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NEW FROM THE EAST LOOE TOWN TRUST



BEACON IS BACK

We were delighted with the enthusiastic reaction on social media to the news that the Beacon on the Wooldown has been replaced. The original had been badly corroded and could no longer be safely used. It had been erected in 2008 with Government funding for a chain of beacons across the country to celebrate the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The Looe project was led by Dave Holford and a strong team of community volunteers, working under the umbrella of the Looe Development Trust.

ELTT are grateful to Trustee Andy Bishop who arranged for its replacement, funded by Babcock International, with the work completed by apprentices at Devonport Dockyard. Nice work from Edes and the ELTT team getting it in place.

Yes, of course it will be fired up. When? Nothing's been decided but the favourite suggestion on Facebook is 'Covid liberation day' – let's hold that happy thought.

WOOLDOWN STEPS

The steps from the coast path up to Lower Windmill Field are to be repaired by the maintenance team. It is a job that relies on a period of reasonably dry weather. Sadly, therefore, the team has had to turn to wet weather work! Meanwhile, though the steps are passable, an easier and less steep way up is by the zig-zag privet walk that begins shortly before the steps.

OLD LIFEBOAT STATION AND WATCHTOWER

This Grade II listed building is an important heritage asset, and the Trust's work to restore it continues to be strongly supported in Looe. Sadly, one of the Covid consequences was the Lottery Heritage Fund's freezing of restoration funding applications last year. Bids are to be reopened this month, but competition will be keen. One of the challenges for us has been to minimise any further decline in condition of the building through water ingress and condensation, and some of you may have seen the sodden plasterboard that is being removed from the Watchtower. When Covid closed the project down last year we were making plans to open it up for public viewing as part of our public consultation about its future use, and we are now looking again at what we can arrange.

BB-H

Sad news was received recently about the death of Barbara Birchwood-Harper. Trustees and many others in Looe remember her with great affection and gratitude for the work she put in for many years as Hon. Curator of the Museum. She built the foundations of the thriving accredited Museum and volunteer team that we have today, and is greatly missed, as is her late husband Neil.



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WEST LOOE PLAYGROUP



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www.westlooeplaygroup.co.uk email: admin@westlooeplaygroup.co.uk

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BE PATIENT, BE CAREFUL

The year progresses, at a very slow pace, Twists, turns, affecting the human race, As we fight the pandemic, this virus that swirled All over Earth, devastating the world, What happens next? Where do we go? Into the realms of - well, I just do not know,

Stick to your distancing, wear your mask,
These two simple expedients, a quite simple task,
Add to that, hand washes throughout each day,
I wonder? Have these kept the flu bug at bay?
Fingers crossed re a vaccine, could this be that soon
We will flatten the virus perhaps before June?

Note I did not mention which year this would be This year, 21?...22?...23?

Who are these people who deny it exists, Ignore life and peril and take all sorts of risks, Taking no notice of the revealed daily toll Of lives being lost, more names on the Roll, Nursing staff worn out, at the end of their tether, And now the rain, snow, storms, such bad weather,

Musicians complaining, no appearance on stage,
When folks crammed next to each other, ignoring the 'sage'
Who warns, loudly, incessantly, avoid others for now,
One day it will end, allowing artistes their bow,
One day, Covid over, the new normal begins,
When past Biblical plagues will forgive us our sins.

Until then, use the brain you were gifted, and see Into the future and how it will be,
Living life to the full, loving, caring and laughter,
For you and all others, each day ever-after. . .

Be patient, be careful, be safe, be assured One day we'll remember all that we endured.

Take care each life is so precious.

Dave Holford

THE OLD GUILDHALL MUSEUM AND GAOL

When you look through the old census reports, parish records, newspaper articles, directories, etc. it is easy to just see the dates and facts and forget that these were living, breathing people with lives as complex, boring and interesting as our own.

It helps that I have an active imagination (It doesn't help on dark, winter afternoons when I am locking up the Museum, I am very good at spooking myself!) and I am happy to attach a story to a seemingly boring list of information. Here are three of my tales of people who lived in Looe – they may be true, who knows...

We have some wonderful photos of Ada and Harry Stephens. I have always felt that there is a sadness in Ada's eyes, so I began searching. Harry came from a wealthy family. He had an affair with one of the housemaids and they had two children, who he supported, but they could never marry – she was the wrong class. Harry met Ada through mutual business connections. She came from a successful family and was "suitable". They married in 1908. He was an associate of Joseph Thomas and had purchased a house at Hannafore. They also had a London flat in Mayfair. Life should have been blissful, but Ada was Harry's second choice, the other woman with a daughter and son always in Harry's heart and life. A typical Victorian/ Edwardian scandal that cast a shadow over Ada's happiness.

A friend asked for help in tracing the people who had lived in his house on Lower Chapel Street over the decades. I found that in 1851 an Elizabeth Pengelly lived there. She was an elderly widow and pauper, with a lodger. So what? I hear you say. Well, when she moved into this comfortable, roomy house with her husband and adult children in about 1846 she was secure, but then the children left one by one and her husband died. With no insurance or pension she took in a lodger to help pay the rent and bills. But it wasn't enough; she had to leave. Did she move in with family? Become someone's lodger or go into the local workhouse? Chances are she ended her days in poverty and alone, I hope she didn't.

Penny McHugh, Volunteer Curator, Old Guildhall Museum & Gaol

LOOE OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY

In view of the continued lockdown, Looe Old Cornwall Society has decided to hold virtual meetings via Zoom for the next few months.

February's meeting will be on Saturday 13th February at 2.30pm, when the speaker will be Mark Camp, on "Twentieth Century Tourism – the Post-war Years." The following month, Saturday 13th March, also at 2.30pm, we will hold our AGM followed by a talk by Petra Stephenson on Looe Museum. These meetings are open to all, free of charge. If you would like to take join us, please e-mail looeoldcornwall@hotmail.com.



Firstly thank you for all your ongoing support, as we continue to vaccinate our most vulnerable patients.

Our next local clinics are:

Monday 8th February & Friday 12th February

By appointment only, we aim to finish vaccinating remaining patients aged 70 years and over and shielded patients by the end of week commencing 8th February.

Please don't call us, we'll call you.

Our practice nurses and paramedic will also be out and about in the community vaccinating housebound patients too, and we'll be moving onto other patient groups as soon as we can.



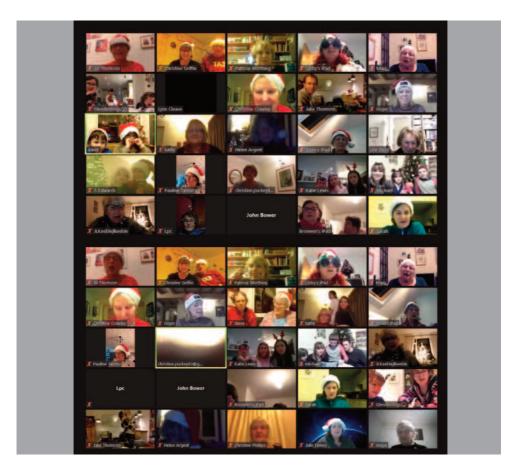
LOOE VALLEY SINGERS

Since the onset of Covid-19, the Looe Valley Singers have managed to continue online and have now sung their way through more than 30 meetings.

Singing for the choir has become a totally new experience via the Zoom platform and they have soldiered on through technical hitches, meeting pets, grandchildren and cuddly toys online, but most importantly they have managed to stay in touch, which has been good for both morale and continuity within the group.

Chair of the Looe Valley Singers Jill Thomson said: "It's not the same as meeting together, but the friendship and fun is obvious during sessions. Thanks to Zoom for keeping the Looe Valley Singers in touch and let's hope it's not too long before we can all sing together again."

Songs of the Sixties, the Last Night of the Proms, The Beatles, Abba and Cornish songs have all featured in the choir's repertoire, with 2020 ending on a positive note when family members were invited to 'link in' for a Christmas Carolling hour.



During the few periods without lockdown last year a few lucky Looe Valley Singers members were able to gather in one of the singer's gardens for a catch up, following social distancing guidelines, and a short practise in the open air.



LOOE SAILING CLUB

With the current lockdown it's very difficult to find something to say with all activity on hold. However plans have to be made in the hope that things will improve enough as the year progresses to get back to some sort of normality.

The Club has been making full use of modern technology in order to hold monthly committee meetings and planning meetings with representatives from fleets in other parts of the country about future sailing championships in the hope they will be able to proceed in a future Covid-secure environment.

Members are invited to renew their Club membership either by direct payment to the Club bank account or by cheque to the Club.

We look forward to welcoming members back in hopefully the not too distant future to take part in the activities that we all love in our favourite Looe Bay.

Paul Sedgbeer Secretary www.looesailingclub.co.uk

LOOE COMMUNITY MEALS PROJECT

I was recently successful in a grant application to the DEFRA food resilience fund to provide meals for families in need in Looe and Polperro. This new grant will build on the success of a 'meals on wheels' delivery service provided by local restaurant The Golden Guinea which is currently delivering two hot meals per week to 17 families across Looe and Polperro from its commercial kitchen.

The recipients have either limited cooking facilities to produce a hot, nutritious healthy meal, have limited income because of redundancy because of Covid 19, are at the end of seasonal employment, or find cooking difficult because of disability or infirmary.

The £14,000 grant funding will keep the project going and expand the service provision to others in need over the next 12 months. The scheme will be launched shortly now that project coordinator Sara Barron has been appointed to identify further people in need and bring on other restaurants. Contact Sara if you would like to receive meals or contribute as a supplier: Looecommunitymeals@gmail.com.

The aim is to ensure the future sustainability of the project, putting it on a firmer footing and assisting more families and individuals in need of freshly prepared, wholesome food.

Looe Development Trust will administer the financial accountability of the project. Looe Town Council will coordinate volunteers from the Looe Coronavirus Support volunteer base and maintain the database of users, ensuring data protection. The scheme will accept referrals from local agencies like the Surgery, Rusty Bucket, local Councillors and schools. The scheme currently provides traybakes like cottage pie, lasagne, vegetarian options and a roast every week, with plans to now extend the provision over the next 12 months.

Some areas of Looe are in the worst 20% for child poverty and Looe and Polperro are heavily dependent on the tourism sector. Tourism is one sector most affected by the pandemic, with some businesses facing total lockdown twice, laying off staff or putting them on short time. There is also a high proportion of self-employed people in Looe adversely affected by the loss of trade from the tourism sector supply chain. Some people in Looe and Polperro, even in a good year, face hardship with a seasonal economy and low-paid service industry jobs, so this money will make a real difference.

'Looe Community Meals' will complement other schemes like the Looe Town Council Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund can provide essential white goods like a fridge or microwave, will contribute to essential utility bills like phone, electricity and rent, and items for school like uniforms and occasionally food, if not appropriate to access a food bank.

The Golden Guinea has collaborated with other local businesses and suppliers – for example the Cornish Tea Company, Sarah's Pasties and Quayside Fresh.

As there are no other food projects in the area other than food bank, the extended 'Looe Community Meals Project' will really make a difference. I would like to thank all at the Golden Guinea, the whole team have pulled together to help. I would also like to thank all the local businesses who have contributed. What an amazing community we have in Looe and Polperro, it just shows what we can do it we all work together.

Edwina Hannaford Cornwall Councillor for Looe West Lansallos and Lanteglos



SOUTH EAST CORNWALL TOURISM ASSOCIATION

FREE MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL TOURISM-RELATED BUSINESSES

It's all change at SECTA – the South and East Cornwall Tourism Association. SECTA was formed over 40 years ago to help and support those businesses involved with the tourism industry and to lobby for changes at local and national level.

As an organisation it prides itself on the innovations it has developed over the years – the Trade Show held at Looe Bay, its Green Acorn sustainable tourism scheme and its Quality in Cornwall inspections. In addition SECTA works with partners to effect real change within the industry. Throughout the pandemic we have kept in close contact with our members through our Facebook and monthly newsletters to ensure that they have the most up to date information on the steps that they need to take to stay safe, keep their guests and their communities safe and to enable them to access all available financial support.

As an organisation, we are known for being innovative and forward thinking. We are run by tourism industry volunteers and our members are at the front and centre of everything we do. Covid-19 has been devastating for all of us and the Committee has been working hard to support our members. Part of our discussions were around how to modernise the organisation to make it more relevant and attract even more members. We decided that by making membership of SECTA free we could then encourage even more South East Cornwall businesses to join us because the cost of membership has been seen as a barrier in the past. To allow us to continue our work we do have to raise some income so instead of a membership fee we will charge our members for the services that they use - monthly meeting, training courses, small group sessions etc. Members will all receive the same basic information and support but can buy other items that they find of value. We are entering an exciting phase of development for SECTA and we are looking forward to the new journey that we will be taken on. SECTA has recently launched its new website and is actively looking to recruit new members in the South East Cornwall area. Membership includes free newsletters and regular updates on tourism legislation on the Facebook group as well as access to meetings, training, information sessions and more. Join us NOW on our Facebook group by clicking this link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/179564269117883

Or for more information please call Kim on 01503 240685 or email chair@secta.org.uk



VISIT CORNWALL AWARDS

Looe Development Trust's (LDT) newest Trustee, Kim Spencer, has been shortlisted for the Unsung Hero Award in this year's Visit Cornwall Tourism Awards. Kim usually prefers to keep a low profile but has been nominated for her voluntary work on behalf of tourism businesses in her community and in the wider Cornwall area.



Over the past 17 years she has worked with many other colleagues and partners on a number of projects in South and East Cornwall and beyond. She started off on the MCTi group here in Looe and from there was elected Chair of both the East Cornwall Local Action Group (LAG) and latterly the South and East Cornwall LAG, and worked with the Fisheries Local Action Group too. Many projects in Looe have benefitted from funding through these groups.

As Vice Chair of SECTA she has worked hard to ensure that all tourism businesses are up to speed with the many new laws and regulations enacted around Covid safe businesses and she always tries to be available to help and support new businesses in the town and beyond. Kim said "I thoroughly enjoy being a volunteer and have worked with so many people over the years that have so much local and business knowledge. I am grateful for, if not a little embarrassed by, the nomination and would like to thank the team at Visit Cornwall Awards and the sponsors for putting on an event during what has been an extraordinary year. I have always said that I get more out of volunteering than I ever put in and would encourage anyone thinking about getting more involved with their community to just do it! "

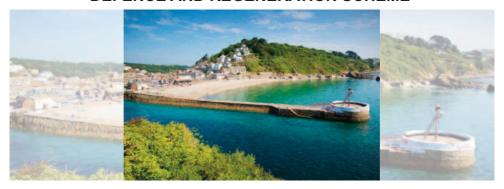
Alongside her work as a Trustee of LDT, Kim continues to work on and chair the Community Led Local Development Group (CLLD) delivering the last EU funding programme across South and East Cornwall. She hopes to remain involved in any future funding programmes for the area and to continue to develop and grow SECTA. "Whilst Covid has brought us all many new challenges, what it has also done is make us all appreciate how important working together is, sharing information, resources, talent and business ideas. People want to work together and they want to see their area grow from strength to strength. Tourism and hospitality is a vibrant and innovative sector and the important thing now is to grow the partnership working opportunities and to concentrate on building back better".

Jack Ashby-Wright of the Talland Bay Hotel has been shortlisted in the Business Leader of the Year category and Trelawne Manor Holiday Park, Looe was commended in the Holiday Park of the Year category.

A full list of nominations can be found at: https://www.cornwalltourismawards.org.uk/winners

Winners will be announced towards the end of February.

'LET'S TALK LOOE FLOOD DEFENCE AND REGENERATION SCHEME'



A new online community space has been launched to share information about the town's flood defence and regeneration scheme and give residents the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about the proposals.

https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/looe-flood-defence

has been created by Cornwall Council, Looe Harbour Commissioners and the Environment Agency who are leading the development of the scheme.

With COVID-19 restrictions preventing face to face consultation and engagement events, this site will help to keep you up to date with all the latest information, as well as offering a space for local people to have their say on the proposals.

The site includes a discussion forum where people can share their experiences of flooding in Looe, and an email address – LooeFloodDefence@cornwall.gov.uk – for people to ask questions and give their views on the proposals.

Information about the proposals is also available on the scheme's website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/LooeFloodDefence where there is also a copy of a new leaflet which has been published. Printed copies of the leaflet will be available in the town's library and Harbour Commissioner's office when it is safe to go there to collect them.

People can also read the first edition of Looe Flood Defence News, a new quarterly newsletter providing the latest information about events, activities and key milestones, on the website. You can sign up for future editions of the newsletter to be delivered straight to your inbox by emailing LooeFloodDefence@cornwall.gov.uk

Looe is already the most frequently flooded coastal town in the UK, causing £39m of damage to homes and businesses during the last five years.

Over the next 100 years, sea levels are predicted to rise by more than 1 metre as a result of climate change, threatening even more parts of the town. These include the health centre, the police and fire stations, main food stores and cafés and the fish market, as well as major transport links such as the A387 and the railway station.

The aim of the Looe Flood Defence and Regeneration Scheme is to protect Looe from frequent and severe flooding and damage over the next 100 years, giving time for the community to adapt to a changing climate.

It will also enhance the overall environmental integrity of designated sites and water bodies, and work in partnership to promote economic growth in East Cornwall by helping to deliver new and improved rail, road, ferry, cycling and walking links, and protecting and enhancing the marine and visitor economy.

During the past few months the partners have been working to turn the proposals originally developed by the Looe Harbour Commissioners into an economically viable and environmentally friendly solution to the town's tidal flooding challenges.

The current scheme includes a tidal barrier which will close when flooding is likely; a southern breakwater which will prevent overtopping of the tidal barrier and sea front during tidal surges, provide a shelter for vessels when the flood gates are closed and protect Hannafore Road; an extension to the Banjo pier, creating a low water landing stage providing boat access at all states of the site; a cut-off wall below East Looe beach to prevent tidal flooding bypassing the tidal barrier; and a new walkway from Pennyland in the town to Hannafore, to provide access to the coast path and protected access off the main road.

A strategic outline case for the project was completed at the end of last year and work is currently taking place to produce a final outline business case to submit to the Government for funding.

If this is approved and funding is secured, construction on the scheme could begin in 2024, with the scheme completed by 2026 – two years ahead of the original schedule.



LOOE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

LEGION

The 'Legion' and COVID-19. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic we, the Looe Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), have cancelled our normal monthly meetings until further notice. Nevertheless, the work of the 'Legion' goes on in providing financial,

social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants, especially in these times of the pandemic when extra stresses have been placed on our lives. If you, or your family, need help or advice from the 'Legion' then please call the RBL's free helpline on 0808 802 8080. Lines are open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

We Will Remember them. We are always pleased to hear about the wartime experiences of the people of Looe. Amongst the information we have received are the personal recollections of Flight Lieutenant J.A. Grimer, better known as the John Grimer, the much loved and respected teacher at the Looe Comprehensive School.

John was born in Middlesex in 1922, his mother came from Belgium and he learnt to speak French from an early age. In 1942 he joined the RAF and trained as a bomb aimer before being posted, in 1943, to 77 Squadron which flew Halifax bombers from Elinaton, Yorkshire, In November 1943, with the longer hours of darkness, Bomber Command began a sustained bombing offensive against the German capital, Berlin, which it was hoped would bring an end to the war. The 'Battle of Berlin', as it was known, went on until March 1944 but failed to achieve its objective and Bomber Command lost over 7000 aircrew and 1,047 bombers. Due to their inferior performance, compared to the Lancaster Bomber, the Halifax squadrons suffered a high percentage of the losses. John's squadron suffered heavily and its operational strength fell by almost 50% as replacements failed to keep up with losses. It was calculated that only one crew in 22 would complete the total of 30 operations to earn a rest from combat. The Halifax squadrons were therefore switched to attacking transport hubs in France in preparation for D-Day. John recalled that they felt 'rather bitter' that they would only be awarded one-third of an operation for their sorties over France.

On 22nd April 1944 John flew with his regular crew in Halifax S-Sugar piloted by Squadron Leader Ken Bond, to attack the railyards at Laon. As they neared the target the anti-aircraft became intense and the crew could hear the shrapnel rattling against the aircraft's fuselage. On the run-in the navigator was to later recall that the crew were willing the bomb aimer, John, to get it right first time so that they wouldn't have go around again. John was spot on with his aim and the aircraft turned for home but unfortunately, a few minutes later, they were attacked by a German night fighter. The first they knew of the attack was when exploding cannon shells raked the underside of the aircraft. The night fighter had flown below the bomber and fired vertically mounted 20mm cannons into the belly of the bomber. With their aircraft on fire, John and the navigator managed to clip on the parachutes of two wounded crew members and bundle them out of the aircraft before jumping

themselves. John's parachute was only secured by one clip but he safely landed in a tree. Looking down he saw the reflection of stars on water and assumed he was suspended over a canal.

He hit the quick release on his parachute harness and fell 15 feet into a two-inch deep puddle of water, severely damaging his back. It was only when he tried to stand that he realised he'd also been hit by the cannon shells and his right leg was shattered below the knee. He applied a tourniquet to his leg and crawled for some time, releasing the tourniquet every half-hour, until he came to a village where he called, in his fluent French, for help. No help was forthcoming and he crawled on to a small farm where an elderly couple took him in. He was treated by the local doctor and the elderly couple offered to hide him until he had recovered, but an infection was taking hold and John ask them to turn him in to the Germans. Two German soldiers duly arrived and transported him, very painfully, to a prison in a motorbike and sidecar. He was eventually transferred to the prison ward of a military hospital in Rheims, where a German doctor operated on him and saved his leg and, as John said, probably his life. He stayed for four or five months at the hospital, surviving on a very meagre diet, before being liberated by the Americans in late August, 1944.

As for the rest of the crew of S-Sugar, the pilot, Ken Bond, was killed but records are confusing and it's not known if he died when the aircraft crashed or later, in a German hospital. The two other wounded crew both had a leg amputated below the knee, one uninjured crew member became a prisoner of war, and two others manage to evade capture.

After his recovery in the UK, John signed on for two extra years in the RAF as an education officer. In 1947 he commanded a section of the RAF Missing Research and Enquiry Service (MRES) exhuming and trying to identify the remains of many of the 42,000 RAF personnel listed missing and presumed dead. By the time they were disbanded in 1952 the MRES units had identify over two-thirds of the missing personnel and allowed the bereaved families to know the final resting place of their loved ones. John died in 2015 at the age of 94.

Stay Safe. With the roll out of vaccinations we may think that the path back to normality is in sight, but don't let your guard down. As any old soldier will tell you 'The last mile is the hardest'. Be careful and stay safe.

David Welch - Looe RBL Tel: 01503 265573

Email: looe.rbl@rbllooe.com



LOOE COVID 19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Save to your Desk Top:

You never know when you, your family or your friends could need this information.

Looe Community Meals

A fully funded initiative launching in February, bringing to your front door (or preferred meeting point) restaurant quality meals – simply re-heat. Currently twice weekly on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Contact: Sara email: Looecommunitymeals@gmail.com or tel: 07766020524 A gift to the community for those individuals or families that are struggling during these testing times.

Looe Town Council's Hardship Fund

Providing financial support. Available to all residents of Looe.

Easy to complete form, confidential and non-judgemental. Details and link to on-line form: https://www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk/covid-19#toggle-id-1

If online access or form filling pose a challenge, call Paul on 07896 515334 or text requesting a call-back.

Looe Community Cupboard

A free, anonymous, give and take facility situated by the library which is in constant use to provide basic necessities, e.g. nappies, toiletires, sanitary products and baby clothes.

Looe Town Council Practical Support

Available to all residents of Looe: Dog walking, shopping, prescriptions etc. Helpline 01503 804099 between 10am and 4pm daily. If it goes to answerphone, please do leave a message requesting a call-back.

Rusty Bucket's Crisis Fund

C-19 financial support. Available to all residents of Looe and neighbouring villages. Email paul@therustybucket.co.uk, call Paul on 07896 515334 or text requesting a call-back.

Rusty Bucket's "Surviving Winter" Fund

A fund specifically for those struggling with cost of fuel bills, key meter top-ups and suitable seasonal clothing.

Email paul@therustybucket.co.uk, call Paul on 07896 515334 or text requesting a call-back.

MAYOR'S REPORT





We are now well into our third lockdown and many businesses are struggling to keep afloat. Many of our wonderful food suppliers are still offering a delivery or click and collect service, so can I ask you, if you are able, to continue to shop local and shop Looe. We are an incredibly strong and resilient community which was highlighted in the programme on Cornwall with Simon Reeve (https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000pjgj), and supporting our local businesses is what we do best, so please make the effort and find out if a local business can supply you with your needs rather than a national business. It may take more time but pays dividends in better, more environmental produce and makes sure our businesses weather this lockdown.

Looe is currently above the national average for Covid-19 cases (image below) so I urge residents to continue to follow the government guidance and only go out if absolutely necessary apart from one daily exercise session and remember hands, face, space.



My sincere thanks go to the Old Bridge Surgery, Looe Development Trust and Looe Lions for their hard work in testing the Millpool Centre as a vaccination centre for the town. The surgery have asked me to remind you that they will contact you regarding your COVID vaccine so could you please refrain from calling them.

I am delighted to report that Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan has been submitted to Cornwall Council. Details of the plan can be found here: http://www.futurelooe.town/. This is a significant step forward for Looe, as

Neighbourhood Planning gives us, as a community, direct power to develop a shared vision for our neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of our local area. It is a large document, but we are planning a series of video clips to explain the sections – please watch out for them. My thanks go to the steering group and our consultant, Steve Beresford-Foster, for over five years of hard work. There will be public consultation in the near future and I urge you to take an interest.

My thoughts and sympathies go out to everyone who is experiencing a family member who is ill who they are unable to see. I know how difficult it is not to be with your loved ones, to hold their hand and support them. My thoughts and best wishes go to anyone in this situation. Take care.

These are extremely trying times but the Council continues to develop new initiatives for the town which you can read about on our website. We were delighted to welcome members of the public to our last full Council meeting and please, feel free to attend any of our meetings — it is nice to see a new face! Details on how to join our meetings are on our new website www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk.

Finally, as always, stay safe, stay positive in these challenging times and I wish you the very best.

Cllr Martin Gregory Mayor of Looe

CONTACT	CORNWALL	COUNCIL

General Enquiries (and all services)	0300 1234 100
Children, Schools and Families	0300 1234 101
Libraries	0300 1234 111
Benefits	0300 1234 121
Adult Care and Support	0300 1234 131
Refuse and Recycling	0300 1234 141
Planning	0300 1234 151
Housing	0300 1234 161
Council Tax and Business Rates	0300 1234 171
Registration Service	0300 1234 181
Trading Standards	0300 1234 191
Environmental Management	0300 1234 202
Environmental Health and Licensing	0300 1234 212
Roads, Transport and Parking	0300 1234 222
Fire and Community Safety	0300 1234 232

WEBSITE: www.cornwall.gov.uk

Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.



LOOE TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS



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martin.gregory@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Edwina Hannaford 01503 264160

edwina.hannaford@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

Councillor Simon Barker 01503 262929

simon.barker@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Jimmy Dingle 01503 220038

jimmy.dingle@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Lillian Harrison (East Looe Ward) 07802 289334

lillian.harrison@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Jon Holmes 07940 095322

jon.holmes@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Carla Jones 07525 148169

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Councillor John Miller 07903 241931

john.miller@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Michala Powell 01503 265677

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Councillor Beverley Richardson 07966 708152

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Councillor Chris Rose 01503 265206

chris.rose@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Tony Smith 07774 639023

tony.smith@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Viv Sullivan 07814 444981

viv.sullivan@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Armand Toms 01503 264823

armand.toms@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

First Floor

Looe Library and Community Hub

The Millpool West Looe

PL13 2AF

01503 262255

enquiries@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk



INVESTS IN NEW VISIT LOOE WEBSITE



Lots of work is happening behind the Council office doors to launch a new Visit Looe website this spring.

The website will be the town's official destination website, providing a resource for visitors to help plan and enjoy their time in and around Looe.

Visit Looe will be launching as a fresh new identity accompanied by social media channels and a marketing strategy that will strengthen Looe's position as a year-round destination of choice.

The Council team is aiming to enter as many businesses into their database as possible before launch and will be providing a free 'silver' membership for a trial period to support businesses this year.

The new Visit Looe identity has been shared with Visit Cornwall and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership amongst other local and national organisations, and presentations have been given to the local business community.

Feedback has been fantastic and the Council team is looking forward to sharing more news as this project develops.

In the meantime, the Council has shared the new Visit Looe logo which you will see lots more of this year.



ALL CHANGE AT LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

Looe Town Council is delighted to welcome two new members of the team and to say 'goodbye – hello' to one of our longest standing officers.

Many of you will know Annette Keen who has been our Administration, Event and Planning officer for over 10 years. She is moving internally to become one of our new Community Information Hub Officers, with Lucy Butters, from 1st February. Annette brings immense knowledge and skills to her new role which will be supporting the residents and visitors in Looe with the library, visitor information and Cornwall Council services. She already has her puppets lined up for 'Rhyme time' and is really looking forward to starting her new job working face to face with the public.

We now welcome two new members of the team.

Karen Vaughan is our new Administration and Planning officer who brings high level skills in HR, administration and project management and Esme Martin is our new Communication and Event Officer who will be undertaking her Apprenticeship with Looe Town Council.

If you would like more information on any member of the team or Town Councillors please visit our website www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk.

LOOE LIBRARY

You can still access Looe Library without leaving your home.

Thousands of people have discovered Cornwall Council's online library service over the last year, which includes Looe Library. Since the first lockdown began in March, approximately 4,000 people across Cornwall have joined their local library. Cornwall Library membership allows free access to a huge selection of e-books, e-audio books, online newspapers and magazines, and much more.

When the first lockdown came into force in March 2020 the library service saw a 104% increase in e-book downloads compared to the previous month and a 39% increase in e-audio downloads. In October the number of free newspaper and magazine downloads reached 60,000 – a 100% rise compared to February.

There are many other free online library resources: library members can research their family history, read a comic, or even learn a foreign language.

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/libraries-coronavirus-update/

Our Deputy Mayor Cllr Edwina Hannaford, who is also portfolio holder for libraries across Cornwall, said: "It's great to see so many people in Cornwall have discovered or re-discovered the library, the joy of reading, and the huge mental health benefits

associated with it. We know that home schooling can be really difficult for both parents and children and having access to online library resources could be a huge help for many families over the coming weeks."

The Government recognises that libraries provide an 'essential service' to local communities. Some libraries in Cornwall are offering click and collect services during lockdown, including Looe, but by appointment only. All Covid protocols are adhered to, including the quarantining of books before lending.

Access to public network computers is available in some branches (unfortunately not in Looe) with usage limited to those who are vulnerable and in need.

In line with current Government guidance, where the library building allows, members of the public will not need to go inside to collect their books. Instead, reserved items can be collected from the library entrance.

If you are not currently a library member, or if your library membership has lapsed, you can sign up to the library service free of charge on:

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/using-the-library/how-to-join/

Looe Library Community Hub is currently closed to customers but is providing a click and collect service. Reserve your items online and we will let you know when they arrive. Collections are by appointment only. Looe Library will continue to waive any overdue charges until further notice.

https://www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk/the-community/library-information/borrowing-from-the-library

Telephone 01503 262255

LIBRARY GIVEAWAYS



The team at the Looe Library and Community Hub are trying to make lockdown a little easier by providing regular giveaways with click and collect orders.

The most recent giveaway, courtesy of the Book Trust, was a free book and activity pack for children celebrating 'My Pet Star' by Corrinne Averiss.

Keep an eye on the Looe Library and Community Hub Facebook page for more details:

https://www.facebook.com/looelibrary/



LOOE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE



Although our planning meeting this January was cancelled due to not receiving any formal planning applications (which is a first for us!!) don't think for one minute that things are quiet for our Committee as you will see:

Welcome to Karen

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Karen Vaughan to Looe Town Council. She will be our new Admin and Planning officer. I very much look forward to working with Karen and introducing her to the Planning Committee. I understand that Karen is already becoming a real asset to the Council and is fitting in very well.

Thank you to Annette

I would like to wish Annette Keen every success with her new role in the library and thank her for her hard work and assistance to the Planning Committee over a number of years.

Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan

As Co-chair along with ClIr Hannaford it is with a great sense of achievement that I can announce that the Looe NDP has been submitted to Cornwall Council for compliance after over 5 years of dedication and hard work from the steering group and indeed Steve Besford Foster as project coordinator for which we are very thankful. With the plan being submitted, it now gains extra weight which is brilliant news for the Planning Committee, as our tailored plans take into account many of Looe's important features in terms of a policy framework which strives to protect and enhance our beautiful town and coastline. We hope in the coming months to be able to announce the next stages of the plan going forward towards the referendum where our community will be able to have a say on the final draft and support the proposed document.

During these unprecedented times please can I take the opportunity to remind you that Looe Town Council Planning Committee meetings are held at least once a month. All meeting dates along with details of planning applications can be viewed on www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk/. You will also find a 'planning information' page with lots of useful information. If you would like to attend, please contact Karen Vaughan on 01503 262255 or enquires@looetowncouncil.gov.uk so that you can be advised and given details of our scheduled Zoom meetings.

Our next planning meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th February at 6pm via Zoom. I very much to look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to attend.

I would like to thank Cllr Chris Rose as Vice Chair and all Planning Committee members for their support and commitment.



LOOE TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2021/2022



We often get asked what the precept is, how much is it, and what is it spent on so we wanted to take this opportunity to give you all the facts and figures for this year. This is something we will commit to doing every year to help residents understand what we do and, hopefully, get involved.

What is the precept? The precept is the Town Council's share of the Council Tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, Cornwall Council, which collects the tax for the Town Council. The 'Precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band that is added onto the Council Tax bill. Income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated in the form of estimates. The net amount (the precept) is added to council tax, collected by Cornwall Council and paid to the Town Council in two six-monthly instalments. Town councils can apply for other funding such as grant and funding awards, but they do not receive funds direct from central government, as principal authorities do.

How much is it? Looe Town Council have asked for a precept of £429,397 this year but what does that mean for our residents?

If you live in a

band A	home, your family's weekly contribution is		less than 26p per week
band B	II	II	less than 30p per week
band C	II	II	less than 34p per week
band D	II	II	less than 38p per week
band E	II	II	less than 47p per week
band F	II	II .	less than 55p per week
band G	II	II .	less than 64p per week

Most people in Looe live in band A-C homes.

What is it spent on? Looe Town Council manage and run a range of services on behalf of the Town.

Looe Library and Community Hub: In 2019 we saved Looe's Library (the old Discovery Centre) from closure by taking on the devolution of the service and Cornwall Council Information Services. This essential service supports the most vulnerable residents in Looe and the Hub is used for Children's activities, as a base for outreach services, training and environmental activities. It is free for any group to use and we hope (once we can open again) to extend the opening hours for our residents. Looe Library was the only library in Cornwall to still be lending books in the first lockdown, thanks to our amazing volunteers, and we are still providing a click and collect service. We also provide recycling bags, sell seagull sacks and have wheelchairs to rent out on behalf of local charities.

Visitor Information: Looe Town Council has invested in a new destination marketing website and branding for Looe as Visit Looe. We are now affiliated with Visit Cornwall and are working with Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership to develop economic opportunities for businesses. The Library and Community Hub is also the new Visitor Information Centre and, even last year, saw thousands of people accessing information on Looe's attractions and businesses. The website will be free for any business in Looe to join and the Town Council has also invested in marketing and SEO to encourage more people to stay 'out of season', attract a range of different visitor types, and extend the economic impact of the visitor economy for our businesses. We have plans to re-institute some of our much-loved events which are no longer held such as the literary festival and seafood festival once we are able to do so.

Public Toilets: Looe Town Council saved the closure of all public toilets in the town by taking on the devolution from Cornwall Council. The five toilets we manage (The Millpool, Guildhall, Seafront, West Looe and Hannafore), cost over a third of the precept to run. They are open 365 days of the year and are an essential service for tourists and residents alike. Looe was the first town in Cornwall to re-open their facilities during the first lockdown and we maintain our service, with additional deep cleans, during the pandemic.

Town Council Services: Looe Town Council Services support the town in many ways including:

- Traffic Regulation Orders helping to keep the streets safe; these are extremely costly and long-winded applications
- Accessing funding for the town the Council writes bids on behalf of the town and then either passes on the funding or administers it to benefit the residents and businesses
- · Road closures
- · Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Event licences (the Town Council hold the event licence for the town)
- Lobbying Cornwall Council and the Government for more support for the town and its residents
- · Providing benches and memorial benches for the town
- · Planning consultation and reports
- Running and managing CCTV within the town
- · Providing allotments for the town in conjunction with Looe Allotment Society
- Salt Bins and safety measures
- Running Civic events (and events such as Remembrance Sunday)
- · Repairs and maintenance of the War Memorial
- · Ownership and maintenance of the Fishermen and Mariners Garden
- · Provision and maintenance of two bus shelters in the town
- Seagull licences

Covid-19 – Pandemic co-ordination: In addition, last year (and this), Looe Town Council has supported our residents during the pandemic by:

- Creating and managing the first Town Council run volunteer network in Cornwall
- Employing street marshalls who reduced the amount of traffic through the town for safer distancing
- Supporting the Old Bridge Street Surgery in sourcing a marquee and authorising its erection in the patients' carpark to help protect vulnerable people
- Creating a tourist information Covid-19 leaflet, stencilling the streets and putting up social distancing signs to try and ensure social distancing during the summer months
- Keeping our residents informed by social media, leaflet drops to every home in Looe and constant updates on new government rules and funding for business
- Creating Looe Hardship fund (details on our website), for families currently needing support, in partnership with Looe Development Trust
- Creating 'Looe Community Cupboard', a free, anonymous, facility which is in constant use to provide basic necessities, toys and games
- Helping to organise 'Looe Secret Santa' which ensured that every child aged 11 or under received a present this year
- Working with Looe Lions to help Santa make his rounds which put a smile on every resident's face, young and old
- Co-ordinating and producing social media for VE and VJ day to ensure the town could still remember and celebrate our fallen heroes

Our meetings are always open to the public so if you would like to ask any questions please join us. Details are published on our noticeboards, on our website and on Facebook.

Website: https://www.looetowncouncil.gov.uk/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LooeTC

Phone: 01503 262255

Email: enquiries@looetowncouncil.gov.uk



COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS

Each year all Cornwall Councillors are allocated a fund of £2,000 to support local projects. Although I donated all the 2020 allocation to the Looe, Polperro and Polruan Hardship funds, I do have some money left over from the previous year that I'm keen to allocate.

Projects must be from properly constituted groups with bank accounts. Purely religious or political projects cannot receive funding.

So, if you have a project that could make a real difference to our community then let me know. I'm going to give priority to projects building collaboration, supporting vulnerable or excluded groups or groups taking steps to make space for nature or tackling climate change and the response to the pandemic. I have already donated money to Polruan Primary School to fund a laptop for a family home schooling for example.

If applying for more than £100, your application will have to show how it meets my priorities. Applications up to £100 can be for any project that helps residents living in and around West Looe, Polperro and Polruan.

To apply, email edwina.hannaford@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk and in the email state VERY BRIEFLY what your project hopes to achieve, who it will benefit and an idea of the amount of money you need. Also in the email, give consent to pass your contact details to the Council Officer who will send you an application form and process your application. The form is quite simple and the process does not normally take more than a month or so.

I am seeking application from communities in my division Looe West, Lansallos and Lanteglos parishes.

Cllr Edwina Hannaford



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ST PIRAN'S DAY

On March 5th we celebrate St Piran's Day, the feast day of the patron saint of Cornwall. Until recently, St Piran's Day in Looe was celebrated by Town Cryer Roger Bennett leading a procession of schoolchildren through the streets and across the bridge. The children performed songs, dances and plays based on the life of St Piran, and were augmented by Sheila Brock's intrepid dancers.



In normal times, pubs throughout Cornwall hold a Trelawny Shout in the evening, when as many people as possible gather to sing "Trelawny" at the same time. (If you need a reminder, the lyrics are on the next page.) This year, of course, is different, but if you would like to sing to your own four walls while imagining a freshly-pulled pint in your hand, I'm sure the neighbours won't object!

St Piran was born in Ireland (Ciaran is the Irish version of his name) in the fifth century. Legend says that he incurred the wrath of the King of Ossory by restoring some soldiers to life, and in revenge he was bound to a millstone and cast over the edge of a cliff. Miraculously, the millstone floated, and carried Perran across the Irish sea to Perranporth, which was then a small rocky harbour before the arrival of the sand.

He built a small chapel on the rock, still known as Chapel Rock on Perranporth beach, and preached to the wild animals, who were drawn to him, until he attracted

the curiosity of the locals, who began to crowd round to hear him.

Then he built an oratory further inland to accommodate his flock of followers. One night his black hearthstone broke in four, and a white liquid oozed forth in the shape of a cross – he had discovered tin, and also the St Piran's Cross, which became the Cornish flag. Because of this he became the patron saint of tinners. Tin, of course, was in fact produced in Cornwall 2,000 years before St Piran's time.

St Piran was said to be a big man, and indeed a headless skeleton of great height was found beneath the altar of his oratory. Legend says that he lived for 200 years, and died by falling down a well while drunk. Miners traditionally celebrated his saint's day by getting drunk, hence the local expression "as drunk as a Perraner".

It may have been this association with celebration that enabled St Piran to beat off competition from St Michael (traditional protector of Cornwall) and St Petroc to be recognised as Cornwall's patron saint.



TRELAWNY

A good sword and a trusty hand!
A merry heart and true!
King James's men shall understand
What Cornish lads can do!

And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

Chorus:

And shall Trelawny live?
And shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

Out spake their Captain brave and bold:
A merry wight was he:
'If London Tower were Michael's hold,
We'd set Trelawny free!

'We'll cross the Tamar, land to land:
The Severn is no stay:
With "one and all," and hand in hand;
And who shall bid us nay?

Chorus: And shall Trelawny live?, etc.

'And when we come to London Wall,
A pleasant sight to view,
Come forth! come forth! ye cowards all:
Here's men as good as you.

'Trelawny he's in keep and hold; Trelawny he may die: But twenty thousand Cornish bold Will know the reason why!'

Chorus: And shall Trelawny live?, etc.



Plants. Coffee. Naturally



LOOE RNLI NEWS AND EVENTS



Fully Operational and Ready

Despite the current lockdown, Looe Lifeboats and its crews continue to operate on full readiness, although crew training has been impacted by the lockdown and now mainly proceeds on Zoom.

There were four shouts between 20th November and 29th January. More information at www.looelifeboats.co.uk/recentshouts

2021 Events

A full programme of events is being prepared for the coming season and will go ahead as soon as it is safe to do so. The focus will again be on fundraising, which has been severely depleted due to the Covid virus – anyone offering their active support, planning or helping to deliver such events, will be most welcome. If you might be willing to help, please initially contact us via this email contactus@looelifeboats.co.uk

Souvenir Shop

Covid 19 and availability of volunteers permitting, our souvenir shop beside the boathouse hopefully plans to open from 31st March full time. In these difficult times, your support means more than ever, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Please Support Looe RNLI

With Looe RNLI fundraising on hold for more than 12 months, our income is falling, yet our brave volunteer crews are still on call 24/7.

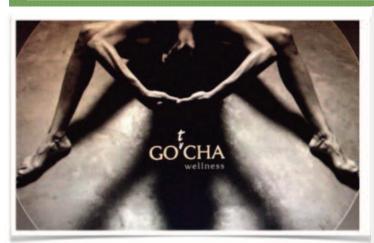
Help us weather the effects of the Covid 19 storm. We can only do the things we do because of people like you.

To donate any amount, please go to www.looelifeboats.co.uk/donate or scan this image.



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PILATES

- Tuesday at 11am
- Wednesday at 8pm
- Thursday at 11am



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- ◆ ENHANCE YOUR STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY AND BALANCE.
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Looe Allotment Association



For more information, email looeallotments@gmail.com

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LOOE MARINE CONSERVATION GROUP



Despite having to cancel in-person events until at least Easter, January has been anything but quiet for Looe Marine Conservation Group, with talks and meetings taking place via Zoom.

LAUNCH OF 2021 EVENTS PROGRAMME

We launched our annual events programme on social media with an amazing response. Our February online talk on 'Sea Swimming' already has over 100 registrations. There's a wide range of talks, rockpool rambles, arts & craft sessions, a film night; even a panel discussion with local fishermen about 'Shark Fishing in Looe'. All events are free, but for 2021, to limit attendance and for everyone's safety in this Covid year, we have decided to make attendance at all events only bookable in advance, so make sure to book ahead. Full event listings are shown on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/LooeMCG; bookable via Eventbrite.

LAUNCH OF NEW VIDEO



Looe of course was featured on the TV documentary 'The Fishing Life' giving us all incredible insight into the challenges of Looe's fishing industry. If you enjoyed that, then check out our new video 'Looe's Magical Marine Environment' on Facebook and YouTube. https://youtu.be/WnJxK9HAMal It's a six minute magical journey of wonderful video footage, music and humour showcasing the hidden treasures of Looe's marine wildlife under the waves. Aren't we lucky to live where we live!

As entertainment and activity is focussed online these days, you may be an avid armchair browser interested in local wildlife and all things marine, so we'd also like to highlight:

#BIRD BLOG: A wonderful blog written by Derek Spooner, local bird expert and LMCG member, giving a seasonal overview of his birdwatching adventures and the everchanging variety of birds visiting our river valley, estuary and Looe Bay. The latest blogs are here:

http://looemarineconservation.org/october-bird-blog-migration-fever-kingfisher-time-quest-rings/http://looemarineconservation.org/december-bird-blog-dont-forget-divers/

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

@looemcg 'Species of the Week' introduces some of the creatures you can find down on the rocky shore in Looe to help you get ready for those rockpool rambles in Spring!

We're always looking for new members and volunteers with a range of interesting roles to fill. Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. They are open to everyone and are often preceded by a talk. They are currently taking place on Zoom. Get in touch at looevmca@gmail.com



Full COVID-19 measures in place.

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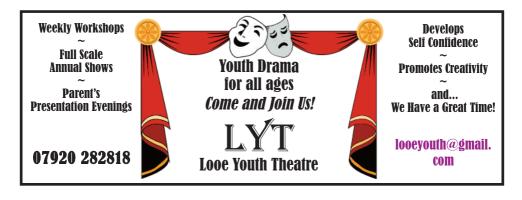
SCELRDER ABBEY

This lockdown has been a trying time for us all hasn't it? At Sclerder we have been able to have Mass each Sunday, carefully following the guidelines to keep us safe, hand gel by the entrance, a track and trace form to fill in if you don't have the NHS app. Alternate benches in the chapel are taped off to make sure we keep our social spacing. We were used to having lively gatherings after Mass catching up with friends with a cup of tea or coffee and often a slice of delicious cake, and it feels strange not being able to do so at the moment. Like so many churches that have been able to keep open, numbers attending have dropped, many people isolating. A few daffodils have begun to open up near the church which is a sign of hope. We look forward to better days in the coming weeks and with the 'corona jab' now being giving some of us are feeling confident to return to church.

We try to keep in contact with each other by phone and have also set up a Whatsapp group that some parishioners who have the internet have enjoyed being part of. Recently too, we have opened a Facebook page for the parish that has attracted news items and visitors from Sclerder and we have plans to start streaming our Sunday Mass in the near future. Another group meets every week on Zoom, on Wednesdays, following workshops lead by the Franciscans. They usually spend about 15 minutes coffee-time chat to share news and catch up, then start the workshop with a video and discussion afterwards. The current workshop is "Understanding the Liturgy". The tone is informal and relaxed – a meeting of friends. We miss meeting up with each other as we once did but technology has helped us keep in contact with one another until we meet again.

We have heard the sad news that the Museum's former curator Barbara Birchwood Harper has passed away after a long illness. Barbara became curator of The Old Guildhall Museum in Looe in 2001 and, with her late husband Neil, spent many hours cataloguing the exhibits and promoting the museum, even organising a Tudor banquet where Queen Elizabeth I herself turned up! Barbara was a well-known parishioner at the Abbey.

Fr Gilmour, Parish Priest Liskeard & Sclerder Abbey





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Tracy Mustoe HCPC Registered Podiatrist









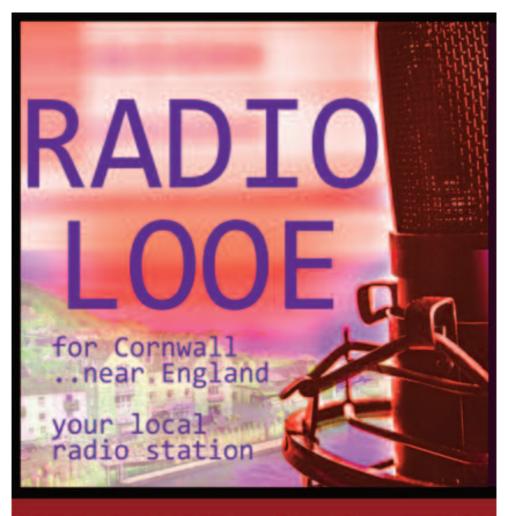
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