



**Royal Fowey Yacht Club**

**Winter Talks Programme**

**Autumn/Winter 2025-2026**

**Free to Members and their guests**

*The programme (subject to alteration) begins at 20:00.*

*The Club Restaurant serves a set menu at 18.45.*

*This must be pre-booked T: 01726 833573 (choose Option 1 – Office) or by email: [office@rfyc-fowey.org.uk](mailto:office@rfyc-fowey.org.uk)*

**2025**

**OCTOBER 1st**

**VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

**Captain Jon Rundle**

Jon Rundle, Fowey Harbour Pilot and Dredger Captain will give an insightful talk on the “view from the bridge” of the Harbour Pilot. The talk will cover how the pilot works with a team of highly trained professionals to make the theatre of harbour operations happen seamlessly and safely.

**OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

**A RAINFOREST EXPLORER AND A RAINFOREST RESTORER**

**Robin & Merlin Hanbury- Tenison**

Robin and Merlin Hanbury- Tenison have both spent their careers in rainforests, but of a different kind. Explorer and author Robin has led over 30 expeditions for the RGS, many of them in tropical rainforests such as the Amazon or Borneo. His son, author and veteran Merlin, is working to restore one of the last healthy fragments of Atlantic temperate rainforest on Bodmin Moor. They will discuss their work and adventures and also the similarities and differences of these two vital habitats.

**OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

**AIR AMBULANCE**

**Paul Ford**

Cornwall Air Ambulance provides critical care to the most seriously sick or injured people across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, by air and by road. On average, the crew attend over 1,000 missions per year, approx. 3 per day, and operate 365 days a year, 19 hours a day.

**OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**FOWEY VALLEY CIDERY AND DISTILLERY WITH TASTINGS**

**Sarah Ward**

Fowey Valley Cidery and Distillery started in an orchard in Golant and has now expanded to new premises in Lostwithiel on the banks of the Fowey. Sarah will explain about how cider is fermented and how spirits are distilled. There will also be a tasting of Fowey Valley’s newest products including their Rum, Crème Caramel and very, very new, Single Malt Cornish Whisky!

**OCTOBER 29th**

**OCEAN CONSERVATION TRUST**

**Eden Stevens**

Beneath our waters lies a hidden treasure- vibrant seagrass meadows, brimming full of life! Join Ocean Conservation Trust to explore the wonders of seagrass and discover how their Blue Meadows initiative is protecting and restoring across the Southwest using science, innovation and community-led action.

**NOVEMBER 5th**

**POSTCARDS FROM FOWEY; TRAVELLERS & TOURISTS SINCE THE 16TH CENTURY**

**Alex Lewis**

How did early travellers portray Fowey in their journals? How did the town respond to the arrival of tourism in the nineteenth century? What do postcards tell us about Fowey and the people who wrote them? In her wide ranging and illustrated talk and in her usual lighthearted style, Alex looks at four centuries of Fowey through the eyes of its visitors.

**NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**

**BATS. WHERE THEY LIVE & HOW WE LOOK AFTER THEM**  
**Simon Barnard**

A brief introduction to bats, why they are important and the threats to them, the species we have in the UK and the habitats they use, how and why we survey for them in connection with building works, and what happens if we find bats sharing your house.

**NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>**

**BEAVERS. BRINGING BACK AN ECOSYSTEM ENGINEER**

**Lauren Jasper**

From supporting flood defences to improving biodiversity, the benefits of reintroducing beavers are beyond doubt. Cornwall Wildlife Trust talks about why beaver reintroduction is so important. The benefits beavers bring for ecosystems, as well as experience from learning to live alongside this keystone species once again.

**NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, TAKE ONE!**

**Simon Reay**

Simon Reay is a Cinematographer whose work in film and television spans multiple genres. Simon shares his tales from remote and challenging film locations and the photographic approach he took to Bear Grylls first TV series, Man v's Wild.

**DECEMBER 3rd**

**AI & BEYOND. THE MACHINES ARE COMING – LOOK BUSY!**

**Tim Ringo**

Chat GPT was just the beginning. A wave of intelligent technologies is coming fast – and it’s going to reshape everything. This session explores what’s next and how to stay up to speed in a world that’s about to get a whole lot smarter.

**DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Janet Howard**

Our annual Christmas concert of music and words brought to us by Janet Howard. She will present, with the aid of her Choir and members readings, Carols, and Christmas themed stories and poems, to get us all in the mood for the season...

**2026**

**JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup>**

**EDEN PROJECT-THE FIRST 25 YEARS**

**Andy Jasper**

Andy Jasper reflects on the Eden Project's first 25 years- from its bold beginnings in a disused clay pit to becoming a global beacon for environmental education, biodiversity, and regeneration- and shares insights into the journey, impact, and what the future holds.

**FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup>**

**MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE AND RESPONSE IN THE UK**

**Dan Jarvis**

Join British Divers Marine Life Rescue as they explain their role as the UK's frontline response charity for marine mammals in need of help. From injured seal pups to stranded giant whales, we'll walk through the threats they face, how we can best help them and the conservation measures that all can use to make their environment a safer place.

**FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>**

**POLLINATORS**

**Toby Davies**

Toby is wildlife coordinator at Heligan and is engaged in a variety of projects to promote pollinators. Over 35% of global food crops depend on pollinators, unfortunately they are in steep decline caused by pesticides, intensive farming, hedgerow removal and habitat fragmentation. Discover how, with the help of plants like foxglove, lavender, hawthorn, hazel and grasses, we can contribute to their wellbeing, no matter how small a garden.

**FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BLACK HOLES I HAVE KNOWN**

**Jeremy Lloyd Evens, Astrophysicist**

After a working lifetime of searching for and observing black holes I will describe how we detect monster ones, midi ones and possible tiny ones.

Their weird and wonderfully strange properties will be discussed. Finally, some conjectures that may come true in the future will be given.

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>**

**FROM DANCING HORSES TO DANCING TUNES**

**Aram Gregory**

If you'd asked me back when my sole focus was running an equestrian establishment in Wiltshire with my late wife Jane, an Olympic dressage rider who heralded from Golant, if decades later I'd be releasing music to the world, I'd have said you were nuts! Yet fast forward to Christmas 2024, which saw my first song stream over 1 million on Spotify, and I'd have to concede that the fates have bestowed upon me a new passion to enjoy in my latter years.

**MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>**

**POETRY EVENING**

**Barry Marshall Johnson**

Poetry can be hard to write, hard to read and even harder to read out loud but doing so always makes for an exciting and entertaining RFYC Poetry evening!

**MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>**

**RICHARD COAD (1825-1900)**

**A CORNISH ARCHITECT IN LONDON**

**Paul Holden, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and Plymouth.**

Richard Coad was a Liskeard born architect who worked alongside Sir George Gilbert Scott on some of the most iconic buildings in London and the South West. Yet, he died a broken man after restoring Lanhydrock House, near Bodmin, after the disastrous fire 1881. This talk will follow the rise and fall of Richard Coad, architect, draughtsman and geologist, who remains little known but whose achievements are marveled at by millions of people each year.

**MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>**

**UK OFFSHORE OIL. A TALE OF TRIUMPHS AND DISASTERS.**

**David Bonsall**

Oil reserves have been exploited in the UK since Victorian times, but the amount of oil under the North Sea was thought to be small, even during the initial exploration stages. Once major reserves were unexpectedly found in the late 1960's, massive development occurred, leading to 20 years of major production, followed by a slow decline. North Sea Oil and Gas have seen technical triumphs and major disasters. Where did the money go? An opportunity missed for the UK? And what next for the North Sea?

**MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>**

**NCI; OUR PLACE IN THE SAR/SECURITY WORLD**

**Ray Rigg & Grant**

A brief introduction to the evolving role of the National Coastwatch Institution and its relationship with the Search and Rescue Organisation and other emergency/border security organisations. The talk will also provide an update on the activities and capabilities of Polruan NCI.