

# The Colan Companion

Issue 250 - March / April 2026

## Colan Parish Council

Dear Readers of the Colan Companion.

Your Parish Council met on 28th of January after the December break and the start a new year. One of the first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes for the November meeting, It was recorded in the minutes that after having detailed discussions a proposal was made that due to various increases and additional expenditure required for the financial year commencing April 2026 the clerk was asked to request a 20% increase in the Parish precept. The counsellors were mindful of the ongoing housing development that has taking place in the last 12 months within the Parish, which of course will contribute to the parish precept and we're certainly hopeful that the majority of the proposed precept increase will be taken up with the additional precept payments from these extra properties.

The work to clear the back field at the Recreation Fields is on hold at the moment while an ecological survey is undertaken, at the same time an ecological survey will be made on Trewarne Lane prior to the clearance work being carried out in this area.

After a fair amount of digging and copious emails with Cornwall Council highways by Di our clerk, we have now made progress on the commitment made by highways that as soon as the double yellow lines were placed on west road the Highways department would repair and reinstate where necessary the grass verges that front that section of the road, We are hopeful that this work will take place in the coming months as soon as the weather improves.

Councillor Stacey Matthias has agreed to take the lead on the speed watch project with the full support of her fellow Councillors, I am aware that she will need a pool of willing residents to help with this scheme, 4 to 6 would be ideal and I am sure she would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be interested. I would suggest anyone who is interested drop Di an email who will then forward them on to Stacey.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday February 25th, starting at 7.30 at the village Hall, please do come along and if you have a matter that you wish to bring to the attention of your Parish Councillors you will be able to speak in Public speaking which is normally item number 2 on the agenda and there is a 20 minute slot, everyone is most welcomed.

John Fitter

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## Police Crime Report for the Colan area

Crime figures over the last month are where we would expect, no criminal patterns or trends such as burglaries to note.

We have had a theft of motorbike on the Colan patch, roughly around the same dates we have had other similar thefts in other areas of Cornwall.

Thieves only need a matter of seconds to steal a moped, scooter or motorcycle - especially if they are left with poor security - but our tips will help reduce the chance of theft.

### Lock, chain, cover

Reduce your risk of becoming a victim by taking steps to layer your security.

### Lock

Use a disc lock to help secure the front brake disc, or a grip lock to secure the brake and throttle controls. You could also use a D lock on the front wheel to stop it being wheeled away.

### Chain

Thieves often steal a bike by breaking the steering lock and wheeling it away. Use a chain lock through the back wheel (the front wheel can be removed). Secure your bike, with the lock taut to an immovable object such as a ground anchor or street furniture. This will stop thieves from cutting a lock trailing on the ground

using an angle grinder. If this isn't possible, thread the chain through your bike frame and back wheel.

### Cover

Thieves often 'shop' for particular bike models. Using a cover instantly makes it less attractive to them. A cover also provides another time consuming obstacle for the thief.

I may have mentioned it last time, Newquay Neighbourhood Team have a new member of the team, PCSO 31880 Kirsten WOOD, who has been working with us over the last 6 weeks. We have been out on foot in between the rain! If you see us, please say hi.

Kind regards,

PSCO Paul Price  
Police Community Support Officer  
Newquay Police Station





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## COLAN CWIK CWIZ #32

A fun quiz to enjoy over your Champagne.

Sorry no prizes.

*Compiled by Albatros*

1. What event made Prime Minister Spencer Percival unique?
2. Which is the only country in the world whose name uses all the vowels (but not in order)?
3. Which English football team has the nickname 'The Toffees'?
4. What is the coldest planet in our solar system? (It's not Earth!)
5. Who was the gunpowder plot intended to assassinate?
6. Where in the UK is The Spinnaker Tower?
7. Who was the first man to appear on the cover of 'Vogue' in 1992?
8. Which organ of the body does a Hepatologist specialise in?
9. Which monarch introduced Window Tax in 1696?
10. How long in feet is a tournament-sized Snooker table?
11. How many bones are there in the human body?
  - a. 196
  - b. 206
  - c. 236
12. Has any team got 100 points in the Premier League, and if so, whom?
13. Which European country has ceased its postal delivery service?
14. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, held what previous post?
15. The BBC TV programme 'University Challenge' that began in 1962 (with a break from 1987 to 1994), has only had three quizmasters. Can you name all three? (BONUS five points)

Answers on page 11

'Albatros' would like to congratulate Carole and the team who work so hard behind the scenes to produce and deliver The Colan Companion over the years on this, the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> edition, well done!

Love your village? Like it to look good? Join us for our monthly Litter pick. We meet at the village hall on the first Sunday each month at 11am. Just bring yourselves, a sack or large bag to put the litter into. Picking equipment is provided. Doesn't take too long usually finished in an hour so (even less if we have lots of volunteers).

The Colan Companion Coffee Morning  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

To book a stall contact Carole on 01637 876581 or email [caroleluscombe44@gmail.com](mailto:caroleluscombe44@gmail.com)

### Donations

We would like to thank you all for the donations of £11.81 collected from the Spar shop. Please do think of us when collecting your change from your Cornish Fairings, as it's these donations and the advertising that pay for the printing of this newsletter.

**Submission deadline for the May / June edition of the Colan Companion will be 05<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

The comments and views are not necessarily those of the editor. PLEASE NOTE to comply with GDPR legislation, we have to ask your permission to hold your details on our records. If you do not wish your birthday and/or wedding anniversary to be printed in the Companion please let the editor know.

Editor: Craig Allen, 6 Vyvyan Drive, Quintrell Downs.

Contact via email at [colan\\_companion@icloud.com](mailto:colan_companion@icloud.com)



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## Quintrell Downs, My Home by Selina

This has been kindly submitted by her daughter Frances Green and will be continued in the subsequent issues

My great grandmother Selina Harris was born in Trewollas, St Columb Minor in 1856. When she came to live in Quintrell I do not know, but I have Sunday school presentation books from 1890 and 1892 for Escott and Laura, two of her children. She lived in a tenement down in the Downs, known as Sparks Tenement. In her later life she married John Sparks; he was a widower from St. Columb Minor. He later became known as Grampfer Sparks, and he was around when I grew up. They managed the farm between them. It was rented from Adam Nichols from Rialton Farm and we took the rent to him each Lady Day (the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, 25<sup>th</sup> March) and Michaelmas (the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, 29<sup>th</sup> September)

My great gran had six children: three of them were girls and three boys. The eldest girl was my gran named Mary Selina to carry on the family name. She was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1872 at Gummows Shop. The two other sisters Tripheoney (always known as Auntie Pheny) and Laura got married and they both lived in Quintrell Downs over Lane Way, now West Road. The two cottages they lived in were side by side, one called The Cott and the other Montana; later on the names were changed, to The Nook and Whitegates respectively. Then Mrs Bird built a new bungalow and took the name Montana with her. Tripheoney's cottage was purchased with money gained from living and working in Montana, America, hence the name; they also lived in Canada. Tripheoney married Mr Wallace Hawkey, but they had no family. They later moved to St. Newlyn East where she started a haberdashery business in a little shop by the church. Laura married Tom Barrett, a traction engine driver and they had one daughter, Esther.

Great gran's three boys were Henry, John and Escott. Henry went to America to work as a farmer; he was married but never had a family. I believe he went to Sacramento California. John James was a postman in Newquay - he also had no children, despite being married. He lived in one of the old small cottages where Sainsbury's supermarket is now located. There was just a lane between each cottage; it was known as Deer Park and Acland Gardens. All were demolished to make room for the new store (Somersetfield before it was Sainsbury's). A few houses remain opposite the Red Lion Hotel on the main road. A few of the original fisherman's homes were left; I think a chapel was pulled down as well. The last brother Escott married Miss Flo Henwood from St Columb Minor. They had a son Leslie who attended Newquay Grammar School. When he was twelve they left for America. Escott never came back to visit, but Flo came back a lot to see all of her family. Leslie had a younger sister Viola, and she is still alive. However, there were no children to carry on the Harris name. Leslie was an industrial chemist and in the early 1950's he invented the formula of adding fluoride to water supplies, in America.

I can now come to my Gran, Mary Selina, who was the eldest daughter of Selina Harris. Mary Selina married William Kempthorne of Rejerrah Farm, where she started her married life. His mother also resided within the household. She was a widow, William's father having been killed at the local Duchy mine. My mother Georgina Kathleen was born in 1899 at Ellenglaze, Cubert and was one of fourteen children. As the family grew and work was scarce they moved round to different farms. However, most of Georgina's memories were of Callestick. They lived in the old Post Office which had previously been the Prince Albert Pub. This coaching Inn was shut down, due to rowdy behaviour. Mary Selina and William Kempthorne had six boys and eight girls; Eva, Irwin, Mildred, Beatrice, Ernest, William, Georgina, Madeline, Audrey, Rochum, Sidney, Peggy, Terrance and then Kenneth the youngest.

The eldest brother Irwin went to war and looked after the horses. He came back safely and married Ada; they settled in Portsmouth, and had a family, of three boys, Lewis, Terrance and Arthur. Ernest left from Callestick and went to war after joining the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry. He was killed in France aged only 19 years. With so many dying, he knew he would never return home. Before he left to fight he begged his mother to hide him in the chimney. However, if he was found he would have been shot as a deserter. His loss was heart breaking for all. William, one of the youngest of Mary's fourteen children, left for America with other Cornish men on a whaling boat, The Orca. It took weeks to get to Michigan. When he arrived, he lived with his uncle Escott and they worked there in the Iron Ore mines. In memory of him leaving, gran changed the name of the house from the Old Post Office to Orca Vale Cottage; the name is still on the front door today. He settled and married Irene Hitchins whose parents came from Redruth. William came home for a visit in 1937, after receiving compensation for losing an eye. On his journey back to Cornwall he travelled on the R.M.S. Queen Mary. The two youngest brothers, Kenneth and Terrance aged eight and six, both died of diphtheria within hours of one another; it was a highly contagious illness. My mother Georgina nursed her younger brothers, and contracted as well. It was a dreadful time. She was 14 years old, but thankfully, she recovered. She often talked about them in her later life, with a tear in her eye.

My gran never got over losing her three boys. She only had Sidney left a home. Sidney was sent his papers to join the Second World War, but was later turned down as he had a bad accident with his motorbike. He was unconscious for six weeks in Truro Infirmary. He was lucky to be alive his skull was badly crushed in the crash; he had to have a metal plate in his head. He spent his life working on the railway in Truro. He married Mor and they brought up their family at Goonhavern. They had three sons on one daughter. (Philip Alan, Gerald and Cynthia).

Gran's family had a great friend in Vicar Eade of St Newlyn East - his daughter Lillian was godmother to several of Mary and William's children. Gran always made the children's clothes and they were a credit to her. She worked when she was able in the farm house, whilst Grandad worked on farm. My mother was allowed Thursdays off school to help at home with washing and cooking. They had a good diet with fresh vegetables, chickens and pigs etc. as did most families. All of the food was needed as Grandad had a very good appetite and would eat a whole apple tart to himself in one sitting!

My mother and four of her sisters had a number of different jobs. However, in 1914 they all had to go to make ammunitions for the war. It was a long walk from Callestick to the factory, which was at the top of St. Georges Hill, Perranporth. The hut where they signed in daily is still there just inside the gate. (There is a gliding club around there now). They left the house at 6.30am each morning, and they had to be there at 8am, no later. If they were late, the gates would be shut, and so they would not be able to work. Mother said they were just so tired when they got home at night they ate and went straight to bed. When the war came to a close there was nowhere for the girls to work. A knitting factory was built in Crantock Street, Newquay to take the workforce of men and women. Much later it became a box factory and funnily enough my daughter Frances worked there as a young woman in an office downstairs, working for "Roofcote". There was also a printing place next door to this. Years later John Nance acquired the building for his furniture business. It was also used as an auction room in the 1950's, and I believe through to the 1970's. Flats and houses have now been built on this land. In 1924 my great gran Selina Harris had a stroke at Quintrell Downs and needed help. The older sisters had married and gone, so mum (Georgina) felt she ought to take care of her gran. It was a hard decision to leave work, as she had a high position at the knitting factory, being the Supervisor. However, the stroke left her very poorly and six weeks later at the age of 68, she sadly passed away. She is buried at St. Columb Minor Churchyard.

A lot of people were employed at the factory. Some came by train on the Par line and other workers from stations on the Truro line. It stopped at many halts: Trewerry, Treice, St Newlyn East, and Shepherds to name but a few, they all brought the women into work in Newquay. The Truro line was closed by Mr Beeching, which was a disaster for the passengers as no buses travelled to those outlying villages. Perranporth suffered badly as many visitors that came by train were then lost. The train journey to Truro was very picturesque, with the banks full of shrubs. It was called the Rhododendron Line. The train from Trewerry and Trerice Halt took my Auntie and other family members to Newquay to work, and the children to Crantock Street School. Part of the line is still used from Benny Bridge - it is now called "Lappa Valley Railway", a miniature steam railway and a very good family attraction and you can still take in the natural beauty of the area as you are travelling along the line.

My mother and Grampfer Sparks were left to run the farm. They had the landlords - Miss Vivian, Mr Nichols, and Mr Jack Eustice. They had all the usual farm animals such as cows, pigs and chickens. Part of the land was illed. Grampfer Sparks sold his vegetables using his horse and cart; he drove into Newquay to do his rounds. He once got fined for trading on an ank holiday; I still have the notice somewhere for him to appear in front of Newquay council!

My mother made butter and took it to Jasper's café for them to sell. It was an individual homemade item, round in shape with its own stamp on the top, a thistle imprint. She then walked across the road to the Hotel Victoria where she worked serving visitors their "high tea"; she gained a lot of experience whilst she was there, and she enjoyed it.



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The Downs was a lonely place. My mother's nearest neighbour Mrs Finnmoore was a great friend to her. The cottage and land later become Sunnyside Caravan Park and was owned by Mr and Mrs Wilfred Rickar-Mr Rickard's parents owned Lower Town farm just down the road. Now of this is Sunnyside Park, although in 2008/9 this also closed down. Sparkes Tenement was half way up the lane between the top and bottom roads. It is now partially overgrown, and the small meadows are one big field, with the top road leading to Mrs Wherry's cottage. Her brother lived further up the lane in a bungalow. This lane was never used quite as much as the lower one that led to the park and on down to Kestle Mill. Mum was always ready to help people, as was everyone back then; she cared for families and neighbours. A young boy called Harry Collins needed a horse for a while and he came to live with my mum and dad at Thorn Lea.

On Sundays my mother went to the local Methodist Chapel in Quintrell; it was here she met my father (she was gone 30 by now). He had moved here from St. Austell. My father, Francis John Yates was a very capable man and had done various jobs after being discharged from the war. He had taken on the job of foreman and surveying at the new railway bridge that was being built just outside Quintrell Downs. This was around 1929 to 1931.

He lived in a caravan in the lay-by opposite the turning to the Downs. They would see each other a lot and the relationship soon became serious - they got married on July 1st 1933. My father could now help her milk the cows and when the work was finished on the railway bridge he took over Grampfer Sparks' vegetable round in Newquay.

At the farm the old cottage was taking in water through the cob walls and became unsafe to live in. A meadow next to the Methodist Chapel was sold to Mr Jenkins, a builder, to put up homes. The first house named "Heamoor" was for his sister and her husband Mr Stanley and Mrs Bessie Nichols.

Mum and dad decided to get a plot and bought the one next to the chapel.

Two more were due to be built between our neighbours Mr and Mrs Aubrey Furze in a bungalow named Torestin' and Mr and Mrs Grigg lived next door at 'South Crest'. My father wanted more garden to grow more produce for his round; the only land left was a drive and plot behind the chapel. He bought this extra plot and decided he did not need two driveways. The driveways were all on the same side of each home and wide enough for a double garage. Mr Jenkins worked out that if we gave our original drive to him he would reduce the other two drives and he could build another small house in-between. A wooden house was then erected for Mr Paul and Mrs Winifred Trethewey called 'Miramar'. It was a pity, as later, when my husband and I built a bungalow on the plot behind the chapel, we had to share a drive with my parents. We have the only house with the drive on a different side; our house 'Thorn Lea' was completed in 1932. It was given the name because the ground was full of thorns and in Cornwall Lea is the meadow.

My parents settled into their new house; the garden and apple trees were planted, there was a workshop for my father and a potato house was built.

There was also a long makeshift place along the hedge for the wagon and Jingle cart. The horses were stabled in the farmyard down the Downs. We also had a motor house for the car, our Austin. Mum had bought a Lee Frances from the local doctor (Dr Stephens) a few years before; it was a two seater and Grampfer Sparkes would ride in the buggy in the back. The road was bad in the Downs and it was considered too dangerous for my mother to drive on the main road, and so the car had to go!

My gran (Mary Selina Kempthorne) still thought of her two little boys who had died at Callestick and were buried at Perranzabuloe church, where the family attended each Sunday. She really never got over the loss and in 1933 my parents decided to build my grandparents a bungalow nearby so they could visit the grave and attend church. However before they moved in my Gran had a stroke and died at Falmouth nursing home at 68 years old. She had lived a hard life but was a strong woman and a wonderful mother to her fourteen children. She had been through a lot but one of the worst things was seeing their thatch home burnt down, (they saw the fire as they walked home from school); the family was homeless.

The new bungalow built for my Gran and Grandad was called "Homeland", it still has the same name, but unfortunately they never got to live in it. With Gran gone, my Grandad went to live with his son Sidney at Goonhavern, with short spells spent at Thorn Lea. The property was let to a couple who had it for many years. I remember on one occasion when my father, with me in the back, went to collect the rent with Mr Percy Smale in his car, which I remember was very unusual as it had yellow wheels! Percy had been my father's best man, a bachelor who had a farm by the bridge and had befriended my father when he first came here. When collecting the rent the lady gave me an apple when we left, and I ate it. When it was down to the core I tried to get the window open but it did not move so I opened the door to throw the core out, but I fell out as well, landing by the side of the road!

They were busy talking away but at last they saw I was missing. They found me, and picked me up, consoled me, and on returning home I had concussion and slept all day. I had hurt my knee and injured my finger too, but I soon returned to normal!



Dorothy Udy's shop and the corn house in the early 1900's. This is opposite the current Spar shop and Post Office. The building to the right of the shop is A. Stephens & Co. A farm supplies merchant.



The Union Inn, Quintrell (now The Quintrell Inn) in the early 1900's before it was burnt down. The owner, Mr Thomas Trudgeon stood in the doorway and his son by his side.



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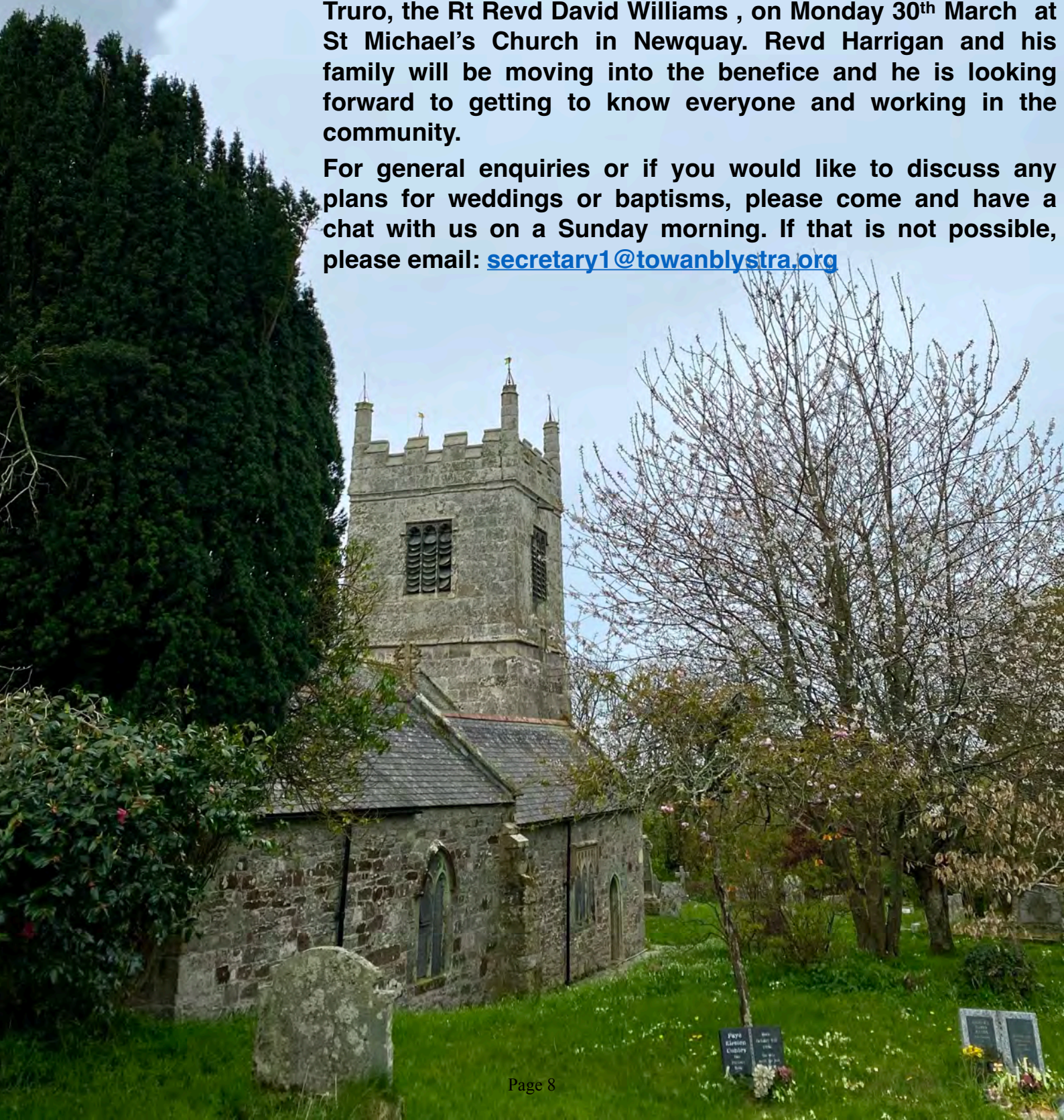
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## St Colan Parish Church

The snowdrops around the church started blooming in January and now it is time for the daffodils to brighten up the verges and gardens of the parish. With Spring's arrival we also entered the period of Lent and we will celebrate Easter with a service of communion on Easter Day, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of April at 9.30 am.

The Revd Chris Harrigan will be licensed by the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd David Williams , on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at St Michael's Church in Newquay. Revd Harrigan and his family will be moving into the benefice and he is looking forward to getting to know everyone and working in the community.

For general enquiries or if you would like to discuss any plans for weddings or baptisms, please come and have a chat with us on a Sunday morning. If that is not possible, please email: [secretary1@towanblystra.org](mailto:secretary1@towanblystra.org)





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## COLAN CWIK CWIZ ANSWERS

1. To date, he is the only UK Prime Minister to be assassinated
2. Mozambique
3. Everton FC
4. Neptune, with an average temperature of -220°c
5. James I (of England) and VI (of Scotland)
6. Portsmouth, Hampshire
7. Richard Gere, with his then wife Cindy Crawford
8. The Liver
9. William III, the more windows you had, the more tax you paid!
10. It is twelve feet in length
11. There are 206 bones in both the female and male bodies
12. Manchester City are the only to ever get 100 points in 2017/2018 season
13. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, Denmark ceased its postal delivery service. Being the first country to do so, citing a huge drop in demand
14. Mark Carney was previously Governor of the Bank of England (2013 to 2020)
15. Bamber Gascoigne (1962 to 1987), Jeremy Paxman (1994 to 2023) and Amol Rajan (2023 to date)



### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cheryl Glossop
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Beard
- 6<sup>th</sup> Claire Dummett
- 8<sup>th</sup> Joan Gibbons
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sue Woodley
- 10<sup>h</sup> Richard Hodgetts
- 12<sup>th</sup> Brad Clarke
- 12<sup>th</sup> Jamie Clogg
- 15<sup>th</sup> Neil Gimblett
- 17<sup>th</sup> Kelly Grimes
- 17<sup>th</sup> George Green
- 20<sup>th</sup> Ryan Scales
- 20<sup>th</sup> Vicki Crossley
- 21<sup>st</sup> Gerald Gilbert
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Josephine Burt
- 29<sup>th</sup> Jackson Jewell

### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelly Trebilcock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathryn Bibb
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ulla Winter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Clarke
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Clogg
- 12<sup>th</sup> Bill Grocott
- 12<sup>th</sup> Caroline Jewell
- 15<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Rundle
- 15<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Chapman
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jackie Glanville
- 22<sup>nd</sup> John Glossop
- 23<sup>rd</sup> David Woodley
- 27<sup>th</sup> Michaela Armstrong
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dawn Scales
- 29<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Burt
- 30<sup>th</sup> Brian Golden



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### Down on Willow Farm...

Happy New year to all. How lucky we are on Willow Farm to be able to house our animals in the shed, the ground is saturated more than usual due to the endless rainfall. We plant sunflowers annually as they have deep taproots that act as natural soil aerators and improves the drainage and structure. We leave the roots in situ to decay and release the nutrients back into the soil. We use the seeds from the previous flowers, which will grow more resilient plants as they undergo a process of local adaptation, which will be better suited for our land. We do not remove all the flowers, we share them with the birds and nature, there is nothing like watching a bumble bee feeding of a sunflower getting covered in pollen, or the rush dash of birds swooping in and hanging of the flower heads. We are making plans to grow more this year for sure. Last year we raised £20 for the Colan Companion, thank you everyone who purchased our flowers. Hopefully we can exceed that, this year.

Our land is so saturated and unfortunately we have lost some trees to the very strong winds. We are looking forward to spring and drier weather. Our future maybe farmers, grandchildren will be helping us planting trees and sowing seeds.

I would like some lambs or sheep, but my husband and others fellow farmers have all told me they are trouble and love escaping, but the Valais sheep with black faces elbows and feet look so sweet, (not great for the freezer I suspect) I reminded my husband about when two of our naughty pigs escaped, one them was looking at me through my kitchen window, I had to take a second glance, and a quick dash for my wellies and mobile, the pig was running up my driveway straight for the bridgeway, I am running up with a bucket of feed, and there was two of them on the bridgeway, luckily they are bucket trained, and came back into the driveway, and as I was closing my gate, there was two ladies pushing toddlers in there pushchairs, and not believing there eyes, I called, "if you see any more pigs, give a shout please". Bad piggies. We hope our future calves will be well behaved.

Thank goodness for wellies.

Sue & Mark



I was walking through the farm and a group of pigs jumped out of a tree on me.

It was a HAMbush!

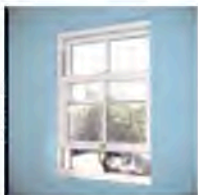
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## EASTER TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
14:00 - 16:30

QUINTRELL DOWNS  
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TO BOOK A STALL CALL  
CAROL ON 01637 873028

## BINGO

SAT 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
SAT 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
SAT 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
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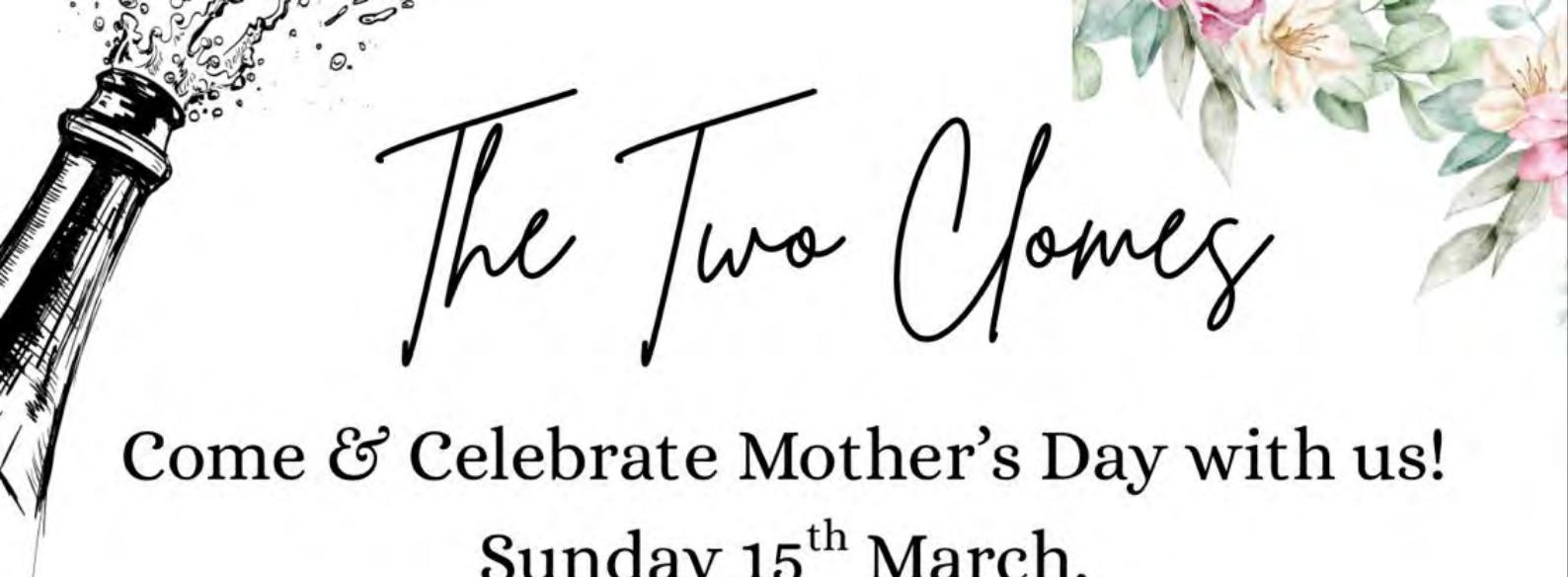
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