

# The Tresillian Magazine

## TRAM



Christmas 2020  
Number 187

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## Defibrillator Equipment

There are two defibrillators in the village; One on a wall between Mary's Pasty Shop and the Petrol Station, and one at the Methodist Chapel.

The code for opening both machines is **4680**, followed by a **tick**.

## Medical Prescriptions

Patients at Probus Surgery may now arrange to collect their prescriptions from the Texico Garage

This web version of TRAM is published by The Tresillian Residents Association and hosted on the Tresillian Village website by Keith Littlejohns.

Cover Photo: Helleborus × hybridus spotted, pink "Christmas Rose" © Keith Littlejohns  
The Helleborus niger, "Christmas Rose" symbolises serenity, tranquility and peace.

# Regular Gatherings

Due to Covid 9 restrictions, the following organisations may be subject to further lockdowns and social distancing procedures.

Listed are all of the regular users including some new groups with their telephone numbers but no dates and times added at present.

## Usually in the Village Hall

<b>Tresillian Singers</b>	Tuesday evenings	<b>At the Methodist Chapel</b>
<b>Michael's Dance School</b>	Wednesday evenings	<b>Tiddlywinks – Parent and toddler/baby group</b>
<b>Tresillian Dance Club (Modern sequence)</b>	Friday evenings	Friday mornings, 10.0 am to 12 noon

## Contacts

### Allotments Association:

Lorraine Sutton: 520 609  
Lesley Jones: 520 568

### Church:

**Church Hall; lettings:**  
Telephone 520 198 or 520 679

### Chapel:

Andrew and Helen Nicholson; 520 295  
Jean Tubb; 520 477

### Garden Club:

Lorraine Sutton; 520 609  
Cheryl Chatterton; 520 537

### Lunch Club:

Gillian Fielder; 520 566

### Midi Group:

Shirley Anderson: 520 372  
Ann Winter: 862 62

### Tiddlywinks:

Helen Nicholson; 520 295

### Village Hall; lettings:

Ann McCormick; 510 850

### Village Improvement Group:

Helen Nicholson; 520 295

### Walking Group:

Lesley Jones; 520 568

### GOVERNMENT

#### M.P.

Cherilyn Mackrory MP  
Lemon Chapel  
William Street  
Truro, TR1 2ED  
Phone: 01872 229698  
Email: [cherilyn.mackrory.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:cherilyn.mackrory.mp@parliament.uk)

#### Cornwall Council

Cllr.Mike Eathorne-Gibbons  
County Hall, Truro. Tel. 275007  
Mobile: 07979 864 555  
email: meathorne@cornwall.gov.uk

#### St Clement Parish Council

Mr |Tomas Hill (Clerk)  
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34 Penlee Villas  
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TR3 6EY  
Tel. 865 840  
email: [stclementpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stclementpc@hotmail.co.uk)

**The following organisations also use the Village Hall (telephone contact information)**

Beading Group	01872 580763
Cornish Dahlia Society	01208 814604
Craft Club	01736 794955
Duchy Opera Society	TBC
Friendship Quilters	01872 279063
Pilates	07720 274345
Quilters Dreckly	01872 520558
Saturday Evening Dances	01726 73100
Slimming World	07789 880206
South West Quilters	01637 875550

## **Tramlines**

**Nadelik Lowen ha Bledhen Nowyth Da**

**T**his is our second issue produced to sit on the Tresillian Village website due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. As you will see, we have lost a lot of friends over this year but not so many from the virus.

We are so fortunate to be living in a reasonably safe place compared with the rest of the country. Lets hope that the new jabs will be with us soon and the fact that we as a village are trying to be as safe as possible will help to keep us protected.

When it is safe to do so, we should be able to publish the TRAM in paper form again but for now, we will be using the website for the immediate future.

Please keep safe, Lesley

**On Behalf of the TRAM Production Team may I wish all our readers, helpers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Christmas and contentment in the year to come? To those who are ill, or have recently suffered bereavement and are not, understandably, of joyful mind: to those in any way troubled in this otherwise festive season, may you find ease and peace.**

# Tresillian Residents Association

Email: ljones23@btinternet.com

The TRESILLIAN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION was formed in 1968 and membership is open to all residents of the village and the surrounding district and to friends and associates of our community on payment of an ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, currently £5.00, which includes TRAM

THE ASSOCIATION IS NON-SECTARIAN AND NON-PARTY POLITICAL. Since 1983 regular meetings of the Association have been suspended, but can be reconvened if necessary to consider any important matter of interest or concern to village residents.

**TRAM** is published quarterly by the Association, usually in March, June, September and December, and is circulated and delivered to all Members of the Association. Additional copies, **subject to availability**, can be supplied at £1.25 per copy.

## MATERIAL FOR TRAM

Reports on the activities of village groups, organisations, places of worship etc; letters and suggestions, notices and small ads. should be sent to the editor:

### **Not later than Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for publication late March**

Articles, (humorous, historical, topical etc.) short stories, notices, poems, etc. are always welcome and should be sent to the editor. Subject to suitability and acceptance they will be published as soon as possible.

Opinions expressed in any article appearing in TRAM are not necessarily those of the Production Team. The Production Team reserves the right to publish or not to publish any article etc. submitted to it.

## Mobile Library update

The Mobile Library visits Tresillian every four weeks and is following Covid 19 restrictions.

This means that although we now have a new all singing and dancing library van, we are not allowed to enter the van and peruse the books on the shelves. Instead, we order books from Truro Library via the Cornwall County site and by using your library card number as your password, you can look through the book catalogue or add an author in the appropriate box and then you choose your books and pick them up off the van. This system is very useful and any book you reserve will not incur a charge.

Do make sure that you select the community van or you will have to pick up from Truro Library itself.

We often ask the librarian about any books on board by author and then we can pick them up on the day. All returned books go into a big box to be sanitised before being released into the system.

Library dates will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and the van stops on Heron Close, Tresillian between 3:25 to 3:50 p.m.

## **Diary at a Glance**

**D**ue to the lockdown, we have not been able to create the diary at a glance page at this time. As this is a web document, then we will hopefully be able to add details in due course.

### **Tiddlywinks**

Tiddlywinks is a friendly play group for babies and toddlers \*(under 5).

We hope to restart soon! Please look on the noticeboard or our Facebook page Tiddlywinks@Tresillian for updates. It'll be a bit different – think cafe style! Adults will need to bring a mask please. We will still have play time, snacks and craft but we will be starting with music time.

10 – 12 p.m. every Friday

@ Tresillian Methodist Chapel, Lower Park (near the playing field)

£2.50 donation (includes fruit snack)

Contact: Helen Nicholson

Tel: 01872 520295

helennicholson@resources24.net

### **Probus Surgery News – Prescriptions**

Probus Surgery's Dispensary have changed the delivery from the Garage back to Mary's Pasties.

You may leave a prescription in the box on the windowsill inside Mary's Pasties shop but don't forget to wear a face mask when you enter the shop .

## **Editor's Musings**

**Covid 19** has wreaked many of our village organisations reports but we have published as much as possible to keep you informed and up to date.

What a weird and unusual year this has been. We seemed to have come full circle with a second wave of Covid 19 restrictions but at least we are in Tier 1 which is less restricted than the majority of the country.

The year started normally and we had managed to get out our Winter edition of TRAM but by March, the news was all about a serious virus, which originated in China.

The TRAM team actually produced the Spring Edition 186 but we decided that it was too dangerous to ask distributors to go around posting paper editions and coming into contact with residents. So we came to the conclusion that we would post that edition on the Web.

Thanks go to Keith Littlejohns who hosted the edition on the Tresillian Village website but unfortunately not everyone has access to a computer or is happy with surfing the net.

This was a great shame as we had put our hearts and souls into this edition. We had lots of photographs in colour, showing flooding in Tresillian; walking group places; allotment, garden club and open garden news; and a line up of the litter pickers for the village improvement group.

Our main article was about the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE – Day 1945 with people from this village reminiscing using back copies from the TRAM. We added black and white photos of street parties and the Bugle Band walking through Bugle main street. We also showed photos of queues of people rationing and old ration books.

Should you wish to view the last edition then it is still up for grabs at [tresillianvillage.co.uk](http://tresillianvillage.co.uk).

If you haven't already registered with the Tresillian Village website, please do so at [tresillianvillage.co.uk](http://tresillianvillage.co.uk) to receive a link to download a digital copy as there will be no printed copy of this issue.

As we head towards Christmas, please keep as safe as possible and enjoy the brief respite from any restrictions in place at this time.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lesley

# Tresillian Walking Group

**D**ue to the Corona virus pandemic, the TWG had suspended walking as a group but had also been keeping in touch with everyone in the walking group.

Dave and I decided to walk on behalf of the group in early April. This was a local walk on a lovely day, which led us from home, up Fairfax Road and through the Iron Gate going onwards and returning through the fields of Trehane Barton Farm.

We set off passing the Tresillian Village Hall and through the Iron Gates as far as we could. This took us under the viaduct and up towards the drive of a private house. There we could have gone right carrying on over a bridge spanning a stream, which would have taken us across fields up to the Ladock road, a walk that we have done as a group before but we chose to go on the footpath at our left instead.



We walked straight up to the top hedge (steep hill by the way), and kept stopping, taking the time for photos through 360 degrees to take in the amazing views in the distance. We then turned right keeping the hedge on our left. We turned left again onto a farm track and instead of continuing down hill, right again until we came out at the Trehane Barton Farm gate.

We kept straight on the footpath until we came to a new wrought iron gate, then through this and onto the road with an old fashioned finger signpost pointing back to Tresillian. This led us downwards to our friend's farm, where we stopped and caught up with their news at a distance over the garden hedge before continuing back under the viaduct and past the village hall back to home.

The walk was about 3.7 miles. The weather was perfect and the 360 degrees views really lovely. There were loads of Primroses around the hedgerows to be seen.



We walked up through Pencalenick Woods in early May on a circular route and found more spring flowers all around. Foxgloves were developing and I was determined to revisit later on as they flowered. The walk started by the river at Pencalenick and then we wandered upward through various footpaths, passing the obelisk area and taking us high up through lots of open areas where vegetation had been cleared overlooking the road to Truro. We could see that there had been a field system with little areas enclosed by stone walls. This area had been covered with trees and bushes but now they could be easily seen and were being taken over with spring flowers and developing foxgloves, overlooking Pencalenick Lodge.

We entered the area where the Duchy team had been clearing areas of woodland and walked past huge stacks of log. We continued down to the main road and then walked along the cycle/footpath back home to Tresillian.

Towards the end of May, we revisited the woods starting along the main road and walking up to meet the log stacks on the right hand side. As we walked past the Lodge, we could hear classical music being played on a piano wafting up from the Lodge. Quite a surreal and enjoyable experience.

This part of the woodlands climbs upwards into an area of many trails. We took the first one on the right passing the large wood pile, which led us towards Truro and we continued along that path as it twisted and turned until we couldn't go any further.



The views over the Healy's Vineyard was right opposite us and we could see that hidden in the woodlands other areas had been cleared for more vines.

We walked back along the top path by the fields, which is normally very difficult due to brambles. They hadn't grown over the pathway at

this time so we could continue back down and then had to negotiate a very steep path that would be hazardous if wet, back to the area of many paths before picking up the trail towards Pencalenick, dropping onto the back road. We walked down towards the main road but then turned into the school road and walked along side the stream until we crossed over the pathway heading for the main road

Although I took a lot of photos of the Foxgloves on this trip, it wasn't until much later when I took a bus into Truro that I saw the splendour of all the cleared areas were covered in the most spectacular swathes of Foxgloves but unfortunately, I didn't have a camera with me!

Tresillian Walking Group meet on the first Saturday of each month at the start of the walk at 10.30am.



If you would like to join us on a walk, or ask any questions, then please contact me on 01872 520568

Lesley Jones

# A. J. Tullett

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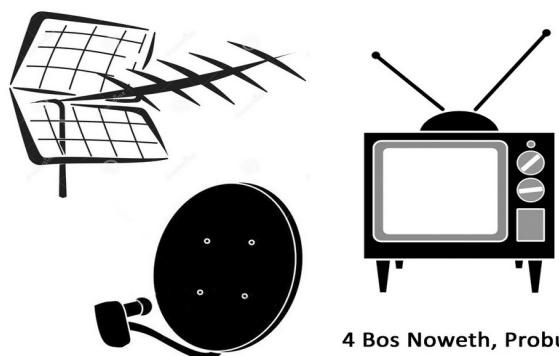
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# Tresillian Village Improvement Group

**T**resillian Village Improvement Group is a group of volunteers who do what we can to improve our village for the enjoyment of everyone. Our group started after conversations about marking the Queen's Golden Jubilee and over 18,000 daffodils later, we're still working together on various projects in the village. John Dobel was one of those who initiated those first conversations and we were all saddened by his death earlier this year. John was definitely a force for good in this village and we will miss his drive - and his stories, and we have the 'Contemplative Man' with his dogs on the river bank to remind us of him.

Another loss to the village is the departure of Alison and Simon from the Wheel Inn. They have been very supportive of our group, hosting fundraising events and lovely evening meals. They, and the Wheel, are sorely missed. We were pleased to be able to have a socially distanced farewell afternoon tea on the river bank in the summer –we joked this would be the social event of the year, and so it seems it might be!

We have persevered with the projects we can this year – litter picks had to be cancelled but we thought it important to provide flowers and colour in the planters during the summer to hopefully bring a smile in difficult circumstances. It nearly didn't come off as Truro City Council struggled to source plants, but they came up trumps and we hope you enjoyed their efforts. Volunteers water the planters and the boat, and keep the shrubbery in check – they know who they are and we are grateful for all their hard work. The parish council generously paid for all the planting this year apart from one planter, dedicated to the memory of Maisie Keverne, at the bottom of Polsue Way.

Most significant of the projects this year has been the installation of the standing soldier at the Memorial in the Playing Field. Les Sutton, a member of our group, explains:

"The idea of having a metal standing soldier for this memorial site was first mooted by our late dear friend John Dobel who was passionate about having one to complement the memorial. John and his wife Lesley carried out some research and costs of the metal ones and found that they were made with very thin metal. John and I had numerous discussions about the metal soldiers and we realised the cost factor was too much to find. Lesley came up with the idea of making one out of marine ply similar to the man and dog that John provided on the side of the main road through the village. Sadly, John is not with us to see the result of his idea, but I know he would have been so proud to have seen the end result".

Our thanks go to Lesley Dobel who financed the cost of the materials, Gaye Lush who designed and drew to scale the soldier, Graham Ellis who provided the brackets, Lasse Tillgren who cut the design out, Les Sutton who painted it with help from Keith Littlejohns, and Lasse and Jestyn Edwards who erected it. A real team effort! Although there was no formal service at the Memorial this year, an Act of Remembrance did take place with the soldier in place and we remembered those who died in the service of this country.



Photo: © Keith Littlejohns

If you have any ideas for further enhancement of our village, or would like to be involved with our group, then please contact Helen Nicholson:[helennicholson@resource24.net](mailto:helennicholson@resource24.net) or telephone on 01872 520295.

# Obituaries

The following names are of Tresillian and ex-Tresillian residents we have lost over this year.

Enyd Barron	Truro, formerly Polsue Way
Brian Bowden	Truro, formerly Carharthen Farm and Lamorran
Paul Collenette	Truro, formerly Carne Meadows
John Dobel	Higher Polsue Way
Maurice Dormer	Main Road, Tresillian
John Ellacott	Lower Park
Josephine Grey	Lamorran
Trevor Grose	Carnon Downs, formerly Treffry Farm
Lynne Hockey	Tregothnan Lodge
Pat (Patricia Julian)	Redruth, formerly Higher Polsue Way
Toni La Spada Shirley La Spada	Taunton, formerly Heron Close
Jim Lister	Polsue Way
John Mountjoy	Formerly Carne Meadows and Heron Close
Dave Race	Southampton, formerly Polsue Way
Tom Stephens	St Clement (Parish Councillor)
Mary Thomas	Hillside (Main Road)
Joan Thomasson	Polsue Way
Shirley Tullett	Lower Park
John Weekes Jill Weeks	Formerly Carne Meadows

Our thoughts are with you, your families and friends this Christmas

# Tresillian Allotment Association

When writing the Allotment report for Tram back in the winter of 2019, little did any of us know of what was just around the corner for us all in 2020, and how much we would come to value and treasure our green spaces.

For the first time since the allotments started back in 2013, all the plots are occupied, we were all looking forward to the growing year ahead, seeds had been ordered, onion sets and seed potatoes purchased and we were all looking forward to the warmer weather of Spring to restart tending our plots again.

The committee of the Tresillian Allotment Association (TAA), had applied and been successful in receiving a grant from our Cornwall Councillor Mr Mike Eathorne - Gibbons to purchase a small wooden shed and a camping loo. Fortunately this had all been sorted, purchased and delivered before March.

February saw Dave Jones and Colin Honey on a fairly dry day erecting the shed and installing the loo, while the ladies on the committee supervised!! We even had a solar light on the roof to provide an environmentally friendly light source. Unfortunately for the first time since the allotment site opened, a thief came onto the site at the beginning of September and stole the solar light along with 2 toilet rolls.

When the March lockdown was announced and life as we knew it over night ground to a halt, those of us with allotments were fortunate to be able to still work our plots, as it was deemed as exercise, as long as we followed the rules and guidelines laid out by the Government and the National Allotment Society.

The weather changed and out came the sun, a blessing to all under the circumstances, the plotters started to tend their plots in earnest, after all there were no excuses not to come to the site, no other social gathering or work commitments getting in the way of allotment time. The plots were dug and cleared of weeds, manure and feeds added, nets up and everything already by late April and May when a lot of the planting out is done we were all quietly pleased with ourselves that for once we were ahead of the game and because of this, the allotment site has looked fantastic this year.

Life in lockdown made us all appreciate our green spaces and gardens that we often take for granted, we had time to notice the small changes the different seasons bring, the way that trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials that have been dormant in the winter, slowly burst into life with leaf and flowers, heralding the arrival of spring and summer. Many had time now to noticed the sounds of nature particularly the birds singing and the bees humming, we had time to appreciate the wonders around us.

During the lockdown many people for the first time decided to have a go at growing their own vegetables and flowers from seeds and cuttings as the garden centres had to close. Without being able to buy pots and compost and plug plants, folk found ever inventive ideas of recycling things to

use as vessels to sow seeds and grow seedlings on till the time was right to plant out into the garden or containers, things like yogurt pots, empty food tins with holes punched in the bottom and egg boxes were used to start seeds and young cuttings off. Soil substituted bought commercial compost and labels were made out of wood, pebbles or cut from empty plastic margarine tubs, the little seedlings didn't seem to mind these second hand homes and grew away to become full sized plants in a few weeks, a reminder for some, that instant gardening, maybe takes away that thrill and wonder of seeing a tiny seed develop into a mature plant and the pride that you have grown and nurtured it yourself.

We try and run the allotment site as organically as possible, without the use of chemical pesticides and weed killers and instead rely on natural predators to sort out the pests, sometimes you have to have patience and time to realise that nature will balance the numbers in the end if given a chance, we have noticed an increase in ladybirds, wasps, birds and beetles all natural pest controllers visiting our plots to control aphids, caterpillars, slugs and snails, there has also been sightings of hedgehogs on the site, a good sign.

What will next year bring? who knows, but one thing you can be certain of, the allotmentees of Tresillian allotment site will be digging, hoeing, weeding, planting and growing their own fruit, vegetables and flowers as usual.

We hope everyone keeps safe and well in these strange troubled times.

Lorraine Sutton.



Mmm Strawberries



### Growing Herbs and Flowers

On our allotment, we grew the best set of onions and shallots this year. These were left out to dry and then stored upside-down in net bags in a cool place to be used throughout the coming year. They were originally bought as sets and Dave placed them in a tray on compost and let them grow some roots before putting them out in rows on the plot.

One of our plans was to grow carrots this year as so far we have never managed to raise any in previous years. We started out fine but hadn't realised that the few Nasturtiums from the previous year had set hundreds of seedlings, which smothered the carrots. HeyHo maybe next year!

This autumn, some of the plot members gave the Millennium trees a makeover with lower straggly limbs being trimmed or removed to get air around the trees. We always lose one or two trees over the winter months but the rest of the trees are healthy. Geoff Jones and Leslie Sutton placed bat and bird boxes on the trees and we hope to have table and bench seats over in this area next year so that we can have somewhere to sit and contemplate our plots.

Lesley Jones

## Views from the Allotments

We are so fortunate with such lovely surroundings.

It can get quite windy up here but there are some plots on slopes, which means that the produce sometimes is ready earlier than from other plots.

Lots of flowers are sown to encourage bees and other insects to pollinate our plants



We have been using net polytunnels and home made cages for some brassicas crops such as cabbages and fruits to try and stop caterpillars or other predators getting in and ruining the produce.

# **St. Clement Parish Council**

**T**hese are as strange times for St. Clement Parish Council as for all other organisations – and people!

For a start we are becoming accomplished users of Zoom in order to hold our meetings. Happily, members of the public who have an interest in what we are considering have been able to join us, usually by telephone link, and contribute in the normal way by means of our introductory ‘Open Forum’.

There is little to report.

Several Planning Applications have been passed to us by Cornwall Council, which we have considered and sent back our observations and comments

Parking, and associated problems with access for buses and emergency vehicles continue to be a problem in Malpas and, together with Cornwall Council, we are endeavouring to, if not yet resolving the situation, in some way to temporarily alleviate it.

Some nine months ago I facetiously suggested that however long the Covid-19 horror lasted the end of it would precede the life of the three-way traffic lights at Polsue Way – Heron Close – Carne Meadows. Happily, I was wrong on that, and traffic and pedestrians can now pass peacefully.

Thanks to all concerned in building the Great Wall of Tresillian to stabilise the offending strata.

Sadly, in the months of our Lock-down we have learned of the deaths of two former Parish Councillors: Mary Thomas and Tom Stevens. They are remembered for their services to the Community. During her time on the Parish Council Mary was our representative Governor for Tresillian Infants School.

If there is anything you wish to bring to the attention of St. Clement Parish Council please do not hesitate to contact our Clerk.

George Doherty  
Chairman

Cllr. George Doherty (Chairman)  
Cllr. Theresa Cowling (Vice chair)  
Cllr. Richard Fawcett  
Cllr. Linda Hitchcox  
Cllr. Keith Littlejohns  
Cllr. David Stone  
Cllr. Peter Thomas

Your Cornwall Councillor is  
Cllr. Mike Eathorne-Gibbons

The Clerk to the Parish Council is Mr Tomas Hill  
Correspondence details:  
email (preferred) stclementpc@hotmail.co.uk

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# Tresillian Village Playing Field Committee

Well, what a strange year! I've just looked back at the report I wrote in early March and almost everything got cancelled and we had to close the play equipment for a while – really wasn't expecting that! But, certainly for my family, the playing field has been such an important place to enjoy running around and getting the benefit of fresh air this year. My particular thanks to the volunteers who kept it maintained.

We are still waiting on an insurance claim to mend the wall knocked down by a car at the end of last year. More exciting is that we were successful in obtaining the Green Flag Community Award, after an out-of-the-blue visit by a judge in the summer. This recognises green space which is managed to a quality standard by volunteers for the community – think beach Blue Flags but for green space! We are really pleased to have this recognition.



The closure of the Wheel Inn is a huge loss to the community and the Playing Field benefitted significantly from the Bonus Ball competition which was run by Simon and Alison. This raised funds for upkeep so we're hoping fundraising events can start again soon. We're very excited to announce (but you may have noticed by the time you read this) that we will be having a Christmas tree this year – decorated with sponsored baubles and lights. Our particular thanks to Tregothnan, Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons and Ellis Electrical for making this happen. Please sponsor a bauble for £5 by contacting Helen Nicholson (07791371933) or Andrew Tullett (07967953294) – all proceeds go to keeping the Playing Field open and available for everyone to enjoy. Watch out for lights switch on during the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> December hopefully.

We will plan more when the COVID pandemic permits - watch out for posters, or follow our Facebook page. The Playing Field is for everyone to enjoy, so please come along and enjoy it – and keep safe and well!

Helen Nicholson, Chair – Playing Field Management Committee

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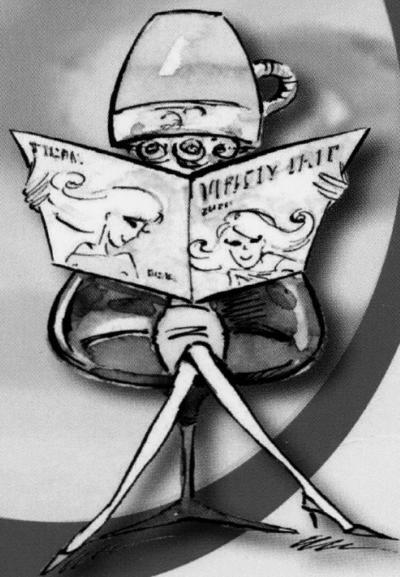
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*Home visits*

*Beginners welcome*



## **2020 - A year for reflection and taking a greater interest in the natural world**

Since SARS-CoV-2 hit the headlines it has become blatantly even more obvious that unsustainable human interaction with the natural world has, is and will continue to cause severe problems across the entire breadth and depth of life on our planet unless properly addressed. Only human beings have it in their gift to alter course. With a human population increasing exponentially coupled with diminishing natural resources and intense competition for habitat an answer has urgently to be found. Facing up to a major requirement for provision of food and water to sustain soon to be 10,000,000,000 [ $1 \times 10^{10}$ ] humans as well as all other living creatures and organisms makes this critical situation all the more daunting

The other day I was reflecting upon my time whilst a boy scout in the early/mid 1960s. I clearly recall sitting and chatting with a small group of fellow scouts beside a beautiful brook adjacent our summer of 1965 camp site in the Quantocks. All of us grew up in the leafy London suburb of Ealing and had some degree of appreciation for the natural world. Two of our company were sons of the Stowell family that gave their name to the well known wine merchant and who, like others of us scouts, had an interest in wildlife. Our conversation mostly centred around the natural environment and how important it was to conserve it. The most poignant and prophetic part of that conversation came back to me suddenly with a thud. We came to the conclusion that, as teenagers, we may well be the last young generation to have witnessed first hand the diversity and abundance of wildlife and nature as it was then.

Back in the 60s we were well aware that a considerable amount of wildlife had already been in decline for quite some time, but the massive 56%<sup>1</sup> depletion of flora and fauna across our island nations between 1970 and 2013 beggars belief. Of the nearly 8,000 species assessed using modern Red List criteria, 15% are extinct or threatened with extinction from Great Britain.

Although this makes for depressing reading, the myriad threats to our country's remaining natural heritage is being tackled head on thanks to greater public awareness, active habitat protection and pressure groups as well as targeted organised restoration of habitats and species that has, to date, yielded some success. Introduction of such measures, including vitally important wildlife corridors, has shown that some species have increased in population density and spread, which is good news, but a great deal more still needs to be undertaken. It is noticeable that the current surge of interest in attempting to reverse and tame the excesses executed over decades has gathered resonance across all generations. Inevitably it is always the young who will inherit the state of the world, which is why my scout camp conversation of some 55 years ago came back to me the other day with significant meaning.

I would like to thank all of the contributors who have responded to my request to send me photos and notes of their observations of wildlife in our village and its environs for publishing on the village website. The more observations that are reported the greater the understanding will be of the diversity and population density of wildlife in our locality.

The Wildlife and Natural History section's home page on the Tresillian Village Website also has a number of links to items of wildlife interest. <https://tresillianvillage.co.uk/tresillian-wildlife>

Keith Littlejohns

<sup>1</sup>State of Nature 2016 report, with foreword by Sir David Attenborough.

## A Year of Wildlife As Seen and Reported In and Around Our Village

The following is a selection of wildlife photos and reports posted on the Tresillian Village Website.  
More is available on the website.

All photos are strictly © Copyright owned by their named author

### 29-01-2020 Some lovely photos by Fred Taylor at 'The Old Post Office' cottage near the bridge



Kingfisher



Mother swan with brood of cygnets



Little Egret, Tresillian River.

All Photos: © Fred Taylor. Please note that some of Fred's photos were taken in 2019.

**25-03-2020 Philip Buddell, swans nesting on Tresillian River bank**



Amidst all the depression of the news and coronavirus, it is heartwarming to find nature still giving us enormous pleasure and so much for which to be thankful!

Opposite our home the swans, Elizabeth and Philip, the queen and her consort, have taken up residence by a hedge at the back of the riverside meadow, where Linda and I have provided them with two small hay bales and more recently a half bale of straw with which to build their nest. There was previously a decided lack of nesting material, though for once the site they have chosen will be above spring high tide levels and there is every chance on success with incubation. Presently the queen is still laying her eggs. I counted six 3 days ago, and I feel sure more have since been laid though I do not want to disturb her to find the current number. I'll discover more with discrete site visits during the coming days. The pen really does look like a queen on her throne, hence we thought Elizabeth and Philip most appropriate!

I do hope your followers will enjoy this snap. More will follow as the incubation proceeds.

Best wishes, Philip Buddell

## **29-03-2020 Philip Buddell, swans nesting on Tresillian River bank**



Photo: © Philip Buddell

While the pen was having a feed at the foot of our slipway yesterday, Sunday, afternoon, I made a brief trip to the nest where she has started incubating and counted 9 eggs, so a good clutch this year which we will do all we can to help them be successful. It will be some 6 weeks before we see any cygnets.

I do hope your followers will enjoy this continuing story. More will follow as the incubation proceeds.

Best wishes, Philip Buddell

## **Follow up report: 02-05-2020 Philip Buddell, Wildlife Spotted in Village**

May 2nd is a great day for the river life of Tresillian. First this morning the resident house martins finally arrived along with a pair of swallows which haven't resided here for the past 3 years. Already nest building is taking place. Then late this morning we noticed greater activity on the swans' nest, and this afternoon we have so far counted 3 cygnets under the pen; she will continue sitting until all fertile eggs have been hatched which could take another 2/3 days. We will keep you informed and take some more photos when appropriate.

Best wishes, Philip Buddell

## 29-03-2020 Keith Littlejohns, blackbirds nesting beside leat



Photo: © Keith Littlejohns

I discovered this blackbird, *Turdus merula* nest only yesterday, 29th March whilst working in our back garden. It is very well camouflaged in the lichen encrusted branches of an old damson tree on the opposite bank of the leat that runs along the bottom of our garden. The position is excellent being not only well hidden but also several feet above ground and hanging over the water below. Safe and secure enough from predatory large birds and prowling domestic moggies.

Blackbirds (males are black, females are brown) feed on insects and earthworms taken from the ground either by probing the ground, such as a lawn, and can often be seen having a tug of war with the odd earthworm from ours. They will also noisily turn over leaf litter with their bill foraging for worms and insects that take their gastronomic fancy. Our garden is on the edge of deciduous woodland, where many birds have an abundance of natural foods to choose from.

Cotoneaster berries and windfall fruits such as apples provide blackbirds with a valuable source of food come autumn. They also ground feed on fallen scraps under our bird feeding station.

Our native blackbirds are mostly resident all year round, with numbers in winter being swelled by their cousins migrating from Scandinavia and northern Europe.

Breeding usually starts in March. The smooth, glossy eggs are light greenish-blue with reddish-brown spots, and approximately 29 mm by 22 mm. The female incubates the eggs by herself. She can lay 2-3 clutches of 3-5 eggs. Incubation takes from 10-19 days. After the young hatch, they are fed by both parents.

The blackbird's beautiful, mellow song is one of the loveliest of all songbirds and a delight to the ear.

I needed to use a long lens because the best, and least disturbing for the birds, vantage point was some 12m-15m away. Although I think this male blackbird had his sharp beady eye firmly fixed on me.

I hope you enjoyed the photo and information, Keith Littlejohns

### **05-04-2020 Philip Buddell, First Swallow of Season Spotted in Village**

Yesterday, Saturday afternoon, 4th April, I saw the first swallow of the season flying up-stream past our home, no doubt on his/her way to points much farther north than Tresillian. Can't recall having seen one of our African visitors here as early as this in the past, and he/she was no doubt carried along by the strong southerly winds emanating from North Africa and Spain.

Best regards, Philip

### **02-05-2020 Philip Buddell, Wildlife Spotted in Village**

May 2nd is a great day for the river life of Tresillian. First this morning the resident house martins finally arrived along with a pair of swallows which haven't resided here for the past 3 years. Already nest building is taking place. Then late this morning we noticed greater activity on the swans' nest, and this afternoon we have so far counted 3 cygnets under the pen; she will continue sitting until all fertile eggs have been hatched which could take another 2/3 days. We will keep you informed and take some more photos when appropriate.

Best wishes, Philip

### **10-05-2020 Swan Family photo by Fred Taylor at 'The Old Post Office' cottage near the bridge**



We had a visit from the swans and their family on the Tresillian River behind the Old Post Office yesterday and I thought you might like these for the website. They were taken on my phone, when they come back I will try to get some with my camera. Nice to see 6 of the 9 eggs are doing well and being looked after by mom and dad.

Best wishes, Fred Taylor

Photo: © Fred Taylor

## 15-05-2020 Fred Taylor, Wildlife Seen in Village

I don't know if Philip Buddell has told there is a pair of Moorhens up by us that have 3 chicks, I don't think they venture very far from where we are. I have been trying to get pictures of them, I will send them to you if I can get some.

Did I tell you that there has been a couple of Dippers that nest under the bridge somewhere, they have had chicks, not sure how many. We see them start quite early in the year and again later in the year. Apparently, Dippers will use the same nest for generations, they are very busy up and down the river, they are also interesting to watch when they are looking for food. I will try to get pictures of them to pass on to you.

Best wishes, Fred Taylor

## 01-06-2020 Keith Littlejohns, *Sphinx ligustri* the Privet Hawk-Moth



Photographed in shrubbery beside the Tresillian Allotment gate the distinctive delta shape and banded body colours of the large privet hawk-moth, *Sphinx ligustri* makes it easy to spot.

Privet hawk-moths are common across southern and central England and Wales. They are regular visitors to suburban parks and gardens as well as woodland, hedgerows and the wider countryside. These moths feed by night but can sometimes be found resting on tree trunks during the day. They typically have a 9-12cm wingspan, hence their common reference as large. Adults are on the wing between June and July. They are strong fliers and range widely in search of mates.

The UK's population is stable and not thought to be under threat,

however the rapid spread of ash dieback disease could impact the abundance of suitable caterpillar food plants on which to lay eggs. You can encourage these moths to visit your garden by planting strong-scented night flowers.

Keith Littlejohns

Photo: © Keith Littlejohns

### **03-06-2020 Fred Taylor, Another Family of Swans Seen in Village**

Did you see that there was another family of swans that had ventured up the river on Sunday? They had 8 cygnets who were younger than our resident cygnets.

It all kicked off after we had fed them, the 2 males got in to a vicious fight, obviously the resident male was not happy that another male and family were on his territory. He saw off the intruders and they went further up the river, we haven't seen the new family since but I did manage to get some pictures of them. There were feathers everywhere.

Best wishes, Fred Taylor

### **09-06-2020 Keith Littlejohns, Common Toad, *Bufo bufo* Seen in Village**

A common toad, *Bufo bufo* on a scrubby part of our lawn left unmown to encourage daises, *Bellis perennis* and buttercups, *Ranunculus spp.* to grow. Common toads are frequently seen in our garden as there seems to be a sizeable community in our immediate vicinity.

They visit our pond and I have even found them in my wellington boots and gardening boots in our garage early in the year having hunkered down there for winter. The very first time I noticed this was whilst putting on one of my boots and feeling what I thought was an old sock stuck in the toe area only to be surprised to see a rather disgruntled toad looking at me through sleepy eyes. I now always check more carefully as this has happened on more than one occasion!



Common toads are amphibians, breeding in ponds during the spring and spending much of the rest of the year feeding in woodland, gardens, hedgerows and tussocky grassland. They are famous for their mass migrations back to their breeding ponds on the first warm, damp evenings of the year, often around St. Valentine's Day, nudge nudge wink wink.

Common toads tend to breed in larger, deeper ponds than common frogs, but still frequent gardens. They hibernate over winter, often under log piles, stones or even in old flower pots!

The common toad has olive-brown, warty skin, copper eyes and short back legs. It walks rather than hops, and lays its spawn in long strings around aquatic plants, with two rows of eggs per string.

Adult toad's reach a length of 8-13cm, weigh up to 80g, have an average lifespan is up to 4 years and are generally active from February to October. All toad's are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

Keith Littlejohns.

Photo: © Keith Littlejohns

## 06-07-2020 Fred Taylor, Dippers and Kingfisher Seen in Village



© All Photos: Fred Taylor

I took these this afternoon, the kingfisher looks like a juvenile female. I have seen 3 different kingfishers so far this year.

The dippers have been very busy feeding their young as you can see from these pictures. They are amazing parents

Best wishes, Fred Taylor

## 10-09-2020 Keith Littlejohns, Some Common Visitors to Our Garden Bird Feeding Station



Female Blue Tit, *Cyanistes caeruleus*, feeding on sunflower seeds.

Adult Great Tit, *Parus major*, waiting patiently for a chance to feed.



Juvenile Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*, feeding on their favourite Nyjer seeds.



Adult Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*, feeding on their favourite Nyjer seeds. These tiny, oil-rich, energy-giving black seed are highly nutritious.

The seed of the African yellow daisy, *Guizotia abyssinica*, Nyjer is known by many names. The birdseed was originally called niger in reference to Nigeria and the plant's geographic origin. The name was trademarked as Nyjer® in 1998 by the Wild Bird Feeding Industry, however, to clarify proper pronunciation (NYE-jerr). Many birders also call it thistle seed, but Nyjer is not related to thistle plants, flowers, or seeds. It is believed that calling the seed thistle may have become popular because goldfinches, which adore Nyjer, also feed on thistle and use thistledown to construct their nests.

Keith Littlejohns

All Photos: © Keith Littlejohns

## 21-09-2020 Philip Buddell, Swans Seen in Village



Thought you might like an up-to-date snap of the swan family, the cygnets now 4.5 months old, already flying, squabbling like any teenagers, and feasting on their morning supply of poultry grain following a loaf of wholemeal bread. This is the perfect way to start the day both for them and us – how privileged we are to have these magnificent birds at the end of our garden and to be able to enjoy their company in such otherwise depressing times.

Philip Buddell

Photo: © Philip Buddell

## October/November 2020 Keith Littlejohns, Some More Common Wildlife Visitors to Our Garden and Other Wildlife



An adult male Blackbird, *Turdus merula* feasting on ripened, bright white cordyline berries from this year's flowering in our back garden.

© All photos Keith Littlejohns

Hairy lichen (fruticose) 'Old man's beard', *Usnea cornuta* or *Usnea ceratina*, and the flat lichen (foliose), *Parmotrema reticulatum* together on a Silver Birch, *Betula pendula* branch in our back garden.

Lichens thrive best in areas of clean air, so are a good indicator of air quality. *Usnea cornuta* is common to SW England and Wales, rarer in other areas and is mostly seen on branches of trees. *Parmotrema reticulatum* is mostly common to southern English coastal counties from Cornwall to Kent, with the densest areas of occurrence being in the south west.

Lichens are actually fungi with a difference. They contain an alga, which can be the Green Algae [*phylum Chlorophyta*] or the Blue-Green Algae [*phylum Cyanobacteria*]. Therefore, the fungus and alga are a dual functioning organism working in tandem. The algae are photosynthetic and thereby fix the sun's energy, so one can think of a lichen as a fungus with solar energy cells.





A Common field grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus* climbing a *Restio multiflorus* stem in our semi-tropical garden area.

The Common Field Grasshopper is seen throughout most of the UK and can be found in dry grassy areas, meadows, fields, parks, roadsides and even on waste land. Length, typically 15-25 mm. Colour varies; although predominantly brown some can be green, some grey and some are even a purplish colour.

During the summer female field grasshoppers lay a large egg pod containing approximately fifteen eggs, which she buries just below the surface of dry soil. The pod case keeps the eggs safe over winter until spring when the young nymphs hatch. Nymphs, shed their skins three to four times before eventually becoming fully grown adults.

Common Field Grasshoppers are herbivorous, feeding mainly on grasses. The species is winged, flies well and has been known to swarm.

An adult female Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla* feeding on attractive white autumn berries from a summer flowering of two Cornish/Torbay palms, *Cordyline australis* in our back garden.

The Blackcap breeds in much of Europe, favouring deciduous woodland. The nest is a neat cup, built low in brambles or scrub, and the clutch is typically 4–6 mainly buff eggs, which hatch in about 11 days.

Insects are the main food in the breeding season, but, for the rest of the year, blackcaps survive primarily on small fruit. Garden birds also eat bread, fat and peanuts in winter.



Keith Littlejohns

© All photos Keith Littlejohns

## 06-10-2020 Philip Buddell, Update on Swans in Village

Some sad news this morning, with one of the 5 cygnets having died on the river at 9am. The bird had not taken food for two days and was acting differently earlier this morning, having paddled downstream for some distance on its own before the rest of the family caught up with it and ushered it back here; briefly it got out of the water on the opposite bank, but then joined the rest and swam over to 'our' side, where it laid its neck along its back, then gave two soft beats of its wings and passed away. We have now lifted the bird out of the water and put it in our dinghy, but will take it downstream later for a ceremonial departure. We cannot get hold of either the RSPB or RSPCA to see if they would have liked to conduct an autopsy, since both organisations are now only taking emergency calls.

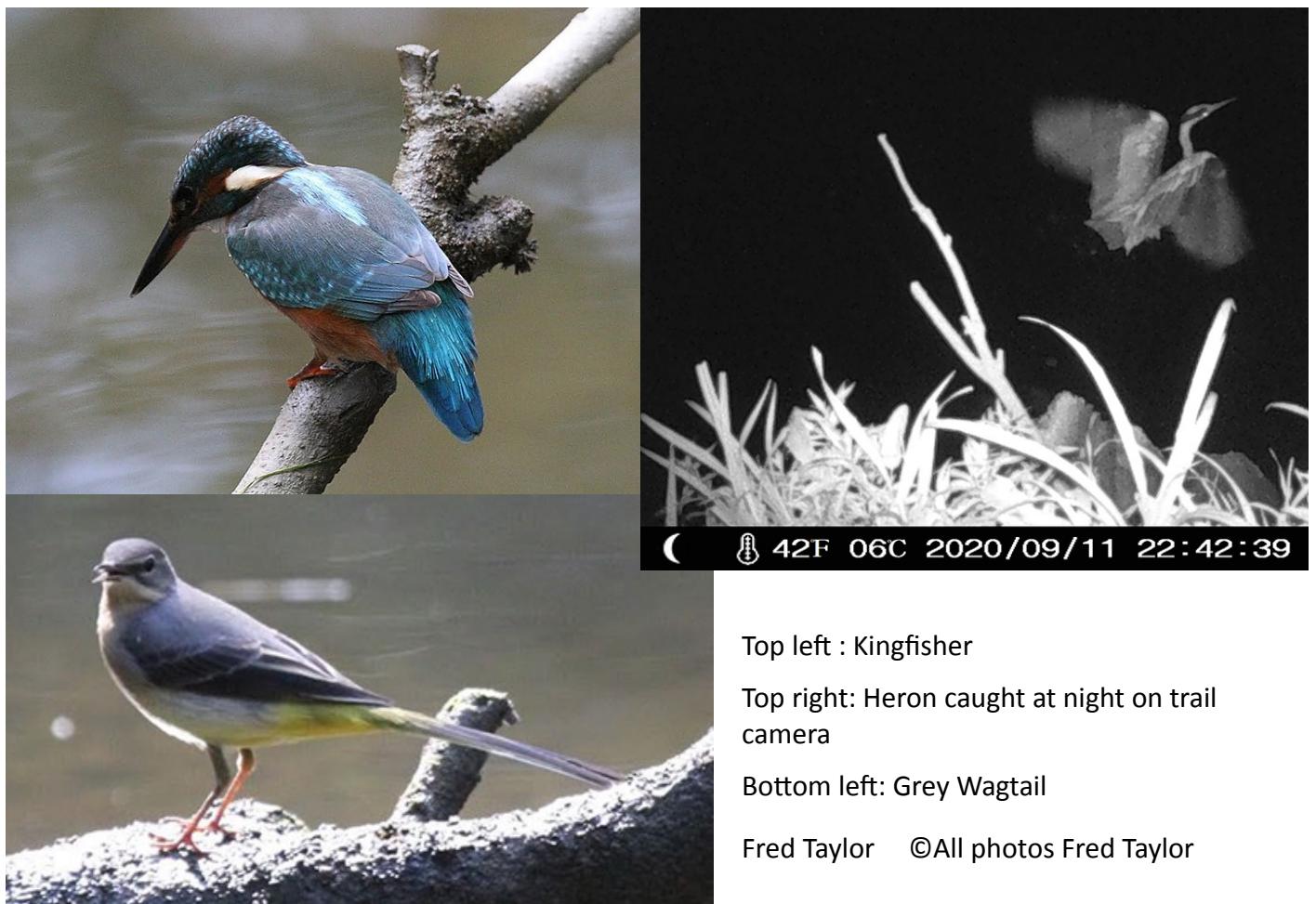
The rest of the family all look fine and are eating as normal, but it's a very sad day here after 5 months of daily caring for the family.

## September/October 2020 Fred Taylor, Kingfisher, Wagtail and Heron at night

Just a few of the pictures taken over the last couple of months. I bought some camouflage netting and have been able to watch the kingfishers feeding and preening themselves and they don't feel threatened. I have spent hours watching them and managed to get over 2000 pictures since July.

Also photographed a grey wagtail that has been about for the last week or so. I also have an infrared camera that I leave out, I didn't realise that Herons are moving around at ten o'clock at night.

Hope everyone is well and staying safe during the pandemic.



Top left : Kingfisher

Top right: Heron caught at night on trail camera

Bottom left: Grey Wagtail

Fred Taylor ©All photos Fred Taylor

## 12-11-2020 Keith Littlejohns, Birdlife at Tresempole Pond, next to Tresillian River



Majestic Canada Geese flying over Tresempole Pond by Tresillian River.

The Canada goose, *Branta canadensis* is the largest and most familiar goose seen in the UK. Commonly nesting on park lakes, flooded gravel pits and reservoirs and can be seen all year round. Canada geese are a non-native species, having been introduced from North America some 300 years ago to the UK in St. James's Park, London, in the 17th century. Since then they have spread widely across the UK to most areas apart from the far north of Scotland.

The success of this common park species has led to its often being considered a pest species because of its excrement, its depredation of crops, its noise, its aggressive territorial behaviour towards both humans and other animals, and its habit of begging for food (caused by human hand feeding).

Canada geese are primarily herbivores, although they will sometimes eat small insects and fish. Diet mostly includes green vegetation and grains. The Canada goose eats a variety of grasses when on land.

Canada geese start breeding during their second year and remain monogamous. The female lays from two to nine eggs with an average of five, and both parents protect the nest while the eggs incubate, but the female spends more time at the nest than the male. Their nest is usually located in an elevated area near water such as streams, lakes, ponds. Eggs are laid in a shallow depression lined with plant material and down.

Adult: Length: 55-100cm , wingspan: 1.6m , weight: 4.6kg.

Average lifespan: 6 years. They are a protected species in the UK.

Photo: © Keith Littlejohns



Little Egret at dusk on Tresemples Pond by Tresillian River looking for an evening takeaway.

The Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* is actually a small white member of the heron family. It first appeared in the UK in significant numbers in 1989 and first bred on Brownsea Island, Dorset in 1996. Its colonisation followed naturally from a range expansion into western and northern France in previous decades. It is now at home on numerous south coast sites, including our area of Cornwall, both as a breeding species and as a winter visitor.

Habitat: Lakes, marsh, flooded fields and estuary.

Length: 60cm, wingspan: 92cm, weight: 450g.

Average lifespan: 5 years.

Diet: Mainly aquatic insects, crustaceans, fish, amphibians, molluscs, reptiles, worms, spiders, and small birds. They feed alone or in small groups.

Little Egrets nests are placed on the ground or in reed beds, in trees up to 20 metres above the ground, or in bushes, always near water or on it. The nest-site may be situated in flooded areas or wooded islands, but also in marsh vegetation.

They breed from second year of life. Female lays 4 to 5 green-blue eggs and has one brood per season.

Keith Littlejohns

All Photos: © Keith Littlejohns

## LOCKDOWN BIRDING IN TRESILLIAN – BIRD’S EYE VIEW

**D**uring this extraordinary and challenging year, many people have found solace in the rhythms of nature. With many restrictions in life, to live somewhere like Tresillian in the heart of the Cornish countryside has been a great relief when in other parts of the country, people spent weeks on end stuck in high rise tower blocks.

At the beginning of the first Lockdown back in March, when all non-essential travel was banned, I decided to keep a list of all the different bird species I saw in and around Tresillian within walking distance. As I write this in late November, the total is now over 80 species. Here are some of the highlights of the last eight months:

Everyone in Tresillian will be familiar with Canada Geese, but we have also been visited by two more unusual Goose species this year. First in March, a Pink Footed Goose was around for a couple of weeks (spending some of its time just over the wall by the Texaco garage), while in October, I found a Russian White Fronted Goose among the hundreds of Canada Geese on the Tresillian River. Both of these species are winter visitors to the UK from the far north, but are scarce visitors to Cornwall. The Pink Foot breeds in Iceland, Greenland and Svalbard, while the White Fronted Goose has two sub species, one that breeds in Greenland, the one that breeds in northern Russia. Single birds will often seek a larger goose flock to adopt it for safety, so it's often worth trawling through a large flock of Canada's to see if anything else is hiding within it.

Birds of prey have shown well this year in Tresillian. Back in May there was a major Red Kite influx to Cornwall during the VE day weekend. Hundreds of birds were seen moving through the county to the far west of Cornwall. The Monday after saw a sharp dip in temperature and saw many of the birds returning back “up country”. To our good fortune, some of them decided to head back via the Tresillian valley and many people spotted them. I saw a total of 18 pass through during that afternoon – easily a single day record for Tresillian. Meanwhile an Osprey was a real highlight hunting on the river in September. Ospreys have been seen more often in recent years in September along the Tresillian River as they migrate to winter in Africa from their nesting areas in northern Britain. At least one bird was seen on and off during a three-week period through the month. To watch this mighty bird plunge into the water feet first and pull out a sizeable fish, and powerfully rise out the water with its quarry clasped in its talons, is one of the great sights in nature.

We always have a decent number of Shelduck on the river through the winter months (around thirty), but most disperse late in the spring. In some years a pair decide to stay on and breed, and that's what happened again this year. Initially 14 tiny ducklings were seen. They are able to swim as soon as they hatch, but are very vulnerable to predators or being swept away by the current. It was absorbing to watch them develop each week, and I'm glad to say four of the youngsters made it to adult independence and fledged in the summer. On the subject of ducks, a drake Pintail was a real surprise on Tresempole Pool in October. I found this bird just two minutes after finding the White Fronted Goose! A Pintail is a smart looking duck with chocolate coloured head, a yellow rump and a pronounced pointed tail. Not a common bird at all in Cornwall, this was the first I had seen along the Tresillian River for 25 years!

It's been a very good autumn for Firecrests. These are beautiful, tiny little birds, the same size as the more common Goldcrest (with whom they sometimes mix with, and are Britain's smallest birds), but with much bolder and brighter markings. A few nest in Britain, but most of the birds that turn up in autumn and winter are migrants from the continent. I've seen ones or twos in Tresillian before, but I've seen quite a few different sightings this autumn in the village and along by the river. One even turned up in a bush two feet away from our living room window!. A Yellow Browed Warbler was a really surprising garden visitor in late October and was seen around the garages at the top of Polsue Way that afternoon. Only marginally larger than a Firecrest, this species is an annual scarce visitor to the UK from northern Siberia. Most of these migrate to spend the winter in southern Asia, but a few each year head south westwards instead and end up in our country. Normally about a dozen might be reported in Cornwall each autumn/ winter. This year though there seems to be an increased number of sightings. and it's very likely there's been some kind of small influx with an amazing 25 individuals being seen by one observer on the Isles of Scilly in one day!

The quiet of the first lockdown gave an opportunity to hear birds in a way that is not normally possible. In the reed bed near the Audi garage, Reed Warblers could be heard calling, and could be glimpsed precariously clinging on to the reed tops. These birds are summer migrants and were nesting here. I've never seen or heard them in Tresillian before. It's not clear whether they came because it was so much quieter than normal, or whether they have come in other years, but were only noticed this year because they could be heard as oppose to being drowned out by the traffic on the main road.

Kingfishers are always one of the star birds to look for along the river and have been very active of late. One or sometimes two can often be seen at Tresempole Pool, and another favoured site is near the waterfall on the footpath over the waterfall. Sometimes one can even be seen from the Texaco garage – it's always worth looking out over the wall! This beautiful bird is often high on the bucket list for people to see, and it's surprising just how many people have never seen one. If you're patient and wait by somewhere like Tresempole Pool, you're almost bound to see one eventually if you watch carefully. Listen out for a high- pitched trill and you will often see a flash of blue flying low over the water; hovering and diving for small fish, or perched in a tree by the pool.

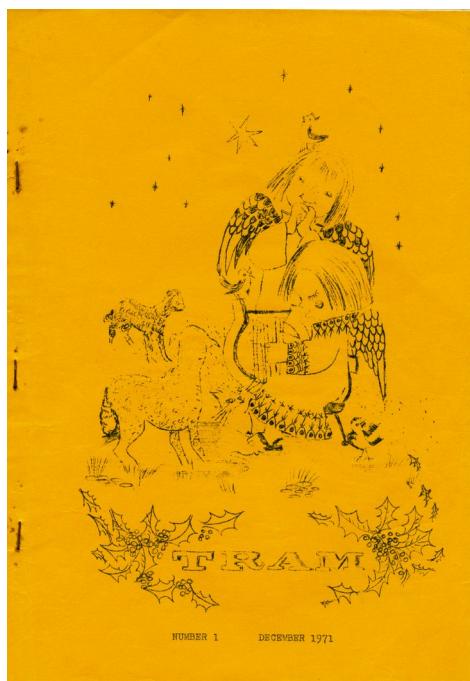
As well as birds, there have been plenty of other highlights in the natural world to enjoy locally. Back in the spring I had several sightings of Fallow Deer. On one occasion there was a small group making its way along the edge of the far side of the river bank right opposite the village and another time I came face to face with one on the Pencalenick road whilst on my bike. There was a fantastic display of bluebells around by the obelisk in late April and May, while in June there were thousands upon thousands of foxgloves blazing in the clearing by between the obelisk and main road in Pencalenick woods, an amazing sight!

There have been many challenges this year and I'm sure some of these will last well into the New Year, but enjoying and experiencing the natural world around us is one thing that can help sustain us through difficult times.

Andrew Nicholson

## Nostalgia Page

How many people are there among the readership who could recognise the very first edition of TRAM Magazine that was published some 49 years ago in December 1971? Not many I suspect! So, for those inquisitive enough here is a reproduction taken from the front cover and the opening Tresillian Residents Association page.



THE TRESILLIAN  
RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE - 1971 - 1972

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"Millcot",  
Tresillian.

Vice - President :  
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12 Lower Park,  
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Mr. J.D. WATKINS,  
45 Polsue Way,  
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Mr. G. DOHERTY,  
11 Higher Polsue Way,  
Tresillian.

Hon. Assistant Secretary :  
Mrs. G. WILKINSON,  
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Mrs. M. THOMAS,  
"Hillside",  
Main Road,  
Tresillian.

Press Secretary :  
Mrs. A. MILLER,  
17 Higher Polsue Way,  
Tresillian.

COMMITTEE.

Mrs. A. Miller      17 Higher Polsue Way, Tresillian.

Mrs. P. Stephens    "Pattray", Tresillian.

Mrs. M. Youngman   23 Carne Meadows, Tresillian.

Mr. D. Hanley      10 Lower Park, Tresillian.

Mr. A. Harvey      10 Higher Polsue Way, Tresillian.

Mr. T. Prisk        35 Polsue Way, Tresillian.

Mr. E. Saunders    43 Polsue Way, Tresillian.

Mr. G. Willcox     "Chy - an - Hayl", Main Road, Tresillian.

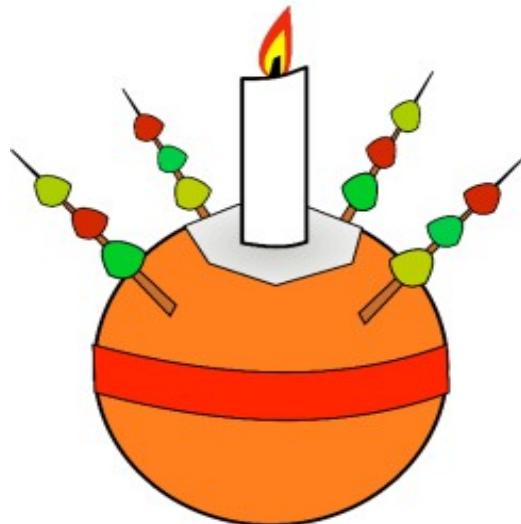
Recognise any names? George Doherty, previous editor of this magazine, was Hon. Secretary of the TRA back then, and he still lives at 11 Polsue Way.

## Tresillian Methodist Chapel

We've been thankful over this past year to be part of such a caring community. Keep safe, and keep well but if you are worried or lonely, or if you need any help for any reason, contact Helen on 07791371933.

It's been sad not to be able to join together in the chapel for months now, but we're still able to be "church" in the virtual world with many enjoying services from Rev Mark Dunn-Wilson every Sunday on our computer screens – and you don't have to wear a mask! Visit [www.truromethodist.org.uk](http://www.truromethodist.org.uk) for the links.

We do want to wish everyone a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and so we will be lighting up the Chapel, and also have plans for a Wise Men trail through the village. Look out for camels, wise men, stars and presents popping up along the roadside!



One of the highlights of the year is our Christingle service so we are doing a COVID safe version this year – Christingle in a bag. Come to the Chapel between **4.30-6.30 pm on Christmas Eve** to get your Christingle bag. The message of Christmas is about hope and joy in the most unlikely of circumstances – definitely something to hold onto in 2020. We hope to share the light and bring some hope and joy to everyone.

# News from Holy Trinity Church and Lamorran

So much of what we said and promised in the spring issue of TRAM (intended for circulation as usual but in fact published online) failed to materialise: our services for Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter; our Iona worship on Maundy Thursday.

It all seems so long ago now. Lock-down; who had ever heard that word before March 2021? Through those long weeks we were encouraged and comforted by messages of reflection from Reverends Ellie Sheard and Linda Whetter and our worship leaders Billa and Claire.

We were able to return to something like normal Sunday worship for a few weeks with Ellie and Linda taking Communion services and Billa and Claire leading us in our worship when they were unavailable. Then, just as we were planning for a Remembrance Day Service at the Playing Field War memorial, Lock-down Mk 2!

Although a religious ceremony was not permitted the British Legion poppy wreath was laid, appropriately, by Mrs Lesley Dobel, as for many years it had been laid by her husband, John, who sadly died earlier this year. The words of Laurence Binyon's '*For the Fallen*' and The Kohima Epitaph were read, as were the rank and names of those remembered on the memorial.

With a return to a 'tier-system', and Cornwall being the only part of mainland England to be in the lowest of the three safeguarding bands, we resumed Sunday morning worship on the 6<sup>th</sup> December with Holy Communion led by Revd. Ellie.

Our Christmas Eve communion service will be led by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hugh and will be at 11.00 pm on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> December.

A well known broadcasting personality was being interviewed on television a few days ago. She stated that she was postponing Christmas until the summer. The interviewer thought this was a great idea.

Sorry, ladies, you are wrong: you may postpone the parties, the presents, the decorations – all of that. But you cannot postpone Christmas any more than by postponing your birthday you postpone getting a year older. Jesus may not have been born on December 25<sup>th</sup> (He almost certainly wasn't) but it is the day His Church has chosen as such. Yes, postpone the tree and tinsel, we may not sing carols, but it will still be the day we celebrate, with joy (whatever the state of the world), the birth of our Saviour

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"; and he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light, and safer than a known way.*

Perhaps not since that dark Christmas of 1939 have those words been so needed. From all at Holy Trinity, Tresillian, a very peaceful Christmas. George Doherty, on behalf of the PCC

Holy Trinity Church opened for worship on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in accordance with Government and Diocesan Guidelines on Covid 19.

We held a service of Holy Communion on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 celebrated by Rev. Sheard at the usual time of 11.15 a.m.

The wearing of face masks throughout the service, apart from when receiving communion in one kind, was necessary in addition to using the hand sanitizer provided on entry to the church and maintaining social distancing at all times.

Unfortunately no singing was allowed but hymns were played and hymn books provided for worshippers to follow the words as a prayer.

Keep safe and Pray for each other as well as our community.

Future services: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, Worship Leaders, Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Rev. L Whetter, Holy Communion 11:15 a.m.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Rt Rev Bishop Hugh 11:00 p.m.

The Christmas Eve service has proved in the past to be popular particularly for visiting family and friends. This year, due to Covid 19 restrictions, we will have to operate social distancing and manage attendance. If you intend to come to the Christmas Eve service can you please let me or either of the churchwardens know how many would like to attend from your household/'bubble'. You can contact me on 01872 520679 or the churchwardens on 01872 520198 and 01872 263830 so we can plan the social distancing and maximize the numbers being able to attend. So, for example, one pew can either be used by 3/4 people from the same household or 'bubble' or by 2 single person households. We are only able to use alternate pews in order to maintain social distancing hence the need for planning! We will need to collect contact details for all those attending to assist with track and trace if necessary.

We do hope to see as many as can be accommodated at that service but be assured everyone will be remembered in our prayers.

# Tresillian Methodist Chapel

A message from Tresillian Chapel – Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson

So, it's lining up to become a Christmas like never before, in a year like never before. At the time of writing we really have no idea if we will be able to spend time with family and friends and what freedoms and restrictions we will be living under. The restrictions are, I believe to keep us safe and to care for those around us – but of course that is not always the case.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he was born into an occupied country in which the finances, lifestyles and movement of the people were dictated by an often-malevolent government. If you know the story, Joseph, and Mary (and so Jesus) were only in Bethlehem because they were told to go there by the government. Perhaps that is why the angel message to the shepherds of 'good news' was received with such joy and excitement.

And the Christmas event is still 'good news'.

The birth of Jesus is still worth celebrating.

One of the names that Jesus was given was Immanuel – which means, God with us. It seems to me that we need to hear that this year – perhaps more so than ever before.

In the sadness that so many are experiencing – God is with us.

In the uncertainty of economic turmoil – God is with us

In fear of what might still be around the corner – God is with us.

And amid family, friends and festivities (however we can share them) – God is with us.

There is a beautiful verse in the Bible that describes Christmas in poetic language:

*"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood."* (The Message Bible, John 1..14)

At the heart of the Christian faith is a belief that God came into our world in Jesus and became a full part of our lives, our living and our experiences. If you like in the language of 2020, in Jesus, God 'moved into our Bubble'.

I hope that you have a joy-filled and blessed Christmas, and that you experience Immanuel – God with us.

Happy Christmas

# The Royal British Legion

**There are many individuals living in the avenues, streets and roads that need our assistance. To extend our reach and build on the foundations already created our network of Branches deliver a range of advice, information and support activities to meet the current and predicted future welfare needs of the Armed Forces community.**

Truro Royal British Legion Branch, whilst small in number, has an active committee and volunteering cohort who are all committed to providing greater support to our Beneficiaries in need. To ensure our services are visible, the Branch has become one of many Branches within the Membership network to participate in a new scheme within the Legion, known as Branch Community Support.

There are a number of services provided under this scheme, with Truro RBL Branch having the capacity to support the following:

- **Home & Hospital Visiting** – Some people are unable to go out alone to meet people or continue with social activities they enjoy. Others may have no one to visit them in hospital following ill health. Whatever the case our network of Home and Hospital visitors can provide an opportunity to talk to someone and experience companionship. (See NB below).
- **Bereavement Support** – Bereavement can affect people in different ways, and there is no right or wrong way to cope with the loss of a loved one. Our Branches look to provide support at this difficult time by helping with requests for Legion representation and Standard Bearer attendance at funerals.
- **Phone Buddy** – **Loneliness is not always a choice. There are many elderly Veterans, or their dependants, who would appreciate a regular telephone call from someone like minded.**

With a number of volunteers currently registered to assist with Home/Hospital visiting, the Branch is keen to raise awareness of this service offered, in particular to our Beneficiaries, medical practitioners (who may wish to refer patients) or family/friends of Beneficiaries who may not have the ability to visit their loved one in hospital or at home.

Should you know of someone who is serving, ex-service, dependant or spouse of someone who is serving or has served, and would like the support of Truro RBL by way of a visit, then please do consider calling the Legion Contact Centre, making reference to Branch Community Support – Hospital Visiting. Alternatively contact the person named below.

The Royal British Legion Contact Centre. 0808 802 8080

Alan Beattie, Truro Branch BCS representative.

Mobile 07791572786

e-mail. [asbeatts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:asbeatts@hotmail.co.uk) or [truro.bcs@rbl.community](mailto:truro.bcs@rbl.community)

**NB** Alan sent me the above information on how the local branch of The Royal British Legion can help Armed Service Veterans and their dependants.

**Unfortunately, home and hospital visits are out of the question at the moment but we are supporting a number of Veterans with weekly phone calls.**



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