St Martin-by-Looe News



Winter 2016

Published and funded by St Martin-by-Looe Parish Council. Delivered FREE throughout the Parish.

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www.stmartinbylooepc.btck.co.uk

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Advertisements

If you would like to include an advertisement in the next edition of St Martin By Looe News please contact The Clerk, Charles Hyde on 01579 340905 or by email stmartinpc1@btinternet.com. Costs: £20 for a full page, £10 for a $\frac{1}{2}$ page, £5 for $\frac{1}{3}$ page. Contract discounts are available.

The magazine is printed quarterly and has a circulation of 300 copies which are delivered throughout the Parish.

Contributions

We always welcome contributions from people living in the Parish. If you would like to air your views on a particular subject or have a photograph or piece of artwork for the front cover please get in touch with The Clerk.

Statutory Disclaimer

All articles and advertisements are published in good faith, St Martin By Looe Parish Council cannot check all details in the articles and any views expressed may not necessarily reflect those of the Parish Council. Neither can we be held responsible for the actions of any advertisers now or in the future.

Parish Council Update

Welcome to the Winter 2016 edition

Well here we are again, Christmas is upon us. This issue has a festive theme, although I would not be too pleased to be served a Muggety Pie this Christmas (see Jenny's History article).

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year .

Planning Applications

Applications have been received for: The construction of stable and barn for horse breeding on land east of The Spinney, Millendreath. Retrospective application for the temporary siting of a portable building for use as a cafe/bar (A3 use class) for a period of 3 years, Black Rock Cafe, Millendreath. Variation of condition 5 to allow an extension of time to complete drainage works and removal of condition 6 as compost toilets are no longer proposed at The Piggery, Keveral Farm. The construction of garage, home gym and hobby room at Bucklawren House. The installation of flue at The Piggery, Keveral Farm. Demolition of a timber framed barrack and replace with a timber framed animal (monkey) indoor enclosure at Murrayton House. Change of use of land for 5 hardstanding pitches at Polborder Farm. Variation of condition 2 (premises to be used for shell processing and storage) at Cliff Valley Farm.

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Parish Council Update

Parish Councillor John Broad

Following heart surgery John Broad decided that he could no longer serve the parish as a Parish Councillor and tended his resignation. We wish John a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him out and about again and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work.

Simon Lawes

The vacancy for a Parish Councillor was advertised on the noticeboards and no persons put themselves forward for the job. Mr. Simon Lawes expressed an interest and as a result was co-opted to the Council in the November meeting, we look forward to working with Simon who is based at Millendreath.

Parish Council Meetings.

You are always welcome to attend the Parish council meetings in the Memorial Hall, No Man's Land. They usually are held on the first Thursday of each month but please check the noticeboards. Requests to speak during Public Participation need to be submitted to the Clerk by post or email at least 48 hours in advance.



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St Martins Village Hall Trust

By Kate Humphreys, Secretary.

Our Jumble Sale held in the Hall on 29th October made £631.05 for The Childrens Hospice S.W. and the committee would like to thank all those who helped and supported this very successful event.

On 13th November we had a Remembrance Service at the Hall. Among those attending were Mr Louis Portman, Chairman of the Looe Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Mayor of Looe, Mr Armand Toms and the former Mayor of Looe Mr David Bryan. The Committee would like to thank Mrs Joyce Hocking and the Rev Philip Sharp and Joe Foote for taking the service and a special thankyou to Cody and Maddie Southall for helping the Mayor lay a wreath by the memorial in the Hall garden and for taking the collection, the committee were very impressed and moved by the respect and solemnity they both showed during the service. Wreaths were also laid by our new President Mrs Nancy Matthews on behalf of the Hall Committee and Mrs Roberta Powley on behalf of the Parish Council. The £52.00 raised went to the Looe Branch of the Royal British Legion.

On the 26th November there will be a Christmas Fayre here at the Hall, with lots of stalls selling crafts, produce, gifts and much more. There will be mince pies, a tombola and a visit from Father Christmas with gifts for the children. All welcome. Should be fun!

On Friday 16th December we have our very popular Christmas Bingo!! Lots of prizes including meat dinners and a cash flyer. Not to be missed!

We still have an allotment to let, think of all the fresh fruit and vegetables you can grow!.

Any enquiries, please ring Mrs Roberta Powley 01503 240650.

The committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Hall during 2016 and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you in 2017.

katehumphreys279@btinternet.com



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A Christmas Crust - History Snippet

By Jenny Wallis

"Dame get up and bake your pies...." was an old Christmas carol of the pre-Tesco era. It was from the days before Santa filled stockings. So the first thing to do on Christmas morning was to set about making the pies ready for family, friends and the rest of the household.

Cornwall was famed for its pies. There was a saying that the Devil wouldn't put a foot over the Tamar for fear of finishing up in a pie. The pie was portable. It could make a small amount of meat go a long way. It could contain locally sourced seasonal ingredients! It could be baked at the common bakers (down by the Buller's Arms) or you could take it to the big house at Keverall or Poliscourt or Bokenver. A crock on a hearth would do the job in the days before ovens. The blacksmith could make you a Salamander to heat up and brown the crust – which would have been an inch thick (over 2cms!).

Old documents record fish pies – mackerel, conger, pilchard and bream – and a selection of meats. Muggety pie and nattlin pies contained entrails of sheep and pigs respectively. Taddago pies and lammy pies were the delicacies created from still-born pigs and

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A Christmas Crust - History Snippet

By Jenny Wallis

lambs. These were liberally laced with pepper, salt and parsley. Squab pie was a staple. It had layers of mutton, bacon, apple and onions and if you could afford it a squab. A squab is a young pigeon and was available exclusively from the rectory where they were farmed in the great culver house that stood nearby. Alternatively you could net a cormorant and lay it in the base of the pie to infuse a specific odour which was once described as being that of guano mingled with polecat! Vegetarian options abounded. Herby pie has spinach, peppergrass and nettles. Likky pie contained leeks.

Before serving, an egg could be added through a hole in the crust. Pies could be very large – 2 gallons!

I assumed that all this was good wholesome fare, but learn that the Cornish laced their pies with huge dollops of clotted cream and added sugar! Beware "Traditional" Recipes!!!

Merry Christmas to all my readers - Jenny.



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Purely Cornish News

We have a new Purely Cornish Website! www.purelycornish.co.uk To all our lovely customers and suppliers, we are still very much a small local family business but doing our best to keep up with the fast moving digital age! We hope you like our new MOBILE FRIENDLY WEBSITE with even more wonderful Cornish products that can be made up into beautiful hampers and dispatched throughout mainland UK. We are also on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM please would you consider clicking these links above and following us?

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EXCURSIONS

18th Dec Olympia

18th Dec Mousehole & Angarrack, Christmas lights

Jan 6th 2017 Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs panto at

The Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

April 24-29th County Wicklow, Ireland. 6 days, 5 nights.

April 11th West Somerset Railway & Dunster Castle

May 6th Badminton Horse Trials

May 16th Tamar Cruise & Mount Edgcumbe Estate

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Festive celebrations for the Hub's County Choirs

The young singers of the Cornwall Music Education Hub's County Choirs all came together to record a brand new Christmas song. This will be the first single produced by the choirs, who will be donating all proceeds to Children's Hospice South West's Little Harbour.

The new festive tune, entitled 'Winter Weather Wondering', was composed by local musician, Matt Douglas, especially for the Cornwall County Choirs - Cornwall County Youth Choir, Cornwall Girls Choir and Cornwall Boys Choir. The singers of the County Choirs are aged between 9 and 18 and come from across the whole of Cornwall.

The Cornwall County Choirs, directed by Angela Renshaw and a team of local choral leaders and teachers, are part of the Cornwall Education Music Hub's network of ensembles. The Music Hub is funded by the Arts Council to support the musical education and progression of children and young people in Cornwall.

"We are all delighted to be involved in this project" said Angela Renshaw. "We have a great team of young singers now engaged with our choirs and we have recently opened up three new local groups in Helston, Launceston and St Dennis along with the established choirs already existing in Penzance, Truro, St Austell and Camelford. Over 150 young singers took part in the recording and we are thrilled at the opportunity to be able to raise funds for CHSW, a charity selected by the young people of the choirs."

Matt Douglas is an experienced and talented musician and composer who is an integral part of the choir team. Angela said, "We are indebted to him for this Christmas song. We hope the people of Cornwall will support us by downloading it."

"Local schools will also have the opportunity to be involved, with related activities being sent out to every school in Cornwall to enable pupils to engage with the song and learn it for themselves, in preparation for Christmas."

The song was recorded and produced by dBs Music of Plymouth and will be released on Qube Records, the record label of Mounts Bay Academy on Friday, 18 November.

Following release, 'Winter Weather Wondering' will be available for download at a cost of 99p from all well-known digital music platforms including iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, Deezer, PlayMusic, Napster and Shazam.

Reception Class admissions for 2017

Parents and carers of children who are due to start school in a reception class in Cornwall in September 2017 are being reminded of the deadline for applying for a school place.

All applications for reception children (i.e. those who were born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013) must be submitted by midnight on 15 January 2017.

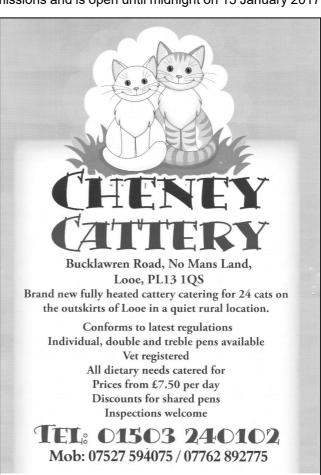
You still need to apply for a school place even if your child currently attends the school's nursery or pre-school setting or you have expressed an interest in attending the school.

The online application facility is available on the Council's website at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions and is open until midnight on 15 January 2017

Andrew Wallis. the Council's Cabinet Member for Young People, is encouraging parents and carers to make sure that they identify three school preferences and also that they submit their form by the 15 January deadline. "In Cornwall we have a good track record of parents and carers getting one οf their preferred schools" he said

Any parent or carer who does not have access to a computer can visit a One Stop Shop or Library or use the paper form available from the School Admissions Team by telephoning 0300 1234 101.

For support with making an application, the Family Information Service can also help: 0800 587 8191.



Paloresow Kernewek

An item on the local news recently caught my attention and gave a welcome idea for this hopefully informative piece for the Parish Magazine. The item was about a very Cornish icon – the Cornish Chough.

The Chough, as I am sure some of you will know, is a bird which appears most notably on the Cornish Coat of Arms. It stands atop of a coronet, flanked by a fisherman on one side and a miner on the other, giving this rare bird quite a high status in the South West. Because this rather elegant member of the Crow family is so rare, it is quite likely only a small number of people will have seen one. The Chough has all black plumage and is about the size of a Jackdaw but observed at close quarters two very striking features can be seen – it has a long curved red beak and red legs, hence it is often called the Red Legged Crow.

The bird features in Cornish legend having been said that the soul of King Arthur departed this world in the form of a Chough – its red feet and bill signifying Arthurs violent and bloody end. It would have been common in all parts of Britain, up to and including the 17th Century. At the end of the 18th Century the Chough was in notable decline. It was possible even at this time that the birds were being targeted by sportsmen and being obtained as natural history specimens. The decreasing numbers were also due to the change in farming habits – grazing animals were removed from cliff top pastures to more manageable inland areas. The once heavily grazed cliff tops where the birds found their food soon became scrubbed over and the Choughs found it increasingly difficult to find suitable feeding areas. Choughs feed by using their long beaks to find insects and invertebrates such as crane fly larvae, dung beetles and ants. The Cornish name for the Chough is Palores this translates as digger - almost certainly obtained from its habit of digging in loose soil to obtain its food.

Small numbers of Choughs survived in Cornwall until 1967 – one bird survived until 1973 but none were seen after its demise - the last successful breeding having been recorded in 1947.

Paloresow Kernewek

Early in the Spring of 2001 a small number of Choughs were seen along the South Coast of England from Portland to the Isles of Scilly – three birds were noted to have taken up residence on the Lizard Peninsular.

In 2002, two of these birds successfully raised young in the South West for the first time in 50 years – this pair were known to go on and raise 44 youngsters following that first season.

The good news is that the Chough is on the increase in Cornwall – with the help of the RSPB, some very dedicated volunteers, sympathetic farmers and landowners, we all stand a good chance of spotting one of these once lost Cornish icons.

David Keeble.



Image by Tony Davison©



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Ingredients

For the cauliflower

1 head cauliflower, trimmed and broken into florets

For the béchamel sauce

250g/9oz smoked streaky bacon, cut into 1cm/½in strips 250g/9oz chestnut mushrooms, finely sliced

25g/1oz butter

50g/2oz plain flour

250ml/9fl oz full-fat milk

pinch English mustard powder

200g/7oz gruyère cheese, grated

55ml/2fl oz double cream

salt and freshly ground black pepper

pinch ground nutmeg

For the topping

50g/2oz ciabatta breadcrumbs

50g/2oz parmesan cheese, finely grated

To serve - green salad, crusty bread



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Recipe continued

Method

- **1.** For the cauliflower, cook the florets in a large pan of boiling water for about 10 minutes, or until just tender. Drain and set aside.
- **2.** Meanwhile for the béchamel sauce, fry the bacon strips in a dry frying pan until coloured but not crisp. Remove the bacon with a slotted spoon and set aside, keeping the bacon fat in the pan.
- **3.** Add the mushrooms to the pan of bacon fat and fry for 2-3 minutes, or until golden-brown. Remove from the pan and set aside.
- **4.** Melt the butter in a clean saucepan and beat in the flour until smooth. Slowly whisk in the milk until smooth, then stir in the mustard powder, grated cheese and double cream. Keep stirring until the cheese has melted and the mixture is thick and creamy. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then fold in the bacon and mushrooms.
- 5. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
- **6.** Place the cauliflower florets into an ovenproof casserole dish and pour over the cheesy sauce. Sprinkle over a pinch of freshly grounded nutmeg.
- **7.** For the topping, mix the ciabatta breadcrumbs with the parmesan cheese, then sprinkle the mixture over the cauliflower. Place into the oven for 15 minutes, or until the topping is golden-brown and bubbling.

8. Spoon the cauliflower cheese onto plates and serve with a crisp green salad and crusty bread. **Recipe by The Hairy Bikers.**



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