

# Lyskerry's

The community journal for Liskeard



**Issue 6**

Summer/Hav

2019

# Liskeard Show

at Merrymeet from 8am Saturday 13th July



*Main ring attractions – Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Donkeys, Dog Show, Trade Stands, Live Music, Shopping/Craft, Cornish Food and Homes & Gardens Marquees, Pets Corner, Children's Entertainer, Fun Fair and Bouncy Castle*

## A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT

Adults £10, Children (5-15yrs) £4, Under 5s free  
Family (2&2) £22 **Free Car Parking**  
[www.liskeardshow.org](http://www.liskeardshow.org)

**Email:** [info@liskeardshow.org](mailto:info@liskeardshow.org)  
**Tel:** 07894 456 099

Registered Charity No. 1170999

## Share your stories and get involved

Lyskerrys is a quarterly magazine dedicated to celebrating all the positive initiatives and uplifting stories from in and around Liskeard.

It is published by LAMB (Liskeard Arts and Media Body), supported by Liskeard Town Council, RIO, and the Liskerrett Community Centre. It is edited by Jackie Butler and printed by Deltor, Saltash. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this summer edition, including:

Studio Wallop, Robby Bullen, Zac Leon, Malcolm Mort, Rod Sheaff, Sam Durneen, John Hesketh, Rachel Brooks and Ed Hart.

It is delivered direct to 4,500 homes in the Liskeard area, with 1,500 more copies available to pick up at the Tourist Information Centre, the Town Council offices and many shops, cafes and other local outlets.

Please get in touch if you have a story to tell or a great image to share, a community event coming up, or if you would like to contribute to Lyskerrys magazine in any way, including delivery, if you would like to advertise, to stock copies or to discuss opportunities for content partnership.

**Contact us at** [editor@lys Kerrys.co.uk](mailto:editor@lys Kerrys.co.uk)

## Welcome / Dynnargh

to the summer/hav 2019 edition of Lyskerrys magazine. We're delighted to be publishing this sixth issue of a community journal that we are proud of. Thank you to all our readers for your positive comments, continuing support, feedback and contributions.

This is the time of year when we love to get out and about in the great outdoors. There are some fabulous events and activities to get involved with, both on the doorstep and within a few miles of the town.

Our cover story is about Liskeard's beekeeping group, who tap into the heart of the natural world around us (page 5). We also meet a couple who brought curious and delightful

creatures called alpacas to our neck of the woods.

In June it's the Lions Liskeard Carnival Week (page 4), an annual tradition dating back many decades in the town. In July, there's the perennially popular Liskeard Show, highlight of the local agricultural calendar. We talk to a dairy farming family who never miss it. Later in the month, Port Eliot Festival lights up the landscape and we have a pair of weekend tickets to give away (page 14). In August, the Ploughman's Festival is a free celebration of food and music for the whole community to enjoy.

Elsewhere in this edition you can find out about the joys of volunteering, progress on the future of the cattle market, as well as news from the town council, Liskeard School and Community College, and organisations in and around the town.

We also detail many more shows, gigs, fun events, and gatherings happening locally in our what's on listings.

**All the best /  
oll an gwella**

### Gous'n Jack





## Liskeard Carnival Week 17th - 22nd June

I've gone to a lot of  
trouble to come as  
The Invisible Man  
and everyone is  
ignoring me ..



Liskeard Lions Carnival Week is an annual institution in the town, with fun events for all ages to join in.

Maybe you love dressing up for the procession or dancing through the streets. Could you take a chance on carnival bingo, try your hand at pavement art or test your knowledge in the quiz? Or perhaps you prefer watching it all from the sidelines?

Whatever your preference, the carnival is an ancient tradition that relies on the goodwill, support and participation of the townsfolk. Apart from the main parade – where float teams and walkers are all encouraged to let their

imagination run wild – one event that needs a good number of four-person teams to get involved is the Furry Dance on Wednesday, 19 June.

Don't worry if you're a novice because Cornish dance expert Carmen Hunt is running free advance classes for anyone who wants to learn the steps. They are on Wednesday, 12 June and Tuesday, 18 June from 6.30-8.30pm in the Public Hall, with a young people's session on Friday 14th with Wham Bam Theatre and Lyskerrys Youth Club at the Liskerrett Centre.

For more on the main events, check our What's On section or see the carnival programme.



# What's the buzz about bees?

**With a strong focus on bees' vital role in nature and on reestablishing our native black bee species, more people are catching the beekeeping bug. We meet the passionate enthusiasts of the local group**



At a secret location just three minutes drive from Liskeard town centre, a trail of beekeepers swathed in protective suits emerge like spacemen through the trees, the odd bee still buzzing around their heads.

It's time for a well earned cup of tea after an eventful afternoon at the Liskeard Beekeeping Group's apiary. Not only were the members examining the hives and preparing for Queen rearing, there was the added excitement of a swarm taking flight to look for a new home, not to mention a few unfortunate stings. And now

there's a chance to watch a baby bee emerging from a brood cell.

Part of the Cornwall Beekeepers Association, this is a group for anyone who already has bees or would like to learn more before taking the big step of getting their own colony. Some people are interested from an environmental perspective and other people simply love honey and want to farm bees.

Whatever the motivation, it's important to know how to interpret bee activity and to identify pests and



**“It’s very sociable. You have a common interest and you can talk bees for hours”**

They meet outdoors at the apiary twice a month in the summer; in the winter, when the bees don’t want to play, they have their meetings indoors with talks about some aspect of beekeeping.

diseases, as well as learn the nuts and bolts of breeding and honey production.

“It is quite expensive to set up your own hive, fill it with bees and get all the equipment – around £600 from scratch – so you can check out if you really want to do it first,” says chairman Colin Burrough.

There are 52 registered with the group, although not all turn out every time. There’s a mix of experienced and novice beekeepers, most of whom also have their own hives to look after. There are six or seven different types of active hives at the apiary, which is owned by a relative of one of the members. The group pays rent in a certain number of jars of honey!

“Depending on what hive you have yourself, we have most types. We can practise on them and the more experienced members can show the less experienced. The whole purpose is to share knowledge,” adds secretary Iona Barker.

So can anyone keep bees? If your garden is fairly big and not too close to your neighbours, then you could have a hive at home. What many beekeepers do is make an arrangement with a local farmer or orchard owner to keep their colonies on their land. It’s a win-win situation with the bees helping to pollinate the crops, while you get a good honey harvest.

Iona has been keeping bees for a couple of years: “Being a member of the association is very sociable. You have a common interest and you can talk bees for hours! Also there is so much to learn, so it’s educational. I do love honey, and with bees under threat, anything we can do to help is worthwhile.”

*Liskeard group of the Cornwall Beekeepers Association meets on the second Saturday of each month at 2.30pm and the fourth Wednesday at 6pm. To find out more contact Iona at [liskeardbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:liskeardbeekeepers@gmail.com) or check out their Facebook page.*

# My Liskeard

With Viv Twornicki



**Q) What's your age and occupation?** I'm Viv and I'm 69. Until I retired two years ago I was chief reporter at the Cornish Times newspaper. I started there as a journalist when I was 19. I never wanted to do anything else. I was a village correspondent when I was 15 or 16 – I used to get a penny for every line used. I've had breaks to do other things, including running my own entertainment magazine, GoTo. I've always had a big interest in the arts and live music. You're never too old to rock!

**Q) How long have you lived in Liskeard?** I was raised in St Cleer parish – I always say I'm a moorland girl. I moved into Liskeard when I was about 30, although St Cleer is still home and my 94-year-old mum, Florence, still lives there. I went to Liskeard School. I have two sons, Chris and Matt, and a daughter, Layla, two stepchildren, Nina and Paul, plus seven grandchildren.

**Q) What elements do you love most?** The people. You hear a lot of talk about the bad elements of Liskeard, such as vandalism. But for every one person doing things they shouldn't there are 100+ doing nice things and pulling the community together. There's also beautiful architecture.

**Favourite organisations:** Liskeard in Bloom has really changed the face of the town. Seeing all those flowers everywhere makes me feel so proud. And Liskeard Lions do an amazing amount. They have been entertaining the town for generations.

**Favourite event:** It has to be the Ploughman's Festival which is happening on Saturday, 17 August. Tony Woods was the founder and I was one of the original members. Over six years the food market on The Parade has grown and grown. At Westbourne Gardens we have free entertainment for every corner of our community. Company B are headlining and we also have Buffalo Frame, Deviock Community Music, Paul Armer and the Long Way Down, King Dinosaur and the Eyelids, plus Swamp Circus. It's a very congenial family afternoon.

**Local cafe:** On a sunny summer's day I love a cup of coffee and a cake in the garden at Stuart House.

**Relaxing spot:** Draynes Wood. As a child, my friend and I would make sandwiches and cycle there. I love the sound of the water, the tree canopies and the dappled shade.



# Join the volunteers club

Offering your time to an organisation, a project or a cause has benefits both for you and for those you are helping

Volunteers are the lifeblood of a host of community clubs, organisations, groups and services in and around Liskeard. From busy working people with an hour or two to spare very occasionally, to those who can offer a longer-term commitment, they all make a massive difference to the success of events and services in our community.

Evidence shows that regular volunteering can have a positive effect on your physical and mental health. It can help you make new friends, gain new skills or qualifications, build your confidence and, most of all, it can be a lot of fun.

Laura Chapman, Community Maker for Volunteer Cornwall's East area, is a champion for local volunteering opportunities as a key way to improve wellbeing by getting involved in

your community. She says a great motivator is to volunteer in an area that you enjoy – it's about matching your skills, experience and aspirations with the things you really like to do.

Here's a small snapshot of the myriad of volunteers currently needed:

- Practical helpers for the Lions Carnival and Ploughman's Festival
- Drivers for the RVS Community Companions Transport
- Someone to run creative sessions at Lyskerrys Youth Club
- A media assistant for the Echo Centre, helping people with physical disabilities
- Helper for hockey club training
- Fundraisers for the Liskeard RNLI branch

To find out more call in to the Volunteer Cornwall office in Church Street or look online at [www.do-it.org](http://www.do-it.org).

## Need some help finding the right people?

If you are struggling to find volunteers for your project, then the free Find Volunteers Workshop hosted by Volunteer Cornwall is for you. Come and meet people from different organisations around the town, discuss the hurdles you share and get fresh inspiration on how to spread your message and attract the individuals you need.

The event takes place from 1.30-4pm on 20 June at the Emily Hobhouse Room in Liskeard Public Hall. Register in advance at [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) – search for Find Volunteers Workshop.



Stroke befriending volunteer Neil with Laura from Volunteer Cornwall

## How Neil discovered his new vocation

When Neil Freeman had a serious stroke about 11 years ago, he never dreamed it would lead him down a completely new and different path. As a volunteer for the Stroke Befriending Service, the retired banking contract manager now uses his own experience of recovery to help others.

The 70-year-old widower from Tremar visits people who have recently suffered a stroke and want to talk things through with someone who understands their situation.

“I wasn’t sure I had the social skills for it. I was a bit dithery when I first started,” he laughs. “I put some scripts together but quickly found you don’t need them. You just have to try and motivate people gently.”

His first couple of visits were private requests through friends, but Neil is now part of the Volunteer Cornwall service and receives training and support to carry out his role. Because he no longer drives, he has transport arranged for him. As well as chatting about shared experiences, Neil can offer solutions to practical problems and link people to clubs and activities that might benefit them.

“It is one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done – it is humbling because they trust you implicitly,” he says. “I always thought success and money and winning were everything. After the stroke I became a more spiritual being and when I meet people with all their problems, it makes me think how lucky I am.”

# Let's get this show on the road



Young handlers are the future of traditional agricultural events. Meet the Walters girls as they get ready for the ring

Liskeard Show day starts way before dawn for the Walters family. The alarm goes off at 4.30am so that dairy farmers Matthew and Emma can get everyone and everything ready for their day in the ring with their pedigree Ayrshires. And when they arrive home exhausted, more than 12 hours later, there are still the essential daily chores to be done.

Every year they go back for more. It's a real labour of love, and one they all look forward to – especially daughters Ruby, 10, Evie, seven and Lily, five, who are already seasoned show competitors.

As show time approaches they are given the option to choose a calf to lead in the junior classes and practise

hard to get them ready to be judged “Only if they want to. There’s no pressure to do it, but they love it,” says Emma.

Photos on the living room wall at the farm near North Hill along with the big box full of multicoloured rosettes earned by the girls, are testament to their success. On the floor, Lily is loading model farm animals onto a toy trailer – a scenario that will be happening for real on show day. She started leading when she was three.

“When she was two she stayed with the calves the whole time at the show, combing them,” adds Emma.

“We scrub the animals up the day before. The kids come home from school on the Friday and help to



prepare them. Ruby particularly enjoys that. Quite often you load them up clean and when you get there they are covered in poo and there's a frantic rush to clean them again before they go in the ring."

Handlers also need to look smart. The whole family usually dresses in the Ayrshire Cattle Society's show colours of white trousers with blue top and tie. "You should see everyone's trousers at the end of the show!" says Emma.

Evie adds: "I like leading, and when you walk round the ring you must always look at the judge."

The family do enter other shows, but Liskeard – taking place on 13 July – is one of their favourites.



"It's the first of the season and very local, so you get to see people you know, and it has a really nice atmosphere. "We try to go and look around in the afternoon when everything's finished and the animals are fed and watered. We take it in turns. The kids are usually happy provided they have an ice-cream!"

"At Liskeard the girls get a lot of children their age coming to talk to them.

It's nice to see because not every child gets hands on and up close to animals. It's a nice way of showing the public what we do. People are able to come and watch you milking your cows in the milking parlour. People pour milk on their corn flakes, but don't think about where it comes from and the work involved," says Emma.

The last word goes to Lily: "I like cows."



The Walters at Liskeard Show two years ago: Ruby, Evie and Lily, with grandad Courtney, dad Matthew, mum Emma and granny Catherine

# In the market for change

The people's vision for the future of Liskeard's former cattle market site begins to take shape

Progress is continuing in the quest to reinvent the town's cattle market site to make it into a vibrant and useful space for the whole community, and to attract more visitors.

Work is going on to thoroughly examine the ideas put forward in the Government-sponsored charrette consultation process, led by specialist architecture practice JTP. Members of the Liskeard Cattle Market Working Group will work together to develop a final plan which will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Group, Liskeard Town Council and local Cornwall councillors. Partners will then work together to develop business cases

for individual elements of the project, which will be used to support bids for funding.

A key development is the appointment of principal development officer Arron Jones who will oversee the cattle market project as part of his role supporting Cornwall Council's South East Cornwall Programme, which includes strategies for Looe, Torpoint and the SE Cornwall cycling and walking routes.

"An actual person dedicated to moving things along is going to make a big difference," says Liskeard town and Cornwall councillor Sally Hawken. Another milestone is that Cornwall



Charrette workshop in action at the Liskerrett Centre IMAGE: JTP ARCHITECTS



An artist impression of a future cattle market area **IMAGE: JTP ARCHITECTS**

Council has secured funding for demolition of some of the old market buildings on the site.

People of all ages and walks of life, from business leaders to young people, joined Liskeard Town Council representatives to take part in the hands-on five-day charrette programme, which took place in March.

“There were a lot of young people involved and a lot of synergy between things they said and the things the adults said. It was really encouraging,” adds Sally.

She says the core of proposals and designs put forward by people who live and work in Liskeard largely echoed major reports on high street reinvention by national retail guru Bill Grimsey (Iceland, Wickes, Focus DIY), who was in Cornwall recently to talk to business

people and councillors. His vision for thriving high streets is to move away from traditional retail model and make them community hubs with housing, leisure, entertainment, education, arts and commercial office space.

Sally says: “What he basically said was that we need to get with the programme because things are changing very rapidly. It’s interesting that what he describes is almost exactly what we want to do here in the cattle market. It is all about community and things you cannot replace with the online world. So, what we have designed through the charrette together is what the high street experts say we should be talking about.”

To see the full report on ideas from the charrette visit [www.jtp.co.uk](http://www.jtp.co.uk) and look under events for Liskeard Cattle Market.





# Win Port Eliot Festival tickets

One of Cornwall's most magical summer events bursts into life again from July 25-28, right on our doorstep at St Germans. Port Eliot Festival is a celebration of all things literary, poetic, musical, foodie, artistic, fashionable, nurturing, adventurous and creative. Check out this year's line-up at [www.porteliotfestival.com](http://www.porteliotfestival.com).

Exciting and vibrant, indulgent and relaxed, it's a weekend of cultural treats for the whole family, with the bonus of having free run of the estate's spectacular waterside grounds.

Terms and conditions: Entrants must be aged 18 or over. A winner will be selected at random from entries received and notified by Friday, July 12. The tickets are valued at £180 each; no cash alternative will be available and the tickets are not transferable. Members of LAMB, Liskeard Town Council and RIO are not eligible to enter.

We are thrilled to have a pair of adult weekend tickets to give away in our exclusive Lyskerrys competition.

For your chance to win, email the correct answer to the question below to [editor@lys Kerrys.co.uk](mailto:editor@lys Kerrys.co.uk) to arrive no later than Monday, July 8. Please title your email "Port Eliot Festival Competition" and include your name, address and telephone number.

**QUESTION:** *The four women artists pictured will all appear at Port Eliot Festival 2019. What is the name of the famous fashion designer?*



From top:  
Shappi Khorsandi,  
Charlotte Church,  
Zandra Rhodes,  
Katy Brand

# What's on Lyskerrys

Summer is the season of shows, fairs and festivals and there are also plenty of regular group meetings, exhibitions and special events going on in and around Liskeard that you can join in with. For additional details and to see new events as they are announced see [www.visitliskeard.co.uk/whats-on/](http://www.visitliskeard.co.uk/whats-on/) or pop in to Liskeard Tourist Information Centre in Pike Street.

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## 17 JUNE

**Spotlight on Herbs, Stuart House, Liskeard.** Major exhibition, sale and events. Free entry. Open weekdays 9.30am-3.30pm, Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm until 22 June.

**Healthy lifestyle walking group, Level 1.** Every Monday, meet at Luxstowe House at 2.30pm for a 45-minute walk. Contact Marcia Henning – [Marcia.henning@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Marcia.henning@cornwall.gov.uk) or call 07795 496623.

**Look Group** for people interested in talking about art. Every third Monday, 7pm, Liskerrett Centre. Drop in or call 01579 340307 for more details.

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## 18 JUNE

**Liskeard Carnival Week:** Carnival bingo, Eliot House Hotel, doors open 7pm, eyes down at 8pm.

**Slow and Easy Folk Session,** Quimperle Room, Liskeard Public Hall, 7-9pm and every other Monday. For those new to folk or your instrument.

**Oak Tree Surgery Walking for Health group.** Meets in surgery car park on the first and third Tuesday of each



month at 10am. Dogs on leads are welcome. Most walks will be 3 to 4 miles and 1.5-2 hours. Contact Paul on 01579 342765 or Jill on 01579 340349.

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## 19 JUNE

**Liskeard Carnival Week:**  
**Carnival Pavement Artists,** 4.30pm on The Parade. There are 4 categories from under 5s to over 9s.  
**Furry Dance,** free registration at 5.30pm, Cattle Market Car Park.  
Dance off from 6.30pm.

**Liskerrett Community Gardening Club.** Every Wednesday 10am-noon at Liskerrett Community Centre. Keeping the green spaces interesting and attractive. Drop in or call Jenny Foster on 01579 340307.

**Make and Mingle,** Chequered Flag cafe, Liskeard, middle Wednesday of the month, 6-8pm. Bring a craft hobby to do, chat and share skills.

**A Bunch of Amateurs**, Sterts Theatre, 7.30pm. Also on 20 June, 16 & 30 July, 13 & 14 August, 2 & 3 September.

Keen to boost his flagging career, Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear – in a sleepy Suffolk village. Box office 01579 362382.

## 20 JUNE

**Liskeard Knit n Natter**, Hub Cafe, Liskerrett Centre, 10.30am-1.30pm. Join in a fun session of creativity and chat every Thursday.

**Finding volunteers workshop**. Liskeard Public Hall, 1.30-4pm, free practical event for organisations. See page 20.

**End of Year art exhibition** by talented students at Liskeard School and Community College. In the art rooms at the school, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, everyone welcome, free entry.

## 21 JUNE

**Murder She Didn't Write** play performance, Sterts Theatre, 7.30pm. Degrees of Error present a classic murder mystery, created on the spot in this ingenious and hilarious show from Bristol Improv Theatre's resident company. Box office 01579 362382.

**Carnival Quiz** at The Eliot House Hotel. Doors open at 6.45 pm. Questions start at 7.30 pm. Cost is £5 per table of 4.

**3 Wishes Faery Festival**, Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, until 23 June.

**Liskeard Country Market**, Public Hall, Liskeard every Friday 8.30am-noon. Home-made cakes, bread, biscuits and pies, plus plants, hand stitched/knitted gifts and more.

## 22 JUNE

**Lions Carnival Procession**. Registration from 5pm at Cattle Market car park. Judging at 6pm, procession around 6.30pm. Various classes welcome – floats, walkers, groups and individuals.



**East Cornwall Bach Choir** perform Mozart Mass in C Minor at St Germans Priory Church at 7.30pm. Musical director Chris Howarth. Tickets from Liskeard TIC, 01579 349148 and online at [www.ecbc.co.uk](http://www.ecbc.co.uk)

**Midsummer Dance** with Richard Chappell Dance, Sterts Theatre, 7.30pm. Box office 01579 362382.

**Indoor inflatables party**, Liskeard Public Hall, for 0-14 year olds, including ball pool, soft play and a toddler-only castle. For the older ones a mega slide, fun run and castle. Hourly sessions between 11am and 4pm, £2 per bouncer.

## 23 JUNE

**Midsummer Dance with A Platform for Dance**, Sterts Theatre, 3pm. Box office 01579 362382.



## 25 JUNE

**Rosedean House Surgery**  
**Walking Group** meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 10am near Westbourne Car Park toilets, start or car share to the walk. Brian Oldham on 01579 340875 or email [contactbrian@btinternet.com](mailto:contactbrian@btinternet.com).

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## 27 JUNE

**And Then There Were None** play performance, 8pm, Sterts Theatre. Also on 28 June, /27 & 28 July, 7, 12, 28 & 29 August, 5 & 6 September. Ten guilty strangers are trapped on a Devon island. One by one they are accused of murder; one by one they start to die. Box office 01579 362382.

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**Liskeard Storytelling Cafe**, Liskeard Public Hall, 7.30pm every fourth Thursday. Friendly spoken word club in a relaxed cafe environment.

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## 29 JUNE

**Choirs Under Canvas**, some of the region's most popular choirs come together at Sterts Theatre, 7.30pm. Box office 01579 362382.

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**The Ollie West Band**, Carnglaze Caverns, 8pm. Cinematic, orchestral pop from singer, songwriter and pianist Ollie West, and his Manchester-based band. Box office 01579 320251.



## 30 JUNE

**Antiques and Collectors Fair**. Long established fair with jewellery, silver, gold, ceramics, art, glass, pictures, postcards, stamps, small furniture, boxes, cases, fossils. Admission £1, free parking. **Every last Sunday.**

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## 1 JULY

**Looe Island Guided Walk**. Join the island's wardens for a fascinating walk around the nature reserve. Also on 15 July and 11 September. Places cost £25, times vary due to the tides – visit [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks)

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## 2 JULY

**Nevra Degoweth – Never Alone** group for people sharing the experience of bereavement. Beech Lawn Nursing Home, Liskeard, 12-2pm. Lunch £5. **First Tuesday** of each month. Call 01872 266383 to book.

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**Liskeard & District Flower Arrangement Society**. Demonstration by Donna Ayres – The Big, the Bold and the Beautiful, 7.30pm in the Eliot House Hotel. Meetings on **first Wednesday** of each month.

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## 4 JULY

**Liskerrett Community Cinema**, Liskerrett Centre, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Film to be announced. **Every first Friday** of the month.

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**Fantastic Mr Fox**, Sterts Theatre. Also on 6 & 20 July, 2, 19, 20 & 26 August. Sterts Theatre Company present Roald Dahl's much loved story. Box office 01579 362382.

## Shear entertainment

### 9 JULY

Pick-up trucks and pizza, fashion shows and fights all feature in **The Shearing Gang**, a brand new upbeat musical production from Sterts Theatre Company and Dogwood Productions. It tells the story of five young people brought together for the summer, working the farms of Cornwall. They travel, work and play together, living for the present, knowing that at summer's end, each will go their own way. Their journey takes them to Bodmin Moor, passing close to the Hurlers, where the past and present become intertwined. It comes from the pen of storyteller,



Graham Harvey, writer of more than 600 episodes of BBC radio's **The Archers**. The show features a live band and a dozen fresh, original songs by Alistair Collingwood. Show starts at 7.30pm at Sterts, Upton Cross. Performances also on 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 July. Box office 01579 362382.

### 6-7 JULY

**Crystals and Crafts Show**, Carnglaze Caverns, 10am to 5pm. Stalls with minerals, gems and fossils, plus local crafts and woodland faery fun!

### 7 JULY

**Lamerton Hunt Horse Show, Gymkhana and Dog Show**, 9am- 6pm at Tregartha Farm,

Merrymeet.

### 8 JULY

**Rose Gibbon and Jude Kellaway** art exhibition at Stuart House. Until 13 July, free entry.

### 13 JULY

**Liskeard Show**, from 9am, The Showground, Merrymeet.

**About Me About You** performance of extracts from Access Theatre, local inclusive theatre and dance company, 12.30pm at Sterts Theatre. Created with writer Ann Gray, film and theatre-makers Paul and Tanya Morel and dancer Lois Taylor. Visit [www.accesstheatre.org](http://www.accesstheatre.org).

**Liskeard Spinners Meeting**, St Martin's Church Hall, 10am-4pm, every second **Saturday**. Bring your own project or find out more about spinning.

### 19-20 JULY

**The 10th Dobwalls Charity Beer and Cider Festival**; 1-11pm each day at The Highwayman Carvery. Real ale, cider, live music, all proceeds to charity.

### 13 JULY

West End to Broadway, Sterts, 7.30pm. Also 25 July, 5, 6, 15, 16 and 31 August. Eclectic musical theatre repertoire, of solos, duets, ensembles and full company numbers.

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### 25-28 JULY

Port Eliot Festival – see our ticket competition on page 14.

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### 26-28 JULY

Boconnoc Steam Fair. Boconnoc Estate near Lostwithiel.

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### 29 JULY

Alan Kingwell artwork exhibition and sale in the gallery, Stuart House. Until 10 August. Free entry.

The Legend of King Arthur by Boxtree Productions, Sterts, 5-7pm.

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### 31 JULY

Miracle Theatre's A Perfect World, Sterts, 7.30pm. Written and directed by Bill Scott with original music by Tom Adams, action-packed adventure in a world of undiscovered jungles and treasure maps.

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### 8 AUGUST

Much Ado About Nothing by all-male Festival Players, Sterts, 7.30pm.

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### 15 AUGUST

Myths & Monsters by Craig Johnson's Squashbox Theatre, Sterts, 2pm.

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### 15 AUGUST

Annual Duck Race at Golitha Falls, 2-5pm. 100 ducks are thrown in the river to race down with the flow. Fundraiser for Commonmoor village.



### 17 AUGUST

Liskeard Ploughman's Festival. A celebration of beer, food and music in the heart of Liskeard. Entry is free, but donations welcomed. It kicks off at 10am on The Parade with a market featuring local foods including, cheeses, chutneys, pickles and breads, plus entertainment. At 11am there will be Cornish dancing and a furry dance to Westbourne Gardens. From noon until 7pm this hidden park will host a feast of live bands and artists from all over South East Cornwall. There will be a beer & cider tent, children's workshops and food stalls, including ploughman's lunches!

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### 30-31 AUGUST

Knee Deep Festival, a secluded secret location near Liskeard. Intimate music and arts festival. A chance to see next year's big names in music, plus spoken word and poetry, late night dancing, interactive art, talks, workshops, local food, spacious camping across two days and nights. For more details visit [www.kneedeepfestival.com](http://www.kneedeepfestival.com)





## Take a trek in alpaca country

There's nothing quite like a walk in the serene setting of the moors north of Liskeard to clear the head and stir the soul. But add an alpaca and a casual stroll can turn into a uniquely heartwarming experience.

These curious and charming camelids, native to Peru, make interesting and funny companions, with their fluffy heads, gentle gait and kazoo-like humming. Throughout the summer Emma Collison of Moor View Alpacas offers guests the chance to get to know them better by leading them on a trek over the fields.

"They are absolutely gorgeously cute and terrible time wasters," she says.

"They love watching you and following you. Some of them will accept cuddles and can be quite loving." Each has its own character, such as Ludo – the "Drama Queen" – and Aramis – the Greedy One. With treats to feed them en route, plenty of opportunity for stroking the animals, and a Cornish cream tea to round things off, it's an unusual excursion that's proving very popular with locals and visitors – particularly families.



The alpaca walks are an offshoot of an alternative farming venture that Emma and her partner Stuart Billingham began eight

years ago. While the trekking team has around 11 or 12 members, with six or seven more in training, the rest of

the 70-strong herd are kept solely for fibre and meat.

And then there are the sheep. The stars are the black-nosed and black-kneed Valais breed from Switzerland, with their cartoon-like faces and long, frilly fleeces. Emma and Stuart were the first to import them into this country. There are a total of 160 sheep on the farm – a mix of Dorsets, Lleys, Zwartbles. Stuart's son Edgar, 11, also breeds and shows a small flock of Jacobs.

There's also a small shop selling their own products, including wool, hoodies and T shirts, plus local crafts and two alpaca story books they have published.

It's a world away from their urban life in Plymouth, where Emma ran her own gym and Stuart worked at the university. It was his dream to have a patch of land and build his own house one day, but the siting of a new incinerator just yards away from the

couple's home pushed them into a quick exit from the city and a complete new start in the country as novice farmers.



"We came here and it had a mobile home already and some barns and fencing, which was ideal. We were looking for 20 acres, but it only had 10, so now we rent land across the road as well as 50 acres in Bodmin."

Emma and Stuart attend as many agricultural shows and food festivals as they can. "Shows are the farmers' form of networking.

I would not be where I am now without other farmers' advice."

Any spare time in the evenings and at weekends is spent building the five-bedroom house where they will offer bed and breakfast. "We keep saying we'll be in by Christmas... we're not saying which Christmas!"

To find out more contact Emma on 01579 320843.



## News from Liskeard School and Community College

# Surgeons of the future?

Ever pondered what it's like to carve open a cadaver? Science students from Years 8 to 11 at Liskeard School – as well as contemporaries from Looe and Saltash – had their most morbid musings embodied when Operating Theatre Live! paid a visit.

Having had their unique project funded by Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones on every business studies student's favourite show, Dragons' Den, Operating Theatre Live! specialises in providing educational insight into the dissection of anatomically accurate specimens in a surgical environment.

This author found it challenging to be presented with images of empty brain cavities and synthetic corpses, displayed for all to analyse.



But the participants were not daunted. Everyone's experience was not just brilliant, but unforgettable – whether it was tugging at the heartstrings of a dead pig, identifying organs

galore, anaesthetising and intubating 'patients' or sifting through genuine animal intestines.

Developing their understanding of the principles of human anatomy, organs weren't the only thing being opened up – so, too, was a whole new world of opportunity.

Keep your fingers crossed that if you ever wind up requiring an emergency operation, these well-informed professionals of the future will have you covered.

Sam Durneen







# Clean up with the Green Team

By Sam Durneen

The climate changes everything and climate change will change everything in a way that isn't exactly favourable for anyone. That said, what can Liskeard School do about it? More than the President of the United States, it would seem.

While polar ice caps disappear from the Arctic landscape and forests fail to foliate, the students at Liskeard have been working to save the future. Previously known as Wombles, these extra-curricular heroes have undergone a relaunch – they are now the Green Team, and have their own swanky Instagram account to prove it ([greenteam\\_lscc](#)).

Together with the Student Council (pictured), the Green Team have overseen the introduction of awareness bins across the school

site, a constant reminder to recycle plastics. On the promise of free hot choc, more than 50 participated in a litter-picking effort to eradicate rubbish from the streets of Liskeard.

The Green Team's most ambitious feat in the name of activism is their campaign against single-use bottles. Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable bottles to school with them. It is hoped that juice dispensers can be introduced on site, to satiate thirst in the summer months and so single-use juice bottles can become a quirk of the past.

A recent trip took students to Pentiddy, where an off-grid eco-conscious community strives to live as friends to the environment. A return has been arranged for July, as the Green Team lay down strategies for the year ahead – putting the world to rights, one step at a time.

# Haven that gives children and families a special break



Ellie's Haven started providing holidays for families caring for children with long term and life limiting medical conditions and disabilities just over three years ago, at Duloe.

Now the charity's founders, Julie and Nigel Libby, are appealing to the local community to carry on supporting their project through donations, fundraising events and voluntary work.

"Caring for a child with special needs is unrelenting and can put a huge strain on everybody in the family. As you may know, we have experienced this first hand. We cared for – and eventually lost – two children, Thomas and Ellie, who were born with genetic disorders, say Julie and Nigel.

"Creating Ellie's Haven and in that way, helping other families with 'special' children, has helped us cope with our own loss. Our experience also means we understand the

importance of holidays, how difficult it can be to find appropriate and affordable accommodation and how Ellie's Haven needed to be designed, adapted and equipped to ensure a proper break from stressful lives."

They aim to provide up to 48 holidays a year but more than 150 additional children benefit from free sessions in the sensory studio each year.

"Newcomers are often surprised by its large size and the amount of equipment on offer."

It's in regular use by Cornwall Council's Vision Support team, Plymouth's Child Development Centre, Portage, language therapists and special needs

groups. But any parent with a disabled child can register and book sessions direct.

For more details call Ellie's Haven on 01503 264230.



# Togetherness works wonders



## Community gardening with Malcolm Mort

The Melbourne Road Gardening Project, Liskeard, is a perfect example of community gardening. It's proof that good ideas, when planted and nurtured, can be highly productive! Local residents of all ages have come together to reclaim a piece of land infested with brambles, bindweed, and full of rubbish, to transform it into a productive fruit and vegetable allotment.

The inspiration and initial work was carried out by Billy Hilson and his friend, Pino, who spent many hours clearing the ground, repairing fences, and making the area safe.

Billy (pictured far right) said: "Parents can come along with their children and learn to grow food together."

This first year, one of the main aims will be to see how much produce can be grown. Many strawberry plants have been donated, fruit trees renovated, potatoes planted, and peas and beans sown. Paths will be laid, and tranquil areas set aside for sitting and socialising. A community grant will allow a shed to be built, tools bought, and rain water to be collected.

Billy says he is hoping for a giant crop to share with residents who have health problems or mobility difficulties and cannot physically contribute to the work.

The residents wish to thank local councillor Jane Pascoe for her advice and enthusiasm with this project.



# Toying with an unusual perspective

By Ed Hart

Young people from the Real Ideas Organisation's Game Changer and Ambitions projects have been exploring forced perspective photography to twist reality and tell stories in pictures. They set up and ran a 'forced perspective selfie stand' at Steve Hibbert's Vintage 72 Toys, Games and Collectables during the week-long activity. Members of the public were given the chance to appear in photographs with their favourite toys from Steve's shop as if they were real.

The young people needed to learn the industry standard in-camera cinematic technique known as forced perspective (as seen in Lord of the Rings). They explored media ethics, storytelling, applied context and were challenged to create good quality images that had meaning, told stories and which would draw people to the activity on the Friday.

The whole group showed terrific attitude and produced images that were both fun and powerful. They then spent time researching jobs and work experience opportunities in the



creative sector. RIO is strongly committed to support the development of this sector in Cornwall and is always looking for opportunities for young people to experience work in the sector. If you are a local creative and are looking for someone to work with you please contact [Edward.Hart@realideas.org](mailto:Edward.Hart@realideas.org)



Sadie, Owyn and Kieran walk beagles Eddie and Lilly, with Wonder-Pig and BatHog at Get Together Cornwall

## Autistic groups are mayor's choice

New Mayor of Liskeard Rachel Brooks will be fundraising for two organisations that provide support to autistic people locally. Their work is close to her heart as Rachel is one of a number of councillors with family members on the autistic spectrum.

Get Together Cornwall is based at a farm close to Liskeard and enables autistic people and their families to enjoy a wide range of activities, including feeding and stroking pigs, chickens, ducks and dogs, building Lego, crafts, and computer games. You can even take the pigs for a walk! Once a month they hold a group session where families can come together. Founder Claire Finnegan-Vyse also offers one-to-one support and counselling. She and her family are restoring Twelvewoods farmhouse and

outbuildings and she involves volunteers and visitors as much as possible in doing that. Contact Claire on 01579 326683 or [claire@gettogethercornwall.co.uk](mailto:claire@gettogethercornwall.co.uk).

The Dreadnought Centre is a charity working with children, young people

and their families who are experiencing difficulties.

They empower children and young people to build resilience and increase emotional intelligence.

Dreadnought offers one to one sessions and two ASPIRES groups for autistic young people aged 8-18 who are of mainstream education ability.

"Aspires is 10/10. I feel really happy here. Everyone here is really kind. It has helped me gain confidence" – young person aged 10.

Contact them on 01209 218764 or [team@thedreadnought.co.uk](mailto:team@thedreadnought.co.uk).



# Writers who share an ambition

by Zac Leon

The Liskerrett Writers and Illustrators is one of a few writing groups in the town. What brings its members together, however, is one shared purpose in mind – publication.

It's a high goal to be sure, but its members understand this requires growth. Their aim is to help each others' writing develop to a professional standard, be it novels, children's books, poems, plays, memoirs, film scripts, even songs.

At present this takes the mode of weekly confidential workshops at their namesake, the Liskerrett Centre.

Those attempting first novels or memoirs have found the group invaluable for building their confidence with writing. They have been aided by ongoing critiques, chapter by chapter, addressing issues from wider themes all the way down to grammar.

Eve Coomber is one member to find recent success with her short play *Creation* which combines creation myths alongside Cornwall's status as an upcoming 'silicon valley'.



It was acted out in full in-session, and then critiqued in depth – a practice the group performs with all plays. After a few redrafts, Eve went on to win the Cornish-themed section in Starts Theatre's annual international competition, placing second overall.

The group itself is developing too. Its founders have now left but, ten years into its life, new members like Lia Dixon and her son, Jack, continue to spice things up. Their idea for occasional free writing sessions has caught on, and there may still be scope for more thoughts on how to keep the juices flowing.

Fancy putting pen to paper? Anyone is welcome to pop by for a free taster. They meet at 2pm at the Liskerrett Centre in Varley Lane on Thursdays, during term times.



# A *bar* walk in Kernewek



*with*  
**Rod Sheaff**



This walk begins in Westbourne car park. Richard Hawke was a barber in the Caradon mines who became rich by overhearing the discussions of the *tus val*. He invested *yn skentel* and eventually bought Westbourne House, which you see on the left. Turn left along West Street, but before Dean Hill turn right into the narrow *bownder* and go uphill. After a *kammva*, go left continuing to the next stile. After that, follow another *ke* on your right and go down into the *nans*, cross a third stile and then the stream. Before the Reformation there was a chapel nearby, in a place now called ‘Ladye Park’. ‘*Hayl Marya leun a ras*’ are the first words of the traditional prayer to her. Many chapels and monasteries were destroyed then, among them *Abbati Glasnedh* near Penryn. *Gwariow* in Cornish survive from there but probably many more Cornish texts were destroyed, a big loss. Now climb the next hill to the next stile, cross the lane and continue along the path to Goon Logh farm. Turn right along a lane, then cross the crossroads diagonally into Culverwood Road.

Continue to where the magistrates courts once were and, ignoring any embarrassing memories, turn right into Coldstyle Lane and return to Liskeard. *Prys dyenn-rew yw!*

## Cornish to English

*tus val* – miners; *den bal* – a miner  
*yn skentel* – skilfully  
*bownder* – lane (often seen in place names as ‘boulder’, ‘voulder’ etc)  
*kammva* – ‘step-place’ or stile  
*ke* [Say: ‘kay’] – a hedge  
*nans* – valley (often seen as ‘nance’ in place-names)  
‘*Hayl Marya leun a ras*’ – ‘Hail Mary full of grace’  
*Abbati Glasnedh* [Say: ‘Abbatty Glazneth’] – Glasney Abbey  
*gwariow* – plays; *gwari* – just one play  
*Goon Logh* – down (of) Looe  
‘*Prys dyenn-rew yw!*’ [Say: ‘Priz di-enn roo you’] – ‘It’s time for an ice-cream!’

Pick up a leaflet for this Countryside Walk 2 at the TIC or download a map at [www.visitliskeard.co.uk](http://www.visitliskeard.co.uk)

## Meet your town's councillors

### Ian Barlow (North Ward)

I moved to Liskeard in 2015 and before that lived in St Germans for 20 years while working at Plymouth University as a lecturer in the engineering departments.

I was co-opted onto the town council in early 2019 and am a member of the Communications and Engagement Committee and the Planning Committee. There are currently exciting developments emerging in and around Liskeard, ranging from plans for the Cattle Market site to the planning and designation of new footpaths and cycle routes. I am looking forward to working towards steering developments to the maximum benefit of the community and the wider environment. I do not own a car and hardly ever use one but I do travel widely and often



so I have a keen interest in the provision of public transport and in the transport infrastructure.

More locally, I am a regular cyclist and walker, often with the local Ramblers group.

I volunteer as an adviser with the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Much of any spare time that remains is absorbed at present by my efforts to transform my garden from a green desert into something more beneficial and productive.

### Naomi Taylor (West Ward)

I joined the town council in July 2017. Since then I have been involved in several council projects within Liskeard and I am a member of the Plastic Free Liskeard Committee.

I have recently been elected as Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. I have a strong interest in the history of the town and am passionate about good quality sustainable development and delivering the Neighbourhood Plan. I grew up in Saltash and have lived in Liskeard since 2000. I have two sons who attend school in the town.



For details of all your Liskeard Town councillors and how to contact them, please visit [www.liskeard.gov.uk/meet-your-councillors/councillors](http://www.liskeard.gov.uk/meet-your-councillors/councillors)

# Let's make Liskeard shine!

by John Hesketh

Just three short years ago, a group of friends, residents, businesses and volunteers came together to set up Liskeard in Bloom. In that time, we (and the town) have bloomed and blossomed. Since we started, the town has won 13 awards for its flower displays, taking in the bustle of Fore Street, the serene calm of Stuart House, vibrant Barras Street and the dignified and stately Guildhall.

This year, we're aiming for something special. Last year's mayor Cllr Christina Whitty penned an open letter asking everyone for their support as we entered our first proper competition. Every year, South West in Bloom runs a category for market towns across the south west. It's called the Pennant Cup, and Liskeard is up for it!

And it's not just about flowers. Judges will be marking us on the town's appearance as much as anything else. Are we smart and tidy? Is our public seating properly maintained? Are our street signs clean and clear? How do we work with businesses in town? It's about everything from fundraising to shop fronts, publicity to chewing gum.

Look around the town centre and see what has already been achieved. For instance the Fountain Inn has been repainted. The shelter in the



Dean Street garden has been given a makeover. Pig Meadow Lane is full of tubs and troughs of flowers. Before the judges arrive on 17 July, we want to reach out to anyone who can help us spruce up the town centre. If you've got a shop or business premises here, could you have a look at your paintwork: if it's chipped or a bit flakey, perhaps you can touch it up? Do your walls need a bucket of soapy water and a brush over them? And are there any stray weeds growing out of the windows?

We're determined to look our best for the judges, and our volunteers will be out and about over the coming weeks carrying out essential repair work. If you need a hand, give us a call. Better still – can you help us? Contact [info@liskeardinbloom.org.uk](mailto:info@liskeardinbloom.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.

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