

The STITHIANS TIMES



An Termynyow St Stythians

FREE



Nov/ Dec 2025

Issue 243

From the Editor

Welcome back!

It's official – the Stithians Times is back and we're delighted to share a few important updates about the future of our much-loved community publication.

Firstly, we have a New Home for the Times After lots of thought (and your feedback during the public consultation), the Parish Council has kindly agreed to take on oversight of the Times. This is a brilliant step forward – as it was recognised that the publication provides a wider social benefit that fits perfectly with the council's aims. The Stithians Centre has been a fantastic supporter of the Times for many years. But producing the publication takes up a huge amount of their team's valuable time, and with limited resources it made sense to pass

the baton. This way, the Centre can continue focusing on running a fantastic hub for our community – and of course, the Times will still include all Centre events, so nothing will be missed.

Next the Stithians Times will be free to all. Just like the last issue, the Times will be delivered free to households, reaching around 600 homes in Stithians. Even better, any profits made will go directly to the Playfield Fund – helping to improve and support facilities for everyone to enjoy. As a result of making this free, we will need to cover our costs via our advertising supporters and donations. If you are a local business and want to reach over 600 homes in the village, advertising starts at just £12 per issue. Your support helps us cover printing costs and ensures the Times can keep landing on doormats across the parish.

This issue has been one of our tightest turn arounds yet, but thankfully, we have the start of a fantastic team helping with articles and advertising, keeping the transition as smooth as possible.

All those that have volunteered to help, we haven't forgotten, we will be in touch and if you have any thoughts on articles that may fit, then please do email us.

Our new email home is:
stithians.times@stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk

Thank you all for your continued support together, we're making sure the Stithians Times remains at the heart of our community.

Alex
Editor, Stithians Times

WHO'S WHO?

Editor:
Alexandra Fowler

Advertising:
James Gill

Editorial Team:
Sophie Cotton
James Gill
Jane Richards

Finance: Jane Richards

Distribution:

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

The Stithians Times is your community magazine, lovingly put together by volunteers under the guidance of Stithians Parish Council. Our goal is to celebrate the people, stories, and events that make our parish such a special place to live.

The magazine is delivered free to homes throughout the village and made available at central collection points. As it's a volunteer effort, we can't always guarantee every household will receive a copy—but we do our very best to reach as many as possible!

We hope you enjoy reading The Stithians Times as much as we enjoy creating it. We'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas, or stories—just drop us an email.

DEADLINES

Our next issue is
January/ February
2026

Deadline for content is
10th December 2025

Email: stithians.times@
stithiansparishcouncil.
org.uk

Stithians Surgery- 01209 860170

Important info

Bus numbers that serve Stithians- 36 and 42 Visit: www.transportforcornwall.co.uk for more details

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Stithians Parish Council - Review of 2025

rather different — women can not only vote but also serve as councillors! In this year's election, eight members were elected unopposed, three others were later co-opted. It's worth noting that the current council has more women than men.

and a youth space. Fundraising is now under way, with construction hoped to begin in 2027.

Road Safety and Highways

Improving safety around the village has remained a top priority. This year saw the completion of new crossing points — one at Longdowns, and another with a widened pavement at the entrance to the school, making the area much safer for pedestrians. Fresh road markings, including new yellow lines outside the school, now prohibit parking at any time. Please use the free car park or marked bays to keep our roads safe. Further works around the Spar shop will soon make it easier and safer to cross from Crelow Lane. The resurfacing from Pelean Cross to Foundry has also made the route out of the village far smoother. We continue to support Ponsanooth Parish Council in campaigning for improvements at Pelean Cross.



Playing Field Improvements

The Playing Field continues to be a hive of activity and improvement. In May, new play equipment arrived to replace the old roundabout and seesaw, and the tennis court net was renewed. Drainage works near the BMX track has improved the footpath in this area, and our contractor has increased grass-cutting to keep the playing fields tidy. The Football Club goes from strength to strength, with new advertising boards and a small crib hut now in place. Working with the Parish Council, the club successfully secured Football Foundation funding to improve the pitch surface.

In March, councillors and local children planted eight new trees as part of Cornwall Council's Plant the Gap scheme. Each class from the pre-school and school chose a tree, symbolising the young people of Stithians — the future Stars of Stithians.

Albert Collins Community Hub

After much anticipation, planning permission was granted to replace the derelict Pavilion with a purpose-built community building: The Albert Collins Community Hub. The new facility will include sports changing rooms

The 20mph speed limit has successfully reduced speeds overall, but some problem areas remain, especially on South Road and Foundry. Our mobile speed signs continue to monitor and remind drivers to slow down, and a new sign will soon be installed at Foundry. Cornwall Councillor John Thomas is also helping to establish a community speed-watch group.

SWW and Flooding at Hendra

After persistent lobbying by the Parish Council, Cllr Thomas and our MP, South West Water has agreed to fund new drainage works at Hendra to address the long-standing flooding issues. We're pleased that this long-awaited project is finally moving forward.

Everyday Improvements

While large projects make headlines, it's often the smaller improvements that make daily life easier. This year, the Council has:

- Added a new step to the stile by the skate park
- Updated the footpath-cutting schedule for frequently used paths

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Parish Council Elections

At April's Annual Parish Meeting, the Chairwoman reflected on the Council's long history. Stithians Parish Council was founded in 1894. Today, democracy looks

- Taken responsibility for emptying dog bins at Crelow Fields
- Installed new grit bins
- Relocated a litter bin from Church Road to the Meadows side footpath
- Added a bollard and signage at Meadows side to prevent parking where hearses need access

Could we also remind everyone that Meadows side is a lawned cemetery — graveside ornaments are not permitted. Respecting Shared Spaces

Sadly, there have been some incidents around the Playing Field, including broken glass in the toddler area and e-bikes or motorbikes on the BMX track. Please remember that the BMX track and surrounding paths are for pedal cycles and pedestrians only. The BMX track must not be altered without Council permission.

Dog owners are also asked to respect the

rule that dogs must be kept on leads when walking in the playing fields. Whilst most owners are responsible, off-lead dogs have frightened children and other pets, and dog fouling remains an issue. Please help keep our shared spaces clean and welcoming for everyone.

The Star of Stithians Awards

The Star of Stithians Awards celebrate the many volunteers who quietly keep our community thriving — from scout leaders and lunch club cooks to market organisers and Christmas Lights fundraisers. This year's Star of Stithians Award went to Bridget and Nigel Guzek for their wonderful work with the choir. Congratulations to all those recognised for their dedication and community spirit.

Staying Connected

The Parish Council's work is wide-ranging — from planning applications and public spaces to road safety and environmental

projects. Meeting minutes are available online, and residents are warmly invited to attend our monthly meetings. Our website also provides helpful links for reporting issues such as overflowing bins, obstructed footpaths, or flooding.

Stithians is a wonderful place to live, and by working together — from small acts of care and kindness to major community projects — we can make it even better.

The Parish Council wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support in keeping Stithians a vibrant and welcoming community.

YOUR STITHIANS PHOTOS

This month I put a call out for a winter themed cover photo for this edition of the Stithians Times. I had a fantastic response and although we could pick only one, we had to share more of them here. Our cover photo was taken by Corinne Vinson. Thank you for everyone who submitted and if you feel that you have a great cover image for us then please share with us by emailing: Stithians.times@stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk



Sara Turk



Tanya Mitchell



Majenta Haycock



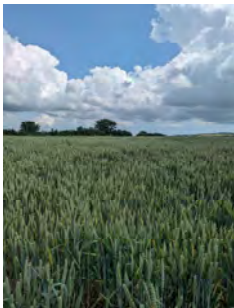
Jo Shreeve



Fiona Mitchell-Gunn



Photo credits: Top Left- Sara Turk Bottom Left- Claire Sylvester Bottom Right- Jack Smith Top Right- Treve Bale



Majenta Haycock



Majenta Haycock

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AT HOME IN STITHIANS

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9				5	1		4	
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TOP TIPS IN THE GARDEN FROM NICKY

We have had a wonderful Autumn so far, very dry and lovely sunny days .
Gorgeous for leaf peeping. What wonderful colours this year.
My dahlias are in full bloom. This year I purchased tubers from Emma Roskilly and they are wonderful .

There is still time to enjoy the garden and prep to be done .

Tidy fallen leaves but not too tidy as the leaves provide a valuable place for insects and other wildlife to hide. Leaves can be used for mulch.

Protect tender plants by wrapping in fleece .

Remove summer annuals and any dead plants that can harbour diseases.

Plant bulbs ready for the spring .

Plant winter bedding plants such as pansies , primulas and violas.

Happy Gardening

Nicky



IN THE VEG PATCH



Clear any summer crops.
Plant garlic.
Add compost to the soil.

HELPING WILDLIFE



Don't be too tidy as insects and animals need somewhere to hide and hibernate.
Begin to feed the birds in readiness for the colder weather.

Being outdoors & gardening for mental health, just 20 mins outside in the fresh air is very beneficial to our wellbeing .

SEASONAL FOLKLORE



"If there is ice in November that will bear a duck, there'll be nothing after but sludge and muck"

OVER THE HEDGE WITH PETER GREEN

Meeting the people that help produce food around Stithians

THIS MONTH: Paul Gluyas from Pencoose Farm

At 85, Paul Gluyas of Pencoose Farm, Stithians, is part of a long line of farmers working the same land since the 1850s. Pencoose remains a true mixed farm, producing grass for beef cattle, cereals such as wheat, barley and oats, and maintaining a small flock of sheep alongside renewable energy projects.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

What's the biggest change you've seen in farming since you started?

I came home to work full-time in 1956, though I've always lived on the farm. Back then, there were many small farms in Stithians, each with a few cows, some pigs or poultry, maybe a field of cauliflowers or potatoes. Over time, farms have specialised - people could only afford to modernise in one or two areas, economics meant herds and holdings needed to get larger. That's led to consolidation: smaller farms disappearing, bigger ones taking on their land.

What has been the highlight of your farming career so far?

I ought to say marrying my wonderful wife, Jean! But if we stick to farming, it's been developing the business - from 56 acres up to the 600 acres we now work across owned and rented ground. We've modernised and improved while looking after the environment. For example, we now drill seed directly into the soil rather than ploughing, which helps us retain carbon and protect the land for the future.

What's one thing you wish people in the parish understood better about farming or food production?

We're an island - we can't make more land,

and the population is growing. Every acre matters. One acre can produce 20 tonnes of potatoes or thousands of loaves of bread. The UK is under 60% self-sufficient in temperate food. We need to keep producing as much top-quality food here as we can, and I'd encourage everyone to buy British whenever possible.

What's giving you hope at the moment? It's a tricky time, but there are opportunities too. We're improving productivity with technology - GPS-guided tractors and self-steer systems make our work at Pencoose more precise and efficient. The future will need skilled, thoughtful young people, and that gives me hope.

If you could invite the whole parish to see one thing on your farm, what would it be and why?

The cattle — whether out in the fields in summer or in the sheds in winter. They're well cared for and content, and that's what good farming looks like. We've had the Kingfisher Award visits here for the past two years — busloads of children come to see our crops, animals, and soils, and learn how we use what we have on the farm to produce as much British food as we can.

Daily routine:

I'm up by 6.45 a.m. I've become the boy on the farm again! The next generation leads, and I do the jobs I enjoy. I still decide when cattle are ready for the butcher with my grandson Richard — and we almost always agree!

Where can people buy your produce?

Most beef goes to various supermarkets from an abattoir in Bodmin but some goes to Trevarren's in the parish. Oats become porridge and biscuits, wheat feeds poultry and pigs.





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ST STYTHIANS CHURCH

ST STYTHIANS CHURCH SERVICES

November 2025

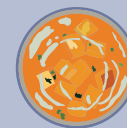
Sunday 2nd of November 9.30am. Holy communion
Sunday 9th of November Remembrance Sunday. 10.30am.
Sunday 16th of November. 9.30am. Holy Communion.
Sunday 23 of November 9.30am Service of the Word.
Sunday 30th of November. Advent Sunday - 09.30am

December 2025

Sunday 7th of December 9.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 11 of December. 6.30pm The Carol Service.
Sunday 14th of December. 9.30am Matins.
Sunday 21st of December 9.30am. Holy Communion.
Wednesday 24th December. 5pm. The Christingle service.
Wednesday 24th December 9.30pm Early Midnight mass.
Thursday 25th December 10am. The Christmas Day service.
Sunday 28th December. Service of the Word 09.30am



The Candlelit supper is back !
In the Stithians centre.
Saturday 22nd November. 6.30pm for 7.00 clock start.
£15 a head.
The first glass of wine is Free. There after a donation please.
Entertainment, will be provided by One foot in the gravy. There will also be a raffle.
To book your place and for information regarding the menu, plus any dietary requirements, please contact
Ann Nichols. 01209860678
Or by email: ann@trevales.co.uk



LUNCH CLUB

"Stithians Lunch Club-All welcome!

Come and join our lunch club either every month or on an ad-hoc basis. We cook fresh food every time and you can enjoy chatting with others while dining on Baked ham, fresh vegetables followed by bread and butter pudding with custard followed by coffee.

We hold a free raffle for diners which is enjoyed by everyone. You bring a prize and win a prize - something useful, tasty or decorative.

Our food is cooked by Michelle and served by our lovely ladies: Viv, Anne, Diana, Ann and Marion who also takes payment and gives you your winning raffle ticket.

A two course meal with coffee is currently just £5.00, and the menu changes every month.

Come and join us on the 1st Tuesday of every month in the centre. Next date is: 6th May 2025 at 12.30 for 1pm. Contact Michelle on 07809 428033 to book or just come along and give it a try".

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Interior Exterior Repairs

07957 529758

Vabigham@outlook.com
Hillside TR16 6TG



ST STYTHIANS
**MALE
VOICE
CHOIR**

+ Dates for your diary 2025			
	Location		
10th JPA	Autism Centre Special Needs Arts Workshop	Twickenham College 10. August	10.45
11th JPA	Three Clubs Concert with Autism & Mental and Physical Issues	Twickenham College 11. August	10.00
16th JPA	Autism Centre Workshop	Concord School 16. August	10.00
19th JPA	Children's Mental Health Workshop	Twickenham College 19. August	10.00
20th JPA	Local Council and Billings Lodge, Local Council and Community Service	Twickenham College 20. August	10.00
21st JPA	Children's Mental Health Workshop	Twickenham College 21. August	10.00

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Young Readers

WINTER IN STITHIANS

By Stithians Preschool



STITHIANS
PRESCHOOL

Autumn Adventures and Festive Fun at Stithians Preschool

What's Happening at Preschool This Season November is set to be an incredibly busy and enriching month at Stithians Preschool! Our children will be participating in a wonderful variety of educational and community activities.

We'll be attending the Remembrance Service at the war memorial, helping our young learners understand the importance of remembering those who served. Throughout the month, we'll also be taking part in World Science Day, Outdoor Classroom Day, Nursery Rhyme Week and Road Safety Week, each offering unique learning opportunities tailored to our curious young minds.

Both our preschool and late club sessions will be joining in with World Science Day and Children in Need, ensuring all our children can participate in these special events. It's going to be a month full of discovery, learning and community spirit!

Autumn Bingo Fun

the perfect opportunity to get outside and explore the changing environment around us. The vibrant colours, crunchy leaves and crisp air make autumn walks truly magical for little ones.

To help families make the most of this wonderful time of year, we've created a special autumn bingo card for you to take on your walks. Children can enjoy spotting seasonal treasures such as pinecones, colourful leaves, acorns and all the special things that make autumn such an enchanting season. It's a lovely way to encourage outdoor exploration whilst learning about nature's changes.

Christmas Market Games Stall

As the festive season approaches, we're gearing up for Christmas and are delighted to announce our annual Preschool... Christmas Games Stall. Join us at the in the Preschool room during the village Christmas markets on Saturday 15th November and Saturday 16th December for festive fun and games. All monies raised from these events go directly towards supporting the preschool, helping us continue to provide a fantastic learning environment for our littlest villagers. Your support at these fundraising events makes a real difference to the resources and experiences we can offer the children in our care.

Father Christmas Visits

We're thrilled to announce that Father Christmas is returning to the village! The preschool will be hosting him in his magical grotto on Saturday 6th December from 10am to 12pm.

Father Christmas would love to meet all the children in the village

to check he knows exactly what they want for Christmas. Tickets are £4.00 per child, and every child will receive a special present from Father Christmas himself.

This year we will be taking bookings in advance to ensure everyone gets their special moment with Father Christmas. Please book your timeslot via the QR code or web address shown on the poster around the village. Don't delay, as spaces are limited and we expect this popular event to fill up quickly!

We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful autumn and festive events.



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ST STYTHIANS MALE VOICE CHOIR

MALE SINGERS WANTED

St Stythians Male Voice Choir are on the lookout for new members to join and perform. Whether you are an experienced singer, or complete novice, there is a warm welcome, singing and we'll be happy to show you the ropes. The choir was established in 1953 and has been a traditional part of Cornish history since then. We've performed across the hills of Cornwall, parts of the UK and even at the Royal Albert Hall.

What's in it for you...

- Support other singing
- Meet like minded people
- Sing local events
- Helping money for charity

TUESDAYS
7.45pm

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Or call
Andy Christophers
07762 257303

STITHIANS METHODIST CHAPEL



A welcome service for the Rev Paul Harold, who has taken up an appointment with the Falmouth and Gwennap Methodist

Circuit, took place at Stithians Methodist Church on the evening of 9th September. Following a welcome and call to worship by the Rev Jonathan Froggatt, superintendent of the Falmouth and Gwennap Circuit, Revive, a contemporary worship group, led a short time of songs and prayers.



During this slot, Margie Ricardo, church warden at St Stythians Parish Church, brought a greeting from the Anglicans. Rev Paul responded to the welcome. Prayers of intercession and the Lord's Prayer were led by Morwenna Bennett, a Falmouth and Gwennap local preacher. Rev Paul concluded with the Blessing. The organist was David Collins. After the service, the gathering enjoyed coffee, tea and biscuits in the downstairs hall.

The Rev Paul led his first service at Stithians, which included the sacrament of Holy Communion, the following Sunday morning. Tom Rowse delivered a Bible reading. Friends from Ponsanooth joined the Stithians congregation. Following worship the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the downstairs hall. Tom Rowse, contact steward, presented gifts on behalf of the church family to Janet Cluyas and Tony Langford who have retired as property secretary and church treasure respectively after many years service.



Stithians Methodist Church celebrated Harvest Festival on Sunday, 28th September. Guest preacher was the Rev Helen Byrne, chaplain of Truro School. Friends from Ponsanooth and St Stythians Parish Church attended. Tony Langford read from the Gospel of Matthew and Janet Cluyas from 1 Corinthians. Some members of the congregation joined in a sketch during the service. The church was decorated with non-perishable goods which were later donated to Penryn and Falmouth Foodbank. A party and dessert lunch was enjoyed in the downstairs hall.

Looking ahead, there is much happening in November and December. Sunday, 16th November is a busy day. Lesley Parsons will lead worship at 10.45am and at 3.00pm the Rev Jonathan Froggatt will lead a circuit service to mark the accreditation of Sarah Smith as a local preacher.

The Community Carol service will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday, 14th December, led by the Rev Paul Harold. Those taking part include the Ladies and Male Choirs, the School Choir and Handbell Ringers, the Ukulele Group and uniformed organisations.

And on Sunday, 21st December at 6.00pm, the Rev Jonathan Froggatt will lead a Carols by Candlelight service.

Then, on Christmas Day, there will be a short service at 9.30am.

All are welcome at Stithians Methodist Church. There is off-road parking.

By Tony Langford
stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk

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STITHIANS METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, 2nd November	10.45am:*	At Ponsanooth Hall
Sunday, 9th November	10.30am: ***	At Stithians Parish Church, Remembrance Day
Sunday, 16th November	10.45am:	Lesley Parsons.
	3.00pm:	Rev Jonathan Froggatt. Circuit service at Stithians. Local Preacher accreditation – Sarah Smith
Sunday, 23rd November	10.45am:	Pastor Jenny Lockwood.
Sunday, 30th November	10.45am:	Mandy Jenkin
Sunday, 7th December	10.45am:	TBC
Sunday, 14th December	3.00pm:**	Community Carol Service. Rev Paul Harold with choirs, hand bell ringers, the Ukulele Group and uniformed organisations.
Sunday, 21st December	6.00pm:**	Carols by Candlelight. Rev Jonathan Froggatt
Sunday, 28th December	10.45am:	TBC

*Different Venue

*** Different Venue and Time

** Different Time.

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STITHIANS ENERGY GROUP



THE IMPORTANCE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

What is a circular economy and why is it so important to help us to lessen the impacts of climate change?

A circular economy is one that keeps products and materials in use for as long as possible through repair, recycling and composting. The alternative to a circular economy, and one that we have got used to, is a linear economy where items are made, used and then thrown away.

We must transition away from a linear economy to a circular economy to keep within the planetary boundaries, to help reduce CO2 emissions and biodiversity loss. We have all thought that the planet can keep giving, and that there is no limit to the materials, food, oil and fresh water that it can provide, but it is now apparent that we are breaking planetary boundaries.

This year's global Earth Overshoot Day fell on July 24th. This is the date when humanity's demand for resources exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In other words, after July 24th we have used more resources than the Earth can provide, in effect using 1.7 Earths that year. As an individual country the UK had used up its share of Earth's resources by May 20th, this is why it's so important that we transition to a circular economy. Incidentally, in 1971 we were only using just over one Earth's resources with Earth Overshoot Day falling towards the end of Dec.

So how will this transition to a circular economy affect us as individuals?

1. We will have to keep products and materials in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling. This will mean that products will have to be designed to be repaired and that spare parts will have to be available at a realistic price, a policy the EU already has in place and is being copied by the UK. Ultimately manufacturers will likely lease products rather than sell them, taking responsibility for their maintenance and recovery of parts and materials. This could apply to products from cars to washing machines to phones.

2. Food waste must be minimal with any waste being composted or collected and turned into methane gas for energy generation with the residue made into fertiliser, hence making food part of a circular economy.

We can see this circular economy emerging here in Cornwall with the introduction of Cornwall Council's new collection service. Recycling rates are up by 21% to 52%. However, there is still room for improvements as surveys have identified that 45% of black bags waste could be recycled, around half of which is food waste. Next year soft plastic and cartons will also be included in the collections. At the moment soft plastic has to be taken to a large store and cartons to a recycle centre.

A disappointment this August was the failure of the international Plastics Treaty negotiations to come to an agreement over reducing plastic pollution. I can't help thinking that since transport and energy will be using less and less oil and gas that the oil giants are turning to influencing plastic production. However, on a more positive note, From 1 October 2027, customers will pay a refundable deposit for certain single-use drink containers, plastic and metal, under the new Deposit Return Scheme.

By Brian Piper



STITHIANS STORIES LONDON RIVER RACE

Rowing our Way Across London: An All-Female Crew's Great River Race Adventure

This September, our (all-female) Heford River Gig Club crew embarked on the challenge of a lifetime. Entering the Great River Race, London's iconic 21.6-mile "Thames Marathon" for fixed-seat rowing craft. We had 7 rowers and a cox as the requirement is to carry a passenger at all times, so we swapped rowers in and out through the race, giving each person a much-needed short rest!

Across the summer, we trained each week on the Heford River, building stamina and technique. Rowing twice a week at minimum, sessions were up to two hours, pushing ourselves in all weathers, focusing on technique, endurance, and team rhythm.

Our crew was made up of Christine (our very experienced cox), Laura and Amanda (who took turns in the stroke seat), Sue, Esther, Olivia, Bianca and me.

Sponsorship - First Light

We wanted to raise some money for a local charity. Our crew chose First Light ([https://](https://www.firstlight.org.uk/)

www.firstlight.org.uk/), which is a charity for anyone who is experiencing, or has experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence. We created a fundraising page and were delighted to have raised so far £1055 (£1265 including gift aid), which we hope will make a real difference to a well deserving local charity.

Getting There: Logistics, Towing Woes & A Hairy Launch

One of the biggest challenges, and certainly the most nerve-wracking, was the logistics of getting our gig to London in one piece.

We towed our gig all the way from Heford to Ham (the designated crane drop site). Along the way, we ran into terrible traffic, got delayed, and at we missed our window for the crane lift. The crane must place the boat into the water in Ham, from where it is towed upriver to the start at Millwall.

We arrived late, hearts racing, but the crane drivers had waited for us, and they deposited our gig safely into the water at Ham. Once afloat, the tension lifted, but a long river ahead awaited us.

The Race: 21.6 Miles of London Rowing, Cheers & Chants

The Great River Race starts at Millwall and finishes at Ham, Richmond, taking crews under 28 bridges along the way.



We battled to the start line, and then we were off, with the benefit of the incoming tide, the cityscape of London shot past: under Tower Bridge, Waterloo, Blackfriars, Hammersmith, Barnes and more. The crowd were lining the banks and standing on the bridges, cheering everyone on. At many of the bridges we belloved the Cornish "oggy" chant into the echoing archways, and were met by delighted applause and "oggies" from spectators, a real boost when arms and legs were tiring and lungs burning.

Thankfully, the weather played ball: not unbearably hot, not drenched by rain, just about ideal rowing conditions.

Results & Reflection

We completed the full 21.6-mile course in 2 hours 59 minutes, an excellent time by any measure, especially given all the challenges of transport, set-up, and the sheer strain of the race itself.

In our category — women veterans — we came 3rd, and overall in the gig fleet we placed 29th out of around 70 gigs (many of which were crewed by mixed or male crews). (By way of context, the Great River Race fields hundreds of crews across many boat classes. This year, there were around 340 fixed-seat rowing boats)

Boat Types, Rules & Context

A few interesting bits from the Great River Race rules and history:

- The race is **strictly** for fixed-seat craft (i.e. no sliding seats)
- Every craft must carry a cox and a passenger, and fly a 3 ft x 2 ft flag
- Lots of different traditional and traditional-style boat types compete: gigs, skiffs, cutters, longboats, outriggers, etc.
- The course runs under 28 bridges, and is timed and handicapped so that slower crews set off earlier to even up competition.
- It's a charitable trust. And with over 2500 competitors, it's one of the biggest events of its type in Europe.

For those gig rowers in the village thinking "maybe next year ...", I would say: absolutely go for it. It's a logistical challenge. Training demands consistency and grit. But the rewards, rowing through the heart of London under ancient bridges, hearing cheers from the banks, working with your crew harder than you ever have, are unforgettable. If anyone would like tips, help organising transport or crew planning for next year, we'd be thrilled to share our experience.

By Sophie Cotton

BEETLING WITH BARTLEBY



Bartleby came to me from the cruel streets of Romania on the 22nd August 2025

He travelled to the UK with 64 other dogs and one cat in 3 purpose converted vans, passing through 6 countries and two stringent border checks.

The entire journey took four days. Each van heading for the north of the UK, the Midlands and the south delivering the dogs to their forever, loving homes, away from the cruelty of the kill shelters and street life.

Bartleby settled so well and loves exploring the surrounding countryside.

Last year Judie and Bess took the challenge to walk 70 miles in October raising funds for Children's Hospice South West. When Judie said Bessie was unable to do so this year we decided we would take up the challenge. It is a wonderful charity and the funds raised will make a huge difference to the children in their care.

Bartleby came through a charity called Cornwall dogs for adoption. A wonderful lady called Julie Richardson coordinates from St. Ives. Her page can be found on fb. Not only does she help Romanian dogs but UK dogs too. My experience of adopting through her has been wonderful from the start and I am so very lucky to have Bartleby in my life, he is a wonderful little dog.

You may have seen us out and about sporting our t-shirt and bandana? By the time this edition comes into your homes our challenge will probably be complete, however, donations can still be made using the following link.



A huge thank you from us for the generous donations so far, we are very grateful. So far we have raised £290 and walked 45 miles (as at 10/10/25).

By Nicky Greasley-Sterianou



Stithians Stories is a special section of our magazine dedicated to celebrating the voices of our community. Each feature shines a light on the everyday people of Stithians and the fascinating, heartfelt, or inspiring stories they have to share. From unique life experiences to hidden talents and local memories, this space is all about giving our neighbours a platform to be heard and appreciated.

If you feel you have a story to tell or know someone who might, please get in touch. Remember it doesn't matter how long you have lived in the village!

stithians.times@stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk

stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk

STITHIANS CRICKET CLUB

As the sun sets on another cricket season; Stithians CC can reflect on what has been one of the most successful seasons in the club's history.

Our first team won Division 2 West to be champions and also, at the 5 time of trying triumphed in the Division 2 T20 competition. Our second team narrowly missed out on winning Division 6 West by 7 points at the end of the season. However, finishing second will mean a promotion to the league above. Our youth section continues to thrive with nearly 50 under 12s receiving coaching and starting their cricketing journeys. Our under 11 softball team in their first season finished second in the league.

Our under 13 girls won the St Austell cricket festival winning all their games.

Lastly, but certainly by no means least, Our Belles. A fabulous first competitive season saw a 4th placed league finish with 3 wins against established ladies teams.

The highlight of the season being a superb cup run, beating Mount Ambrose, Redruth (who won the league) to set up a West final against Paul. In front of the biggest crowd of support of the season they won a close game to win the cup! They will play a County final at the start of next season.

A truly successful year for the club.

By Nathan Kendall



STITHIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

After a strong unbeaten pre-season, the club went into this year under the new management and chairmanship of Brian Charles, a new committee, and captaincy of Treve Bale.

Results have been mixed so far with lots of new players joining, and meshing into the team, but as a club we are confident results will come!

Off the field, huge improvements to the ground have been seen over 20 sponsors boards line the pitch, upgrades to the dug outs, a new food hut and substantial work on the pitch itself.

The club has been active in the community with running the Summer Fun Day alongside the Stithians Christmas Lights Committee and recently held a well attended auction, with more events planned for 2026.

We are so grateful for a club for the local support and will continue to grow and secure the club for more generations as they come through, part of this will be the establishment of a junior section in the near future.

Up The Village!

By James Gill



What's on in Stithians

November



Stithians Centre AGM
Wednesday 5 November, 6.30pm
All residents living in Stithians Parish are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of The Stithians Centre Management Committee.

All residents of Stithians over 18 are eligible to vote for 4 members of the management committee, and are eligible to stand for one of these elected committee positions. (All persons elected, appointed, or co-opted onto the Committee will be trustees of the charity.)



Christmas Lights Bake sale
7th November 1400- 1630
Raising fund for our Village Christmas Lights.



Remembrance Day Parade
Sunday 9th November 10am
1000am Parade assembles at the Doctors Surgery. 1010am the parade departs to Stithians Church.

Armistice Day
Tuesday 11th November 11am
1045am Assemble at Stithians War Memorial



Big Christmas Craft and Produce Market
Saturday 15 November, 9.30-2.30
Pop along to The Stithians Centre for a great selection of crafts, local foods, and original gifts. Jewellery, glassware, handmade cards, crochet and knitted products, locally reared meat, fresh vegetables and fruit, cakes, pastries, eggs, preserves are just some of the stalls on offer. Cafe serving bacon rolls, toasted tea cakes, tea and coffee.
Free entry.



Film Night: The Critic
Saturday 15 November, 7.30pm

The Critic is a deliciously dark and sharp-witted thriller set in 1930s London featuring an all-star British cast including Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Romola Garai and Lesley Manville.
When the most feared and vicious theatre critic in town finds himself suddenly in the cross hairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner he strikes a sinister Faustian pact with a struggling actress who is desperate to win his favour.
Licensed bar selling wines, beers, cider, gin and tonics and soft drinks. Caledstick Farm ice creams on sale during interval.
Entry/door price for the Stithians Centre Film Club remains £4.50 for adults.



Lantern Workshops
Friday 21 November, Stithians School
3.30 pm Children's workshop, £4.50 per child, adult supervision required.
6.00 to 9.00 pm Adults' workshop, £10 per lantern, BYOB, free homemade mince pie.



Candlelit Supper
Saturday 22 November, 6.30pm
Save this date for the annual Candlelit Supper to be held in The Stithians Centre on Saturday 22 November, 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Event finish 10.00pm.
Tickets £15 each, first glass of wine free with meal.
Entertainment from One Foot in the Gravy.
Menu, booking information and raffle to be advertised soon.

Do you have an event coming up in
Let us know by emailing
stithians.times@
stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk before
the 10th December 2025 for inclusion in
the next what's on guide.



KCA International Guitar Series
Saturday 29 November, 7.30pm
The Stithians Centre continues its partnership with Kenyon Concerts to bring you another exceptional international classical guitarist. The last Guitar Series concert of 2025 so don't miss it!

More info coming soon.

December



Big Christmas Craft and Produce Market
Saturday 6th December, 9.30-2.30 and 1630 to 2030

Pop along to The Stithians Centre for a great selection of crafts, local foods, and original gifts. Jewellery, glassware, handmade cards, crochet and knitted products, locally reared meat, fresh vegetables and fruit, cakes, pastries, eggs, preserves are just some of the stalls on offer. Cafe serving bacon rolls, toasted tea cakes, tea and coffee.
Free entry.



Festival of Lights Switch-On.
Saturday 6th December - illuminated tractor parade, lantern parade, Christmas market, street food, hot drinks, mulled wine, children's entertainment and more.



4THOUGHT SAX QUARTET
Saturday 13 December
We are delighted to announce the return of the fabulous 4Thought Quartet for a late afternoon performance of sublime saxophone and festive cheer in The Stithians Centre
stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN STITHIANS

Mondays

Post Office Outreach

Stithians Centre Foundry Room 10:00am to 12:00pm

Chair yoga

Stithians Centre Hendra Room 12.15-1.15pm,
More info: 07455 627765

Life active over 50s fitness

9.45-10.45am and 11.00-12.00 Jon 07889 016264
jongoddard@posteo.net

Art Club

Stithians Centre alternate Mondays 1:00pm to 3:30pm Anthea,
stithiansart@outlook.com 01209 860451

Ukulele group (adults)

Stithians Centre 4.00 pm Anthea, anthea.c@btinternet.com
01209 860451

Rainbows

Stithians Centre 17.00 to 18.30 (term time) Sam, 07772 090212

Brownies

Stithians Centre Monday 1900 to 2015 (term time) Tamsin, 07549 900721

Guitar technique class followed by guitar classes renaissance music

Monday, 6.15 to 6.45pm then 6.45 to 7.45pm
Ben, kernowconcerts@gmail.com

St Stythians Academy Band

6-7pm in the bandroom. We welcome players from age 7 upwards and any level of playing. Contact Phil 07769 661577 or eupho@sky.com for more information

Pub Quiz

Seven Stars Stithians, every other week- check the pubs facebook page for details

Tuesday

Cubs

Stithians Centre 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm (term time) Jane,
j.lepage01@btinternet.com 01209-862995

Scouts

Stithians centre, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm (term time) Ben, benandni-chudd@mac.com 07749 867947

Lunch Club

Stithians centre, first Tuesday of each month Viv, 01209 860656

Parish Council Meeting

Stithians Centre, 3rd Tuesday of each month 7.00 pm (except Aug)
phil.blease@btinternet.com

W I

Stithians Centre, Tuesday 7.30 pm Yvonne, 01209 860402

St Stythians Male Voice Choir

19:45-21:30 at Stithians Methodist Chapel (TR3 7AN). There is no need to read music, just be keen. A friendly welcome awaits you.

Wednesday

W I Patchwork Group

Stithians Centre alternate Wednesdays, 2.00pm to 4.00 pm Dee Watkins, deeallison1@hotmail.co.uk 01209 213670

Beavers

Stithians Centre 5.15 to 6.30 pm (term time) Olly, ollyspooner@gmail.com 07879 474789

Clubbercise dance fitness

Stithians Centre 7.00 pm Amy 07541 994099 amy.mcg@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday

Stithians Ladies Voice Choir

Carnon Downs Community Methodist Church 7.30pm
Peggy, 07591 134765

Feet up! Foot clinic

Regular clinics, Thursday or Friday Karen Myers, 01872 834567

Zumba gold

10.00 am Contact Eve, 07817 186151

Friday

Post Office Outreach

Stithians Centre Foundry Room 10:00am to 12:00pm

Community Library

Stithians Centre 10:00 to 12:00

Coffee Stop

In the Stithians Centre 10:30 to 12:30- all welcome no charge, donations welcome

Bridge Club in the Stithians Centre, 7.30 pm John 01209 860451 or Judith 07931 346998

Saturday

Craft and Produce Market

Stithians Centre 0930 to 1230 Every 3rd Saturday of the month (except August).

Community Library

Stithians Centre 10:00am to 12:00pm

Film club, cfylm

Regular screenings, Saturdays 7.30pm Debby, FilmsAtTSC@outlook.com

Sunday

Mindful core and fitness

9.30 am Contact Jon 07889 016264, jongoddard@posteo.net

AIKIDO

7.30 to 8.30 pm Laurie, kazuochiba842@gmail.com 07423 123935

Sound bath

Regular Sunday afternoons Anderson, fishboltsix@gmail.com

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All information in this magazine is for information purposes only. At the time of going to press, as far as we are aware, all information is correct and accurate. We do not accept responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies