

## **REPORTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PAST YEAR (2025) WHICH WERE DELIVERED TO THE ALTARNUN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2026.**

**Altarnun Community Lunches 2025.** £6785 was raised and dived between Altarnun Church Hall restoration fund, which is raising funds for a new roof and St Nonnas church. Now established in excess of 40 years, these lunches are very well attended by locals and people from outside of the village. We have a great bunch of volunteers who cook and serve, and it is to them a huge amount of gratitude must be paid. Prices are to be held this year to make sure the community can get together, with something affordable. The winter soup lunches raised £470, which was contributed to the Church Hall restoration fund.

**The Craft and Produce Market.** Takes place on the second Saturday of each month with an array of, on average, 20 different craft and gift stalls all from the parish of Altarnun. These vary and will incorporate seasonal offerings. The stall fees collected are used for the upkeep the church hall.

**Friends of Altarnun School.** FOASA has had another busy year supporting Altarnun Primary School and its pupils. We've been able to involve the wider community through events like the Halloween Trail, Christmas Fair and Raffle, and Breakfast Mornings, alongside in-school events like our sponsored run, bake sales and a Summer Fair alongside Sports Day, all raising funds to benefit the school. We are currently running a lambing bingo, with everyone waiting on tenterhooks each evening to find out which numbered ewe has given birth! This academic year we have already raised over £4000! We've provided a table tennis table and a table football set for playtime, iPads, classroom books, and bookcases to support learning, and we also give the little extras such as the pupils receiving Easter eggs this week. Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, and without their time and commitment none of this would be possible. Looking ahead, we plan to continue supporting the school with resources, activities, and events, and to encourage even more families and locals to get involved in both fundraising and community life.

**Penpont Players.** Over the past year, Penpont Players has continued to provide theatre for our village community. Our annual pantomime went very well, with strong audience numbers and lots of positive feedback. It's always great to see local families and neighbours getting involved, whether on stage, behind the scenes, or just coming along to support the performances.

Last year we were particularly proud to receive an award from NODA, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, recognising our efforts in producing small village entertainment. Looking ahead, we have plans for future shows and fundraising events, including our quiz night, which is coming soon. These events are a fundraising opportunity but are also a great opportunity to just be seen in the community.

We're very grateful to everyone who contributes their time, energy, and support, and we're looking forward to another busy year.

**The Altarnun Village Show.** Will again take place on Sunday 23rd August 2026

Barbara Hassle reported that the 2025 show was a great success.

‘We saw a small but encouraging increase in the number of entries compared with the previous year which is always heartening and suggests that interest in the show continues to grow within the village and surrounding area.

One of the highlights last year was the introduction of the Scarecrow Competition. This proved to be extremely popular both with those who entered and with visitors to the show. The scarecrows added a wonderful sense of fun and creativity around the village and were widely appreciated and we would like to extend our thanks to the Parish Council for allowing us to use the village green for this. Building on that success we are introducing a Flower Pot Person Competition this year. We hope this will be just as imaginative and engaging, and I would particularly like to express our thanks to Avril Wood for kindly allowing us to use her wall to display these exhibits. It will make a lovely feature for everyone to enjoy.

There are also a couple of changes to our judging team this year. Our previous photography and children’s judges, who were a married couple, have decided to retire from their roles, and we thank them very much for the time and commitment they gave to the show. We are delighted to welcome a new photography judge, who has selected some new and interesting classes for this year’s competition, which we hope will encourage even more entries. Of course, all the familiar and popular classes will remain, including our limerick class which has grown in popularity every year and always produces some wonderfully creative entries.

In previous years we have been very fortunate to welcome special guests to open the show, including our local MP and a member of the much-loved group The Fisherman's Friends. We are currently considering who we might invite to perform the opening this year and hope to continue that tradition of welcoming well-known local figures. Overall, preparations are going well, and we are looking forward to another enjoyable community event that brings the village together’

**Altarnun Short Mat Bowling Club.** The Club this year will celebrate its 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with a lunch scheduled for 24 April 2026, when trophies will be presented for the annual club championship and the singles and pairs competitions, and for the Gordon Sandercock Tournament, an all-day knockout event which was played on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The number of regular players has fallen somewhat over the past year, mainly due to health issues, but we are expecting some of these to return and have recently gained a new member. We have initiated a recruitment campaign, starting with a poster on Facebook, and hope to gain some more new members for our friendly and sociable club. In any event our twice-weekly sessions, on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings, always attract enough players to be viable and enjoyable.

**Altarnun Ladies Group.** On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 it was agreed to suspend Altarnun WI. In its place Altarnun Ladies Group was formed with an inaugural get together on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. With no fees, no rules and no single person in charge, the object of the group was to keep in

contact with the former WI members. Our numbers have risen to 32 and is well in excess of the old WI attendance of 14.

Monthly events have included lunches, a visit to Cornwall Museum, a trip on the Launceston Railway and a cinema trip. A member will come up with an idea, and then organise it, which has worked well in practice.

At Easter and Christmas fund raising charity events are held. After the Christmas 2025 event £500 was sent to Cornwall Hospice Care and the Easter 2026 event is expected to raise a good sum of money for Altarnun Christmas Lights and also hopefully help to fund the new village newsletter.

It is planned to take part in Fun on the Green, raising money with home baked cakes to finance one trip out for our members.

Whilst it was a tough and somewhat sad decision to disband the WI it has proven to be a successful and enjoyable year under the new independent group.

**Altarnun Village Hall:** The hall remains well used by local clubs and societies with good facilities and affordable hire rate. The current rate will increase on May 1st from £6.50 to £7.50 to cover both inflation and the significant impact of losing the 4 hour per week booking by the NHS heart rehabilitation clinic that had hired the hall every Wednesday for over 10 years. Bookings are running at about 1100 hours per year well down on the 1400 pre-covid. Changing bank accounts was very time consuming for the Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary when Lloyds closed the hall's community account that had been used since 1993 and offered an alternative with conditions that the AVH management Committee could not meet.

A review of the governing document for the charity concluded that, whilst it needed some revisions after over 30 years, the bureaucracy of updating it far outweighed the benefits that would accrue from the change.

Since May 2025, major repairs that cost over £2000 have been made to the heating system to deal with pipework corrosion. Resolution of a water leak in the gents toilets that will cost approaching £1000 are underway.

The hall remains financially sustainable with adequate reserves to absorb the costs of such remedial work. Fundraising to cover unexpected expenditure will continue in 2026 with raffles and a Quiz Night in Fun Week but major risks centre on replacing the maintenance officer who is standing down this summer and having backups for the Chairman, secretary and treasurer all of whom are on the wrong side of 75.

The hall is well managed adopting best practice processes for health and safety, safeguarding, financial management and administration. The charity has made its reports to the Charity Commission in full and in good time.

The Hall is holding funds for the Christmas Lights and for initiatives to improve the planting in communal spaces subject to an application being made by volunteers to carry out the work required.

**Altarnun Local History Society:** With over 40 members the society is doing well and all 11 meetings have been well attended with members and visitors enjoying a wide range of

speakers as well as the 'Tudor Christmas' social evening in December 2025. The society does need a new secretary as the current arrangement where the chairman and secretary roles have been combined is not satisfactory. Financially subs and session fees are more than enough to allow the society to engage the best speakers from across the southwest and maintain an operating reserve.

**Altarnun Walkers:** Group still meets every Thursday morning for a 4-mile/2-hour walk within 20 miles of Altarnun. Active membership is around 20 with 12+ coming along if the weather is reasonable. Group age profile skewed towards 70+ with 5 new members in the last 12 months and still capacity for more to join the group. There are no charges or membership fees and car sharing helps to minimise costs down.

**Altarnun Christmas Lights:** Following the retirement of John Barker, Paul Wilce has taken on the role of designing the display organising the repair and sourcing of the lights for the annual display. Peter Allen is working with Paul taking care of funding and administration. The lights team now has eight members and funding for the lights needed for Christmas 2026 has been largely secured (APC £100, Tre Pol Pen £200 and additional funding anticipated from Davidstow Creamery and Altarnun Ladies Club), Trenarrett Tree Services will again be making their cherry picker available to put up and take down lights. The biggest risk to the 2026 display is sourcing electricity which has traditionally been provided by the owners of Cosy Cottage next to the Church gate. It is hoped that following the death of Doreen Sparey-Dellacasa, the new owners or tenants will allow the cottage's external power supply to be utilised again. Assuming the power issue is resolved the big switch on will be at 6:30 on Saturday 5th December.

**Tre Pol Pen:** The parish magazine ceased publication after over 20 years with the January 2026 edition. After three years of trying to find a new editor without success it was decided to close the magazine down and allow others to develop a new Parish Newsletter to keep the parish informed of events and provide details of clubs and organisations etc. In March a new newsletter was published by the Church in conjunction with the Coffee Cup at Altarnun and edition 2 was published Thursday 26th March. The newsletter is available from the Coffee Cup and Shop and is free. The magazine donated £200 to the Christmas Lights Funds.

**Altarnun Twinning Association:** The Twinning Association is now mothballed with little interest in either Gueltas or Altarnun for group exchange visits. It has proved impossible for the Gueltas Jumelage to overcome the resistance to visiting the UK caused by the impact of the high cost of French passports which the French have needed have in order to enter the UK since Brexit when the concession of using their government issued ID cards rather than passports was removed. Brittany Ferries remain relatively expensive and with no reliable reciprocal healthcare, medical insurance is also a significant cost. It is hoped that in the future a new team will be formed to strengthen the ties between the two communities. We are still twinned!

**Altarnun FC 2025/2026 Report of our activities between May 2025 to March 2026, as well as future plans involving the football club.**

For the 2025/2026 football season, August 2025 to May 2026, we are playing in the Kernow Stone St Piran East Premier Division. This is a men's football league, made up of teams from East Cornwall.

*Fundraising Activities:*

- Club Fun Day - On Saturday 9th August 2025 we held a fun day. This included a match between a mixture of past and present players, as well as a BBQ and raffle. We saw a great turnout for this event (helped by the weather) which helped us to raise £355 for the club.
- Roy's Bingo Night - Our yearly bingo night hosted by Roy Marshall has been a great way for the club to welcome members of the local community for a fun evening. This was held on Saturday 6th December 2025 at the Altarnun village hall, with it being mainly organised by Roy and his family. Despite the event being during the busy festive season we had over 80 people attending, which was great to see, and resulted in us being able to raise £822. Much appreciation goes to the organisers and people that came to attend.

Unfortunately, we had a break in at our club's ground overnight between Monday 7th - Tuesday 8th July 2025. This resulted in two ride-on mowers, a scarifying rake and pressure washer being stolen from us. A hugely frustrating event that has also impacted many other sports and community establishments across Cornwall and Devon over the past couple of years. Luckily, we had insurance in place to cover us for these losses, but it impacted our preparation of the playing pitch before the start of the season in August. Since the break in we have increased our security measures which includes the installation of solar-powered CCTV.

Our plans for season 2026/2027:

The league season is due to finish on May 2nd, 2026. Once this has been completed, we will have our end of season awards presentation at the Kings Head.

The following season will commence in August 2026, the fixture list will be released in June/July 2026.

*Future Fundraising Activities:*

- Golf Day - We are planning on hosting a golf day on Saturday 6th June at Launceston Golf Club. We are currently planning this event, so more information will be released through posters and our social media soon.
- Roy's Bingo Night - We will be hosting another bingo night in September/October before the Christmas period, with Roy hosting in the Altarnun village hall.

We are always looking at ways to improve the facilities and make the club a more welcoming place for supporters. One challenge we have always had is the absence of mains electrical power, and therefore having to use a generator to power our changing rooms and kitchen facilities. We are actively looking at funding opportunities to link our site to mains electricity. This will allow us to expand our hot food offerings for matches in the future.

As we continue to grow, we are seeking passionate individuals to join our group of players, volunteers and supporters. We pride ourselves on being an open, inclusive club where new voices are always welcome. Members of our current committee members began as supporters but now play a role in our strategic decisions. We believe this is the best way for the club to move forward and remain linked to the local community.

**Chatterbox.** Established over 13 years and currently 15-25 attendees, with an age range of 15-3 to 90! at regular meetings in the village hall. A good opportunity to share information and possible worries and also play chess and scrabble. Refreshment is provided at no charge, but donations are encouraged, please, to cover costs.

**Knit & Natter Group.** Sessions run for 2 hours weekly in the church hall. Skills are shared to include crochet, embroidery, making toys, knitting and sewing garments. Some attend just to chat have a hot drink and a tasty treat. Usually, about a dozen people who pay £2 a session, out of which a contribution is made to the church hall repair fund.

**Fun on the Green 2025.** Raised a total of £833 on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The weather was inclement to say the least, but the organisers and attendees made the best of it. Various stalls, games and activities were set up on Altarnun Village Green. There were no stall charges and the local groups who participated kept the proceeds they raised to promote their own activity.