

St Martin-by-Looe



News



Spring 2026

Published and funded by
St Martin by Looe Parish Council.

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



clerk@stmartinbylooe.org.uk

www.stmartinbylooe-pc.gov.uk

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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@stmartinbylooe-pc.gov.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

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Parish Council Update



Welcome to the Spring 2026 Edition

Well what a wet start to 2026, is it ever going to stop raining? In the Parish the wet weather has caused many problems, particularly to the roads and drains, with potholes and flooding now widespread. The Cormac teams have responded to most reports promptly but the Milendreath flooding proved a difficult problem to fix, until the JCB arrived and then 'bingo' the water ran away! The Cormac guys do deserve a round of applause however as three major storms back to back and daily rain has resulted in a huge workload, at one point there were over 5000 pothole reports, so a HUGE thank you to the guys.

In this edition you will find a fascinating History Snippet, Dave Keebles Nature article and a new contributor Paul Matthews has written an article about the origins of a popular house plant. There is No Man's Land Hall News and a tasty recipe to enjoy making.



Group Travel

Day Trips & Coach Holidays

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

Coach Excursions & Tours 2026

26th Apr-1st May	Spring Tour - Yorkshire & Chatsworth House
12th May	Dartmoor Prison Museum & Tavistock
28th May	Lamorran House Gardens & St Mawes
11th June	Saltram House & Tamar View Nurseries
23rd June	Buckfastleigh, Butterflies & Otters
6th July	River Fal Cruise & Falmouth
16th July	Forde Abbey and Gardens
4th August	Paignton, Kingswear, Dartmouth & Totnes
15th August	RHS Rosemoor Garden Flower Show
4th-6th Sept	Burghley Horse Trials
21st-25th Sept	Autumn Tour - Oxford & The Cotswolds

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Parish Council Update



Planning Applications Received.

Application No: PA25/08246. **Proposal:** Change of use of six holiday lets to form residential dwellings. **Location:** Summercourt Cottages, St Martin by Looe, Cornwall.

Application No: PA25/07808. **Proposal:** Provision of a new facilities building, together with associated works. **Location:** Tregoad Caravan and Camping Park, St Martin by Looe, Cornwall.

Application No: PA25/08889. **Proposal:** Proposed plant room. **Location:** The Oaks Holiday Park, Bucklawren Road, No Mans Land.

Application No: PA25/03028. **Proposal:** Re-development of existing beach resort to create new flood alleviation channel, replacement of 103 units of holiday accommodation (existing and extant) and the addition of up to 87 units of holiday accommodation. Construction of a restaurant building, a central facilities building, a tennis court, car parking, passing places, re-alignment of the coastal path, hard and soft landscaping, fixed surface infrastructure and other associated works (including a replacement seawall).

Location: Millendreath Holiday Village Millendreath Looe Cornwall

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Parish Council Update



Please note new Website Address 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.org.uk.

Looe Banking Hub

Sardine Factory next to the Heritage centre
West Looe,.

Opening Hours/ Bank

Monday - **Natwest**
9am to 5pm

Tuesday - **Barclays**
9am to 5pm

Wednesday - **Lloyd's**
10am to 3pm

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

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1pm to 5pm

Can obtain cash and pay money in any day. Any specific questions for your bank you'll need to speak to their advisor on the appropriate

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No Man's Land Hall News

There will be a meeting in the Hall on March 19th at 2pm for anyone who is interested in gardening. This will be an initial discussion to perhaps forming a club to meet regularly to discuss garden matters. Contact Mrs R. Powley 07929602113 for more info. There are still some missing trophies awarded at previous Flower Shows held annually here at the Hall. Some of these trophies have great sentimental value. If you were awarded one or know of anyone that was, please contact Mrs R. Powley. It would be so lovely to have them back. The Committee are hosting a quiz night here at the Hall on Friday 10th April at 7pm. £1.00 per person, teams of four, bring your own drinks and nibbles. No unaccompanied children under 16. Should be great fun!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 31st March 7pm. This meeting is open to members of the public. If you are interested in your local Community Hall or have any ideas regarding events etc, we would be very glad to see you.

Garden Matters - March 19th 2pm

Jumble Sale - Sat March 21st 2.30pm

Quiz Night - Friday 10th April 7pm.

Annual Flower and Produce Show - Sat 1st August 2.30 pm

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No Man's Land Hall News

Car park closed - Closed 9am FRIDAY 25th September until 9am SATURDAY 26th September.

Barnsley School of Music - have provisionally booked the Hall 18th July until 26th July.

Harvest Festival - Sat 17th October at 2.30pm followed by a Faith Tea and auction.

Jumble Sale - Sat 24th October 2.30pm

Remembrance Sunday Service - 8th November 2.30pm followed by a Faith Tea.

Christmas Fayre - Sat 21st November 2.30pm.

Christmas Bingo - Friday 11th December. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm

Disco in the Dark - for charity every Monday from 6.30pm

Produce Market on 1st Sat of every month.

PAINTING AND DECORATING



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No Man's Land Hall News

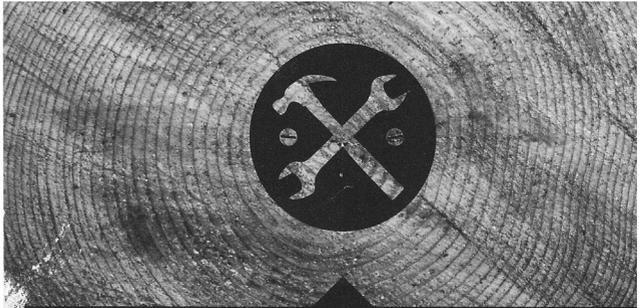
Please come and support your local Community Hall, we are always pleased to see you.

LESS POLITE NOTICE.

Please do **NOT** leave jumble donations outside the Hall doors. Contrary to what you may think, our lovely caretaker does not live in the Hall! Items left outside end up getting wet and therefore unsaleable.

We are not in a position to dispose of lots of soggy items. Leaving items at the door is actually classed as flytipping. We are always grateful for donated items but PLEASE message either Mrs R. Powley, Mrs T. Chudleigh or a member of the Committee to arrange a drop off time.

Thank you.



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Power to the People

History Snippet by Jenny Wallis

Net zero and winter fuel are popular topics now fossil fuels are being questioned. My memory harks back to post-war off-grid life with sheets of newspaper between the bedclothes. Father had a rant about Good King Wenceslas. No self-respecting poor man would be out in deep snow getting firewood by moonlight! You couldn't see it! And it was wet. You don't burn wet wood! It gives off fumes. Mother would say "poetic licence" and father would mutter about ignorant townies!

Our woodshed was attended all year round with logs and kindling collected, cut and stacked. As children we had to fill our trugs with pinecones to make a glow for toast. We had to saw logs and steady the cross-cut saw when a tree fell. We were roped to fallen boughs to drag them home! We learnt to split hazel to tie faggots and wield a mallet and cleaver. This was when we were in Upper Juniors! Wood was processed for fuel and child-labour contributed to the household economy.

The importance of wood shows all through § our Parish map. There was a Coal Park in Treveria and rocks off Bodigga called Colmer. These remember charcoal production. Alder made good charcoal to smelt the iron ore in the cliffs. The iron hoops were for the barrel factory, now drowned by the tide. There was a saw-pit at Pethick where man-power sweated to fashion planks for boats, carts and construction. There was a windmill on Wooldown, harnessing the wind and water-mills in Poliscourt, Keveral and Hessenford. The Celtic mill on the shore at Millendreath was powered by the tide - a thousand years before the tide mill in West Looe. - and built of local wood.

Victorian census returns show how our society had an apprenticeship scheme. Children in dodgy circumstances could be taken in by busy households to learn a trade. Elizabeth Austin (11) was a house servant in Trelowia. James Pearse (10) was a farm servant in Treveria and Thomas Crocker at Bucklawren was an indoor farm servant, aged 10. Edwardian records from Great Tree School show pupils needed for the harvest, lifting mangolds, potato picking and child-minding.

By this time Welsh coal was being brought to the lime kiln at Millendreath and Looe was getting coal gas. The age of profit and pollution had begun.

Cont: on page 14.

Power to the People

History Snippet by Jenny Wallis

In St Ives a local wit wrote

*'Tis well for us the Sun and Moon are up so very high
That no presumptuous hand can reach*

And pluck them from the sky.

If 'twere not so, I do not doubt that some reforming Ass

Would soon propose to snuff them out

And light the world with GAS!

Trump wants a nuclear power station on the moon! Wood, water, wind - and child-labour - sound an almost idyllic economic preference

Jenny Wallis



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Council launches free ChatFuture text service to help young people find their dream career

Young people in Cornwall aged 11-19 can now access a quick and easy text messaging service to get advice and information about their futures.

ChatFuture has been launched this month by Cornwall Council's Employment and Enterprise Team – and it is completely free to use.

Those who sign up receive two texts a month about employment opportunities, apprenticeships, education and training placements.

Users can also text our support team with any careers-related questions, and don't need to sign up to use this service. They will then be sent free confidential support to help them find their perfect job.

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Stargazzy and the Barn open from 27th Feb for weekends (Friday, Saturday & Sundays) until 27th March, then open 7 days a week.

ChatFuture text notifications are also available to parents, carers and teachers,

who can sign up to receive updates.

“ChatFuture is simple, secure and completely free. We hope as many young people as possible will give it a try to help turn ideas about their future into practical next steps and realise their potential.”

People can sign up to ChatFuture on the Council Website or get started by texting a careers-related question to 07312 263054.

Blowing Up A Storm

by David Keeble

It would be very easy to go banging on about the weather, goodness knows we have had a fair bit to deal with. My own experience includes trees down, a rhododendron shrub completely uprooted, Sky dish blown down from its mast and hours spent raking up the debris from lawns and driveway – not to mention mains power outages following the last blow and, at the time of writing, we have no mains water – ‘rant over’.

Moving on to more pleasant experiences – the daffodils started blooming in early December followed by a beautiful show of Snow Drops. Birds too have been a delight – on Boxing Day while watching the normal types feeding from the bird table, three starlings alighted and began to clear the food which had fallen to the ground. Not completely unknown but within minutes a flock descended and started to squabble over the food that remained. The sheer number of birds was huge, we estimated up to a hundred, we have never seen such numbers in the garden before. Another rare sighting on the 29th January was of a single Gold Crest – not uncommon in the UK but they are difficult to spot, their numbers are boosted by migrants from Scandinavia and Russia – as they are listed as the smallest bird in the UK, their migration is remarkable. Also spotted on the 29th January was



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Blowing Up A Storm

by David Keeble

the Green Finch – there were five birds, a lone male and four females. These birds were feeding on seed dropped from my feeders – always worth a mention as this bird species is in population decline, mostly due to a disease called Trichomonosis. The numbers have declined by 60% since 2008 – the main source of infection is thought to be from dirty feeding points, such as bird tables, so keep them clean to keep them healthy.

In between the harsh weather conditions there have been some calm and clear spells – on one of these occasions I spotted and heard a Mistle Thrush high in the top of an Elm tree – beautiful to hear and once heard you will remember the sound as it is quite unlike any other members of the Thrush family.

There is one other bird that has a similar song – it is the Golden Oriole – but as this bird is another migrant and rarely comes to the UK, most common in Europe, its song and plumage make it a special bird to spot.

As the evenings are becoming noticeably lighter we can look forward to more Spring flowers and warmer days.



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Domestic and Commercial

Cider and Orange Cake

recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com

Being Cornish through and through I love cakes where the main fruit is currants, although I do not think this is particularly from here! It was sent to me by a cousin who enthused over the flavours. I agree, the spice combination with the hint of orange is just wonderful, not to mention how wonderfully moist it is. Quite strange with no egg whites and cider as the liquid, but somehow it works. She was right. Trust me! It is utterly delicious.



You will need a 7 inch spring form cake tin, greased and lined. Pre heat your fan oven to 160C.

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Cider and Orange Cake

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4 oz of softened butter
6 oz castor sugar
2 large egg yolks
8 oz plain flour
1 teaspoonful baking powder
½ teaspoonful each of cinnamon and allspice
the grated zest of one large orange
8 oz currants
5 fl oz sweet cider

In a medium bowl, cream together the butter, and sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in the yolks. Mix together the flour, spices, fruit and zest. Tip into the butter mix along with the ciuder. Mix well and tip into your prepared tin and bake for about an hour. Cool in the tin for a bit, then when cold cover with an orange flavoured icing.

6 oz icing sugar
2 tablespoonfuls water approx, a few drops of orange extract
add some coconut to the mix if you wish! I did!
Spread over the top of your cider cake. I took the pic!! - Spread over the top of your cider cake. Enjoy! Wow!



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From China to Cornwall and beyond..

By Paul Matthews

Many plants, both wild and cultivated have a Cornish connection, after all we have a special and sometimes unique geology and many connections all over the world.

Pilea peperomioides or to use one of its common names, the Chinese Money Plant, was first collected by George Forrest in 1906, and again in 1910, in the Cang Mountain Range in Yunnan Province, China. Small plants of this were for sale at No Mans Land Hall last year and jogged my memory about the intriguing story of its introduction.



The renowned Scottish plant collector George Forrest collected plants and seeds extensively in the mountains of China from 1904 until his death in 1932. In 1945 the *Pilea* was rediscovered by a Norwegian missionary, Agnar Espegren, who was living with his family in Hunan province. They then flew to Kunming, in Yunnan, where they stayed for a week. There Espegren obtained a live sample of the plant (probably from a local market), packed it in a box and brought it, together with his family, to Calcutta, where they stayed for about a year. The Espegren family eventually arrived back in Norway in March 1946, with the plant surprisingly still alive.

The family travelled around Norway and gave sideshoots of the plant to friends along the way. In this way, the plant began to spread around Norway and then Sweden, England and beyond.

The story of the plant's introduction into cultivation was not understood until much later.

From China to Cornwall and beyond..

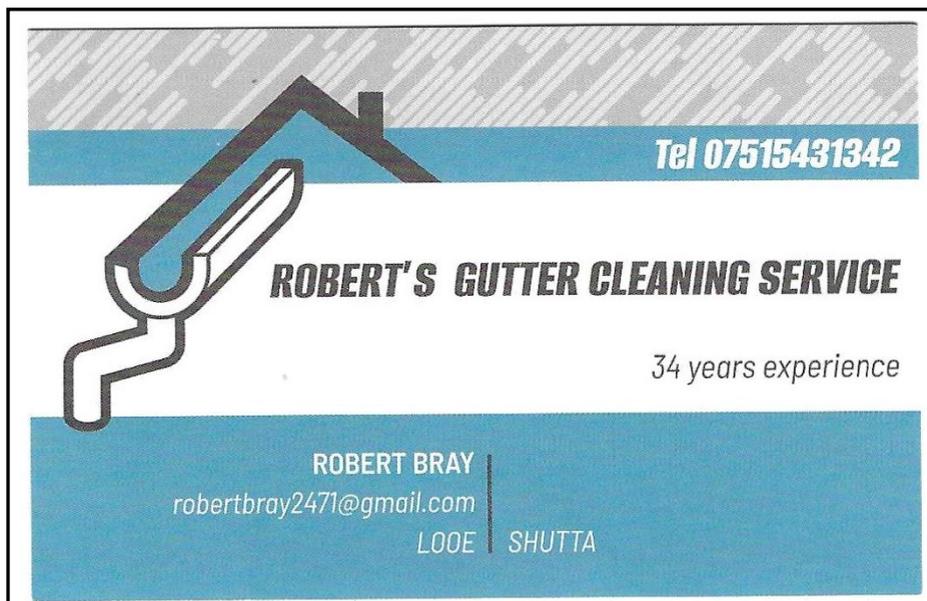
By Paul Matthews

The Pilea was commonly seen by the 1960s and 70s but was still a bit of a mystery to the botanical community. By the late 1980s the route this plant had taken from the wild to the windowsill of so many people was finally worked out.

In an attempt to clarify how it had travelled from Yunnan, an article was published in the Sunday Telegraph in January 1983, asking if anyone had any information on the introduction of the plant to Britain. Amongst the many replies received at Kew Gardens , one led to the answer.

'A family from Cornwall recounted how they had received the plant 20 years earlier. The young daughter of their Norwegian au pair went to Norway for a holiday with her family and they gave the girl a small specimen of the plant to bring back to England. That's how *Pilea peperomioides* arrived from China via Scandinavia to Cornwall and the UK.

It is now commonly seen in Garden Centres and plant sales.



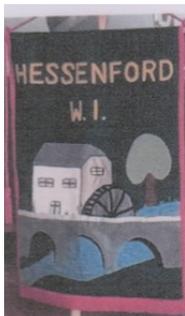
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