

# BODMIN WAY

## NEWSLETTER JULY / AUGUST 2021

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[bodminway.org](http://bodminway.org)



# WELCOME

We want to attract more visitors to Bodmin. We want them to see our churches, visit our museums, soak up the atmosphere in the Jail, ride the train and enjoy our other landmarks.

In consultation with local attractions and businesses, we published 10,000 brochures which are now in Tourist Information Centres across central Cornwall. Each of our partners paid for their entry so costs were covered. Visitors to this part of the world will have a lot more information at their fingertips, and I trust will visit Bodmin as a result. This is the sort of practical initiative we can take as an enterprise. We want to promote our own activities and those of our partners. We want to put Bodmin more firmly on the tourist map so that cultural and economic activities can thrive.

I hope we shall see more of this collaborative action in our town.

*Revd Paul Holley*

Team Rector, Bodmin Team Ministry



## BODMINWAY.ORG UPDATED

Take a look at Bodmin Way's revamped website [www.bodminway.org](http://www.bodminway.org). Easy to navigate, details about future events and how to contact leaders of each aspect of Bodmin Way.

Check out new heritage pages under 'Churches' to see images of treasured items. See 'Life celebrations' for bespoke weddings, baptisms and funerals, in our beautiful places.



Bodmin Way is the social enterprise created by the Bodmin Team Ministry, including St. Petroc's and the parishes of Lanhydrock, Cardinham and Lanivet with Nanstallon.



### CONTACT US

Office: 07794 636493  
[Office@bodminway.org](mailto:Office@bodminway.org)

Editor: 07713 288340  
[News@bodminway.org](mailto:News@bodminway.org)



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## LOCKDOWN READER

Joan Carter took up reading in a big way during the pandemic. She has read 161 books to date! Her family bought her an e-reader because it was cheaper than buying her new books each week.

Joan chose to read books about World War 2. Her parents were involved in the war and Joan's father lost his leg on D Day. Joan wanted to make a comparison between the 1940s and the world we've been living in during the pandemic. Although they are very different, Joan feels you get a very good insight into what happened during the second world war with how things have been over recent months.

Out of all the books Joan has read, she has picked out books that she has particularly enjoyed, by authors Annie Groves, Rosie Clarke and Donna Douglas.

As we experience an easing of Covid restrictions, there's no sign that Joan's reading will slow down!



## TIME TOGETHER

Time Together is the Wednesday café / day centre at St Petroc's Church Bodmin, open from 10.30 to 2.30, for a weekly social get together.

Hot drinks and freshly made biscuits and cakes are served from 10.30 and tasty, light lunches from midday.

During the morning, the Crochet & Knitting Friendship Group enjoy being creative and welcomes others to join them for any kind of craftwork. Handcrafted cards and crafts are on sale. Live music is played on the grand piano.

In a quiet corner of the church, the Soldiers' Chapel offers a place to sit, light a candle and say a prayer. In the afternoon there's a chance to do seated dance followed by a leisurely, gentle stroll through Priory Park at 2 o'clock. Whether people pop in for a quick coffee or relax all day, there's something for everyone as we spend time together.

The church is a spacious and beautiful place with level access and an accessible toilet.



# THE BABY BELLING

## **Bodmin Old Cornwall Society shares a story**

The name of a Cornishman famous for the first electric cookers is still celebrated on the Baby Belling today.



Charles Reginald Belling was born on 11th May 1884 in Fore Street, Bodmin. His father was Samuel Thomas Belling, a dentist, and his mother was Maria, nee Harvey.

Five generations of Bellings lived and worked in Bodmin, the first being John Belling in the 18th century. John was a clockmaker who sold his clocks throughout Cornwall. He bought clock hands from Bristol, French brandy from smugglers and was typical of Cornwall's many skilled entrepreneurs. The last of the Belling family was Elizabeth, a spinster, who was a watch and clockmaker in Fore Street.



Charles, who was known as CRB, was educated at Burts Grammar School, Lostwithiel.

In 1912, after serving an apprenticeship in electrical engineering, Charles set up his own business (Belling & Co) manufacturing electric water heaters, electric cookers in 1919 and immersion heaters in 1920. In 1931 Belling launched the first 100% enamelled cooker and became the first manufacturer to introduce glass doors to its ovens.



When the Great War was declared, Lloyd George announced that it was "business as usual". This created the opportunity to make heating and cooking equipment for submarines and ovens for canteens. Belling & Co also played a vital role in the war effort of WW2 by changing production to wartime requirement such as hand and rifle grenades, multiple rocket guns, trench mortar sights and fuel jettison tanks.

Charles died in February 1965. The royal warrant received by the company in 1962, its golden jubilee year, was for Belling the highest seal of approval anyone could bestow.

*References: Museum of Power, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography 2010, Crossley Heath School website, Glen Dimplex website, Belling & Co website, www.gracesguide*

# LOWDOWN ON COVID

## COVID-19:

### Vaccine FAQs

#### Why should I get the vaccine?

Apart from clean water, vaccination has saved more lives and prevented more serious diseases than any advance in recent medical history around the world. If we want to get back to normal as quickly as possible, we all need to have our vaccines.

#### Is it safe?

Yes. The three vaccines on offer are very safe. You could be offered one of three vaccines at your appointment. The Pfizer/BioNTech, the Oxford/AstraZeneca or the Moderna vaccine.

They have all been through the full safety sign-off process for this country and millions of people have already received theirs.

#### How has it been developed so quickly?

Because of the global emergency, developing this vaccine has been prioritised by scientists, drug companies and governments, and a huge amount of collaboration has helped this to happen as fast as possible.



#### Why do I need two doses?

The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will give you some protection from coronavirus. But you need to have the two doses of the vaccine to give you the best protection. There is a chance you might still get or spread coronavirus even if you have the vaccine.

#### Can I take children to the appointment?

You can take children with you to a vaccine appointment if you don't have childcare. You will need to let people know when you arrive that you have your children with you. As the centres try to keep the number of people to a minimum, they might need to fill out a form when you arrive, and you may have to wait a little bit when you arrive for a quieter gap.

#### Will I get ill after having the vaccine?

Some people might feel a bit achy, or have chills, or feel a bit under the weather the day after they have the vaccine. This is absolutely normal.

Your body is getting used to something new and learning how to work if you actually get the virus. Some paracetamol and fluids will help you feel better.

#### I'm worried about blood clots

There have been reports in some countries of a small number of people having blood clots after the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. This has been reviewed and it is clear the benefits of having the vaccine far outweigh any risks, which are extremely rare. Those under age 30 won't get the Oxford/AstraZeneca to be on the safe side. They will be offered either the Pfizer or Moderna.

#### I can't use public transport and I don't have a car to get to an appointment

Volunteer Cornwall are providing transport door to door to help people access a vaccination appointment. Call them on 01872 265300 or visit their website: [volunteercornwall.org.uk](http://volunteercornwall.org.uk)

#### Do I need to be registered with a GP to get the vaccine?

You do not need to be registered with a GP to receive a vaccination. If you are in one of the groups that are being asked to get the vaccine you can book it on the national booking website.

We encourage you to register with a GP if you are considering it as there are many benefits. It will also make it easier for you to get your vaccine locally. If you lack proof of ID, address or immigration status you will not be turned away from a GP or a vaccination appointment.

#### I don't want the vaccine now, but can I change my mind?

Absolutely. There will always be a vaccine with your name on it.



Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly  
Health and Care Partnership



Find out more at: [cornwallvsf.org](http://cornwallvsf.org)

# LIVING WITH CANCER – A PERSONAL VIEW

The first thing to discuss when talking about any cancer is to be honest and explain in clear terms how you feel at a personal level.

Next, do not run from the issues presented by the oncologist and the nursing teams. When I sat down with my oncologist Dr M J Vilarino-Varela, she was firm but polite and asked for my permission for extensive treatment to take place. I immediately said yes. After I accepted the fact that my diagnosis is what it is, I contacted my daughter and her family and my son and his family and I began having further fears until I realised there are many supportive charities and individuals who wish to help.



My advice is to accept all medical advice and take on board other services which may help you - with your money worries, for example. Do not lock yourself away: find a hobby, take up higher education if you can. If somebody asks how you are, tell them the truth.

*Colin Stevenson*

Colin hosts a relaxed, informal and independent gathering of people who would like to talk about their cancer, at St Petroc's Church on Wednesdays from 11am to 12.30pm. For more information contact Colin: [colinstevenson3535@gmail.com](mailto:colinstevenson3535@gmail.com) or 01208 892910.

## Coldharbour Farm



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Six self catering cottages  
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# LOCAL LAD RAISES £5,500



Leon Cherrington-Jones, a sports student from Callywith College, Bodmin, completed a 1,000-plus mile cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End to raise money for his fellow student and close friend's brother, Chae, who has an incurable brain tumour.

Leon, who set off on his journey from John O'Groats in Scotland on 31st May and was joined by Chae's brother Tage for the last leg of his journey, cycled an incredible 1,024 miles to raise money to help Chae and his family with any costs for future treatment and support.

Leon set up a Just Giving crowdfunding page for Chae which has raised £5,500, including £260 raised by his fellow sport classmates, during their annual 'Superstars' event at the end of last year.

Leon said: "There have been a few challenges; hills and highpoints and 20mph headwinds through Glencoe, but overall, it's going really well."

When asked why he took the challenge Leon said: "In a time of utter heartbreak, the family is doing amazing and all they can, I admire them all. I wanted to give something back to them as they feel like another family to me and are all amazing people.

"Having the support, sponsors and donations that I have received in the past few months has been incredible and pushing me in every bit of training and work I've been putting in."

Julian Wills, who leads the Health, Wellbeing and Sport Project programme available to students at Callywith College, provided Leon with advice and guidance on how best to train for his challenge to help him succeed. As a Performance Triathlon Coach, Julian was able to help Leon create a balanced training plan to prepare him for the ride, gradually building his strength and endurance so he was able to start his charity cycle in the best possible shape.



On his crowdfunding page Leon said: "I feel relieved to have finished a long journey that has been months in the making. Thinking back, I'm so glad I made the decision to start the challenge and seeing how it turned out has been amazing. I am so humbled by the generosity and kindness of the community and the support and donations have blown me away. I can't tell you how grateful I am and I know Chae's family are the same. They are very special people and deserve the best. I love them all."

# A GRUELLING MONTH'S RUN



"I am running 125 miles in July in 27 days to raise money for Cornwall Air Ambulance, says Gemma Wotherspoon from Bodmin.

"Cornwall Air Ambulance is very important to my family," she says.

"In 2016 my son Ryan stopped breathing. He has asthma and plugged (the mucus blocked his airways). We dialled 999 and three ambulances came to the rescue. A Cornwall Air Ambulance landed on the green outside our house. He was airlifted to Truro hospital and on to Bristol hospital, for two days. Both hospitals and all the crew who came to our house were amazing."

The air ambulance takes less than seven minutes to fly to Truro from Gemma's house whereas an ambulance would take a lot longer; so, it's vital to help keep the helicopter flying, by raising money, so lives can be saved.

"I ran 100 miles last month which was a challenge with work and having two children; but July's run is an even bigger challenge," Gemma says.

"I run regularly and take part in races. The photo shows me at Siblyback lake."

You could support Cornwall Air Ambulance by donating on Gemma's JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gemma-wotherspoon14>

# £WISE UP!



£Wise-Up!  
Giving You Money Skills for Life

## Take Control of Your Money



**Would you like to be in control of your finances and learn new skills to manage your money?**

### **FREE project if you're:**

- Aged 18+
- Not working, Not in education/training
- Taking a career break / full time parent
- Live in and around BODMIN (some postcodes – excluded).

The £Wise-Up! Project encourages and supports people to take charge of their money. The team will support your individual needs, via online/phone appointments and face2face. Interested??

Drop in to the BODMIN OFFICE

The Old Library, Lower Bore Street

**OPEN EVERY MONDAY**  
**From 10:00am – 3:00pm**

Starting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To find out more email [wiseup@citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk](mailto:wiseup@citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk)  
Or text: ADVICE WISEUP to 78866

# PLANTING AT THE NURSERY!



Lanivet Under 5s Nursery and Lanivet School were among a number of groups benefiting from 'planting bundles' of flowers and vegetables funded by the National Lottery Fund.

Rev Elaine Munday and a team from various churches in the Bodmin Team Ministry bought the goods from Bodmin Nursery, who helped to choose the right items, adapted their products to suit the project's needs and gave great value for money.

Other schools benefiting are Berrycoombe, St Mary's, St Petroc's, Beacon Ace Academy, Nanstallon, Cardinham and the Greenfield Centre and Pathways and Works Skills Sixth Form at Bodmin College as well as the Kinsman Community Hub's One for All garden. The project began last autumn, when 'harvest bundles' were distributed. This year's early summer delivery included seeds, plants, pots, soil, compost and fertiliser to continue the work the growing work.

Rev Elaine said: "We are pleased to support schools as they provide outdoor learning for the pupils and students."



## YOUNG HORTICULTURISTS AT BODMIM COLLEGE

In May 2021 Bodmin College received Lottery Funding and donations totalling more than £300 to help students following the college's Sixth Form Pathways programme.

Bodmin College's principal, Emmie Seward-Adams said: "Our Pathways students have worked really hard transforming an area of the college and enhancing the environment for the good of all. The life skills and confidence the students have developed as a result of the generous contribution has been significant. We would like to thank Reverend Elaine Munday for being instrumental in the funding and Bodmin Nursery for their kind donations of vegetable plants, seeds and compost."





The vegetables the students are planting now will provide them with a good part of their very own Christmas dinner!



The garden has also opened up the opportunity for the students to work with Paul Hickey, Head of Construction at the Bodmin College.

Together they have built a bird table, a bird box, a bug hotel, contributed to building a small greenhouse and have converted an old plastic barrel into a table.

For this, they have used practical maths skills and learnt how to use drills and saws safely.

Rev Elaine is keen to continue the planting bundles project as funding allows.

# CREATION CARE

## YOUNG CHRISTIANS MARCH TO GLASGOW FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Hundreds of young Christians have set out on a pilgrimage which spans the length of the country – from the G7 to COP26.

Marching from Cornwall to Glasgow, the pilgrims are calling on world leaders to address the climate emergency. The Young Christian Climate Network organised the relay route which, instead of a baton, will see young activists meet to pass on the imperative of crucial action needed to reverse climate change. The relay set off from Truro Cathedral with a service of blessing led by Bishop Hugh Nelson, with the aim of reaching Glasgow where COP26 will begin on October 31.

Rachel Mander, the relay co-leader, said: “We stand in solidarity with people and places that are being plunged into debt and poverty

because of climate change. “More carbon emissions mean more disease, more food insecurity and more poverty.



“We will not let the UK government host summits on our doorstep only to hear more talk and no action.”

Truro recently launched an initiative which encouraged young people to sing to world leaders to ask them to tackle the climate emergency. The song, written by Sir Tim Rice and Peter Hobbs, garnered thousands of views and participation from around the world. Parishioners, clergy, and bishops are supporting efforts for the world leaders to tackle the climate emergency.





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# NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

## News from the new Community Services Centre at Bodmin Town Council.



### What is unique about working at the Bodmin Community Services Centre, Shire Hall?

"Every day is different. We are never asked the same question. We are the reception for Bodmin Town Council as well as Bodmin Community Services Centre for residents and visitors. One minute we'll be answering enquiries relating to the council and the next we'll be advising about walks on Bodmin Moor. The team here are great to work with and we all contribute something different, which helps bring that personal touch to anyone's visit." *Marie*

### What gives you the most job satisfaction?

"I love my job as there is so much variety and we help both local people and visitors. It is very satisfying to help and advise local people. Visitors are delighted with the choice of local places of interest, for example, Bodmin Jail, St Petroc's Church, Bodmin Keep, Bodmin Wenford Steam Railway and Bodmin Town Museum. Bodmin has a lot of history and wonderful buildings, and I am so glad that we work in one of them!" *Kay*

### How many visitors do you meet on an average day?

"We're very lucky to meet a wide variety of people in our role – an average day consists of both local residents and visitors so there really is no average day. Our peak months are between May and September for visitors who come to us for help and information. Come rain or shine in Bodmin there is so much to do. It's really rewarding to be able to promote our lovely town and county and all that it has to offer!" *Talisa*

## **Tell us about the Community Services team and your plans.**

"The Community Services team are a newly created team consisting of a couple of new roles (Alex and me) and an amazing team of established colleagues and councillors who have a wealth of experience in providing an excellent level of service and putting the needs of the community at the heart of everything they do. I am very lucky to be working alongside such a committed group of people. We have many exciting plans, one of many being a huge community event taking place to support the Tour of Britain during the weekend of 4th and 5th September. I'm also really excited to be involved with a number of community engagement events and am looking forward to meeting with community groups." *Amanda Community Services Officer*

## **What is the first project going to be in your new role?**

"Much of my focus right now is on helping to successfully deliver the Tour of Britain weekend in September. This event is going to be about so much more than the race itself, and all the exciting things we've got planned have the potential to show Bodmin in a fantastic light. We are committed to making the Tour of Britain weekend memorable for residents and eye-opening for visitors – we truly believe that it could be a real showcase for the many cultural and commercial highlights that Bodmin has to offer." *Alex Community Services Manager*



The advertisement for Viraj restaurant features a large, stylized logo in brown and gold. To the right of the logo is a star-shaped award icon with the text 'CURRY LIFE AWARDS' and 'Winner of the Curry Life Awards 2019'. Below the logo, the text 'WE DELIVER IN THE BODMIN AREA' is displayed in bold, dark brown letters. To the left of this text is a collage of four images showing the restaurant's interior, including the bar and dining area. To the right is a collage of four images showing various dishes, including a large roasted chicken, a bowl of curry, and a plate of rice and vegetables. At the bottom, the phone number 'TEL: 01208 74664' and the website 'www.virajbodmin.co.uk' are prominently displayed in gold and dark brown text.

# Viraj

**WE DELIVER IN THE  
BODMIN AREA**

**TEL: 01208 74664**

**www.virajbodmin.co.uk**

**CURRY LIFE  
AWARDS**  
Winner of the Curry Life Awards 2019



*Angus and Paula MacKinnon*

## **BODMIN FUNERAL SERVICES**

*“THE SIMPLEST DETAILS CAN BE A BURDEN  
WHEN YOU’VE JUST BEEN BEREAVED”*

When a loved one has passed away, many people find it hard to cope with practical necessities. We can help.

We carry out many responsibilities, from arranging funerals to organising press notices, flowers and receptions. Our family firm has carried out these and many other responsibilities for the community in and around Mid Cornwall since 1993. Amid the confusion of bereavement we provide calmness, order and a sense of dignity, so that life as it must, can go on with hope for the future as well as respect for the past.

*We believe in being open and transparent.*

*For information on arranging a funeral and the costs involved  
please visit:*

**WWW.BODMINFUNERALS.COM**

**Old Wall Lodge, Castle Canyke Road,  
Bodmin PL31 1DU**

**01208 78300**

# CALLYWITH COLLEGE CELEBRATES



Student leavers from Callywith College said their final farewells to fellow classmates and teachers as they celebrated completing a challenging but enjoyable two years at the college.

Callywith Principal Dr Jon Grey said:

"We are so proud of each and every one of our student leavers and everything they have overcome and achieved during their time with us."

During their last week, many students reflected on their positive experiences at the college, with one student saying:

"Callywith is a very welcoming place where I made many new friends. The teachers are always really supportive, not even just work-wise, which shows they're all very caring. It's definitely been an experience to remember and that I'll miss a lot."



Another student said:

"I loved that Callywith offered so many extra-curricular activities (including Debate Club and sport academies) and that it really cares about the students. The pastoral care here is exceptional. All of the facilities are also really good. I am so grateful for my time at Callywith and I would 100% recommend it. I will really miss studying here."

Applications for Callywith College remain open for September 2021 at [www.callywith.ac.uk](http://www.callywith.ac.uk)



# COMMUNITY CARE HOME AND AWAY



The food bank basket in St Petroc's Church is being used again. Many supermarkets are offering surplus food that is near the end of its shelf life, which helps disadvantaged families; but there is also a request for tinned or dried food such as breakfast cereal, long-life milk, fruit juice, pasta sauce, beans, meat, vegetables, puddings, tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits, baby milk and food, disposable nappies, washing powder, soap, toothpaste, dry or tinned dog food etc. Your contributions are very gratefully received.

Books are being sold at the second-hand bookcase in St Petroc's Church. The money raised is sent to the Anglican Church in Peru. £100 was sent via the South American Mission Society in December. It is surprising how the fund mounts up and it has topped £26 again.

Due to 'lock down' we were not able to hold the annual coffee morning for the Leprosy Mission in time for our contribution to be matched by the UK Government. However, donations were generously provided and a

fantastic £353.70 was gathered in church and dispatched, plus contributions sent via the website. This year our joint funds were used to build 'Hubs of Hope' in Mozambique, which are safe spaces where health camps take place, training is given to diagnose and treat leprosy, people learn how to prevent disability and farmers learn how to protect crops from extreme weather. Can you imagine how tough life must be if a person with leprosy also catches Covid 19?

As local needy children have almost certainly exhausted their (often meagre) supply of toys, books and games while they have been confined at home lately, we have gathered some activity items into shoe boxes for them to enjoy this summer.

ASDA Bodmin have supplied some of these items.

In total 30 boxes have been produced. The boxes are distributed by social services who assure us that faces beam with happy smiles when children are presented with a box. One child said that she didn't know that so many of us cared enough to do this.



# WHAT'S ON?

## Free guided walks in August

**Mondays:** 11am from St Petroc's for a history trail. 2 or 3 mile round trip / steep parts.

**Wednesdays:** 2pm from St Petroc's for a gentle stroll in Priory Park. ¼ mile / flat. *Suitable for wheel chairs and push chairs.*

**Fridays:** 7pm from St Petroc's for a pacy evening walk along Camel Trail. 5 mile round trip / flat.

**Tuesday 3:** 2pm from St Petroc's to Cardinham visiting St Meubred's for refreshments. 9 mile round trip / steep sections. *(Arrange to be picked up at St Meubred's if you prefer).*

**Tuesday 10:** 2pm from St Stephen's Nanstallon featuring a NEW circular walk with refreshments at the Camel Trail Tea Garden. 5 miles round trip / steep sections.

**Tuesday 17:** 2pm from St Hydroc's Lanhydrock (next to the National Trust house) featuring a NEW circular walk along the River Fowey finishing at Park Café. 5 mile round trip / mostly flat. *(Pay & Display parking at Lanhydrock).* **Booking essential - [info@bodminway.org](mailto:info@bodminway.org).**

**Tuesday 24:** 2pm from Lanivet historic church NEW circular walk with refreshments at Lanivet Inn. 5 mile round trip / fairly flat. Free parking at Lanivet or travel by bus (First Kernow 27) opposite Shire Hall for the 1.37pm First Kernow 27. **Booking essential - [info@bodminway.org](mailto:info@bodminway.org).**

**Tuesday 31:** 2pm from St Petroc's to Lanhydrock with recollections of serving at the barracks and visiting St Hydroc's + Stables tea room. 6 mile round trip / mostly flat. *(Arrange to be picked up at Lanhydrock if you prefer).* *Suitable for wheel chairs and push chairs.*

It's advisable to wear supportive footwear, bring all weather clothing, hat, sunblock, bottle of water and cash for refreshments. Dogs on a lead are welcome. Churches are dog friendly. Stamp your passport at each historic church you visit. For updates, please visit [bodminway.org](http://bodminway.org).

**Church service** at St Petroc's Church on Sundays at 9.30am. Please visit [bodminchurch.com](http://bodminchurch.com).

## Café events

**Time Together** café / day centre at St Petroc's Church, on Wednesdays, 10.30am to 2.30pm.

**Cream Teas** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2.30pm to 5pm and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm to 5pm.

**Church tours and cream teas** at St Petroc's Church, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am to 5.30pm, including **bell ringing demonstrations** 11am to 2pm on the hour and half hour.

## Music events

**80s v 90s music** finishing with a **silent disco**. Saturday 30 October at 19:30pm. Tickets £10 - [https://www.facebook.com/events/707706973350630/?context=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%25](https://www.facebook.com/events/707706973350630/?context=%7B%22event_action_history%25)

# NEW ART EXHIBITION

Bodmin Keep is mounting an exciting new art exhibition entitled *Concrete Castles: Britain's War Defences of 1940*, as part of a year-long programme of events telling the stories of Cornwall and WW2. The exhibition, which runs from 27th July to 4th December, explores Britain's Second World War defence structures, especially pillboxes, that are found on the coast and in the landscape. Works by 30 artists will be on display, including sculpture, paintings and photography, celebrating these unsung structures that we so often ignore.

In reaction to the threat of invasion by Nazi Germany in the summer of 1940, Britain hastily constructed 89,000 pillboxes around



the coast and across the countryside. These have since been described as 20th century castles.

While a few of the more impressive ones have been restored and are even tourist attractions, others are acknowledged through interpretive signage and some are long-forgotten and

dilapidated. Many have become ruins and half-hidden by encroaching nature.

*Concrete Castles* celebrates these small but iconic buildings that were designed to protect Britain in time of war. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue including essays on the war artists who painted the subjects when new, why contemporary artists are now drawn to them, and a short history of Britain's invasion scare in the summer of 1940.

Bodmin Keep's Director Mary Godwin says: *"Concrete Castles brings to Bodmin exciting work by some brilliant artists from across the UK to Bodmin. We hope that the exhibition will attract new visitors with an interest in the visual arts, as well as people who are fascinated by the Second World War story that has inspired them."*

There will also be an illustrated talk by the exhibition's curator, Tim Craven, at 7pm on Friday 24th September and a talk by some of the contributing artists at 7pm on Friday 22nd October.

The exhibition has been made possible thanks to the Arts Council England's National Portfolio programme and Cornwall Museums Partnership.

Admission to the exhibition is included in the museum's usual ticket price. For further information and opening hours please visit the museum's website [www.bodminkeep.org](http://www.bodminkeep.org) or call 01208 72810. For more information about the exhibition and artists, contact Mary Godwin, Director email: [director@bodminkeep.org](mailto:director@bodminkeep.org) tel: 01208 72810.



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