

# St Martin-by-Looe



# News

Season Greetings  
to all our readers.



## Winter 2025

Published and funded by  
St Martin by Looe Parish Council.

*Delivered FREE throughout the Parish and  
published in colour online.*



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[www.stmartinbylooe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stmartinbylooe-pc.gov.uk)

# **St Martin By Looe Parish Councillors Contact Numbers.**



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If you would like to include an advertisement in the next edition please contact The Clerk, Charles Hyde on 07763 364809 or by email [clerk@stmartinbylooepec.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stmartinbylooepec.org.uk) Costs: £20 for a full page, £10 for a ½ page, £5 for 1/3 page: Contract discounts are available. The magazine is printed quarterly and has a circulation of 350 printed copies delivered throughout the Parish and is also available online on our website and Facebook page.

## **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 2025 edition

I'm convinced as I get older the years get shorter! I can't believe I'm preparing the Winter edition already. Summer just vanished and I feel we skipped autumn, although the colours of the trees were spectacular in the rain. Inside this edition we have some great articles and a very 'local' recipe, believed to have originated from Looe. We have tips on how to care for hedgehogs this winter in your gardens, an entertaining History Snippet from Jenny and Davids nature article.

This year the Christmas lights switch on is December 6th with a community get together in the hall at No Man's Land, this is a free event not to be missed, so if you live in St Martin by Looe Parish this is for you. The Spring 2026 edition will be published early March and deadlines for submissions will be 13th February, so please send in anything you would like to see included in your Community Magazine, contact details on page 2.



## Group Travel

Day Trips & Coach Holidays



Enterprise Park, Midway Road, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 2FQ Tel: 01208 77989

### Coach Excursions 2025

5th December	Tavistock Dickensian Evening
13th December	Christmas Train of Lights, Dartmouth SR

### Coach Excursions & Tours 2026

<b>26 Apr - 1 May</b>	<b>Spring Tour - Yorkshire</b>
12th May	Dartmoor Prison Museum & Tavistock
28th May	Lamorran Gardens & St Mawes
11th June	Saltram House & Tamar View Nurseries
<b>4th - 6th Sept</b>	<b>Burghley Horse Trials</b>
<b>21st - 25th Sept</b>	<b>Autumn Tour - Oxford &amp; Cotswolds</b>

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*We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*



## Parish Council Update



### Planning Applications

Only one received this period, for Looe Country Park Caravan & Campsite, Bucklawren Road, No Mans Land, Looe. **Proposal** Certificate of lawfulness for proposed stationing of additional static caravans for year-round occupation in place of touring caravans across the whole of Looe Country Park Caravan and Campsite.

### Donations

Only two donations this period to Cornwall Air Ambulance £100 donated, and Holland Road Community Garden £32 to cover the cost of the bench maintenance.

### Parish Council Audit

The Audit has been completed with no issues identified, all financial documents have been uploaded to the parish council website.

### Bogus Tradesmen - A POLICE WARNING

Bogus tradesmen are operating in the area, several people have been conned out of lots of money by these men, who offer to do gardening roofing or work around the house, they operate from a white Transit van, the Police are currently investigating. They warn you **do not** allow any person to do any work on your property, even if they say the work is identified as urgent. **Only employ trusted tradespeople.**

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## Parish Council Update



**Please note new Website Address [stmartinbylooe-pc.gov.uk](http://stmartinbylooe-pc.gov.uk)**

### Parish Council Monthly Meetings

They take place at the Memorial Hall, No Man's Land at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month, but this may vary, so please check our noticeboards, social media or website for dates.

Requests to speak during Public Participation need to be made to the Clerk, 48 hours in advance by email: [clerk@stmartinbylooe-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stmartinbylooe-pc.org.uk).

### Looe Banking Hub

Sardine Factory next to the Heritage centre  
West Looe,.

### Opening Hours/ Bank

Monday - **Natwest**

9am to 5pm

Tuesday - **Barclays**

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Wednesday - **Lloyd's**

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Thursday - **HSBC** 9am to 1pm

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## No Man's Land Hall News

The recent Harvest Festival was enjoyed by those who attended but as usual, disappointing that not more residents of our Parish and Holland Road came. The committee understands that fewer people go to church services nowadays but we don't see many of you at our other events either. This is your Community Hall so please let us know if you have any ideas for future events that you may be interested in.

The Committee would like to thank Mr Morley Stevens for maintaining the care of the seats in the Community Garden and Mr Rob Young for maintaining the flower tubs.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Produce Market on the first Saturday of each month.

**Remembrance Sunday Service** 2pm, 9th November, followed by a Faith Tea.

**Christmas Fayre** Saturday, 22nd November 2.30pm. Lots of stalls with gift ideas.

**Christmas Bingo** Friday, 12th December. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm. Great prizes, including a cash prize and a raffle.

**Everyone welcome.**

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## **The 2025 Christmas light up**

December 6th is the date to remember as it's our Xmas light up at 6pm outside of the estates.

Afterwards pop into the village hall to enjoy a pasty, hot dog, or-cup of homemade soup, it's all on offer at no cost to you, although donations are always appreciated.

We are again joined this year by the fabulous NobZ who soon get everyone clapping and singing, it's a great community event but we need everyone to support it to make it a great evening. Of course in the morning we have our last market of the year, pop in and have a wander around the stalls, meat, cakes,,veg and some wonderful local crafts, ideal Christmas gifts, have a coffee and catch up with neighbours both new and old .



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# Martinstowe the town that time forgot

History Snippet by Jenny Wallis

Our Iron-Age forbears had a hillside settlement in a cosy sun-trap with distant views. The site became '**Round Field**' with a new farmstead, **Coomb Park**. The open hilltop, where three roads met, gradually became developed and now houses **Looe Bay Holiday Camp**. And thereby hangs a tale!

Before the tide filled the estuary, there was an ancient route down to a river-crossing at **Steps**. It crossed the East-West way to the **port at Looe**.



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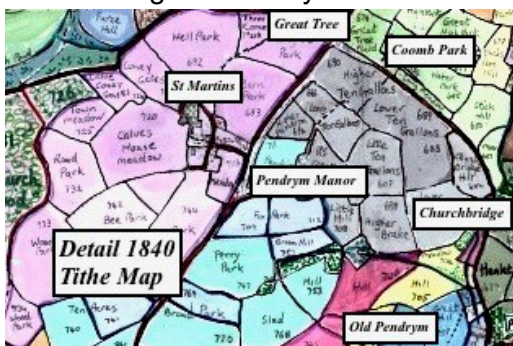
bestyoucanbe

## History Snippet by Jenny Wallis

The whole area was in Royal **Pendrym Manor** from the time of Edward the Confessor to 1920. The Lord of the Manor had the upper hand.

They lived in **Mevagissey** so installed their relatives in the church. They collected the tithe tax and began to extend the church lands into a quasi Manor House.

The Saxons were moved out and **Martinstowe** forgotten. Royal assent was granted for fishponds, a dovecote and rabbit warren.



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# Martinstowe the town that time forgot

## History Snippet by Jenny Wallis

The Normans had conquered. By 1400 the tide had blocked the route West. The church estate, **the Glebe**, became a private enclave. (mauve on the Tithe Map)

In C17th the Lady of the Manor built herself a **Manor House** with grounds and entrances. She re-routed the **Churchbridge** lane to keep worshippers away. The new lane cut up through the valley past Coomb Park and round to the church. She planted a chestnut tree at the top. The manor was abandoned before 1800.

In 1820 the Lord of the Manor donated land for a school where three roads met. It was called **Great Tree School** after the chestnut tree! By 1840 the Turnpike road was forged through to **Barbican Road** and the chestnut blew down.. In 1880 the Lord of the Manor dismantled the old Manor House and used the material to renovate his housing stock. Coomb Park became habitable along with properties at Tregoad and Barbican. In 1897 the children planted a beech tree with a memorial for Queen Victoria's jubilee. This is now in **No Man's Land**.

Our hilltop site remains disjointed and haphazard. When **Looe** floods, maybe **Martinstowe** could rise again around our ancient church. This historic landscape still holds hope for a future community. There will be a welcome in the hillside!



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# Pam's Granny's Baked Bread Pudding

[recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com](http://recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com)

A friend and Bridge partner Pam, who lives in Joppa near Hayle, gave me this recipe. It has been in her family for generations and she calls it Granny's Baked Bread Pudding.

Her grandmother came from just outside the town of Looe in East Cornwall, so I am guessing this recipe hails from that area [??] as I had never heard of anything like it before. It is very easy to make and delicious! My husband absolutely loved it! Thank you, Pam. It will be on my dessert menus from now on.



*Pam also mentioned that it is great cold, cut into little squares as cakes. When she wants to do that she cooks it in a square baking tin, instead of an oven to table dish*

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## **Pam's Granny's Baked Bread Pudding**

**[recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com](http://recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com)**

Take: ¾ lb stale white bread, cut into large cubes - no crusts  
Soak for a few hours, then squeeze out the water. [This is easier in smaller amounts]

Beat until smooth ish.

Then just add all the other ingredients:

6 oz mixed dried fruit

2 oz each of dried chopped dates, glace cherries and dried apricots

4 ½ oz light soft brown sugar

3 oz melted butter

2 medium eggs

Grated lemon rind, mixed spice, cinnamon and nutmeg - all to taste

Optional extras - marmalade or golden syrup. I plumped for the syrup and put in a large dash. In fact I added it when I beat the bread.

Mix well. That's it. Easy peasey.

Tip into a buttered baking dish and bake for 1 hour at 190 deg C

Thanks Pam x



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# Create a hedgehog friendly garden

Courtesy Plymouth Live.

It's the end of the hedgehog foraging season. This is when they're at their most active, making it the perfect time to see them wandering through your garden.

Whilst they're getting ready to settle down for their winter hibernation, there are steps you can take to attract them to your property.



Given that the species is in decline, these measures provide the added benefit of giving hedgehogs a crucial lifeline.

In a video shared on TikTok, gardening expert Deb shared some simple tips for attracting them, reports [the Mirror](#).

She explained there are easy ways to draw them in.

To encourage their visits, she said you simply need to put one key strategy into place.

Deb said: "Now, it may seem simple, but the first thing to do is make sure you have a hedgehog highway. Hedgehogs can roam up to one mile each night.

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# Create a hedgehog friendly garden

Courtesy Plymouth Live.

"A log pile, compost heap or purpose-built house in a shaded spot will give hedgehogs a safe place to rest and hibernate. Provide food and water, not milk. Contrary to popular belief, milk is bad for hedgehogs. Do not leave milk out. Leave out fresh water."

She added you can also buy hedgehog biscuits to leave around your garden for them.

This will give them some tasty snacks to munch on. She also pointed out that hedgehogs are particularly keen on gardens featuring leafy trees, so it's worth keeping this in mind.

If you don't have these, Deb recommended it might be worthwhile planting some.

## Why do hedgehogs like shelter?

Hedgehogs are drawn to gardens because they offer a safe haven alongside food, water and shelter.

These features are vital for them to rest, bring up their young and hibernate in safety. They typically favour quiet, dry and tucked-away spots found in gardens.

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# Create a hedgehog friendly garden

Courtesy Plymouth Live.

Compost heaps, log piles or spaces beneath sheds and thick foliage are amongst their preferred hideaways.

That's why establishing a "wild corner" with a pile of logs, leaves and garden waste is helpful, as it provides ideal nesting material and shelter.

You can also buy or build a specially-designed hedgehog house.

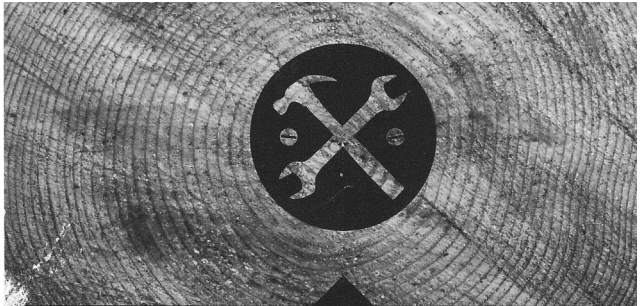
If you're lighting the fire more often at the moment, you'll be glad to hear they love log piles.

These provide both food and shelter.

Log piles create a home for insects such as beetles and woodlice, which are key food sources for hedgehogs.

They also offer a safe refuge for hedgehogs to hibernate, breed and rest as the piles provide protection from predators.

Adding some straightforward features to your garden can encourage them to pay a visit.



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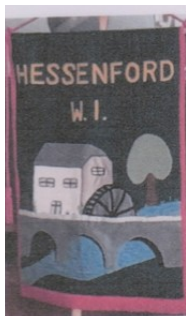
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# Church news

## Looe Valley Benefice Christmas 2025 Schedule.

Day	Date	Event	Venue	Time
Friday	28th November	Looe Christmas Lights.	Looe	
Monday	8th December	Looe Primary School	St Martin	9am - 12pm
Tuesday	9th December	RNLI Concert - Pelynt and Keltique	St Martins Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday	17th December	Trenode Christingle	St Wenna	5pm
Thursday	18th December	Duloe School	St Cuby	1.15pm TBC
Friday	19th December	Barbican Pre Scholl Nativity	St Martin	9.30am
		Jubilee Carols	Duloe	6pm
Sunday	21st December	Morval Carols	St Wenna	4pm
		Sing Rock at Christmas	St Nicholas	7.30pm
Monday	22nd December	Christingle	St Nicholas	4pm
		Nine Carols and Lessons	St Martin	7pm
Tuesday	23rd December	Carols in The Barn	Bucklawren Farm	3pm
Wednesday	Christmas Eve	Scratch Nativity	St Cuby	11am
		Carols	All Saints	6pm
		Midnight Communion	St Nicholas	11.30pm
Thursday	Christmas Day	Christmas Day Service	St Cuby	9.30am
		Christmas Day Service	St Wenna	11am
		Christmas Day Service	St Martin	11am

## £5 Festive Community Meal

With

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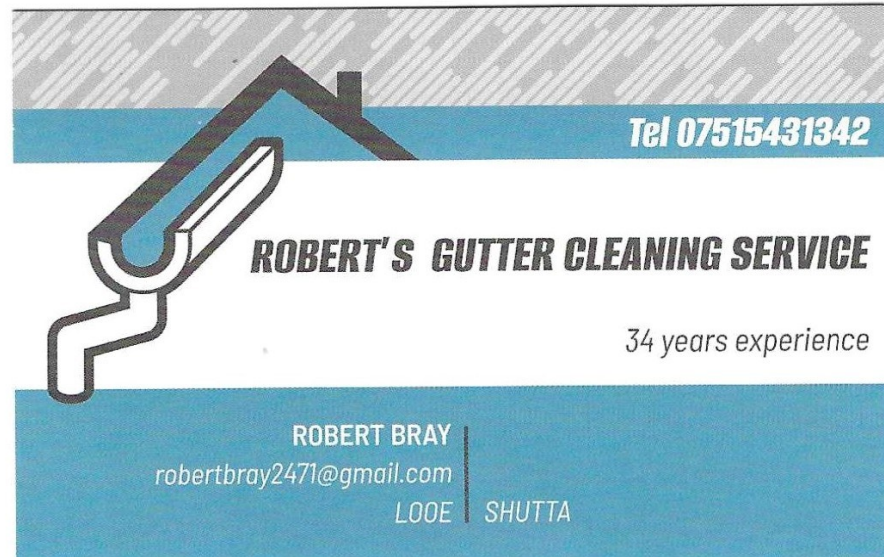
# Just Another Day

By Dave Keeble

Gardens, and the countryside, can be inspirational at any time of the year, especially when something out of the ordinary happens - right now we have just that. We are at the end of what is called a 'Mast Year'. Mast years occur every three to five years according to the seasons weather – normally a dry Spring and a wet start to the Summer is a formula for such an event. The indicators are an abundance of fruit, nuts, berries and seeds which are collectively called 'Mast'. My own observations are the vast amounts of chestnuts and hazel nuts we have had on trees and bushes in the garden – this harvest has been attracting birds such as Jays and Pheasants who are mainly feasting on wind fall apples. Thankfully there will still be plenty left for an apple crumble/pie or two on chilly days.

However, the most activity has been from the squirrels collecting and stashing chestnuts in all parts of the garden. This behaviour ensures in the wild that new trees, bushes and shrubs grow and provide food for animals and birds alike. We did manage to gather some for ourselves to roast at Christmas.

Other observations in the garden have been the sighting on four separate days of Humming Bird Hawk Moths feeding on the various pot plants we have on the patio. I would like to think that the sightings



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# Just Another Day

By Dave Keeble

were of different individuals but due to their rarity it is more likely to be the same one. On another occasion, while just pottering in the garden, I heard a bird call that I had not heard before and although I didn't actually see the source of the call I was able to identify the bird by using an App I have on my phone – it was almost certainly a Stock Dove – not uncommon apparently but certainly new to me.

A bird we have seen in the garden numerous times is the Sparrow Hawk – a very sleek and beautifully marked bird when seen perched, but a lethal killer as witnessed by me when watching birds on the bird table. From out of nowhere a male bird snatched a Dunnock, more commonly known as a Hedge Sparrow, and pinned it to the ground where it stayed for several minutes before flying off with its prey.



As hard as it is to see – that is nature.

David Keeble

A colorful illustration of five dogs of different breeds and colors (white, black, yellow, and brown) walking on a leash. A hand is visible holding the leash. The background is a simple green field with a white path.

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