

# L'ÉTALE DU NORD STAR OF THE NORTH

*Parish of St John*

ISSUE 40

December 2016

## *Season's Greetings*



Photo: Jersey Heritage



### **Buried Treasure: Le Câtillon II hoard**

Resident of St John, Reg Mead,  
talks about his find with Richard Miles,  
of buried treasure . . . (see page 11)



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## Dear Parishioners

They say time flies when you are having fun, well the last two years have flown past and I certainly have enjoyed serving the Parish. However, it was wearing me down, so I went to the Co-op and said 'I need a break and the only dates I have are between the 21st and 28th October'. The kind travel agent said 'Ah, half term!' The only break available to me was a week in Malta, so I took it.

*Chris Taylor, Connétable*

It was indeed 'Hobson's choice' as the only good thing I can say about the Hotel is there was a bed in my room! As far as getting away from it all, well, on the first morning I came down for breakfast and there was a Jersey couple from St Saviour sat right next to me. On Tuesday evening I decided to go out for dinner as I didn't fancy that evening's choice in the Hotel Restaurant. I found a seafront café with a nice quiet corner all to myself and ordered my meal. And what happened next? You've guessed it, a Jersey family come into the restaurant and who should it be? None other than our illustrious Editor Jo, with husband Nick and their two sons. Can the world get any smaller? That said it turned out to be a most memorable evening and one of the highlights of my holiday.

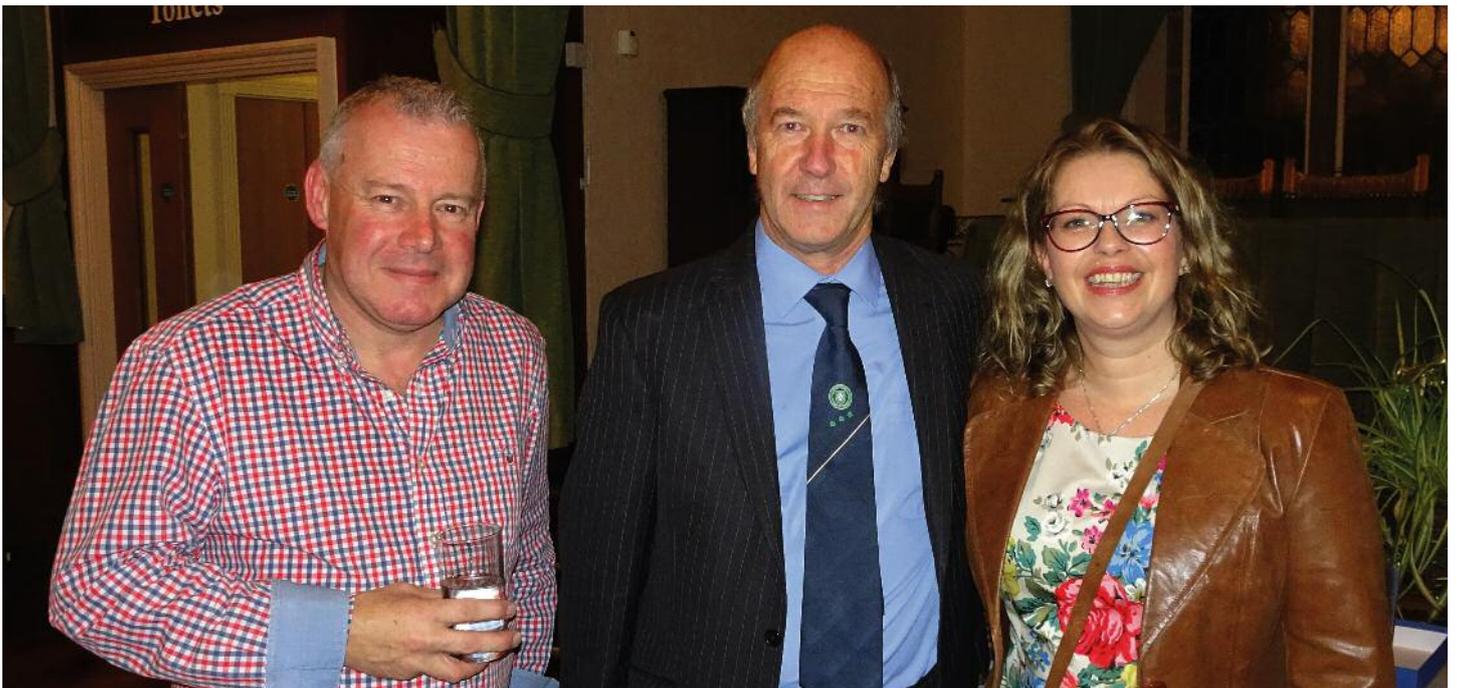
On the 12th October we said good-bye to Andy, our Rector for the past 21 years, and Sarah-Jane Thewlis, with a Vin d'Honneur here at the Parish Hall. On behalf of the Parish I presented them with an engraved silver photo frame. On Sunday Andy had his last Service and I am delighted to say the Church was full with worshippers and well-wishers to wish them both good luck for the future.

The keep fit club which meets every Wednesday were most helpful in planting crocuses in the Churchyard. We have several thousand purple crocuses planted in various locations around the Parish as part of an awareness campaign to rid the world of Polio once and for all. I would like to thank those who came and helped, and I look forward, as I hope everyone does, to seeing the results of our efforts next spring when these beautiful flowers produce a bright display for all to see.

I am looking for volunteers to join our Honorary Police. I am particularly looking for younger parishioners because it is time the next generation 'stepped up-to-the mark'. St John has been very well served in the past and a source of great pride for those who have served. Please contact me anytime for a chat, or if you know someone you believe would benefit the Parish, let me know and I'll have a chat with them!

Finally it's that time of year for reindeer, jolly plump men with long white beards and Christmas Carols. So I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

*Chris Taylor, Connétable*



*Vin d'Honneur for Reverend Andy and his wife Sarah Jane Thewlis*





# A NAVAL TRADITION

## – *but it's not all plain sailing*



*Britannia Royal Naval College*

### History

Situated high on a hill above Dartmouth in Devon, Britannia Royal Naval College has been training Royal Naval Officers on this site since 1905. In fact officer training goes back to 1863, when the old wooden ship, HMS *Britannia* was first moored in the River Dart. The training hulks *Britannia* and *Hindustan* were moored on the river side of a hilly peninsula called Mount Boone. The peninsula was, in the main, owned by the Estate of Sir Walter Raleigh, who had received the property by Royal Grant from Queen Elizabeth I.

Designed by the Architect Sir George Aston Webb, the foundation stone was laid by King Edward VII in March 1902 and the first intrepid cadets entered the college three years later.

The bombing of the college in September 1942 forced a change in training policy and both staff and students were evacuated to Eaton Hall, Cheshire until the end of the war. BRNC reopened in September 1946 and although structurally it remained unchanged, the number and character of its courses was greatly expanded. In a dramatic leap forward, the training of female naval officers was integrated into that of their male counterparts in 1990 – heaven forbid! what was the world coming to?

### One step at a time

Not coming from a services background we were entering new territory when our son Harry expressed more than a passing interest in applying for the Royal Navy and more specifically the Fleet Air Arm as his desire was to fly.

In order to register his application, copious forms had to be completed to kickstart the process. Personal details, medical history, educational attainment all had to be submitted together with a very comprehensive essay-type question paper on why one should be considered for the Navy and what skills and experience could the applicant offer.

An initial interview, followed by psychometric testing, medicals, eye tests and fitness tests ensued and at one stage it seemed like no sooner had one hurdle been overcome, another one presented itself. With flight aptitude tests passed and a gruelling interview with the Admiralty Board survived, Harry's place at BRNC was confirmed – he was to start on 4th January 2016.

### Things to 'iron out' – literally

The kit list comprised everything under the sun, from dry bags to laundry bags, shoe-cleaning kit to wooden coat-hangers, the list went on. Not sure





whether it was a joke at first; the first-time cadets had to present themselves at Totnes Railway Station with not only their kit bags, but an iron and an ironing board. Somehow we couldn't see Flybe accepting such hold luggage. The 4th January arrived and accompanied by his father, Harry set off on his adventure. First port of call on arrival at Exeter was the Tesco Superstore to purchase said iron and board. Later on that same afternoon the 'boy' was dropped off by his father and would not be permitted out of the college for the next seven weeks (except for the five-day expedition on the moors!) Seven weeks later, on our first permitted visit to the College, 'the boy' that had been dropped off had become very much the young 'man'.

### Baptism of Fire

Attempts to communicate with Harry by email in the first couple of weeks were usually greeted with 'can't stop, getting ready for room inspection' or 'I have to iron my uniform for drill tomorrow, no time to Skype'. Two weeks in and the successful passing of 'frantic Friday', which was a culmination of inspections and the like to date, meant that the cadets could use the mess bar and indulge in a well-earned beverage.

Five weeks in and they were treated to five days on Exmoor, sleeping out, getting dunked in water, completing numerous outdoor exercises and being rudely awakened by Marines at 2 am announcing that a night hike was about to take place. February on the moors is no picnic and I am pleased to say that Cadet Lewis came out of it unscathed – this was just the practice, the real thing was in two weeks!



*Royal Naval Officer Harry Lewis and proud parents Kate and Andy*

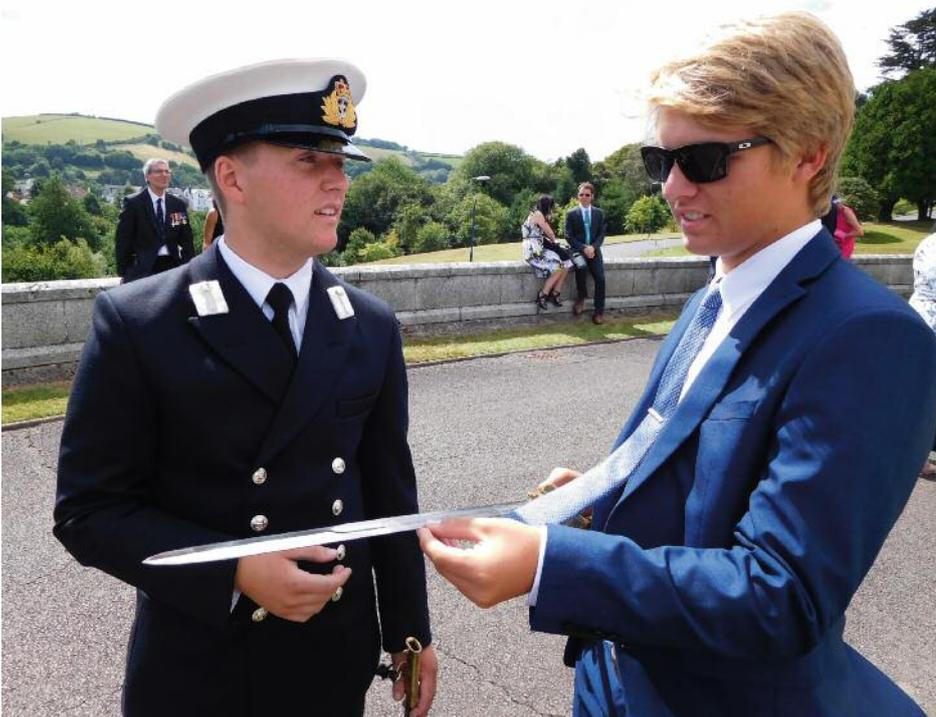
### Family Visiting Weekend

Families were invited to a visiting weekend immediately after the episode on the Moors and to see the College in such splendour was a real treat. Dartmouth was a sea of white naval hats worn by young men who were obviously very proud to wear their formal dress for the first time. Thankfully we had reserved a table for dinner as there was not a restaurant or bar that did not have a huddle of eager parents asking the inevitable question, 'Are you eating properly?' In fact they ate very well and the menu planning is based on the level of activity they are undertaking at the time.

### Passing Out

I never imagined that the passing out ceremony on the 11th August would be so literal. A beautiful sunny day was a bonus for us observers but to the cadets in black woollen suits and hats standing to attention on a sheltered, tarmac parade for the best part of two hours was not for the faint-hearted. I counted seven who succumbed but thankfully all were able to resume their places for the final procession back into the college. The Second Sea Lord presided over the formalities and it was certainly a day never to be forgotten.

The training continues for Midshipman Lewis. At the time of writing, five more weeks of academic work has been completed at Dartmouth and five weeks now lie ahead at Yeovilton for flight grading. There is still a long road ahead and the standards are high, however it is a case of one step at a time and doing one's best. One can't ask for more than that.



*Harry's brother, James, admiring ceremonial sword*

*Kate Lewis*





# LES MATHIONNETTES – ‘Northern Lights’

**Seán O’Regan, Director of Standards and Achievement at the Education Department, talks to Angela Le Sueur**

Seán O’Regan returned to Jersey in 2012, having spent the previous 16 years as Head of an inner city primary school in London.

Seán arrived in Jersey as a baby in 1966 with his parents, Donal and Pat and his brother. His sister was born here. The family moved to St John in 1968 where the children grew up. Seán and his brother Dermot both played football for St John as Seán’s son, Samir, does now. However the three children attended St Mary’s Primary School because mother was a teacher (and later Head Teacher) there.

## The Teaching Gene

Why did the family come to Jersey? Thereby hangs a tale. Seán’s mother’s family hailed from Limerick and in 1908 Seán’s grandmother, then 12 years old, came to Jersey with her sister to board at the FCJ Convent School in David Place. The connection was that one of the FCJ nuns in Jersey hailed from Limerick where the Jersey school had a good reputation. On leaving school in 1914 both sisters went to teacher-training college in England. Seán’s great aunt became a head teacher but his grandmother married, and married women were not allowed to teach in those days.

Grandmother, however, passed on the teaching gene to her daughter Pat who, having heard about ‘exotic’ Jersey in her childhood, came here to teach before leaving to marry and then persuaded her husband, Donal, to move here in 1966.

After St Mary’s Primary School, Seán moved to De La Salle College and then to Pembroke College, Oxford, from 1982-85 to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) in the same year as Boris Johnson. In Seán’s words, ‘PPE is a training ground for public life.’ He knew Angela and Maria Eagle, both MPs; his best friend is now the Chief Economist in the Foreign Office; he lent essays to the recent Foreign Minister of Poland; and the current King of Jordan is in the matriculation photo.

Back in Jersey during the summer vacations Seán worked at playschemes for primary school children. ‘It was great fun – and they paid you!’

His family tried to dissuade him from becoming a teacher. He was the first person in his family to go to university and his father thought he should become a lawyer – but the teaching gene was strong.

During his final year Seán attended seminars entitled ‘Do I want to teach?’ – and he did – so after Oxford he went to Reading to train as a nursery and infant teacher, an unusual choice for a young man but a good one because, ‘If you learn how to teach



*Seán O’Regan*

the youngest it is easier to adapt to older children’. A year’s teaching in Liverpool followed, living in a community of Christian Brothers, then in 1987 Seán was again living in St John and teaching at St Mark’s Primary School, then at the foot of St Saviour’s Hill, now occupied by The Bridge. He was shocked by the levels of poverty he found. Two years at St Mark’s were followed by a year’s travelling after which Seán settled in London where many Jersey and Oxford friends lived. He took a job at the Edith Neville Primary, an inner-city school in Kings Cross. As well as teaching Seán undertook a two-year part-time night school Master’s degree at the Institute of Education where he met a ‘bright young woman’ whom he introduced to his Head who employed her and later she and Seán were married.

## Eventful years

1997 was an eventful year – the Head Teacher left, the Deputy Head died, Seán (aged only 32) was appointed Acting Head, the building was falling





down and an Ofsted Inspection was due in three weeks! The school moved to a disused secondary school for a year while the sinking building was stabilised. In 1998 Seán was officially appointed Head Teacher, a post in which he continued for 16 years.

Edith Neville School was challenging. There were 250 pupils speaking 35 different languages. Only 3% had English as their first language. Over 65% qualified for free school meals. Why? 'London is the first port of call for people in trouble and escaping from war', explains Seán. In 1997 the school was at the bottom of the local league table but under Seán's leadership it rose to the status of 'Outstanding'. In 2002 Seán was named 'Head Teacher of the Year.' He led the school through numerous inspections; worked as an advisory head training heads and deputies; served as president of Camden National Union of Teachers; and was seconded to run Camden's School Improvement Service at a time of great change.

### Back to Jersey

After all this, in 2012, Seán and his wife Nasima came to Jersey with their three children, 'because Jersey is a great place in which to grow up, and raising children in a city feels far less safe than here.' Nasima, the Special Needs Advisor at the Education Department, found it hard to settle at first but now finds London 'too noisy and too fast.' The family lives in St John and Seán drives past his childhood home on the way to work every day.

Seán brings back to Jersey a wealth of experience as well as knowledge of the 'Jersey way' – a very fruitful combination. As Director of Standards and Achievement he is responsible for standards in Jersey's schools and colleges. He also oversees the Jersey curriculum which was adapted from the English model in 2014 to include the history of Jersey and enhance the importance of the French language. He has taken primary school heads to London to visit outstanding schools.

### Four pillars of ambition

In England heads are able to lead more strongly and independently, and that is what Seán wishes to happen here. Education in Jersey has four pillars of ambition:

- Raise standards
- Make the curriculum relevant to Jersey's culture, history and economy.
- Increase family support.
- Give schools greater autonomy, allowing head teachers to make more decisions rather than everything being decided at the centre.

One way of raising reading standards is being achieved by imitating Guernsey's charitable initiative

called Every Child Our Future. So far in Jersey over 200 volunteers have been trained to go into primary schools to assist with reading on a one-to-one basis. Many of these are young employees whose firms release them for this voluntary work. So far a pilot scheme is running in four primary schools.

In order to support families the aim is to work more closely with Health and Social Services, Family Nursing and Home Care and The Bridge, and to have a support worker in every school.

Another ideal is to establish a Children's Centre 'within pram-pushing distance' in each heavily populated area. A pilot scheme is already operating at Samarès.

Jersey is also part of the big world. Last year Seán led a delegation to China and when I met him he was preparing for a visit from a Chinese delegation. The Chinese wish to promote their language and culture and would visit Grainville, Samarès, and Victoria College. Already JCG is twinned with 'Shanghai No 3 Girls' School' – the only all-girls school in the whole of China!

Does Seán have any regrets about moving back to Jersey in this new position? The answer is a definite, 'No! No regrets.' He misses teaching and the interaction with children and parents – but he has plenty to do – and he is back home in St John.

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## MICHAEL JONES, History Teacher at Le Rocquier School recounts a day in the life of A TEACHER

For most teachers, the 'day' begins the night before: tomorrow's lessons to prepare, exercise books to mark, data to be entered. The majority of my colleagues commit four evenings each week, as well as much of Sunday, to these tasks during term time. In addition, many teachers experience high anxiety over their workload at night, and it is commonplace to hear stories from colleagues who wake at 4.00 am and are destined not to resume their sleep because of concern about the day ahead.

I work in the east of the island but have to negotiate town in order to drop my sons at their school. For me, like most St Johnnies, the precise time of departure is critical. Two minutes late leaving the village can add twenty or thirty extra minutes to the overall journey time. It seems that there is no route out of the village that will avoid a school or service bus at this time in the morning, so the journey to St Helier can be slow and frustrating; hardly the best start to the working day!

I arrive at work just before 8:00 am, and there follows half an hour of frenetic activity to prepare for the day ahead. A broken photocopier or a glitch with IT can throw everything into disarray and lead to a chaotic start to the day.

### Consecutive lessons

The teaching day starts at 8.30 am. Most secondary school teachers will have between six and eight 'contacts' (classes) each day, interspersed with about an hour of non-contact time, although this will entail at least one duty per week. Unlike our colleagues in the UK, Jersey teachers often find themselves supervising students during breaks and lunchtimes.

Last year, I taught seventeen different classes, approximately three hundred and fifty students, each week. There is no changeover time between classes, so it is common to find a class of students waiting at the classroom door, before the previous lesson has ended. Teachers are under pressure from management to utilize every minute of a lesson and before the end of each session, books and equipment have to be collected and homework assignments issued.



*Mick in action*

Then, of course, the students' work has to be marked. As such, once begun, the teaching day develops a momentum of its own which is sometimes frenzied.

My teaching day ends just after 3.00 pm, but is often followed by meetings and professional development sessions. I usually leave the school around 4.00 pm and head straight for the gym. Physical exercise helps to exorcise the stresses that have accumulated during

the day, and leaves my head clearer for the post-supper session of lesson preparation and marking. I have usually finished my work by 8.30 pm, but many of my colleagues habitually work much later.

### Demanding but rewarding career

I don't wish to sound like a martyr. Teaching young people can be fulfilling and life-affirming, and most teachers enjoy positive and pleasant relationships with their students. The banter that takes place and the answers offered during class discussions, for example, are often hilarious. Were you aware that Henry VIII's second wife was Amber Lyn or that an emu can run faster than Jesus?

It is a privilege to build a career around a subject that you love, in my case History, and to bump into students you have taught who tell you it was their favourite subject. It is immensely satisfying to nurture and encourage students to achieve the best they can. And, of course, the holidays are very welcome. Teachers are often the butt of jokes about this, but few of the jokers understand the degree of mental and emotional stress that accumulates over a seven or eight week half-term. Without these breaks, both teachers and students would burn out. Even as it is, relations between staff and students, and among staff, get increasingly fraught towards the end of term.

Would I swap my career for something else? Probably not (I'm too old to swap jobs now anyway!). Overall, the 'pros' still outweigh the 'cons', but please don't make those 'long holiday' jokes when I'm around.





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## *St John resident REG MEAD talks to Mary Rouillé about his hobby of metal detecting and his interest in history and archaeology*

Reg became involved in metal detecting as a hobby in 1958, and became hooked. He was always interested in the past, and even at the age of twelve worked along side archaeologists on a dig on the South Downs, pushing a wheelbarrow for them. He says that it is one of those hobbies which enable you to involve not only metal detecting, but archaeology and history. The equipment he initially used was a detector which his brother brought home and had been used after the end of World War II to locate landmines. These types of detector have now been superseded by highly sophisticated equipment.

In 1976 Reg and his family came to Jersey to work on the introduction of colour television in the Island. He brought his metal detector with him using it in parks, gardens, and on the sea shore, but in the late seventies certain parties proposed putting a ban on metal detecting. Reg says 'they were afraid of the technology, believing it would destroy all the archaeological layers, and would be stealing from the land'. Today, it is a different scenario with all parties working together, an example of that being the 'Jersey Hoard'.

The call for a ban was eventually squashed with the proviso that people using metal detectors form a properly organised club to include the taking out of public liability insurance. They named the club 'The Jersey Detecting Society', which became affiliated to the National Council in England. The club began with five members rising to 16 within two years, and are still going strong. Reg has just been voted a trustee of the European Council for Metal Detecting that represents fifteen countries.

### **The Hoard and other Treasures**

Prior to finding the 'Jersey Hoard' many other artefacts have been found, including two Bronze Age Hoards which were donated to the museum, as are the majority of the clubs' finds. It was in 1996 that the Jersey Heritage Trust asked the club if they could



*Gold torque*



*Silver bracelet*



*Celtic coin*

help with any marine objects to display in the maritime museum. The club took them to a shipwreck, the HMS *Havick*, located in St Aubin's Bay. This ship went down in 1805 in a near hurricane, along with many other vessels. The initial clue to this find came about when two members found some cannonballs on the beach, giving them the incentive to delve further.

The spark to finding the Hoard was in the mid 1980s, at a social gathering attended by Reg. There, he met a lady who told him about her uncle, a farmer, who had pulled down a hedgerow to make two small fields into one, and found some coins in the process. Between the mid 1980s and 2012, Reg and a fellow club member Richard Miles, searched these fields piecemeal; not only did they have to work for a living, but the farmer needed the fields for his crops. Another setback against finding the treasure was that they began searching the opposite to the find-site end of the fields and it wasn't until they arrived at the last quarter of the last field that the treasure was found. The first item found was a group of coins, but they filled in the hole and kept it secret until they could involve the Jersey Heritage Trust. Although it took 30 years to find the Hoard, fate had played a large part in the process, as if it had been found in the 1980s there would not have been the technology to deal with it, nor the expertise in the island to utilise it.

This find is the largest of its kind in the world, making it very important to Jersey, with many visitors and museum personnel from other countries arriving in the Island to see the exhibition. Reg has become 'a star' after being interviewed by ITV and BBC in Jersey, and by many overseas broadcasters, appearing on the 'One Show' twice. All this demonstrates that if the ban on metal detecting had been accepted then the 'Hoard' might not have been found.

*The editors of L'Étaile du Nord thank Jersey Heritage and other organisations for the use of the photographs.*





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## AN INVITATION FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



By the time you receive this Magazine, Advent – the run up to Christmas – will be well underway. Do you look forward to Christmas and enjoy all the preparations or do you feel so pressed that you will breathe a sigh of relief when it is all over for another year?

Whichever, please try and find time to join others in celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In recent years the St John's Group of Churches has arranged a candlelit carol Service in the Parish Church but this year an invitation is extended to all parishioners to meet at The United Reformed Church in Sion at 6.00 pm on Sunday the 11th December. The Service will be led by Reverend Dr David Prothero and his wife Sarah; there will be singing by a children's choir and the Caesarean Handbell Ringers will play carols in their distinctive style. After the Service there will be an opportunity to share time together over a cup of tea or coffee and mince pies.

There is parking on either side of the Church and we really do look forward to welcoming you and your family. In the words of the modern carol:

*Come and join the celebration,  
It's a very special day;  
Come and share our jubilation,  
There's a new King born today!*

*Michael Ruskin  
Church Secretary*





# What we have been up to...



*Crêpes at Coco Rico*



We went to Coco Rico one evening and we sampled crêpes – délicieux.

A theme is starting to form around food which we love.



The brownies wanted to know more about our '999' services. We had a visit from PC Bisson and his dogs Jack and Turbo, organised a trip to the Fire station at the airport and paramedic John Sunderland came to teach basic first aid.



To finish off the summer term, we took to the high seas of Jersey with Go-sail.

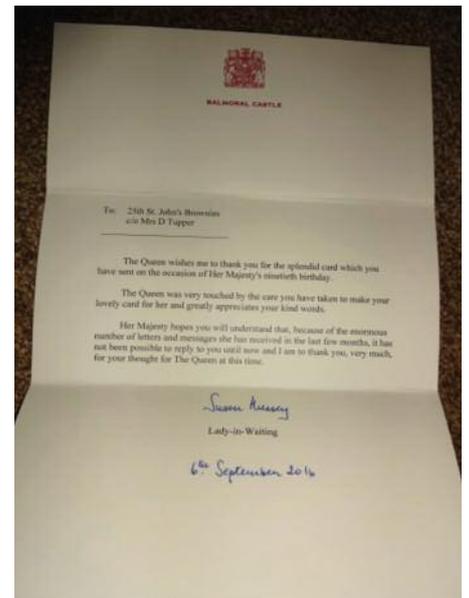


*On the high seas with Go-sail*

We received a very important letter and want to share it with you all.

25th Brownies made a birthday card for HM the Queen and we got a reply.

We made a 'toast' To Her Majesty and wished her many more happy birthdays.



*Important letter from the Queen*

We are finishing off this term with a sleepover at Crabbé.

Why don't you take a look on Girlguiding Jersey Facebook to see what else we have been up to with our Guiding colleagues.

If your daughter or you would like to know more about joining or helping please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested).

*Donna Tupper  
Brownie Leader*



*Learning about Fire Safety at the airport'*





# 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'

*During the last week of September, it was Narnia Week at St John's School, when the whole school created pieces of work based on THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE, by C. S. Lewis. The children from Year 6 explain more.*

Earlier this term, at St John's school, the main focus was on Narnia. Each pupil produced a piece of art-work and a piece of descriptive writing based on the characters from the story *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C. S. Lewis.

Key Stage 1 transformed their Piazza into the magical wardrobe from the book, whilst Key Stage 2 helped artist Rory McCann to create an outstanding mural of the characters from the book.

Rory inspired children aged from 3 to 11 to pick up a paint brush. Year 5 and Year 6 helped Rory add the finishing touches to his wonderful mural and once it was finished, stepped back to admire the newest painting at St John's school.

Each class wrote and drew something different, based on a different character in the book. Nursery made a little wardrobe. Reception were busy creating a collage of Aslan the lion. Year 1 looked at all the main characters in the book, whilst Year 2 focused on writing a descriptive paragraph about Aslan and also drew a picture of him.

Year 3 drew a picture of Mr Tumnus the faun and wrote a short descriptive paragraph about him. Year 4 made a batik (wax painting) of a character of their choice. Year 5 wrote a character description based on Mr Tumnus and created character portraits in the style of the famous artist Picasso, using colours that reflected the character's personality.

Last but not least, Year 6 did by far the best thing, painting backgrounds for a silhouette. But as well as having the best task, they also had the most challenging, writing a character analysis, investigating the thoughts, feelings and motives of one of the characters from the story, by carefully looking into the text. This was different from all other years because they wrote character descriptions, describing what the character looked like, as well as their personality.

Headteacher Mrs de la Haye said that Narnia week had been a magical experience.

'Every pupil in school listened to the story and spent time 'thinking' about the range of characters in the book and planned and wrote character profiles on a chosen personality from the story. These were displayed alongside the amazing artwork designed and created on the different characters.'

She added, 'We loved watching Rory, our Artist in Residence, plan and design our Narnia mural in the Key Stage 2 Piazza. It is brilliant. Narnia Week was truly amazing!'





# robe' at St John's School ...





Overall, Narnia week challenged the entire school and made them think about what they were creating. It challenged everyone in the school, from Year 6 to Reception and every student did their best work. Everyone agreed that Narnia week was a week no-one would forget!

### The Artist in Residence

Rory McCann was an inspiration to the whole school. He transformed the Piazza and made it come to life. Year 6 wanted to find out more about the artist, so they interviewed him about his career.

Rory has been a professional artist for five years but he started art at the age of two – he could draw pictures that looked quite lifelike. You could tell a fish was a fish and a bird was a bird. Rory was inspired to create art by his love of drawing and wildlife. Interestingly, Rory's favourite colour is blue, because it represents outdoors and the sea.

Over the years Rory has made a lot of artwork, ranging from a small detailed elephant in 2005, to a 50 m long, 200 m<sup>2</sup> mural at Jersey College for Girls in 2013.

Rory said that of all the characters in the book, he is most inspired by Aslan because he is kind, caring and loving.

*Artist Rory McCann (above)  
... and assistants (below)*



Year 6 also discovered that Rory has a growth mindset because he told them that there were some skills he still needs to develop. He said, 'I'm not very good at watercolour... yet.'

Asked for three words to describe art, Rory said, 'Creative, fun and wonderful.'

*John Searson*





## Golden Age Club Festive Recipes

### Festive Log

2 empty tins 15 oz as used for baked beans etc. Bake at 198 degrees

#### For cake

4 oz soft margarine  
4 oz caster sugar  
2 large eggs  
½ oz cocoa powder  
Pinch of salt  
1 tablespoon milk

#### For decoration

4 oz butter  
12 oz sifted icing sugar  
1 oz cocoa powder  
A little extra icing and roses to decorate

Brush tins with melted margarine and line the base with grease proof paper. Put margarine, caster sugar, eggs, sifted flour, salt and cocoa with the milk into a bowl. Mix with a wooden spoon. Divide between the two tins and bake on centre shelf at 198 degrees for about 40 minutes. Beat butter until soft and fluffy then gradually beat in icing sugar and cocoa powder.

Cut the end off one cake at an angle and sandwich to edge of other cake. Cut length wise 3 times and sandwich with butter cream. Cover cake completely with butter cream and with a fork give the effect of a log.

### A Cheat's 'Home Made' Mincemeat

1x jar cheap mincemeat  
Glazed Cherries (chopped)  
A small amount of mixed spice  
1x dessert apple (peeled, cored and chopped finely)  
1 x sherry glass of brandy

Mix all together and spoon into pastry cases.



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# JERSEY YOUTH PROJECT

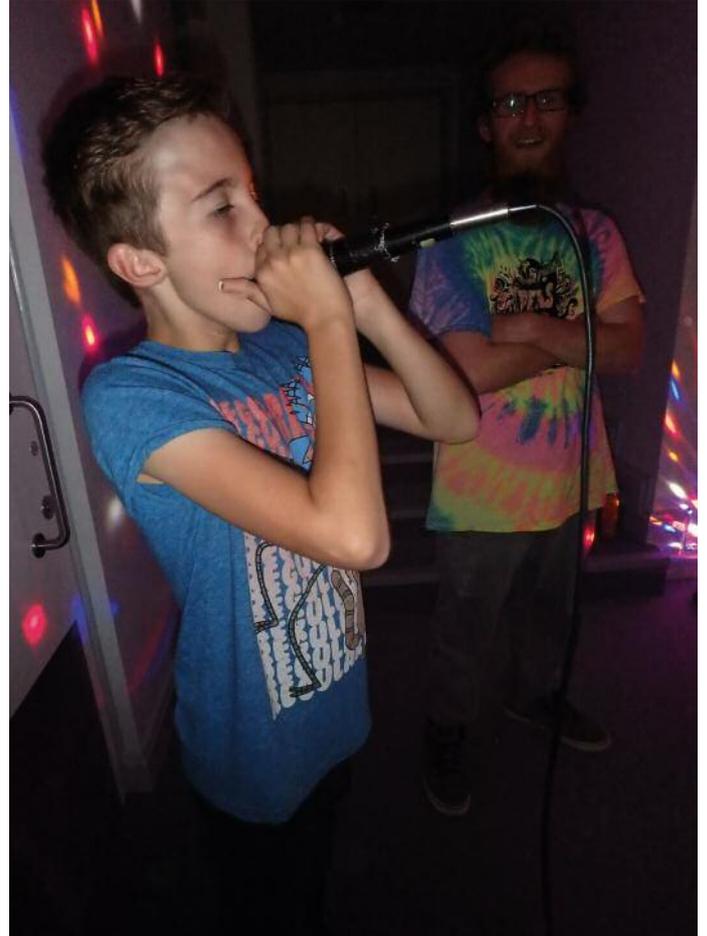


## *The Xmas Factor Talent Show*

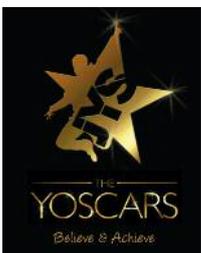
As we go to press the Xmas Factor talent show is in full swing at the club with a distinguished judging panel of industry experts; young people, the youth club chair and the Deputy of St John. In the lead up to the show we have had a variety of experts into the club to instruct and inspire young people with their own talents.



*Singing lessons in full swing*



*Beat boxer Mc Gorf helping Josh perfect his technique*



In November eight members of the St John Youth Project were nominated for awards at the annual island wide Yoscars event. Which is a celebration of the achievements of young people. We are very proud of these young people and very proud to have them as members of the project! Well done all of you! Sam, Chloe, Josh D, Chenise, Grace, Kula, Kenan and Josh M.

### **Crabbé trip**

In October we took a group of 21 young people to Crabbé for the weekend. We spent two nights and three days participating in exciting and challenging activities including Coasteering, night-time navigation, as well as washing, cleaning and cooking. It was a lot of fun and as always everyone came away with experiences to remember.



*Night-time fun*





**In Partnership with the Jersey Archery Society** young people have been given the opportunity to take part in a 10-week introductory course in Archery. Those that are taking part really enjoy the discipline and achievement of the sport, who knows, future Olympians may be made here. Our thanks goes to the Archery Society for giving the Project this fantastic opportunity.



*Coasteering (above, top right and below)*



*Introductory course Archery*



**We are closed for Christmas from the 16th December and reopen on Tuesday 10th January.**





# News from the Pews

## Vin d'Honneur

On Wednesday October 12th, the Constable Mr Chris Taylor, hosted a Vin d'Honneur at the Parish Hall for the departing Rector, the Reverend Andy Thewlis and his wife, Sarah Jane. Andy is taking up a new post as Vicar of All Saints, Burbage and St Nicholas, Chute in the Salisbury Diocese.

A large number of parishioners gathered to wish them well and the Constable presented Reverend Thewlis, who has been Rector of St John for more than 21 years, with a silver photograph frame, engraved with the dates 1995-2016. The Reverend Thewlis thanked all those present and said what an amazing 21 years it had been but as his wife was a Jersey girl they would certainly be back on holiday.

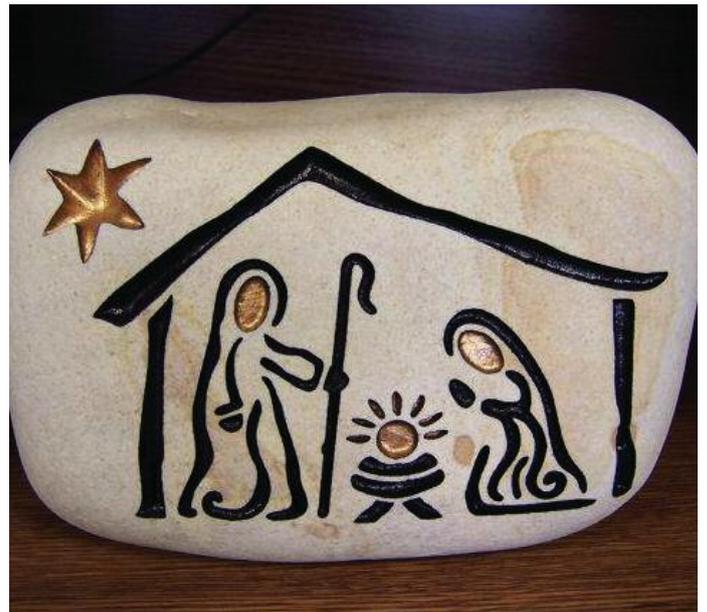
## Last service at St John, October 16th

Some 150 people were present in the church for the Rector's last service. It was full of colour and sound as the church was beautifully decorated with many floral arrangements and Andy and Sarah Jane chose their favourite hymns. The Methodist Superintendent Reverend Graham Halls, led the prayers and Mike Ruskin, an Elder from the URC read the lesson. There has been a very strong relationship between the churches in St John so it was very fitting that they took part. At the end of the service, I (as one of the Churchwardens) presented Reverend Thewlis with a cheque to help towards furnishing the study in his new home in Burbage. The contributions had come from church members and other parishioners. As they were leaving the island the next day, flowers were delivered to their new home at the end of that week.

The congregation then enjoyed tea and cakes made by church members. Andy has been a part of the church and parish for so long that it was with mixed emotions that farewells were said. Everyone wishes them well in this new chapter of their lives.

## Search for a new Rector

In the last few weeks the senior clergy of the Island's Anglican Church and the Churchwardens of St John, have been preparing a church profile and advertisement to go in the Church of England newspapers.



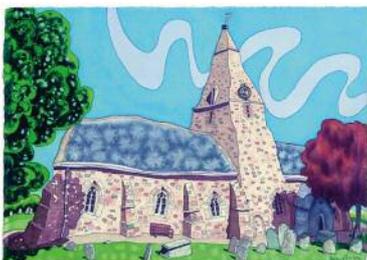
Interviews for the post of Rector will take place in Jersey in mid-December, so hopefully by Christmas we will know who our new Rector is to be and they should be in post by Easter.

During the Interregnum the church is officially in the charge of Canon Geoff Houghton, Rector of Trinity and Vice-Dean of Jersey. Most of our services are being led by the Reverend Robin Dupré, assistant priest at Grouville, with occasional help from the Reverend Christopher Buckley. All our church services are therefore able to continue as normal during this time before a new Rector is in post, for which we are very grateful.

## Interactive Family Service – First Sunday of the month

This is a service at 11 am for all ages, parents, grandparents and children. There will be songs, a Bible story and crafts based around the theme of the service. A 'Bring and Share' light lunch will be enjoyed at the end of the service in our newly refurbished vestry. All are very welcome.

*Rosie Bleasby  
Churchwarden*



## A service for everyone

*8.00am – Book of Common Prayer Communion*

*9.30am – Holy Communion with Traditional Hymns*

*11.00am – Contemporary Worship*





# Bonny's Country Garden

Sion, St. John

**CHRISTMAS TREES**

**from 1st December**

**Spruce or Nordman**

**Pot-grown or cut**



**Choose early and we can keep until required - delivery available**

**Orders taken for wreaths**

**We will be closed from 12:30 on Christmas Eve.  
and open again on Monday 2nd January 2017**

**Alan, Veronica and Staff would like to wish you all a very  
Happy Christmas - and hope to see you all in the new year**

**Telephone 865101**

## ST JOHN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

On Friday the 23rd September our friends from Le Teilleul arrived on their annual visit in the evening by ferry. During Saturday morning we visited the States Chambers kindly organised by our Constable. A history of the island and in particular the set-up of our government was given in French by Lisa Hart, Deputy Greffier. Our visitors were very impressed, and in thirty years of the exchange this was the first time that a visit to the court had been arranged.

Saturday evening some sixty-plus people met at the Ambassadeur Hotel for an evening dinner, on arrival there were welcome drinks for all which was followed by an excellent meal. The welcome speech was given by fifteen year old Tanguy Masters, both in English and French. For which he received a round of applause.

The meal was followed by singing and dancing with music provided by two accordionists, John Vibert and Montford Tadier.

The Sunday was spent *en famille*, all the hosts entertaining their guests in different ways. Unfortunately, the weekend was almost over as we took our friends to the ferry terminal for an evening return to France.

Once again an enjoyable weekend was had by all, with I am sure very fond memories.

*Ron Le Hérissier*

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## SEEDY SUNDAY JERSEY!

Seedy Sunday Jersey is an island-wide community seed swap and more. This annual event, the only one of its kind in the Channel Islands brings together gardeners, seed savers, farmers, herb and wild flower enthusiasts, local gardening and community groups as well as organisations campaigning for sustainable food production and biodiversity.

Like last year, there will be a variety of stalls offering advice and support including Ocean Harvest, Kazz Padidar of Wild Adventures, Jersey Hedgehog Preservation group, the National Vegetable Society, Alive Foods and Grass Roots Organics to name a few.



*Gemma from Alive Foods*



*Glyn Mitchell of Regen Soil showing the benefits of soil microbes*

The last Seedy Sunday was held at Grainville School and was a great success. As well as the seed and plant stalls there was a children's corner, raw organic food, talks and demonstrations, second-hand garden tools and a free book stall. All monies raised on the day were donated to a charitable cause. Last year, we supported two shared homes for people with long-term mental health issues, with help towards revamping the gardens and helping create a therapeutic space for the residents.

Seedy Sunday Jersey loves local and supports the richness and diversity we have on our little

island, while creating a real sense of community, and bringing like-minded people together.

Make a note in your diary not to miss the next event, which will be held on 26th February 2017. The venue will be announced at a later date. You can follow us on Facebook at 'Seedy Sunday Jersey' or contact Fiona on 07797 859191.



*Kazz Padidar of Wild Adventures talking about food foraging*

*Fiona Murphy*





# Youthful Minds

Youthful Minds is a young persons participation group for those interested in making a positive contribution to mental health, facilitated by Mind Jersey. The group has a focus on reducing stigma and discrimination in mental health, especially for young people.

The group has been active now for just over 16 months. In this time, Youthful Minds has achieved many things, including designing and presenting Mental Health workshops and taking part in a Promoting Healthy Young Minds Conference. The most recent work that Youthful minds are taking part in is working with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) and Robin Ward (Under 18s ward at the General Hospital) to help with improving the service for Children and Young people.

## Why have young people joined Youthful Minds?

We all decided to join Youthful Minds for different reasons. Here are what a few Youthful Minds members said on why they wanted to join. Some joined to help other young people, saying they wanted to 'help others in a positive way through reducing stigma of mental health', to 'help young people feel comfortable with finding help', and to have 'the opportunity to not only develop my passion for mental health but to help develop my understanding of it'. Others wanted to help and challenge Jersey's relationship with mental health: they wanted 'to help change Jersey's mental health service for the better and to make sure service users have a positive experience', and 'to make sure young people's voices are heard and to also help shatter the stigma and discrimination associated with mental health in Jersey.'

## Let us get rid of the mental health stigma – whatever your age

As a group, we feel that it is important to talk about mental health as much as possible, because the more you talk about mental health, the more people



April Langlois and Kate Whale making Well-being bags



Kate Whale and Emily Hallam presenting at the Youthful Minds Open Day

start to realise that it's just as important as physical health. It is important for people to understand that everyone has mental health and it should be talked about more because it is always there. People can have good or bad mental health, and this changes depending on your day, mood and what is going on in your life.

April Langlois and Sara Kelly  
On behalf of Youthful Minds

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# ST JOHN'S RECREATION CENTRE

## *All change at the Café*

As many readers may have noticed the Café at the Centre closed at the end of October when Mario and Delores decided to surrender their licence. The directors are delighted that Tom Pieprzowski, our caretaker cleaner for the past five years, has agreed to take over the running of the Café and it will be re-opening, after extensive cleaning and renovation, in November.

Tom was born in Poland and completed five years training, qualifying as a chef before moving to London. In London Tom worked for eight years in almost every single type of food establishment you could possibly imagine; from tiny little cafés through pubs, hotels, brasseries onto fine dining restaurants including well known and nationally acclaimed Michelin Star establishments.

### Opening hours

Tom moved to Jersey in 2010 when he worked as a chef at Longueville Manor. Tom became our caretaker and cleaner in 2011. Along with our caretaker role Tom has established at the Centre the Jersey Warriors Kickboxing Club and more recently has been running the mobile café at Les Platons.

From November the café will be open on weekdays between 9.00 and 17.30 and on weekends between 9.00 and 15.30. These times might vary a bit to meet special circumstances such as home football matches but are a general guide.

During breakfast hours the Café will be providing a good selection of breads (white, brown, rolls, gluten-free option etc) plus our beloved bacon, sausage, eggs (poached, fried, scrambled) etc. Full English breakfast will be available all day. Home cooked porridge, fresh fruit, muffins, waffles, pancakes and home baked cakes all accompanied by a vast selection of freshly ground coffee and tea alongside daily specials will work a treat!

### All the staples and more

LUNCH - Very similar idea serving basic burgers and fish and chips moving onto a little bit more expensive foods like steak sandwiches and 'healthy' options. Tom's menu will vary, depending on the season, from lovely hearty soups and stews by the open fire in the winter, to beautiful, tasty and colourful salads alfresco in the summer!

KIDS – A children's menu will be also available, consisting of mini-pizzas, hot dogs, burgers and fries as well as healthy snacks.

### Let's give Tom our support

Tom has shown us a taster of what we might expect when you visit the Café and it certainly sounds tempting. Tom is super enthusiastic about this opportunity and hopes that he can make the Café a thriving place, meeting the needs of not only the Centre's activity users but also the community at large. If you want to know more give Tom a call 07797 969522.

Usage of the Centre continues at record levels with new enquiries coming in all the time. Sadly, we are not able to accommodate everyone!

As we are now approaching Christmas, I take this opportunity on behalf of all the management at the Centre to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you in the New Year.

*Angus Spencer-Nairn*

## Book Review

At the Star, we thought we would like to know what our parishioners are reading. So, if you have enjoyed a book please send us a review and we will try to include it when space allows.

### 'For All the Light we Cannot See'

*For All the light we Cannot See* is the story of a young orphaned German boy and a blind French girl during World War II. When I read the fly leaf for this book, I thought 'how ridiculous, the writer could never pull off this fantastical tale'. How wrong I was.

The portraits of these two characters on opposing sides take you through the labyrinth of war and show you that, like the title of the book, even at the harshest and bleakest of times, there is light. People prepared to take risks and make sacrifices for others. A large part of the plot is set in St Malo and Channel Islands' readers will particularly appreciate the brilliant descriptions and easily imaginable scenes set in this familiar, heavily bombed neighbouring city.

Yes, the book does have a slight whimsical quality but I found the story believable, thought provoking and moving. Much to my surprise, this Pulitzer 2015 prize winning novel is written by an American Author, ANTHONY DOERR  
Scribner: ISBN, 978-1-4767-4658-6

*Jo Falla*





# DO YOU HAVE OLD IMAGES FROM GOREY REGATTA?



Gorey Regatta is one of the oldest in the world – in fact 2017 will see the 160th anniversary of sailors coming together to race against each other in the Royal Bay of Grouville.

The Gorey Regatta Association has researched the history of Channel Island regattas and the Gorey Regatta was first mentioned in 1857 when it was recorded in both the *Chroniques* and the *Jersey Times* as having taken place on Monday the 31st August and Tuesday the 1st September of that year.

The *Times* reporter concluded: 'According to all accounts, the men were well pleased with the Regatta, and grateful for the trouble its promoters had taken, and which was justified by loudly cheering the committee at the conclusion of the sports.'

'As a first trial, the Regatta at Gorey was successful – the want of a breeze was the only drawback to all going off on the first day most satisfactorily. It was a good idea of the committee to provide other amusements besides racing; they appeared to be appreciated by the public, who on the whole were undoubtedly pleased with the day's holiday.'

One hundred and sixty years later the event, which in 2017 will take place on the 1st and 2nd July, attracts sailors of all ages from St Helier, St Catherine and Carteret as well as Gorey and features races for a wide variety of craft from racing and cruising yachts to dayboats and dinghies.

The regatta is sponsored by Logicalis, the largest IT services company in the Channel Islands, who have also kindly agreed to sponsor a publication celebrating the forthcoming 160th anniversary.

The association would like to include as many images as possible from past regattas, especially those held before the Second World War, and are appealing to parishioners to let them know by the end of February if they have any old photographs, programmes or particular memories linked to Gorey Regatta that they would like to make available for possible inclusion in the publication.

The GRA contact is Philip Jeune and he can be reached on 857309 or by email at [philipjeune@gmail.com](mailto:philipjeune@gmail.com).





# L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

The magazine is published for the Parish of St John by the Editorial team:  
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Email: nijofalla@gmail.com

We do not necessarily hold the views that are expressed in the articles

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Assistant editor – Roger Long  
Advertising manager (Acting) – Richard Dupré  
Treasurer – Terry Le Sueur  
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Editorial Committee members – Rosie Bleasby, Angela Le Sueur, Mary Rouillé,

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Full page – £175      Flyer, inserting only – £50  
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## WEBSITE

Star of the North website:  
[www.starofthenorth.org.je](http://www.starofthenorth.org.je)  
Kindly sponsored by C.I. Web Solutions.  
The latest edition will be available on line as soon as it is published.  
Archive editions will also be available.

Anyone who lives outside the Parish and wishes to receive 'L'Étaile du Nord' is invited to take out a year's subscription (3 issues) for £6. Please fill in this form:

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I enclose £6 cash/cheque made out to: 'Star of the North'.  
Please send to: The Editor, c/o East Wing, Les Issues,  
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### PARISH HALL

Tel 861999 Fax 864553 E-mail: [posj@gov.je](mailto:posj@gov.je)  
Website: [www.parish.gov.je/st\\_john/](http://www.parish.gov.je/st_john/)

### PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Friday  
9.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 4.00pm  
Wednesday: 9.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 7.00pm  
CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY

If you would like your event or an article to appear on the website please email us on [posj@gov.je](mailto:posj@gov.je)



# ST JOHN'S PARISH CONTACTS

**Archery:** Martin Pomroy – 855479  
**Bell Ringing:** Justin Read – 888484  
**Bingo:** Muriel Poisson – 863184  
**Bonne Nuit Boat Owners:** Linda Carter – 864828  
**Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival:** Neil Cotillard – 07797 797834  
**Brownies:** Donna Tupper – 865728  
**Carpet Bowls:** Shirley Caurel – 863825  
**Caesarean Handbell Ringers:** Diane Nelson – 481898  
**Constable:** Christopher Taylor – 864274  
**Deputy:** Tracey Vallois – 867741  
**Football Club:** Nigel Perrée – 865113  
**Friends of Bonne Nuit:** Gary Romeril – 861972  
**Golden Age Club:** Wendy Rondel – 863667  
**Honorary Police:** – 866560  
**Kickboxing:** Tom – 07797 969522  
**Les Frères Mother Toddler and Baby Group:**  
 Claire Kybett – 07700 702661  
**Parish Hall:** – 861999  
**Rector:** Appointment soon  
**School:** – 861692  
**Shooting Club:** John Renouf – 861908  
**Skateboard Association:** John Fosse – 861688  
**Star of the North (Editor):** Jo Falla – 861611  
**Tennis:** Tina Spencer-Nairn – 861716  
**Twining Association:** Ron Le Hérisssier – 862010  
**Women's Institute:** Karen Cotillard – 863296  
**United Reformed Church:** Secretary Michael Ruskin – 482366  
**Youth & Community Trust:** Vacant  
**Youth Project:** Rosemary Dupré – 866880  
**Youth Worker:** Bill Moore – 07797 819958

## Parish of St John Christmas and New Year refuse collection dates for Christmas 2016

### Refuse – collected as normal

Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th, Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th  
December

### Commercial Refuse – collected as normal

Friday 23rd and Friday 30th December

### Commercial Glass – collected as normal

Tuesday 20th and Tuesday 27th December

## Glass and Recycling Collection for 2017

January.....5th and 6th	July .....6th and 7th
February .....2nd and 3rd	August.....3rd and 4th
March.....2nd and 3rd	September .....7th and 8th
April .....6th and 7th	October .....5th and 6th
May .....4th and 5th	November .....2nd and 3rd
June.....1st and 2nd	December .....7th and 8th

Please put out all refuse, recycling and glass  
out before 6am please

# PARISH DIARY

## December 2016 to April 2017

### DECEMBER

Sun 11th	6.00pm	St John's Group of Churches Carols by Candle Light at the URC
Tues 13th	7.30pm	WI meeting in the Parish Hall
Thurs 15th		Last day of school term

### JANUARY

Thurs 5th		Spring term begins
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet at the Parish Hall
Tues 31st	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall

### FEBRUARY

Thurs 16th		Last day of school half-term
Wed 22nd	2.30pm	Golden Age meet at the Parish Hall
Mon 27th		Back to school
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall

### MARCH

Wed 1st	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion at the Parish Church
Sat 11th	12–2pm	Lent Lunch in the Parish Hall
Sat 18th	12–2pm	Lent Lunch at the URC
Sat 25th	12–2pm	Lent Lunch in the Parish Hall
Sun 26th	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Celebration at the Parish Hall
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 29th	12.00pm	Golden Age Club lunch. Depart from the Parish Hall.
Fri 31st		Last day of school term

### APRIL

Sat 1st	12–2pm	Lent Lunch at the URC
Tues 18th		Summer term begins
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 26th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet at the Parish Hall

## Save Our Star!

Our magazine needs a new Editor to  
take over from Jo Falla in the summer  
of 2017.

We would be interested in hearing from  
anyone who would like to get involved in  
putting together the publication.

Please contact Jo Falla

Email: nijofalla@gmail.com Tel: 861611





# St John's Inn

Telephone 864690



The new conservatory



Comfortable lounge

**George and Staff wish all their customers the Seasons Greetings**

**Christmas opening hours** - Christmas Eve - normal hours restaurant will be open  
Christmas Day 11am to 1pm & Boxing Day 11am to 5pm (bar only)

**Christmas menu @ £22.50 per person - available from 13th December**

**Restaurant normal opening hours:- Tuesday to Saturday from 12 to 2:30pm & 6 to 8:45pm - Sunday 12 to 4pm**

**We are normally closed on Mondays (but open on Bank Holidays) call us now on 864690 to book a table.**



Rue De La Mare Ballam March 2013

Richard Dupré

