APRIL FOOL’S!
The Whitstone Whistler

The community magazine for Whitstone

The Whitstone Committee

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Note: If you want your article or announcement to appear on the Whitstone Village Website as well as in The Whistler you will need to also send it to:

irene@whitstonevillage.com

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Thank you to everyone for all your lovely feedback on my first issue.

Since it’s publication I have managed to get some sleep and stop worrying 😊

Until the 25th of the month rolls around and the panic sets in again!
Hello!

So Spring is officially upon us and the spate of lovely weather we have had recently gives us a taste of what the Summer may hold (you can all thank me for the sunshine by the way, as I bought a new tumble dryer the week the weather improved and have been able to dry all my washing outside since!)

There have been some fabulous village events recently, including the ‘Big Breakfast’ the Waddlers Open Day and the Friendship Girls attended the Bingo, I soon realised it was a mistake to decline the invitation I was offered to the bingo when our table pocketed some prize money—so well done and I’m not jealous at all!

I have introduced a couple of new features this month but the issue is so busy with all the other wonderful things that our village has to offer, I ran out of room—which of course is great news.

As always, any thoughts you have please let me know—I can be reached on email or I have arranged for a ‘Collection Folder’ at our lovely local village store—so if you have some information you would like me to have and email is not an option then please pass to the lovely chaps and they will pop it in there for me 😊

So make a cup of coffee, put your feet up and happy reading!

Helen

Community News

It has been brought to my attention that the continuing issue of dog poo is not improving...

We are all encouraged to walk more, walk our pets, walk to school and walk to our local shop but this is made a not pleasant experience by the constant dog poo on the path or even hanging in bags in the trees!

Part of the responsibility of being a dog owner is ‘picking up after your dog’ and it seems it is simply not happening—it is widespread through the village too—not just on the main road through the Village.

Please ensure that you ‘Bag it and Bin it!’
Whitstone Parish Council

Invites all residents of the parish and school children from Whitstone Community School
to attend an afternoon of celebration
for Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th Birthday
at the Old School at Whitstone Head
(by kind permission of the Medland family)

Saturday 14th May from 3pm onwards

Children’s sports

Free barbeque and soft drink for all attending

Car Treasure hunt - 6.30pm

Licensed Bar and music in the evening

All proceeds towards village funds
When in doubt, the safest thing is to blame it all on the mess the Labour government left behind – or failing that, on global warming. This is apparently what lay behind the devastating floods in northern England a few months ago – and why we’ve had unseasonably high temperatures ever since.

Lower heating bills are more than welcome, of course – but it’s played havoc with the church calendar! And that’s because there’s always a nice symbolism about the way Easter and Spring usually coincide – with New Life appearing everywhere at the same time.

But this year, New Life outside the churches has been disporting itself for the entirety of Lent. Not quite as long as Easter eggs, of course – which have been in the shops since about Christmas, jostling for shelf space with hot cross buns. No wonder people get a bit confused.

But then Easter is confusing! All those chicks and buns and bunnies and eggs – with the Church doing its best to grab people’s attention in amongst them all.

Christianity has been described as ‘an attempt to keep the rumour of God alive’, which is a pretty helpful way of putting things. Rumours are notoriously difficult to pin down in terms of their origin – and of course they can take on a life of their own, a bit like Chinese whispers. Sometimes they are completely fictitious – but usually there’s a basis of truth in there somewhere, if only you can disentangle it.

What happened that first Easter remains a matter of speculation – but whatever it was, the results were (and are) amazing. And it’s a reality which doesn’t depend on the way we see events of 2000 years ago – but on our ordinary experiences here-and-now. The truth of Resurrection, in its many forms, is found in human lives, every single day.

It’s this truth, this reality, that those of us involved in religion try to bring to people’s attention. Easter eggs are all very well, but they’re just a bit of fun, a transient tasty episode. The truth of Easter, on the other hand, is nothing less than the truth of Christianity – you can’t have one without the other.

Easter is a pointer, a symbol, a picture. It’s a way of expressing the claim that, in some extraordinary sense, the death of Jesus wasn’t the end of the story; the cross didn’t have the last word; and truth and love and life are a whole lot more powerful than falsehood and hate and death.

Being a Christian means being able to point to the reality of Resurrection – which comes in all sorts of guises (sometimes even disguises). We need to recognise that the past is ever present, in that all of us carry our history around with us. But we also often need to make a conscious effort to draw a line under the past, so as to enable us to move on.

Resurrection is not so much about coming back to life – but of rising to new life. Not so much a matter of quantity (more of the same) as of quality (something completely different).

To focus on the empty tomb and to claim that the truth of the Resurrection (and, by extension, of Christianity) is dependent solely on it, is to turn away enormous numbers of people, who simply can’t get their minds around it.

It’s also to ignore the experience of millions of Christians across the ages, whose lives bore (and bear) witness to the ever-present reality of Resurrection.

To take Easter seriously means wrestling with its mysteries – not so as to explain them, but so as to live them. Whatever else is in dispute, we all know that life takes on a whole new quality when we love, when we care, when we share.

And we don’t need to look beyond our own experience to know that it is in giving that we receive, in forgiving that we are forgiven, and that in dying to the self we get a very different perspective.

This is the Resurrection experience we should be trying to communicate – because in amongst the happenings of twenty centuries ago, it’s a large part of what got that rumour going in the first place.
I think January and February beat the records for being the warmest on record, and possibly the wettest too, but during March the weather really did improve, especially after the nameless storm No. 10 which seemed to have done more damage than the other 9 did, with many trees blown down, power lines damaged and thousands without electricity. But like the old proverb tells, March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb, and after the first week in the month it certainly warmed up and we had many dry and sunny days and hardly any rain in fact it was the longest spell of dry weather since September 2014, the flowers bloomed, and the blossoms appeared on the trees, and the leaflets formed on the branches ready to burst out into leaf very soon. The first grass cut of the season took place, and the shrubs were pruned ready for flowering and, Spring at long last is in the air.

Many of the Winter visiting birds have now left our County to start on their flight Northwards to their breeding grounds, the Starlings that had fed in our garden during the Winter disappeared by the middle of the month. They usually eat up all the bird seed that falls on the ground, and keep the soil clean so there is now food left for field mice and the like, but after they stopped coming to the garden little piles of seed were left on the ground, but thankfully a pair of Collar Doves have decided to be the new vacuum cleaners and eat up all the fallen seeds. Even at the coast the Waders have also dispersed, and whereas a few weeks ago there were thousands of Golden Plover on the Camel Estuary, on our last visit we did not see any, although we were very fortunate to see a pair of Goosanders, these are very similar to ducks, but they feed on small fish, and have a sawbill, which enables them to hold on tight to the wriggling fish, the Kingfisher also has a serrated edge to its bill for the very same reason.

During April we should see some of our summer migrants, the Sand Martins are usually one of the first, then the House Martins, and Swallows, and the Reed and Sedge Warblers. The Male Cuckoo can usually be heard calling for a mate towards the end of April, and Cookworthy Woods is a good place to hear this very recognisable call. Some over Wintering Chiff Chaffs and Cetti Warblers are already singing, and the Willow Warblers will soon be in competition with them, and then in early May, if we are up earlier enough in the mornings, the fantastic Dawn Chorus can be heard. The woodpeckers will be heard drumming on resonant dead branches, and they have specially adapted bones in their skull to withstand this. They have a chiselled bill to break open the bark and a very long tongue to collect the insects therein. They also have very powerful feet with usually two toes at the front and two at the rear and a short stiff tail which acts as a prop when climbing up a tree. Flight is strong but undulating and they nest in holes excavated in trees.

Spring could be said to start when the Magnolia blossoms appear on the trees, but this year this was in February, the 1st of March is the meteorological date for the first day of Spring, but I like to think that after the Spring Equinox Spring begins. This occurred 20th/21st March when we had equal hours of daylight and darkness, and once the clocks were altered on the 27th March the evenings will rapidly draw out, and we will have lovely light evenings, and this occurred during the Easter celebrations which I hope you all enjoyed.

The daffodils along the roadside verges have been glorious these last few weeks, and it certainly brighten up our hearts to see them. Hopefully the following quote will prove true.

March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.
A very successful Big Breakfast was held on Saturday 19th March in St Anne's Hall. The committee members worked tirelessly to prepare over 200 breakfasts.

As a Committee we are indebted to the Local Businesses who generously support us each year. The Uglow Family at The Cornish Bacon Factory donated 350 sausages and 400 slices of bacon which saved us a huge amount of money! The Fowler family kindly gave us 180 eggs, how lucky we are to be able to source such good food from within our own village! Dan Cock at Whitstone Village Premier Stores continued his community involvement by donating the milk and arranging for his suppliers Bookers to donate a dozen of both Tomato and HP Sauces. Jeanne and John Barrett provide the cooker making sure it is tested for our use.

The Committee members not only give their time but donate the rest of the food that is needed to provide such a tasty breakfast.

Without everyone’s continued support we would not have raised so much money. However the support of the general public who come along each year is what actually makes the event so successful. So we thank you one and all and we are delighted to let you know that this year we broke through the 4 figure profit raising £1,053. An amazing total for a small village like Whitstone!

Thank you to everyone that supported us—this is what makes Whitstone the village that it is!
March’s Meeting Highlights

Annual Parish Meeting
20th April 7.30pm Parish Hall.

Update on Big Field Wind Turbine Appeal, Community Benefit, Emergency Planning

Oak Lane & Highways. Cllr Chopak is meeting Highways next Wednesday regarding Oak Lane problems with the parking at school, resident has sent her a detailed email about the flower pots out the front. Bigger issue than previously thought. Cones are breeding; a further 6 have appeared further along the road. Cllr Horn noted that parents of the school children also need to be more considerate. Only going to get worse. The Head teacher has sent letters home regarding this ongoing issue. Cllr Medland noted that residents and other road users have to work around school time. Mr Medland noted that parking has eroded away the verge– it used to be 4ft wide. It is the main road to the school; it needs more width – maybe Highways could buy some of the verge. Some parents drive to school; when they could walk to reduce the congestion. Cllr Horn has built a wall. Cllr Hopper noted that there are 77 children this year; expecting there will be more next year. Balsdon road has been surveyed again this week. Potholes outside of Whitstone Head are an ongoing issue – but Cllr Chopak thinks only one fits the criteria for repair. Cllr Collins noted that the whole road is breaking up. It has not been resurfaced for nearly 19 years. 17 houses and farms at Hillhead.

Queen’s 90th birthday celebration. Cllr Horn suggested weekend 14/15th May. Cllr Medland has kindly offered the playground at Whitstone Head. Cllr Adamson will provide horsebox bar. Children’s’ sports in the afternoon and beer/music in the evening. Cllr Furse will lend his marquees. Budget discussion: free burger and soft drink with each for ticket. Longhill burgers. Profit from beer to cover the burgers, then Village organisations to benefit by monies going back into the CB pot. Cllr Horn to talk to a band. Clerk to complete grant app of £500 for cash flow and any additional costs, any unused money will be returned to the pot. 3pm start.
Parish Council Report

War Memorial Landscaping project. Cllr Collins noted that to be on the level, the height needs reducing. The village side is a lot easier to do including taking back the hedge growth. Level it to the man hole cover and tarmac it – there would be no need for steps. Cllrs Horn and Furse reported that they took the top off the manhole covers on installation to see how far it goes down – not an issue for levelling as it must be about 4ft. Hard standing is needed in November and it would be better to have the benches off the pavement. Cllr Furse will speak to licensed contractors to see if the covers can be lowered down and to tarmac the area. He will get 3 quotes for the work - indicative prices for next meeting. Take the fence panels down, but put in some kind of back board.

Planning

PA16/00966. Land North East of Whitstone Head School. HJ and A Medland. Outline planning permission with some matters reserved: erection of four dwellings. Peter Wonnacott (Agent) noted that it’s on the old playing field. Putting in a new entrance. The gym remains as it is. £26,000 s106 monies would be allocated to Whitstone towards affordable housing, then after 2 years if it is not used it goes into the central CC housing pot. Cllr Collins - with regards to the public footpath; would the end of the lane be improved? Surface would be tarmaced. Ruby has a gate into her property, sheeted field gate – not used for a while; so would not be affected. Cllr Horn noted that the Ramblers have no comments and no other comments online. Cllr Sutton is happy with the assurance that the RoWF is safeguarded. No gateway at the end of the private drive. No archaeological interest and the ecology for the site is clear. Trees remain. The road into the school is a private road. The development will not impact this. Developer wanted to keep the entrances separate. All 3 bedroom houses, 2 or 3 parking spaces per house. The traffic would need Highways need to mark the road to ensure pedestrian safety from the footpath.

It was resolved to Support the outline planning for 4 houses. The proposed density is in keeping with the immediate area. The footpath should not be adversely affected in any way during the construction and completion of the proposal.

Approvals

PA15/11877. West Froxton Barn. Mr & Ms I & M Moore and Martyn.

PA15/10914. Northmoor, Whitstone. Lightsource SPV 163 Ltd.

For Information

Good Energy – Big Field Wind Farm. Appeal Supplementary Environmental Information. Includes new photomontages, tip height the same and lowering the hub height. Increased capacity, mitigation landscaping; banks of trees – different implications. Cllr Furse noted that the information would be biased towards Good Energy’s case. Principle hasn’t changed – just the type of turbine. As part of Rule 6, Cllr Chopak noted that it would be good if Whitstone PC could attend. It was resolved that Cllr Horn would represent the PC at the Appeal hearing on 26th April.

Next Meeting 13th April 2016 7.30pm Parish Hall – All Welcome
# Whitstone Parish Council

Trelay Farm, St.Gennys, Bude, EX23 0NJ

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Welcome to the village 😊

Welcome to our new residents...

Mr and Mrs Freeman and their 2 lovely boys!
We are delighted that they have embraced village life with Mr Freeman already a School Governor

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Welcome also to Dee and Rob Johnson who have come with their 4 lovely golden retrievers and puppies on the way!

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Welcome also to Nikki Challinor, she’s the new General Manager at St Anne’s and she’s living in the lodge at Whitstone Head with her lovely dog who she takes to work with her.

If anyone knows of any other recent additions to our Village and you would like to give them a special welcome then please email the Editor—Thank You

Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 20th April 2016—7.30pm St. Anne’s Parish Hall

1. Apologies


3. Chairman’s Report – Cllr Furse & Other officer reports including:
   - Land at Paradise Park
   - Planning review of 2015-16
   - Footpaths

4. Management of Community Benefits from Renewables. Cllr Hopper to review grants requests received. To invite recipients to review the process.

5. Report from County Councilor Nicky Chopak

6. Emergency Planning

6. Questions & Observations from the Public
The Friendship Girls met on Friday 18th March to enjoy an evening of bingo held at Holsworthy Golf course. 14 ladies came armed with their dabbers ready for the rapid bingo play! The evening was filled with suspense as the room was filled with people from all ages ready to play for cash prizes!

The game commenced first playing for one line, then two lines, then the jackpot of a full house. As everyone concentrated on their numbers no less than 20 minutes into play our table of ladies had their first winner Emily Medland had called a line. On we played for our four games and no sooner after Emily, Wendy Furse had a full house! So both Emily and Wendy walked away with winnings from the evening.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all and some seem to have the Bingo Bug!

We meet again on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm in the Sunday School Room where we look forward to a talk by Courtney Drew on Gardening, we look forward to hearing his tales and also about using his knowledge to solve any gardening questions.
Good Friday was meaningfully remembered in word and song on March 25th.

The Chapel had been tastefully decorated with Spring flowers which also reminds us of new life.
A concert given by The Stowford Meadow Singers with Mrs Anne Rowe as Chairperson
all portrayed the Good Friday message of Jesus dying on the cross for us all, then on the first Easter Day
the stone was rolled away and Jesus had risen, making it a Good Friday indeed. The words of the song as well have the tuneful melodies all conveyed the true meaning of Easter.

Anne also interspersed the songs with readings, legends about the cross on the donkey's back and the wood used for the cross as well as the funny little 'snippets' she always has.

The concert was followed by fellowship and supper in the Sunday School Hall, which had been kindly donated by the ladies of the chapel.

Easter day was celebrated with a service in the Chapel at 11.00am led by Mrs Sylvia Risdon.

As the Sunday Club Children were present she gave them each a basket of eggs with a chicken sitting on the top, these had been lovingly knitted by her Mum, Mrs Sybil Daniels. Prior to this she gave each adult an egg portraying the thought that Jesus rose from the dead for us all thus bringing new life.

Her message from the Easter Story was hope coming from despair and light from darkness. How Mary Magdelene went from despair at the death of Jesus to joy that the scriptures had been fulfilled and Jesus had risen. a message which is as poignant for each one of us today as it was for her.
DANCE TO THE TEXANS
BRIDGERULE PARISH HALL
SATURDAY MAY 21ST
8PM–MIDNIGHT
ADMISSION £5
LICENSED BAR & TEA/ BISCUITS
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Making the leap comes sooner to some than to others. For many there has to be a purpose: a destination to be arrived at, a dog of some sort to be exercised. The idea of walking for its own sake can seem, to some, to be a waste of time and effort. Whether the realisation is a gradual one, or a revelation of damascene suddenness, deciding whether or not you’re a ‘walker’ is something that it is desirable to resolve, one way or the other.

When you realise or acknowledge to yourself that you are an unrepentant walker, the whole world (or, in these uncertain times, almost the whole world) is your oyster: walking is something that you can do anywhere, any time. An early morning walk to greet the rising sun, if it’s only of half-an-hour’s duration, can set you up for the day; a walk at the end of the day, to see the sun set fair, can be a delightful way of winding down after the stresses of the day have taken their toll.

Walking can be a social or a solitary activity; it very much depends on your mood or temperament. With family and friends, the seasons are marked with a walk, an uninhibited exchange of reminiscences and easy confidences and conversation flowing freely between good companions: at Christmas time, a walk o’er vales and hills (perhaps, if you’re lucky, with a light dusting of snow on them and you); in spring, the tufts of early flowers and budding twigs evidence that winter is not invincible; in summer, a walk along the magnificent coast of our septred isle, breathing lungfuls of fresh, invigorating air and the eye near-blinded by the sublimity of the views; and in autumn, a leaf-stirring walk through varied woodlands and fields left only with paupers’ gleanings.

As a walker you may start off with ambitions to cover long distances, attain the remote summit or reach the secluded bay, but, even when hips creak and knees crack and the hectic hike becomes more of a genteel ramble, there is still scope for greatest gift of all: thinking time, giving the brain a rest. It’s never too late to start making special connections between people and places with walking.

It’s something that has been practised for thousands of years.
Acorns Pre-School have been looking at Spring for the last few weeks. We have been busy making and planting some spring flowers, making yoghurt pot frogs as well as looking after some tadpoles. They seem to be growing well and we hope to have lots of young frogs that we can release back into the pond. We have also been busy cooking and finally the sun came out for a few days which meant we could get out in the garden for a good tidy up after all the wind had blown our toys around the garden.

The high light of the month has been the delivery of three brand new tractors which have very kindly been donated by Hambley’s. The children have been very excited about them and have wanted to drive them around the playground every day.

Acorns Pre School would like to say a very big thank you to John for this kind donation I am sure they are going to keep the children of Acorns very happy for many years to come.

Pictured is John who delivered the three tractors to the setting and the children enjoying them.
Whitstone Waddlers had a very successful Open Morning on Tuesday 8th March, we were joined by numerous parents and children which was lovely to see. The children enjoyed the use of the new equipment that has been purchased by the playgroup from the grant that was kindly received from the Community Benefit project grant scheme.

There was cooked spaghetti to play with, new large soft play building blocks, large Lego bricks, the sand tray and also toys for the babies that joined us. Everyone was able to take part in the activity if they wished where the children were busy creating Spring themed pictures with Woolly sheep. The children then enjoyed a snack and drink whilst parents took time to chat with others over a hot drink and piece of cake!

The playgroup committee were delighted that so many came to the morning and that we are also welcoming children and parents back each week since which is great for the village playgroup.

We break for the Easter holidays but return on Tuesday 12th April and then every Tuesday from 9.30-11.30am to enjoy the Summer Term.
Methodist Chapel

All Services at 11:00 unless stated otherwise

Sunday April 3rd Mr C. Smale
Sunday April 10th Mr P. Parsons (Sunday Club for children)
Sunday April 17th Worship Leaders
Sunday April 24th Rev M. Keenan (Sunday Club for children)
Sunday May 1st Worship Leaders

There was a special service for Mothering Sunday led by Mrs Muriel Hodges where the reading reflected Mary’s actions as Jesus’ mother and how God protects us as a mother hen protects her chicks. Pearl Hopper arranged for members of the chapel to bring bunches of daffodils and these were presented to the ladies in the chapel by Eloise Fowler. They then left the service and went to St Anne’s Residential Home to give daffodils to the residents there.

The Chapel are holding a Coffee Morning on May 14th 10.00-12.00 noon.

Keep the date free and come along and join us. Cake and Bring an Buy Stall.

St Anne’s Church

Churchwardens

Ms Phyllis Walter—341699
Mr Mervyn Collins—341598

3rd April - 18:30—Evensong
10th April - 11:00—Holy Communion
17th April—No service (United Benefice Service at Warbstow Preacher Archdeacon Audrey)
24th April—11:00 Holy Communion (preacher Archdeacon Audrey)
Remembering is something we do without thinking about it. We can see a sight and it reminds us of… We can hear music and it reminds us of… We can smell an aroma and it reminds us of….

Some of the things we remember will be good and some will be bad, and all the others will fit somewhere in between. We are in the Easter season. We have the dates in our diary so that we will remember… what? What are we remembering? What do we remember at Easter?

As he was eating for the last time with his disciples, Jesus chose to change their memories of the meal. It was Passover; the time when the Jews remember the Exodus from Egypt. This was their defining moment as a nation. This was when they became a nation and were made into the people of God. They were told every year to remember that their ancestors had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. And so the sights, sounds and smells of the meal would remind them of… Well, they weren’t actually there, but they were living with the benefits of that event, celebrated and remembered in that meal. Jesus changed it all. He told his disciples to carry on with the meal, but from now on to do it to remember him. Only God would say a thing like that. If Jesus was only a man, only a teacher, then this was a complete break with reality to tell them to forget their great past and remember him instead. But if he really was, and is, God, then that’s a different matter. He is God and he was doing something new. He was establishing his people – the Church – and he told us to eat together to remember him (Luke 22v19). We weren’t there, but if you have been justified by Jesus through repentance and faith then you are living with the benefits of the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus. That is worth celebrating!

Easter eggs and Bank Holidays are OK, but why settle for an occasional treat when the whole of your life can be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3v19). Remember that what Jesus did he did for everyone, so as you celebrate Easter remember.
Rev Martin Keenan and his wife Aine run a club known as Jaffa Club for Primary School children on Wednesday afternoon in the Sunday School Hall from 3:30 to 4:30pm

The dates are:
20th April
4th May
18th May
1st June
22nd June
6th July

Where in the World with your Whistler?

So they may not be true Whitstonians but my niece and her family are holidaying in Portugal and they took their Auntie’s favourite publication for a bit of poolside reading!

My challenge to you is — take your Whistler on holiday with you—snap a picture of you reading it pool-side, pyramid-side or really anywhere-side and let’s get your picture in the Whistler!

With everyone’s Summer holidays coming soon I hope you can surprise me....

Happy Holidays Everyone!
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Pupils in Class 2 made the journey to the Royal Cornwall show ground to attend one of Farm and Country days staged by the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association and the Cornwall Food and Farming Group.

There were over 50 exhibits about animal husbandry, from bees to cows, rural crafts - such as gate-making and spinning – and some mammoth implements for harvesting a range of crops.

There was even time to have an ice cream and meet the Right Reverend Tim Thornton (Bishop of Truro), who is the President Elect of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association.

It was an interesting and informative interactive experience.
Before going to a performance of *The Last Train to Bude...?* in the hall at Budehaven Community School, pupils in Class 3 had a visit from Richard Wolfenden-Brown. Mr Wolfenden-Brown, writer/director of the play, led a workshop featuring scenes from the play. With imagination, a few planks of wood and some hats, Bude Station, an engine and carriages, and local characters were created in the school hall.

The performance at Budehaven was wonderful and a brilliant evocation of the period and of the experiences of those characters at the heart of the play.

This year, we raised over £100 for Sport Relief.

The ‘Big Book Swap’ was well received, proving to be a great success. Class 3’s ‘magical’ book shop also attracted a lot of interest.

A thank-you to those parents who were able to find the time to come in at the end of the day and read a favourite children’s book to pupils.
I guess that most of you reading these pages post Easter will have had their fill of sweet treats, but here is one you might not be able to resist, especially since it has a savoury twist.

This recipe for a salted caramel torte was passed on to me by Margaret Stanbury, who in turn was given it by Charlotte Hopper. A huge thank you to them both! The photograph of one that Margaret “prepared earlier” looks absolutely amazing and I can’t wait to try out the recipe myself. It really doesn’t appear to be very complicated, despite the stunning result.

**Salted Caramel Torte:**
- 175g digestive biscuits
- 85g butter, melted
- 397g can of caramel (Carnation is suggested)
- 1 tsp sea salt, plus extra to serve
- 300g plain chocolate (70% cocoa solids), broken into chunks
- 600ml double cream
- 25g icing sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- salted caramel chocolates to decorate, or the cheaper option – Maltesers!

Line the base and sides of a deep, round 20cm loose-bottomed cake tin with baking parchment, bringing the side strip above the side of the tin a little. Staple or clip where the strip overlaps to hold it in place. You could otherwise, and more easily, use a flan dish.

Crush the biscuits and stir in the melted butter. Press evenly into the bottom of the tin or dish and chill for 10 minutes.

Reserving 2 tbsp of the caramel, stir the sea salt into the remainder and spoon into the centre of the biscuit base.

Gently spread the caramel, to cover the base evenly, but leaving a 1-2cm border uncovered around the edge. Chill for 20 mins.

Meanwhile: gently melt the chocolate over a pan of hot, but not boiling water.

Stir in 1 tbsp of the double cream into the reserved caramel. Once the chocolate has melted, turn off the heat and leaving the bowl in place, gradually stir in the remaining cream, until you have a smooth, shiny and thick chocolate sauce.

Sift the icing sugar and with the vanilla extract, stir into the chocolate sauce. Let the mixture cool for 10 mins.

Now spoon the chocolate mixture around the base of the torte first, to fill the biscuit border and then pour in the rest.

Shake gently to smooth the surface. Chill for at least 5 hours, but best overnight, until firm.

Remove the torte from the tin and gently remove the strip of parchment. Transfer to a serving dish/plate.

Place the chocolates on the top, put the reserved caramel-cream mixture into a small food/freezer bag.
Snip off the corner of the bag, through which you can squiggle your design of caramel over the top. Chill until ready to serve. Sprinkle a pinch or two of sea salt over before serving, then slice thin. Serve with a drizzle of single cream, if you wish.

Last month I suggested a recipe for a tomato soup using store-cupboard ingredients, and so when I spotted a “store cupboard” spinach soup in the Sunday Mail’s “You” magazine, I thought it might be worth a try. Of course, fresh spinach is not always sitting on a shelf in my food cupboard, though I often do have a pack of frozen spinach in the freezer, which would do just as well. I did have most of the ingredients in stock already and just needed to go out to buy the fresh greens. This is what I did, with one or two adaptations to the original recipe and it was deliciously wholesome – definitely to be repeated. If “savoury” is your penchant this month, then do try out this one!

**Spinach Soup:**
**Ingredients** for 3-4 servings:
- **2 tsp coconut oil**
- **1 inch chunk of fresh ginger, peeled and grated**
- **2 garlic cloves, crushed**
- **½ lemon, juice and grated zest**
- **2 tsp turmeric**
- **½ small onion, chopped**
- **1x400ml tin coconut milk**
- **1x400g tin of cannellini beans, drained and rinsed**
- **2 large packs spinach leaves (in total about 1lb in weight), washed and drained**
- **2 tsp soy sauce**
- **a pinch of cayenne pepper, if you wish**
- **black pepper**
- **some chopped coriander or parsley, if you have it.**

*Please note I have today restrained the predictive text on my pc, unlike last month. Did you spot the “deliberate” mistake?*

Melt the coconut oil gently in a pan and add the grated lemon zest, ginger and garlic.

Stir in the turmeric and onion and cook on a medium heat for a couple of minutes.

Pour in the coconut milk and bring to a simmer.

Add the beans and the spinach, cover and cook for 5 minutes, or until the spinach is wilted.

Pour in the lemon juice and soy sauce. Add the cayenne, if you wish, and the pepper.

Blitz everything with a hand blender.

Sprinkle the chopped herbs over each serving.

Many thanks to Margaret and Charlotte for the great recipe and **please**, if you have a good one, whether sweet or savoury, you would be happy to share with the rest of us, do pass it on to me, Mrs Trewhitless. In the meantime, do have fun with your cooking and eating this April!
Thank you to Margaret Short for compiling this for us—she recorded the rainfall in mm’s everyday at 7am from Langaton—it makes for very interesting reading....

Rainfall Chart

Luke Medland 1st April age 7
Samuel Medland 20th April age 4
Helen Medland 3rd April—A lady never reveals her age but it's a special one!
PLEASE BE AWARE EVERYONE—MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM OUR PARISH CLERK......

I have been advised that a company is phoning local individuals claiming to be able to re-rate your property to achieve reductions in Council Tax and tax banding. They require your credit card and £65 payment up front. I can confirm that we have checked this with Cornwall Council and Trading Standards and that this is a scam.

Stop Press!

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CALLING ALL WHITSTONE SCHOOL CHILDREN...........

So Good News!
As no-one emailed me with a new name for the school section of the Whistler, I get to eat the chocolate prize!

Thank you 😊
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