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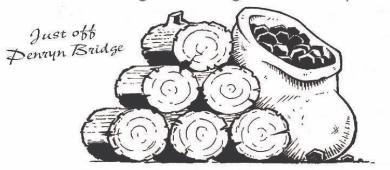






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EDITORIAL



A seasonal thank you to all readers, advertisers, contributors and supporters of *Perran News*. Could I also thank all members of the wider team, and in particular those who help get *Perran News*

through the letterboxes of the parish come rain or shine.

A great crew to be part of. A happy and healthy Christmas and 2026 to you all.

As I briefly mentioned in the last issue this magazine marks a special milestone, Issue 400 marking forty nearly completed years of *Perran News* publication. February 2026 will be the birthday, the fortieth anniversary of the first issue in February 1986.

This edition has details of many Christmas events and news of village organisations' activities.

Articles from new contributors are always welcome. Perhaps some readers could become new contributors for the birthday edition.

I have also written a short piece about the birth of *Perran News* and reproduced the cover and opening pages of the first edition. It looks very much of its time and is a demonstration of how far and fast the tools to publish a village magazine have advanced in a relatively short time. I hope you find them interesting. The structure of the magazine is still modelled on the original format.

Thank you to the advertisers who pay for your free copy of the magazine every month so please support them. It is very gratifying that *Perran News* is perceived as such an effective local directory for the village. Readers if you use an advertiser in *Perran News* please could you

mention you saw the advert in our pages to give them encouragement to continue supporting your free village newspaper. Also, if you know of any tradesmen, businesses or other people who would gain from advertising in *Perran News* please recommend it to them. Please direct advertising stuff to email: perrannewsads@gmail.com

If you have an event you want to advertise which is scheduled for the first ten days of the month, can I suggest you plan ahead, and publicise it in the preceding month's issue so people will have reasonable notice and there is no likelihood of the event taking place before some readers receive their magazine. THE COPY DATE FOR MATERIAL INCLUDING ADVERTS IS 12TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION PLEASE.

Thank you to all contributors to *Perran News*. It is an enormous help if you type an item for the magazine on a computer word processor. You can send it in electronic form as a .txt or .doc file, on a disk or ideally as an email attachment. If you have an Apple computer, please could you send files as .doc or rtf as Pages files are incompatible with my windows computer. Please could you also give your files and pictures a brief descriptive title so that I don't have half a dozen perrannewsnov.doc files to sort out. Thanks.

If you send articles electronically, could you not include fancy fonts or complicated formatting, the simpler the better, thanks.

Send articles to me at markgripper@gmail.com
If you handwrite articles, please make them as clear and legible as possible particularly unusual words or we may make mistakes.

Mark Gripper

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: NOVEMBER 2025

In this report, I want to discuss money or, more precisely, the parish council's budget. This is the time of year when the parish council sets its budget for the next financial year beginning in April and within its budget, the parish council sets the precept, that is, the amount of money required by the parish council to be collected via the council tax



Every year, your parish council submits the amount required to Cornwall Council by the end of December. This figure is derived by looking at everything for which the parish council is responsible, everything it would like to do in the next financial year and the current rate of inflation. Cornwall Council collects the precept that is required by the parish by including it in your council tax bill. It calculates how much should apply to each household in the parish, depending on the council tax band into which each house falls. The precept is then paid to the parish council in two instalments in April and September.

How does the parish council use the money? It financially supports organisations within the parish by giving grants. It purchases and maintains litter/dog bins throughout the parish, and ensures that the war memorial and street furniture are kept in a good state of repair. It contributes financially to highway improvements throughout the parish, such as speed monitors. It owns and maintains a parish cemetery which costs the same amount to maintain, regardless of the number of burials per year. In addition, under the concept of "devolution", parishes are being offered the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities, such as the maintenance of public right of way, but there is little or no additional funding available for this. Therefore, if the parish requires something specific, it cannot be done if the parish council does not pay.

Traditionally, this parish used to be among the lowest spenders of all the neighbouring parishes. In some neighbouring parishes, the precept per Band D property was double or triple that in Perranarworthal. Some regarded a low precept as a good thing, as if keeping the precept low was a beneficial outcome in itself. The problem with this approach was that things that might have been done were not done, maintenance fell behind and eventually problems multiplied that had to be addressed. Ultimately, this resulted in the precept needing to be increased substantially in order to catch up and ensure that sufficient resources were available to tackle the various issues.

What do local residents wish to see done by the parish council? Come to any meeting of the parish council or its working groups and you will hear a variety of requests. Could we have a new bench here or another litter bin there? Could the parish council do more to reduce speeding traffic? What about all the dog poo? Could a barrier be removed? Could a handrail be fitted to a stile? Could the overgrown footpaths be cut back more often? Etc, etc, etc. You get the idea.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), prepared a few years ago, captured the wishes of the community and the range of facilities that were desired. The report explained that the parish's "stock of community facilities is ... limited, and ongoing maintenance and improvement is a typical issue for such facilities... Equipped provision for children is good for Perranwell but less so for the other settlements (that is, Perranarworthal, Greenwith and Tarrandean). Provision for teenagers is poor. Ideally playspace should be available at each settlement, and the equipment at Perranarworthal supplemented. The existing community and recreational facilities are obviously highly valued by the community." Further, the report indicated that "An Open Space Assessment for

Perranarworthal Parish was carried out in February 2020, which concluded that formal open space and sports provision is very limited in Perranarworthal Parish... Because the field is excessively sloping, the football club with support from the school are in the process of a campaign to level the field to enable them to remain in the league they currently play in. It is a well-used facility, especially on Saturdays and school holidays. It has been used not only for sports but also events... Recreational facilities for teenagers is lacking within the Parish... This policy intends to ensure that the community and recreational facilities within the parish are recognised as an important asset and the provision safeguarded and expanded on."²

The NDP's objective for community facilities was to "Support high quality, accessible and affordable community facilities to meet the changing needs of all parts of the local community." The parish council has a key role to play in meeting this objective and two important facilities have been targeted for action.

- 1 NDP, page 21
- 2 NDP, pages 58 and 59
- 3 NDP, page 29

The first is the playing field. While the children's play equipment has been renewed and extended along the southern boundary in recent years, little has been done for older children and adults. As mentioned above, the football pitch has a notoriously steep slope and the FA no longer allows league matches to be played on it. A key ambition is to level the sports area, which would enable the return of league fixtures and help the football club to thrive by generating clubhouse income. In addition, during winter months, the practice area just becomes a horrible muddy patch. Planning applications have been submitted to level the field and construct an all-weather multi-use games area. Further, the area along the northern boundary is largely wasted and could be used more effectively.

The second important facility is the village hall itself. Constructed in 1971, it has served the community well but is now beyond its sell-by date; both the thermal and acoustic insulation are abysmal and having a single multi-purpose hall is a severe constraint. A structural survey indicated that it was impossible to add improvements such as insulation as the building was not strong enough to support it. Therefore, it was decided to re-build the hall and to include within the new building a dedicated sports hall and a separate arts centre, all the facilities for the football club, which could also be used for other sports, a day centre for the elderly to be largely funded by the Ruth Collins legacy and other meeting rooms, all constructed to modern standards.

So, you may be wondering, where is this all leading? The answer, of course, is money – and back to the precept. The parish council wants to play a full part in bringing these projects to fruition, and the precept is an excellent vehicle for helping to achieve this because it means that every household in the community contributes to the cost. The snag is that to do all the things that residents want and to contribute to these major new projects, it's inevitable that the precept will have to increase. A final decision will be made in December.

The percentage increase in the precept is likely to be substantial (parish councils are not restricted to a 5% increase). However, it needs to be remembered that the cost of the precept to each household is relatively low; in 2025-26, the cost of the precept to a Band D household in this parish was just £1.86 per week. Less than £2! Even if the precept increased substantially, it would still be a very small amount per household. But, given what we can achieve together, it represents remarkably good value for money.

By now, you will have realized the purpose of this month's report. The ground is being prepared for a significant increase in the precept. When it is announced, please don't be surprised by it. Understand that while the percentage increase may seem large, the actual cost per household will remain very low. And crucially, please appreciate that it will help to deliver the facilities and services that the community has said it wants.

Finally, many congratulations to **Perran News** on its 400th edition, a landmark in sustained commitment to the community. Well done, thank you and long may it continue.

Colin Bridges Chairman

COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name Colin Bridges (Chairman) Mark Pryor (Vice Chairman)	Email cllr.cbridges@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk cllr.mpryor@ perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	Telephone No 07538 125583 07971 673953
Ashley Bridges Graham Brown	cllr.abridges@ perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk cllr.gbrown@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07816 388474 01872 862936
Richard Holman	cllr.rholman@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07709 956491
Christine Voyce	cllr.cvoyce@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	
Lea Thomas	cllr.lthomas@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07563 252740
Dave Ward	cllr.dward@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07919 594828
Annie Hewett	cllr.ahewett@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07799 311153
Bron Freake	cllr.bfreake@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07979 505357
Parish clerk: Tomas Hill	clerk@perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk	07747 017875
County Councillor	Cllr.Ruth.Gripper@cornwall.gov.uk	07866 622584

PERRANWELL STATION - WEATHER REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025

Average daily maximum temperature: Maximum temperature for the month: Average daily minimum temperature:

Minimum temperature for the month:

Rainfall:

Sunshine:

Main Wind direction:

15.0C 18.0C on the 3rd 10.7C 4.8C on the 19th 4.41 inches 66 hours Westerly quarter



A Dull Month

There was very little sunshine during October, the lowest number of hours for this month since I've been recording from 2013. Nationally it was the third dullest October on record. Part of the reason for this was the high pressure that dominated the weather here from the 6th to the 17th, creating an "anticyclonic gloom".

Overall, temperatures and rainfall for the month were close to average. The bulk of the rain fell in the second half, including 1.24 inches in the 24 hours 22nd to 23rd.

Easterly winds dominated during the high pressure period, but otherwise came from a predominantly westerly quarter.

Two Shocking Weather Facts

- 1) For each minute of the day, nine hundred million (just under a billion) tons of rain fall on Earth.
- 2) The verified record for the most intense rainfall in a single minute, in one locality, is 1.23 inches (31.2 millimeters) in Unionville, Maryland, USA, on 4 July 1956.

November Update

Up to the 16th, November has been mild, dull and very wet, with rainfall so far almost up to the November average. The forecast is for colder weather next week!

Mike Hands mdh51@btinternet.com

ST PIRANS CHURCH

Christingle Service
Sunday 7th December
4.P.M
In aid of the
Children's Society



Carol Service
Sunday 21st December
10.A.M
Collection for
Cornwall Air Ambulance

Christmas Eve Crib Service 5.00 P.M.



Christmas Day Holy Communion 10.00 A.M

Come and prepare for Christmas

Everyone is welcome to all of our services.

Services at St Piran's Church Perranarworthal December 2025

Sun 7th Dec 10 am, Christingle Service. Sun 14th Dec 10 am, Holy Communion. Sun 21st Dec 4 pm, Carol Service. Christmas Eve 5 pm, Crib Service. Christmas Day, 10 am, Holy Communion. Sun 28th Dec

10 am, Holy Communion

with the Arch Deacon.

Sunday Services in January are at 10am. Up to date details can be found at www.thewatersidechuches.com

Churchwardens: Mrs Heather McCombie (01872)

864050.

Mr David Simmons 07961216740.

The church is normally open on Wednesday mornings between 10 and 11 for private prayer.

We welcome you to our services and wish you a Happy Christmas and a good 2026..

We are now holding **Coffee Stop** on Thursday Mornings

Perranwell Centre 9.30 am

Anyone is welcome to join us and join in the chat.

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PERRANWELL COMMUNITY STORE

As we head towards Christmas, we want to give you a taste of what will be available in the store on top of our usual range. **Unique Perranwell Christmas card** designed by local Rosie Middlewick.

Trevarthens Christmas Meat Order

We are offering **a pre order service** on the following: West Country Premium Turkey 5 to 7kg West Country Premium Turkey 7kg + Turkey Crown 4 to 5 kg

* Turkey estimated guide price £13.75p per kg

Pigs in Blankets Smoke Gammon Joint Goose Fat 180g (£3.50)

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12PM 8th DECEMBER
COLLECTION DATES MONDAY 22nd or TUESDAY 23rd DECEMBER

Christmas booze

On top of our extensive range of alcohol, for the festive season, we have large multi packs of 10 cans of beer or cider and boxed bottles of wine at a special price of £14.50 or buy any 2 packs for £27.00 on the following:

Other Christmas goodies you can expect from us are:

Christmas Wreaths

Christmas decorative logs

Christmas wrapping paper, gift tags and gift bags

Cornish products which make fabulous additions to a Christmas hamper Speciality tins of biscuits and Christmas chocolates

Pottery by Hugh West and Karen Carlyon

Artwork by local artist Bron Freak

A range of Christmas gifts including earrings, bracelets and lights

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers and shareholders for their support and to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

As ever, a big thank you to our incredible volunteers whose dedication and time make the running of the shop possible.

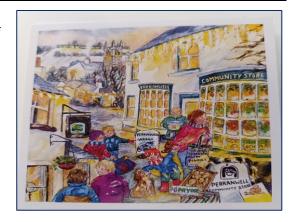
Opening Hours over Christmas

Closing at 12pm on 24th December

Open Monday 29th December and Tuesday 30th December 10am to 4pm

Closing at 12pm on 31st December

Opening hours on Saturday 27th December and Sunday 28th December to be confirmed and is subject to volunteer availability. Further details to follow and will be posted in the shop and on the Perranwell Facebook page







COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Well, the first six months of being a councillor have flown by – and it seems like a good time to say a few thank you's.



Firstly, to our veterans and armed forces, and their families. By the time you are reading this Remembrance Sunday may feel a distant memory, particularly as we enter the busy run-up to Christmas. But that moment of quiet, still remembrance feels an important part of the year

and an important part of community life. I was really moved by how many people came to the war memorial, in torrential rain, for the service.

Next, to everyone who has been in touch with me to raise an issue, or who has reported an issue directly themselves (something you can do via the Council's Report Something page: https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something/). The council tries to be responsive, but they can only fix the things they know about! I'm here to help, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

To the parish council and the parish council clerk for their welcome and their patience as I have learned the ropes. Coming into this role has given me a new appreciation for all that a parish council does and what a difference it can make.

To everyone involved in the many different groups, clubs and activities that are such a part of community life: from the shop to the memory café, the pub to the sports clubs to the church, and much else besides. Thank you for all you do and I look forward to working with you over the years ahead.

I recently attended one of the Local Plan consultation events for our area. The events were in Penryn and Falmouth, and I am keen to make sure that the voice of more rural places is represented. I've raised this issue with the team developing the plan, and I know I'm not the only councillor to have done so, so it's something they'll be thinking about for future phases. The Local Plan will shape future development in Cornwall, so although it's a long, slow process it is important we get it right.

The Council has published its updated Winter Wellbeing guide. This includes information about keeping warm and well, including financial support. Paper copies will be available in libraries, GP surgeries and so on but you can find it online: https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/lzaazvdb/winter-wellbeing-guide_2024-25.pdf

Finally, however you are spending it, I hope you have a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes,

Ruth

Ruth Gripper

Cornwall Councillor for Mylor, Perranarworthal and Ponsanooth

Email: cllr.ruth.gripper@cornwall.gov.uk

Phone: 07866 622584

Have your say - dogs on beaches

The council is consulting on the seasonal restrictions for dogs on beaches in Cornwall. This happens every three years, and usually prompts a lot of responses! The council is proposing to leave the current restrictions in place. Public feedback on this is welcome – but note the deadline of 7 December:

https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/dogsonbeaches

Have your say - neighbourhood health and care

There is an effort at the moment (more in this in a future article, perhaps!) to look at health and care at a very local level. As part of that the integrated care board is keen to hear from people to help shape its future plans. Please do take the time to feed in to this – there is lots going on in health at the moment and I know this is an issue that really matters to people. Deadline is 15 December:

https://letstalk.cornwall.qov.uk/caring-where-it-matters-2025

THE PERRANWELL MEMORY CAFÉ

We meet in the Village Hall at 2.00pm on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month.

A group of willing volunteers run a very varied programme for our meetings, as you will see below, and we invite you to come along to join in, meet us and enjoy some tea and cakes.

2025

December 9 Outing – venue tbc December 23

December 23 ???? tbc

2026

January 13 Bingo and Guessing afternoon

January 27 Archery

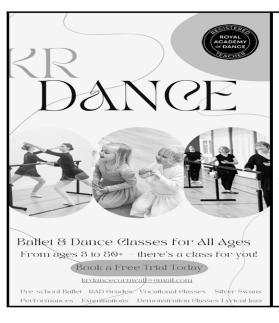
February 10 Music Therapy February 24 Chair Keep Fit March 10 Cober Band

For more details contact: Sue 07443 504128 - Mary 01872 865846 - Roe 01872 719076

<u>Perranarworthal Memory Café – a little bit about it and a shout out for volunteers.</u>

There is a Memory Café Network throughout Cornwall. Our Perranarworthal Café is unique and is run by a group of committed and caring volunteers from the local community. We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2-4pm at the Village Hall. There's always a tea break with plenty of delicious homemade cakes supplied by volunteers. Sessions are made up of activities such as quizzes, games and singing, as well as movement activities like tai chi, and guest performers and facilitators such as musicians and artists. We also manage to fit in a few outings over the year to nearby places such as Trebah Gardens. Guests and carers are always warmly welcomed.

There's plenty of laughter, time to catch up on news and also get a little drop of support if and when it's needed. Whilst we have a great group of volunteers, we are mainly women. So, we would like to encourage some of you men out there to consider becoming a volunteer. We're waiting to hear from you! **CB** Contact Sue on: 07443 504128 or Roe on: 01872 719076



Ballet & Dance for All Ages at KR Dance From tiny dancers to Silver Swans — ages 3 to 103!

KR Dance is run by Kathryn, along with fellow teachers Clare, and Amely – lifelong friends who grew up right here in the local area. All three trained full-time at the Royal Academy of Dance in London, hold the prestigious Licentiate of the RAD, and bring over 30 years of teaching experience.

We offer expert ballet and dance training in a warm, welcoming environment where every dancer feels supported, safe, and inspired.

★ Free trial classes for September - book now!

Perran-ar-Worthal School
& The Perranwell Centre

Krdancecornwall@gmail.com

PERRAN-AR-WORTHAL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Tues 27th Jan at the Perranwell Centre 7.30pm The Chasewater Railway 200 years Speaker: Bob Richards



Bob is a local expert having written many books on local history including his most recent publication; Four Foot Gauge: The Story of the Redruth and Chasewater Railway.

Planned and built by mining entrepreneur John Taylor, this pioneering line served the mines of Gwennap, linking them to the port of Devoran. Started in 1824, the line opened officially in 1826 when the first train to come down to the port of Devoran carried the banner 'May the Harvest be Abundant'. During this period the working horses were replaced with two tank engines, Miner and Smelter.



However, Cornwall's copper mining began to decline, and the fact that the railway built to service that industry continued to run for a further half century is quite amazing. Just over nine miles in length, the railway operated for some ninety years, closing in 1915.

This talk will mark the 200th anniversary of the first train to reach Devoran. Do come and join us to find out more about this fascinating era of local history.

Members £1 non members £4 annual membership £6

Advance Notice

The History Group's **February Meeting** will be an **afternoon** talk on **Tues 17th Feb at <u>2pm</u> in the Perranwell Centre**.

Kingsley Rickard will talk on '**Pharmacy of Yesteryear'** a look back at changes in medicine and treatments over the years.

RN HELICOPTER AIRCREWS IN PERRANWELL STATION

There was a time when RNAS Culdrose had many more helicopters filling the Cornish skies. A considerable number of aircrew, "Cold War Warriors", made their homes in Perranwell. Indeed, Arworthal Meadow had three at one time, one of whom, Geoff Stephenson was a stalwart contributor to **Perran News** together with his wife Marie, both of whom many mature readers will remember.

When my children were at the village school Santa would pay a regular Christmas visit to the village, landing on the playing field in a Sea King helicopter, piloted by one of the school dads. Very excited children and some equally excited ground-based Dads. I was there. Happy days.

Steve Murray, who has been a village resident for many years, has had an illustrious career at Culdrose and has recently finally retired. His daughter Jo messaged me as below.

Jo Warren writes: One of the Perranwell Station residents, my dad! He's featured before in Perranwell News, when he got his OBE. Food for thought.

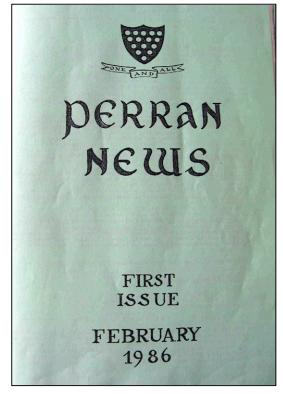
One of the last "Cold War warriors" has retired after a remarkable career of 50 years with the Fleet Air Arm. Steve Murray OBE served for 35 years in the Royal Navy, 7 years in the reserves and 8 years as a contractor as an expert in anti-submarine warfare (ASW).

Many congratulations, Steve, on completion of your multifaceted career. Have a good retirement. If readers follow this link there is a fascinating account of Steve's career. https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Bs1uW8S8T/?mibextid=wwXlfr

PERRAN NEWS 400

In 1986 Jean and Norman Barr, and Stan Broom started building *Perran News*, and launched it in February of that year. They strengthened it over the following five years establishing it is a valued community resource. Thanks to their hard work it had a good start. *Perran News* still sails along using more modern and more editor friendly propulsion, requiring much less toil thanks to email, the internet, word processing and publishing software readily available for PC's and laptops. We are fortunate having local advertisers who support the cost of printing.

In 1986 everything had to be copy typed from longhand-written contributions. Schools were just getting BBC computers, but few households had them. Typewriters, sometimes electric were how copy was prepared. Home PC's turned up a few years later, with help from Alan Sugar and Amstrad, and content started to come in pre typed often on floppy 4-inch disks, remember those, or even floppier 6-inch ones. It all seemed very exciting at the time.



Here we are today 400 issues and 40 years later still sailing along. Her are the first three pages .I am pleased to report that I have spoken on the phone to Jean, the mother of *Perran News*, who now lives in

Truro and is still going strong, celebrating her 98th birthday this month. I show here the first three pages of the first issue, February 1986. *Mark Gripper*

GENERAL			
GENE			
	Mrs Jean Barr	Silverdene House	
Compilers	HIS Jean Du-	Silver Hill Perranwell Station	Truro 863236
	Mrs Helen Blake	Three Birches Silver Hill	
		Perranwell Station	Truro 86330
	Mr Stan Broom	'Starene' Mellingey Cottages	- 0000
		Perranwell Station	Truro 8630
	Mrs Allard: Mrs Be	ell; Mrs Broom; Mrs Rena Ca	arter;
Distributors	Mrs Chadwick; Miss Collins, his bed Mrs Jackson; Mrs Miners;		
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Dear Readers,

This is the first issue of PERRAN NEWS. We hope that it will provide a new way for us all to communicate with each other: a way of giving information, asking for information, giving help and asking for help. Perhaps in some way it will "tie together" our village.

We plan to produce PERRAN NEWS monthly. We invite secretaries of local groups to give us dates of meetings and events. Tell us, too, if you plan a fund-raising occasion in your home, for example - any item which we can include in the "Perran Diary". Tell us what you have been doing in your club or group, so that we may all have a clearer idea of what is happening in our village; far more than most of us are aware of, we suspect.

Over the months we expect that the news sheet will settle down and take shape and we hope that, with your support, there will always be something of interest plus new ideas. Above all, we aim to provide the information and news that you seek.

There will be no charge for the news sheet. Our advertisers are supporting us in our venture and to them we are very grateful. However, advertising charges do not cover the full cost of production. If others - groups or individuals - from time to time feel that they can give a donation to assist in production costs, it will be gratefully received by any of the three compilers. (A receipt will be given.)

We do thank all those who have so willingly agreed to act as distributors. If you hear of anyone in the village who is not receiving a PERRAN NEWS and would like one delivered, please let us know.

Your suggestions and ideas will always be welcome. Please send in your reports, dates, comments, articles, etc., for inclusion in the March issue not later than 20th February. (See inside front cover, please.)

Remember, that without your contributions, the compilers will have nothing to compile.

J.E.B.

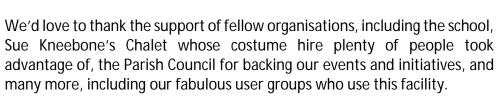
PERRAN DIARY

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7.30 p.m. Truro Camera Club. Competition: Night Scene
2.30 p.m. Sunshine Club. Concert given by 3 Pensioners
            3 Feb.
Thursday
           6 Feb.
Monday
          10 Feb.
                    10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. W.C.E. Day 3 of Course: Design for Embroidery
                                                                                - Mary Marsh
                     7.30 p.m. Truro Camera Club. Barry Aughton
7.30 p.m. Truro Camera Club. Comp. with Redruth P.S. at Redruth
Thursday 13 Feb.
Monday
          17 Feb.
                     7.30 p.m. Truro Camera Club - with Holmans P.S. (bring entries
                                 for Portrait Comp.)
Tuesday
          18 Feb.
                     7.30 p.m. Royal British Legion
Thursday 20 Feb
                     2.30 p.m.
                                Sunshine Club. Concert by Mrs Warren of Redruth
                   10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. W.C.E. Day 4 of Course: Design for Embroidery
Honday
          24 Feb.
                                                                                - Mary Marsh
                                 Truro Camera Club. Competition: Portraits
                    7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 26 Feb.
                     2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union
         28 Feb. 10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. W.C.E. Day School: Lampshades, technique
                                 and design - Anne Hulbert
                     7.30 p.m. Royal British Legion. Whist Drive. Come and join us.
  All events at Perran-ar-worthal Village Hall, unless otherwise stated.
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Camera Club at Perran-ar-worthal Cricket Club House.

AN UPDATE FROM THE VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Halloween Party. We were overwhelmed by such a great turnout from people of all ages, especially families and little ones, and the enthusiasm for donning a costume. Youngsters loved the Haunted House created by Ashley Bridges and her team of scary supporters, attendees tucked into hot dogs and sweet treats, and Miss Haversham's Fabulous Vintage Pop-up Shop was a hit. It was wonderful to see so many people from the village community come together for another event at our hall.





As you know plans around the redevelopment of the Village Hall are underway and plenty of conversations are going on behind the scenes about how we can fundraise to bring our dreams for a fabulous community facility for generations to come into a reality. You will see that part of this is being tied into the re-introduction of the Big Village - another great community concept that some of you will have wonderful memories of - which will not only be a great series of events, but we hope will help galvanise support for our ambitious plans. Our fundraising has already started, and we're delighted to share that we've recently received an incredibly generous donation of £20,000 towards the development of the village hall. If you head to our website www.perranwellcentre.org you will find more information on our fundraising plans, and we'll be updating this regularly with everything you need to support or help.

In terms of more events at the village hall, the next date for your diary is our Christmas Concert, which will take place on Monday, December 22nd from 7pm to 9pm, featuring St Stythians Band and other guests. We'll be serving pre-festival food at 6pm, including our popular turkey baps, mince pies, and mulled wine and cider. Tickets are £6 and children go free. They're available online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-perranwell-centre with all proceeds going to the village hall redevelopment.

We need you

Like any voluntary organisation, we always need more help. We're a small team and about to enter a vital period for the village hall and its future. With that in mind, if you're interested in helping - no matter how much or how little - we'd love to hear from you.

We are always looking for more people to join the board of trustees, as well as people to help with our events, and we'll be looking for support in our fundraising plans.



So please do get in touch via our chairman John Frankland on: **j19frankland@icloud.com** or speak to any of our trustees.

THE STORY OF BENJAMIN MICHELL

On 15th May 1815, a marriage took place in Perranarworthal Church between Samuel Michell and Sophia Woolcock. Samuel was from the neighbouring parish of Gwennap where the family name of Michell can be traced back many generations. Sophia was the daughter of John and Mary Woolcock, her family name had also been in the Perranarworthal parish records for several generations.

With so many families of the same name and so little detail on some of the old parish records, it is difficult to be certain but, it is thought that the couple had two sons, Joseph, baptised in September 1817 and Benjamin, baptised on 22nd September 1822. His baptism entry tells us that his father is dead. He was buried in his home parish of Gwennap on 22nd February 1822. Such a small family is uncommon at the time and there may well be other siblings whose records have been lost or who cannot be positively linked to this couple.

Nothing is known about Benjamin's early years or his line of work until his name crops up in the local court records in December 1839 when he was charged with theft in the Parish of Kea of a shirt belonging to Thomas Taylor. An additional charge of stealing a hat belonging to Robert Saunders of the Borough of Truro was also brought before the court. Benjamin was not tried on the first charge but found guilty of obtaining the hat under false pretences. He was sentenced to one month imprisonment with hard labour, a sentence which would have been served in Bodmin gaol.

Sadly, he did not learn to "tread the straight and narrow" from his term of imprisonment because on 17th April 1840, Benjamin Michell is again before the courts, this time charged with stealing seven pairs of beaverteen and other items, the property of John Rooke of the parish of Perranarworthal. Beaverteen is a heavy woollen cloth, much used at the time in making outer garments such as jackets and trousers. John Rooke is described in newspaper reports as the "Under Butler to Sir Charles Lemon". The Lemon family were the wealthy owners the Carclew estate at the time. Records show that this was a position which John Rooke held for many years. He also kept a draper's shop in Perranwell, the premises from which the theft took place.

At the subsequent trial just a few weeks after the theft, John Rooke was sworn in as a witness and

testified that on 13th March 1840, he had locked up and gone to bed just before midnight the previous evening and the premises were secure. When he got up the following morning, he discovered that the door between the cellar and the shop was broken and an adjacent sash window had been removed. He realised that he had been burgled and in court listed the missing items as "about 40 or 50 yards of beaverteen, which was so spotted that I should know it again, several yards of calico, about the same quantity of cotton print, about 30 yards of corduroy, 40 yards of brown linen, about half a bag of flour and a great number of other articles to the value of £20." He added that "they could not have been carried off by one man."

The next witness called was Jemima Opie who was a near neighbour. She testified simply that at about five o'clock in the morning, she saw the sash window standing against the wall of the house.

Maria Taylor of Truro was called and she testified that "the prisoner came to my house on the 20th of March and asked my brother-in-law to toe-piece his boots. He brought some fustian with him which he offered to sell to my brother-in-law. He put it on the table, but I did not take it up." Fustian is another name for beaverteen.

Maria Taylor also said that her brother-in-law arranged for some of the fustian to be taken the following day to Edwin James the pawnbroker. Edwin James agreed that he had received the beaverteen and, thinking it might be stolen, had taken it to Mr. Rowe the local constable. Other witnesses were called who had all had contact with Benjamin Michell since the theft or had seen him with what turned out to be stolen goods.

Benjamin Michell obviously became well aware that his crimes had been found out and before his arrest a few weeks later, was apparently seen as far away as East Taphouse and Devonport acting suspiciously and offering cloth for sale. He was ultimately arrested and brought before the Quarter Sessions Court in Bodmin.

Reports of the proceedings end by telling us that "The Chairman having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of GUILTY and the prisoner was sentenced to TEN YEARS TRANSPORTATION. The prisoner on hearing the sentence exclaimed that there was nothing like the quantity of things taken away that the prosecutor had stated.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO BENJAMIN MICHELL?

Transportation at the time meant a long and very uncomfortable journey to Van Diemen's Land, Tasmania as we now know it, where a penal colony existed from around 1800 to 1855. Before transportation, prisoners were kept confined in prison hulks, old, de-commissioned ships no longer fit for naval service but used to hold prisoners awaiting transportation. Benjamin Michell was held aboard the *Stirling Castle*, a former 74 gun, third rate ship. Launched in 1811 she was decommissioned in 1839 and rendered service as a prison hulk in Devonport from 1840-44 and later in Portsmouth from 1844-55. She was finally broken up in 1861.

Many of his fellow prisoners aboard *Stirling Castle* had also been convicted of theft and sentenced to transportation. Stealing items such as potatoes, rope, knives, a cow and even stealing a pair of stockings are some of the crimes listed against these men.

From the prison hulk, Benjamin Michell was transferred to the *David Clark*, a convict carrier, which left Portsmouth on 13th May 1841 with 138 prisoners aboard, collected a further 150, including Benjamin Michell, in Plymouth and set sail for Van Diemen's Land, arriving in Hobart on 4th October 1841 after a voyage of over 140 days. A miserable journey to an unknown future, made a little easier perhaps by the fact that a school was set up on board during the voyage. At the start, a total of 47 prisoners could neither read nor write, by the time they reached Van Diemen's Land, it is said that 18 of these could read and write a little and 15 others could read very well. Whether Benjamin Michell was among these new scholars is not known.

Once on the other side of the world, there was a period of what was known as probation for the prisoners. This was spent mainly in barracks with hard labour but there were still opportunities for crime. In November 1842, Benjamin Michell was suspected of having stolen a pair of trousers belonging to another prisoner. That case was not proven but a couple of months later in January 1843, he was again accused of stealing from another prisoner and this time, the case was proven. As a result, the Lieutenant Governor of the Colony decided that his period of transportation should be extended by a year and he was sent to Brown's River, a tough station for some of the worst offenders, where hard labour, much of it

stone breaking for road building, was the order of the day.

Benjamin Michell's criminal record continued to grow. On 30th September 1843 he was given three months hard labour in chains for being absent without leave from his prison hut. The following June, he was sentenced to seven days' solitary confinement for trying to break out of his hut at night. A similar offence followed in July of the same year when he succeeded in getting out and was absent for the morning muster. This was punished with six months' hard labour in chains. A few months later he, together with another man, Frederick Lipscombe, must have absconded again because they were tried at the Supreme Court in Hobart accused of housebreaking in that town. The pair were found guilty and Benjamin Michell's sentence was to have his period of transportation extended to transportation for life with no prospect of appeal or remission.

As a consequence of his misdemeanours, Benjamin Michell found himself at Port Arthur. This prison was set up on a small coastal peninsula in 1830, principally as an export facility for timber, using prisoner labour. It soon developed a reputation as the place where the most hardened criminals were sent and where the regime was extremely harsh and the security as good as escape proof. One of the deterrents to escape was a notorious "dog line" across Eagleshawk Neck, essentially a line of savage dogs, chained across the narrow, 30 metre wide isthmus which was the only land access to Port Arthur. Although there are a couple of recorded escapes through the dog line, it was a sufficient deterrent to keep most of the prisoners as far away from it as possible.

After serving his time there and returning to a less harsh prison regime, Benjamin Michell's name appears again on a few occasions for various offences. Absent without leave and out after hours earned him spells of solitary confinement.

The last entry on his record says, "struck off strength 31st December 1853." This has, however been crossed through. Does it mean he had died, or does it mean he had escaped and was never recaptured? That's a mystery for another day.

Bob Richards

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

The Hiroshima Men: by Iain Macgregor The Maniac: by Benjamin Labatut

The Perran News



What's ironic is that most of the mathematical physicists who made the atomic bomb a reality were busy working at the Göttingen university in Germany until Hitler came to power and then - being Jewish - they fled to America. Folks like Albert Einstein, Leo Szilard, Edward Teller, Eugene Wigner, John von Neumann and many others.

Hitler was left with Werner Heisenberg who kinda said, well, the nuclear reaction is theoretically possible, but I can't get it to balance.

And... Ancient Greek Democritus came up with the concept of the atom in 5th century bc as the smallest indivisible part of matter and it wasn't until 1955 when Erwin Müller took his new field ion microscope and said "look, that is an atom".

So when John Dalton started playing with atomic theory in the early 19th century, right up to the first bomb test at Los Alamos on July 16th 1945, these incredible folk... it was just theory, mathematics, E=mc squared, quantum mechanics... splitting an atom, splitting an imaginary part of the psychical world.

In "The Hiroshima Men" the run up to the bombing is detailed and a light cast on people from many walks of life, from both sides of the conflict. The portrayal of Hiroshima Mayor Senkichi Awaya is particularly touching as he tries to keep some semblance of a moral compass in the face of growing dystopia. The story of building the B29 "flying superfortress" epitomises American mobility to becoming the planet's dominant military power, along with a certain bomb building project, of course. At this point a "computer" was a human being, usually female, working arithmetic passed on by her male colleagues.

"The Maniac" is based around the life of John von Neumann, a pioneer of computer science who was born in Hungary, 1903. If you had a room full of top mathematicians working on a tough calculation, Von Neumann would walk in and work it out in two minutes, which quite frankly scared the ***t out of most of them.

When von Neumann was a child his dad brought home a Jacquard machine, a loom capable of weaving detailed patterns simply by the input of cards which had holes punched in them. The presence or absence of a hole determined the output. Von Neumann drew connections with Gottfried Leibniz and his modern binary number system which simplified mathematics to just using one and zero. Von Nuemann spent time with Alan Turing at Princeton University, New Jersey before the latter headed back to Britain to revolutionise computing here during the Second World War.

Von Neumann was a major part of the Manhattan Project and helped design the critical lenses that focused the explosion. He was privy to all top-secret American military developments and collaborated with meteorological researcher Vladimir Zworykin on the idea of high altitude nuclear explosions to control the weather. It's said that he seemed to disregard ethical debate due to the sheer excitement of scientific possibility.

Of von Neumann: "He wanted to mathematize everything, to transform all areas of human thought and grab science by the throat by unleashing the power of unlimited computation" He built a machine called the Mathematical Analyzer, Numerical Integrator and Computer, MANIAC, for short.

On his deathbed von Neumann was asked what it would take to build a computer capable of thinking like a human being. He said "it would need to grow, not be built, and be able to play, like a child". Hello Artificial Intelligence, Al. The author Mark Manson suggests we may one day worship Al as we have gods of the past. You may believe that by carrying a purple handkerchief Al favours you. Mansons book "Everything is ****ed" is another enjoyable read.

The **Perran News** has its Number 400. It used to have a yellow cover. I used to laugh uncontrollably as my father spent an idle 5 minutes on a Saturday afternoon joking about the people who had bothered to write in *cough* and it made me picture the Parish Council as 5 people knitted together by cobwebs.

Well, I do have some skill at Conkers, if you must know. **JM**

King Copper - a century of industrialisation in Devoran and Restronguet Creek 1780-1880

In October, Nick Johnson (leader of Cornwall Archaeological Unit from 1975 to 2010) delivered a most interesting talk to our members on the remarkably rapid development and equally remarkable and rapid decline of the village of Devoran in the 18th and 19th centuries.

He explained that at the beginning of the 18th century Feock was a small agricultural riverside parish comprising a handful of farms set amidst large areas of downs and commons, but this all was to change as the boom in mining brought wealth and development to the area. By the end of the 18th century the hugely ambitious Great Carnon Streamworks had begun to transform the environment of the valley by channeling the Carnon and Kennal rivers to the valley sides, thereby draining and allowing access to the tin (and gold) rich deposits at the base of the sediments in the valley bottom. Through the 19th century the development of steam power was also enabling the mines of United downs to vastly increase production, and the ores were taken initially by mule trains to the many small quays dotted around the estuary for export to smelters on the fringe of the South Wales coalfield.

The rapid expansion of mining and its several related industries led to the construction of a series of quays at Devoran and to a 'planned settlement' along the hillslope inland. The opening of the Redruth and Chasewater (sic) railway in 1824 accelerated this process and the population rapidly expanded. In the 1850s, "schooners, ketches and lighters lay four or five abreast the wharfs, with more lying off Restronguet Creek. The long waterfront bustled with the comings and goings of hundreds of porters loading and unloading ore and coal in hand barrows. Limekilns, brickworks, ship building and timber yards, ship's chandlers, and all the other ancillaries of a thriving port sprang up, and the four inns in the village did a roaring trade with the sailors, porters and railway men that nightly thronged the village". By 1891 Devoran had Street lighting, C of E Church and Methodist Chapel, County Board School and Methodist Sunday School, 4 Inns, Police house, Post Office, Market House with Institute and Library, Grocers, Bakery, Drapers, Butcher, Chandlery and three fine houses – Devoran House, Belmont and Park View.

This period of prosperity was short-lived however – the copper market began to collapse from the 1860s in the face of competition from cheaper foreign sources. The population, which had been rising every year until the end of the 1860s went into decline and rapidly fell back to pre-industrial levels, and the character of the settlement was transformed once again. Not until the the late 1960s did the population of Feock Parish finally recover to its 1871 high point.

Nick's talk was jam-packed with information and anecdotes, not to mention maps, plans and photos; it was an object lesson in local history, demonstrating just what can be achieved by combining a wide range of sources to forge a coherent, stimulating and informative narrative.

For example, one particularly mind-boggling fact – that deserves to be more widely appreciated - concerned the transport of ore from the mines on United Downs to the quays at Devoran before the construction of the railway. Using contemporary sources, Nick discovered that In 1800 there were more than 3000 mules carrying copper and coal in West Cornwall. Each mule could carry 3 cwt. so it took 7 mules to carry a ton of ore (21cwt). A train of 21 Mules, known bizarrely as a *PAIR*, was capable of shifting 3 tons. And so It required 700 mules (33 *pairs*) to shift 100 tons (2100cwt)

In 1823 Consolidated Mines (United Downs) produced 14,000 tons of copper. This resulted in 98,000 mule journeys which translates into 14 *mule trains* of 300 mules making their way to the quays in Feock Parish in one day, and the same number going back the other way loaded with coal. With other mines in Gwennap also producing copper, there are likely to have been more than 800 mules passing through Carnon Downs each day.

It's quite difficult to imagine that, isn't it? **SH**

Perranwell Community Choir's

Christmas Concert

Fundraiser for the New Village Hall

Saturday 13th December at 7pm
At The Perranwell Centre







Perranwell Community Choir

With Guests.....

Stithians Ladies Choir

Duo Vingt-Quatre - Classical Guitar Duo

Refreshments and Raffle

Tickets £6 (children free)

Available from the link below or scan code.

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FNPL
Tickets will also be available on the door



Perranwell Centre, Perranwell Station TR3 7JU Doors open at 6.30pm, concert starts at 7pm

A PARAL PARA

Come and join the festive fun at

Perranar-Worthal CP School's



Christmas Se Stave



SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Perran-ar-Worthal Village Hall

II:00am - 3:00pm

CRAFTS | GIFTS | TREATS GAMES | FOOD



MYLOR BRIDGE BOWLING CLUB

Though the summer season is well and truly over the receiving of Group 4 bowling trophies is annually reserved until early November. Ten of our ladies attended a luncheon at Tehidy Golf Club on November 5th, when the presentation took place. Members from all the clubs in the Group 4 regions are invited, Truro, Chacewater, Newquay Trenance, Newquay West End, Perranporth, Penryn, Falmouth, Mawnan Smith and hosted by members of the Group 4 committee and this year's Bowls Cornwall President, Peter Prynne

We were delighted to watch three of our members receiving awards. Sue Walker for runner up in the Kernow Cup and also for winning the Champion of Champions, Sue Kelly as winner of the Kernow Cup and Carole Woodman as winner of the Secretaries Cup. Great achievements for which we applaud and congratulate them.

Play has now moved indoors and sees regular roll-ups and league matches for both short mat and carpet bowls. Short mat has roll-ups on Monday and Friday afternoon, while carpet bowls has Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. These commence at 2pm and visitors to the game would be most welcome to try their hand. Naturally if league matches are being played the roll-ups can't take place but those dates can be found on the club website.

Should you wish to find out more about the bowling club, details can be found on the website www.mylorbridgebowlingclub.co.uk. We very much look forward to welcoming new faces.

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Organisation	Contact & Details
Parish Council	Tomas Hill, 01872 865840 clerk@perrranarworthal-pc.gov.uk
	Agendas, minutes & other items on website: www.perranarworthal-pc.gov.uk
Cornwall Councillor	Ruth Gripper 07866 622584 cllr.ruth.gripper@cornwall.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	Jayne Kirkham 07736 895195 jayne.kirkham.mp@parliament.uk
Perranwell Centre bookings	info@perranwellcentre.org
Perranarworthal School	Rachel Heffer 01872 863004
Friends of Perranarworthal School	Rosie Leach fops@perran-ar-worthal.cornwall.sch.uk Kirsty Reynolds
Police Community Liaison Officer	TBC 101
Police Neighbourhood Beat Manager	PC Vince Beckett 17005@dc.police.uk
LOCAL BUSINESSES	
Avon	Sally Perkins <u>universally.perkins@gmail.com</u>
Community Store	Annie Hewitt anniek.hewitt7@gmail.com
Norway Inn	01872 864241
Perranwell Garage	Anthony Scrivener 01872 863037
Royal Oak	Jonathan and Hayley Dolby
Vanilla Salon	Rachael Glanville 01872 864505 receptionatvanilla@gmail.com
HEALTH & WELLBEING	
Doctors at Devoran	01872 562200 <u>www.chacewatersurgery.co.uk</u>
Doctors at Carnon Downs	01872 863221
Defibrillator training	Mark Gripper 07770 997778 markgripper@gmail.com
Loyal Bee	Tammy & Laura 01872 713823 https://www.loyalbeecare.co.uk Home care services
Psychological Counselling	Karina Griffiths 075685 507705 info@taikatales.com
Feet Up! Mobile foot clinic	Karen Myers 01872 834567 <u>www.feet-up.co.uk</u> Visits village hall
Coffee Stop	lan Halford 07742 622033 Meets every Thursday morning, 9.30-11.30 in the village hall
Keep Fit	Cathy Whitmore 01872 862040
Memory Café	Sue Godfrey 07443 504128 sugodfrey@icloud.com Roe Simpson 01872 719076 Activities, outings, tea & cake. Meets 2 nd and 4 th Tuesday of each month, 2.00-4.00 in village hall
Michelle's Fitness & Wellbeing	Michelle 07546 239032 michellesfitnesscornwall@gmail.com Exercise class for independently active older people, Mondays 1.30-2.30, village hall
Seniors' Fitness	Karen Dowden 07967 087511 karen.dowden@btinternet.com
Wellbeing Club	Ellen Moule 07446 257846 ellen.moule@imagineif.net
Weinseling class	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday each month, 11.00-1.00, village hall
Yoga with Candice	Candice Quarmby 07869 165364 canzaq@gmail.com www.yogawithcandice.co.uk
Yoga for Relaxation	Deidre Mason 01209 613488
Zest For Life Fitness, Men's Pilates	Zoe Crouse 07721 004122 zestforlifefitness@gmail.com www.zestforlifefitness.com
	Devoran Village Hall Wednesday 12.00 – 13.00
CLUBS, GROUPS & SOCIETIES	

Organisation	Contact & Details
Aikido (over 18 only)	Jamie 07720 288172 or Carl 07486 597041 www.aikidocprnwall.com Sundays, 5.00-7.00, village hall
Bridge Club Perranwell	Malcolm Parker 07927 197937
Bridge Club	Trisha Willcocks 01872 864550
Perran Bridge	Malcolm Parker 07927 197937
Carnon Downs Drama Group	Chris Breach 01872 862063 secretary@carnondownsdrama.co.uk carnondownsdrama.co.uk Rehearsals on Sunday afternoons in village hall
Chess Truro/Falmouth Chess Club	Robin Kneebone 07531 543651 chesscornwall@gmail.com
Choral Society Truro	membership@trurochoral.org
Computer Services	John Muteham 01872 865449 sales@premier-pc.com
Cornwall Dog Training	Frankie Bond 01872 864844 enquiries@cornwalldogtrainingclub.com
Cornwall South Textile Artists	·
Cricket Club	Ashley Bridges 07816 388474 ashleypaw04@gmail.com
Football Club	David Kemp 07971 951201 <u>k4mpy@btinternet.com</u> Clubhouse 01872 870202
Kawagishi Dojo	David Collins 07789 441062 dwcollins33@gmail.com Sundays, 9.00-12.00, village hall
Kenwyn Valley Flower & Garden Club	Glennis Beard 01872 560609 www.kenwynvalleyflowerclub.btck.co.uk/
Les Carrek Lace & Needlecraft Group	Janet Dale 01872 863033
Methodist Chapel	Ann Towsey 01872 864300 anntowsey@hotmail.co.uk
Local History Group	Ruth Ward, 078877 68957 ruthward@btinternet.com
	Usually meets 3 rd Tuesday of each month, 7.30 pm in village hall
Perran & District Poultry & Pigeon Soc.	Shane Kneebone 01872 864409 perranpoultry@hotmail.co.uk
Photographic Club	Roy Mc Bride 01872 863891
Scouts Devoran	Harry Jones Group Secretary and Trustee 07785 392377 <u>harryjones61@icloud.com</u>
St Piran's Church Hall Bookings	Heather McCombie 01872 864050
St Piran's Church Wardens	David Simmons 07961 216740 Heather McCombie 01872 864050 http://www.thewatersidechurches.com/
St Piran's Church Handbell Ringers	Janet Thomas 01872 862876
St. Piran's Bellringing	Alun Thomas 01872 862876
U3A	Mark Breach 01872 862063 mark.breach@yahoo.co.uk
Women's Institute	Sue Short 07437 019190 <u>ackee123@outlook.com</u> 2 nd Tuesday of each month, 7.15 in the village hall
PERRAN NEWS	
Perran News Editor	Mark Gripper 01872 863833
Perran News Advertising	Chris Lea perrannewsads@gmail.com
Perran News Treasurer	Chris Lea perrannewsads@gmail.com
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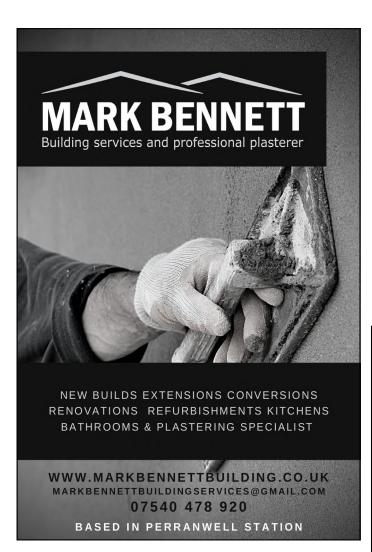


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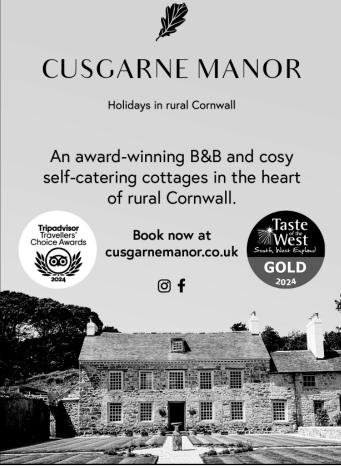
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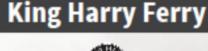
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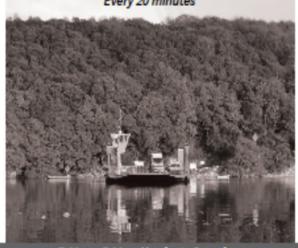
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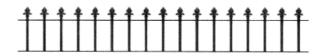
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