

The Covid Chronicles

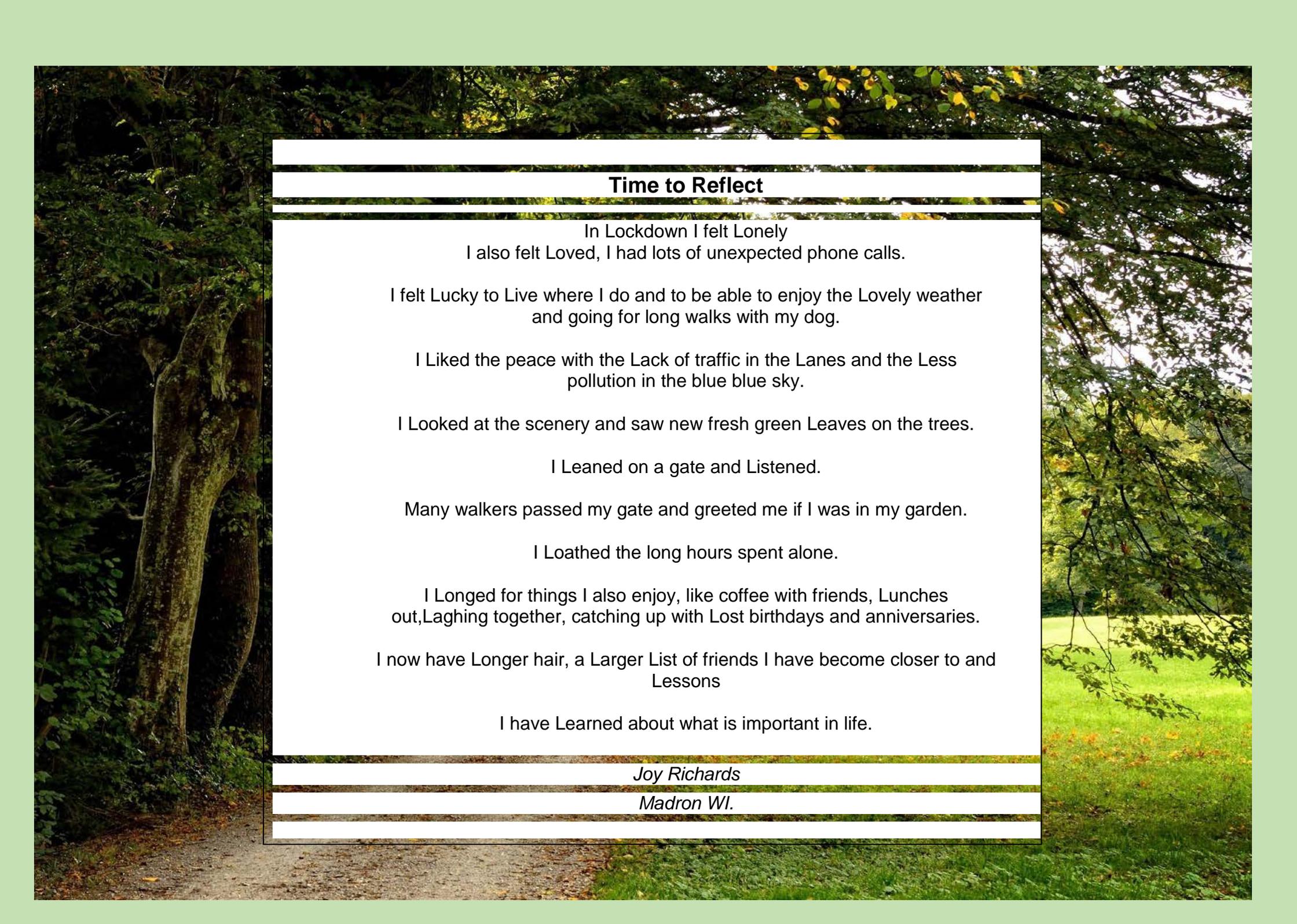


Cornwall Federation of WIs
January 2022

Masks drying on the line.



Helen Kestle



Time to Reflect

In Lockdown I felt Lonely
I also felt Loved, I had lots of unexpected phone calls.

I felt Lucky to Live where I do and to be able to enjoy the Lovely weather
and going for long walks with my dog.

I Liked the peace with the Lack of traffic in the Lanes and the Less
pollution in the blue blue sky.

I Looked at the scenery and saw new fresh green Leaves on the trees.

I Leaned on a gate and Listened.

Many walkers passed my gate and greeted me if I was in my garden.

I Loathed the long hours spent alone.

I Longed for things I also enjoy, like coffee with friends, Lunches
out, Laughing together, catching up with Lost birthdays and anniversaries.

I now have Longer hair, a Larger List of friends I have become closer to and
Lessons

I have Learned about what is important in life.

Joy Richards

Madron WI.

COVID CHRONICLES

LOCKDOWN LIMERICKS

During the first lockdown I exchanged limericks with 'a colleague'! The first few were when it was difficult to get supermarket delivery slots - remember that? Here are a few of mine...

CV news I am trying to ignore
By completing a massive jigsaw
So *much* time spent doing
Means *less* time for chewing
And depleting my meagre food store.

She admitted to munching some biscuits...

I'm jealous of your two rich teas
They're good with an apple and cheese
If you'd like to risk it
I'll reach for a biscuit
A virtual one will do please.

Then - joy

Expectation is ramped up to whopping
Tomorrow I'm getting some shopping!
Someone's bringing me cheese
Sweet potato and peas
I shall eat it all up without stopping.

Week three - it's beginning to drag
Isolation's not really my bag.
I constantly tidy,
From Monday to Friday
So the energy's starting to flag.

While self-isolating at home
I thought about writing a poem.
With a brand new utensil
I sharpened my pencil
And brought forth this terrible tome

Then came Easter 2020 - I sent this to my grandchildren.

At the moment all the nation
Has to stay in isolation
It means you cannot come to stay
And egg-hunt here on Easter Day
What simply terrible frustration.

David Chapman, wildlife photographer, was drawn to the beauty of nature in his garden during lockdown.

Buff-Tip Moth

The buff-tip moth has evolved an almost perfect form of camouflage.



Great Spotted Woodpecker

This young great spotted woodpecker was attracted to the garden using concealed peanuts.



Mason Bee

Last year I built several insect houses and I photographed the mason bees going about their business, including capping their cells with mud.



Rabbit

Rabbits can be a nuisance in the garden, but they can also be extremely cute!



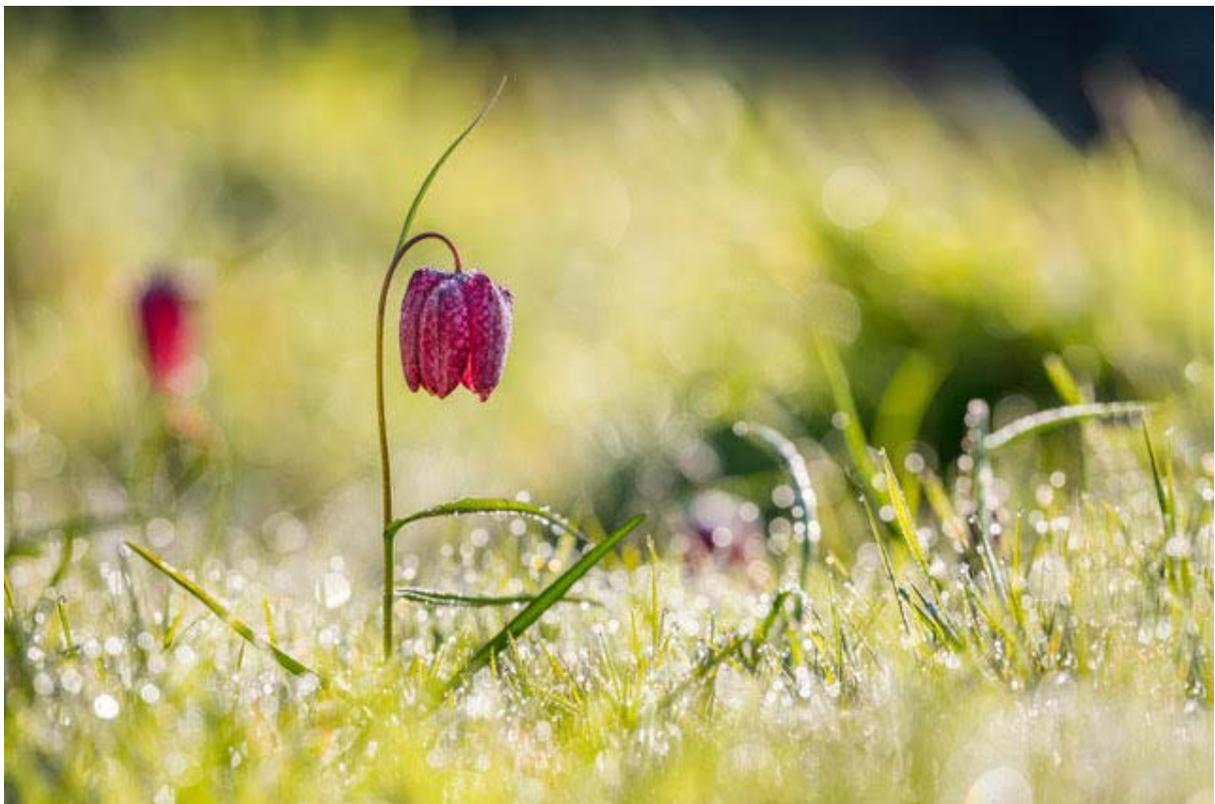
Redwing

I was lucky enough to be able to photograph this redwing from my bedroom window.



Snakeshead Fritillary

Sarah and I planted one hundred Snakeshead Fritillary bulbs in 2019. In 2020, we were very glad that we had.



A Recycling Challenge

During the first period of lockdown, I took the opportunity to sort and thin out my winter wardrobe. Without access to the charity shop, I decided to recycle the fabrics by making an old-fashioned hooked rag rug.

I drew a rough design of overlapping leaves on a length of canvas, and began cutting the clothes into strips. It took me most of lockdown to complete the project, often watching Government briefings or listening to the news as I worked on the rug, but I really enjoyed the challenge. It will always remind me of that strange, quiet few months.

Karrie Skiafe
St Mary's WI



Mowesi Marshgate (WI)



THE COVID CHRONICLES

As soon as meetings had to be cancelled the Marshgate WI (now Mowesi Marshgate) committee sprang into action and produced a monthly newsletter to help keep in touch with members. Then secretary Ann started the ball rolling...and it gathered moss! So after a few months the magazine had become a jumbo eight-pager stuffed with articles, photos, cartoons, recipes and craft.

President Liz did a huge amount of work, including the front page President's column which kept members' spirits up with inspiring thoughts and chat, and the Faces of the WI article every month which eventually morphed into Inspiring Women of Cornwall. Her little dog Buster became a star in his own right, with his photos and his contributions to the BBC programme Spotlight!

We acquired a gardening column, people wrote stories and sent in pictures of their pets for Pets' Corner, their knitting ideas, their craft projects and their encounters with wildlife or beautiful views. Regular columns included Days Gone By, Past Happenings in this month in bygone years, Cornish folklore, Cornish language, a kitchen page, competitions. Even our monthly Flower of the Month competition became virtual, with members sending in photos of their garden glories to be published in the magazine and voted on by members. Points were awarded, just as when the real flowers were brought to meetings in a vase!

This is a sample edition dated to the first day of the first lockdown, and made up of some of the content of all our newsletters over the Covid period – so the various pieces all come from different dates.





Marshgate WI News



23rd March 2020

From the President

Hello ladies,



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter and what I also believe is a first for Marshgate WI!

Your committee had fun putting this together and we hope you enjoy reading it. It's not just our newsletter though, it's yours too and we welcome suggestions and contributions from yourselves - a recipe, photo, news, anything that is of interest. We will endeavour to include them in forthcoming editions. Although we are unable to meet, it is important we stay in touch during this difficult time and we hope this newsletter helps to do just that!



Liz x

Don't forget our birthday meeting today at 2pm!

Because May marks the 70th anniversary of our first meeting in 1951, we have a special speaker (and her human) coming to meet us on Zoom this afternoon. Moonshine the barn owl is very beautiful, and although she does not speak, she will bring her friend Wendy Winstanley, who runs the charity Ravenswell Supporting Cornish Wildlife, helping wildlife of all kinds, including birds.



Why not "come along" with a glass of wine and a slice of cake to enjoy our virtual party? The Zoom link has been circulated to members and guests and will also arrive with this issue by email.

Wreath of Hope

This beautiful wreath was made by Ann and is a lesson in using what you have available. We can't all run round to the florist right now, but we can use our creativity, as Ann shows.

This craft idea originated from the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, an

initiative from a member who felt

that a beautiful wreath, simply decorated with the addition of a green ribbon, the symbol of re-birth, placed in a prominent window or attached to a door would be seen as offering support in these challenging times.

Ann said last month she was keen to try this, adding, "I am lucky enough to have the materials, so watch this space!"

Rainbow of Hope

One member shared this lovely idea: as it is a Knitclick pattern we cannot reproduce it.



TECHNOLOGY SAVES THE WI AGM

The very first ever virtual WI National AGM was streamed live from London's Royal Society of Art, where most of the Board of Trustees and all the speakers, including Sophie of Wessex, were present this month. But the sad fate of Denman College and the inevitability of further subscription rate rises cast a pall over the proceedings.

Although suffering from gremlins at one point, the meeting was enjoyable and engaging, even including virtual tearooms and a virtual sales area. Unfortunately, the server went down during the welcome address, and we were obliged to transfer to live streaming on YouTube. The fault was soon fixed. "We broke the Internet," quipped National Chair Lynne Stubbings, looking chic in a boxy pink-and-white floral jacket. She spoke of the ways in which WIs and members have learned to use 21st century technology to continue to meet and enjoy their organisation, including Facebook groups, Zoom, Twitter and Instagram.



Lynne Stubbings

A full report of the meeting will be circulated with the Annual Meeting agenda this month. WT

Faces That Shaped the WI

The second in this fascinating series by Liz
MADGE WATT

(Margaret Rose Robertson Watt 1868- 1948)



Margaret, or Madge as she preferred to be known, was the chief organiser of Women's Institutes in Great Britain. She formed over 30 Women's Institutes including one at Sandringham following an invitation from Queen

Mary. Born in Collingwood, Ontario – not too far from the birthplace of the very first WI at Stoney Creek - to parents of Scottish descent, Madge earned a living as a writer, editor and reviewer. She married Alfred Tennyson, a chief medical officer, by whom she had two sons and on his death in 1913 she brought them to England to complete their education.

At the beginning of WW1 Madge realised that with men going off to war the women left behind had to carry on their work, particularly on the land, so she started to spread the concept of the Women's Institute. Possessing a great drive and personality as well as having good speaking and communication skills she also believed in the power of women working together regardless of their religion, race or nationality.

In 1915 realising an effective agricultural effort was needed she was employed and funded by the Agricultural Organisations Society to start the Women's Institute, the first one being at Llanfair PG on Anglesey. By 1917 there were 137 Women's Institutes.

In 1918 Madge developed the WI school in Sussex with the aim of training good administrative staff to assist new institutes being set up.

Madge also belonged to the International Council of Women and formed the Scottish Rural Institutes. On her return to Canada she became the founding chairman of the Associated Country Women Of The World.

She was awarded the Member of The Order of The British Empire by George V for her work in helping to establish the Women's Institute and on her death, trees were planted in lime tree walk at Denman in her memory.

Wuthering heights: a picture of derring-do from Hilary Hole. "Keeping occupied during lockdown - WI women can do anything!"

(Editor's note: "I live next door and have watched – often with bated breath - Hilary and Michael completely redo their entire conservatory roof. Well done – it looks amazing. WT



Our Barbara is a wing-walking wonder! (As well as a radio star)

Barbara's aeronautic prowess has just got her a spot on BBC Radio Cornwall, after she answered an appeal for



listeners who had performed wing-walking.

"I was just on my way home from poo-picking," said Barbara, who has been clearing up every day after six ponies in fields near her Camelford home after Riding for the Disabled stable staff were furloughed. "I always have the radio on and they were asking for people who had had wing-walking experiences, and no one had come forward." Barbara rang the station when she got home and was interviewed on the Sunday lunchtime spot on 31st May. Barbara had seen wing-walking done at Plymouth, and remarked to hubby Alec that it was something she would love to try. So for a treat for her 60th birthday, Alec took her to Cirencester for the aerial feat.

"I loved it!" said fearless Barbara, who has also done a parachute jump and piloted a helicopter. "You wait for your turn and they ask some health questions, such as, are you pregnant? Well *I* certainly wasn't!"

Then Barbara was carefully strapped to an A-frame atop the biplane by a staff member, who warned her not to loosen or undo the straps...and then she was airborne. "It was only about ten minutes, but that was enough, although I thoroughly enjoyed it," she said. "They do offer to take a photo of you, but I was glad I didn't – in the wind your nose runs the whole time!"

But any discomforts were made up for by the fabulous view of the countryside beneath, she said. "I never realised how many people have swimming pools!"

GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

Wendy takes a look at our most famous local murder case.

It is 176 years this August 12th since local farm worker Matthew Weeks went to the scaffold for the murder of his lover Charlotte Dymond, and controversy has raged over the conviction ever since.

The scene of the murder (marked by an inscribed stone in Charlotte's memory) is an established tourist destination, as is the enactment of the trial to be seen at Bodmin's Shire Hall, formerly the Crown Court.



Charlotte, probably aged around 18, was found murdered under Roughtor after leaving the farm with Matthew on a Sunday afternoon. They had been sweethearts for several years, but the relationship seemed to have ended and Charlotte was looking for new employment. The pair both worked at Lower Penhale Farm, which stills stands at St Clether, not far from where our Andrea lives.

Poor Charlotte had had a chequered life; illegitimate and disowned by her Bosccastle mother, this attractive girl had just been sacked by the farmer Phillipa Peter, and was seeking a new job. Her body was found beside the stream that runs under Roughtor, her throat cut and some of her clothing missing. Forensic science was unknown at that time, so it is not known if she had been raped, but the missing clothes were outer items such as her gloves and shawl.

An inquest was held at the Alldrunkard Inn – now Hallworthy Farmhouse, where one of our late members, Barbara P, lived. No suspect was identified except Matthew, and he was convicted on the strength of a torn shirt, bloodspots which were probably from a pig killing – but of course also his own lack of alibi and his absconding. Did he do it? I think he did. He took off with Charlotte, came back without her and told lies about where she had gone, inventing a job at a Blisland farm that later proved to be false. He was known to be very jealous when other men paid her attention. Then, even before her body was found, he did a runner to Plymouth.

In jail, before he was hanged, Matthew dictated (he was illiterate) a detailed confession, asking only that it be withheld from publication until after he was dead.

Charlotte lies buried in Davidstow churchyard, but her spirit is rumoured to haunt the scene of her untimely death.

And others who took part in this tragic drama have also left their names and their descendants in the area to this day.



Weird and wonderful Cornwall

Cornwall is known as a land of myth and magic, a place where the Otherworld comes a little closer than in other regions ...and ghost stories abound here. One



of the earliest legends is that of Lyonesse, Cornwall's own Atlantis, an area between what is now Land's End and the Scillies, which is said to have been suddenly swallowed by the sea on an unknown date. The sole survivor was a man called Trevelyan, who escaped on his white horse: to this day the Trevelyan family arms includes a white horse rising from water, and it is said it was once a tradition to keep such an animal ready saddled in the stables – just in case! Marine archaeology has uncovered stone walls under the sea, and travellers at Land's End have been said to hear the drowned church bells ringing...under the waves!

A bit closer to us in North Cornwall stands Dockacre House in Launceston, an imposing Tudor mansion where a wicked man either starved his insane wife or killed her when she tried to escape. The guilty Nicholas Herle has been seen here playing his on flute a recognisable Elizabethan love song - evidence of his remorse, perhaps?

Nearer still, at Poundstock, Penfound Manor is haunted by two members of the Penfound family. One is a young curate who was murdered by Lollards in his own church, and the other is a young daughter of the family who fell in love with a man from the wrong side during the civil war, and died protecting him from her vengeful father.



Right: beautiful Penfound is the oldest inhabited manor house in the UK.

Let's speak Cornish....

Let's try a few phrases you might use when meeting people.

Dydh da – hello. This is pronounced *Dith-dar*. Fatla genes – how are you? *Fatler gennez* (with a hard G like gate).

Da lowr, meur ras – quite well, thank you. Say da lower, murr raz.

Ha ty – and you? Say ha-teh.

Now let's talk about the weather – always a good subject! In Cornish the weather is female (well it's always changing its mind!), so you refer to it as "she" (hi). So a friend might ask, "Fatell yw an gewer?" Pronounce: Fattle ew an gower? – "How is the weather?" You might reply, "Hi yw teg" – Hee ew teg – "It is fine". Or more likely in North Cornwall, "Hi a wra glaw." – Hee a rah glau – "It's raining".



With all of us having more time on our hands, Liz has found this cute knitting pattern for making your own Covid mask. It can be found, with full instructions, at: <https://www.yarnspirations.com/on/demandware.static/-/Sites-master-catalog-spinrite/default/dw0835200d/PDF/RHK0101-028894M.pdf> Sadly, the site will not let me copy the pattern.



A thing of beauty is a joy forever, and especially when it is also cosy and warm! Diana exorcised her lock-down blues by creating this gorgeous quilt in jewel colours. Known for her creativity, Diana turned lock-down into an opportunity and got cracking with her needle, finishing this one as autumn arrived.

"This one is for me!" she chuckled. "I have now learnt to crochet, so busy doing squares to make a blanket for a residential home, all keeps me busy." And with a second lock-down announced last month, Diana has plenty of other plans to keep her busy. "Hopefully if the weather stays fine I shall be able to sort out my garden ready for the winter so won't mind being locked down for a month."

Mask Matters

Thank you to Janice M for highlighting this issue. How virus-proof is your mask? Scientist tracks the growth of micro-organisms after coughing into a petri dish through different face coverings Face coverings may be compulsory in more places now than ever - but how much protection do they really afford to people around you? See the report from the link below.



https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article8682297/How-virus-proof-mask-laboratoryconditions-professor-answers-burningquestion.html?ito=email_share_article-top

Handy Tip to stop your glasses from fogging up when wearing a mask – wash glasses with soap and rinse in lukewarm water. Pat dry with tissue. Make sure your mask is beneath your glasses.

“Do you reckon it’s safe to go out yet?”



First Time in Lockdown....

Our Jenny M found herself with time on her hands, so decided to research her family tree: the family being Hayne, Metters, Hook and Nottle.

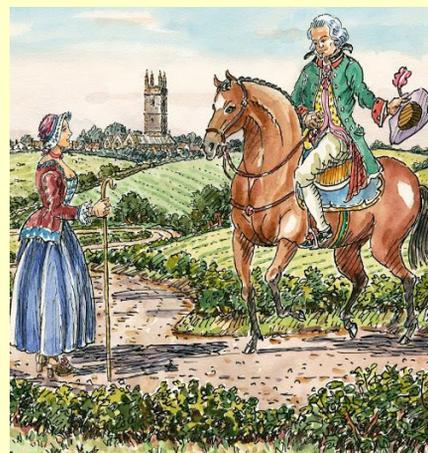
She said, “Very calming, great fun, trying to put names to photos, finding out a bit how they lived and of course gave you the life you are having. Very much to be recommended. I had a friend do all computer work for me. For a donation to charity he will do the same for you: his name is Mike and his number is 01579 324631. It is a great for a Christmas present - good luck!”



THOMASINE BONAVENTURE of Week St Mary.

Born around 1450, Thomasine, a shepherdess, lived with her parents, John and Jane and her brother in a small cottage in Week St Mary.

One evening in 1463, she was approached whilst tending her flock of sheep by a well dressed London merchant, Richard Bumsby, (there are several variations of his surname) asking for directions. Realising he wouldn't make his destination by nightfall, she invited him to stay at her cottage where he was warmly welcomed with a meal of pilchard pie, herbs and cream and a chair for the night by the fire.

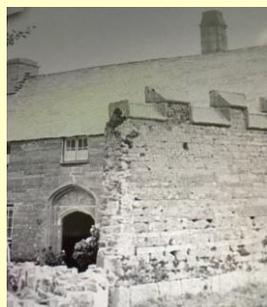


Impressed by her charm, intelligence and thoughtfulness, Bumsby asked her to return to London with him to run his household and later to care for his sick wife. Thomasine was tempted by his offer as the money she earned would help to support her family and later to pay for a doctor to attend her sick father. After much discussion with her parents (who only spoke Cornish), she moved to London leaving behind her distraught cousin, John Dunham who had hoped to marry her. After Thomasine left, John entered The White Monks monastery at St Cleer as a novice. Thomasine was a popular member of the household and on his wife's death married Richard (at his wife's request) and three years later, when he died from the plague, she became a rich woman.

Her second husband, Henry Gall was also a wealthy merchant and as a wedding gift she asked for money to purchase 20 acres of woodland so that the villagers in Week St Mary would have fuel to burn in winter. Henry died in 1467 after 5 years of marriage and Thomasine became an even richer woman.

In 1469 she married her third husband, Sir John Perceval, an alderman and Lord Mayor of London. Remembering her long and difficult walk across the moor escorting sheep to market, she asked this time as a wedding present, for a paved road and a bridge to cross the Green - a moor brook making the walk less difficult and shorter for the villagers.

She excitedly wrote to her parents that she had been presented to Henry VII who remarked to her husband, "Ha, Sir John! See to it that thy fair dame be liege and true for she comes of the burly Cornish stock and they be ever rebels in blood and bone." On her husband's death she took over her his business and continued to train apprentices. It is said that she loaned Henry VII money but also had to pay a sum of £1,000 to him in order to receive his pardon for trumped up charges against her.



**Week St Mary
Chantry**

After being widowed for a third time and with no children from any of her marriages, Thomasine returned to Cornwall residing at Berry Coombe, Jacobstow, which on her death was given to the poor of Week St Mary. She threw herself into charitable works founding a school, library and chantry - parts of which are now converted into a farmhouse and owned by the Landmark Trust. She paid the stipend for a schoolmaster who had to be Oxford or Cambridge educated and who was required to pray for the souls of her dead husbands and parents. However, two years after the school was built it fell into decay and in the reign of Edward VI its assets were moved to a school in Launceston. The chantry was dissolved in 1548.

Thomasine also provided the funds for the rebuilding of a church tower at St Stephen in Launceston, and to her cousin John Dunham she gave a communion cup with a forget-me-

not engraved on it.

The name Bonaventure (often written as Bonaventura) means good fortune. Thomasine certainly brought good fortune on herself going from a simple Cornish shepherdess to a rich London Mayoress. She died in 1530 and is still remembered in Week St Mary. The Stratton church accounts show that on the day on which she was to be remembered prayers are made in repose of her soul two shillings and two pence (approximately £50 in today's money) paid to the priests for bread and ale.

Thomasine lies buried in the churchyard of St Mary Woolnoth in the City of London.

Beeny Cliff

Thomas Hardy wrote this on revisiting the area after the death of his Cornish first wife Emma, whom he met at St Juliot while working on the church. Written in March, it is one of Liz's favourite poems.



O the opal and the sapphire of that wandering western sea,
And the woman riding high above with bright hair flapping free –
The woman whom I loved so, and who loyally loved me.

The pale mews plained below us, and the waves seemed far away
In a nether sky, engrossed in saying their ceaseless babbling say,
As we laughed light-heartedly aloft on that clear-sunned March day.

A little cloud then cloaked us, and there flew an irised rain,
And the Atlantic dyed its levels with a dull misfeatured stain,
And then the sun burst out again, and purples prinked the main.

- Still in all its chasml beauty bulks old Beeny to the sky,
And shall she and I not go there once again now March is nigh,
And the sweet things said in that March say anew there by and by?

What if still in chasml beauty looms that wild weird western shore,
The woman now is – elsewhere – whom the ambling pony bore,
And nor knows nor cares for Beeny, and will laugh there nevermore.



This stunning Christmas scene was sent in by Jenny N to demonstrate that the bought decorations aren't always the best. Her daughter Tammy made this herself – with quite a lot of fairy lights - to display at the family home. Isn't it beautiful?

Wreath Competition

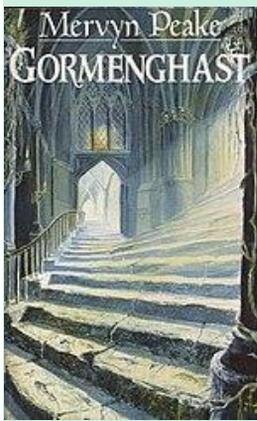
The beautiful wreath pictures sent in for the Christmas edition were voted on by members and we have some winners!
Right: the winner is Jenny M's berry themed wreath (right). Second is Lyn's classic wreath (below), and third is Liz's wreath decorated with gay striped ribbon (below right).



Andrea talks about her favourite reads.

Titus Groan - Mervyn Peake.

Titus Groan is the first book in a trilogy published in 1946. It is the story of Gormenghast castle and its inhabitants from the humblest kitchen skivvy to the head of the household. The characters are larger than life and there is a Gothic feel to the narrative. The descriptive passages are powerful and the characters memorable. The Countess of Groan lives in a sea of white cats; Swelter is the head chef and Lord Sepulchgrave's days are dictated according to ritual and custom. There is a flood, a murder and a fire so plenty of action to keep the reader interested.



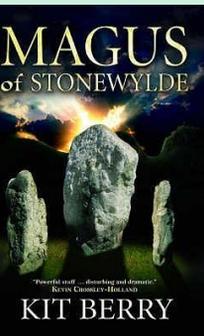
The Last Kingdom - Bernard Cornwell

Uhtred is an English boy born into the aristocracy of 9th century Northumbria. At the age of 10 he is captured by the Danes and brought up as one of them. He becomes involved in the fighting between the English and the Danes, fighting on both sides at various times. Marriage ties him to the Saxon cause but when his wife and child vanish in the chaos of a Viking invasion he is driven to face the greatest of the Viking chieftains. This is an action-packed story which gives us a much better insight into the founding of England than school history.



This handsome chap was sent in by Hilary after the editor appealed for more pet pictures – not sure how serious she was being!

“As you know, I'm not a pet person,” remarked Hilary, sharing these pictures. “I bought this tortoise in 1987 and placed him in our back garden near the fence. That autumn brought the 'hurricane' and the fence came down. I had a very irate neighbour rushing round to tell me “he wasn't going to be responsible for our tortoise and that we would have to recompense him for any plants it ate”. The look on his face was an absolute picture when I quietly told him it was a



Magus of Stonewylde - Kit Berry

Sylvie is allergic to the 21st century, so much so that she is in hospital. Her mother and the doctors watch her life slipping away, but one of the doctors offers a chance. There is an alternative community, Stonewylde, in a remote corner of Dorset, and if Sylvie can visit then the clean air and green lifestyle might restore her.

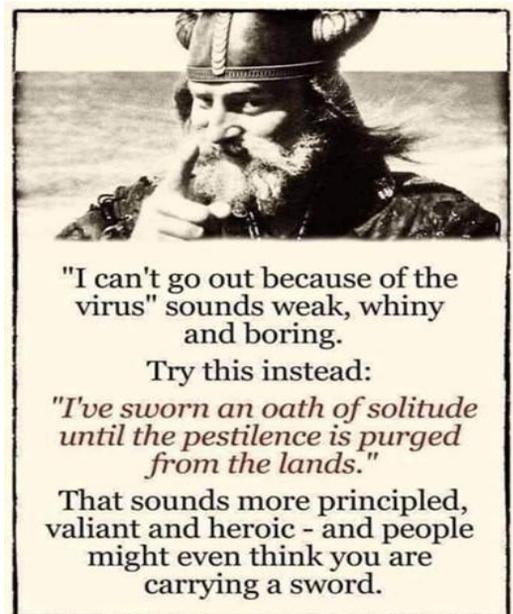
They take the chance and find themselves in a haven of beauty and tranquillity. Sylvie makes friends with a secretive village boy, but as time goes on she finds all is not quite as it seems at Stonewylde.

The Beach - Alex Garland

This book is about a backpacker's experiences in Southeast Asia. In Bangkok the narrator meets a couple who tell him about a community of young people living in an island paradise, the more he hears about it, the more he becomes engaged and he finally decides to see if he can find the island. Eventually he arrives in Koh Samui and from there discovers the island and he joins the community. At first all is well and he feels at ease with his new-found friends but gradually things start to go wrong.....



stone one! It still makes me laugh nearly 34 years on. “This snail followed me home from Italy in 1993, so Italian snails are obviously long-lived,” adds Hilary. Beautiful geraniums, Hilary!





Recipe Book

Jenny's Pea Soup

When the committee met just before Christmas to wrap your gifts and write cards, Jenny gave us a lovely lunch of soup and sausage rolls. The soup was so tasty and warming.

Slice and sauté half an onion (or a whole small one), add 200g nice peas and 300ml veg stock.

Add a little mint to taste and simmer until cooked, then season

and blend to the consistency you prefer. Serve hot decorated with mint leaves....yum !



Cornish Sticky Cake

Makes 1 x 900g (2lb) loaf

Fruit layer

- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- 50g (2oz) butter
- 40g (1½ oz) glacé cherries, quartered
- 25g (1oz) sultanas
- 25g (1oz) stem ginger, cut into small pieces
- 25g (1oz) brown sugar
- 40g (1½ oz) flaked almonds

Sponge mixture

- 175g (6oz) soft butter
- 175g (6oz) caster sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 175g (6oz) self-raising flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 heaped tablespoon ground ginger



Grease and line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin.

To make the fruit layer, measure the syrup, butter and sugar into a pan. Gently heat, stirring, until just melted. Add the almonds, cherries, sultanas and ginger pieces and stir until combined. Chill until solid. Spread onto the base of the tin.

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. To make the sponge, measure all the ingredients into a bowl. Beat together until smooth and combined. Spoon on top of the fruit layer in the tin and spread out evenly. Bake for 45 minutes until well risen and lightly golden. Leave to cool for 5 minutes, then tip upside down to remove. WT

Kitchen Tips: Making sandwiches for a picnic? Layer them up with thin slices of cucumber before wrapping them in film: it will keep them moist and fresh.

Clean smelly hands that have been slicing onions or gutting fish by "washing" with a squeezed lemon half with a tablespoon of salt in it. Cream your hands with lotion afterwards!

Gin soaked old tart

This recipe was concocted in honour of my sister!

Pastry

- 8oz plain flour
- 4oz butter or margarine
- 2 egg yolks
- 2oz caster (golden is nice)
- About 2 tbs tonic water

Filling

Grated zest and juice of 4 lemons – but first pare long fine shreds of peel from one of the lemons and set aside

- 4 eggs
- 6oz caster sugar
- 4oz unsalted butter
- 4tbs neat gin
- 2 tbs juniper berries, crushed
- 7g gelatine



Method: soak the gelatine in a small pot of cold water and set aside.

Place the pastry ingredients (except the eggs and tonic water) in the food processor and pulse until they resemble breadcrumbs. Then add the egg and continue to process, dribbling in the tonic water slowly until the pastry comes together like a dough – don't add too much tonic. Place in the fridge to chill for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile make the filling: whisk together the lemon zest and juice with the sugar, butter, juniper berries and eggs in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. The bowl should not actually touch the water. Whisk for 8-10 minutes, or until the mixture has thickened slightly, enough to coat the back of a spoon, then remove from the heat and strain to remove the berries. Add the gin and gelatine and mix well. Cover with clingfilm and leave to cool.

Now grease an 8ins flan tin, roll out the pastry and line the tin, then fill with foil and baking beans, and bake blind for 20 mins at 180C. Remove the foil and baking beans and bake for a further 10 mins until cooked and crisp.

When the pastry case is cool, fill with the lemon and gin mixture, spread evenly and chill in the fridge until set. Decorate with the shreds of lemon zest, or you can use those little jelly sweets shaped like lemon slices. Wendy.



PETS' CORNER



Catching some rays: Andrea's friendly cat Milo relaxes on an outside windowsill in a gap between showers. Andrea has three tabby cats, with the beautiful Morwenna and cuddly Niblet, but the others were too shy to be snapped.



PET POSE

Here is a happy snap from our President, who couldn't resist taking a picture as Jack Russell Buster (above) posed with a laughing face on the sitting room floor. Buster also "takes" a nifty photo himself, and several of his photos have been featured on BBC Spotlight – see below.



♪ Sisters, sisters, There were never such devoted sisters....

Above: Lyn's adorable kittens Mara and Tula as they were a few months ago. Below: "This shows how much they have grown in the past 16 months; they are now 18 months old," says Lyn.



Sittin' pretty

This is the fiendish wink of a cat who has won. Every day he and his "gran" Wendy wage a battle for who sits in this dining room chair by the radiator. Ross usually wins. He has another chair, all his, with a soft blanket, but who wants that when he can score yet another victory? Mwa-ha-ha!

Lockdown...you won't know what to do with yourself, they said!



WI Milly

It's called "lockdown chic"!



WI Milly

I'm really sorry, mother-in-law, but you can't come to stay – the lockdown, you know!



WI Milly



WI Milly

Created by the editor, Milly is an ordinary WI member whose thoughts, sayings and adventures were an attempt to capture the spirit of the time whilst remaining as upbeat as possible.



WI Milly

We've had a complaint. Can I come in and check there are only six people here?



Nope. Then there would be seven of us!

WI Milly

There's a lot to be said for WI meetings by Zoom...

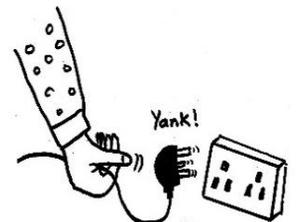


Going to WI in your onesie!



Gin and tonic instead of coffee!

And if Gillian Brown starts banging on about her Seychelles holiday, you can "lose" your WiFi!



An artist at work



I feel I have been luckier than most as I live in a beautiful part of the world not far from the sea, where I have taken many walks and seen wonderful wild life not usually around when the area is full of tourists. This has influenced my artwork greatly.

At the start of Covid my thought was, no everyday pressures lots of time to paint and be creative but I couldn't. There seemed no point; I had nothing to work towards. Usually I have deadlines, a commission to complete, an event to prepare for but there was nothing and things were so uncertain. I decorated and moved furniture around instead.

I would say six weeks in, after taking photos on my walks particularly of flowers, some of which I hadn't seen before, I started to paint again. Instead of my usual realistic, modest style, they were big and bold and colourful, more colourful than I had ever done before. I felt free and almost careless in my painting. I had developed a style I was comfortable with after many years feeling I didn't really have one of my own

These pieces I continued to paint and started to relay the style to my fused glasswork. I now feel so comfortable with this style and way of working I am sure it will continue. Why it happened, I don't know, but there was certainly a great change, not in my physical ability but how I think about subjects, the choice of subjects and how I see them.

*Linda Hallwood
Crantock WI*



Feeling Positive

In November 2019, I ended my working life after a 38-year career at a large multi-national company. My job, which I loved, involved long hours and regular travel away from home. Little did I expect that within five months life would change beyond what I could ever have expected? I also didn't realise that twelve months later I would feel excited to be having my COVID vaccination and I would have developed a relationship with my postman and the Hermes lady who had delivered mail and packages to me regularly during the previous year.

Leaving work had come at a good time for me. My husband had already reached the age that he always planned to retire and we were looking forward to fulfilling ambitions such as increased travel and more leisure time. During the final months that I was still working, I fulfilled one of my long-held ambitions and joined the WI, something that during lockdown proved to be a good send.

During my working life as a people manager I became very familiar with the Five Pillars of wellbeing – Be Active, Connect, Give, Keep Learning and Take Notice. I instinctively followed those guidelines to help me to not only survive but also thrive during the three lockdown periods. My membership of Ladock WI and the fact that we quickly started using technology to keep in touch and meet (using Zoom) aided that goal.

As soon as we entered lockdown, I decided to write a diary, something that allows me to now look back on that period and remember how I felt at the time, although on reflection it can feel like we were living through a dream.

Here are a few of my entries.

4/4/20

'By now panic buying is setting in. We could not get any toilet rolls or tinned tomatoes despite trying a number of shops. In Tesco Extra the cashier told us that customers are shouting at them and getting aggressive. We went home with various items which we had not planned to buy but that my husband encouraged me to purchase – how glad I am now as I start using those items.'

12/4/20

'Before all of this really kicked off, I offered to collect our neighbour's paper for him. What had been a neighbourly offer of kindness may prove to be a routine which will get us through this challenge.'

That definitely was the case the routine of getting up each day to get the paper to him and my daily contact with the staff at our local shop was invaluable especially as the weeks passed by.

3/5/20

'I feel ashamed to say that on Friday I had what was, for me, a meltdown. I seemed to be spending the day cooking, ironing and cleaning and I just had to have a very short cry! I feel

ashamed because this morning I read about people celebrating VE day and I know I have nothing to complain about. Yes, I am cooking every meal but I have no problem getting any ingredients, yes, I am ironing more (because I am choosing to wash the bedding more because I have nothing better to do) but my steam generator iron does the job quickly and efficiently – what do I have to complain about. Then again speaking to a friend on Thursday I think she nailed it (perhaps that is why I thought more about it) each day is like Groundhog Day – day in day out the same things happen same four walls, same garden, walks differ a bit but most days are the same. On Friday we went on a 10-minute walk to a normally busy road. It was eerie because it was deserted but also because it was the first time, we have walked there in over six weeks.'

At that moment I think I gained a good insight into how women in the generations before me felt.

30/5/21

When we were once again able to meet up with family outside, we went for a picnic in a field not far from our home

'We found a secluded tree and it was idyllic sitting underneath it eating the delicious picnic that our daughter-in-law had prepared. It felt like something people would have done 70 odd years ago. No one came anywhere near where we were and it was lovely.'

I mention in the diary several times the joy that our daughter, not the most enthusiastic of cooks, delivering slices of homemade cheesecake to our doorstep and the joy that brought us.

People say to me that it is a shame that as soon as I gave up work this happened. That my husband and I have not yet been able, to fulfil ambitions to travel more. I actually feel that the period gave us the opportunity to decompress after our busy working lives. The days at home on our own were precious and we now actively ensure that we schedule in such days. Would we have done that if we had not experienced lockdown? I don't know. Lockdown reminded me of the joy in simple things. As a family, we were lucky not to have experienced any loss or financial impact and I am mindful that not everyone was so fortunate. My family all live nearby so could come and talk to us from the end of the drive. If anything, the challenge has come now in returning to the life we led before, as we have become so used to living the way we had to during lockdown and in many ways it held a lot of pleasure.

*Tracey Camps
Ladock WI*

Keeping busy during lockdown



A friend and I did a lot of walking during the summer of 2020. We went swimming at the beach.



I also sewed scrubs for a local care home.



My husband and I have an allotment, so that always keeps us busy.

Jill Gregory, Connor Downs and Gwithian WI



Back into the light?

Easter Day, the second Easter in a pandemic that began over a year ago. A year of same old same old, the mind-numbing boredom of monotony. Like being in thick fog when one can't see the way. Going through the motions day after day of breakfast, lunch, dinner, weeks punctuated by refuse collection day, the veg delivery day, the mobile fishmonger day....

And yet, today, Easter Day, I sense a change. New beginnings. Lockdown is easing. Church is open and the Easter Mass is celebrated. Sitting in my pew with real people around me. Eyes above masks are smiling. No singing but music playing.

Afterwards, Easter greetings outside in the sun. Exchanging words and catching up with friends.

Walking later in the afternoon under a cloudless sky, senses are heightened. Every experience like opening a gift. A golden river of glistening celandines flows down the lane. Pale creamy lemon primroses and dainty white stitchwort flowers dot the hedgerow; the occasional violet, cattle grazing lazily, tails fly flicking.

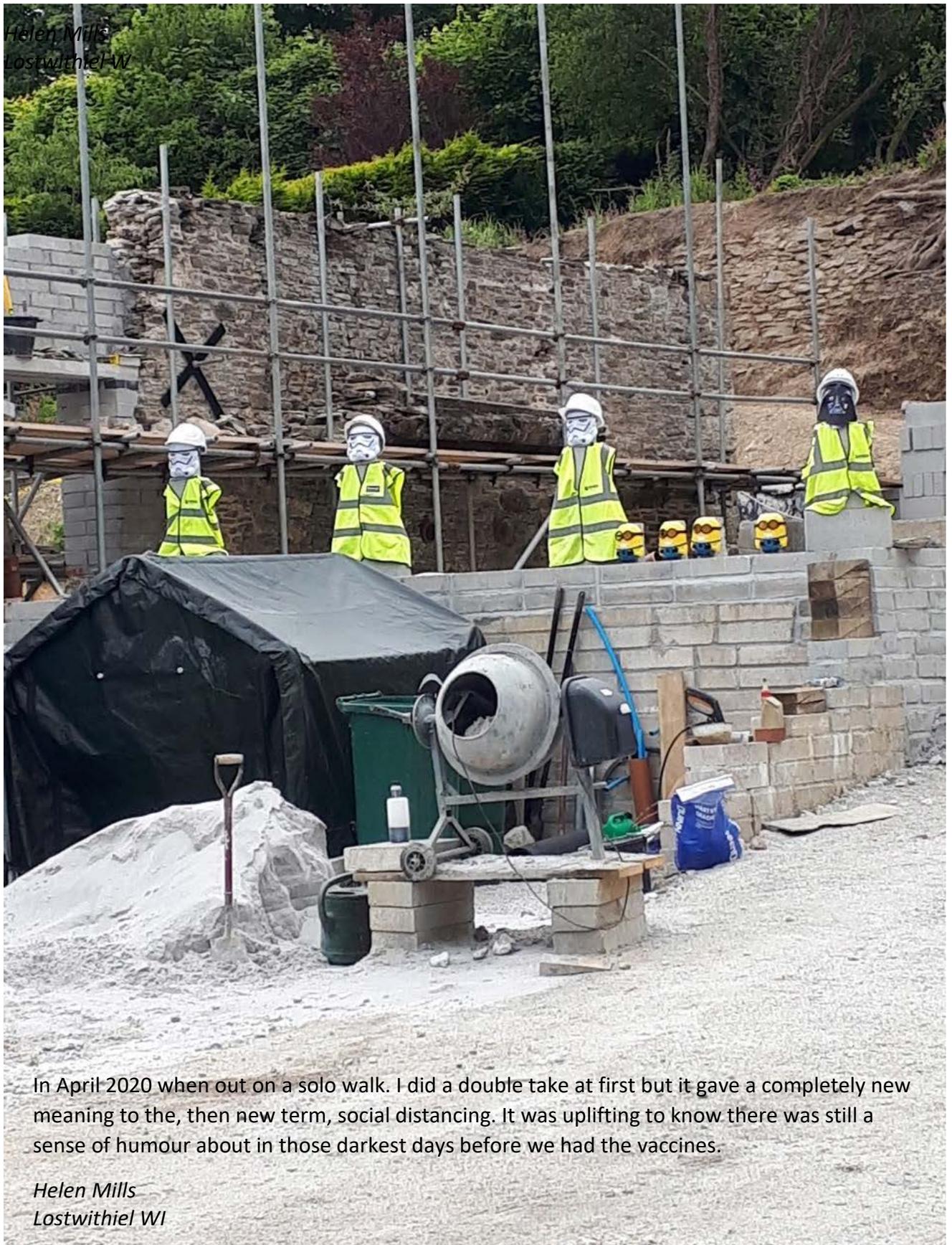
Coming up the hill towards the farm, open barns and the first swallows of summer perched on the wire.

Home to the aromas of Easter lamb mingled with sweet rosemary and mint.

Spring will lead me into summer. New beginnings are here, and lockdown is easing. Soon it will be in the past. Back into the light at last.

Pillaton WI, Ann Henderson, April 2021.

Social distancing



In April 2020 when out on a solo walk. I did a double take at first but it gave a completely new meaning to the, then new term, social distancing. It was uplifting to know there was still a sense of humour about in those darkest days before we had the vaccines.

*Helen Mills
Lostwithiel WI*

nwodkcol2020 (lockdown backwards)

23rd March 2020



Stay at home Mr Prime-minister ordered us.
One hour a day allowance for exercise near home. Easter Saturday, I found the bike, in shed under cobwebs etc, rode on the Camel Trail at the end of our cottage, for my hour. Eerie, not a soul did I see.
I cycled so fast, to continuously try and ease the fear, anticipation and uncertainties.
I stopped cycling to take a drink, scared stiff I'd be spotted and marched off by the police for stopping. A quick drink. I looked to my right. Here I saw isolation at its finest. Tickled me, it's rib morel alongside.

Busters Bingo - 2 days into Lockdown.



Bored son, busting out the bingo for family and godparents. Told us all via WApp group how to join this 'alien Zoom'. Proud of myself downloading first time. Proceeded to believe it didn't have sound and that we couldn't converse!
After two Saturdays finally mastered that!

March 31st



New venture; afternoon tea. Planned for besties birthday visit. Still went ahead, just me. Those in photo form stuck on chairs and all on Face Time.



Well prepared!

My attempt at making a facemask when all discussions were, 'Should we, shouldn't we' wear a mask?

J

*Joanne Cockrell
St Breward WI*

Lilac is very calming

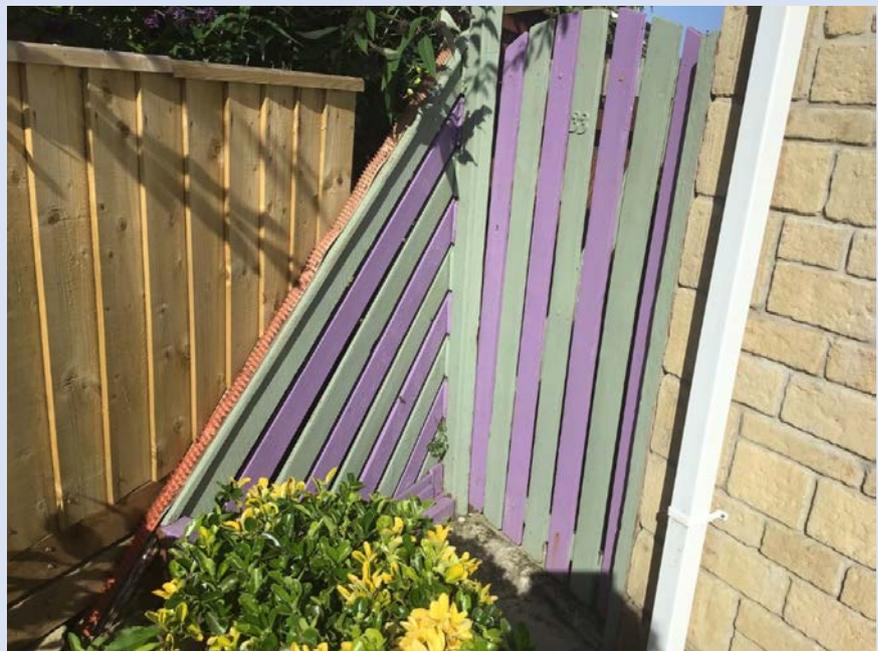


In July last year, I had to call 111 as my husband became very ill in the night. After several phone calls and a visit from a paramedic, I took him to Treliske clinic and didn't see him again for five days!

So I spent those few days in a kind of daze, not really knowing what to do.

However, in this rather dazed state, I got on with a few things. I already had the paint. I just had to be reminded to eat!

*June Brown
St Agnes WI*



Sheffield and District W.I. Poem and Lyrics

2020 a year to remember
With COVID from March to December,
Boris locked us all down,
We tried not to frown,
Making large G&T's top Agenda!
(Shirley Bates)

The year 2020 was an odd one
We could not meet or see anyone
But when we could mix
We kept to the Rule of 6
And met for chatter and fun!
(Beverley Boon)

This year of COVID19
The likes of which could not be foreseen
Locked in weeks on end
Not seeing a friend
High hopes now for a vaccine.
(Sue Snell)

C
O
V
I

L O C K D O W N

On the alert
Covering your face
Keeping safe
Distancing
Others needing help
Washing hands
No hugging
(Beverley Robinson)

Summer 2020

Who'd have thought it!

Stay in if you can,

Don't mix and mingle,

Keep 2 metres apart, wash your hands

Sanitise and wear your mask,

Zoom, Lockdown, R. Number, Social Distancing now common place,

Daily updates supposed to inform

But more likely to alarm,

Don't panic Mr Mainwaring!

But what joy to hear birdsong

Beautiful clear skies, long sunny days

Gardens all neat and tidy,

Cornish hedges at their best,

Neighbours talking and people walking

And dare I say, **all quiet on the Brexit front!**

Has the virus done for us, certainly not.

The Ladies of Sheffield and District W.I. have done their best.

Uphill and Down Dale, we have traversed the highways and Byways

And moors of West Penwith,

Treasure has been sought in Mousehole,

Tea taken and butterflies visited,

All in the open air, and social distanced of course.

Gifts delivered at Christmas, a knit and natter, more natter than knit, me thinks.

The Committee has gathered in car ports, gardens and on Zoom,

When will we see our Hall again?

But despite the challenges, we have kept in touch,

and not let the virus do for us!

(Jo Hill)



SMALL PLEASURES

Nowadays my horizons are bounded
by this curve of earth; behind me
the land slopes up towards the moor,
and looking west, falls to the river,
rising to fertile fields and woods -
beyond , the road that now I never see.

And so my vision rests on little things –
books crowding every shelf and overflowing,
and vying with pots from many potteries,
the ironing waiting to be ironed,
the dust quietly accumulating, while I enjoy idleness in the sun.

The blue-tits cluster, pecking nuts,
a sleek nuthatch calls, the woodpecker,
and the three blackbirds that trail
each other every day, are seemingly
content with their small boundaries
and I must admit that usually, so am I.

Second Lockdown

Drifting in the doldrums –
tomorrow will have to do;
desultory conversation maybe ...
just between us two.

Lassitude is
taking over,
nowhere much to go.
Put some daffodils in a vase perhaps...
they'll change the status quo.

Christine Woolf
St Breward WI

A real positive during the Covid 19 Pandemic

The year from March 2020 to March 2021 was a very bad and different one for most of the world and UK suffered from this virus as much as any country and more than some. Therefore, for many people here it was a very bad year. For me, however, there were some plusses.

The main one was that our daughter, who is living and working in Japan at the present time, came to visit in March 2020 for Mothering Sunday and stayed for nine weeks! This doesn't mean that she didn't work, as she rarely goes anywhere without her computer and other bits, so she ordered a large monitor which quickly came, and a few other things, and set up office in our dining room.

She is a professor of epidemiology, so promptly applied for a grant to work in the coronavirus field. She was not surprised not to get it as she had the feeling that funders wanted to support industry rather than academia, but she had plenty of work to get on with. Some of this was teaching her Japanese students, so she had to be ready for zoom lessons at 4am to fit in with Japanese timing! Fortunately, they didn't keep her to the original timing, which would have meant 1 am UK time!

She is a very active lady and keeps very fit, (Zoom yoga lessons on the lawn every Friday) and much running and walking. (She eventually bought a bike as well and went cycling over the moor!), and with her work connected to nutrition she was keen to introduce us to a few of the new tastes she had found. Some days she would cook for us, and other times she would instruct me in what to do and we had lots of very nice and sometimes exotic meals together.

It was very special to share that time with her. She did all the shopping, so that we didn't have to venture into shops (and she has sometimes luxurious tastes!), although I used to go with her for the drive, and stay in the car reading a book or sending Whats Apps or emails while she shopped. She is a great one for seeing a new fruit or vegetable, bringing it home and then finding out what to do with it, so our diet was often stretched to new dishes.

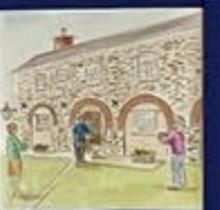
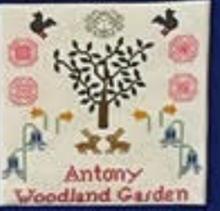
Being a fitness fanatic, she also was concerned that we should also be as fit as possible. Not difficult for my husband as he was doing lots and lots of gardening (and writing "The Isolated Gardener" pieces to go on the church notice board!), but she made sure I also went for lots of walks, which was no hardship in view of the lovely weather and the wealth of Spring flowers in the hedgerows. I just love the primroses, violets and bluebells, together with their perfumes.

After seven weeks, she suddenly announced, "I think I might buy a houseboat!" After we'd picked ourselves up off the floor we looked at the ones she was considering and realised she was serious. Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised as her idea of a good Christmas is pony-trekking in Patagonia, or Mongolia, which she has done twice. She had some savings and found one to suit moored in a creek opposite Kew Gardens (she is still attached to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine although on loan to Nagasaki), and by the end of week 9 she was off, complete with bike, giant screen and other things she'd accumulated! We stayed with her on board for a few days in September before she headed back to Japan and found it very comfortable and enjoyable and in a very nice position and of course we went to Kew Gardens!

But this was not all. At the end of December, she came for a belated Christmas visit and what happened? We were locked down again! So she stayed for another five weeks! She only left then to go and nurse my sister in Kent after she had a bad fall. Then at the end of March she had to return to Japan.

So that was our pandemic year! Weren't we fortunate?

*Carolyn Cox
Pensilva WI*



Wilcove WI

Diary During Lock-down in 2020

Name – Jean Nankervis

Date of birth – 30.6.1936

Address – Wicca, a farm in Zennor

Introduction

I was asked to keep a diary by the St. Ives Archive. I have tried to include local as well as some national news and my own feelings. I live alone and sometimes I found it useful for expressing my frustrations. After nearly six months, there is no sign of free movement but I have decided 33 pages are more than enough.

I was annoyed when things at Easter were cancelled but filled my time by working on my History of Zennor. I do the accounts for the farm, the cattle records and other paper work. My daughter Rose lives in the barn opposite and is greatly admired for her farming skills. My son Sam lives in Zennor and comes to help every day. Rose has two teenage children, Matthew and Nell.

Summary

March was busy with farm work and getting used to the restrictions. The banks and post offices were a big problem. I rang friends and relations to find out how they were coping and trying to keep cheerful.

The whole of April was taken up with farm work both in the office and outside. We had a clear TB test for the cattle, the accounts were done, annual claim forms filled in and all new documents for cattle records started.

May was full of cancelled anniversaries and I wrote a piece for the Zennor Mermaid's Echo about them. Part 3 of my History of Zennor appeared in the CALH Journal. I found time to polish up parts 4 and 5, which included the Black Death which I thought appropriate. One of my sheets wore out and all the shops are closed. Eventually Rose managed to find one for me on-line.

Dominic Cummings did not obey the five-mile limit and drove from London to Derbyshire. Not only that, but he took his wife, who was in hospital recovering from the Corona virus. His excuse was that he no one look after his young son and took him as well. Since then there has never been 100% complying with any government guidelines.

In June, things began to ease but litter was an enormous problem. No toilets were open for one thing. The road at Tredrine was closed all month meaning the only way to St. Ives was via Penzance or Chysauster. I finished Part 6 of my History of Zennor and took a break by visiting a few friends in their gardens. I invited them here two at a time for my birthday on June 30th and had the best birthday ever.

In July, I started work on the Domesday Book and then had a few days with my son Tom near Monmouth. In August I arranged a pasty picnic here for the WI. Then I worked hard with two friends for a meeting of the history group here with four short talks. Sadly, one of our members died unexpectedly and I went to her funeral at Morvah.

I changed my car for a hybrid. My daughter and two children came down for a week. I decided to finish this diary in September. Only being able to talk to friends on the telephone or by email for so many months makes one feel neglected.

Stay home, Stay safe, Save lives

2020 March 19th Thursday

I was nearly out of milk so I went down St. Ives in the afternoon and Warrens had just one loaf of bread left so I bought it for my son Sam. I went to Tesco's and they had no milk at all as the panic buying had started. I found one loaf for my daughter Rose.

March 20th Friday.

At 9 o'clock today, Tesco's car park was full and people were coming out of the shop with trolleys loaded sky high. I rushed straight in to the milk section and grabbed 2 x 4 pint bottles for me and Rose. I did the rest of my shopping. I bought The Cornishman (to go on the dairy floor when I wash it next week) and the Times and Echo so I had something to read. It is a shame they will be closing the library.

The schools are closing today. Rose's children, Matthew (18) and Nell (nearly 16) will not like staying at home and not seeing their friends. I washed my gloves in Detol and then the handles of the car and the steering wheel as Rose and the children use it.

March 21st Saturday.

I was asked about keeping a diary on March 27th by the St. Ives Archive so I back dated it to the 19th. At first we did not believe things such as, were shops really shut, had meetings really been cancelled. Someone suggested washing curtains and I knew mine hadn't been done for ages so I put on a load every day for a week.

March 22nd Sunday

I rang Nora (who is 90) to say no church today as I usually give her a lift. I heard most of the archbishop's broadcast on the radio. Is Zennor Church open or shut as each bit of information is different?

Last week I planned to go round the local shops to see if they wanted any books for sale but even the Zennor Craft Fair has been cancelled. Goodness knows when I shall be selling books and cards again. I was paid for some of my Wicca books and a couple of books for the Penwith Local History Group.

March 23rd Monday,

I rang Harvey Bros. at 8 and ordered sausages for all of us and collected them half an hour later, I saw no one else down St. Ives and then I went to Tesco's.

March 24th Tuesday.

A couple parked on the green and rang my bell to say so, which really annoyed us as they are not supposed to drive to the countryside for a walk.

March 25th Wednesday

Rose and Sam took two cows to market in the transport box. I have emails coming in all the time about keeping in touch from businesses, friends and organisations. I learnt to do emails in foot and mouth year, which was 2001, and I use them a lot now. The Newsletter from Farm Cornwall cheered me up.

March 26th Thursday

I washed even more curtains as the weather is dry.. The sun is still shining and it is like summer in my garden. We had rain and gales for months all winter so this is a lovely change.

March 27th Friday,

I went to Tesco's but I was not allowed in without joining a long queue of people all two metres apart so I gave up and went to the Co-op.

28/03/20 Saturday

I started cleaning the big dairy and brushed the walls. Sam helped me clear the slates and I washed them and left to dry. Three cows calved today. That makes 64 so far this year and about another 30 to come. The sun is shining but the wind is cold. I shall wash the floor tomorrow. Fourteen passports have come back so they were all checked, signed and stuck with our bar code.

29/03/20 Sunday.

The clocks changed last night. I spent the morning washing the floor of dairy.

The twelve Galloway yearlings were brought up from the cliff for their pre-movement TB test tomorrow. I have typed out a list of their ear tags and details ready for them. We must keep two metres away from the vet. Someone said Bussow has lost three cows to TB. Rose does not wish to put off our test on April 21st as so many neighbours are having blips.

The wind is so strong I was lucky to get my sheet on the line and off again. It was flapping and cracking all morning. I put all the small things to dry indoors around the Rayburn etc. Lots of emails are coming in from energy companies etc about 'we are still here to help you'.

I rang Nora and she is still keeping her door locked.

30/03/20 Monday

The post office down St. Ives has closed which is extremely annoying. I rang the help line for the bank twice about how to pay in cheques but the automated response said, 'We can't help you today'. I rang the bank at Hayle, which they are threatening to close. I can pay in my cheque through their letterbox. I will wait until the cheque comes from the market and then Sam can drive me over there between 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Colenso was not open but he saw me at the door and I bought a fluorescent tube for the kitchen. I bought ham and beef from the butcher and ordered pies. I did my shopping in the Co-op opposite but there were many things they didn't have.

The vet came to pre-movement test the 12 Galloway yearlings. I spent the afternoon working on herd totals for the end of the year. We have 201 cattle on the farm and three bulls.

31/03/20 Tuesday

I rang the doctor about my ankle as the blister broke last night. Masses of water poured out onto the carpet. Dressings are on order and will be delivered on Thursday. Luckily, I had one left from last July.

Ros rang and is OK. I'll email her as she uses her mobile and if I ring her the cost has to be divided between 6 columns so I never ring mobile numbers. There is no mobile coverage here so I have never learnt how to use one properly. I keep mine in my car and if I have an emergency, I give it to someone who knows how to use it. The pies were delivered by James who put them on the doorstep, rang the doorbell and stood back two metres.

The cheque came for the two cows. P-pod 13 years old and Chy, 4 years. They made top prices. I worked on the herd totals and balanced them with BCMS, then did the accounts and VAT.

April 1st Wednesday. Cock Robins' Day,

Farmers used to find their gates moved or the horse in the wrong field.

Births, marriages and deaths are to be reported over the phone. Later they said no births to be registered during the lock-down. I printed out the certificate for essential drivers to carry when Rose and Sam take the cattle to market etc. I had emails from the accountant and others. I couldn't sleep last night as the VAT claim would not go down the line. This morning the bank wouldn't balance with my accounts. This afternoon I did seven passports as that was an easier job.

02/04/20 Thursday

The wind has changed to the NW but no sun. A high is coming and warmer weather from the south. The Rayburn is hotter and I have turned down one heater slightly. This house was built about 1610, faces east, and is always cold in an east wind.

I usually wake between 6 and 7 and turn on Radio Cornwall. This morning there was a discussion about delaying TB tests. I started on the accounts again. A list of addresses has come from the RPA so we can contact them during the lock-down.

The 12 yearlings had a clear TB test. They were Galloway crosses with the Shorthorn bull.

Rose then went Tesco's and Mole Valley for hen food etc. She filled up the pick-up, as the price of diesel is down to £111.9 a litre.

After so much time in the farm office, I sat in the garden for a little and took it easy. This evening I watched TV but did do some more Easter cards. I send the grandchildren money for Easter eggs and cards to a few friends. I had a few cards left from last year so I had to use plain cards or make my own.

The dressings came for my ankle.

A very useful email came from Chunky about shops in St. Ives. He has 50 addresses in Zennor but thinks there are about 80 households.

The first Clap for Carers was after dark but now it is daylight at 8 o'clock every Thursday. It seemed to start in Paris. I never remember as I am sitting down watching TV Channel 2 then but it is shown on BBC1. I think it is OK in towns and a very good idea but not nice for the animals in the country. The owls must be scared out of their wits tu-whoos!

03/04/20 Friday

I found the missing £172. A cheque at the beginning of February has not been cleared. I went to the bank with Sam over at Hayle and paid in two cheques. The BPS forms came at last and I was getting anxious as their offices are all closed and there is a deadline.

04/04/20 Saturday

From NFU email; *Concerns continue to be raised about members of the public not using rights of way appropriately and ignoring social distancing guidelines.*

This morning I did passports for the market on Wednesday, 11 of the yearlings and the twin calf who is 19 days old. Then I did the movement record, as a new document is needed for this year and printed it out. Next, I sorted papers for the accountant.

I was determined not to work after four today as the sun is shining again. I picked some late daffodils then took my cup of tea into the garden with the Mole Valley magazine. There is a strong wind from the south.

I heard from my grandchildren today. Michael (25) rang and ranted about having to stay at home. Max (14) and Eddie (12) have built an obstacle course for their bikes in the garden. Alice was 18 yesterday and had a birthday cake.

05/04/20 3rd Sunday with no church.

There are orange streaks across the sky as the sun rises and at seven orange light streamed in through my seven windows. The Palm Sunday message on the radio was - He was not the person they were expecting and so are some of the heroes of today. The Queen will make a speech this evening. I was wondering when she would as Prince Charles already has and so has Prince William.

I made a long list of things to do this week and won't get through them all before Easter. By nine my washing lines were full but it was so windy it was difficult to get the sheet on the line.

I started on my accounts. Rose and Sam came in for croust and we did the dead-stock on the farm on March 31st. I typed it up this afternoon with the livestock that I had done last week and got it all to balance. We have 201 cattle on the farm.

Carlene from Pendeen rang me, we talked for twenty minutes. When she gave up her car she started buying on line from Safeways so she was already on their list to have all her food delivered. She has walked down to the village once to post a letter at six in the morning so as not to meet anyone. She goes to Morvah Church and they have visited her with a palm cross today and she had flowers on Mothering Sunday. I have heard nothing from Zennor Church except everything is cancelled.

This evening I did the ironing as usual on a Sunday and watched TV.

06/04/20 Monday.

I rang the butcher and ordered ham for us all, which was delicious. I came home with only

bread, carrots and milk from the Co-op as they didn't have anything else that was on my shopping list.

I balanced my accounts for March and printed them out. Then I printed out the Livestock and Dead-stock.

The Queen made an excellent speech. In just ten minutes, she covered so much from this quiet time for reflection to thanking all those who are working, praising us for our resilience and finishing with hope of better times to come.

I received an A4 sheet of paper with small print on both sides from St. Ives about what to do and which shops are open for food and when. I don't think any shops gave deliveries. There were help-lines for business support which don't relate to us, thank goodness. I feel very sorry for the tourist trade, which is such an immense industry for Cornwall.

This afternoon I read emails and typed up cattle records as Oats has calved. More passports have come; I finished after tea and went to sleep during the 6 o'clock news.

07/04/20 Tuesday,

My cousins Linda and Alison were widowed about a year ago so I'll get in touch.

I printed out copies of the accounts for the accountant and wrote notes for him this afternoon. I chopped up a saucepan full of vegetables and made enough soup for the week.

08/04/20 Wednesday

Up at six and loading cattle at seven. We ordered a lorry from David Ellis but a driver came with a transport box and took them in two loads. They would be loaded into a lorry at Trevarrack for Truro Market.

I spent all morning balancing cattle movements for the last year. Rose and I went to Tesco in the afternoon and I showed her what I usually buy in case I am not allowed out again. I had a cup of tea in garden, as the weather is still so lovely. Such a change after the months of heavy rain we had all winter.

09/04/20 Thursday

This day was blank but I think I had a lot of emails to answer.

10.4.2020 Good Friday.

The accounts are nearly done. I reported the moves of the cattle that have left the farm and then started on the BPS forms.

The butcher dropped out a joint of pork yesterday, which Rose roasted today, and we all had lunch in the garden. Matt and Nell did the fetching and carrying which was nice.

I sat in the sun with my telephone book but Cedric was the only one that answered. He has meals on wheels etc and Andrew George asked him if he could do anything for him.

I spent the rest of the afternoon on the BPS form, which made a long day.

11/04/20 Saturday

I turned off the heater in the kitchen so I hope the weather doesn't turn cold. The Rayburn is doing fine. The new hens, ex-battery, are laying and suddenly we have so many eggs. We gave a dozen eggs to the postman, sold ½ dozen each to Mary C, Jean B, Alwyn and his friend Bar. Sam has already done Serge and the Brookes. Hopefully, they will have them every week. I spent the rest of the morning adding up the BPS.

Another car has parked here so we have put up large orange notices saying 'car park closed'. Tessa has calved so only two left to go. I watered the garden, as it is now very dry.

12.4.2020 Fourth Sunday after lock-down, Easter Day

Slightly damp this morning. Wyn forwarded five more messages from WI members all sending love etc. It made me feel emotional this Easter Day and I remembered the Queen said she

was lighting a candle of hope.

Rose and I checked the BPS forms this morning. I spent the afternoon on cow records as Dolly has lost her calf and then I applied for seven more passports.

After about nine months someone came today of all days to give me a handle over my bath. A nice man came with mask etc. and I gave him some eggs. He said the job came in at the end of Feb.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's been a long day and I didn't get a church service on the TV or the radio..

13/04/20 Monday

The bill from the vet was for £611 for twelve TBs and the caesarean. £24 to the knackers for taking away two dead calves. I spent some time looking up information for the National Trust and when Rose came in we spent the rest of the morning filling in a form for them.

I washed my hair. Janet, who usually comes once a fortnight is in lock-down. Her brother was due to fly back to Canada at the end of March so is still here. I have three friends who are ninety. One has a home here and was due to go back to her other home in London but is still here. The other couple have a second home here and decided to stay here rather than move.

I wrote a recipe for Isolation Cake and sent it the WI, which they liked.

Recipe for Isolation Cake

4 oz of smiles

8 oz of goodwill

1 lb of appreciation for others

A generous helping of friendship

Plenty of good humour

Mix well with love

Roll them all up in three dozen emails and send them down the line

Then sit down and count your blessings.

14/04/20 Tuesday

I went down St. Ives to pay the butcher for the pork and get sausages. I went next door to order pasties and saffron buns for the TB test next week but they were shut. It was a big shock but Warrens closed all their shops in Cornwall weeks ago. At home, I looked up my useful list from St. Ives of shops that are open. I rang Ferrell's and ordered buns and pasties from them for next week. They don't take cards, only cheques or cash so wrote a cheque for £55.

I rang the NFU about our two spare entitlements and the advice was to sell them so I rang Lodge and Thomas to do it. The cheque for the sale of 11 Galloway yearlings and twinny came £4796. An email from the accountant said we could take the accounts in on Thursday at 11. I will bank cheque and post BPS forms when in Penzance on Thursday with everything for the accountant.

I cleaned the brass at last and got out the hosepipe to water the garden.

15/04/20 Wednesday

Yesterday Rose named the 6 heifers ENID, ECHO, ESTA, ELLY, EDNA and EVA. They were especially chosen to be reared as they come from the Shorthorn bull and cows that are all naturally polled. I spent all afternoon on lists for the TB test and in the evening found they didn't balance with BCMS.

16/04/20 Thursday

Rose and I went into Penzance with our accounts for the accountant who is working from home. I had been on them for sixteen days. The first PO we went to (by the hospital), which said on line that it would be open, wasn't. Market Jew Street is now one way so we took back streets to get

to the bottom for another PO which is half way up and was open. Rose posted the BPS forms and got a receipt. Then we found the bank was shut although it said it would be open. We were just driving away when I said why don't we put it in their letterbox? Rose parked the car and ran back. While she was reading their notices, which said it would open at 10.30 and it was now 11.30, someone opened the door so she paid in the cheque. Then we filled up the car while petrol is so cheap.

Esta, one of Rose's special heifers looks as if she has broken her leg. We called out the vet who said she would have to be put down so we rang the knackers. Rose is quite upset at having reared six and then losing one..

I finished the lists for the TB test next week and will explain them to Nell who is doing the writing instead of me. This will be the first time since 1960 that I have not done the writing but I am over 70 so not supposed to be there. That is 60 years plus extras in 1971, 1993 and 2014 when we had problems.

Cynth has calved but the calf doesn't know how to suck as its tongue gets in the way.

17/04/20 Friday

We've had some gentle rain. What a blessing.

The Coop in Tregenna Place has lines of red and white stripes on the floor at two metre intervals and a crossed out area at the till. The Stennack Co-op has blue circles on the floor with two feet on them. Both have one-way systems and you are not supposed to go back but usually there are not many there between eight and nine when I go. Every shop is different.

The day after we went to the accountant five bank statements came, three for the farm and two for me! The farm ones should come every week but the last one was March 23rd. They can't blame the post office when they don't post them.

Rose did the HLS and ELS forms and I checked and signed them. Now we need a PO again. Seven more passports have come back. Tammy has calved, the last cow. Last year Cynth was the last to calve in May, so we have caught up a bit. Her calf is now sucking and looking well.

18/04/20 Saturday

I had an email from Cousin Alan who says he is bored. He lives in Chesterfield with his wife. I rang Alan and his sister Alison in Plymouth for a chat. Alan's neighbour has given him some Corona Cake. It is a variation on Christmas cake and she bakes them in baked bean tins. I sent him the recipe for isolation cake. I sent an email to Wyn to say how lucky I am to get her emails from the WI every week. Another bank statement came to day!!!!!!!!!!

19/04/20 Sunday

I must listen to the radio at 8 as I missed the church service last week.

I rang Nora as usual on a Sunday and she might have some eggs. Catherine emailed me for eggs and Chunky collected a dozen this afternoon.

20/04/20 Monday

Day before the TB test. The Wharf PO doesn't open till 10 and the queue disappeared out of sight up Fore Street. Rose queued to post the BPS, ELS and HLS claims while I got the saffron buns. They will deliver the pasties tomorrow, which is a big help. We gave up on the PO and went to the butcher's. Nell will try and get postage for the forms on line.

I spent at least an hour updating the master for the farm accounts. I pasted in this April and it seems to be OK. This afternoon made a new document for my accounts and filed old ones. Wyn rang for eggs so the news is getting around that we have eggs to spare.

21/04/20 Tuesday

Sam and Karen arrived just after eight to bring up the Galloways. Matt and Nell helped bring the main herd into the yard. Simon and William came at 9. Russell cannot come to help as he

has a job now tractor driving. Zeinab from Somalia was the vet who came at 9.30. Nell did the writing and things went quite well with even two escapees getting herded back again. I had everything ready for croust by eleven and we had saffron buns in the dairy - sitting apart. The Galloway herd was done in about half an hour and then the three special cows.

The pasties arrived at 12.15, nice and hot. The man delivering them said he used to come here ferreting with his father. I thanked all, washed up and copied up the notes. Rose is getting ready for Friday when the cattle will be injected for IBR and BVD.

22/04/20 Wednesday

The electricity went off at 9.30 as they are putting in new poles at Tregarthen. Rose spotted them at 9.28 and told Matthew to make sure all his college work was saved. Luckily, I had done half my work for this morning.

I had only just remembered to plug in the old phone when David from Mole Valley rang which he does now instead of calling on the fourth Wednesday in the month. It was too dark in the house to do anything so I sat in garden reading the NFU Journal. Sam came in at 11.30 and I held the torch while he made tea. I put two pasties left from yesterday in the Rayburn for our lunch.

When the sun had passed round the end of the house, enough light came in through the little window at the back of my kitchen and I could wash up. It is not too hot or too cold in the garden as I read the rest of the NFU Journal. I clipped one of the hedges. The power came on at 3.30 so I checked all the clocks and other electrical appliances.

The four replacement ear tags for Friday have come. I had an email from Pam so I rang her for a chat. I emailed Catherine as we have six dozen eggs to get rid of. I slept nearly all evening in front of the TV.

23/04/20 Thursday

I printed out a new list of the cows etc for Rose and updated the farm accounts.

Nell has printed out a postage label for the HLS etc claims, which is very helpful, and the postman has taken them. Rose is making a stew and dumplings for tomorrow. Anxiety is the best word to describe how we feel every time we have a TB test.

Susan from Carnelloe walked out for a dozen eggs this afternoon. She said it was a lovely walk lasting three hours, as they did not hurry. She left me a pot of quince jelly. Rose will put six eggs in a bread and butter pudding for tomorrow. We still have six dozen left as we are picking up a dozen a day.

24/04/20 Friday, D Day for the cattle.

I was up at 6.30, had a cup of tea, washed and dressed. I took the cups etc. around to the dairy. Rose brought over the stew, the dumpling mix and a large bread and butter pudding.

Rose, Sam and Karen brought up the Galloways at eight. Matt and Nell turned up at nine to bring in the main herd. Simon came and William from Trendrine. Rose got all the injection things ready and the vet arrived early. An hour later, they were coming in for croust which was saffron buns again in the dairy.

I had made the dumplings and cooked them. The bread and butter pudding in the Rayburn oven was just rising but I put it in the electric oven to finish with some cinnamon sugar on top. I put two lots of bowls to warm and found some more spoons.

The vet was so quick she had finished by 11.30. We have never been so quick before and none of the cows had any lumps. We can all breathe again. We had lunch in the garden. Zeinab checked and signed the whole herd health plan. At one o'clock, those that were still here helped take the Galloways back.

Tom rang. Max's knee has an 80% chance of 100% recovery and he can do some gentle running. Last November someone kicked his leg at rugby and it was not diagnosed properly until after Christmas. Tom took him to the hospital in Gloucester first and then, a few days later, to the one in Monmouth to see if Welsh ones were better than English ones. They were still not satisfied

so went private which meant a trip to London for an operation. Max was hoping for a sports scholarship so it means a great deal to him

Tom says he is saving a lot of money by working from home instead of commuting to Peterborough every week. His firm has stopped making engines as it is difficult to get some parts from Europe but they are making casings for ventilators..

Nora rang and I told her all the cattle had all passed the TB test. I sent an email to Wyn which she passed on to all WI members about eggs and as a result Jennifer will have half a dozen.

25/04/20 Saturday

I wrote up the farm diary and we are assessing what next to do. I applied for the last five passports. An email from the accountant took some time to answer.

Sam will deliver eggs to Nora, Jen, Jean B and Mary C. Ros picked up half a dozen from the dairy and we waved to each other. £1 for each box goes to Nell as they are her hens.

26/04/20 Towednack Feast.

We have heard the cuckoo, the swallows have arrived and the bulls are out working. The video of a church service from Towednack looked very good but my computer doesn't really do sound. I found passports for Red and Clara and their calves. The cows will be going to Trevarthen's and the calves to market. Red has a bad eye and Clara a bad hip but they are fit to travel.

All the cattle records are up to date and new ones started. All the accounts are up to date and new ones started for this year.

Rose has made some egg custards to use up some eggs and put some in my Rayburn oven, which is just right for cooking them. I rang my two brothers and they are OK.

27/04/20 Monday,

Colin Colenso now opens for a couple of hours in the morning, which is very useful. I went to Tesco's where I can get a signal to use my mobile phone, which I need to do every eight weeks, or I lose my £10. There was no queue so I went inside and did some useful shopping. I rang Ferrells for some bread and cake, which David will deliver tomorrow.

Rose and Sam are helping at Trendrine this morning. We will put a notice on the dairy table with some eggs to sell. The accountant rang and seemed to be going round in circles. I found some more information for her to substantiate what I was saying.

I rang Carlene for a chat. She is a member of the history group and knows all about Movah

28/04/20 Tuesday

David came up with the bread and cake and when I gave him my cheque for £20.40 he said the bill should be £16.40 and gave me £6 change so his maths aren't any better than his sister's. Perhaps one loaf of bread, an apple tart, a Swiss roll, two Chelsea buns and two little cakes come to £14.40.

Someone has parked here again. Can't they read? When the silver car went, a black one came and parked right opposite the sign saying Car Park Closed.

29/04/20 Wednesday

Yesterday the postman delivered to us a letter for Rosevale Mine and instead of an address it had a grid number. It is probably something to do with the pole men.

Rose and Sam left for market just before nine with the two calves. After lunch they moved the main herd down to Trevail via the lane so William, neighbour, came to help and make sure the cattle did not go up on the road.

30/04/20 Thursday

The lorry was here at 7.30 and the two cows have gone. We have had some quite heavy rain. We had 641 hours of sunshine this month from the solar panels; not the most but very good.

I sent six emails, read others, had three phone calls and made two. Jenny Dearlove rang from the PLHG. Sam will deliver eggs tomorrow and Chunky will come over for a dozen so we are just about keeping on top of them.

By the time I had answered an email about the plague stone in Zennor, about which I know practically nothing, the afternoon had nearly gone. VAT and the accounts will now have to wait until tomorrow. If I had to choose one thing to represent this month for me it would be a spreadsheet!

The WI magazine has come, which is good, as I have read everything on the table. Usually it takes me the whole month to read it as there is no news in it, only articles. The first thing I look at is the crossword. So mush for their PR.

01/05/20 May 1st, Friday. Padstow 'Obby 'Oss Day.

It is 6.30 and I haven't washed my face in the dew yet. I turned over the calendars in kitchen and farm office. Five emails came in. I spent all morning on the farm accounts, balanced exactly with last statement but when I checked with the latest figures on line it didn't. I was nearly pulling my hair out when Rose and Sam came in after checking all the cattle all morning. Eventually I had a late lunch.

02/05/20 Saturday

Yesterday evening Jenny, Nora's grand-daughter, and her family came down to Nora's garden to sing to her. Caroline and Harry (son) came in with her and they all sang together. Jenny had made hymn sheets like little books for all of them of popular songs like Going Down to Lamorna and several others. Nora was thrilled and gave them cakes to take home.

I finished farm accounts and spent the rest of the morning doing mine. I walked up the lane to the big wheelie bin with the rubbish this afternoon.

03/05/20 Sunday

The service this morning on the radio was given by the Salvation Army. I liked the prayers at the end and all those she prayed for. When she gave the blessing, I felt emotional when I thought of where she was. I remember the Salvation Army on the wharf down St. Ives on a Sunday evening in the summer. Someone from another faith said everything happens for a reason, some things were getting out of hand and now is the time to press the restart button.

Detailed discussions with Rose about which piece of land is worth most to us. We get BPS, HLS and ELS but when we are paid, we never know exactly which bits we are paid for. Rose is making a file of where all-important information is kept.

I am writing something for the Zennor Mermaid's Echo about all the things which will be cancelled this month including the VE-Day celebrations which I remember.

04/05/20 Monday

I shall be glad when we can go back to using cash instead of dealing with all these silly bits of paper when I get home from shopping. Quite a few copper coins have accumulated in my purse but I found a charity box on a counter for them. The butcher has bought an oven, he is selling his pasties, pies, and sausage rolls hot.

The market report has come and Rose is delighted. 'A super 8-week old CHx bull calf topped at £350'. The top price the week before was £215.

Dilys (Zennor WI secretary) has had no internet connection for ten days and an awful lot has come in from County (CFWI). I don't like reading through long things on the computer but I did with a cup of tea at 4.

05/05/20 Tuesday

Rose paid in the cheque for the calves by using her phone.

06/05/20 Wednesday

Many emails have come in from the CFWI. They are organising things on line. With typical efficiency, they have sent instructions on how to see them. An app is an appendix but I wouldn't understand it anyway. My computer is for work, not for listening to things.

Mel Osborne is on Radio Cornwall this morning saying how quiet it is in St. Ives. All the shops, pubs and restaurants are closed. Only one shop is open in Fore Street. Even the seagulls seem to be in isolation. It **was** easier to park when she went down for her hour's permitted exercise. A local photographer goes out every day and says there are no boats in the harbour, no fishing boats, no pleasure boats, no one swimming or sitting on the sands. St. Ives is eerily quiet.

My plan next is to work on my Part 5 of my History of Zennor, which includes The Black Death. Rose has ordered for me The Name of the Rose, which is set in 1327, and I hope it will give me another view of the fears and prejudices of those times.

07/05/20 Thursday,

I sent some emails to friends about VE Day. Did they remember it and did they do anything special. I am suspicious of the archive clips shown on the TV such as troops being flown home the next day. The news came through on the radio that evening and I was just put to bed as usual. My father was in the Royal Navy so there was no news of him.

08/05/20 Friday, Bank Holiday.

It is a bank holiday today to celebrate 75 years since the ending of the Second World War in Europe. I had some interesting answers about VE Day and polished my article for the Mermaid's Echo. I rang round to get orders for our eggs.

09/05/20 Saturday

At six o'clock this morning, the sun was streaming in through my windows. I emailed my article about VE-Day and Memories of May. A newsletter from the Archive Centre came but it had too many buttons to push. A service for tomorrow has come through from Elizabeth for Zennor Feast but all I can hear are the Amens, which is a shame as she has managed to do something. The postman came today which was a surprise as someone said he was not coming on Saturdays any more.

Mary Clifford made a lovely Land Army scarecrow for VE Day. Sam delivered eggs and saw Nicky Monies pulling silage. Rose wants to sell another old cow and her calf.

10/05/20 Sunday, Zennor Feast

Zennor Feast is the first Sunday in May with double figures. The message from the church service on the radio was 'Love conquers all'. Rose says she had a letter from her doctor saying she was in the shielded group but she binned it. I haven't had any such communication.

Tom rang. Two men are working for him (his house is in the middle of nowhere). They are putting in the footings for the new stable. It will have two stalls, a loose box and a tack room. His factory in Peterborough is getting back to work but they don't have the office staff in yet. When Katherine goes running Max (age 14) goes in front of her, which is excellent news. Eddie (12) is making a quiche. Max had broken his collarbone in April when he fell off his bike.

I rang my brother John (Hampshire) who says his window cleaner and such persons are still working. Rob, his son-in-law, has closed his garage, applied for the £10,000 grant and had no trouble getting it.

11/05/20 Monday

While the kettle was boiling for a cup of tea this morning, I turned on the iron and ran the mop over the floor. I filled the kettle again in case someone turned it on when it was empty and that reminded me to water the plants by the door. Then I unlocked the other door, which reminded me I

always turn on the computer first thing to see what has come in overnight. I checked my emails and answered some. Then I went back to the kitchen where I found a cold cup of tea and the ironing still not done so I went upstairs to get dressed.

Heating oil is half price, 22p a litre, so we all ordered some. We have taken down the notices saying Car Park Closed as people can now drive a short distance for their daily exercise.

The Vet's bill is over £1200. We paid £55 to have Esta shot and £64 for the vet. The VAT has come in, later than usual, but still nothing has come from Trevarthen's for the two cows he had. Rose made pasties with the beef I bought this morning.

12/05/20 Tuesday

The Name of the Rose has come and I am looking forward to studying the fears and prejudices of people when the Roman Catholic Church was so powerful. Rose has mended the grass harrow and is harrowing. I typed up the farm accounts and balanced with the bank. I spent the rest of the morning and most of the afternoon answering questions from the accountant.

13/05/20 Wednesday

Rose and Sam are off to market with Pam and her calf. The very patient Matthew is being taken to Par to visit his girlfriend. Linda, from The local history group, has sent messages from everyone with nine attachments.

14/05/20 Thursday

Last year in Derbyshire, farmers spent four years and thousands of pounds each to get permission to cull badgers in the autumn. TB is a disease of overcrowding. All was set to go, the traps were set and overnight Boris Johnson stopped it. Four of the farmers who had seen their herds devastated by this disease committed suicide. (ref. Farmers Guardian banner headline on the front page) People still quote Professor Bourne's report because it suits them although it was rubbished by the Godfrey Report. Why don't people believe farmers? We are trying to get rid of TB and It is not fair on the badgers, let alone the farmers and the cattle.

The NFU took the government to court and judgement was handed down yesterday. Apparently, 'U-turn was not unlawful because the government was allowed to prevent Natural England issuing the licence for 'political' reasons.' I am so angry I am venting my feelings in this diary.

I rang Trevarthen's. It takes them 2-3 weeks at least to do their paper work. Rose filled up the pick-up with diesel yesterday and the account has been debited for £1, which is not what it says on the ticket. I rang BT to renew my special deal and it will start tomorrow, not when the other one ends in June.

The CALH Journal has come with Part 3 of my History of Zennor. I am very pleased with it and even got colour for my map of the tithings. The St Ives Archive has copies of the maps.

15/05/20 Friday

Yesterday evening Rose had swellings all over, mouth, arms, groin and her tongue has ballooned. This morning she said the antihistamine tablet had worked. Rose and Sam came in for croust as usual. When do we sell DIXI who had the caesarean? She will be thirty months in September so we sell her before then.

The £1 has disappeared from the bank account and the correct sum appeared.

At 2.30, I rang BT as their email said I would only get one more paper bill. I did the crossword, read a page and after half an hour hung up and dialled again. I got through and had a different lot of explanations with HALO added on for no extra. That took another 20 mins, so the afternoon has gone.....!?!'

I sold three boxes of eggs to passers-by and Sam will deliver four. Each day we have had about one car parked here.

16/05/20 Saturday

I had a long email from the Gorsedd (they have three ways of spelling it). The subscription has gone up to £23. I do wish I had never let them have my email address. They said it would only be used occasionally and I would still get important information through the post. I don't get anything through the post, not even application forms so I have lost patience with them. It must have taken me half an hour to read everything, very annoying.

I am making notes as I read The Name of the Rose.

The SAME tractor is being mended again!

There are four cars parked here this afternoon.

17/05/20 Sunday

The Evangelical Church this morning. In the morning, we should look towards the east, the Orient, and orientate ourselves for the day.

Rose has been mending a round feeder this week. I am reading The Name of the Rose. I do not recommend it unless you are a theologian. If you were a Zennor person in 1327 you would want to give as much as you could to the church.

18/05/20 Monday

As the lock-down drags on this diary is a help. You make the morning and the rest of the day makes itself. The postman didn't come till noon so I did the accounts this afternoon. We got £557 for Pam and £330 for her calf. Our bull Flash Harry has a sore foot so we are buying another one Justin Case. £2500.

Blue is my favourite colour so my sheets are pale blue. Every week I wash the bottom one and put the top one on the bottom. I had three sheets but one has worn thin. All my spare sheets were double bed ones except for one pink. When, oh when will I be able to buy more sheets?

19/05/20 Tuesday

We collected the accounts from Penzance. Two policemen came in three cars looking for Mary Ansell who is in her nineties and lives at Trendrine. Nell's friend came out yesterday and they went for a walk with sandwiches. I believe you can meet one person from another household. .

20/05/20 Wednesday

Nell has gone to the beach with two friends. The silage at Wicca is cut and one field at Trenowen. Zennor WI is thinking of recording the lock-down and having an exhibition in the autumn of what everyone has been doing. Some of them are very talented artists and craft people. I suggested that we print out all those heart-warming emails from Wyn every few days with their pictures and make them into a book.

21/05/20 Thursday, Ascension Day

The police have been waking up people in their camper vans and sending them home. The car parks are closed and those parked on double yellow lines have been fined. The rescue services are working all the time for dogs off leads going over the cliff, people cut off by the tide etc. etc.

Baling silage today. Rose and I checked and filed the returned accounts. I typed up the farm accounts,

I sorted winter and summer clothes.

Elizabeth and her son Joachim went to Perran Sands and made a video for Ascension Day. It is where St Piran came and brought Christianity to Cornwall. Two little children in blue looked sweet and may have been his children helping him. The microphone was not near enough.

22/05/20 Friday

The silage was baled and wrapped yesterday, the cows turned into the aftermath and then Rose put out fertilizer as the only rain forecast was for the night. She finished at dusk (9 pm) and we had

a shower.

It is strange having another bank holiday on Monday when we are not allowed out anyway. I must remember when I go shopping. I bought stamps and got change, which I needed, at the first Co-op. Then I went to Ferrell's while the car park is still free and bought cakes and a quiche. I thought most of the parked cars I passed were not local.

I forget to look at my calendar as everything is cancelled and then I nearly missed Alastair's birthday.

23/05/20 Saturday

I finished reading *The Name of the Rose*. It has taken me twelve days and was very tedious. Sometimes it was like reading a dictionary, whole pages of theological debates. It was a different story from the film.

I spent the morning on the farm accounts and cattle movements. The bull Justintime arrived yesterday evening, a two-year-old pedigree Simmental bull from Martin Rogers of St. Hilary. He gave Rose some luck money, which was a pleasant surprise.

David and Jennifer Gourley called by with Jen's new book *The Mermaid of Zennor*, three mermaid stories, one mine, in English and Cornish. It was nice to have a chat on the doorstep.

The police have powers to fine anyone staying in their second home or holiday accommodation and send them back home.

24/05/20 Sunday

Roman Catholic Church priest today on the radio. After training in mental health he learnt not to say 'how are you?' but 'how's today going?'.

Rang Nora and she said they sell coffee and cake at Bridge House. Susan from Carnelloe walked out with her husband for eggs and we had a chat outside. She said many parked cars down Zennor. She gave me a charming little porcelain pot that she had made.

Rose and Sam cutting silage in our Trevail fields. Mary Trewella was 93. Her funeral was last week in Towednack churchyard.

Five cars here so I hope they put money in the box. They went and others came.

25/05/20 Monday

Another bank holiday in lock-down. Spent the morning on little jobs then working again on part 4 of *My History of Zennor* for the next CALH Journal. The first draft was in 2001.

No doubt, tomorrow will be busy with emails and post to make up for today. Sam is cutting the last field down Trevail and Rose is turning.

Catherine and Chunky called by for eggs. They don't think the Tinnars will be opening before July. The little café is at weekends.

On the news, there are many nasty fires from abandoned barbecues. There is no let up for all the emergency services. People are being rescued all the time from the sea and cliffs.

26/05/20 Tuesday

Baling going ahead down Trevail. We made 300 on first cut and we need 800. Second cut is usually less.

Some walkers going through now things are easing. Silly people are going into the sea when they have no experience and are dying. The lifeguards have no PPE yet so people shouldn't complain about them not being there. Also on the news, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the asparagus crop goes to hotels and restaurants, so it is not being harvested this year.

I found my notes on all the Domesday manors in Penwith that I made in 1979. Sometime I will sort them out for the St. Ives Archive to go with the maps I gave them..

Part 4 is in a folder ready to go next January for the CALH Journal. Part 5 is done except for a photo of the Norman window in Zennor church. By the time I had unearthed everything for Part 6 it was 4 o'clock so I stopped to water the garden and have a cup of tea..

27/05/20 Wednesday

Everyone still very angry after five days, about Dominic Cummings, who drove his diseased family to Durham. His excuses are full of holes. What alternatives for childcare in London did he investigate before he went? None; and if he could drive he wasn't too ill to look after his son.

Sam and Rose cutting hay over at Trevega. David Worledge rang when they came in for croust so Rose had a chat with him. Long email from Dawn. After 10 weeks, she is tired of walking the same streets every day and she misses the shops. Jen asked for hints on selling her Mermaid book so I sent her my list of contacts.

Tony Farrell parked here for a walk and we chatted about the plague stone, which was at Trowan in 1646 when St. Ives was on lock-down. I sent the information to Chunky and I hope he tells Mollie before she does the sign at Bridge House.

I rang BT and that was the afternoon gone. All I wanted to know was which numbers are not free. It is 14 days since I had my new package and nothing has arrived in the post yet confirming it. I asked her three times and she said she was sending it but it never came.

28/05/20 Thursday

Money has come from Trevathens at last for the two cows after a whole month. £631 after deductions, £300 for one and £400 for the other. I had to keep logging onto the bank to see if it had come. Such a nuisance and I wish I had not filled in the form for BACS.

I asked Dawn about sheets and emailed Alfred Smith. Someone called out about Boscubben, which is the farm next door which is for sale.

Checked my notes on the Arundel Archive and the weather for Part 6 and some pictures.

29/05/20 Friday

I bought a pound of steak and kidney and made two delicious steak and kidney puddings. The three of us had some for lunch. As Sam had borrowed my self-raising flour I had to borrow Rose's.

They finished the hay at Trvega. I found my notes on the Rose Broase as the NT still haven't paid us for the work we did for them in the winter.

30/05/20 Saturday

Rose has emailed the NT about the Rose-Broase but it is so complicated we are not sure if we have done the right thing. I have finished the May accounts and done the VAT. April was £181 out one way and May £181 out the other way. The mistake must be back in March. It took all morning and all afternoon.

Alfred Smith's had 2 sheets, one white, one cream @ £29.95 each. Rose has found a pale blue one on-line which she will give me for my birthday.

31/05/20 Whit Sunday

We had the highest ever reading from the solar panels this month with 844 hours of sunshine and we started eight years ago. The SW had something like 600 hours.

On average in the last 20 days 3.68 people a day parked here and most paid in odd change as there was £73.77 in the box. I rang my brother John and his granddaughter Amy is going to Plymouth next September. Her father Rob has started work again, repairing cars in Hants, and his workman will be back on Monday.

01/06/20 Monday

I rang Ferrell's for pasties and cake for Thursday for Nell's birthday, £37. This isolation is not doing me any good. My mind keeps trawling up memories from my past because there is not enough new stuff in it.

Ilkley Moor is covered in dirty nappies and toilet paper. So are other beauty spots and beaches. There are no toilets open, which is a big problem. A queue to get into Tescos at 8.15 this

morning. The lady behind me lives in Virgin Street and they can all talk to each other on their doorsteps every day. She said the St. Ives toilets are open but there is a very big problem nationally..

Emails came in from the WI and history group. Ros and Paul called in for a cup of tea and cake in the garden and half a dozen eggs. My son Tom rang. Max joined his friends down by the river.

02/06/20 Tuesday

The phone bill has come and it does say I can phone mobiles free, but do I believe it?

I started on the farm accounts for June. Rose's electricity bill is over £500 again, double what it was last year. Her children have their heaters on too much. This evening Rose and I did a quiz on-line which was quite fun. I did 'wrap' for one of my illustrations in Part 6 which worked fairly well.

03/06/20 Wednesday

Rose spent all day yesterday spreading fertilizer and then the rain missed us. It has been dry for months. Rose and Sam took the old Simmental bull to market. I spent all morning on the accounts. I rang Dawn as she was 89 last week and we had a good chat. A book has come from Reg Barclay in Canada about his ancestors and looks amazing, plenty of illustrations and I think some background material. His son, who is deaf, visited us in 2018 and I was the one that discovered it ran in the family. I visited them twice in Vancouver and they are a lovely family.

04/06/20 Thursday

Nell is 16 today. I reported the movement of the bull on line. The hot pasties and cold cake etc. all arrived together in the same box. All very delicious.

05/06/20 Friday

An email from Janet Axton about Hilda Jelbert and there is so much I can tell her.

On Monday, they are closing the road at Trendrine for three weeks. Will the postman be coming out via Penzance? No rain still and my car is so covered in dust I hardly knew where the windows were. I spent the morning reading the transcript of Dr Slack's recording of Hilda Jelbert in 1978. There are ten pages of fascinating stuff.

06/06/20 Saturday

Still no rain. Working again on my Part 6 and the Black Death.

07/06/20 Trinity Sunday

Some hymns had tunes this week. The theme was Black Lives Matter so we had the Archbishop of York. However low you get God is there.

The virus has many types; the one in Scotland for example, is not the same as others. Janet and I spent two hours on the recordings Dr Slack made about Hilda.

08/06/20 Monday

I rushed down St. Ives before the workmen started at Trendrine, did a big shop and was home by nine. No sign of the workmen at weekends. Had an email from Janet to say the PO is now open at nine every day. The only notice must be on their door. There are 36+4 folders on my computer, half of them Zennor History. I would like all my Zennor stuff to go to the St. Ives Archive when I go.

09/06/20 Tuesday,

I asked Jon Brookes about mines on Buttermilk Hill as Hilda's recording was not clear. The nearest he could find was Wheal Racer. I made a large casserole with dumplings that lasted nearly all week and was delicious. I paid for mending SAME tractor, money has come in from the

sale of the bull and from Good Energy for the solar panels.

Jen at Boswednack invited me over for a cup of coffee this afternoon in her garden and it did my mind so much good to talk to someone. Her book of three mermaid stories, one mine, is on sale in the new Zennor café.

10/06/20 Wednesday

It is a hundred days since the first case in Cornwall and ninety have died in hospital. Some schools are open in Cornwall but nationally they are in a muddle.

I got up at six to pay the fertilizer bill etc. and when Rose and Sam came in at ten, I was still at it. Mole Valley paper work is the most horrendous I have ever come across. Even worse than bank statements, that are never up to date.

So many emails came in from the history group etc. I never got through them all.

11/06/20 Thursday

We have had 3 cms of rain so I hope the fertilizer has washed in well. Rose was busy spreading yesterday. I have been watering my garden for nine weeks In May I took 3 blouses out of my wardrobe but they are back in and I am wearing jumpers again.

Registry offices are opening again. There are 850 births and over 1000 marriages to register since April 1st. Have the same number died to keep the population steady? I sent a thank you to Reg by email and wrote a letter, which Rose posted. Rose crept past the roadworks at Trendrine but came back the other way.

12/06/20 Friday

Heather Rogers came for eggs and we had a good chat. I have nearly finished the text for Part 6 and done the illustrations. After that, it is the footnotes.

The weather is improving at last for the grass. The Mermaid's Echo came today and is one of the best ever and so inspirational about how everyone is coping. The big wheelie bin at the top of our lane has been filled with someone's rubbish so high the lid is right back.

13/06/20 Saturday

Nora is 91 today so I went over with a card etc. Her family was in the garden spaced out, and Caroline was serving coffee etc. with biscuits and splits with jam and cream. Sam turned up with a card from Mary C. Mary Ansell ay Trendrine is about 96. The road between here and St. Ives is being repaired until the end of the month. They don't work at weekends so you can get through then.

Grandson Michael rang. He spent £30 on 50 disposable facemasks from Boots. Ann-Marie prefers working from home but may have to go in for 2 days a week; more expense on petrol for her. So that was two calls of nearly half an hour each. Then Carlene rang for half an hour so I had a late tea.

14/06/20 Sunday

The message this week is the harvest is great but the labourers are few. Labour for all colours and creeds etc. I liked Elizabeth's prayer in the Mermaid's Echo. The Mermaid's Echo had people's memories of VE Day, what people are doing in their gardens, cooking, writing poems and sending messages to cheer everyone up.

Tescos opens at ten so I went while I could get past Trendrine. Other customers were not keeping two meters away from me. Messages from the government are mixed and the lock-down is seeping. I rang Brian and thanked him for my birthday card. His carer posted it for him.

15/06/20 Monday

I had an email from Joanna Mattingly answering my question about medieval burials. Only those who could afford it were buried in the church in 1348. Her husband is in Treiske after a triple

by-pass. I rang Mary Prowse and there is no news of our church opening. Mollie Bone is in Treliske with bad legs, fluid on the lungs and an infection but should be home this week. Ros might come on Wednesday afternoon to photo the church window for me.

Rose, Sam and Karen were hanging gates all morning.

16/06/20 Tuesday

More rain and the grass is looking better. Matthew's hair nearly reaches his shoulders and he has parted it in the middle, which doesn't suit him. Rose shaves off all her hair down to 1½ inches. Mine is now kept back with two combs.

An email came from Leonard in Canada. His father Reg is terminally ill with cancer so I sent a long email back. His book is a real detective story and quite gripping in the last chapter when he traces his real father.

17/06/20 Wednesday

Yesterday Rose took Nell to visit a friend and had to go via Chysauster as the men are still mending the road at Trendrine. On the way back she left the car at Kerny Watch and walked home. Then when she had to collect Nell. She walked out to Trendrine and came back via Chysauster, Tomorrow she will be going through Zennor with the tractor and trailer to pick up 3 tons of fertilizer from Mole Valley.

Care workers have been going hungry during lock-down and using food banks. I call that dreadful.

We have had some more rain and the brown patches in my garden have gone. Sam has given Karen a lift to the barrier at Trendrine and then he is going via Zennor with Nell to meet her friend. Rose is going into Mole Valley for three tons of fertilizer with the tractor and trailer. She went via Chysauster and Ludgvan church. I don't fancy coming down Trewey Hill and Boscubben Hill with three tons of fertilizer behind me so I was anxious till she got back. Then she spread a ton as we need the grass to grow for the cows.

18/06/20 Thursday

Ros and Paul came yesterday afternoon and the weather got worse instead of better. We went down to the church in very thick mist to photograph the Norman window for my Part 5. Peter Cattran was there waiting for the man about a hearing system.

85% of income on the Scillies is from tourism; no Scillonian or Sky-buses yet.

19/06/20 Friday

Ros has sent me a photo of the window and I have pasted it into Part 5. All my pagination has changed now and I spent all afternoon re-arranging the pictures. I deleted 100 emails and need to do about 700 more!

20/06/20 Saturday

Lovely sunrise at five this morning. It will still be light at ten this evening and then it is the shortest night. The tourist industry is trying to get ready for July 4th but it is all on hearsay. When visitors come to Cornwall, there will be no facilities or food for them if the government doesn't say something soon. Church services not essential, so THEY say

Primary schools were told to go back with classes of 15 and at two meter distancing but where were the extra rooms for this? Another fiasco.

21/06/20 The longest Day

Today is the longest day and then it will be the shortest night. Much rain in the night and the wind blew down my chimney and now the Rayburn has lost its heat.

Photos in the St. Ives Times and Echo of empty streets. David in Taunton says the traffic is nearly back to normal. Karen says Porthleven was very busy yesterday and all the shops are open.

I made a goulash and a suet pudding.

22/06/20 Monday.

I got to Tesco's before eight and on the way back asked the road men if they would very kindly let me through and they moved their diggers for me. They have been there for a fortnight, which is very inconvenient. You can get through in the evenings and at weekends.

No change with the Rayburn so Rose cleaned the oil filter in the garage, which was clogged up. Rose was busy all day on paper work.

23/06/20 Tuesday

A big change in the weather, the wind has dropped and it is overcast. I have just seen in the CALH Journal that Colin Edwards died on April 26th. So sent email to Christine.

Lock-down is until August 1st for the vulnerable. Falmouth Coastguard daily report full of incidents again around our coast, cut off by tide, 4 caught in a rip etc etc.

Checked my Part 6 and found two mistakes so all my calculations need adjusting.

24/06/20 Wednesday

I think my immersion heater isn't working as well as my Rayburn. Sam checked it and it has rusted through. Rose sent a text to the plumber.

Shielded people have received a letter that is 4 pages long. Before you have reached the bottom of the first page, you cannot remember the beginning. Why don't they highlight the important bits or put in subtitles so you can separate the children from the bits for the elderly?

25/06/20 Thursday

The Rayburn is very hot. I still think the engineer who was here in February didn't get something right.

I made a file of the illustrations for Part 6. I have been on this Part for a whole month and began this project in 2001.

I didn't have the right ingredients for an Empire cake so used what I had. I spent the afternoon putting files into folders.

26/06/20 Friday

I gave the roadmen some eggs this morning and they let me through. Rang some friends and emailed others. I went to see Pam in Newmill this afternoon and had a cup of tea in her wonderful garden at Newmill.

27/06/20 Saturday

Some say lock-down has given them a chance to improve their lifestyle. It has made mine worse.

Rose roasted a chicken for lunch with potatoes and several vegetables from her new garden. I made two cakes this afternoon. Tom rang. Max and Eddie are going back to school for one day a week. Why can't England do the same as Wales?

I made two cakes and one turned out to be very thin. The recipe gave the wrong size of tin so I shall ice it with lemon juice and icing sugar.

28/06/20 Sunday

On the radio they are carrying on about an anniversary from the last war again which is not very nice for those who lived through it. I am planning a drive-in cream tea on Tuesday for my birthday and have about a dozen coming.

Rose is taking Clarice (cow) to market on Wednesday, as she is stropky so I did the paperwork,

29/06/20 Monday

Messages coming in and out about tomorrow. I am having a drive-in strawberry and cream tea for Zennor WI members and friends at intervals. I bought a dozen each of finger rolls and bread rolls, Tesco didn't have any more at 8 in the morning. I got out my best clothes for the first time in 3 months.

By the time Nell, aged 16, was up and dressed it was nearly 11.30 and then we left to go strawberry picking at Trevaskis. They don't keep their website up to date so I had to ring to find out if they were doing it this year and at what time. An hour later, we were on our way home with a basket of strawberries, a bucket of gooseberries, three pasties and some other goodies from Hampsons in Hayle.

The postman came with the last bit of information the accountant needed so I copied 5 pages and emailed them. This morning I rang all those coming from St. Ives as the road still being repaired,



30/06/20 My birthday

I am 84 today. About a dozen friends are coming. Gilly will help in the morning and Ros in the afternoon. I have all the windows open, bleach and cloths available etc. No one will be allowed in the house and I have blocked my two doors with little tables. There was rain at seven but it should clear. I started on the farm records. We had 300 hours less sunshine in June than May although longer hours of daylight.

01/07/20 Wednesday

Another month. I had a fantastic day yesterday; eight bunches of flowers, four boxes of chocolates and about sixteen cards. I think Julie went the long way round because of the road but the others crept through.

Two sat in their car and two by the door with umbrellas and we handed things out. Angela

and family came at lunchtime with Sienna in her wheelchair. They went when others arrived. Then the drizzle started but about eight sat under the trees and umbrellas appeared again. Rose baked me a cake that I cut and we all had a piece.

By the time I had put most of the flowers in water it was 5.50 so I gave up and had no tea but just a cuppa and a piece of fruit cake. Dozed in front of the TV all evening.

I had lunch with Dawn in Penzance, which was very good, and we caught up with our research projects.

02/07/20 Thursday

I did the VAT on line and checked BCMS for Clarice. We have 201 animals on farm. I finished the farm accounts for June and filed receipts etc.. I sent ten emails giving thanks etc. and made some phone calls. Another box of flowers came by post this morning.

03/07/20 Friday.

Boris Johnson says we should act responsibly now lock-down is easing. That is a bit rich as his father has just been to Greece and he gave Dominic Cummings an hour in the rose garden to explain nothing.

It is VERY windy. St. Ives is getting busy. The road at Tendrine is open and all the road notices have gone after a whole month of inconvenience but there is an open drain on south side.

I answered a questionnaire for Farm Cornwall as they only get funding for one year and they give topical hints every month and run courses when the rules change. (My brother) John's daughter Sarah says all her family lost their taste in March so she thinks they all had Corvid-19.

04/07/20 Saturday

Police say 80,000 expected on our roads into Cornwall this week, which is 30% less than usual. The main roads into Cornwall are very busy especially with caravans etc. It is wet and windy but I think portaloos have been ordered for Newquay beaches and high tide is at 5. Only three incidents on the coast yesterday. One in three jobs in Cornwall depend on the tourist industry.

64 have died of Corvid-19 in Cornwall and 213 discharged from hospital.

ELMS are rubbish and DEFRA is staggering from one disaster to another having failed with the present system of Countryside Stewardship Schemes which is so complicated most farmers could not be bothered to sign up for them. Minette Batters and other organisations are getting together to sort out something that will actually work and produce the desired effect for the countryside as well as farmers who need an income.

I went to see Jean Wilton this afternoon as she and Pat Sanger could not come last Tuesday.. They used to be members of Zennor WI. Jean and Barry live in the Round House at the top of St. Ives and both are in the shielded group. When lock-down started, they had trouble trying to find someone to shop for them. It took a long time to get gloves, masks and hand sanitizer. Another problem was getting gluten free flour. I took eggs and some cake; she gave me a box of chocolates. They could not celebrate their Golden wedding, which was disappointing. They had a card from the Queen in the end but it was late.

05/07/20 Sunday

The service on the radio this morning was from Leicester, which is in lock-down again and included all their different faiths. I did the washing, ironing and sent emails. I did my accounts, rang Brian and checked holiday dates for all the family. Rose says I should cancel mine but she is still going to Brittany. We think Michael should not come down by train.

06/07/20 Monday

People were nervous about pubs opening for the first time on a Saturday. Devon and Cornwall Police said they had a thousand calls, which was normal for a weekend. I think that is mind-boggling bad. What has the country come to? They had over 3000 calls on Saturday &

Sunday of which about half were 999 and half 101.

The coastguards have been busy over the weekend. Ayr Caravan Park is filling up. There was a queue at Tesco so I went to the Coop and they only had a small loaf that early. The roads are getting busy.

Nell has visited a friend. Matt has two friends staying with him in his barn so I bought them sausages, which they fried up for breakfast.

Clarice weighed 598 kgms, @ 97.50p = £583.05, less expenses meant cheque from market was £551.22 which was more than I expected.

07/07/20 Tuesday

I spent yesterday afternoon on cattle records and finished them off this morning. Then spent more time on the accounts. Long emails from Linda for tomorrow about a meeting of the Penwith Local History Group..

Some pubs had to close again, where people tested positive in Somerset, Hampshire and West Yorkshire. I spent the morning in the farm office.

Ann and Dick came with some sweets for my birthday. They are going back to London later this month. They shop at Tesco and M&S once week each. We sat in the garden for an hour. They are both in their 90s and arrived down here the day before lock-down.

08/07/20 Wednesday

I was busy on the computer when the plumber turned up. Rose and Sam said they would show him everything and I said I was going out to keep out of his way. The weather was not good enough to meet in the Morrab gardens so Jenny said to go to her house. Only five of us there as some are still being very careful. There was no parking anywhere so I went to the Morrab Library and walked back getting lost in all those paths and back streets. We talked about our work and interests.

The stain on the bedroom ceiling is from a small hole in the roof. The tap in the shower room now works and I have a new immersion heater.

09/07/20 Thursday

Now the VAT is in I paid Mole Valley.

We spent hours checking the FBT with the NT for the Banallacks and emailed them saying we wanted the fencing done etc before we signed an agreement.

Heather had six dozen eggs and two cups of tea.

10/07/20 Friday

I am wearing my best clothes, pink and mauve, for the fourth time. Didn't have to bother with anything special during lock-down. I have a hair appointment for July 20th..

I tried to keep 2 meters apart in Tescos but most people are not bothering. I finished the accounts this morning. I visited Joy and Ray this afternoon and sat in their garden.

11/07/20 Saturday

I'll ring Ferrell's for prices of pasties and then email the WI.

The sign at Boscubben is covered up and Mary says it is under offer. I do hope things work out well for them. Mary's daughter Denise is helping her daughter decorate the bungalow at Crippleseat. They have both been furloughed, but hope to have a few days back at work next week. I wonder what our new neighbours will be like.

12/07/20 Sunday

I went down to Zennor church to see what is happening. They carried out the wooden chairs to the top graveyard and we sat in a rough circle in glorious sun. It was good to see Ken, Gilly W-S, Chunky and Catherine, Bea and Robert, Trish and Raffic, Kerry and her husband, Elizabeth etc.

Hands were sanitized. I measured the Norman wall of the church by the font for my Part 5 and it is nearly three feet thick..

The Charolais bull has sunburn and has been treated. Someone has offered us a field of cut grass at Folly.

13/07/20 Monday

There were no blocks of margarine in Tesco, only boxes which are terribly greasy to cope with and leave you with no paper for greasing your tins. The butcher's pasties are made by his brother's wife and her mother.

I finished typing up the chart of all the Domesday manors in Penwith.

14/07/20 Tuesday

The visitors are coming back but not the usual big crowds. The Star Inn at St. Just has put up an electric fence to stop people crowding the bar. A big notice on it says Mole Valley Farmers and the advertisement has gone all around the world.

I have had only three snails on the front of my house this year instead of lots every day. The topless bus is back.

Bude has walking men on the pavements to show people the way. Someone with a sense of humour has painted them so a mermaid's tail has been added to the one pointing to the mermaid pub and a fork handle, or 4 candles, points to the hardware shop.

The Environment Agency has given Bude a large grant but no one knows what it is for. Neither they nor Cornwall Council has been approached. They are hoping the EA will not do something stupid with it. They do not want their seafront destroyed but have marshes that can absorb the water. When storms are from the SW the river cannot get out to sea and Bude floods very badly.

I do not wish to wear a facemask. You need a new one every time you go out and once they are on you must not touch them. They are already appearing among the litter on the ground. I think they should all be washable.

Tesco in Pz still has margarine and Rose got me a packet. My garden is pink and mauve with hydrangea etc. but soon it will be orange with monbretia and day lilies. In Spring, it is yellow with daffodils followed by blue with bluebells etc.

15/07/20 St. Swithin's Day

Will we have rain for 40 days? I spent yesterday on the population of the 14 manors in the Hundred of Connerton with their farming hamlets, cottagers and slaves. Today I am on hides and ploughlands,

The Charolais bull is still getting over his sunburn. He needs sun cream. They have started on second cut silage at Wicca.

16/07/20 Thursday

30-40% in Cornwall will lose their jobs. St. Ives centre is on lock-down for road traffic from 11-4 every day. Tony Farrell has a pass into St. Ives and can collect the pasties on August 4th. I spent some time answering an email from Janet about a farm in 1923.

She said, 'St Ives is so busy at the moment. It is impossible to leave our house in Fore Street, other than early in the morning. Some of the people having their holidays here are quite aggressive. Anyway, I am keeping going, and working hard. People need a break and the shops etc. need to earn some money!'

17/07/20 Friday

I looked up Ernest Berryman and the Towednack gold hoard for Janet. Visitors are everywhere and distancing seems to have gone out of the window. They are going up and down the aisles in Tesco and overtaking.

There are roadworks again at Trendrine but they did not last long, thank goodness. They are baling silage at Wicca. Masses of letters came from the accountant and solicitor, which the postman threw on the floor.

18/07/20 Saturday.

I turned off the TV at 10 last night and all Nell's friends were laughing and making a noise outside.

Spent all day trying to analyse the 6 envelopes that came from the accountant but really too tired to do it. Emailed Janet about Ernest Berryman and the Towednack gold hoard. Found some more info for her.

Nell is working for Moomaid ice cream in the field at Tregarthen and Matthew is working down St. Ives at Blasburger.

19/07/20 Sunday

Trouble at Trelliske again with weekend revellers as everyone has to be tested for corona virus. The church service this morning was taken by someone famous I have never heard of who said music was important, so he was using well-known hymns, but they were all spoilt as the tunes were missing. We signed everything for the accountant, which took ages.

20/07/20 Monday

I never expected to be keeping this diary for so long. They had a drive-in church service at the RC Showground yesterday.

Janet came at nine to do my hair and then I dashed down St. Ives to hand in the accounts. There was no chance of getting anywhere near the butcher. The buses have started and I didn't mind waiting at Library Corner while vans and cars were trying to go here, there and everywhere. I went to Tesco and bought masks ready for Friday. Tom, at the door, said I could have gone in first if I had asked but I only had to wait 5 mins.

Rose and Matthew cleaned the car (because he kept us awake nearly all night when Nell had her party).

Several times last week I took the margarine out of the fridge to make a cake but did not have time to do it and I thought this afternoon would be free so I started at 2. Some visitors went into the dairy for eggs and then rang my bell for change so I rushed to do that. Then one of them said, 'Oh dear, we've left the door open'. The dairy was full of hens all making a mess on the floor. Rose helped clear it up. The cake finally went in the oven at four. Two emails came in so I rushed off answers. I had a very tiring day.

21/07/20 Tuesday

Our beauty spots are being contaminated by irresponsible campers. I have been finishing off jobs from yesterday. The car has gone for its delayed MOT. Robert brought it back and said he was furloughed until June 1st on 80% pay.

22/07/20 Wednesday

An enormous pallet of silage wrap came, 3 tons of fertilizer and our income tax bills will be next. In 1086 etc., Cumberland was changing hands between England and Scotland.

No answer from Boscubben again when I rang. I wonder if the sale is falling through.

23/07/20 Thursday

It is raining and they are supposed to be baling silage on Trevail today. I went over to Hayle for our nearest Lloyds Bank. The website said they would open at 9.30 but the notice on the door said 10 so I complained. Apparently, there are 2 websites and I had the wrong one. I bought two pasties in Hampsons for £7.90. The weather cleared a bit and they baled the silage. They came in at 3 for croust as they had caught up with the baler and then went out to move more bales for the

wrapper.. We have about 700 bales now (plus the hay from Folly, which is poor quality) and we need 800. Rose says we should get that from the NT fields etc. She is putting out more fertilizer (again!) to make sure there will be enough grass in the autumn for the cows and calves.

Bills came in and were dealt with. Rose helped with the plague of ants in my sittingroom. We put bicarb of soda everywhere. The scaffolding came for Rose's roof.

TV worked this evening but there was nothing worth watching. Read NFU Journal

24/07/20 Friday

Misty this morning. Ros called in for eggs and we planned a talk for August 12th as the PLHG is coming then.

25/07/20 Saturday

Tom rang about me going up next week. My TV breaking up again yesterday evening and it is infuriating. Working on talk for Aug 12th. Sorted paperwork for Dixi and Bully Boy

26/07/20 Sunday

800th anniversary of the spire on Salisbury Cathedral. Many of the services in lock-down have been taken by women. Church at Zennor was inside today, about 10 there, I think only 5 took communion. I was rather nervous, as I don't know what they do about sanitizing.

On Wednesday, Sam has his car booked in for an MOT test at 9. Then he and Rose will take Dixi to market, come home, have a bite to eat and then Rose will drive me up to Tom's in the pick-up and stay the night. Tom will bring me home on Saturday afternoon and stay until Sunday. Before I go I need to email WI, take my order into Ferrell's, check time etc with Tony Farrell, Then check beds and food, and pack. I need to write a piece for the Mermaid's Echo about my birthday. .

27/07/20 Monday

Ros rang yesterday evening about photos for Aug 12th and I was going frantic trying to answer everything.

I did the paperwork for DIXI for market on Wednesday. I cancelled my coach trip to the Wye Valley in September and lost my deposit. I was going to tell them to keep it as a goodwill gesture but she rang off too soon. Ferrell's were not open at nine so I put my order though their letterbox. I finished a first draft of a piece for the Mermaid's Echo about my birthday. Very busy all day.

28/07/20 Tuesday

Janet came and did my hair. Heather came for eggs. Emails coming in and out, I am very grateful to Ros for photographing places for our talk on some interesting local characters on Aug 12th. I answered a long email from Janet Axten.

29/07/20 Wednesday

I spent the morning in the farm office answering emails etc. They were down St. Ives by nine with Sam's car. Then he and Rose loaded cow DIXI for Truro market. They were back soon after eleven. I reported Dixi on line.

Rose and I had a quick lunch and left at 12. Got to Bodmin in an hour and at 1.25 crossed the Tamar. Reached Exeter at 2 then M5 till M49, J 18A. At 2.30, we left Cullompton after a comfort stop and arrived at Tom's at 4.10 in Herefordshire.

This house was someone's dream home when it was built. It is in the middle of what was a forestry plantation and has a nature reserve on one side. The beautiful steeply sloping garden is surrounded by trees. The bungalow has large windows facing south with two wings making the patio a sun trap. The road winding up the hill to it is at least a mile long and too narrow to pass another vehicle. Their house is on the left and on the other side of the road are two large fields for

the two horses. They own forest around their house as well, nearly 10 acres in all. They are 2½ miles NE of Monmouth.

Thursday

I used my card twice for lunches and ices. The car park was £3. Went Symonds Yat and the river Wye. At the Kimmel Monument the union flag had only two crosses on it, England and Scotland, no Ireland. It was put up by Admiral Boscawen's daughter when we defeated the French, Dutch and Spanish. Rose left at four with a load of wood as Tom had stacks of it. She had very little traffic and was home by eight.

We took Max to Monmouth for football practice. The town gate, built in 1232, is the only one on a bridge with a tower on it

The stables should have been finished in May but the young men ran out of wood because of lock down and it is too hot for the horses so Katherine and Tom made a place for them in the woods.

July 31st Friday

We went up Garway Hill for the view, which was amazing, then drove through Herefordshire country with narrow roads and high hedges. Some roads had grass down the middle. We went to Skinfrith, which had a bridge over the river Monnow, a church dedicated to St Bridget and the ruins of a Norman castle, We bought sandwiches for lunch as no pubs or cafés open, £18.85 on my card.

The Welsh castles are closed till next week so I paid £22 for Goodrich Castle. The castle was built in 1272, the time of Edward 1. I paid £10.15 for coffee and cake for me, Tom and Eddie. We saw Roaring Meg who fired balls of gunpowder in 1646. The moat was always dry so the stables were there. The river is on 2 sides and the visibility is excellent.

The county of Herefordshire is surrounded by Worcs, Glos, Shrops, Powys and Monmouth.

August 1st Saturday

Avon Skin So Soft cream keeps away midges

We drove round the top of The Doward in the Dimdi, very rough forest tracks with yuppy houses all with a few acres and perhaps a pony etc. We saw evidence of mining for lime in the past and logging now. We passed about 20 houses and with the lower road, there must be 100 houses all told hidden in the trees.

Tom's car is an AUDI A6 and very long. We came home on cruise control. He has a mini computer by the gear stick and a screen on the dashboard. It shows a map of where you are, how to get there and how long, who you can ring etc etc. We bought a snack at Columpton on the way home.

02/08/20 Sunday

We got back tired last night. With the new month, I must record the solar panels and do the VAT etc, sort mail and deal with it, read stuff and wind the clocks.

Tom walked around the farm with Rose and Sam. They brought back some apples so we had blackberry and apple for lunch with ice cream.. I will buy cream tomorrow but it is not as good as I used to make. In the afternoon, he walked over to Nell at the ice cream kiosk. He left at 3.40 for home and the journey takes 4 hours with a brief stop.

03/08/20 Monday

I received a lot of mail when I got home. I was tired and my immediate reaction to a leaflet was that it was either too small to read or in yellow so I couldn't read it. Now I have, it should have been sent out on the very first day of lock-down, not the last one. The exercises are more suitable for someone in a care home. Lift arms slowly twice, pause etc. etc. Stay active, do not get depressed, keep warm. I have been so busy in lock-down I am always trying to catch up.

I did the washing, shopping and VAT then got ready for tomorrow.

Tuesday

Zennor WI pasty picnic here today. I put out 14 chairs and 14 cups. Got the gallon teapot from the dairy. Asked two of the workmen (Rose is having a new roof put on the barn where she lives) to move the garden table. Sam has gone away on holiday and is visiting Tom. I put a table in the doorway and moved another to be beside it with cloths on.

Jackie Screaton called by with some delicious gluten free cake. Jen will be pleased. Jackie is isolating as her husband is having an operation soon.

Heather arrived just after noon for eggs and Gilly soon after with the pasties. Gilly and Ann Sheppard brought two folding chairs each but in the end, we did not need them. Four couldn't come. Wyn was isolating before the arrival of visitors.

Pam gave me a mask in Cornish tartan that her daughter had made. Tacy was late but her pasty was keeping warm on the Rayburn. She and Heather stayed until three so I asked them to put away the chairs. We could have sold more eggs if we had them.

I was very tired, I had another cup of tea, made a list of those to thank and watched TV



'Ladies who Lunch' enjoying a pasty and a 'cuppa' in Jean's garden.

05/08/20 Wednesday

On emails this morning. If I water the garden, which is as dry as dust, it will rain. It did rain. Janet came at ten to perm my hair and it was done by 12, which was much quicker than usual. It should have been done weeks ago, cost £50 + tip.

The bank statements came and the accounts balanced first time so I started on August and the bill from Mole Valley.

06/08/20 Thursday.

Nell's party went OK last night without any mishaps this time. I paid Mole Valley etc and sent my article to the Mermaid's Echo about my Birthday in Lock-down. Spent the rest of the day working on my talk for next week.

07/08/20 Friday

John Wells came with a new car, reg 2017 hybrid Toyota YARAS FP67GVV for £12,995. The insurance will be higher. He said there would be no road tax but I found out later he had made a mistake. Bad news on my car, the judder is serious and should have been repaired before so I am not likely to get even £5K for it.

08/08/20 Saturday

Did one thing for the farm and printed out information for Ros. I spent the rest of the day on talks for Wednesday. Rose is up the scaffolding with cement for one of her windows.

09/08/20 Sunday

I went to church, which was in the top churchyard in the sun.

Ros and Paul came this afternoon and we worked hard at timing our talks etc. The TV is not working due to atmospheric so I can't rest in front of it and get very tired and cross.

10/08/20 Monday

We don't think John Wells is giving me a good deal on the car. I ordered 6 pasties for Wednesday from the butcher. Warren's website says they open at 8.30, but when I got there a notice in the door said 10. I came home and rang them up and they haven't any bread rolls. They are only selling pasties. At least the TV worked this evening and I felt better for a good rest.

11/08/20 Tuesday,

I went to the Coop for stamps and bread rolls. It was so misty I had to follow the white line down the middle of the road. Sam will put two big round bales on end in the Dutch barn tomorrow for tables and we'll take over 8 chairs. Croust will be in my two big baskets and the gallon teapot.

I read emails from the WI and Gorsedd. Bert Biscoe wrote an obit for Craig Weatherhill, He said he was standing on Eagles' Nest, above Zennor, in a gathering mist, with the Parish of Towednack reaching out to the west (wrong direction) and all of Kernow to the north,(there is only sea to the north).

Ros has photographed Carnelloe farmhouse where Hilda used to live and it is all white now with the corner stones picked out in black. So out of keeping.

12/08/20 Wednesday

Five members of the Penwith Local History Group are coming today for a meeting in the Dutch barn. We put eight chairs spaced out and the table from the garden. Ros rang to say Carlene had died and been found by the police when they broke into her house.

At ten, I got the pasties from St. Ives and put them on the Rayburn. Ros and Paul came at 12 with two display boards. We had lunch and filled my two baskets with cups, plates etc. Ros brought strawberries and there is a socket in the Dutch barn for the electric kettle but we didn't need it.

I began with a few words about Carlene. We were all very shocked. Our talks about four interesting local characters all born about 1900 went very well. Ros started on the splits while Paul and I finished.

Matthew's bus didn't come and Rose was over Trevesa turning hay so I dropped everything to take him to St. Ives for work. On the way back I met Vivian Stratton so he joined us in the Dutch barn..

Thursday

We put away the chairs etc. from the Dutch barn. I thanked all those who helped yesterday, . I sent ten messages about Carlene etc. Messages coming in all day about Carlene and phone calls.. She worked in the Bank of England. In the evening, I checked the bedrooms for Ann-Marie, Michael and Alice who are coming. I was too busy to have any lunch.

EDF wanted a metre reading and I spent all morning trying to send it down the line. In the

end, Rose came to help and it had a sensible reading for her. I wanted to know where the nine was that Sam and I saw and it must have been the time.

John Wells rang and I said I had changed my mind about the car. He said I had never let him down before etc. I argued about both cars and in the end gave in. I like the one he is giving me but how long will it last. A very stressful day.

14/08/20 Friday

France now in lock-down so Rose has cancelled her holiday to Brittany. Alice has her place at Penryn for geology in September. Rose and Sam came in late as Bully Boy jumped back down the cliff with the Galloways. Sam eventually did the hoovering and I did some dusting, I eventually had lunch at two instead of twelve..

Ros rang and has given my name to the undertaker about Carlene's funeral. I didn't have time to finish the dusting or make a cake. Much to do tomorrow.

15/08/20 Saturday

VJ Day and my father was in India on a ship. I did the paperwork for Bully Boy who is going in the freezer before he can serve anything. He had one stone. I did the vimming. Cooked the mince and started the Lasagnes. I made an Empire cake, a jelly and started a trifle.

Ann-Marie, Michael and Alice arrived down from Wolverhampton at 6.30. They had torrential rain and heavy traffic at Bristol. We had thick mist all week while they had heavy rain. Sam is making my life a misery about the new car. A-M says I will need to trade it in before the 2-year warranty is up and it should be serviced by a proper Toyota dealer.

16/08/20 Sunday

Blujay was down Veor Cove yesterday and when Caroline rang, she said her mother had died aged 93. She had been in a home for the last 2-3 years. A wonderful lady; she would help anyone and supported charities. Someone brought the dog home.

The church service today was by someone from the Windrush generation. I dusted two more rooms.

17/08/20 Monday

Sarah is 23 today. A-M has a video conference at 9. Then she will go to Falmouth to collect Sarah and Hugh and pick-up a take-away carvery at Three Milestone at 12 noon. I sorted insurance things for the new car. Rose has taken Nell and Alice to Penzance and brings them back at 12.30 when she takes Matt and his friends to the train..

I rang the undertaker and Brin Berryman about Carlene's funeral. They will reserve a seat for me in Morvah church and I told them the little I know about Carlene. She has no near relatives. I have known her since she joined the history group in 1992.

I managed to get the sitting-room dusted so only the farm office to do. A-M eventually arrived with the take-away roast dinners. We had two tables in the Dutch barn. Alastair had made a birthday cake, which A-M iced, and Sam brought a tub of Moomaid ice cream. The young ones all went for a walk in the afternoon. A-M took Sarah and Hugh back to Falmouth.

We had salad for tea.

18/08/20 Tuesday

Bully Boy is up here ready for loading then it was off to Trevarthens with him. I reported the move on line. John Wells came this afternoon with the Toyota Arris. A-M and family went to the Lappa Valley Railway and saw Sarah who now has her job back at the Maritime Museum.

19/08/20 Wednesday

The new car seats three in the back but is small. Rose roasted the last joint of lamb, as we must clean out the freezer for the beef.

20/08/20 Thursday

They are off early today for Falmouth. Nell's exam results are good; she took eleven. I drove the new car to Tesco. FP 67 GVV = Flipping Giovanni.

David Green came down and sorted out Matthew who has agreed to go to Manchester University. I had a salad sandwich for lunch and managed to dust the last room.

21/08/20 Friday,

Storm Ellen has arrived. Rose had to get Matt and Nell from St. Ives at 10.30 last night and on the other side of the hill there was a thunderstorm. She could not see the road and manhole covers were coming up. The Stennack was a fast flowing river. Matt and Nell were soaked in just four yards getting to the car. This morning Rose had to dry out the car seats with a hair-dryer in the Dutch barn where there is a socket. Some damage to the scaffolding around Rose's barn.

Sarah was thinking of cycling over from Truro for lunch but came by train instead. Michael wishes to make an apple crumble for lunch and it took all morning starting with picking the blackberries and apples. It took A-M an hour to peel the windfalls. I have a saucepan full of stewed fruit as well and some apples in the safe. Nell came over for fish and chips making six for lunch. They did the washing up and then went for a walk. After tea, A-M took Sarah back to Truro. I was very tired.

22/08/20 Saturday.

They go home today. Alice and I will go St Ives at eight for pasties etc. for them. We were home by nine with four frozen pasties, 6 slices of ham, half a hog's pudding and a saffron cake from the Coop. A-M was cleaning etc. from early on and all morning. Michael did the vacuuming, Alice helped bring the cattle up the lane and with other jobs. We had lunch at 12.30 and they left immediately after. I washed the dishes, brought in the clothes and put my feet up. Did the ironing this evening and went to sleep.

23/08/20 Sunday

The church service this morning is Methodist from Manchester. Every morning I wake up dreaming I have been left behind and don't know what to do. The rest of the group has gone on without me. I am tired all over.

24/08/20 Monday

It is a bit damp today but they are baling the Rose Broase, Trenowen, etc. It rained before they finished and we have 26 wet bales of poor grass for bedding wrapped in netting. I paid the baling bill, nearly £4K, and we had a chat with Greg.

25/08/20 Tuesday

Storm Francis has arrived. The bales will be moved every day so that they do not ignite.

The A30 yesterday was choc-a- bloc at Penzance and Hayle. Carlene's funeral today at Morvah at 2. I have never been to a funeral before with no close relatives.

Carlene died on Monday, August 10th. She was 83, a year younger than me. About ten other women sat in alternate pews spaced out. I think they had only known her since she moved to Pendeen about ten years ago so I had known her longer than anyone else. There were two wreaths on the coffin, one from 'Friends'. The other one was from the MAFIA, Morvah Action for Fun in the Afternoon. Carlene was buried in her grandmother's grave. Ros took some flowers and the cuttings from The Cornishman that Carlene had sent her just a few days before her death. I have a service sheet for the archives. Carlene has left money to the RIC, Morrab Library, Penlee House, Cornwall Heritage Trust, The National Trust and Cornwall Trust for Nature Conservation. .

26/08/20 Wednesday

David Worledge (traveller for Mole Valley) called for the first time since lock-down. A lovely day today and we sat in the garden for an hour.

Matthew broke the record yesterday by serving 2016 burgers in one evening.

27/08/20 Thursday

Flooding in some parts of Devon and Cornwall. Sam helped me with the double bed and lit the Rayburn for me. Margaret Roger's funeral will be on Wednesday followed by cremation.

Jennifer is selling books etc from her studio at Boswednack for a week so will call for some of mine. Sent some news to the WI with a suggestion of them meeting here in the Dutch barn once a month for half an hour to pass on the County newsletters etc.

28/08/20 Friday

Rose is off to London today with the children. She is booked in at the Premier Inn, Hampstead Heath. My right leg is weak and I must do more walking.

Sam is milking at Tremeda every afternoon this weekend as Nicky is away. Rose's friend Harriet from Lincs is coming to camp. Alastair has sent me a copy of his ancestors. Not all the figures add up and some is supposition.

29/08/20 Saturday

Rose has arrived safely in London.

Harriet arrived from Lincs as I was going to bed, after ten and in the rain. I pointed out the Mowey gate and said go down to the last shed and pitch your tent..

30/08/20 Sunday

Simon Mace brought back Blujay from Trevsigan. I was very annoyed and his chain could not be found anywhere. I had already locked up and was in my slippers.

RC service this morning. A new version of Ava Maria but I couldn't tell if he was singing in English or Latin. It is amazing that only a tiny minority of singers let you hear the words.

At 3 o'clock, two cars of Coastguards turned up. Blujay was down the cliff barking at the waves and they thought someone might have gone over. Then Mike turned up to stay here in case more emergency vehicles were needed. There was talk of launching the lifeboat. Then a fourth car came that had been out near Levant. After an hour, they came back and had not found him. They needed to check his owner and that all were safe here at Wicca. I expect they now have to do their paper work. I expect Blujay followed the next lot of walkers to the Tinnars. I shall tell Rose to give the coast guards a fat cheque. I found some eggs for one and apples for another.

31/08/20 Bank Holiday Monday

Went to Pam's and bought six cards for £10 as I am down to using archives.

01/09/20 Tuesday

Rose got home lunchtime. Time to stop this diary.

02/09/20 Wednesday

Nell has a lift to Truro College for half a day

03/09/20 Thursday

04/09/20 Friday

We have been all day packing beef and borrowed another freezer from Russell.

05/09/20 Saturday

Every bag had blood in it so every package had to be dried and the waste blood poured

down the sink. We filled a sack with waste paper. Bags contained mixed cuts of beef, which was also annoying. He should have put our meat in the chiller overnight.

Beef orders coming in.

Rose away for a BBQ in Lincs, six hour drive each way, but she met some really interesting people in the farming world.

09/09/20

My car is full of chairs and stools. We cannot meet in the Morrab Library so we are meeting in the gardens.

The WI will meet in Pam's garden next week.

I do hope the churches sort themselves out soon.

I am still very nervous about going out and hope things will calm down when St. Ives is no longer swarming with visitors who do not keep their distance. I have not learnt how to breathe when wearing a mask.

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END