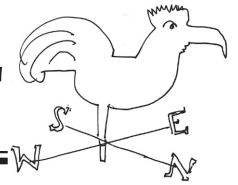




CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 23 : NUMBER 4 MAY 2013

Library Names New Director

Margaret Haske has been named director of the Cornwall Library, stepping up from her role as acting director. Marnell Stover, president of the board of trustees, made the announcement April 12 following a meeting of the board.

"Intelligence, resourcefulness, and dedication are only a few of the strengths that Margaret will bring to the position of director," Marnell said. Thirteen applicants were whittled down to five and then two as the trustees worked through the search process.

Margaret brings to her new job a distinguished career of providing services for the elderly, as a facility manager with experience in marketing and financial administration. Most recently she has led her own firm, Friend of the Family, providing case management services to elderly clients and their families.

So, what's the link between geriatrics and our town library?

"It's really as simple as customer service," Margaret said in a recent interview. "It's anticipating the needs of library patrons for different kinds of materials and services." She sees the library as a core

institution of the town, becoming "more and more important as other supports fall away. We need to cling to the places where we gather."

Margaret began working at the library three years ago as a volunteer specializing in senior issues and family concerns about aging parents. In mid-2012 she became a temporary employee and, after the resignation of Amy Worthington-Cady, acting director. She will work 35 hours a week. It is expected that an assistant will be hired.

Margaret envisions the library as far more than a place to borrow books. It's a forum for ideas; a place for artists to show their work; a welcoming nest for toddlers to learn about books; and a small business center with computers, high-speed Internet, printers, copiers, and faxes.

"The library is a warming place in winter and a cooling place in summer," she said. How about challenges? "Well," Margaret said, "I like to call them opportunities and move right ahead."

—Lisa L. Simont



A New Cornwall Website

A couple of years ago, it became a goal of the *Chronicle* board to develop a way to digitize and store all the issues of the *Chronicle*. Ed Ferman led the hunt for local techies to help with the project. He kept reaching dead ends, as the hope was to not only put all the issues in electronic format, but to be able to search the files.

Success was finally reached with Cara Weigold. Not only did she have the willingness and patience to scan a decade of paper *Chronicles*, she also had the know-how to make them searchable. Once over this hurdle, the board decided to have Cara develop a website devoted entirely to the *Chronicle*. Funded by a grant from the Cornwall Foundation, cornwallchronicle.org became a reality.

In addition to the searchable past issues, many drawings by local artists are featured on the site. If you place your cursor over a picture in the slideshow, it will tell you the artist's name and, if you click on the name in the narrative, you will be taken to a website if the artist has one.

The website also features the current issue, a link to the community calendar, contact information for submitting material, some *Chronicle* history, and a convenient Paypal link to send donations.

(continued on page 2)

MAY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Yoga, 5:45–7 pm CCS ♦ Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6–9 pm Town Hall; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball , 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Yoga , 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation , 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672-0229			1	2	3	4
					4th Q	♦ Senior Spring Social Noon The Grove Lakeville ♦ Traditional New England Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
5	6 ♦ Region 1 Board of Ed 6 pm HVRHS Library ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Cornwall Hist. Soc. Annual Meeting 8:30 am 7 Pine St.	7 ♦ Referendum Reg. One Budget Noon–8 pm Town Hall ♦ Let's Get Growing 4:30–5:30 pm Library ♦ Rep. Party Open Mtng 7 pm Library ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Cornwall Gen. Store	8	9	NEW	11
				♦ New Britain Museum of American Art Seniors Trip 10 am Bus ♦ Kindergarten Registration CCS		♦ Farm Market Opening 9 am–1 pm West Cornwall
12	13	14 ♦ Econ. Dev. Comm. 8:30 am Town Hall ♦ Let's Get Growing 4:30–5:30 pm Library ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	15	16	17	18
♦ Bird Walk 7 am			♦ Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library ♦ Film: <i>Sacred Monsters</i> 7 pm Library ♦ Deadline: June <i>Chronicle</i> Copy	♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	♦ Film: <i>Puss In Boots</i> 7 pm Library ♦ Town Meeting 7:30 pm CCS	1st Q ♦ Farm Market 9 am–1 pm West Cornwall ♦ Film: <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i> 7 pm Library
19	20	21 ♦ Art Opening: Nancy Bevans Souterrain Gallery ♦ Student Art Opening Reception 5:30–7:30 pm Souterrain Gallery ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	22	23	24	25
						♦ Farm Market 9 am–1 pm West Cornwall Library Book Sale 9 am Early Birds 10 am–3pm All
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	♦ Memorial Day Activities (See Announcements) ♦ Library Book Sale 10–Noon (Pause for Parade) Noon–2 pm	♦ Let's Get Growing 4:30–5:30 pm Library ♦ Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library			4th Q	

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

So let the fun begin. Of course I had to search my name first, and got transported back to an issue in 1997 when I agreed to serve on a fledgling committee to look at school expansion. Hmm, I wrote stories about Darlene Wadhams, Princess the Crow, and perilous parking at the post office. I saw where I lost my first election in 1995 to Lynn Scoville for a seat on P&Z. Oh look, also in that issue, the town was deciding whether to buy the Marvelwood buildings, Phil Bishop was planning to sell Yutzler's to Dan Cain, and cable TV came to Cornwall. As the time went by and the more I read, I marveled at the rich and detailed history contained on the site. Go on, give it a look. You won't be disappointed.

—Annie Kosciusko

A Dogs' Tale

We had been looking at property in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut since December 2011, but had yet to find somewhere that spoke to us and said "home." By early spring 2012 my wife, Raymonde, and I decided that Cornwall was where we really wanted to be and we found our future home, one of the former Cornwall district schools. Far from putting us off, we were also intrigued on being told that there was a gravestone on the property, marking where two dogs had been buried in the 1960s.

In 1908, the former School Districts One (Puffingham), Eight (Cornwall Bridge), and Thirteen (Dudleytown) were merged to form a new District One at Cornwall Bridge, and a new school building was built. In 1915 the schoolhouse was enlarged to contain two classrooms. A photo taken in 1927 shows two teachers in the large double doorway with 37 pupils in a long double line in front of them. In 1940 the Consolidated School was opened and in 1941 the town sold the old schoolhouse, which became our home in July 2012.

I knew generally where the grave was located, but the area was covered several feet deep with brambles and poison ivy, which I removed to reveal the top of a small pink granite stone. I cleared the area around it and there stood a small gravestone, 18 inches by 9 inches, rough on the back and top, and polished on the front, with an engraving of two unmistakable poodles sitting together in the middle, heads inclined toward each other. On one side of the poodles an inscription read "Lancer, May 8, 1965" and on the other side it read "Ghi Ghi, Oct. 30 1961." I wondered whether the dogs' owners were still living, whether they had any children who may have played with the dogs, or what story surrounded this little grave.

Some research at the Cornwall town offices revealed that between 1957 and 1978 it had been the home of Dorothy Clary, who died in 1978. There was no indication of

next of kin and I thought that the story would end there. Then in November we had a visitor, who said that his aunt had previously lived here and could he photograph the house to show his mother. To prove his identity I asked him about the poodles. "Oh yes," he said, "my mother said that my aunt had buried her two poodles here." I took him over to see the grave and he took some photos. I learned that Clary had been very friendly with Morgan Dennis, a well-known painter of dogs, famous for creating the "black and white" whisky dogs. She had commissioned him to paint a large mural of dogs in the Dog House Bar in the Sheraton Hotel Russell in Manhattan, with individual portraits of Lancer and Ghi Ghi on doors, but all had been demolished during a renovation. David, for that was his name, sent me several photos, and now on my desk is a framed picture of Dorothy Clary in the Dog House Bar, sitting between two large standard poodles: Ghi Ghi (who was black) and Lancer (who was white).

In late November a parcel arrived from David. It contained a large framed sketch of the schoolhouse, which in the nine months that we have been here, has shared much of its history with us.

—Terry Burke



Sequester? What Sequester?

Cornwall's town boards and departments have been busy since January poring over spreadsheets, crunching numbers, and gathering estimates. All of this is to prepare the town budget for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1.

As of mid-April there are a number of budget meetings still scheduled, but the best estimates are that the current mill rate of 14.60 (per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) should hold.

The Board of Selectmen is contemplating a 2.55 percent increase (\$42,214) in its operating budget over the current fiscal year, for a total of \$1,695,433; most of that increase is for the fire department and employee salaries/benefits. Add to that a proposed contribution to the capital projects fund of \$220,000 and debt service of \$193,428 on the outstanding school project bonds.

The final and largest component of the town budget is education, as it is almost everywhere. Cornwall's Board of Education aims to limit its budget to a 1.41 percent increase, for a total of \$2,542,809, while Cornwall's contribution to the Region One School District budget, as it now stands, will decrease by 1.55 percent to \$1,523,778. The

Region One budget is subject to a referendum vote on May 7. The net effect of all this is a town budget of \$6,175,448, about 1.6 percent less than the current year.

On the revenue side, it is assumed there will be no change in the motor vehicle tax benefit to the town. Also of note is that state aid for road repairs is slated to increase somewhat in the coming year.

The results of this process will be subject to a vote at the town meeting on May 17 at 7:30 P.M. at CCS.

—Tom Barrett

Land Transfers

Estate of Robert J. Beecher to James Terrall, land with dwelling and improvements thereon at 9 Bolton Hill Road, for \$70,000.

Dana W. Beecher to James Terrall, land with dwelling and improvements thereon at 9 Bolton Hill Road, for \$70,000.

Christopher W. Beecher to James Terrall, land with dwelling and improvements thereon at 9 Bolton Hill Road, for \$70,000.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, Trustee, to Craig Wilson, property at 252 Furnace Brook Road, for \$90,299.

Some Degrees of Separation

An obscure but rewarding pleasure of Cornwall life is the discovery of a Cornwall presence you hadn't expected. Many of us have felt this thrill while traveling in far countries: it warms the heart when you scan the horizon in, say, Katmandu, and come upon your long-ago neighbor from Town Street.

An interesting variation on this theme is the game of "degrees of separation." How many steps will it take to connect Cornwall with, um, Pope Francis I? We don't know, but we've recently learned that at one swoop we can connect Cornwall with Walt Whitman, Thomas Eakins, Eugene O'Neill, and Charlie Chaplin. Yes! A great poet, a great painter, a great playwright, and a genius of film—all pretty nearby.

The historical figure at the center of this web was a ravishingly beautiful woman named Agnes Boulton. A writer of pulp fiction, she had impeccable credentials as a bohemian. Her father, Edward Boulton, was a very minor painter, but he had studied with Thomas Eakins at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and had helped Eakins cast Walt Whitman's death mask.

As a young World War I widow, Agnes lived on a farm in Cornwall Bridge, to be near her parents in Woodville. From time to time she visited New York City and stayed at the legendary Hotel Brevoort in Greenwich Village. Agnes met Eugene O'Neill in 1917 at a bar called the Hell Hole, and perhaps that inauspicious name doomed their marriage. They produced two children, however, the younger of

whom was the beautiful Oona O'Neill.

Eugene O'Neill's dour unfitnes for fatherhood shadowed his daughter's early years, but in her late teens, Oona took full possession of her beauty. Like some other Cornwallites, she was a student at The Brearley School in New York; improbably (if you know anything about Brearley), she spent a lot of time at the Stork Club and was Debutante of the Year in 1942. From there it was only a short step to becoming a Hollywood starlet and marrying Charlie Chaplin, a man at least old enough to be her father. By most accounts, it was a very good marriage.

It would be a pleasure to report that the O'Neills and Chaplins spent happy days in Cornwall, but we haven't seen a bit of evidence. We must be content with imagining some Cornwall activities for them: Eugene O'Neill glowering under the elms, Oona finding treasures at the rummage sale, Charlie Chaplin pitching in at the talent show, their eight children seeking a ninth for baseball on the green. None of this happened, but it ought to have happened. We'd like to claim them as citizens of Cornwall. —Franny Taliaferro

Invention Convention at CCS

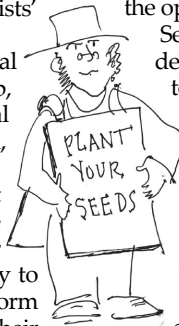
Cornwall Consolidated School held its Connecticut Invention Convention in the school library on April 1. Sixth- and seventh-graders were entered into the statewide competition with the top two participants in each grade moving on to the finalists' level at UConn Storrs on May 4.

The CIC is a non-profit educational organization whose aim is to "develop, encourage, and enhance critical thinking skills through invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship."

Science instructor Kathy West organized the event and taught the standardized CIC curriculum. Her students were graded on their ability to generate at least three ideas and perform an Internet search to make sure their proposed invention did not already exist. They then fabricated the product and modified it as needed after testing. A log book was kept to document the process, and display boards constructed to succinctly present their creations to the public. All student presentations were left on exhibit for the remainder of the week and made for a stimulating perusal along the aisles of the library.

An independent panel made up of David Colbert, David Lindsay, Jennifer Markow, Tracy Gray, and Tom Levine selected the winners, judging the new products for originality and marketability, as well as each contestant's oral and visual presentation.

Among sixth-graders, first place went to Ella Matsudaira for her invention "The Dirt Boss," a plastic shield that attaches flat against the sole of cleated sports shoes to dislodge compacted dirt when removed. Caroline Hurlburt took second place with



Letters to the Chronicle

IT TAKES A SCHOOL

A breakfast was held on March 23 in the CCS Gathering Room which raised \$1,443 to help social studies teacher Will Vincent with a June trip to continue his Habitat for Humanity building project in Madagascar.

The wonderful thing about it was that the community of Cornwall Consolidated (whether teachers, staff, or parents) donated everything. Among those donations were: Tom Levine's many, many dozens of eggs and Steve Hedden's four quarts of syrup.

We had raffle prizes such as: Irene Hurlburt's baklava, Lego sets, movie tickets, and books signed by Valorie Fisher. Dave and Joyce Samson's reconditioned laptop was the most popular item on offer. Pete Selino and Susan and Beth Saccardi handled the cooking chores and we had teachers and staff waiting on the tables. —Tricia Collins

CLAIRE GRAY TURNS 100

My mother, Claire Gray, (and also the mother of Ben Gray of Cornwall, Parker Gray of New Brunswick, Canada, and Chris Gray of Roseland, Va.) will turn 100 years old on May 24, 2013. Claire spent many, many summers in Yelping Hill, West Cornwall, and still remains

her "Water Wiper," a modified plastic tube that fastens to the end of any commercial windshield wiper and directs rainwater away in a spurt rather than streaming across the opposite side of the windshield.

Seventh-grader Ella Hampson, who developed a variety of all-natural sprays to improve the taste of otherwise healthy foods, won first place with her new product the "Taste Buster." Patrick Kennedy came in second in the class with his "Icy Shovel," a perforated flattened scoop that removes ice from water troughs after breaking it apart with an attached metal spike.

The four finalists will be competing against students from 64 other Connecticut schools on May 4. —Bill Goulet

Cornwall Briefs

•**Sweet Peet Redux:** Maybe you remember the fuss made when the brothers Gold announced they were going to manufacture a type of mulch called Sweet Peet high on their Cream Hill Farm. Sweet Peet is a mixture of horse droppings and old bedding that is chopped up, blended, frequently watered, and left to age in big piles, a process that takes about six months.

Before it all started a number of neighbors had objected, suggesting the operation would produce a mega odor and heavy truck traffic on an otherwise quiet country lane. So, just for the hell of it, I decided to pay a visit, go up and see for myself. The truck traffic never materialized but what about the smell?

There were three large and two smaller

active at her home, 805 Michigan St. Fairhope, AL 36532. She would welcome news from friends from Cornwall. —Nancy Calhoun

HANDGUN PERMIT APPLICATIONS

I'm glad the Chronicle reported on the increase of handgun permit applications being made in Cornwall. The increase in gun ownership is a disconcerting trend, especially in light of the tragedy in Newtown. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

—Sheila Zachman

"OH CORNWALL!"

Flu season a few years ago, John and I went to Sharon where scarce flu shots were suddenly available.

As we joined the line, the man in front of us introduced himself and so did we.

"Zinsser," he exclaimed in a loud voice. "Oh Cornwall! You're the one in Cornwall who writes those awful letters to the paper. And even worse than you is that Frenchman—something Soulé. Are you all radical in Cornwall?"

Not radical. Sco and John were as articulate as they were passionate about justice and fairness. "Oh Cornwall!"—yes indeed!

—Anne Zinsser

piles at varying stages of fermentation. No discernible odor but a reporter has to be cautious in his duty. So I upped and went to what appeared to be the oldest pile, took a handful, put it to my nose, and nothing, no smell. It could have been a tumbler of vodka. It was, to put it properly, sweet as in Sweet Peet.

I later dropped in on Charlie Gold who told me the operation was proceeding nicely. He said last year they had produced 600 to 800 yards and, as we spoke, another 1,400-plus yards were ready to go. Sweet Peet is packaged by a company in Pawling, N.Y.

•**STEAP \$\$ Available:** Town Hall says there remains approximately \$30,000 from the original economic development grant for Cornwall businesses to finance such things as painting, roofing, and handicap-access work to their commercial fronts. Applications can be picked up at the first selectman's office and preference will go to those businesses that have not yet participated. So far, 20 local businesses have used grant funds to improve their look and their access. —John Miller

The Shop Over the Post Office

Ancient Industries, which specializes in household goods, mainly from Europe and the British Isles, will open a showroom, shop, and warehouse in the space above the West Cornwall Post Office.

The business is owned by Megan Wilson, who has weekended in Cornwall with her

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

husband, painter Duncan Hannah, for about 15 years.

Why the name Ancient Industries? "I'm a traditionalist," she told us, "and the emphasis of the shop is on tradition and ancient skills that are still alive in Europe and America."

The shop offers an eclectic and tasteful array of products, ranging from Scottish pruning scissors to Austrian enamelware to cat and dog bowls from Bauer Pottery to the "Sheila Maid," a very odd and very British clothes airer, which would be right at home downstairs at Downton Abbey.

The business has been operating online since 2006 and has been featured in *Vogue*, *Country Living*, and other publications. During the week, Megan is an art director at Random House, and her gift for design is displayed at her distinctive website: www.ancientindustries.com.

The shop will open May 11. "I'm a big fan of the Cornwall Farmers Market," Megan said, "and initially we'll be open Saturdays during their schedule and other times by appointment."

—Ed Ferman



Events & Announcements

Region One Recreation Departments invite seniors to two upcoming events: The first is a Senior Spring Social on May 3 at noon at The Grove in Lakeville. Featured is a buffet luncheon by The Hotchkiss School and door prizes. Reserve by calling Mike Beck (860-435-5191) or emailing mbeck@salisburyct.us. The second seniors' event is a bus trip to the New Britain Museum of American Art on May 9 at 10 A.M. with return to Cornwall by 3:30 P.M. Contact Becky Hurlburt at 672-4071 or by email at prcornwall@gmail.com.

Motherhouse will celebrate its tenth anniversary on Saturday, May 4, from 2 to 5 P.M. at the Local Farm barn, 22 Popple Swamp Road. Bring a potluck-style picnic; cake and hand-cranked ice cream will be provided. RSVP to Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

A Traditional Country Dance squares off at 7 P.M. on May 4 at the town hall. Still, the

Lovely May

School's almost out, gardens are growing, and the kind sun shines down on Cornwall. Let your freshly renewed spirits lead you over to your checkbook to write the *Chronicle* a nice check. Thank you!

Homegrown Band will back up music by Two Fiddles. The 2009 National Heritage Fellowship recipient, Dudley Laufman, will call. All ages are welcome. Call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

Cornwall Historical Society will hold its annual membership meeting May 6, 8:30 A.M., at 7 Pine St. The purpose of the meeting is to elect directors and transact other appropriate business.

Let's Get Growing, a Cornwall Energy Task Force program, will offer advice on gardening on three Tuesdays (May 7, 14, and 28) between 4:30 and 5:30 P.M. Please see cornwalllibrary.org for more information.

A Referendum will be held in the Cornwall Town Hall on Tuesday, May 7, from noon to 8 P.M. to vote on the Region One school budget. Absentee ballots are available in the town clerk's office.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2013–2014 school year will be held on Thursday, May 9. Any child turning 5 years old on or before December 31, 2013 is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the school. Parents need to bring their child's official immunization record and birth certificate with them.

Farm Market Saturdays return May 11 between 9 A.M. and 1 P.M. on the Wish House lawn. On May 25 look for free coffee, goodies. See insert.

The 14th Annual Spring Bird Walk led by Art Gingert and Jean Bouteiller will take place on Sunday, May 12, at 7 A.M. Limited to 15 participants—first-time birders are welcome! Call Art at 672-0077 to register and for details.

At the Cornwall Library

Alice Wolf's dance film series will continue on Wednesday, May 15 at 7 P.M. with the showing of *Sacred Monsters*, a five-star display of speed, precision, and power combining classical ballet and Khattak dance. Suggested donation is \$6 per person or \$10 for two.

Switching movie genres, on Friday, May 17, at 7 P.M. there will be a free family-night showing of *Puss in Boots*, starring Antonio Banderas as the swashbuckling feline. Donations welcome.

The book sale begins Saturday, May 25, at 9 A.M. for early birds (\$10 fee) with no fee after 10 A.M., and runs to 3 P.M. On Monday, May 27, the sale continues with all books at

half price from 10 A.M. to noon (with a pause at 11 A.M. for the parade) and finishes with the \$5-per-bag sale from noon to 2 P.M.

A Town Meeting will be held Friday, May 17, at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS Gathering Room to vote on the FY 2014 budget.

Iron Jawed Angels will be screened by the Cornwall Historical Society at the library Saturday, May 18, at 7 P.M. The film depicts the passionate work of women's suffrage activists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. The program anticipates the society's summer exhibit, *Women's Rights: Cornwall's Radicals, Rebels and Reformers*. Free. (Donations welcome.)

Memorial Day—Monday, May 27: At 9 A.M., Charles Gold will lead a commemoration service at the North Cornwall Cemetery. Flowers are requested to decorate the graves. At 10 A.M., the Seamen's Service will take place at the Covered Bridge. The parade and ceremony will begin at the town green at 11 A.M. A carnival with games and events will follow on the grounds of the United Church of Christ. Traditional holiday fare will be on sale with proceeds supporting the church's mission concerns and scholarships for co-sponsor, the Cornwall Child Center.

Cornwall Tax Relief is available to town taxpayers. Residents may apply for a \$200 reduction if what they owe exceeds ten per cent of income; tax deferral is available if it's eight per cent. Apply at the selectmen's office. Deadline: June 1.

Track Club: Johan Winsser is organizing informal workouts at the Housatonic track Tuesdays at 6 P.M. from mid-May through August. Open to all ages. Participants run their own distances and pace. No fees. Contact Johan at 860-671-0548.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

THIS MONTH

Adam Van Doren, Illustrations
Lisa Simont, Tom Barrett and Bill Goulet, Editors

NEXT MONTH

Tom Bechtle, Maggie Cooley and Cheryl Evans, Editors
tbechtle@optonline.net, magcooley@optonline.net and cacevans@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR Ruth Epstein

CALENDAR EDITOR Louise Riley

calendar@cornwallchronicle.org

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans

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