

# The Tresillian Magazine

## Web version

### Golden Anniversary 50 Years



Winter 2021  
Number 190

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# Tram Index : No.190 : Winter 2021

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### Medical Prescriptions

Patients at Probus Surgery. Prescriptions may be left and collected at Mary’s Pasty Shop as well as Probus Surgery.

### 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**.

TRAM is published by The Tresillian Residents Association.

This distribution is sent to you via the services of the Tresillian Village Website [www.tresillianvillage.co.uk](http://www.tresillianvillage.co.uk)

Cover photograph: © Keith Littlejohns. Christmas Tree. Playing Field, Tresillian Dec 05 2021

## **TRAMLINES – the future is here**

### **Tresillian Residents Association Magazine (TRAM)**

TRAM Magazine will from now onwards be published exclusively on the Tresillian Village Website.

With limited house to house delivery volunteers, not withstanding COVID-19 safety, plus ever increasing printing costs TRAM is no longer viable in a paper printed form. A major advantage of web publishing is the wider potential audience plus the use of high resolution colour throughout.

We will need your eMail address and your full Name so that we can notify you instantly when the magazine is available on the website to view on your smartphone, pad or computer.

To comply with GDPR you will need to become a subscriber to the website. This is free and easy to do by visiting [www.tresillianvillage.co.uk](http://www.tresillianvillage.co.uk) to enter your details in the Subscribe box in the right hand pane.

There are now greater than ever opportunities for advertising your business in the Magazine.

For further information and exceptionally reasonable rates please email us at: [tram@tresillianvillage.co.uk](mailto:tram@tresillianvillage.co.uk) using 'Advertising' as the subject .

For all general email enquiries you can also contact us at [tram@tresillianvillage.co.uk](mailto:tram@tresillianvillage.co.uk) using an appropriate subject to describe the nature of your enquiry.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Wheel Inn**

The new leasehold of the inn has been taken on by London Chef, Neil Wager and progress is being made with refurbishing the Wheel in time for Christmas.

Visit the Tresillian Village Website for further information.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Tresillian Playing Field Christmas Tree**

The Christmas Tree was switched on by Councillor Karen Glasson on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Visit the Tresillian Village Website for further information and photos

# Tresillian Residents Association and TRAM Magazine

email address: tram@tresillianvillage.co.uk

This is an important year for us as it is the Golden Anniversary of the TRAM Magazine, which began circulation at Christmas 1971.

George Doherty has written an article about the start of TRAM in the following pages.

Seeing as this was and still is such an achievement from all the many people and their organisations contributions over the years, the TRAM Team decided to ask Tresillian residents to cast their minds back to what Tresillian was like when they first moved in to the village. What were their memories and to also shed a bit of light on what has happened to the village over time.

I have lived in Tresillian from 1980's and although other people have lived here a lot longer, I also have early recollections of the village. As you read the pages from many different folk, I will add my bit as well, under Ed's Input .

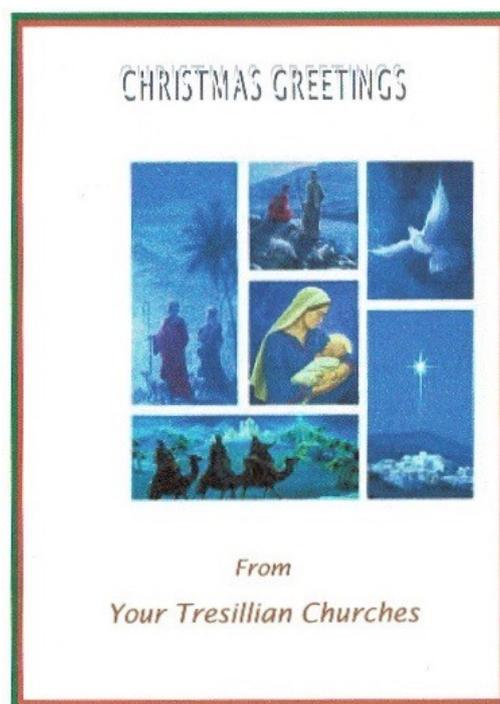
Please enjoy this edition and anything that you would like to add to the Spring 2022 issue, please feel free to do so (see e-mail address above).

On the next page, there is a picture for the family to colour in and if you want to then take a photo and send it to the above email address, then the best pictures will go into the Spring issue of the TRAM.

May I on behalf of all the Contributors, Webmaster Keith and the Committee, wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2022. Please keep safe and warm over the season.

Lesley Jones

Editor



## **Mobile Library Dates**

January 28<sup>th</sup>

February 25<sup>th</sup>

Future dates not available at the moment

The mobile Library van usually visits every fourth week on a Friday and stops on Heron Close Tresillian between 2:45 and 3:10 p.m.

## **The Royal British Legion, Truro Branch**

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COLOUR ME IN!  
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Teddy & the Fairy?

## **A (not very) BRIEF HISTORY OF TRAM**

By George Doherty

### **IDEAS, TRIALS AND TRAUMATIC BEGININGS**

#### **Sowing the Seed**

Fifty years have passed! Where did more than half a lifetime go?

I am writing about the Golden Anniversary of the first publication of TRAM.

It was just a casual remark that started it. It was a summer evening of 1971. The Tresillian Residents Association had been pursuing its various, happy activities for three years. At that time there were well attended monthly membership meetings and monthly committee meetings. The village was buzzing with activities by various enthusiastic organisations.

After one committee meeting a member remarked that whilst delivering notices of some forthcoming Association happening through letter boxes on Polsue Way she was being followed by someone of (perhaps the Guides) also delivering notices of their activities, and seeing another friend on the opposite side of the road informing residents of a planned happening under the auspices of (perhaps the W.I.)

It was fifty years ago and it could have been any of the fifteen-plus organisations then active in the village.

"We need a newsletter," someone remarked. "Good idea," was the general response. It was just idle chatter, but a seed was sown.

\*\*\*\*\*

"What about a newsletter then?"

"What?"

"Everybody thought it was a good idea."

"Don't you think we've got enough to do? We're trying to build a Village Hall apart from anything else."

"Yes, but think how much time the committee members could spend on Village Hall ideas if they weren't trotting round the village delivering leaflets."

"True; but it would be a lot of work."

"No, it wouldn't take long, surely? An hour or so a week, perhaps."

I remember that conversation, although I really can't recall who the participants were. If the ghostly sound of hollow laughter and screams of frustration ever haunt Tresillian they are mine of some three or four months later.

## Stone Picking

An early decision we had to make was the name of the publication. TRAM (Tresillian Residents Association Magazine) was the very first suggestion. It came from Mr Leslie Shufflebotham, our President.

Mr Shufflebotham was a Liverpudlean. Trams had been a part of his life, just as to many other of us 'incomers' to this rural idyll. My courting years with Margaret had involved numerous journeys on Leeds trams to cinema, theatre and parks. Nevertheless I was somewhat against the title: whilst the acronym was appropriate the association with a tram seemed alien; Cornwall's only passenger tramway had closed in 1927. Many of our members would have only seen such a vehicle on the silver screen of the Palace or Plaza cinema's, or perhaps TV.

Mine was a voice of a minority. I recall that only one or two others shared my doubt but felt it was unimportant. The name was adopted virtually immediately.

Perhaps even then it was subconsciously envisaged by all of us that TRAM would be a 'magazine', with reports of activities enjoyed, articles of interest and various humorous snippets rather than a 'newsletter' telling people what was to come.

It must be said that the planned purpose of TRAM was never really fulfilled. Much of what was intended to go in the first issue was torn up because by the time we 'went to press' the 'advance notice' referred to something that had already happened. Even when we did settle into a regular publication schedule there was always some organisation (quite likely the Residents Association!) that had come up with a splendid idea that was 'too late for TRAM' ("Oh, well, we'll have to send out some fliers.") !!!

## First Fruits

As it has been all down the years, no sooner had TRAM Issue No. 1 being delivered, work on No. 2 was beginning.

For the cover Joan drew an amusing cartoon based on passengers and a tramcar. The tram itself was a very realistic reproduction of one of the open-top double deckers operated by the Camborne and Redruth Tramway Company. On the 'tween-deck' side panel Joan had placed an 'advert' urging people "Don't Miss Your TRAM". This cover was used for several issues in the early years.

Response to the first issue of TRAM was good. For the second issue we had five additional advertisers, which was very encouraging.

Another accomplishment of TRAM was that it broke something of a 'freeze' between The Residents Association and Holy Trinity Church. Although the sole purpose of the First Fete had been to raise funds for repairs to the church roof – a mission impressively achieved – the subsequent broader activities of the Association had, shall we say, caused a little friction. Before starting on the second issue of TRAM I asked the Rector, Revd A R W Gray, if he would like us to include details of church services (and any other information). He assented readily and TRAM No 5 saw the beginning of a regular Christmas item: a message from the incumbent Rector (later Priests in Charge).

*con't*

In more recent years a message from the Priest in Charge has been a feature in each issue.

Thoughts and messages from the Minister and Officers of Tresillian Methodist Chapel have been a feature from the beginning.

Other new features for Issue 2 were a Children's Page, Letters to the Editor and a 'Village Diary'.

The text of the first issue had been in the form of two columns to the page. This had been rather difficult to type and from Issue 2 we printed in single column pages. There was an added advantage here in that we had a little more space. Later, under the editorial hands of Cliff Opie and Tom Lambert, it was again to be of two columns. I must confess that when I again became editor I gave it no thought and, I suppose by force of habit, returned it to an 'across the page' mode.

Realising that there may be people who had read and enjoyed our first issue and may wish to join the Association at the next AGM we decided that we would again circulate a copy to every house in the village.

From the start TRAM became an international publication! Mrs Doris Cowl informed us that she was sending their copy to their son, Brian, who was serving with the RAF in the Persian Gulf. In later years copies would go to Australia, New Zealand, America, Dubai, The Falkland Islands and Ascension Island.

And, almost before we knew it, the first year had flashed past.

For the Residents Association and the Village Hall Committee it was a busy time. For the Residents Association The Fete and marquee Music Hall, Dinner, Supper and Barn Dances, Boat Trips, Quiz, various stage entertainments and much else, not least the Christmas tree, Carol singing and Children's Christmas Party.

For the Village Hall Committee there had been two "It's a Knock-Out" shows. The village 'Supporters Club' lottery was still bringing in much needed funds. Grant applications to Cornwall County Council and the Department of Education were being processed, happily successfully. Tender for the building work had gone out, returned and scrutinised and the successful builder appointed. All work, of course, for our Architect, Ray Stephens, and Quantity Surveyor, David Crossley. But all requiring lots of correspondence.

## **The Printing Press(ure)**

### **The Steam Age of a Hand-Cranked Gestetner**

From Issue No. 2 the printing (duplicating) had been done in Lofty and Hazel's spare bedroom. Hazel recalls that the pages were stacked and collated on an improvised table-tennis top. Thinking back, it must have been one big, big job! With the exuberance of youth, on an afternoon 'session' Jane and Susan would come home from school and take up the wheel turning with enthusiasm.

Hazel recalls the smell of the 'gunge' that had to be squirted onto the wax stencils to repair tears. She says it had a very pleasant smell. I can't recall it, but I presume it was some acetone and was akin to the pear-drop smell of nail varnish. A similar 'lotion' was used to correct typing errors on the stencil:

**Ed's Input:**

I remember the following scenario using the typewriter to “cut” into the special paper and repairing mistakes!

- 1 make typing error
- 2 return carriage
- 3 apply ‘nail varnish’
- 4 retype letter
- 5 if making repeat error contemplate: screaming / suicide / emigrating / throwing typewriter and stencil in creek.

By the end of 1973 the old Gestetner manual duplicator was beginning to weaken. (Hazel would probably say it was from spring 1972 and Issue No 2) There had always been problems with paper jams, stencils coming adrift from the rollers and ink spillages. Now, things were getting worse.

It was obvious it would not produce very many more magazines – and perhaps not as much a few Fete Programmes!

The Committee had to do a little head-scratching and heart-searching. A factor behind the launching of a quarterly magazine had been that we had a duplicator; now we were considering purchasing a new duplicator in order to keep TRAM going. *to be continued*



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# Tresillian Allotment Association

## An Award

In our last issue of TRAM, we told you that we had taken part with the rest of the village by entering the Mary Mortimer Cup for villages with a population of less than 1500. We were informed in October that we had achieved the **Silver Gilt** Award in the Mary Mortimer Cup for the South West in Bloom competition making us third in the South West. Well done everybody!

How quickly summer turns into autumn, with the shortening of the daylight hours and colder temperatures most of the summer crops have come to an end, the pumpkins and squashes have ripened and all that is left on the allotment plots to crop are leeks, cabbages, sprouts, kale and sprouting broccoli which will hopefully see us all through the colder months.

As autumn comes in but before winter hits us, it is an ideal time to plant new garlic cloves, this gives the garlic a cooler spell which it needs to make a good root system. Always buy garlic bulbs from a British source, and don't be tempted to buy ones you see in the fruit and vegetable section of the supermarkets, these garlic bulbs more than likely have been imported from warmer climes and therefore not used to our fickle and changing weather. On our plot along with newly purchased garlic bulbs, we are going to experiment with using one of this year's bulbs that was harvested in late July, to see how it performs. I am sure the gardeners of old would have done this, instead of buying new bulbs and seed each year, hopefully the home grown bulbs will have the ability to cope with the Cornish weather and clay soil.

All the plots on the site are being tended and as we have a short waiting list any plots that were given up through the year have been quickly snapped up.

Once the covid-19 restrictions had been lifted, the allotment committee organised a meeting and get together for the plot holders this summer, it was nice to down tools and have a general chat amongst ourselves and talk about future ideas and plans for the site.

The Harvest festival for the Tresillian churches was also held on the allotment site at the end of September, organised by Helen who also has a plot on the site, the afternoon was a huge success and of course the refreshments and homemade cake that were served after the service went down a treat with all that attended.

As Tram achieves its 50 year milestone, I would like to thank all the people in the village past and present that have worked so hard at producing the magazine over the years and keeping all the residents of the village up to date with all the village groups, clubs and news items.

The benefits of having an allotment are immense, apart from having fresh food to eat that you have grown yourself, free from chemicals and pesticides, keeping an allotment keeps you fit and is great fun, that is once you have cleared the plot ready for planting.

Lorraine Sutton & Lesley Jones.

## Winter Photos from the Allotments

This time of year is the moment when most flowers, vegetables and fruits have given all that they can or are beginning to lie dormant. The allotments always look tired at the moment and many of us are tidying up, cutting down excess plants to make compost, or just covering the soil to stop weeds getting a hold and also to keep the soil warm in readiness for the Spring.

Lately, we have enjoyed balmy weather, which with the stunning views from the allotment site, have made the tasks a lot easier. However the end of November gave us all nightmares at what we would see after Storm Arwen hit us hard with copious rain, hail and very strong winds.

Dave and I checked the site the next day and fortunately all of the fences seemed to still be in place although one or two of the net cloches were lying on the ground or even suffering from tears in the netting.



Collapsed netting on our plot

(c) Lesley Jones



Wind damage to cloche

(c) Lesley Jones



Christmas Brussels Sprouts and Cabbage

Shouldn't the sprouts be cooking by now in time for Christmas Dinner?

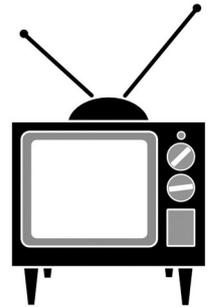
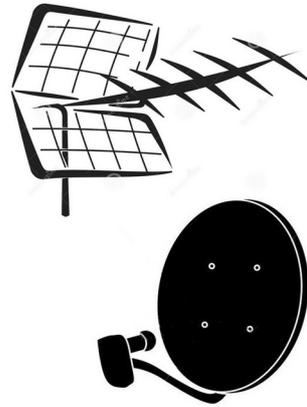
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## Looking back half a century – and forward.

George Doherty

I have found it almost unbelievable how so much has changed in the past 50 years – and how much has stayed the same.

When the first TRAM was published there were 208 houses in the village (using Quarry Cottage and Mill Farm as the western and eastern boundaries), now there are 333.

Very little of Carne Meadows was built; there were still quite a few houses to be built in Higher Polsue Way and the houses on the upper, northern, side of Fairfax Road were yet to be started.

There was just the first two (odd-number) houses on Heron Close. The rest, together with Creekside View and Carharthen View were to follow much later.

There were three general grocery shops: The Post Office (on the Bridge), Riverside Stores (now Daisy Fay day nursery) and Mrs Ellis' shop (now Mary's Pastys).

The infants' school has gone.

The future of The Wheel Inn has caused a lot of us some concern in recent months but it would now appear its doors will welcome us again before very long.

In 1971 we had a resident rector at Holy Trinity Church. In recent years we have received splendid pastoral care from Priests in Charge. (Although, at this moment, sadly, we do not even have that.)

The interior of the Methodist Chapel has a new look: gone are the old pews, to be replaced by softer and more comfortable seating.

We have a Village Hall.

The main road through the village is (somewhat) safer: central bollards to provide some haven for pedestrians crossing (sadly only after a serious, life-changing incident), a 30 mph speed limit rather than the former 40 mph (and there was no speed limit at all until the 1950s).

Social life?

Vanished since 1971 are Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs; Youth Club, the Women's Institute; The Thursday Club and the weekly Whist Drive and, of course, The Tresillian Residents Association.

Survivors include the Midi Group, the Modern Sequence Dance Club ('back then', and in these pages known as the Old Time Dancing Club) and (much reformed twice over) the Playing Field Committee.

Not yet nearing our 50th birthday celebrations we have a thriving Allotments Association, the Garden Club, the Village Improvement Group (who have given us a splendid blaze of spring daffodils the length of the village – and much more), The Lunch Club (in normal times) and Tiddlywinks.

Some organisations have come and gone, including the Wine Circle, Tresillian Rovers Junior Football Club; First Impact Disco and Feast of Folk.

There was a major change to our Parish Council boundaries since TRAM number 1. There had already been a change in the mid 1960s when the area between the stream to the west of what is now Creekside View and The Wheel Inn became part of St Clement Parish rather than St. Erme.

The land between The Wheel and the Tresillian River remained in Probus Parish. This was changed in 1976 when that too became part of St. Clement.

Some things just never happened, even though they were so nearly there:  
Such as the 1973 by-pass, abandoned due to local public opposition despite funding being available and the backing of Cornwall County Council and the newly formed Carrick District Council.

The new Tresillian School to have been built on the land that is now Carharthen View and the Allotments. We were even given a starting date for that one!

Ed's input

When the Polsue Estate was being built, one of its first residents to live in her house on Polsue Way was Mrs Lister. She told me that she always had to negotiate a means to get her pram over the deep trenches in the road so that she could take to and pick up her children at the Tresillian School on the main road or to go shopping etc. The builders helped her and would carry the pram etc. wherever and whenever she needed to access her house.

Daisy May's nursery was once a greengrocer's and plant sales site. It became a Grocer's, plants, café and meat sales until recently and now all that has been redeveloped.

There was once a piano shop and antiques on the Main road and for a long time.

The Toll House was empty before coming back into use with the greengrocers on the other side of the road and now used as an antique shop.

# Polsue Way Estate

## Adoption of the Roads on the Polsue Way Estate

Lesley Dobel

**W**hen the Polsue Way estate was first developed, homeowners were responsible for the road outside their properties, prior to the road being adopted by Cornwall County Council.

By the early 1970's the roads hadn't been adopted and concerned residents set up a committee to liaise with the developer and the County Council to ensure that adoption would take place.

A problem arose in that the County Council then wanted proof the roads had been constructed to their standard before they would consent to adoption. To solve the impasse a meeting was held at County Hall, chaired by the County Surveyor. The matter was discussed in great detail as the cost was going to be in the hundreds of pounds per householder, which was a lot of money in the 1970's.

After a lengthy discussion, agreement was reached on all sides as to how to move forward to a satisfactory conclusion and concessions were made by each of the parties involved.

The major concession made by the householders was that a working party would be set up to rod all the foul water drains in the roads to ensure that they were not blocked by rubble. On one memorable Sunday morning, a large contingent of men were seen climbing down each drain to rod through, whilst refreshments of tea and coffee were available back on dry ground.

This was a wonderful example of the community all working together with the very successful outcome that the County Council adopted the roads and the cost to each household was just £38!

.....

Ed's input

I moved into Tresillian in 1983 and lived with both my parents and my baby son Andrew. The Mother and Baby and Toddler Groups in the village hall were godsend and I met many new friends there.

I was invited to an Anne Summers Party on Higher Polsue Way, I had never walked up there in the dark so got quite a shock as the lighting from the lamp posts stopped in Carne Meadows. I didn't take a torch with me so ended up feeling the house numbers on the walls until I got to the right place!

Just in case you were wondering, I had never even heard of Anne Summers being more use to being relegated to Tupperware parties instead. There was lots of lingerie but I had a great laugh at other products on display. What an eye-opener!

## Tresillian Post Office

### Kay Ellis

Following the retirement of Mr Eric Pooley in 1985, the Post Office sited in a cottage opposite the church moved to a shop belonging to Mr and Mrs Percy Ellis.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1985, I became the new Postmistress and remained in this position until October 2012, at which time I retired due to ill health.

During those 28 years I had many loyal customers both inside and outside of the village. There were many gifts of homemade cakes, bread, jams and preserves, vegetables and bottles of wine.

The most unpleasant part of my time in the Post Office was an attempted robbery, which was very unnerving. The perpetrators broke into our home searching for the Post Office keys but fortunately they were well hidden, therefore no money was taken.

The shop was used for many purposes, a collection point for jumble sales, raffles, cake stalls and charity boxes. The building is now Mary's Pastys where village people and passers by still frequent, The Post Office now being sited in the Fal Garage.

#### *Ed's input:*

A new Postmistress, not only took over the post office but also gave the village an excellent grocer's shop but unfortunately the Post Office scandal regarding the installation of a new computer system, which failed so many other postmasters, meant that the post office was closed and without that revenue, the shop closed down as well.

The old post office was a decent sized general grocer's shop, with a touch of cabbage soup boiling away in the background. As the "Toddler and Baby" sessions held in the village hall were conveniently close by and the little ones got involved playing with toys etc. this gave mums the chance to slip out without being noticed and pop round to the post office to get their child benefits as well as groceries.

# Tresillian Village Improvement Group

## Tresillian Village Improvement Group

Tresillian Village Improvement Group (TVIG) 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 which led to over 18,000 daffodils being planted by hand along the river bank. The group still works together on various projects in the village. John Dobel was one of those who initiated those first conversations – someone who has definitely been a force for good in this village, having been involved in many village activities including the Millennium Clock. We 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 significant project we have completed in the village has been the memorial in the Playing Field. The field was donated to the community by Lord Falmouth to commemorate the sacrifice of 4 local men who died in the First World War. Their names are now recorded in a formal memorial stone: Alfred Davey, Archibald Deacon, Thomas Arthur Dunstan and Ernest Henry Julian. TVIG, particularly Les and Lorraine Sutton, designed the planting around the stone and look after it.



This is always complimented by the South West In Bloom judges who have been to the village annually since 2016. Each year we have improved our achievement level – now competing in the South West regional competition for the Mary Mortimer Cup – in 2021 we received a Silver Gilt award; 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the South West, and our highest achievement to date!

The aim with the planting schemes we have done in the village is to encourage pride in the village for residents, and give reason for car drivers to smile as they drive through the village; we also hope that, by creating a sense of ‘arrival’ that cars will slow down and show respect for residents who have to live with the constant traffic. Richard Bratton has made some lovely wooden planters – reusing old M&S containers, and the boat really was a punt before John Dobel put it to alternative use. The planters, boat and containers are all planted colourfully each year by Truro City Council and St Clement Parish Council, local residents and Marys Pastys have generously helped to fund these each year. The shrubbery at the Probus side of the village helps to create gateway to the village – perhaps most obviously in the winter with the Christmas lights. Its’ been lovely to see more Christmas lights appearing in the village and we hope this will lead to bigger and better things.

The river in Tresillian is so important to the village, but views of the river can’t be taken for granted as the vegetation soon grows up. Each year the ‘river bank team’ have cleared some of the shrubs and grass so that we can all enjoy the ever-changing river vista. To keep our village looking its best, we also organise litter picks and several village residents make a habit of getting their regular exercise with a litter picker in hand. We are always grateful for everyone who makes an effort to do “their bit” to help make the village look lovely – things like cleaning weeds along the pavement, tidying up a grass verge near your house, helping neighbours who can’t cope with their gardens, putting up bird boxes, picking litter and clearing paths – together they add up to a wonderful village community whose efforts have been commended by the South West in Bloom judges so we hope you are all as proud of our award as we are! The goal is for gold so there’s always room for improvement!

If anyone wants to help with TVIG activities, or make a donation towards planting costs, please contact Helen Nicholson 01872 520295

## Tresillian Infant School by Jean Tubb

On the subject of the young people and children in the village, Tresillian Infant School was opened on 30th November 1905 and sadly closed in July 2004. The school replaced the National School which opened in 1881. There were 22 children and the mistress was Mathilda Pentecost, the former mistress of the Wesleyan Infant School. The school was always involved in the community and in 1914, during WW1, sent 9 scarves and 3 pairs of mittens they had knitted to the soldiers at the front. It seems that the the houses at Lower Park were built around 1926 as, according to school records, they were noted as being new at that time.

During WW2 there were evacuees in the village from London, Bristol and Plymouth and a school was set up in the Methodist schoolroom for the evacuees. Their teachers accompanied them. The school was closed from October 1943 until January 1944 due to American traffic going through the village.

As I say, the school had to close in July 2004 as the roll had fallen to 7, mainly due to the fact that the junior schools in Truro were no longer willing to take Tresillian pupils at age 7, and although the Roseland school became the follow on school, many parents working in Truro found it inconvenient and sent their children to Truro schools as infants to guarantee them a place until age 11. This was a great loss to the village.



Mrs Keast was headmistress in 1972 and the photo below shows her with her pupils. Some names are missing unfortunately so it would be nice if readers let me know who they are.

Back Row:

1. Sarah Stephens, 2. Susan Humphrey, 3. Jane Humphrey, 4. Daniel Waters, 5. Richard Grose,
6. Wendy Davey, 7. Claire Gilbert, 8. Michaela Thomas, 9. Alison Julian, 10. Lara Humphreys,
11. Suzy Croghan, 12. Stephen Cox, 13.?, 14. ?, 15. Edward Crossley, 16. Adrian Marshall.



Front Row:

- 17.?, 18.?, Walford triplet, 19. Tiffany Brighton, 20. Colin Carter, 21. ?, 22. Mrs Keast,
23. Nigel Brighton, 24. ?, 25. Guy Wignall, 26. Nicola Labbett, 27. Marion Holliday,
28. Walford triplet, 29. Walford triplet, 30. Michelle Reed, 31.? 32.? 33.?. 34. Stephen Coombes

It was proposed in 1992 that the County Education Committee would take over Tresillian Village Hall, develop the site and open a new community infant junior school there, as the present school was infant only. They would maintain the hall free of charge and keep it open for village use. For various reasons this was never carried forward, which was unfortunate as it would have kept a school in the village.

Looking back at the voluntary organisations for young people in the village over the years, one or two of us were involved in running a playgroup at the Village Hall in the 70s. It was well used and went on for a few years, though I can't remember for exactly how long. There were also Brownies and Scouts, but others will know more about those. Mrs Vera Watkins was Brown Owl for the Brownie pack for many years.

For several years from about 1983, we ran a youth club called 9UP at the Methodist chapel. It was for children aged 9 to 13 and at one time there was a waiting list to join! It provided table tennis and table football, games, cooking and competitions. As with all such things, eventually numbers dwindled as the children grew up and there were fewer children of that age in the village, so sadly it closed. The Sunday School, afterwards called Junior Church, at the chapel was also well attended for many years, and as well as meeting Sunday by Sunday, put on a nativity play in the chapel at Christmas time for a year or two.

Over the years there have been four or five day Holiday Clubs at the chapel during some of the school holidays, attended by children from Truro as well as local children. These still continue.

Also Tiddlywinks, a mother and toddler group, meets at the chapel each week and is well supported.

Jean Tubb



**Tiddlywinks is a friendly play group for babies and toddlers (under 5). Music time with Andrew, followed by craft, snacks (please bring a piece of fruit to share) and free play.**

**10 a.m.—12 noon every Friday**

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

**£2.00 donation**

**Contact: Helen Nicholson**

**Tel: 01872 520295 [helennicholson@resource24.net](mailto:helennicholson@resource24.net)**

## An Englishman in Tresillian By Mike Gregory

Lesley Jones asked me to write an article for TRAM about my early days in the village in the early 80's so I thought I would put it together by reminiscing about my favourite subjects, The Village Hall, The Wine Circle, The Chapel, the Playing Field and finally of course The Wheel Inn.

Moving to Tresillian from Wolverhampton after a period working in Plymouth and living in Saltash this was really the first opportunity I had to decide where I would like to live. Passing through the village whilst commuting I noted The Post Office, The Garage, The Chapel and of course The Wheel, (from now onwards referred to as HQ)

As a local Shop Manager, I worked in Michael Spiers Jewellers in Truro, I enjoyed a great deal of evening flexibility and very soon I was introduced to Wine Circle and thus the Village hall.

**Wine Circle** was amazing, we later renamed it the Wine and Social Circle and that it was. A group of local residents (Ray & Jill, Peter & Carol, John & Vera, Tom & Lucille & Christine & Richard Moseley to name but a few) and it fitted so well into the lifestyle. Combined with a Babysitting circle it allowed parents to relax , get together, leave the kids with someone & taste each other's home made wine.

Not only that but we had excursions to the vineyard at Polmassick, bar-be-ques with music from Tom Rowse and of course visits to Skinners and St Austell Brewery. We were having a ball, endless alcohol and endless entertainment, we even turned the hall into a Casino one night to raise funds (Paper money supplied) and of course a Horse racing Evening (Own Money) A wonderful social meeting every month.

This led me of course as Chairman to become a member of **The Village Hall Committee**. Wow what a joy that was. 15 user members (all local) Cubs, Dance Club, Evergreens, Whist Drive and a lot more. The hall was buzzing with local users. Add to that a management committee, and it could take a week to make a decision. Soon I found myself Chairman and a new streamlined decision process arrived This lasted for 5 years but through it all and still the maintenance of the dancefloor and hall was a primary concern particularly to Tom Lambert, bless him who did 90% of the maintenance.

At this point I have just remembered **CUBS** and being a Cub leader together with John Hill and Kirsten Harrow (now Lean) 18 crazy lads, a lot of whom who now remain in the village as parents and very good friends. Cubs of course made me consider the youth and the play facilities available and basically the only facility was a field , mowed twice a year by Mr George and that was it.

Chatting to Tom Rowse he indicated that we may form another committee, **Tresillian Playing Field Management Committee**. We contacted Lord Falmouth and requested a legal transfer of Trust to the Committee to run the field. I still remember the evening in the Chapel Schoolroom. Tom & I and a few others faced His Lordship , A Tregothnan Manager and a Secretary and a full discussion ensued. For some 180 minutes we discussed our plans, the estate requirements etc & throughout it all His Lordship appeared to be fast asleep. Finally we had finished discussing and he opened his eyes, sat up in his chair and summarised the entire discussion. Impressed does not cover it.

Thus followed **Tresillian Playing Field**. From a practical point of view kids kicking balls up and down a sloping field, at the bottom of which existed the A390 Main Road did not seem a good idea. It was decided that we would raise funds to employ a digger contractor to cut into the field a football pitch which was flat and approximately the right size. So fundraising ensued, what to do??

**The Famous Wheel Inn Raft Race and fun day** ensued, with Bar-be-que , Tombola, Cake Stall etc, many homemade rafts and a Duck race. Absolute indulgence magnificently supported by villagers and the landlord David , a total FUN DAY out.

At this point I feel that I should remind villagers that without the support David & Jacqui Hulson, the Landlord and Landlady of The Wheel Inn it would have been far less likely that we would have raised sufficient funds so quickly. As we raised the funds we spent them and the football pitch ensued as well as the netting stopping balls flying into the road. We insisted that Local lads & girls helped us to create the facilities thus, as long as they built it and looked after it, a new facility would follow.

After a couple of raft races we started to worry about the risks involved on the water and thus came **The Playing Field Football Tournament**. Again thanks to the support from HQ & the Village many came. Teams from all around Cornwall, youngsters playing games on a playing field and parents watching and getting involved together raising money for the playing field. A magnificent slide built, Swings, Springers, Picnic Tables sourced from the council, it was all coming together.

Suddenly and very sadly one of our number, a certain 'Whispering' Rob Pierce suffered a heart attack on the field after a veterans game and died almost immediately. It was just after his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and it was left to his wonderful wife Carol to bring up their three daughters Ele, Jennifer and Nicola . Suffice to say she did a marvellous job and we are still very much in touch. We even went to Nicola's wedding a few years ago and she now has 2 children herself.

That event unfortunately put paid pretty well to the football and we had cleared the Well garden, Jeff Povey had built The Well, we were pretty well self sufficient. All we needed was a container and to that end I consulted my security advisor Ant Povey who arranged a home for our equipment and lawnmower.

On the basis that, if he couldn't break into it, it was secure. Some years later he died of cancer, still a very young man and is very much still a part of the village. For the next 15/20 years myself and my right hand man Andrew Tullett, with Christine Kitley as treasurer managed the field until I had to bring matters to a head and resign. I called a meeting and Helen Nicholson marvellously agreed to take over as Chairman with a committee of 18ish people and thus the Playing Field moved forward into the 2020's as it is now. And Very Good Too!

Around this time I decided it was time to retire and I resigned from all committees to allow myself time to enjoy retirement and my favourite subject. **THE WHEEL INN**

HQ

As a regular attendee The Wheel became the centre of my social life and the life of the village. Indeed as I moved into the village in January, David moved into HQ in the March and we remained closely aligned during the next 20 odd years. This 600 year old thatched property and indeed the village itself have fascinated me for the last 40 odd years and I never tire of finding out snippets of information about it's goings on.

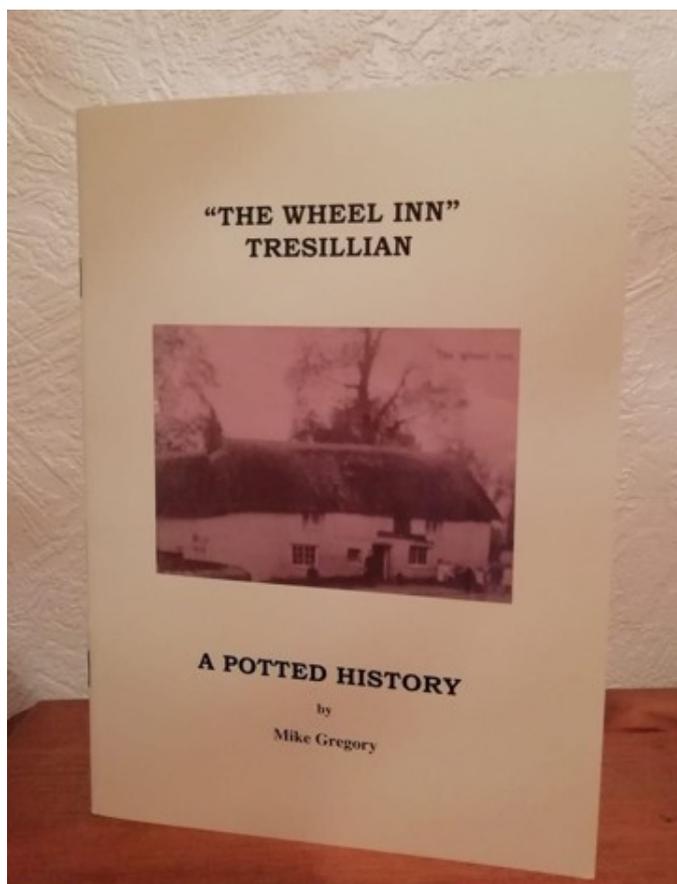
Many games of Euchre in a smoke filled atmosphere of the bar, golf tournaments, wakes, Christmas, New Years and the like, I rooted myself In this place. During these social times someone once said to me "You could wright a book about what goes on down 'ere" Those words stayed with me for some 15 years and I dug, asked and enquired and finally managed to publish "THE WHEEL INN, A POTTED HISTORY" my book (£5.50 + p&p). Part Of My Foreword:- This little thatched pub, "**THE WHEEL INN**", small on the outside and some say, even smaller on the inside, has been part of my life for the last 30-40 years (depending upon when you are reading this) and it has fascinated and enthralled me for most of that time.

It's a small pub with a very "**BIG**" heart and my fascination for "HQ" as some affectionately call it, has led me to compile, what I hope can be described as a potted history of the place, in the hope that at least some of it's little secrets will pass, recorded, into history.

Mike Gregory has a few of these booklets for sale about the history of the Wheel Inn

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## Marking the Millennium in Tresillian

A group of residents got together to discuss the best way to mark the Millennium in the village and it was felt that a clock for the Holy Trinity Church would be a very fitting way to achieve this. A committee was set up and chaired by Jim Hosking of Fentongollan as St Michael Penkivel also wanted to be involved in the project.

Then followed some fun events to raise funds to purchase the clock as well as holding a raffle with the first prize being a television set and selling minutes of the clock in the Post Office. Donations were also received from Fentongollan bulb sales, Tregothnan garden openings and local traders.

The first event held was a sponsored walk from Tresillian to St Clements where a Cornish Cream Tea awaited the participants. There was a good turn-out and, luckily, the weather was fine which made it an enjoyable walk.

The second event was a village fete in the garden of St Erme Cottage, courtesy of Martin and Sue Collenette. Again, we had a fine day of sunshine and there were all sorts of amusements that afternoon to keep everyone amused, including duck racing, sheep shearing as well as a barbecue.

The final fund raising event was an auction of Harvest Festival produce at the Wheel Inn, conducted by Philip Buddell and, again, this was very successful and ensured that we had reached our target to purchase the clock and also give Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council a sum of money for any repairs that might be needed for the clock in the future.

Bishop Bill came along to dedicate the clock, with Lord and Lady Falmouth, and a large number of people turned out to witness the event as can be seen from this photograph.

Lesley Dobel



## Tresillian Walking Group

**Hurray** we are walking again and for our second walk this year, one of our walkers, Gerry, led ten of us around Sibleyback Lake near Liskeard. This was quite a long drive for some of us, the best part of an hour both ways in fact but well worth the visit. There was plenty of parking, which we paid £2 for two hours and £4 for all day.

Sibleyback lake is surrounded by Bodmin Moor and the parish of St Cleer is well known for many historical sites and monuments as well as being part of an International Dark Sky Landscape and perfect for stargazing.

The lake is also used as a reservoir and also for many sports (with instructors) on the water such as sailing, canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboards for hire or bring your own. There is no mention of swimming in the lake though.

Around the lake there is Fly-fishing for trout, bird watching with bird hides secreted away, picnic tables, an excellent café, loos and showers as well as areas for camping.

There are cycle and walking routes around the lake and seats to rest on if necessary. The route was easy to walk and also easy on the knees for those of us with creaky patellas!

There are various routes to the lake but we decided to drive along the A30 and turn off at Bodmin and wend our way through Glynn Valley passing Trago Mills on the way. We managed to miss the turnoff for Minions on the left but it was easy to turn about and regain our trip. The road narrowed quite a bit but we finally got to the car park area and after all of us had turned up, had a coffee and used the loos, (too much information there maybe?) we set off to walk the boundary of the lake. The lake looks lovely with people kayaking and paddle-boarding and there were plenty of different birdlife to be seen, even some of the Canadian Geese that we have on our own river.

The circumference of the lake is three miles and we found it to be an easy, flat walk with plenty of seating as well as necessary dog bins!

When we got back to our starting place, we stopped at the cafe for coffee and a light lunch before heading back home.

### *Ed's Input*

*This area lies within St Cleer Parish and is famous for its monuments and other archaeological sites, which are well worth investigating.*

*Trethevy Quoit has a burial Chamber, there is a Holy Well at St Clarus church and King Doniert's Stone, which is 9<sup>th</sup> century with a Latin inscription.*



Siblyback Lake with our walkers plus dogs.

It was obvious that the water in the lake was quite low in places as can be seen in the photo below.

We walked over the top of the dam and the photos show the side and face of the dam.

All around us was beautiful countryside.

(c) photos by Lesley Jones.

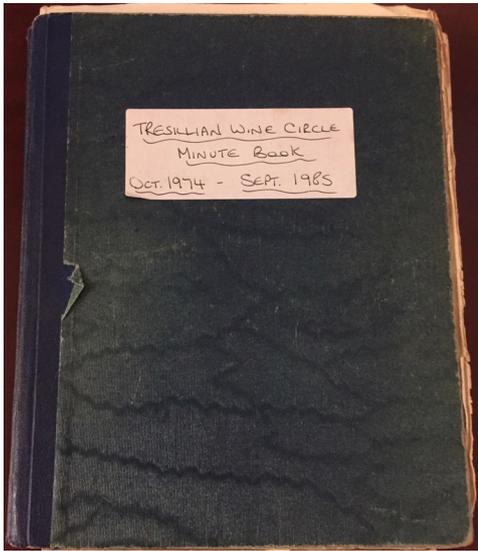


November's walk was a favourite as we started from Gyllyngvase car park in Falmouth. We ambled slowly along the sea front, above Gyllynvase Beach and around to the point looking over to the Lighthouse opposite at St Anthony's Head. We grabbed a coffee from a roadside barista van and onward through the town for Fish and Chips at the Harbour Lights restaurant. What a lovely way to spend the day and with such a nice reception at the restaurant.

Parking is free from November to the end of March but we did have to book a slot to eat at the Harbour Lights.



## Tresillian Wine Circle Minute Book Oct.1974 – Sept 1985



Once upon a time, I was secretary for the wine circle. I still have in my possession the minute book from the time the wine circle was set up by George Price in 1974, through John Watkins taking over as Chairman in November 1979, up to Mike Gregory taking over the chair in September 1985.

The inaugural meeting took place in the village hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1974 with 29 people attending.

### From the minutes:

“Mr G. Price explained the purpose of starting a wine making group together with the advantages that this could have. All those present were in favour of setting up a wine makers club to be known as Tresillian Wine Circle”.

Committee members were:

Chairman	George Price
Secretary	Harold Maycock
Treasurer	Mrs Jill Gilbert
Equipment Organiser	Mr Bill Pool

The subscription was agreed to be 50p per annum and the admission fee, 10p per meeting.

The Chairman gave an outline of the future activities of the Circle, the types of wines and beers that could be made and the books that could be attained.

A number of members brought samples of wine and beer, which were consumed and greatly appreciated by all present.

The next few meetings were more about finding suppliers for wine-making equipment at competitive prices and discounts of bulk buying.

At this time, the scarcity of obtaining sugar was a problem and Bill Pool was authorised to purchase one hundredweight (c.w.t) of sugar.

Each meeting ended with a wine and beer tasting brought in by members.

Events started appearing in the minutes for example George Price talked the members through making orange wine, a cheese and wine party, barbecues on Carne Beach, boat trips, Annual Dinner and Social evening (50p) and of course, the wine competition. The first one seems to have been for Tea Wine but there is no note about who won.

## From the West Briton 23.12.76

### **Wine circle men become waiters**

Male members of Tresillian Wine Circle became waiters and served up a three course turkey dinner prepared by lady committee members – plus the wine – at the Christmas dinner and party of the Tresillian Wine Circle in the Village Hall. All 59 members brought along wine and afterwards enjoyed dancing and games,

#### *Ed's Input*

(When Mike Gregory became Chairman in 1985, we tried making tea wine for one of our competitions and it was awful. My husband Dave actually got a Certificate for the worst wine ever for this.

Lucille Rowse would bring out yet another bottle of tea wine each year just to see if it had matured into something decent, which it did after many years.)

Homemade wine was very much the “in thing” in the 1970s. Wines from abroad were expensive and seem to consist of great names such as Blue Nun, Lieberfrau and Riesling from Germany, Mateus Rose from Portugal and occasional ferry trips to France for Beaujolais Nouveau.

This seemed to be the time for the Berni Inns, a national chain of pub-restaurants to jump onto the bandwagon and serve up great value meals e.g. Prawn Cocktail starter, excellent Steak and chips, and Black Forest Gateau along with a bottle of Blue Nun and an Irish coffee to round off the whole experience.

Frank and Aldo Berni founded the chain in 1950 and the franchise continued until it was sold off to Whitbread in 1990 and became the Beefeaters restaurants that are still seen today.

The history of the Berni Inns, Beefeaters and Harvesters may be found on-line at:  
Go for an English - classic meals - the Berni Inn meal

Homemade wines were all the rage whether made from fruits in the hedgerows, elderberries, blackberries, dandelions etc. or the alternative was to purchase a wine making kit and starter box.

This brings back memories of glass gallon flasks with the ingredients, sugar, yeast and water being secreted away in the airing cupboard to bubble away in the warmth and the aftermath of the whole lot bursting out all over the walls and cloth contents in the airing cupboard. My Mum Dorothy Madden was not impressed but I certainly was!

## Festive Recipes

### Easy Lemon Curd

#### Ingredients

200g Castor sugar  
2 un-waxed Lemons finely zested and juiced  
55g unsalted butter  
2 eggs well beaten

#### Method

1. Put sugar, lemon juice, zest and butter in pan on a low heat and stir with wooden spoon until the sugar dissolved and butter melted.
2. Turn the heat up to medium and whisk in the beaten egg and keep whisking until boiling.
3. Whisk for a further minute (the mixture will thicken and coat the back of a wooden spoon) thickening further with cooling.
4. Pour into sterilized jars and seal with lids immediately.
5. Allow to cool then store in fridge and consume within 2 -3 weeks.
6. Makes approximately 300 mls (1 to 2 small jars).



Cheryl tells me that “I've also made it using 2 limes and that worked and am planning on trying it with oranges. The nice thing about it is it only makes a small quantity, which is ideal as it needs to be eaten quickly and you don't want 6 jars of it. Someone I gave the recipe to also made half quantity. Mine has lasted a month in the fridge without a problem”.

## Raison Bonbons

**(Makes 12)**

### Ingredients

2oz raisins  
2oz peanut butter  
1/2oz margarine  
2oz icing sugar  
2oz chocolate

**(Makes 24)**

4oz raisins  
4oz peanut butter  
1oz margarine  
4oz icing sugar  
4oz Chocolate

### Method

1. Chop raisins finely.
2. Place peanut butter, sieved icing sugar and Margarine in a basin.
3. Beat until smooth.
4. Stir in raisins.
5. Shape into balls.
6. Coat in Chocolate

## Coffee Kisses

### Ingredients

4oz icing sugar  
2oz margarine  
3oz shredded coconut  
1 level teaspoon camp coffee  
4oz chocolate

### Method

1. Cream icing sugar and margarine together, stir in coconut and coffee.
2. Form into balls and cover with melted chocolate.
3. Leave to set on greaseproof paper or in little paper cupcakes.

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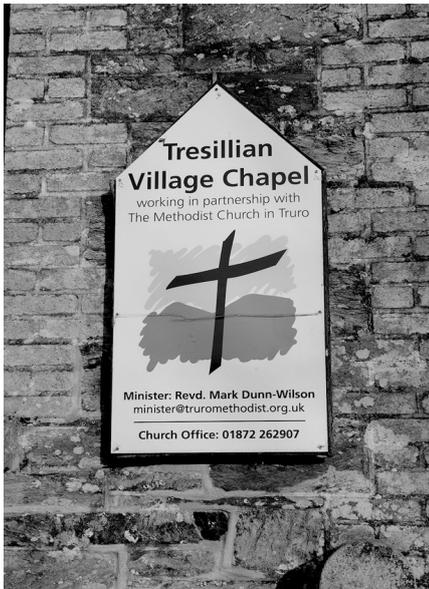
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## Tresillian Methodist Chapel

Tresillian Chapel is 180 years old this year! Since then, and in the lifetime of TRAM, some things have definitely changed and moved on, whilst some things might seem a little old fashioned! In 2009, the inside was redeveloped significantly creating a 'new' space for the community and chapel. The old pews were removed - a big decision after many years of service - and we have more comfortable chairs which can be removed to create a larger space, more useful for new styles of worship and for any community groups who want to meet there.

Tiddlywinks toddlers enjoy the extra space especially. A ramp and new toilet facilities were also installed and the building was made watertight and well insulated – improvements which aren't so obviously but help make the building more sustainable.

The service of re-dedication was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 and friends from all around the Truro Methodist Circuit and from the village joined us. The chapel was full to capacity - and a little more! (around 80 in case you're wondering). A great occasion!



Bethany Grant knocked on the doors which were re-opened by Chris George. (c) Helen Nicholson



Re-opening service at Tresillian Chapel

(c) Helen Nicholson

Worship on Sundays has changed a bit too, though there is also traditional worship for those that enjoy it. Café Church on the first Sunday of the month is a more relaxed and creative service over a cup of tea / coffee and home made cakes, with more modern music, and involvement for all ages.

If anyone wants to use the building for a community activity, please get in touch – we'd love it to be used more.

Coming up to Christmas, just a reminder about our favourite service of the year which is the Christingle, 6.15 pm on Christmas Eve. Young and old are welcome to join in the Christmas fun – in the recent past Rev Mark has brought his nativity ducks which got to float on the flood waters by Bridge House, and his infamous Christingle costume! Join us for some Christmas magic again this year.



Helen Nicholson 0187

Crafts  
Food fun  
Instant Nativity

**Messy Christmas**

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. It features a shepherd on the left with a staff and a dog, a donkey, a manger with figures, and three camels on the right. The background is a dark blue sky with a bright star and palm trees.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.15-12.15**  
**Tresillian Chapel**



## **Holy Trinity Church and Lamorran**

Government Covid advice at the time of writing says that face coverings are only legally required in shops and on public transport. Places of worship have not been included in the mandatory list at the moment but it is advised that you should continue to wear a face covering in indoor places which are crowded and enclosed and where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

### **Greetings from Holy Trinity Church,**

Listed below are the services at Holy Trinity church, a joint Carol service with Tresillian Methodist Church and the switch on of the Tresillian playing field Christmas tree lights.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Morning Worship at Holy Trinity with our Worship Leader at 11.15 a.m. Hymns, prayers, readings and a reflection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 switching on of the Tresillian playing field Christmas tree lights at around 4.00 pm preceded by activities from 3 pm with mulled wine and mince pies.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Afternoon Holy Communion led by Rev. L Whetter at 3.00 p.m. followed by tea and cake.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 NO service at Holy Trinity Tresillian.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 We are joining with Tresillian Methodist church at the chapel for a Carol Service at 11.00 a.m.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 The First Communion of Christmas at Holy Trinity church at 11.15 p.m. celebrated by Fr. Greg from Probus.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

## News from Holy Trinity Church and Lamorran

At the time of writing we are now enjoying services as (reasonably) usual.

I stress the 'time of writing' as the malevolent finger of Covid-19 and its seemingly never-ending 'variants' is very much still with us and it cannot be known what restrictions a week (or even a day) may bring forth.

I stress 'reasonably' because not only are we without a Priest in Charge, but Claire, one of our two Church Wardens is presently recovering from a serious illness.

Revd Linda Whetter has been conducting some Sunday morning services of Holy Communion, but has other duties that make regular Sundays impossible. Those services of prayer and reflection have been led by Billa Jeans, our other Church Warden, and Clive Stephens, lay Chair of the PCC.

An innovation has been to hold a service on some Friday afternoons, when Revd Linda can very kindly give us Holy Communion. Revd Father Greg, retired Anglican Catholic Priest, has also taken a Friday Communion, and will be taking Communion at midnight on Christmas Eve.

\* \* \* \* \*

Helen Nicholson led a service at the Memorial Stone in the Playing Field on Remembrance Sunday.

Les Sutton read out the names of those parishioners whose names are on the Memorial and also the names of relatives of present day villagers, all of whom gave their lives in the service of their country.

Bob Scott spoke the words of Laurence Binyon's For The Fallen ('They shall not grow old ...'); Dan Beacham sounded Last Post on the bugle and, following the two-minute silence, Bob spoke the words of the Kohima Epitaph ('When you go home ...').

To me there is something terribly poignant about the short service we have held there in the seven years that have since passed since the Memorial Stone was set in place.

During the silence I look to Tresillian Bridge and think of those of our community who died in that conflict who would almost certainly have walked, or perhaps passed in horse and trap, past that (then) farmer's field, the Well Garden, the Toll House, on their way to Truro, to some ship, to the Western Front (or wherever) – and not again to see their loved ones, nor their home village.

May it be that in the safety of our Saviour they know we remember them.

On behalf of everyone at the church I wish you all a Happy Christmas with the peace and love of the Holy Trinity around us always.

George Doherty

\* \* \* \* \*

On behalf of the PCC

## **Lamorran Church Restoration Project – an update**

**November 2021**

It is six months since I last reported in any detail on progress, at which time we were six weeks into the bat mitigation works, the remainder of the repair work had been put out to tender, and time spent in chasing grant aid from various national charities was beginning to show positive results.

By the early part of April, contractors had completed the bat lofts, one in each transept, and had finished the alterations within the roof voids aimed at restricting bat access to the rest of the building. Restoration work on the church furnishings had been taken up to a stage where most were in fit condition to be reinstalled in due course, and a start had been made on the first stage of the general repair work, the noisy and messy operation of removing the inappropriate cement rendering from the lower part of the nave internal walls.

At that point work ceased for the duration of the brown long eared bats' maternity season, running into late June/early July, giving us the opportunity to investigate in greater detail the remainder of the repair work. Having removed the rotten wooden flooring from the south transept, and exposed the Verman monument to full view for the first time in the last hundred years, we realised that we had not one but three important memorials to deal with. The main incised slate monument is amongst the best in Cornwall, dating from 1666, which has much of its original colouring intact. Following detailed advice from the DAC we instructed Sally Stacey Historic Conservation and South West Archaeology, who produced detailed conservation reports, kindly funded by Church care and the Pilgrim Trust, of which more later.

It was at this point, given the scale of the required work, that we decided to divide the project into three phases: phase 1 being the bat mitigation works, phase 2 the general repairs, and phase 3, the conservation work and floor replacement in the south transept.

The present state of play is as follows.

As part of phase 1, our consultant ecologists were monitoring bat activity during the spring & summer; bats are finding their way back into the roof voids and are using the new lofts, although maternity activity has been less than expected and we still have the odd bat finding it's way into the nave, yet to be contained. Glazing repairs carried out during the summer have stopped direct bat & small bird access, and our contractor is programmed to return shortly to complete repairs to outside doors, and to finish the furniture restoration work.

As to the phase 2 repairs, following removal of the rendering in the nave, we found oak wall plugs as evidence of a previous timber wainscot, which we have now replaced with beaded edge t&g wainscot up to dado level, above pew level. About a quarter of the internal wall plaster has been renewed in lime plaster; the defective lintels over the south transept east window have been replaced, and the replastering is about completed. Fortunately, the parish recently received a legacy which covered the balance of the cost of replacing the former sodium-vapor floodlights throughout with LED lighting, making it possible now to read a hymn book.

There are a number of occasional repairs to carry out to the decorative encaustic tiled surfaces in the aisles and chancel. Curing one problem reveals another; reluctant drying in two areas of new plaster has revealed a rising damp problem in the north transept, which should be cured by reducing ground levels externally and putting in French drains. We are just starting on replacing three defective lead valley gutters within our repairs budget, and are waiting for the go-ahead to underline the defective boarded ceiling.

Thanks to the generosity of various charities we have covered the budgeted costs of the phase 2 repairs, and we would like to gratefully acknowledge funding from the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust, the Allchurches Trust, the Enid Barron Legacy, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme.

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As we can discern a possible completion of the phase two repairs, albeit several months ahead, we are also about to start on the south transept work. The conservator's report provided a detailed basis for both works specification and fund raising, including raising and stabilising the John & Catherine Verman monument to its correct position (it weighs something over half a tonne and has dropped 150mm below the floor over the years); repairing & restoring the smaller Mary Verman memorial; and (our bonus discovery) to lift and reposition in the transept floor an 11<sup>th</sup> century cross stone, recycled firstly as a grave ledger stone (inscribed Hic jacit Henricus....) and, since 1845, as a flagstone in front of the Verman monument. The "original" south transept floor appears to have been about 300mm below the other floors; parts of this floor of dressed granite blocks is in situ; and we propose to reform this at the lower level, using new granite and slate flagstones, to better display the three monuments. Firstly though, we need to carry out land drainage work to reduce the water table and resultant damp damage. We have preliminary estimates for the work, and have raised the greater part of the cost, having to date secured generous help from both the Leche Trust, the Idlewild Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and the diocesan Rural Churches Repair Fund.



Whilst the third phase work is "stand alone", phases 1 & 2 are very much interdependent. We need to complete the remaining repair work, before we can redecorate the interior walls, clean, sand and seal the wooden floors (thus eliminating the last of the bat damage), and reinstall the cleaned & repaired Georgian pews choir stalls and pulpit back in place, ready to reopen.

As a by-product of the furniture removal, we have one Estey American organ surplus to requirements (made by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro', Vermont) for sale to anyone who fancies it. First sensible offer secures.

Nick Jeans 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Lamorran Church – John & Catherine Verman Monument – Note that the lower 150mm has dropped below the level of the granite paving. This monument was carved around 1667 and is formed from one piece of slate.

Clive Stephens has told me that because this slate monument is so intact and that the size of it at 8ft x 6ft that it has been deemed to be of National Importance.

**DAC Definition** from page 41

(Truro) Diocesan Advisory Committee, who are responsible for advising the Archdeacon and the Chancellor of the Diocese on matters pertaining to churchbuildings, particularly listed buildings, which are otherwise exempt from normal planning controls.



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