

# MADE IN *REDRUTH*



Issue No2: Summer 2025



## Welcome back!

Hello! Welcome to the second edition of Made in Redruth, a newspaper that celebrates our creative scene; the artists and makers that make this town Cornwall's Creative Enginehouse!

### What is Made in Redruth?

This is a collaboration between The Ladder and Falmouth University. We have been working on this edition since the publication of the last one in June 2024. We have the kind support of Redruth Town Council with this one and are unveiling it on Murdoch Day.

### How can I get involved?

We hope to get community contributors to the next edition, so do email us with ideas or articles that you would be interested in writing: [felix@riftexcursions.com](mailto:felix@riftexcursions.com)

### What is The Ladder?

If you're not familiar with The Ladder, we have been working for the last few years in turning the old library and college buildings on Clinton Road into a cultural hub with rehearsal rooms, a nursery, co-working, a lift and heating! Our grand opening is due in September (in time for the Pasty Festival). Please do get in contact if you need space for an event or to work. Lastly, a big thank you to the students and lecturers in Journalism, Creative Writing and Illustration, who have been involved in making this all happen and thank you for reading and supporting this newspaper and all the creative businesses based in Redruth and beyond.

*Felix Mortimer & Josh Nawras*



Illustrations by PIP LATHAM-MOLLART  
Felix Mortimer (top)  
Josh Nawras (bottom)

## 3 LEGACY

We talk to Manny Hernandez, one of the trustees of Murdoch House, about the life and legacy of William Murdoch and his amazing inventions, and find out Manny's vision for Redruth as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

## 4 COMMUNITY

Made in Redruth makes a visit to the Mining Exchange to meet one of the artists who has found this place his spiritual home and discover the amazing artistic community in this historic building. We also hear from Redruth MP Perran Moon about what it means to represent the town.

## 6 PERFORMANCE

As the self-appointed cultural capital of Cornwall, it's no wonder the town can make such a claim with the wealth of theatre companies that work here and nearby. From Wildworks to O-Region, Redruth is the place to perform.

## 8 TOWNSCAPE

Redruth is steeped in rich history and has seen many changes over the years, yet its famous streets still retain their charm and unique character. We tell the story of three of its most famous streets: West End, Bond Street and Fore Street.

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We're sure you have dined at the new Buttermarket right in the centre of town, but if you haven't then get yourself down there. There's a smorgasbord of delicious eats from ramen to fresh pasta and burgers to burritos.

## 12 GARDENS

Redruth is getting greener by the day with a host of community garden projects that are transforming the town. From market gardening to restoring traditional orchards and planting vegetables in disused plots of land. This is gardening for everyone.

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Spend a day out in Redruth with our guide to where to go, what to do and what to eat. With so many new places to visit and dine, you can spend the whole day here.

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With the wonderful weather we've been having over the last few months, Redruth is truly in bloom. As the Summer Solstice approaches, join us in a celebration of light, nature and renewal to embrace Redruth's ongoing revival.

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## CREDITS

Made in Redruth is published by The Ladder and was produced in collaboration with students and staff of Falmouth University's BA(Hons) Journalism & Creative Writing, BA(Hons) Illustration and BA(Hons) Media Production programmes. Thanks to all the lovely people in Redruth who helped with ideas and contributions.

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# Murdoch, Manny and Redruth's

# PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

**MOLLY SEXTON** talks to **Manny Hernandez** about **William Murdoch** and **Manny's vision for the future of this historic and famous town. Illustration by SATURDAY SIMMS**

**M** meet Manny, who is a trustee of Redruth's historic Murdoch House and the longest-running president of the Redruth and District Chamber of Commerce. Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, he's been calling Redruth home for 16 years.

As a trustee of Murdoch House, Manny's responsibilities include keeping the property in good condition and working with community programmes. It used to just be one plain white room, so they transformed it. The team at Murdoch House even had somebody make the new lamps to reflect the original gas lamps.

"It's the most iconic building in Redruth," says Manny, as he showed me around the place, which is largely unchanged since Murdoch was here.

As the home of the inventor of gas lighting, Murdoch House was the first in the



Illustration by Saturday Simms

country to be lit safely using gas. The building is also to receive a plaque cementing its status as a World Origin Site.

"When Murdoch lived here, he was the reason that Redruth became the wealthiest town in the world at that time," adds Manny. "He changed this town, but he also changed the world."

While famed for the invention of gas lighting, William Murdoch also invented several other world-altering technologies. Beer clarification, steam cannons, and even the pneumatic messaging systems used in banks, are just a few of his ideas and many continue to this day.

During his time in Redruth, Murdoch was working for Boulton and Watt, which means that they claimed the patent for a lot of his inventions, as the law stated that only an officer of the company could get a patent. Manny credits him as one of the unsung geniuses of the era.

"If you look back in history, unknown people have done amazing things, and he's one of them."

As well as being a trustee at Murdoch House, Manny is also the president of the Redruth and District Chamber of Commerce. He provides a voice for the businesses of Redruth and the surrounding towns.

"I just make sure that what's going on is transparent, honest and represents the people," he tells me.

Manny works to look after the businesses and help them to work together to build a strong community; a job that he explains can be quite difficult, especially if the businesses are in competition with each other.

"I generally tell people that the only way anybody is going to accomplish anything is if you all come together, support one another and move things forward." This statement

rings true outside of the business world too. Manny discussed his hopes for the future of Redruth and the importance of the younger generations. "It's young folks with the minds and creativity here. They are the future."

He emphasises the importance of young people staying in their hometowns and working to find ways to make it a better place. "It keeps money flowing back into the economy and instils pride in the community."

Manny's vision of Redruth is one of optimism and excitement for the future. "I see Redruth as a phoenix rising and there is going to be a point in time where it once again becomes the heart of Cornwall."

**RIGHT: Manny Hernandez, trustee of Murdoch House**



## WHO WAS WILLIAM MURDOCH?

**W**illiam Murdoch was a Scottish engineer and inventor who moved to Redruth in 1779. While living in Redruth he invented safe coal gas lighting, and used it in his house on Cross Street, even going so far as to use gas to cook as well.

He was the brain behind the steam cannon, which is now used to launch planes from aircraft carriers, and the Double D Slide Valve which made mining engines more accurate and more efficient.

He also began developing the first high-pressure steam engine, but was discouraged by his employers, Boulton and Watt, who worried that he would leave to pursue this idea.

Before Murdoch stopped working on it, he told his neighbour Richard Trevithick continued to develop it and patented it in 1802.

While credited for the invention of coal gas lighting, and inventing many significant contributions to the engineering world, the patent went to Boulton and Watt as the law at the time stated that only an officer of the company could apply for patent.

He did eventually become a partner at Boulton and Watt after the business had been handed over to their sons in 1810.

We now celebrate Murdoch Day every year in Redruth to celebrate the ingenuity of Murdoch and his world changing inventions.

## A BRIDGE BETWEEN TRADITION & MODERNITY

Luke Austin-Heywood is one of the artists at The Mining Exchange. When I first visited, I was particularly drawn to a number of artworks in one area of the gallery, which I soon found out to be his works. Luke happened to be there that day, and I struck up a conversation and arranged an interview.

Luke has lived in the West Country since he was two. He attended Launceston College in North Cornwall for school, then down to Falmouth Art School for a BTEC in General Art & Design, before getting a place on a Fine Art course at Plymouth University. During his time in Plymouth, Luke suffered severe back injuries, which began to deteriorate shortly after and affect him in a big way.

From his time in higher education, the most important thing Luke has taken away with him is that, "It's down to me, I got to find the interest and the energy to do it. Doesn't matter what someone tells me or how inspiring someone is, it's got to come from me, really. Also, having people around you, that's the best part of it, the culture and the energy."

Luke spoke of some of the ideas that drive him to paint. "The connection between (Jackson) Pollock's all-over drip painting, natural form, natural rhythm, at the deepest levels of consciousness the mind is simply nature - this was a state which can be said to relate to *Lavender Mist* (1950), whose drips and skeins of paint balancing in the shallow depth of the picture plane, have a similarity to the organisation and structure of neurons firing in the depths of the brain, and of course natural structures and patterns as such found in trees and water. We are nature."

These works of Pollock were inspired by jazz music of the time. Luke turns to modern electronic music and its rhythmic patterns, in conjunction with natural elements such as the coast of Cornwall, the light, warmth of summer for inspiration. A contrast of mania and busyness in summer months against the quiet bleakness, rain and cold of winter. These concepts form a kind of duality, which comes to the fore in Luke's paintings.

The aforementioned modern music creates the pathos, balancing against a calmer ethos of natural form. He is interested in the little details of how paint behaves on the canvas. "The practice is meditative, and as it is about nature, it is about the mind and emotions, about the environment and about a human experience through abstract painting. It is also at times dynamic and emotional, stormy and atavistic, in contrast to the meditative."

Luke's artistic practice is built upon a dynamic fusion of multiple other influences too. These include Abstract Expressionism,

# MAKERS N'

We put the spotlight on some of the innovative organisations and individuals build Redruth's proud tradition, by **DOMINIK FROLEC**



Primitivism, Concrete Art and Mid-Century American Painting. His work also reflects deep engagement with late 20th century graphic design, anime, manga and the digital aesthetics of cyberspace.

This diverse mix creates a truly unique visual language that bridges the gap between traditional and contemporary art forms. His goal is to create art that resonates with viewers on both an intellectual and emotional level.

## THE MINING EXCHANGE

When I first visited The Mining Exchange, the colourful art and the energy it gives the place immediately caught my eye. Located in the heart of Redruth, 81 Fore St is home to a collective of artists who have created something truly special. The artworks displayed range from various ceramics and little trinkets to vast acrylic paintings, each telling their

own story about who created them. It is the kind of place that makes you feel alive and makes you wonder about everything great that can be achieved in our world.

How is this possible, you might ask? To find out more, I returned a few weeks later for a chat with Phil Kincaid, the founder of The Mining Exchange.

Phil was wearing snazzy ankle-high boots adorned with images of Mother Mary, spoke of how they were his favourite and that he'd wear them till the day they fell apart. Vonny, a friend of Phil's, mentioned how she'd written about them in the past. We were joined by another friend called Sharon, and there were lots of other people coming in and out of the place as we talked, stopping by to talk about how their day had gone, or their plans for upcoming events they were involved in. The space was filled with laughter and joy.

Our conversation focused on the ethos of the place, how it has developed and how Phil's values have helped shape it, alongside the community he has helped create. Nowhere in the building is staff only, the entire place is open to the public. They don't do exclusivity, everyone is welcome.

In an increasingly online world, "we (the Mining Exchange) believe in face-to-face, talking to people,

personal connection". He told me how everyone supports each other, that it's a "community about the community". People here feel valued, instead of judged, in contrast to so many other places in society. Striving to be truly inclusive and diverse is what is most important.

Phil spoke of treating everyone as "equal, not special". What he means by this is that no matter what disability someone may have, be it mental or physical, they are treated the same as all others and not labelled in a certain way. Considering how such things have been framed in recent times, people can take this personally, as if they are being discriminated against. Not using labels however, places the people at the fore.

Seven different artists rent studio space at The Mining Exchange in Redruth, while the total number of artists who have works displayed there is 64 and counting all the time. All the work you can see in the Exchange is available for sale. A range of all age groups, including both people who are just starting out in creating art, as well as those who have been artists for decades. The artwork spreads across each and every nook and cranny of the space, all blending together, with the idea that it's people who are blending together.

# SHAKERS!



Perran Moon is the Redruth-born MP for Camborne, Redruth and Hayle, he talks to **TALIA TURNER** about his hopes and visions for his constituency

**E**lected in 2024, Perran Moon has already made waves for the Cornish community, and had a large hand in the regeneration of Redruth. The town, once a bustling hub of Cornwall's mining industry has long faced the challenges of post-industrial decline but thanks to the vision and drive of local leaders such as Perran Moon, Redruth is undergoing a striking transformation. From restoring historical buildings to sparking new creative energy, Mr Moon has helped in putting Redruth back on the map.

I had a conversation with Mr Moon to reflect on his progress so far.

**First, I wanted to ask what being from Redruth means to you?**

For me, it's home. I was born in Redruth, it's about friends and family and community. It's a very important place for me.

**Since being elected, what has your biggest achievement for Redruth been?**

It's more of a general win for the whole area, but it effects Redruth too and that's the money that we've gotten from the national wealth fund to reopen the first tin mine, which was the last one to close, in South Crofty. We've managed to get around £67 million to help reopen that. We're pumping out all of the water that's flooded the mines, but we want to get that tin mine up and running because tin is really useful, it's used in all electronic devices. It's also used in solar panels, which is great for renewable energy. T

**What are your thoughts on the regeneration of historical places such as The Ladder, The Buttermarket and Fore Street?**

I think it's really, really important. This is the first wave of the regeneration of Redruth. The Buttermarket is a brilliant facility for people to come and have a coffee or meet friends, it's a really important social space that helps with mental health. It's a place for people to just be together and that is really important.

The Ladder is a great place for Redruth that needs to be supported and encouraged. Redruth is becoming more and more of a cultural hub for Cornwall because there are so many different cultural activities happening within



Redruth and a great example of that is The Ladder and other places like Krowji.

There's a lot more interest, as a result of those projects happening, from other people to come and start setting up in Redruth.

**How do you make sure that the voices of the community and people who live in Redruth are heard?**

I always try to make myself as accessible as possible to everyone, as well as that I also always go and knock on doors, see if they're okay, it's really important to me

because it helps me see exactly what other people's priorities are, and that influences the activities that I do in London.

**How important are the local businesses in Redruth?**

Very, because that's about the individual identity of the town. We really want those smaller independent businesses to make it a vibrant place that people want to come to. Soon we are getting St Pirans cycling team opening up in the buttermarket, which will bring more trade

'REDRUTH IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE OF A CULTURAL HUB FOR CORNWALL BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HAPPENING WITHIN REDRUTH AND A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THAT IS THE LADDER AND OTHER PLACES LIKE KROWJI.'

to the smaller business as people show interest in a world class cycling team.

**And how do you plan to support these local businesses?**

Recently in parliament there have been changes to legislation to make sure that small businesses get paid on time, but also by visiting them myself and encouraging other people to visit too.

**What is your vision for Redruth 5-10 years in the future?**

When people think of Redruth, they usually think quite negatively because of its wrongfully so bad reputation, we want to make the town a real destination and we want to make it a town that people want to visit and eat here and have a good experience, through things like the theatre or the cinema or watching rugby or going to see a play at the ladder or any other cultural events that are happening. I want it to be a place where all people of all ages feel welcome and encouraged to visit.

**Thanks to the insight from Mr Moon, it is clear that Redruth is on a restorative path, with the re-introduction of creativity and positivity leading the regeneration.**

# THEATRE of DREAMS

Redruth can boldly claim to be the cultural capital of Cornwall and with a wealth of theatre companies telling stories in their own unique way, it's something you can't afford to miss. **LAUREN MOONEY**, illustrations by **MAL DOWLING**

## A show deeply rooted in Cornwall

**T**elling stories has been at the heart of live theatre for centuries, and O-Region's *White Horse*, based on Michael Morpurgo's novel *The White Horse of Zennor and Other Stories*, is truly storytelling at its best.

Written and adapted by Simon Harvey, the show follows 16-year-old Annie Veluna on her reluctant trip to visit her estranged father, Arthur Veluna, on his farm over the summer. The show has its feet

### O-REGION

deeply rooted into its Cornish soil, being based in Zennor, West Cornwall, and encourages audiences to embrace their homeland through the gripping stories inspired by its unique landscape.

Under Harvey's meticulous direction, assisted by Millie Jones, Chloe Endean executes a wonderful transformation as Annie, from an irritated city dweller with no service, to finally embracing the Cornish countryside.

Darcey Vanhinsbergh creates a beautifully complicated relationship as her father Arthur (as well as his Spanish ancestor Miguel) with his farm, in times of hardship and pride.

Even 'The Kernow King', Edward Rowe, lives full-heartedly to his Cornish roots as the well-suited Sam Trelochie, with touching moments of selflessness and vulnerability within his role.

Ben Sutcliffe and Zaid Al-Rikabi (The People's Strings Foundation), alongside Musical Supervisor Richard Healey, have composed a gentle, folklike score, which lifts each scene from its script. Mary Woodvine fantastically portrays the mysterious outcast Miss Marney. Finally, Rachel Leonard, the show's Puppetry Director, brings to life the majestic horse (created by

Mae Voogd and Alice King) that inspires the show, as well as other characters the entire family will love. With most actors taking on multiple roles, each one deserves credit for their flexibility and distinctive characterisation between every role.

Multiple creatives involved in the show have previously worked with Cornwall's highly-acclaimed Kneehigh, including Harvey as their Associate Director. It is heartwarming to watch its legacy maintained onstage. Harvey, and his creative team, successfully integrate live music, projection and puppetry altogether to accompany the stories the show has to share. However, O-Region takes its own approach to the material. The production's set design, by Daniel Richardson and Marion Harrison, creates an immersive, yet flexible backdrop for each scene to take place, and its projections, (especially its rain) pushes the boundaries of a classic proscenium arch. Lyndie Wright's puppet design cleverly introduces additional characters within each story, with their integration providing some of the show's best moments.

Although at times the stories were difficult to follow in relation to the show's chronology, *White Horse* presents the entire family with a beautiful, overarching anecdote set in the 21st Century. With moments of joy, it's infused with community, ancestry and pride for its Cornish foundations. After its successful run at the Regal Theatre, Redruth, in March 2025, 'White Horse' is now hopefully due to gallop across the country on its UK tour from late 2026 onwards.

### WILDWORKS

#### WHO ARE THEY?

Wildworks is the UK's leading landscape theatre company, based in Cornwall, who devise site-specific performances locally, nationally and internationally in collaboration with communities. Nathan Jackson, Executive Producer and Joint CEO says: "Cornwall informs all the work. Cornwall is a place on the edge looking out, and that's what we do with our work."

#### WHAT DO THEY DO?

From 2005, they have taken over unusual places and spaces to create large outdoor productions; from beaches and woodlands to car parks and castles. With help from local, often marginalised communities, Wildworks tells stories that explore humanity and place. Their work is multidisciplinary; it often integrates audiovisual components with performance to create visually strong aesthetics.

#### WHAT HAVE THEY DONE RECENTLY?

They have just completed an 18-month programme across Cornwall, *We Are Shining*, which explored Cornwall's identity today. It was originally inspired by the travels of Pytheas, the Greek Explorer, and his journey as the first to circumnavigate



# 'I just thought there's something brilliant here'

Lauren Mooney interviews Simon Harvey, Artistic Director of O-Region, and Writer, Director and Co-Adaptor for White Horse...

## Tell me about the show.

White Horse is an adaptation of the Michael Morpurgo novel 'The White Horse of Zennor and Other Stories', set in the modern day.

I've created an estranged father based in Zennor, and the daughter is in London. They haven't seen each other for years, but she ends up spending the summer in Zennor. As part of her trip, she hears these various stories, which is what the show's about.

**Britain in 320BC. He identified Cornwall as 'Belierion - The Shining Land', which inspired Wildworks to explore: "If a stranger was coming to Cornwall today, what would they see? Hopefully they would see that we are shining," said Jackson.**

**This opportunity allowed 1,606 participants, 161 artists/performers, and over 80,000 audience members to celebrate creativity across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.**

**In association with this project, they ran a community engagement programme, 'Hello Stranger', which explored strangers' experiences coming to Cornwall. Around 1,500 people participated in different projects, including 10 different secondary schools, with 450 pupils and 80 teachers in total.**

**'The Scrapbook', which summarises this project, is available to download.**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Wildworks have announced that their office and studios are now located at the Mount Pleasant Eco Park in Porttowan.

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THEM?

Individuals can sign up to their newsletter on their website, which shares their latest updates, and can also follow the company on social media. There are often opportunities to be further involved with Wildworks, which are shared across these platforms.

See more at <https://wildworks.org.uk>

## INTERVIEW: SIMON HARVEY

### What inspired White Horse?

I read the Morpurgo novel in 2018/19, which is broken up into five stories. The first story is called The Giant's Necklace. I'm involved with the Youth Theatre at Hall for Cornwall, and we devised a piece around that. They were very young, but the kids just absolutely loved the story.

I just thought there's something brilliant here. I also wanted to do something that was suitable for a family audience. I thought that was important. I got the rights in 2019, but the pandemic hit.

### This isn't the first time you've worked with Michael Morpurgo?

I was lucky enough to be the Associate Director on a show called '946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips', with Kneehigh. Michael was quite involved

for that adaptation, so he used to come to rehearsals a lot, so I met him around then. So that was in the back of my head when I was adapting this.

### What do you want people to take away from the show?

In the show a character says, "Zennor will reveal itself to you bit by bit, if you give it time" – this show is a bit like that. There's laughs but it gets more moving. I kind of want people to laugh and I want them to cry at some moments and just have great night out.

### What was your favourite moment from the rehearsal process?

I am really pleased with the group of people that we pulled together. The cast is fantastic, and the creative team. Everyone was excited

by it. Rehearsals were really joyful. We just did a lot of laughing – that was great.

### What's next for White Horse?

The plan has always been that this show will tour outside of Cornwall. So, we're in the process of putting together a tour, which if all goes well, will be the end of 2026.

### ...and for O-Region?

We are also hopefully retouring 'Nadelik, our family Christmas show. We want to extend our From the Horse's Mouth programme, and we are even in the process of a feature film.

### How can people support O-Region?

It's signing up to our socials, comments on the show from people that have seen it, and staying engaged with the work we make. It's getting the word out there. In extreme cases, letters of support are super useful when applying for funding, and proving there's a need for our work.

## MIRACLE THEATRE

### WHO ARE THEY?

Miracle Theatre pride themselves for being a "gateway theatre company" offering accessible and inter-generational theatre for every family throughout Cornwall to enjoy. As a National Portfolio Organisation, funded by Arts Council England, Miracle are proud to be making work all year round.

"I hope that people come to Miracle, and then start on their journey to enjoying theatre, and start discovering the wonderful world of live performance," says Sally Crooks, Miracle's Co-Artistic Director.

### WHAT DO THEY DO?

Founded in 1979, Miracle now embarks on a summer tour each year to local gardens, spaces and outdoor venues, creating opportunities for the surrounding communities to access



theatre on their doorstep. "It arrives in the heart of their community, and even if they're not really interested in theatre, they may be interested in doing this thing that's arrived in front of them", says Crooks.

Miracle performs pantomimes at the Princess Pavillion in Falmouth and sometimes tours these throughout the festive season in smaller venues. The company also creates film projects and theatre workshops in educational environments.

They are always interested in new writing, as well as adapting old classics into new, contemporary performances.

### WHAT HAVE THEY DONE RECENTLY?

Their Christmas production Duffy and the Stiltskin successfully ran over the festive period in Falmouth, inspired by an ancient Cornish folktale.

Last summer the company celebrated their 45th anniversary, with their tour of Love Riot throughout the Southwest. Directed by Sally Crooks, their adaptation of Hannah Cowley's The Belle's Stratagem received excellent feedback from audiences and critics.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Sally Crooks is bringing Bill Scott's adaptation of Twelfth Night to life this summer. The show is due to tour from June onwards to over 40 outdoor venues across Cornwall and the Southwest until August 23rd 2025. The show will take a "fresh, bold and accessible twist" on Shakespeare's classic comedy.

### HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THEM?

Tickets are now available for Twelfth Night, starting at £9 for children at select locations throughout Cornwall and the South West.

They are also a registered charity; any donations will be dedicated towards drama workshops in schools, bridging the gap between drama and education.

Lastly, Miracle would like to invite anyone interested to reach out. The community "...are the unsung heroes of touring theatre," says Crooks. So collaborative ideas and audience feedback are always welcome!

Book tickets for 'Twelfth Night' at <https://miracletheatre.co.uk/how/twelfth-night/>



# OUR QUALITY



Redruth's streets tell a story of history, community, and creativity. Fore Street, Bond Street and West End each offer a unique glimpse into the town's past and vibrant future. From the historic granite pavements of Fore Street, to the lively spirit of Bond Street's cafés, and the heritage of West End's iconic Drapery Stores, these streets are more than just places to shop - they're the beating heart of Redruth.

Written by **TIA BODDEY** and **DAMION MILLER**, with illustrations by **SOIZIC REANY**

## FORE STREET

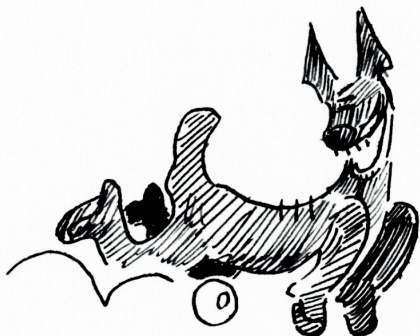
Redruth's Fore Street is more than just a shopping destination; it's a living testament to the town's rich history and community spirit. Since the early 1700s, it has been Redruth's main shopping street. On market days, Fore Street was filled with stalls selling everything from limpets and mussels to pianos and organs.

Today, the street is home to eclectic shops and cafés, including Daisy Rain Vintage, located in the former Old Steam Bakery, where Nicola Phillips and her brother, Stephen, breathe new life into vintage clothing and furniture.

Further down the street, Hatters Café serves humongous slices of cake and seasonal decorations, while the Regal Cinema, with its stunning 1930s art deco façade, hosts live performances and movie screenings. The Mining Exchange Studios, housed in the former HSBC bank, has become a thriving arts hub where local artists and community members go to support each other's work.

Two bronze sculptures, the Tinner's Hounds and the Tin Miner, stand proudly along the street, honouring the town's mining heritage. The Tinner's Hounds, cast from the boots of miners, and the Tin Miner both pay tribute to the hardworking miners of the past, becoming focal points for those eager to learn more about the town's past. These statues serve as reminders that, despite its challenges over the years, the town's spirit remains strong.

While Redruth has certainly faced its



'REDRUTH IS NOW GROWING INTO A REALLY NICE ARTS COMMUNITY. IT'S REALLY ABOUT THE PEOPLE, WE ALL SUPPORT EACH OTHER' **Phil Salt**



'WE ATTRACT THE SORT OF PEOPLE THAT WANT TO COME AND EXPERIENCE SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT AND QUIRKY. WE'RE HOPING THAT MORE INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES WILL HELP US BREATHE FRESH LIFE INTO REDRUTH' **Nicola Phillips**

share of struggles, it continues to evolve. Phil, from The Mining Exchange, believes the town is "certainly getting there", and highlights the strong sense of community between the independent businesses and the locals on Fore Street. Nicola Phillips, from Daisy Rain Vintage, says shares her vision for the future: "As a town, we want to keep

a hold of our individuality, but at the same time, we want to breathe fresh life into it." She's hopeful that Redruth's uniqueness will be celebrated as the town moves forward.

Fore Street offers a rich tapestry of experiences that reflect the heart and soul of Redruth. It's a place where history meets creativity.

# STREETS!



'WORKING HERE IS A DREAM. PEOPLE OF ALL AGES COME HERE TO CHAT OVER COFFEE, MILKSHAKES, AND SWEET TREATS. THE BEST PART? I GET TO LISTEN TO MUSICALS AND CHAT WITH PEOPLE ALL DAY!' Ashley Sweet

## BOND STREET/CLINTON ROAD

The stunning Gothic architecture of the former Passmore Edwards Library on Bond Street caught the eye of Felix Mortimer and Josh Nawras, the founders of The Ladder. Inspired by its historic charm, they set to work restoring it in 2020 and bought it in 2023.

Today, it's a thriving arts and culture

hub that houses the nursery Naturally Learning and Beets & Roots Cafe, a go-to spot for delicious vegetarian and vegan dishes in the Ladder's garden.

Bond Street is also home to Ginger's Diner, a 1950s style cafe created by local drag queen, Ashley Sweet. The cafe is known for its pastel pink and blue walls, retro checkered floors, and, of course,

its delicious milkshakes and coffee.

It's not just the décor that stands out – Ashley's mission is to create a safe, inclusive space for the LGBTQIA+ community. Recently celebrating its first anniversary, Ginger's continues to serve up good vibes and even better food.

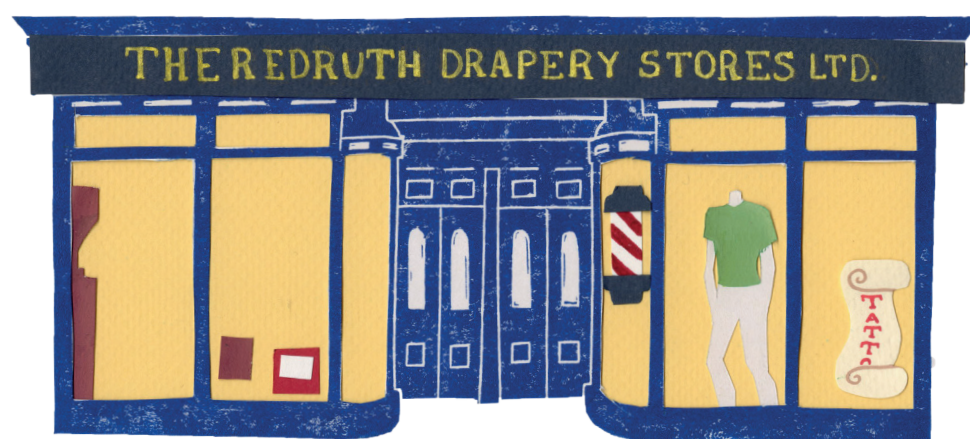
As you stroll down Bond Street, its character continues to shine. Red and

gold mining memorials line the pavement, paying homage to the local mines. Local gems like the Cornish Health Store, Redruth Meadery, Ashley's Hair Salon, and the Stick Figure Gallery all contribute to its growing charm. From creative spaces to inviting cafes and memorable dining spots, Bond Street weaves a distinctive thread into Redruth's rich tapestry.

## WEST END

West End can be found trailing off from the bottom of Fore Street, just left of the Make A Mend's clothes repair workshop. Although the workshop is a part of Fore Street, its legacy flows through West End, where a fabric store carries forward the essence of sewing and repair, echoing the same craftsmanship and community spirit of Fore Street.

West End is also the home of The Redruth Drapery, first built in 1886 and owned by William H Sarra. The building served as the main supplier of fabrics in Redruth and the surrounding area. Over time, it was renovated and was given its first-of-a-kind glass window storefront, which can still be seen today. The Drapery was one of the first buildings in the South West to feature these types of storefront windows and was one of just a few in the world at the time, a testament to Redruth's innovation.



Sadly, in 1916, a fire erupted in West End, burning through The Drapery and the neighbouring buildings. However, the Drapery would live on. The same family that built it repaired the building and business, continuing to run it until 1942. Under new management, a part of the Drapery was renamed Ringrose Fabric, and the building remains one of the many spots for people to buy fabrics

and sewing materials in Redruth. A part of the Drapery has since been converted into a café, offering great spot to enjoy food, drink and history all at once.

Beyond the Drapery, West End has much more to offer like Fairfield's Park, Candy Cane Tattoo Parlour, and the Penventon Park Hotel, just up the road. The area remains full of character, and its rich history attracts both locals and visitors.

## Street riddles

Can you identify the place?

### RIDDLE 1

There is history etched within my walls  
But for now the lights and music calls.  
Along the pavement, lives fabric and ink,  
A trader's past, a vintage blink.

### RIDDLE 2

Dancing away from the platform,  
And down to the street,  
The idea of shopping starts  
rushing our feet.  
Follow the granite setts  
and soon you'll find,  
A cup of coffee or a one-of-a-kind.A

### RIDDLE 3

Tin memories echo in red and gold,  
The flowers smiling for young and old.  
Where checkered floors meet  
whipped cream swirls,  
A bubble gum diner, treats, and pearls.  
There is a hub of dreams  
where ideas unfold,  
A place of passion where  
stories were once told.

# TIME FOR A BITE...

Feeling peckish? Redruth has more than its fair share of eateries, including many in the Buttermarket, the stylish new food hall in the heart of the town. Here are some must-try dishes from Redruth's outlets.

Words by **DARCEY TRELOAR**, illustrations by **ZOE CHAN**



## BANGO KITCHEN



**T**ake your tastebuds to Asia with Bango Kitchen's menu. Also based in Penryn, this award-winning kitchen in The Buttermarket is unforgettable. Whether you want to be adventurous and try one of their famous bao buns, or have a hearty bowl of ramen, there's no such thing as a bad choice when you're eating at Bango Kitchen.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

#### CRISPY KATSU CHICKEN BAO

This dreamy bao bun with a combination of peanut curry mayonnaise, toasted peanuts, coconut crumb, Asian pickles, gem lettuce, and of course, perfect crispy chicken, is nothing short of unforgettable.

#### PORK RAMEN

With juicy teriyaki pork belly, picked woodland mushrooms and a silky onsen egg, this is the ultimate comfort dish.

## LITTLE EARS

**B**ased in Newquay, Little Ears is bringing Mediterranean-inspired food to Redruth's Buttermarket. Specialising in homemade fresh pasta and using quality ingredients from across Cornwall, Little Ears is championing local produce while making delicious Italian dishes.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

#### PICI CACIO E PEPE

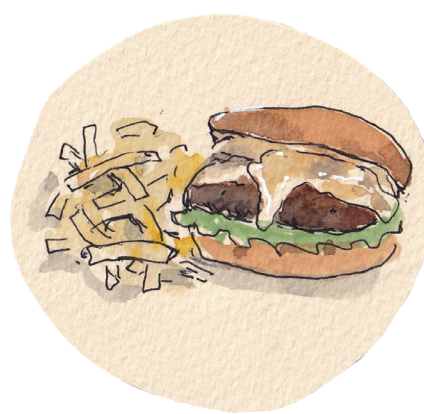
This timeless classic is simple yet bursting with creamy flavour, bringing the heart of Italy directly to your plate.

#### PAPPARDELLE

A dish with juicy ox cheek and a dusting of parmesan – the perfect meal if you want something that tastes rich and pleasurable.



## COWGIRLS



**C**owgirls, based in Stithians, is the go-to place in the Buttermarket when it comes to beef burgers. Cowgirls take pride in the fact that their grass-fed retired dairy cow beef is fresh and straight from the farm, resulting in top-quality meals.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

#### STITHIANS BURGER

This tender, retired beef burger with cheddar, burger sauce, lettuce and pickled red onion, all nestled in a brioche bun, is succulent and satisfying with every bite.

#### BEEF DRIPPING CHIPS

These chips are the perfect addition alongside a burger but are also delicious enough to stand on their own as a lighter meal. Prepare yourself for the heavenly contrast between their crispy exterior and fluffy interior.

## THE FILTHY FOCACCIA

**T**he latest kitchen to grace The Buttermarket, The Filthy Focaccia specialises in the making the 'filthiest' sandwiches possible. Their handmade sourdough focaccia sandwiches are jam-packed with delicious fillings, from fresh vegetables to locally sourced meat, and even hand-crafted sauces.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

#### THE SUNSHINE SARNIE

A sandwich built with roasted butternut squash, lemon and oregano feta, red onion marmalade, carrot hummus and rocket – a delicious concoction of flavours that allows you to taste the sunshine with every mouthful.

#### KOREAN BBQ

This Korean inspired sandwich with Korean pulled pork, seaweed and sesame pickled cucumber and kimchi slaw is full of bold flavours.





## BEATS AND ROOTS

**R**un by elegant Ben and roguish Paul, Beats and Roots is nestled behind The Ladder, Clinton Road, in a converted horsebox.

Serving vegetarian and vegan meals with a global flavour, Paul's food takes its influence from all over the world, including flavours from Indonesia, Kerala and Mexico with the ever-changing weekly specials.

Come for the grub and stay for the eccentric decor and cheap bottled beer in the sunshine.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

### CHIMICHANGA

Not heard of a Chimichanga before? This tex-mex classic is a deep friend burrito. Crammed full of beans, rice and veg, this will keep you full till the latter half of next week. And here's a little secret: some say you can order an off-menu chimichimi containing a naga chili. We can say no more, although we're not sure many have lived to tell the tale of how it tasted.

### THE SPECIAL

Each week, starting on Tuesday, Paul unleashes another food specialism, based on his extensive travels, finding the best vegetarian street food to tantalise your tastebuds. We've had French dauphinoise, Jamaican dumplings, Vietnamese summer rolls, Italian lasagne - all saving you money on having to jet out to these far flung places.

## THE REGAL CINEMA

**Y**es, you read that right, The Regal Cinema is one of the best places to eat in Redruth.

Their pizza is two for £20 Sunday to Thursday and with movie tie-in names like Pulp Fiction, Fisherman's Friends and Captain America you can enjoy your pizza pre- or post-film to keep you going through the next blockbuster.

The Regal's restaurant is also newly done-up with posters and the smell of sweet and salty popcorn. And to top it all, there's a decent beer selection on tap.

The Regal also has a great range of programming which isn't just cinema: kids' plays, tribute bands, bottomless brunches, drag queens, opera and even strippers...

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

### FAST 5-BEAN CHILI

Who wouldn't want their beans with added Vin Diesel?

### THE ITALIAN JOB

Hang on a minute lads! I've got an idea! Take away this classic and eat suspended half-way off a cliff in a minibus...

## THE STATION BUFFET

**T**he Station Buffet is a tiny, unassuming café in Redruth Station, on platform 1.

You'd be forgiven for finding yourself drawn to the delicious scent of bacon making its way throughout the station from its door. After all, it's widely known by locals that one of Caroline Jarvis' sandwiches is certainly the perfect way to fill your stomach, whether you've got a train to catch or not.

"The 23rd of June 1996, is the very day that my father signed the lease for this place," Caroline tells me, as she begins to make my usual order: a bacon and egg toastie – white bread, no sauce. She remembers.

It's clear this place has a special significance for her. The kitchen is small, but Caroline works with practised ease, making sandwiches and preparing drinks.

She now runs the café by herself, six days a week, tirelessly fulfilling her customer's needs, doing so even when she was battling cancer.

The décor is reflective of its age – the carpet and wainscoting, the painted wooden tables and chairs, creating a retro vibe. It almost feels like stepping into the 90s. It's charming.

"What do you like about running the café?" I ask her. She turns around and her face lights up, she's in her element. "I like meeting people. I like talking to people. I like finding out where they're going. Everybody's usually happy. I don't see many grumpy people, actually!" Caroline jokes.

During our conversation, a customer walks in. Caroline greets him, and

'I LIKE MEETING PEOPLE. I LIKE TALKING TO PEOPLE. I DON'T SEE MANY GRUMPY PEOPLE, ACTUALLY!'

makes him a cup of coffee, without him needing to ask. One of her many regulars. But The Station Buffet isn't just frequented by Redruth locals or passing travellers. "We get celebrities, as well! I've had Sir Tim Rice, Josh Widdicombe, George Clarke, Jenny Agutter – she was the first one I got a plaque of, 15 years ago," Caroline excitedly tells me, pointing to a shiny bronze plaque on the wall, reading "Jenny Agutter sat here".

Caroline also tells me that a few months ago, a customer informed her that she had been put forward for the Penryn Arts Centre Women of Cornwall project. Its aim is to celebrate women who have made meaningful contributions here. Caroline, suggested for her friendly and warm hospitality, is highlighted alongside women like folk singer Angeline Morrison and Comedian Dawn French.

By the time our conversation draws to a close, my toastie is done – cut in half, the left side wrapped in tinfoil, the other side only partially wrapped, so I can eat it on the way home. She knows her customers well.

I say goodbye and prepare myself for the heavenly first bite.



# WHAT'S GROWING

Redruth is blooming with community projects that are transforming the town. From high-street planters to flourishing orchards and thriving community gardens, local initiatives are bringing people together through a shared love of growing fresh produce. **MADISON JAMES** spoke to some of the people making Redruth greener and more connected. Illustrations by **ZOE CHAN**

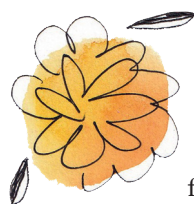
## GRASSROOTS GARDEN

**B**ased in Radnor, Grassroots Garden is more than just a market garden - it's a movement. The CIC was founded with the mission to improve access to high-quality local food, educate the community about the origins and cultivation of our food and address pressing issues such as food insecurity and biodiversity loss.

Grassroots Garden is a growing space equipped with polytunnels, an edible forest garden and 'no-dig' veg beds. It operates as Redruth's first Community Supported Agriculture scheme, offering weekly vegetable bags, workshops including fruit tree grafting and kimchi making, as well as volunteer days to get the community growing together.

Locals can subscribe to their weekly veg boxes, designed for those who want "no chemicals, just food", and are told to expect wonky carrots, bulging beets and bountiful brassicas.

We spoke to founder Daniel Sarginson, who's passion for sustainable food production began over 15 years ago - "Rather than being annoyed by our insecure food system, which favours profits for major supermarkets and corporations over the resilience and the health of the soil and those who eat the nutrient-depleted veg, I decided I would plant seeds and trees, learn the necessary skills, and find out about the



alternatives."

He soon realised there was a possibility to "change the world and our communities, for the better", and with support from the National Lottery Community Fund, Redruth.

Town Council, People's Postcode Lottery, CN4C and some wonderful volunteers - Grassroots Garden came to be.

The response from the local community has been overwhelmingly positive: "Many of them regularly share recipes of their culinary creations, which change as we journey through the growing seasons together." Sustainability is at the heart of Grassroots Garden, with a focus on 'regenerative agriculture' - farming that simultaneously improves the environment. "Regenerative agriculture is taking a step back, and looking at ways we can treat and respect the soil as a living system, and not use it like a Petri dish full of chemicals."

Whilst prepping for any curveballs in the future, "If the food system ever has more shocks that are worse than Brexit, COVID or whatever is around the corner - we're ready with the skills, the seeds and the community to get growing together", Dan also has big ambitions.

"My dream is to produce and store enough seeds to feed the whole of Redruth.

We have many plans for breeding locally adapted seeds, creating more perennial edible growing areas and

integrating livestock."

A soon-to-be-launched online shop system will also support the future of Grassroots Garden. Dan would love to hear from people who want to get involved in the garden or would like to enjoy some weekly veg bags.

To do so, email [grassrootsgarden@protonmail.com](mailto:grassrootsgarden@protonmail.com) or visit <https://grassrootsgarden.co.uk>

## RESILIENT ORCHARDS

**R**esilient Orchards Cornwall is a Community Interest Company on a mission to restore traditional orchards, promote fruit growing, and build stronger, more sustainable communities. Starting out at Trenoweth Estate, they work in and around Redruth planting trees with the community.

We spoke to Michelle Lawson, who is one of three voluntary directors. "We want to empower people, including children, to care for and make use of their local community orchards for enjoyment, access to local fruit, learning and community connection. This includes the full orcharding calendar from tree planting and care, to blossom walks, fruit harvesting and apple pressing to wassails." They also offer a professional orchard service.

Their most



ABOVE: Young eco-heroes plant trees in East End Park

recent projects include planting 10 more fruit trees in East End Park, a bird nest box making session at Market Way and community planting days in Trefusis Park.

With around 80% of traditional orchards lost in the South West since the 1900s, the organisation is working to reverse the decline. "The UK grows only 14% of our own fruit and vegetables. We want to reverse what has happened and hope to play a small part in ensuring this important habitat is restored for both the humans and the wildlife that depend on it."

Resilient Orchards Cornwall is taking a hands-on approach to food security: "In Cornwall, we need to become more self-sufficient. Commercial growing offers no control, whereas community growing ensures local control, involves all ages, and helps build long-term community resilience. The more fruit and vegetables we can grow ourselves, the better."

In Redruth, the Trenoweth Community Orchard has brought people together. "There is a lovely community of people who have designed, created, and continue to care for Trenoweth Community Orchard. We are a diverse



# UG IN REDRUTH?

group all pulled together thanks to this orchard and have become firm friends.”

Resilient Orchards run pruning workshops regularly with members participating for different reasons, “Some for social connection, some for community action, some for practical skills and fun, others for the knowledge they are doing something positive for the future.”

Locals anxious about climate change and food security benefit from the workshops: “Being able to get involved in practical, positive action locally empowers us, connects us directly with our food sources & our neighbours and allows us to work towards creating sustainable communities rather than feeling there is nothing we can do.” Looking ahead, Resilient Orchards have big ambitions: “We’d like to see a lively community of orchardists, fruit growers, and community fruit initiatives across Cornwall.”

The goal? A sustainable, self-sufficient Cornwall with local control and accessible



**ABOVE: Locals brave the weather to grow greens for the community**

fruit. Everyone is encouraged to get involved—“families and individuals can plant, mulch and water new trees; schools can hold apple pressing sessions with students or plant an orchard; organisations in Redruth can see if there is space for a fruit tree or bushes.” Without the help of dedicated volunteers, Resilient orchards wouldn’t be possible.

“We’d like to thank all our directors, orchard volunteers, supporters, partners, and those who have donated money.”

**To get involved, visit**  
<https://www.resilientorchards.org.uk>

## INCREDIBLE EDIBLE

Incredible Edible is striving to show how disused plots of land can be turned into sources of healthy food by local communities. Founded in 2008 in Todmorden by Pam Warhurst and Mary Clear, the initiative began with the simple act of planting vegetables in unused public spaces to spark conversations about sustainable futures.

The movement operates with three main focuses: ‘Learning’ - Integrating food-based education. ‘Community’ - Strengthening communities by growing and celebrating local food. ‘Business’ - Supporting local food businesses. Since its inception, Incredible Edible has grown significantly, with over 150 groups in the UK working towards healthier, greener futures through community-led food initiatives, with the tagline “If you eat it, you’re in!”

One of those groups is Redruth, who joined the network in 2024, and told us all about their recent work. The first step of the project was to install a raised bed planted with free food in a prominent spot on the high street. “The first planter has been made, and we’re now planting seeds in manageable supermarket crates that will be put into the planter once grown on a bit,



**ABOVE: Grower Daniel Sarginson proudly holds his giant homegrown turnip**

and we’ll add a sign to it inviting others to join in for phase two - finding more places to plant free food in the town!”

The possibilities for growing spots are endless: “More planters on the high street, under trees in the parks, on grass verges near houses, or in gardens and walls available to pick. There are acres of potential veg-growing spots within our town.”

Locals are excited by the progress - “All of the conversations we’ve had with local residents, council and organisations about the project have been incredibly positive and we look forward to finding change-makers, community-minded organisers, growers, builders, artists, and any others who would like to be involved.”

Community projects are gaining

momentum nationwide and are particularly important for places like Redruth, which has been hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis. “Redruth is a special place with a real mix of people. We have a lot of potential to come together and connect over something as universal as food in a positive way that brings the best out in a community and at the same time, we can re-learn the lost art of growing food from each other, increase our food security, and make Redruth a bit more beautiful (and edible).”

There are lots of ways to get involved. “Anyone can get a crate, fill it with compost, and plant seeds in it to go in a planter. We have lots of spare seeds, and anyone is welcome to plant some seeds or perhaps participate another way, like making leaflets, posters, speaking with people, or social media.” Alternatively, at Grassroots Garden every Thursday, there are weekly volunteer days to help plant the seeds for the first planter. Soon, some ‘walkabouts’ will be organised where volunteers can help in finding new spots for the next planters.

It’s still early days, but there’s a lot to come. The best way to learn more is via their Facebook page, ‘Incredible Edible Redruth.’



# A DAY OUT IN REDRUTH...

The sun is out, the days are long and there's plenty to get up to in Redruth. So, get out and get busy with the help of our town tour that shows you all the places you can visit and dine. By ANGELINA ORTEGA, illustration by JESS UNDERWOOD

## SPEND THE AFTERNOON...

**Y**ou're probably feeling peckish by now. Breakfast can be good, but lunch could be greater! Drop by Clinton Road and embark on a tastebud extravaganza, supplied by the multicultural menu, at the Beats and Roots Cafe.

Immerse yourself in the warm and homely ambience created by the fairy lights and cloth-draped walls in the courtyard garden. Finished your meal? Try their vegan shakes to-go and enjoy them at Victoria's Park, where you'll find a beautiful field for cloud-watching next to the skate ramps and children's playground.

Craving a sweet treat? Roll up that picnic blanket and spin back to the 50s in Ginger's Cafe, a welcoming spot on Bond Street that encapsulates a vibrant diner experience with the lovely service provided by Redruth's prized drag queen, Ginger! Cakes, shakes and pastries have never been more fun to eat, and when you leave, you're guaranteed to leave tickled pink!

Set off back into town for a lovely wander about the Mining Exchange where you'll no longer find share brokers like they had in 1880 but instead find unique portraits or sculptures crafted by local artists.

Head back up the street and pop into Daisy Rain's Vintage Shop too. It's a retro wonderland, with mirror-crowded walls and a ceiling with parasols afloat, how could you resist purchasing an outfit or two?

## SPEND THE MORNING...

**I**t's a lovely morning in Redruth. The rays are hitting your face and the bustle of town shoppers are at a low, but your stomach starts to grumble. Maybe a coffee and fresh pastry from Boesti (Bo-eh-stee) will do the trick?

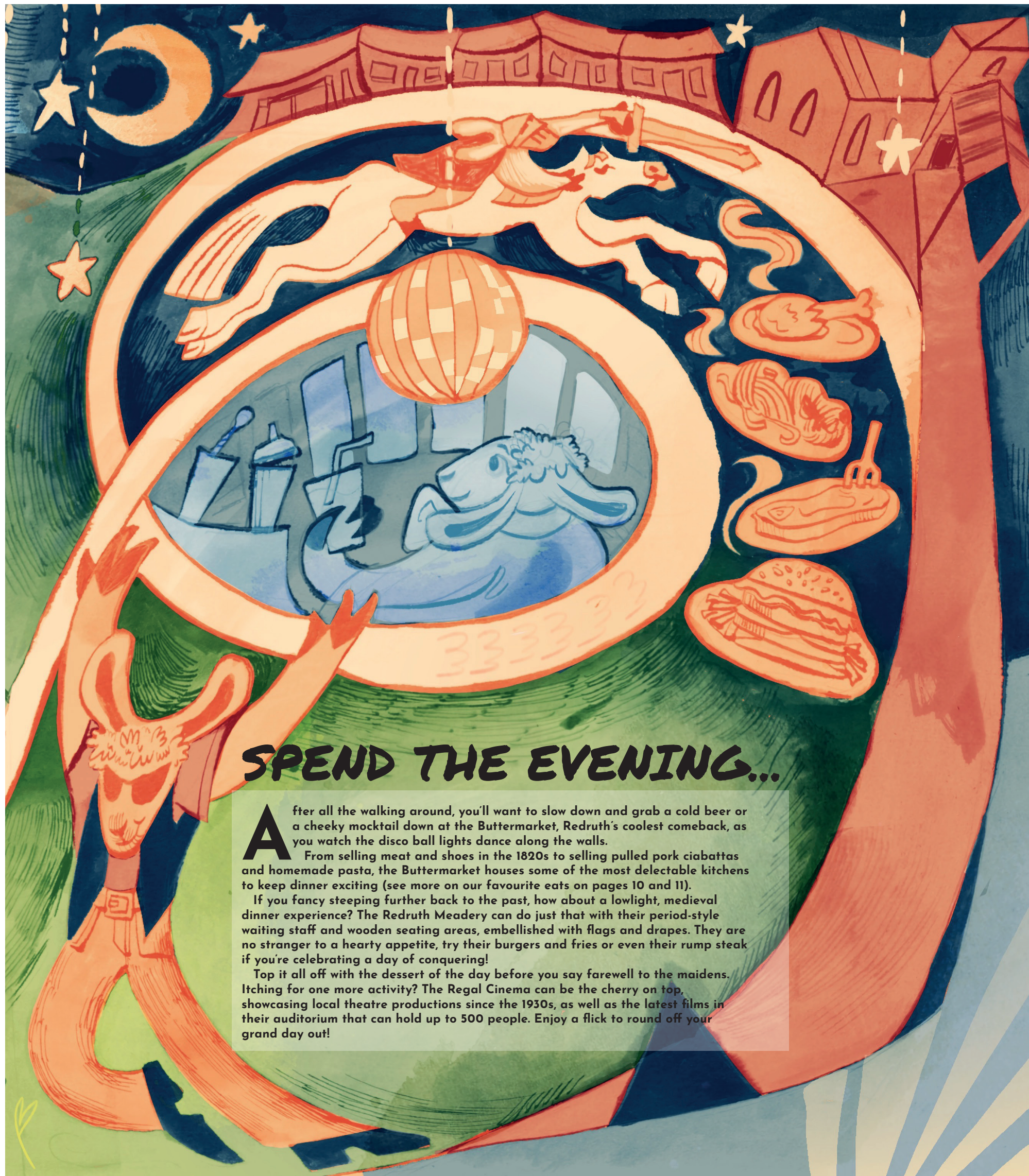
Boesti is a friendly, family-run cafe in the heart of Redruth, with an assortment of meals and sweet treats, very popular amongst regulars and newcomers. Bringing the pup? Bring them along to the outside seating, perfectly suitable for any furry friends passing by.

On the other side of the street there's the well-loved Hatter's Coffee House, Redruth's original hat and tailoring shop turned tearoom! Check out their homemade cakes that the kids can enjoy in the child-friendly seating area, decorated with small seats, books and an abundance of toys. With its original window paneling cascading underneath their sign, you might consider trying a sandwich to accompany you on your walk.

Peaceful sit-downs are great if you find the right bench; try St. Rumon's Garden on Penryn Street where you can enjoy the 600-year-old historical ruins of St. Rumon's Chapel, covered in a blanket of flowers and vines. Did you know it used to serve pilgrims back in the 1400s?

When you're there, make sure you visit Murdoch House, home to William Murdoch who invented gas lighting..





## SPEND THE EVENING...

**A**fter all the walking around, you'll want to slow down and grab a cold beer or a cheeky mocktail down at the Buttermarket, Redruth's coolest comeback, as you watch the disco ball lights dance along the walls.

From selling meat and shoes in the 1820s to selling pulled pork ciabattas and homemade pasta, the Buttermarket houses some of the most delectable kitchens to keep dinner exciting (see more on our favourite eats on pages 10 and 11).

If you fancy stepping further back to the past, how about a lowlight, medieval dinner experience? The Redruth Meadery can do just that with their period-style waiting staff and wooden seating areas, embellished with flags and drapes. They are no stranger to a hearty appetite, try their burgers and fries or even their rump steak if you're celebrating a day of conquering!

Top it all off with the dessert of the day before you say farewell to the maidens. Itching for one more activity? The Regal Cinema can be the cherry on top, showcasing local theatre productions since the 1930s, as well as the latest films in their auditorium that can hold up to 500 people. Enjoy a flick to round off your grand day out!



ABOVE: Artist Robyn O'Brian hanging up her Ula Jewellery logo in her new studio at Krowji

## KROWJI PROFILE

# ROBYN O'BRIAN

**R**obyn O'Brian from Ula Jewellery is one of the newest creatives to take up residence at Krowji. She had recently moved into one of the new shipping container studios when we spoke to her. She makes eco jewellery inspired by the Cornish coast with a bohemian twist and told us how the business started as a hobby alongside her job as a superyacht finisher.

"I wanted to make my mum something for her 50th birthday, and my friend was a jeweler. She showed me how to set her birthstone, and then how to make a simple stacking ring, and then I became obsessed. It took me about a year to just collect up all the tools that I needed, and a lot of money and overtime."

During lockdown, she converted her shed into a workshop, and Ula became a full time business. Robyn says she found out about Krowji after working from home for two years -

"I came to Krowji for a Christmas market, and that was my first time wandering around. There was not a single person that wasn't really happy and smiley. And I felt like - these are my people! Being surrounded by other creative people, you can take inspiration from whatever they might be doing."

Krowji is situated on the site of the school Robyn used to go to when she was growing up in the town

"When you're a kid and you're exploring your creativity - that's what gives you your identity. The education system doesn't really focus on those things. I went to school here. I was quite badly bullied, so there's negative

associations with being here. But it's so far in the past, I don't know why I was still letting that influence my decisions as an adult, because I left and I was like - thank God for that! I swear I'll never go back to that school again, and now here I am."

Robyn grew up in Redruth and after moving away felt reluctant to move back but said how much the town has changed since she was younger -

"We were skeptical about buying in Redruth, but it was in our price range. But now we're here and there's so much happening. It's somewhere that younger people are coming in and setting up businesses. There are a lot more shops like the repair shop for clothing. Then there's the produce market on the first Saturday of every month - those are really busy. People are going more towards buying locally and going old school, which is great."

Since moving here, we've made more of an effort to walk into town - get some bread, fresh fruit and all of that, and we prefer paying more and knowing that it's going to Redruth because that's our town. I think it makes you feel better about what you're eating.

"If anyone is thinking about doing something like this I would say to come along especially to something like Open Studios or the Summer Fair. Wander around and meet the people that are here, that's what absolutely solidified it for me - it was the people here"

**You can find Robyn's jewellery at @ulajewellery on instagram**

# Burning with new creativity

Following the major fire in 2021 which devastated 17 studios at Krowji, as spring awakens in 2025, new studios are ready to give the courtyard a fresh lease of life. We visited Krowji in April, just days after some of the artists got the keys to their new studios. **DANIELLE HUTCHINSON** and **EMMA VOWLES**

**S**inead O'Connor was one of the artists who lost her studio in the fire. She's been based at Krowji since 2015 when she started her jewellery business, Sinead's Silver Design.

"When the fire happened, I had two studios, I had quite a good business... that all just stopped, because all 17 studios burnt down, the offices burnt down, the whole building went."

"It was very difficult, but my mantra was no one was hurt, no one was killed - we're a 24-hour access studio, there could've easily been someone in the studios. At the end of the day it was just stuff and you can buy stuff again, but you can't buy people."

Sinead now sees the fire as a turning point. "It set me on a new course, I went and did an advanced enamelling course and I absolutely loved it."

"My husband took over running the silver side of the business and I started a new brand called Cruan."

'Cruan' is Irish for 'enamel' and Sinead now crafts enamelled copper and silver vessels that celebrate her Irish heritage and Cornish home.

She sources the base vessels from one of only six silver spinners left in the UK and is part of the Heritage Crafts Association which advocates to protect traditional craft skills in the country.

"I think craft is becoming more important as we move towards more things that can be done by computers and done by AI. Don't get me wrong, technology is fantastic, but you can't get a computer to create a 3D handheld piece of art."

Once she's settled into the studio, Sinead will be running workshops teaching enamelling and silver jewellery classes.

"It's good when people come so that they can see that actually everything is handmade, they can see the processes."



ABOVE: Artist Sinead O'Connor putting the first coat of paint on her new studio at Krowji

"What also helps is when you run workshops, people get a taste of how to make things themselves and they suddenly go, 'Oh, this is why it costs so much to buy things handmade'."

Krowji is the only place that has been able to facilitate these workshops, other than an industrial unit.

"These containers are created for all the noisy, smelly, messy, flammable crafts, so they're very well sound-insulated."

Sinead has one of the largest kilns in the UK, so it's safe to say that Krowji can facilitate all manner of equipment and crafts. It's become the biggest creative hub in the South West, home to hundreds of small businesses.

"What makes Krowji really great is that these are 24-hour access; if you like to be working when it's buzzy and there's loads of people around, that's absolutely fine. If you want to be working at 2 o'clock in the morning when nobody's going to be knocking on your door going 'fancy a cuppa?' that's fine as well."



Photos by Danielle Hutchinson  
Illustration by Soizic Reany

It also doesn't matter what your background or level of experience is. For Sinead, Krowji was where her creative career began, having previously worked as a maths and computer science teacher.

"I don't even have an A-level in art, I don't have any qualifications in art whatsoever... to begin with it was just a hobby."

Now, Sinead works as a full-time artist and is looking to collaborate internationally with other enamellers, having recently won several awards with The Guild of Enamelling.

**A**nother artist moving into one of the new studios is Robyn O'Brian, the creative behind Ula Jewellery. 'Ula' is Celtic for 'gem of the sea' and Robyn collects sea glass from beaches across Cornwall to craft into silver jewellery.

It all started when she wanted to make her mum a 50th birthday present and a friend showed her how to set her birthstone...Then I became obsessed."

Robyn had been working as a yacht finisher before covid, but during lockdown, she converted her shed into a jewellery workshop, which has since become a full-time business.

This new container will be Robyn's first official studio. 'Krowji' is actually Cornish for 'shed' so we joked that this will be the biggest shed she's worked out of so far.

She decided that having a studio away from home would improve her work-life balance and now walks to Krowji along the old mining trails. Robyn first visited Krowji a couple of years ago when she attended a Christmas Market.

"That was my first time wandering around. There was not a single person that wasn't really happy and smiley. And I felt like - these are my people! Being surrounded by other creative



people, you can take inspiration from whatever they might be doing."

Krowji is situated at the Old Grammar School site in Redruth, where Robyn used to go to school.

"When you're a kid and you're exploring your creativity - that's what gives you your identity. The education system doesn't really focus on those things."

"I was quite badly bullied, so there were negative associations with being here. But it's so far in the past, I don't know why I was still letting that influence my decisions as an adult."

Although she was reluctant about moving back to Redruth, Robyn feels that the atmosphere has changed and the town is having a revival.

"We were sceptical about buying in Redruth, but it was in our price range. Now we're here and actually there's so much development happening."

"I think people are going more towards buying locally and going old school,

**ABOVE: Artist Tony Minnion with paintbrush in hand, alongside his paintings in his studio at Krowji**

which is great. Since moving here, we've made more of an effort to walk into town on market days - get some bread, fresh fruit... and we prefer paying more and knowing that it's going to Redruth."

This year marks the 10-year anniversary since the opening of its new building and 20 years since Krowji began in 2005. It's great to see that there's still a steady stream of page 6 "If anyone is thinking about doing something like this, I would say to come along especially to something like Open Studios or the Summer Showcase. Wander around and meet the people that are here because that's what absolutely solidified it for me - it was the people."

CONTINUES OVERLEAF...

## KROWJI PROFILE FRAN HITCHCOCK

**F**ran runs the Grow Box in town and recently took over the cafe at Krowji. "The cafe is a vibrant space," she says. "It doesn't matter if there's 20 people in here, or one or two, anyone who comes through it's like pull up a chair, you're welcome here."

"There are people here that you could ask one question of and it would probably save you three or four days of work, because they've got the knowledge."

Fran was born and went to school in Redruth, left and returned 20 years ago.

"Redruth had a really wonderful past. It was really, really successful. Then it struggled for a long time. And people look back on the past but I want to be passionate about the future."

Fran is setting up a community interest company, and the group has



**Grow Box owner Fran Hitchcock**

recently been donated an allotment. She says that she wants to encourage the cafe to be a collaborative space and part of the community.

"That's one of the issues we want to tackle with turning the Grow Box into a CIC. Since we were given the allotment we have had people come over in their own time, and there are friendships already being formed in the first month. It's that gentle, gentle approach."

"My best thing is on a Saturday morning that I chat to so many people from so many different walks of life. It's really nice to just have the time to talk to people. So that's how we find a lot of people interested in the allotment, and it is a range of ages - people you'd be totally surprised about. And I think the beauty is, we don't know what we're doing. We've got no preconceived ideas."

We can do something about now, and get excited about what's happening this week or next week. It's just putting the energy into it - negativity to positivity, to try and counteract it a bit."

**Grow Box Café is open to the public Mon-Fri, from 9am-4pm.**

## Burning with new creativity

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

Tony Minnion is one of the long-standing artists at Krowji and has been in his studio for 18 years.

Alongside his paintings of the Cornish coastline, he works as a community artist with local schools and mentors neurodivergent artists.

His claim to fame is creating the miner's cape which is used each year in the St Piran's Day celebrations in Redruth, as well as the banners and flags for Murdoch Day.

Tony has seen many changes and believes that Krowji has "given Redruth an identity as being a cultural and artistic hub, because it's the biggest one south of Spike Island in Bristol".

"There is some criticism that people just come here and work and it doesn't necessarily trickle down into the town but I think over the years it has. For instance, people who might've come in because of Krowji and are now based in town. Krowji can take some credit for that."

When he first began painting in Cornwall, Tony was selling his paintings in galleries and had to keep them at 'gallery prices' but now Krowji allows him to sell to the local community: "Because I'm not going through a gallery, I can sell at prices that local people can afford."

Tony also has a selection of his work which is entirely pay what you can afford as part of a 'Paintings for the People' initiative.

Some of his customers are young people who've never bought a painting before.

"When I was linked with galleries, my sales were mainly second home owners, or at least people with substantial incomes who've moved into the area, but they're not now. I sell for cheaper to local people - this space gives me the opportunity to do that."

The picture that Tony paints of Krowji is of a place where he can operate ethically in a way that aligns with his values as opposed to purely commercially.

**H**e's responsible for organising the Open Studios at Krowji in May, as part of Cornwall Open Studios.

This is where artists across the county open their doors to the public, inviting them to see inside their creative worlds.

"There's a real diversity of practice here and I think Cornwall Open Studios has been really important for giving people an impression of that diversity - very different artists coming from very different places."

The Open Studios aren't just about the chance for artists to sell their work, but also an opportunity to connect with the local community.

"For me, it's about having conversations and making links. By doing that, you build up interest in your work which is crucial as a painter - people buy a bit of you with the painting."

Tony is keen to stress that there's no obligation to buy artwork when visiting the studios and that the space is open to everyone, not just traditional 'gallery-visiting clientele'.

"That's what you have to really break down when it comes to Open Studios and if you want to connect to people in Redruth properly. It's about getting integration between separated communities."

**The next opportunity to see inside the studios at Krowji is the Summer Showcase, on 25th-27th July from 11am to 4pm each day.**

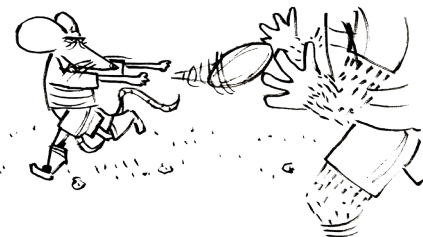
# From school to SCRUM

**Rugby has its feet firmly planted in Cornish soil, welcoming all types of people from every class and every ability. No matter what age you are, it's a great idea to become part of a team, get some exercise, and improve your mental and physical wellbeing. Words SCARLETT STONE, illustrations ETHAN SMITH-SCOTLAND**

**T**he Redruth community plays a significant role in the town's successes, and the schools and RFC (Rugby Football Club) brings everyone together. Redruth prides itself for the opportunities young people have, enabling them to go all the way to the top.

Made In Redruth spoke to James Murray, the rugby and sports coordinator for the Terry Pryor Trust, about his role in encouraging children to join a sport in the Redruth area.

After graduating from Cardiff Met University, James came back to his home town to help provide quality coaching and the benefits that come with playing a sport to the community. He said: "Redruth



and rugby have always been a big part of my life, whether that's through school, friends or family."

When we talked about the importance of having a team in your local town and getting kids involved from an early age, James sees that as extremely beneficial mentally and physically, as right from the get go they get a sense of support.

"The skills we gain from rugby are always transferable to life,

whether that's teamwork or commitment, you walk away with a family for life," he added.

The Redruth Learning group teamed with the Terry Pryor Trust, opens up opportunities to local young people wanting to get involved and find a passion they enjoy in such a remote Cornish town. The amount of young people getting involved in sports like rugby has skyrocketed, whether that's through the school, the rugby or youngsters with the Rugby Tots. The aim is to find something for everyone to enjoy as James explained. "It doesn't have to be rugby, as long as you find a team you feel at home with you will have the best time possible."

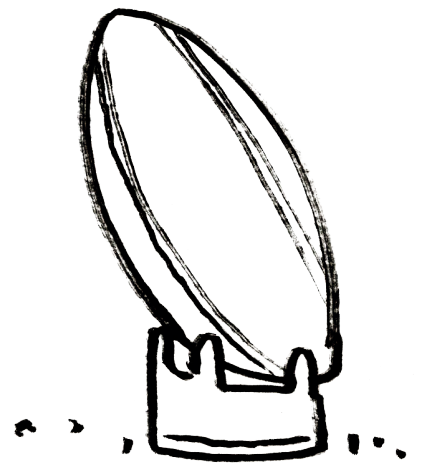
**H**owever, the friends James made at the local RFC have become some of his closest lifelong friends and he couldn't recommend joining the Redruth Rugby club enough. "It's such a supportive and friendly group of people with an amazing amount of players already.

"The local teams mini and junior section already includes 400 youths from Redruth and surrounding areas all getting together to play a game they love," said James.

"Rugby has something for everyone, whether you want to get stuck in or take it easy, you will feel so welcomed. There will always be a strong sense of community with many opportunities for engagement, but the main thing is that you enjoy it because it is fun."

## FYI

- Rugby Tots is a family run organisation that provides rugby sessions for children aged 2 - 5. It has parent participation and is a weekend activity with fun games whilst learning the basics.
- There's one on Saturdays at Pool Academy in Redruth and then on Sundays there is one in Truro at Penair School.
- Each term is usually five weeks and sessions last from 30-45 minutes - all fitting in with school holidays.
- The cost is £6.50 per session per child, or £40 for six sessions.
- For more information: [www.rugbytots.co.uk](http://www.rugbytots.co.uk)



# SHOWTIME FOR THE HOOLIGANS

In March 2024 we embarked on an exciting partnership with The Ladder as part of their theatre festival planned for that September. We were one of a number of international companies invited to collaborate with Cornish communities to create new work for the festival.

We were invited to a residency at The Pearl Exchange in Bude, a charity that supports the well-being of 18-35 year olds in Cornwall and Devon. Over four days we ran a series of workshops using singing, movement and devising techniques with a group of eight young adults. We had three main aims: to share skills for creating performance, to foster a feeling of creative community, and to create original material as a basis for a new show.

After some fun ice-breakers, our Ukrainian actor Simeon Kyslyi shared his experiences of being a teenage football hooligan. The participants asked Simeon questions and reflected on their own experiences of fear and belonging growing up. We were interested in how the hooliganism theme would complement The Pearl Exchange's efforts to counteract feelings of alienation and isolation common to young adults in the region. Why are some young men drawn to violent subcultures for self-expression? What other ways exist to bring people together as individuals within a group?

From these starting points we moved from discussion into dance, song and improvisation, creating material which we later performed together in an emotive and heartwarming public sharing that

**PETER CANT, Artistic Director of Hooligan Art Community, reflects on a performance project involving eight young adults**



included an 'open mic' part in which the group got to share their talents with each other in music, spoken word and drag. It was wonderful to witness the confidence of the group grow during four days together and a strong creative bond form. The participants said they felt free to be vulnerable in front of each other, leading to a sense of collective trust. From this auspicious start we had the feeling that we had found our 'hooligan' group.

Six months later we returned to Bude to create the production. The group had continued to meet up in our absence and

had created musical and visual material sent to us in video clips. More participants joined as we started rehearsals in The Pearl Exchange's new premises. Our filmmaker Liubov Sliusareva joined us to document the process. Composer and vocal leader Jessie Maryon Davies developed choral arrangements of both new and familiar songs, accompanied by percussionist Riccardo Castellani, while choreographer Mathis Kleinschnittger developed a movement language with the participants.

As director I was very interested in the spontaneous dialogue between the Cornish

locals and Simeon Kyslyi onstage. The different backgrounds and experiences of the individuals in the company provided a rich array of expression. Common themes appeared and questions would arise which re-emerged in the creative work, in musical arrangements of hits by the Talking Heads, in a slow-motion choreography across the room, in comic improvisations, or in the customization of each person's costume and mask.

The Bude community turned out en masse to watch the preview of our show on 18th September, buoying the company for the journey onwards to Redruth where the show would premiere that weekend. True to Hooligan Art Community's roots, that premiere took place in a site-specific 'found' space, the upstairs former archive room at the Ladder, stripped back due to renovations, and with a recently installed wooden floor.

We performed The Hooligan Project three times on 21st and 22nd September. The show represented the emergence of a new creative community among our Cornish participants, framed in parallel to Simeon's experiences of belonging, alienation and displacement.

We are immensely grateful to our wonderful company of fantastic performers, to the whole creative team behind the show, to the Pearl Exchange for their extraordinary work and to The Ladder and Harbour Festival for their venturesome programming and bold production of what was a rare and precious project for all involved.

## 'Redruth is a hotspot for brilliant energy'

By **MADDIE RIXON**, illustration by **SATURDAY SIMMS**

Striving for an accessible Pride and a hate-free Cornwall, Matthew Kenworthy Gomes's philosophy is that you shouldn't have to pay for a space to be yourself. "Cornwall Pride is about bringing focus and hope to the LGBTQ+ community when there is so little in the media world," he explains.

Matthew believes that Pride should be highlighting queer people and spreading hope, not an expensive gathering. After much research and feedback, he realised a lot of Cornwall viewed Pride as merely a massive party in the beginning. However, after developing the conversation, they managed to turn the tables. This research has 'allowed Pride to be involved with each community,' and ensure that Pride, in towns such as Redruth, is a place where people can go to be themselves in a space that doesn't usually let them.

As someone who has lived in Cornwall his entire life, Matthew understands that some people avoid Redruth, believing it is 'run down' and unloved. However, in his eyes Redruth Pride is eclectic. He admits that some team members didn't want to attend Redruth Pride for the first time, however after seeing and hearing about it, they went the following year and loved it. "Redruth is a hotspot for real, raw, brilliant energy, which is exactly what Pride is about," he tells me. While some towns want to tone down Pride, their feedback shows that Redruth always seems to want more, which excites Matthew. "You can't take away from something, but you can add to it." With a strong and

dedicated team, a passionate community, and the involvement from Ginger's Diner, Redruth's popular drag diner, the town is filled with potential.

By building intersectional inclusion training, and always being aware of public safety challenges, Cornish Pride is aiming for a hate-free Cornwall. Matthew opens up about his own experiences of physical and emotional cruelty, as well as the discrimination that he has witnessed against Cornwall Pride. "It's not about my challenges - it's about people being hateful for absolutely no reason. It's about people being othered." While he knows it is never going to be easy to eradicate hatred, Matthew believes it is necessary to reach for something, and remains hopeful. "Naive positivity," he calls it. "When you see a challenge you can either run away from it or run into it."

So far, Cornwall Pride's outreach and inclusivity has been overwhelmingly successful, winning the Community Organisation Award for LGBT at the National Diversity Awards in 2024. They have brought lots of voluntary organisations together, and have partnered with a sustainable organisation called Seasalt, which sells ethical pride-T-shirts.

Half the profits go to Pride. With a lot of companies, it



is difficult to find out where it's coming from and how ethical it is. "If we're doing this, we have to do this the right way," he tells me.

"We've got a real opportunity here in Cornwall," he adds, contagiously hopeful and filled with emotion. "We're surrounded by the ocean on three sides and have the opportunity to influence ourselves. We are only 600,000 people. But if we can get this right, if we can build a culture of celebrating differences, social cohesion, support, compassion, and kindness, then maybe it will start leaking into the rest of the UK."

Despite witnessing the horrors of abuse towards the LGBTQ+ community, he has also seen the emergence of community groups and spaces for queer people that would have never existed in Cornwall four years ago.

Matthew is excited that the community has built the confidence to say that they belong in Cornwall. "The minds of queer people are so beautiful because we look at the world in a non-conformist way." If he could give any advice to his younger self, it would be: "You are looking at the world in such a beautiful way. Don't stop."

**This year, Redruth Pride will be falling on Saturday 5th of July in Victoria Park, and will run from 11am to 4pm.**

# REDRUTH IN BLOOM

A celebration of light, nature and renewal

## WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL WILDLIFE

As we embrace the summer season, there are simple ways to support local wildlife and contribute to the thriving environment around Redruth. Keep an eye out for the majestic Cornish choughs that soar over Carn Brea, or spot the vibrant meadow butterflies flitting through the wildflower meadows. Bumblebees are busy pollinating the flowers, while red foxes, often spotted on the edges of town, make an occasional appearance.

By supporting these creatures, we help maintain the natural balance that is so vital to our landscape.

Here are some top tips to support our local wildlife this summer:

- **Provide Fresh Water**  
Ensure wildlife has access to fresh water during the hot months by placing shallow dishes in your garden.
- **Create Shelter**  
Leave areas of long grass or dense shrubs to provide shade and shelter for birds, hedgehogs and insects.
- **Plant Summer Blooms**  
Flowers like lavender, echinacea, and foxgloves are essential for pollinators like bees and butterflies.
- **Encourage Hedgehogs**  
Leave small gaps in fences and walls to create safe pathways for hedgehogs or build a hedgehog house.
- **Reduce Pesticides**  
Avoid chemical pesticides, which can harm beneficial insects.

As you care for the wildlife around Redruth, don't forget to mark the season's shift with a celebration of the solstice. The Summer Solstice on **June 21, 2025**, provides the perfect occasion to honour both nature and light.

As the Summer Solstice approaches, Redruth stands on the cusp of basking in the longest day of the year. The familiar silhouette of Carn Brea looms on the horizon, bathed in the warm sunlight that marks the arrival of summer. Across the Carn vibrant foxgloves dot the landscape, while the air hums with sounds of local wildlife. For Redruth, the solstice is more than just a change of seasons; it is a powerful symbol of the town's ongoing revival— a reminder of nature's transformative cycles and its deep connection to the energy of light. Words by **CHLOE EATHORNE**, illustrations by **ZOE CHAN**

## REDRUTH'S LEGACY OF LIGHT

Redruth's relationship with light dates back to Murdoch Day, which celebrates the legacy of William Murdoch—an inventor who, alongside his work on the oscillating cylinder steam engine, discovered the potential of coal gas to illuminate homes and streets. Murdoch, who lived on Cross Street from 1782 to 1798, revolutionized the way we light our world, ushering in an era of modern illumination. Just as the Summer Solstice marks the peak of sunlight's power, Murdoch's invention shifted Redruth from darkness into light, sparking an era of transformation. His discovery continues to symbolize the town's ongoing journey of renewal—a parallel to the energy and hope that summer brings.



## THE IMPACT OF GREEN SPACES ON MENTAL HEALTH

Redruth's green spaces and natural beauty provide a peaceful refuge for mental well-being. Whether wandering the rugged trails of Carn Brea or enjoying the tranquility of the Gwennap Pit or Carn Marth Amphitheatre and its peaceful pool, nature offers a chance to reconnect, re-charge and find serenity in our busy world.

Research consistently supports the benefits of time spent in nature, showing that just two hours a week in natural environments can significantly reduce stress and boost mood.

Sunlight also plays a crucial role in mental health; exposure to sunlight stimulates vitamin D production, which supports a healthy immune system, boosts mood, and increases energy. The warm summer rays, like the vibrant blooms surrounding us, nourish not only the land but also our bodies and minds.

## ROOTS AND ROUTES

John Rose, a retired local, finds solace in his garden—a haven of agapanthus, camellia and budding roses, where the pressures of the world fade away. “When I’m in the garden, I don’t think about anything else. It’s just peaceful,” he shares. For John, the simple act of listening to birdsong while playing his guitar on a warm summer evening has become a form of meditation.

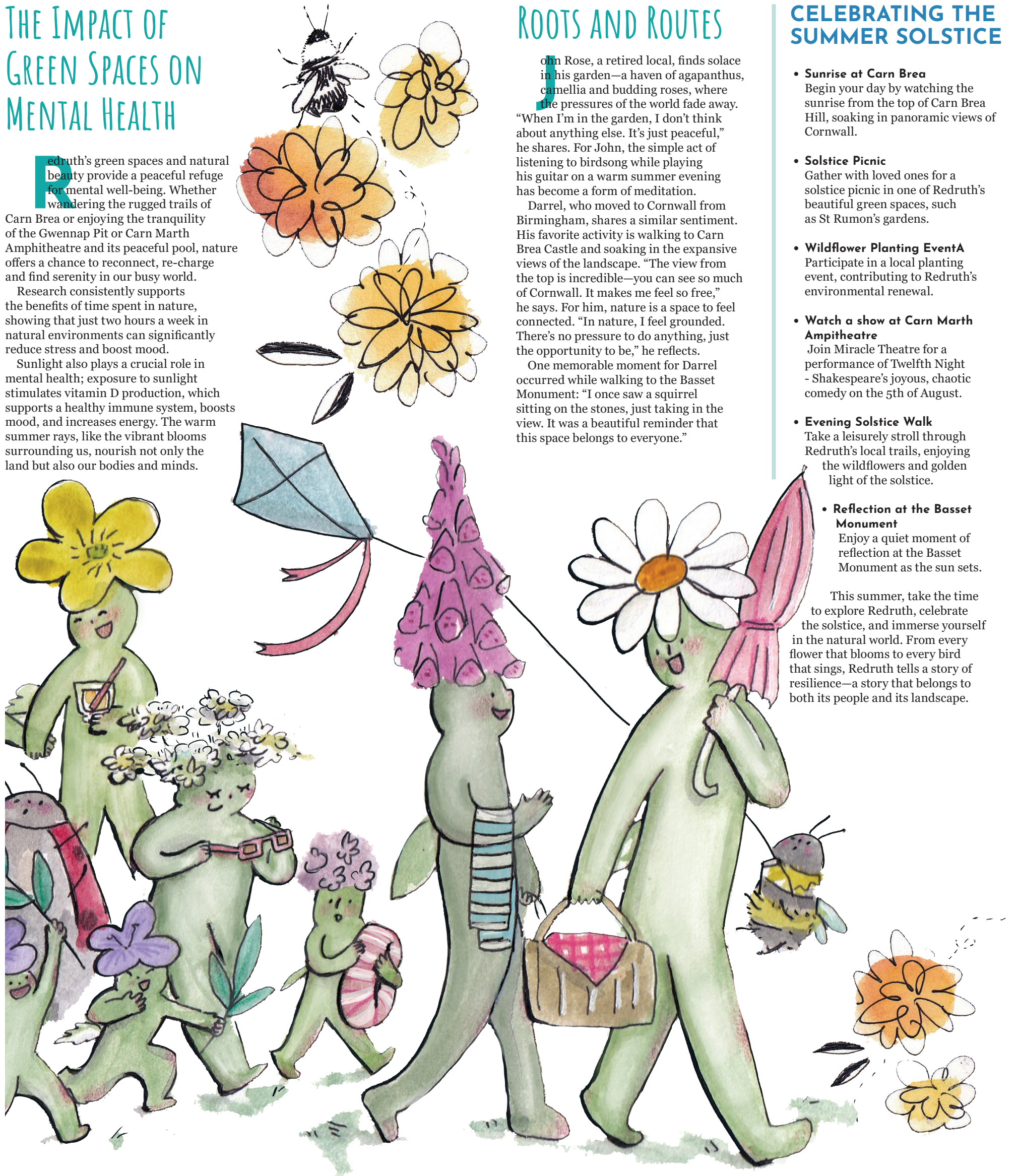
Darrel, who moved to Cornwall from Birmingham, shares a similar sentiment. His favorite activity is walking to Carn Brea Castle and soaking in the expansive views of the landscape. “The view from the top is incredible—you can see so much of Cornwall. It makes me feel so free,” he says. For him, nature is a space to feel connected. “In nature, I feel grounded. There’s no pressure to do anything, just the opportunity to be,” he reflects.

One memorable moment for Darrel occurred while walking to the Basset Monument: “I once saw a squirrel sitting on the stones, just taking in the view. It was a beautiful reminder that this space belongs to everyone.”

## CELEBRATING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

- Sunrise at Carn Brea**  
 Begin your day by watching the sunrise from the top of Carn Brea Hill, soaking in panoramic views of Cornwall.
- Solstice Picnic**  
 Gather with loved ones for a solstice picnic in one of Redruth's beautiful green spaces, such as St Rumon's gardens.
- Wildflower Planting EventA**  
 Participate in a local planting event, contributing to Redruth's environmental renewal.
- Watch a show at Carn Marth Ampitheatre**  
 Join Miracle Theatre for a performance of Twelfth Night - Shakespeare's joyous, chaotic comedy on the 5th of August.
- Evening Solstice Walk**  
 Take a leisurely stroll through Redruth's local trails, enjoying the wildflowers and golden light of the solstice.
- Reflection at the Basset Monument**  
 Enjoy a quiet moment of reflection at the Basset Monument as the sun sets.

This summer, take the time to explore Redruth, celebrate the solstice, and immerse yourself in the natural world. From every flower that blooms to every bird that sings, Redruth tells a story of resilience—a story that belongs to both its people and its landscape.



# POET'S CORNER

Poems by **CHLOE EATHORNE** and illustrations by **SATURDAY SIMMS**

## CARN MARTH

*In a slip state  
against a soft palette of granite  
ancestral foxgloves speckled  
with white clay  
bony petals arch  
punctuated  
by brackets of slate*

*Swaying claws fester  
our clay bodies gesture  
weaving  
amongst the wild grass  
She emerges  
the ancient woman  
porcelain eyes closed  
to midsummers heat*

*Blue bottle flies congregate  
the margh flick them away  
blindfolded, like her  
hands humming  
beneath telephone wires*

*Divide yourselves  
the way land is split / through sound  
her mother tongue an ellipsis  
of pewter hurling balls  
the lullaby of an enclosed body of water  
cradles us  
as the Sunday church bell tolls*

*Scrape back layers of history  
with each vibration  
intricately woven copper shells  
the holy foundation*

*Organic forms tenderly held  
fingertips trace woven rattles  
of willow and wicker  
cyclical seasons  
giving birth  
quarried stones rattle  
through the womb of the earth*

*Finger-painted oracles  
two crows flying east  
a single buttercup  
lapped by waves  
the melody of nature*

*Realigning*

*Reclaimed*

## BIRTHPLACE

*I was birthed from these hills  
bronze bootleg dogs*

*Moonlight thrums  
Filling the troughs*

*Hitching my breath*

*As we pass through the church gates  
the cross he laboriously carved  
adorned with cigarette butts*

*Behind the alley*

*Scrawled next to  
A cacophony of pigeons'*

**You** inherit this  
*Tin copper and arsenic blood*

*You claim its respect  
Metal tongues clang*

**I am**  
*pasty papers crumpled yellow*

*Echoes of boots underground*

*A circle of stones lay in slumber.*

*The sky pregnant  
nestled amongst shrubbery*

*A white dove  
sit together atop the ruins*

*iron oxide suckling  
lapping up the excess at my feet*

*through monoliths, my mother  
milk bottle, Queen Anne's Lace*

*granite, like my father  
in the back of a pub  
and lichen spires*

**Don't look down**

*the velvet cinema  
flock in unison*

*from the bosom of the hill*

*copper coin embossed **agnus***

*grey and loud  
red buds in infancy  
and a Chough*

## NINE MAIDENS

*Our celestial bodies curve  
Into quarterly segments  
Pressed, smoothed,  
Cooed  
A mother's palm  
across the forehead*

*Under the stagnant skies  
We scour for buttercups  
Measuring the intricacies between  
Waxing/Waning*

**If it glows**

*Cupped  
In your blue hands  
She winks at me through the fields*

*Glossy red bodied anemone  
Laughter pools  
From the corners of your mouth,  
Reverberating  
My vertebrae  
A delicious sting of youth*

*Submerged in cow parsley  
Instrumental lullabies  
Of granite and moss smudge  
Together as lichen  
Binds to my breast*

*We stoic sisters in arms  
Sit softly upon this earth  
Cocooned in a Chrysalis  
Fractures of quartz  
These lines we bare*

*The dawn chorus arrives*

*A murmuration of Starlings  
Recalling  
Our prayers*



# The Legends and Stones of Redruth

# ECHOES OF CORNWALL

The land of Cornwall is a tapestry where folklore is intricately woven into the very fabric of its ancient stones and rugged terrain. As spring unfurls its tender green fingers across the land, the familiar silhouette of Carn Brea stands like an ancient guardian, its weathered stones steadfast against the shifting seasons. It is here that the legend of Bolster the Giant takes root. **CHLOE EATHORNE**, illustrations by **SATURDAY SIMMS**

## BOLSTER THE GIANT

**B**olster was a giant of immense size, said to have one foot on St Agnes Beacon and the other on Carn Brea. A notorious ladies' man, despite having a wife, Bolster became infatuated with a beautiful maiden named St Agnes. Uninterested in his advances, she devised a cunning plan to rid herself of the troublesome giant. She tricked him into thinking he could win her love by completing an impossible task.

Eager to impress, Bolster undertook

the challenge. Though he tried with all his might, the task proved too great, and his hopes were dashed. In a fit of rage, Bolster began hurling massive stones across the land, each one a symbol of his frustration and defeat. When he grew old, he lay down and his body turned to stone becoming part of Carn Brea Hill.

To this day, many of the surrounding rocks are named after the giant: the Giant's Coffin, the Giant's Head and Giant's Hand, the Giant's Wheel, and the Giant's Cradle.

In spring and summer, when the Carn comes alive with bracken and gorse, it is said that the wind carries the whispers of Bolster's footsteps, as if the land itself still remembers this tragic tale.



## CARWYNNEN QUOIT

**I**n a quiet field beside the lane that winds from Troon to Carwynnen, Carwynnen Quoit stands as a proud symbol of Cornwall's rich heritage and the enduring spirit of its community. This Neolithic dolmen, affectionately known as the "Giant's Quoit" or "Giant's Frying Pan," is a site of mystery and wonder, drawing visitors to reflect on its ancient history and the preservation efforts that have restored it throughout the years. Each spring, clusters of golden daffodils bloom around the dolmen, vibrant against the granite. This seasonal burst of color not only celebrates the quoit's enduring presence but also mirrors the ongoing care and dedication of the community that continues to protect it.

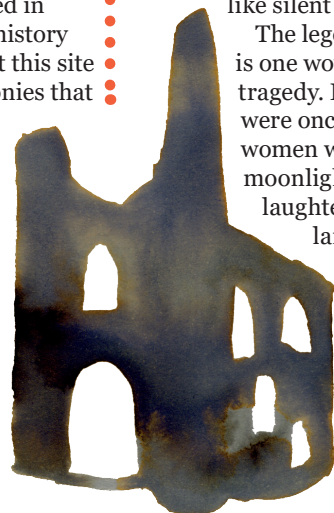
The quoit's journey through time has been shaped by a number of restoration efforts, the first of which took place in the early 19th century.

When the structure collapsed around 1815, Lady Pendarves led the initial restoration, ensuring that the dolmen remained an important landmark. In more recent years, The Sustainable Trust, led by founder the

late Pip Richards, took on the responsibility of restoring it in 2009. With the support of local volunteers, archaeologists, and the community, the quoit was carefully re-erected in 2014, standing once again as a testament to Cornwall's rich past.

Originally built during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, Carwynnen Quoit was likely used as a burial site, where the deceased were laid to rest in a sacred space. The dolmen's structure, consisting of a large capstone and upright stones, forms a portal tomb—a type of burial chamber used in ancient rituals. While much of the history remains unknown, it's believed that this site played an important role in ceremonies that marked the transition from life to death, linking the living with the spiritual world.

Today, Carwynnen Quoit continues to stand as a place of reflection - a space where visitors can find a sense of peace where the land's timeless spirit still speaks to those who take a moment to listen.



## NINE MAIDENS

**N**ot far from Carn Brea, nestled in the mist-cloaked hills of Four Lanes, stands the ancient Nine Maidens stone circle. These Bronze Age stones weathered by centuries, meander between the long grass, rising like silent figures of resilience.

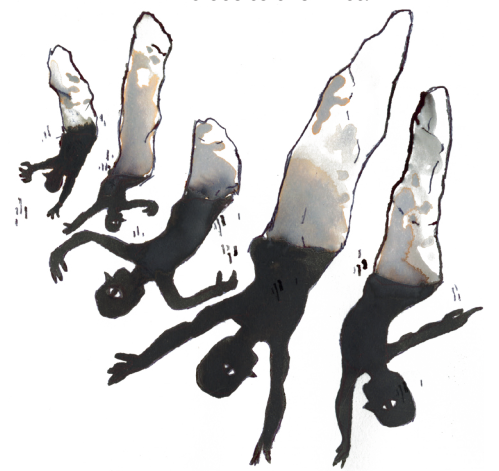
The legend of the Nine Maidens is one woven with magic and tragedy. It is said that the stones were once nine young, beautiful women who danced beneath the moonlight in a joyous circle, their laughter echoing across the land. But their happiness did not go unnoticed.

According to legend, they broke the Sabbath by dancing on a Sunday and were immediately turned to stone as punishment. Their graceful forms were frozen in time, trapped

forever in their eternal dance.

Today, a semicircle of five stones remains, four of which stand tall, while the fifth is embedded in the Cornish hedge as if suspended in the very moment of their transformation.

The Nine Maidens of Four Lanes have become more than just stones; they are a living piece of Cornwall's ancient magic, a testament to the land's ability to hold stories that transcend time, waiting to be rediscovered by those who wander too close to the mist.





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