at which the funnel webs grow varies year to year. Is this determined by weather via food availability, which it surely is, or perhaps vegetation height (a proxy for grazing intensity)? Is there also a minimum distance between webs needed to ensure survival, so each inmate can obtain enough food, or is there another constraint? What statistical distribution does web size and inter-web distance follow and is there a simple mathematical relationship between the two? Do webs appear at the same time each year?

All these questions might have been answered had I taken a few hours annually to measure say 250 webs at random from a selected location on a monthly basis. Maybe I would have seen a trend related to climate change? Alas, as with so many things, I have merely pondered and not acted and, consequently, will never be a professor or get asked onto Desert Island Discs as public accolade for my astounding scientific credentials.

An expert arachnologist friend once came to Yetta to collect specimens for a talk he was giving at Cardinham school and, while ferreting about enthusiastically, discovered cave spiders (*Meta menardi*) in our pump house because it is suitably dark and damp. These are satisfyingly unusual as are their large tear-drop shaped egg sacs hanging tucked away in the high corners. When the crumbling corrugated roof was replaced recently, I carefully relocated a particularly impressive specimen before my nervous builder vacuumed it away. To my shame I experienced a brief shiver of revulsion at its overly large globular abdomen and very sharp, pointy front legs, while simultaneously appreciating its perfect design and innate beauty.

Last winter I made my own spidery discovery while trudging back and forth for the late evening doggy comfort break and hen house shut down, aided by my trusty headtorch. On the tarmac drive, concrete paths and hard standing between, the light repeatedly reflected small iridescent green spangles. Nonsensically, I assumed these to be bits of glass or something similar. Eventually I realised I was illuminating the eyes of small squat spiders hunkered down at the ground surface, staring back at me belligerently from their night-time meanderings. I am now slightly obsessed with my cute arachnoids. It would be nice to understand how they make their living: are they young animals dispersing to their destination elsewhere, or adults exploiting a nocturnal niche? Maybe one day I should catch one and attempt to identify it, but the prospect of firstly sacrificing then squashing and exposing its genitals for final confirmation under a microscope is distinctly off-putting.

Pam Leppitt

THANKS

A recipient of a Parish Lunch would very much like to thank the ladies who cooked and delivered the lunches to individual homes during the Coronavirus lockdown in March and May. It was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

100 CLUB WINNERS—CONGRATULATIONS

April	1 st Judy Pollard ;	2 nd Barbara Manning
May	1 st Barbara Manning	2 nd Kai Graham
June	1 st Matthew Keast	2 nd Carole Parry

FLEXIBLE & RELIABLE HELP WHENEVER YOU NEED IT

JANE WILLIAMS CLEAN & CARE

DOMESTIC CLEANING HOLIDAY LET CLEANING-
CARE FOR YOUR PETS WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

(DOGS, CATS, OTHER SMALL PETS, LIVE-OUT PONIES) DOG WALKING,
PET SITTING, PET MINDING

COVERING ST NEOT / WARLEGGAN & CARDINHAM AREA

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST—DBS CHECKED

CALL 07974 093 398

EMAIL: youparty123@hotmail.co.uk

FIND US ON Jane Williams Clean & Care



GROOM
WITH A VIEW

**Offering a Caring
& Experienced
Dog Grooming Service**

City & Guilds Qualified

Telephone:
01579 326652

Email:
groomwithaview@btinternet.com



find us on Facebook

Minutes away from Golitha Falls & Siblyback Lake



**Come stay in
the peaceful Eniya Barn**

**nestled within Snowdonia
National Park, North Wales.**

Available for self-catering holidays
or stay on a guided or solitary
meditation retreat for the ultimate
life enhancing experience.

**Availability from Spring 2019, book
early to avoid disappointment.**

www.eniyatree.com

07470 195328

We look forward to
seeing you soon!



PETER BARNES

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all my kind friends and neighbours who waited outside their homes on Friday 3rd April 2020 to say good bye to Peter on his final journey. It helped to make a very distressing and difficult day more bearable. Thank you all so much for your support. **Val Barnes** (and Family) Smiths Shop, Mount.

WARLEGGAN HISTORY GROUP

Well certainly the last few months have made history in themselves and my successor in 2120 will be booking a speaker on the "Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020". Although by then will all meetings be via Zoom or perhaps some form of transfer of information direct to an implant in our brain so that we can hear and visualise (in 3D) the talk from the comfort of our armchairs? Poor souls no tea and natter after the talk.

Meanwhile I thought I should just update you on what has not been happening. To date we have missed the following.

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH – 7.30 pm “The Married Widows of Cornwall” – Dr Lesley Trotter relates the untold stories of 19th century emigration from Cornwall when thousands of wives were ‘left behind’ by men leaving to work overseas

WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL – 7.30 pm “Cornish Folklore & Music over the Centuries” – Merv & Alison Davey will be bringing a selection of their historic instruments and entertaining us with songs and music.

WEDNESDAY 27th MAY – 7.30 pm “Trades & Occupations of 19th Century Liskeard” – Brian Oldham will share with us the detailed research he has undertaken into the early commercial life of Liskeard

For the moment our March meeting has been postponed to November 2020 and the April and May meetings to 2021.

SATURDAY 4th JULY – ALL DAY TRIP TO THE BUDE AREA - JOINT MEETING WITH ST NEOT HISTORIANS

Visits to Poundstock Gildhouse (a significant medieval building) and Church and Launcells Church (carved bench ends, box pews and 17th century wall painting) - tentatively rescheduled to 3rd July 2021..

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY – 7.00 pm - “Tregrehan Village & the Carlyon Family” – Valerie & Brian Jacob will take us on a walk around the village and we return to Tregrehan Chapel for an illustrated talk. Probably again to be rescheduled to 2021. We will notify you nearer the time.

At present I am hoping that we will be able to resume for the Autumn meetings.

WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER – 7.30 pm - “The Dartmoor Conchies” – Simon Dell relates the story of Dartmoor Prison’s conscientious objector inmates during the Great War

WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER – 7.30 pm - “Romans in Cornwall” – Carl Thorpe, Senior Archaeologist with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit will explore the extent of the Roman occupation and trading with Cornwall

WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER – 7.30 pm – “The Married Widows of Cornwall” – Dr Lesley Trotter relates the untold stories of 19th century emigration from Cornwall when thousands of wives were ‘left behind’ by men leaving to work overseas



Matthew Keast Plumbing and Heating

All aspects of plumbing and heating undertaken

Gas, Oil, LPG

Central Heating, Bathrooms,

Servicing, Certification

New Builds, Renovations

Tel: 01208 821364 Mob: 07957 727183



Ground Maintenance Services

Hedging & Fencing ♦ Stone Walling ♦ Hedge Laying

Decking & Patios ♦ Ground Clearance

Greg 07887 877103/01208 821687

Dave 07779 096331 / 01208 821318

