

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD ★ STAR OF THE NORTH

Parish of St John



ISSUE 41

April 2017



ST JOHN'S TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Myrtle and Ron with gifts presented by the Twinning Association in company of Chris Taylor (see page 4)

Photos: Richard Dupré



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Dear Parishioners

Usually I dread writing the Constable's article for the Parish Magazine, as my mind goes blank. This time however I have several things to write about.

At the end of January we said farewell to Nick Lane, one of our administrators here at the Parish Hall. Nick has served the Parish for almost five years and has been responsible mostly for Firearms Certificates and Driving Licences. Nick will, however, continue as a Roads Inspector so he will still be around. In his place I welcome Sandra Coutanche who started work on the 1st of February. Her smiles and bubbly enthusiasm is already making a good impression with Parishioners.

While we get on with parish business, the crocuses we planted last autumn to promote "End Polio Now" are coming out in full bloom. The Church entrance has crocuses either side of the path, and should have many more behind the east wall, but a hungry squirrel has dug them up and eaten them! A wise parishioner told me to leave a bucket full next year and hopefully the squirrel will bury them and save us planting them. There are more crocuses at the flowerbed at the east end of Route de Mont Mado and around Maison le Vesconte.

The Parish has also planted six elm trees resistant to Dutch elm disease, kindly donated by the JEC and organised by the National Trust for Jersey. The first tree is planted in the New Cemetery to replace the diseased oak that was taken down earlier this year, the second is behind Maison le Vesconte, the third is on the east side of the Recreation Centre, the fourth is on the north bank of the allotments, the fifth is at the far end of the Rectory lawn where there is plenty of space, and the last one is opposite the School by the "pumping station". I chose open spaces for the trees in the hope that they may grow into large specimen trees in the future.



Constable Chris Taylor and JEC's Safety and Environment Manager André de St George

Blooming high standards in St John!

Last year we entered the Parish Hall in bloom Competition and won! So this year we are being a little more adventurous and have entered the Village in Bloom Competition. This year they will be judging the Parish Hall, the Churchyard, the precinct and then through Ville des Chênes to the allotments and finally across the road to Maison le Vesconte. James Boney the Parish gardener and Sue our Parish Secretary are very keen to win and are happy to talk to any Parishioner who would like to help. I must confess I am excited at the prospect of the Parish looking its finest this summer. Anyone who would like to be involved please contact the Parish Hall.

Following last year's departure of Andy Thewlis our Rector, I am pleased

to welcome our new Rector, Rev Beverley Sproats. She is very keen and enthusiastic and looking forward to joining us in the summer, when I'm sure she will receive a warm St Jeannais welcome.

Choir! I would love to create a Parish Choir. Singing is vitally important especially for the elderly as it helps breathing, at least, that is what I was told by Hospice as they have set up a choir which is now over-subscribed. I am wanting to hear from anyone who would like to join whether you can sing or not. I would also like to hear from any musicians who might like to accompany the choir. Please get in touch, 861999 or posj@gov.je

Finally I am making a plea for Honorary Police Officers. The Parish is short of Officers which puts a greater strain on those who are serving. I know everybody is busy these days but this is an opportunity to not only serve your Parish, but to put a little back into the Community you belong to. I would welcome any ladies or gentlemen of all ages from 21 to 70.

*Chris Taylor
Connétable*





ST JOHN'S TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Visit to the States Chamber

Dear Parishioners,

As you may recollect from the last edition, St John Twinning Association welcomed their friends from Le Teilleul (Normandy) over the weekend of the 24th, 25th and 26th September 2016. It was on this occasion, that thanks to our Constable Chris Taylor who organised it, that the Deputy States Greffier, Lisa Hart, made a lively and interesting guided tour (all in French) of both the States Chambers and the Royal Court. It was also refreshing to have a young man, Tanguy Billet-Masters, opening the evening at the Hotel Ambassador with a speech of welcome (both in French and English). This speech was to encourage the Twinning to carry on for many years to come. This, we hope, will be the start of young blood coming to our Association and his message was to



Tanguy Billet-Masters opening the welcome speech

Welcome speech as delivered by Tanguy Billet-Masters at the Hotel Ambassador

Bienvenue à tous pour le trente et unième jumelage entre Le Teilleul et Saint-Jean.

Comme toujours, notre Connetable Monsieur Chris Taylor est avec nous ce soir. Nous tenons à le remercier pour son continuel soutien que ce soit par son temps et financement du jumelage, comme tous les précédents connetables.

Nous remercions également Madame Le Maire de Le Teilleul, Madame Kunkel, pour son soutien envers le jumelage et souhaitons adresser nos sincères amitiés à Madame Le Maire et sa famille.

Tout d'abord, pour présenter les deux paroisses, nous allons, au nom de la paroisse de Saint-Jean, faire un resume de l'histoire entre Le Teilleul et Saint-Jean.

Cela a commencé lorsque deux hommes, M. John Le Sueur et Monsieur Bizet, qui étaient des amis, ont parlé de réunir leurs communautés. En 1985, leur mission était achevée mais malheureusement Monsieur Bizet était décédé avant cette époque, bien que le fils de Monsieur Bizet, Jean Bizet, était alors Maire de Le Teilleul.

Pendant ce temps, John Le Sueur avait demandé à Daphné Hinault de devenir la Secrétaire du jumelage. Il avait dit à Daphné Hinault : « vous êtes la personne idéale pour gérer le jumelage, je vous laisse carte blanche ».

De ce fait, Daphné Hinault devient la première Secrétaire du jumelage durant les 20 années suivantes. Cette mission a été ensuite transmise à Mirtyl Malzard qui est notre secrétaire jusqu'à nos jours !

Avec ce jumelage, beaucoup d'entre nous ont noué de longues et fructueuses amitiés, et nous souhaitons tous que cela continue.

Il est important d'encourager, de persuader et garder espoir d'amener de nouvelles familles au sein de nos deux sociétés.

Pour cela, il nous faut aller de l'avant et se dire que demain est un jour nouveau pour continuer ces amitiés présentes et futures. Il est essentiel de garder notre passé et de re-faire l'histoire pour les 30 prochaines années et meme plus !...

Comme fait historique, St Jean et Ste Marie sont les deux paroisses de Jersey qui sont



jumelées le plus longtemps avec la France et cela depuis 1985 !

Nous vous remercions beaucoup pour votre attention. Et finalement nous tenons aussi à saluer tous les membres des Comités de Jumelage, Français et Jersiais.

Nous vous souhaitons un très bon weekend et un BON APPETIT !

Welcome, everyone, to the 31st Twinning reunion of Le Teilleul and St John.

As usual, our Connétable, Chris Taylor, is with us tonight. We should like to thank him for his continued support of the Twinning, both financially and in the time he gives, as did his predecessors.

We also wish to thank the Mayor of Le Teilleul, Madame Kunkel, for her support of the Twinning. We send our kind regards to Madame Le Maire and her family.

I should like to begin by summarising the part played by St John in the history of the Twinning. It all began when two men, John Le Sueur and Monsieur Bizet, who were friends, talked about the possibility of their communities coming together. By 1985 their task had been achieved, but unfortunately by then Monsieur Bizet had already passed away, although his son, Jean Bizet, was then the mayor of Le Teilleul.

Meanwhile, John Le Sueur had asked Daphne Hinault to become the secretary. 'You are the ideal person to manage the Twinning,' he said. 'I will leave it in your hands.' So Daphne became the first Secretary of the Twinning, serving for 20 years. Myrtle Malzard then took over and is still our secretary today.

Through this Twinning many of us have enjoyed long and fruitful friendships and we all wish that our Twinning will continue. It is important to encourage and persuade new families from both communities to support the Twinning and to keep hoping that this will happen.

We must look to the future, telling ourselves that tomorrow is another day for continuing these friendships and making new ones. We must cherish our past and make more history during the next 30 years – and more!

It is a fact that St John and St Mary are the two Jersey parishes that have been twinned the longest with French towns – since 1985!

Thank you very much for listening. Finally, we would also like to greet all the members of the Twining committees, French and Jèrriais.

Have a great weekend and enjoy your meal. BON APPETIT!

welcome more families among the Association in both towns. Chris Taylor received on the same evening the milk churn from Le Teilleul for the long-term friendship between the two towns.



Chris Taylor receiving the milk churn from the representative of Le Teilleul Mme Danièle Danjou on behalf of the Maire Mme Véronique Kunkel

During an AGM held on the 2nd of December 2016, it was then announced that our Chairman Ron Le Herissier and our Secretary/Treasurer Myrtle Malzard had decided to retire from their offices. This was then followed by the election of the new officers, being the President Chris Taylor (Connétable), the Chairman, Stephen Masters, and the Secretary/Treasurer Irène Billet-Masters. The committee members also elected during the AGM were Michel Larose, Sonny Le Maistre and Keith de la Haye.

On Monday 20th February 2017 in the evening, a presentation took place at the Parish hall in honour of Ron Le Herissier and Myrtle Malzard. Ron and Myrtle were presented with their gifts to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Twinning for almost 12 years.

Our next Twinning week-end is planned to take place in Le Teilleul on the 9th, 10th and 11th of June 2017.

We are always looking for new host families so anyone interested please contact either Stephen Masters or Irène Billet-Masters on 862880.

*Stephen Masters
Chairman*



LES MATHIONNETTES – ‘Northern Lights’

Alasdair Crosby, writer and editor, talks to Angela Le Sueur

‘I’ll be writing forever,’ says Alasdair Crosby who describes himself as a ‘professional scribbler’, an occupation which allows him to combine many interests including history, agriculture, culture and countryside as can be seen from the index of the latest edition of the magazine *Rural* of which he is the owner-editor.

Alasdair’s links with Jersey began in 1911 when his father was born here. Father’s parents had been living in Dinard in an English colony ‘with more class than money’ as the cost of living in France was low. At that time, any male child born in France was liable to French military service, so Alasdair’s grandparents moved to Jersey in case of a male birth. His parents moved back to England in 1914 and it was not until 1966 that the family returned and Alasdair attended Victoria College.

On retirement, Alasdair’s father, a career army officer, started a wine company so on leaving school Alasdair spent the years 1979–1986 in the Rhine valley studying wine growing. He remembers chatting in a bar to a former German soldier who remarked that Alasdair was the first Englishman he had tried to talk to rather than tried to shoot!

Home to Jersey

There followed several years in England until 1991 when Alasdair returned to Jersey to care for his father who had Parkinson’s disease, and ‘Jersey felt like home’. For the next 14 years Alasdair worked at the Jersey Evening Post. He describes his time there as ‘an excellent education in how Jersey works’. He greatly enjoyed interviewing people who played a part in Jersey life, as well as important politicians visiting from the UK.

Alasdair, who has ‘always enjoyed listening to people’, describes a journalist as ‘the medium through which people tell their story’ – though some journalists forget this and make themselves the focus instead. His aim is ‘to discover people’s characters and what motivates them,’ rather than to create sensational headlines – so, he says, he wouldn’t have lasted ten minutes in Fleet Street!

After the JEP, Alasdair spent three years with *Jersey Life* before starting *Rural – Jersey Country Life Magazine* – which aims to strike a balance between countryside, community and cultural topics. He finds it easy to get copy as publicity is wanted and there is so much going on in Jersey. There is a growth of free magazines here financed by adverts, and although people need to be persuaded at first, they soon realise that it pays to advertise.

Editing *Rural* is not a 9–5 job – but Alasdair enjoys being out and about in Jersey, interviewing



Alasdair Crosby

and interpreting people and issues, as well as working with photographers and graphic designers. Such variety means that he doesn’t miss working at the JEP – and he prefers to be self-employed than be ‘part of a corporate antheap.’

And what of the future of ‘real’ publications in this age of the Internet? ‘Books won’t die,’ says Alasdair, ‘just as vinyl records have returned.’ He believes that the Kindle will remain for cheap novels but serious, specialist and illustrated books will survive in printed form.

As for social media, Alasdair can’t stand it. In this post truth age he considers it important that the established media continues in order to negate social media’s ‘alternative facts’. He feels that horizons are becoming limited with people preferring to stay at home accessing news they already happen to have in their minds, rather than talking to each other face to face. Computers, however, have their place and writing and editing is much easier now than in the old days of the manual typewriter.

Many interests

Alasdair has also written two books: *Titanic*, *The Channel Islands Connections* and *A Community in*



Transition, The Catholic Church in Jersey in Modern Times. Recently the Liberation Brewery has sponsored him to write a book about drinking in Jersey, from ancient Celtic mead until the present day. He also hopes to write about archaeology, pre-Reformation history and the future of local food production.

The future of food production and farming has interested him since his years at viticultural college in Germany where he lived in small villages and learned to make wine. He became aware of the 'politics of wine' in Germany when small vineyards were being bought up by large companies, resulting in the traditional way of life being destroyed. 'Farming should be much more than a tool for trying to make money,' he says. He is planning a book on the future of farming, exploring how small communities might keep their special distinctiveness in an age when everything, everywhere, is becoming much the same.

Needless to say Alasdair is never bored and always busy. He tries not to work at weekends unless deadlines loom – but always fails – and enjoys time with his wife, Sara, and 12-year-old son, Ned. When Alasdair is at his computer, Jester, the cocker spaniel, sleeps at his feet, acting as an alternative clock when walk-time comes round.

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Moto-x Returns

Moto-x returned to Sorel Point at the end of February with a Practice event, whilst racing started in March. Organised by the Jersey Motor Cycle and Light Car Club, Moto-x attracts youngsters from the age of 6 years to adults and the ever popular Veteran Class.

This year, the PA system will operate on only two events, so that noise for the residents is reduced. The celebrated two-day event is on 7th/8th October 2017 and attracts top riders from UK, Guernsey and especially from France. In the past we have seen many Brittany Champions, but also three-time World Champion, Mickael Pichon, has attended the event on a couple of occasions. They always enjoy the demanding North Coast track, especially with its breathtaking views.

The Club are always grateful to the residents and Parish of St John for their support over a good number of years.



For anyone interested in taking up this sport, then please contact the General Secretary by email: secretary@jerseymotorsport.com

Carol le Vieillez
General Secretary

JMC & LCC PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2017

HILL CLIMB – BOULEY BAY

EM 17th April (c.d. 26th March)

Lib 9th May (c.d. 17th April)

National 12th July (c.d. 1st June)

BH 28th Aug (c.d. 6th Aug)

SPRINT – FIVE MILE ROAD

1st April (c.d. 18th March)

1st July (c.d. 17th June)

23rd Sept (c.d. 9th Sept)

30th Dec (c.d. 9th Dec)

SAND RACE – ST OUEN

15th April at 1430 (practice)

8th July at 1200 (c.d. 24th June)

5th Aug at 1045 (c.d. 22nd July)

**8th July is cars only

SAND RACE – MILLBROOK

13th May at 1345 (c.d. 15th April)

10th June at 1300 (c.d. 27th May)

24th June at 1230 (c.d. 10th June)

19th Aug at 1000 (c.d. 5th Aug)

**10th June is bikes only

SAND RACE – WEST PARK

27th May at 1330 (c.d. 13th May)

22nd July at 1115 (c.d. 8th July)

9th Sep at 1430 (c.d. 19th Aug)

GRASSTRACK/AUTOCROSS

30th September (c.d. 16th Sept)

21st October (c.d. 7th Oct)

SPECIAL STAGE RALLIES

Spring Rally 22nd April

Daffodil Rally 29th May

L'Étacq Attack 17th June

TRIALS

15th Jan 24th Sept

29th Jan 15th Oct

12th Feb 22nd Oct

26th Feb 11th/12th Nov

12th Mar 26th Nov

26th Mar (All day) 10th Dec

MOTO-X – SOREL POINT

19th March (c.d. 5th March)

2nd April (c.d. 19th March)

23rd April (c.d. 2nd April)

29th/30th April (c.d. 2nd April)

14th May (c.d. 30th April)

20th August (c.d. 6th Aug)

10th September (c.d. 20th Aug)

17th September (c.d. 20th Aug)

7th/8th October (c.d. 17th Sept)

MOTO-X TRAINING

Sat 25th Feb Sun 30th July

Sun 5th March Sun 6th Aug

Sun 21st May Alt date 24th Sept

AUTOSOLO

14th May 17th Sept

NAVIGATIONAL RALLIES

21st Jan 18th Feb 9th Sep

AUTOTESTS

5th Feb 19th March

26th Feb 26th Nov

JERSEY RALLY

13th/14th October

ANNUAL DINNER

18th November

NOMINATION MEETING

Tues 21st November

AGM

Tues 5th December

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... CHARLES ALLUTO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR JERSEY



Photo: Jersey Evening Post

Charles interviewed by Ramsay Cudlipp of the Jersey Evening Post

When I first started work at the National Trust as its Secretary in September 1999, I was advised that a large amount of my time would be spent outside of the office touring the Trust's landholdings and properties. I envisaged my role being similar to a land agent's; Land Rover, tweed jacket and wellies at the ready and a daily round of visiting sites! How wrong and perhaps naive could I have been? The wellies came in handy for jumping over the stream at The Elms to measure the daily rainfall, the Land Rover was fun to use, until I had to hand over the keys to the Lands Manager for his better use of it, and the tweed jacket has never seen the light of day.

Focusing on my day to day role, one absolute constant has been its variety. In a small charitable organisation with limited resources, one ends up wearing many hats and indeed, out of necessity, becoming a jack of all trades master of none. When invited to write about my working day I briefly noted down what I had done over the previous few, and

these included clarifying wedding arrangements at one of our sites, submitting parish rate forms online, attendance at the Royal Court for a land transaction, reviewing staff contracts, continuing discussions with auditors, ordering bathroom tiles, interviewing for a painter and decorator, preparing for a hearing with Scrutiny, discussing land leases, writing committee minutes, agreeing the annual decorating schedule for 16 New Street, reviewing proposed new services for the Foot building project, and writing articles for our Discover magazine.

This pretty much reflects my day-to-day activities which start at 8 o'clock in the morning in the beautiful surroundings of The Elms. Driving the short journey to work and being greeted by the sight of the meadows shrouded in low mist, or being earnestly grazed by the Le Gresley's cattle, reminds me of how fortunate we are to have our HQ in the heart of St Mary's countryside. After a quick chat with the Lands Manager and Properties Manager to discuss the day



ahead, work starts in earnest at our offices above the Pressoir. A strong cup of coffee is followed by checking emails received overnight and briefly reviewing social media. This is generally a quiet hour for catching up before the rest of the office staff arrive at 9 am. Thereafter a plethora of meetings, emails, and correspondence easily fills the day until around 6 pm. Core activities include project management; liaising with tenants; servicing five committees; liaising with local media, government departments, and professional advisers; reviewing press releases; drafting leases; staff and manpower matters; and an ongoing aspiration to complete a three-year strategy document!

It is true to say that no two days are ever the same and perhaps this is a consequence of the increasingly important role that the Trust has come to have in Island life over the last 80 years. It now cares for 28 historic buildings, including 3 small museums and the wetland centre, 1500 vergées of land, 2,600 members, 25 tenants, 22 sheep (the other 170 belong to the shepherd) and around 60,000 orchids. We organise over 100 events a year and more than 1,300 children attend our educational programme. We are also often viewed as a source of information or advice particularly in relation to planning issues, window repairs and paint colours but, most importantly, as a safe haven for treasured possessions ranging from historic houses and coastline to a beautiful nineteenth-century sampler sent in an envelope. I hope this gives you a flavour of the range of activities we deal with every day.

Perhaps the biggest challenge I face daily is securing adequate funding. Being an independent and local charity, that is, we are neither States funded nor part of the UK National Trust, we have to generate every penny ourselves. On average it costs around £2,500 a day to run the Trust, and often we are seeking corporate support for events, trying to increase membership, and ensuring our properties generate as much income as possible without changing their nature and character.



Charles Alluto, Mike Stentiford and Terry Grimshaw

Fortunately generous legacies over the years from the likes of Mrs Anne Herod, Mr & Mrs Jack Trotman, and Mrs Mollie Houston have enabled us to take on such projects as the Foot buildings and 16 New Street.

Would I have it any other way? As I write this article in my cottage in the deepest depths of Mourier Valley in St John, I feel honoured and privileged to be able to help manage the Trust at this time, with very dedicated staff, and a wonderful band of volunteers. The challenges ahead facing Jersey in safeguarding its natural beauty, while striving for continuous economic growth – regardless of whether this realises a better quality of life – will be substantial. But the support we receive from volunteers and benefactors certainly help us in achieving those goals, which make it all worthwhile.

As I leave work in the evenings, I walk through the beautiful granite archway, and I am often reminded of Nicolle Perrée, who would have walked a similar route at the end of the day after milking his famous Day Dream herd of cows. If nothing else I hope he would have been proud of his legacy, and contented that The Elms remains as well cared for as it was in his day.

Charles Alluto



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ST JOHN'S RECREATION CENTRE



Tom in the Café, now open six days a week.

The Centre is really beginning to achieve its mission as a sport and recreation centre for the St John community.

The Café is now fully open six days a week from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm (closed on Mondays) and is receiving praise from everyone in respect of the quality of food and the friendly service. If you have not visited the Café recently, why not visit and find out for yourself!

Last winter – busiest ever

Last winter has been the busiest ever with 18 yoga classes taking place each week in the Bobby Butlin Studio; the Billy Butlin Memorial Hall (serving user groups from Jersey Gymnastic Club, tennis, cricket, archery, model cars, model aircraft and our Youth Project) has been fully booked every weekday evening and with lots of bookings at other times too; the range has been busy with shooting, kick boxing classes and junior archery training; the Youth Project area is proving popular with not only the St John Youth Project but also Cloud Nine Holiday Activity Club for children aged between 6 and 12, Les Frères Mothers and Toddlers Group on Friday mornings and a number of event bookings as well. The squash court, the i-move Freely Fitness studio and the Jersey Motor Cycle and Light Car Club meeting room are all well used. We also have small groups teaching sign language to children, a dance group for youngsters and, recently, Zumba for the elderly.

Outside, the Football Club has been running several senior and junior teams and their new changing rooms are being extensively used, and the Skate-

board Park is busy all year round.

We miss our carpet bowls group who used to operate in the range area. We still have the bowls carpet and the bowls. Anyone interested in getting together a group?

We are still getting new enquiries from persons interested in using our facilities but it is getting harder to fit them in. Not a bad problem to have and a long way from where we were ten years ago!!

With the summer and balmy summer days approaching, what better time than to relax in the Café or out on the decking being looked after by Tom and his team from the Café! See you there.

Angus Spencer-Nairn

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Fields of Sunflowers

Farmland restoration for wildlife in St John



2016 fields planted for birds

If you have noticed an increase of sunflower fields across Jersey over the last few years your eyes are not deceiving you: these fields are being planted as part of an Island-wide initiative to save our birds. In particular, a group of birds associated with traditional farmland known by ornithologists, fittingly, as 'farmland birds', and by normal people, practically, as 'little-brown-jobs'. Small birds whose songs once filled our summer mornings such as the linnet, skylark and starling are now declining rapidly throughout the continent, with the real possibility of becoming extinct in Jersey in only a few years' time. The industrial revolution and the modernizing of farming techniques means that the land is exploited more efficiently, leaving less resources for our wildlife, especially in winter when insects and berries are scarcer. It has been shown that large numbers of farmland birds starve in winter and that this increase in their mortality is what's driving their populations on a downward spiral.

To counteract this trend conservationists and farmers have been working together to make sure that there are sources of food in farmland habitats during the winters. One of the most successful and cost-effective methods proven to date is the planting of the so-called 'winter bird crops', mixtures containing seed-bearing plants such as sunflower, mustard, buckwheat, barley, millet and quinoa.

Partnership between local farmers and Birds on the Edge

In Jersey winter bird crops are being planted through a partnership between local farmers and Birds On The Edge, a conservation initiative between the National Trust for Jersey, the States Department of the Environment and Durrell.

One of the first sites where Birds On The Edge trialled these crops is St John, at the Trust's land known as Le Don Hodges near Sorel. These fields are rented to a local grower who plants the bird crops after the potato harvest. The crops develop through



Sitting pretty on the North Coast



the summer, its various flowers blossoming and providing food to important pollinators such as bees and butterflies. In the autumn the seeds have developed and the crop is ready to feed the hungry birds, arriving from other parts of the Island as well as from the continent, to spend the winter here where they can survive.

In addition to the crops, over 11,000 shrubs and trees have been planted alongside the Trust fields over the last four years. When the hedges are mature they will provide birds with nesting opportunities in the spring, food in the autumn and shelter in the winter, and they will also act as wildlife corridors for other animals such as voles, field mice, hedgehogs, reptiles and bats.

Soon after the Trust fields were planted other local farmers and landowners joined the scheme, with the planted area increasing every year in the Sorel area. With the farmers firmly on board this initiative and the crops being rolled out in other parts of Jersey, the future looks bright for the birds that come here to survive.

If you want to enjoy the sight of the flowers, bees and birds at the winter bird crops, head to the St John's north coast between Sorel and Mourier



Seed bearing plants boost farmland bird numbers

Valley, anytime from spring to autumn, and make sure to stay on the footpath that borders the Trust's fields (especially if you have your dog with you, so as not to disturb the wildlife). Enjoy the sight of conservation at work in this beautiful landscape.

*Cristina Sellarés Project Officer
– Birds on the Edge
The National Trust for Jersey*



Finches and other birds in conservation fields





Welcome to this editions' update from the St. John's Youth Project. We have had a busy spring with heaps of activities that have challenged, inspired and informed the members of our youth project. Here are just a few...



TIE DYE FUN!
WE BOUGHT IN OLD T-SHIRTS AND USED ELASTIC BANDS AND DYE TO MAKE THEM DIFFERENT COLOURS, MINE TURNED OUT REALLY WELL!
JOSH (14)

The Blast zone laser tag maze made a welcome return to St. John recently. Loads of fun and also an engaging way of discussing leadership and team work with young people. Jude and William getting psyched up for the next game.



Friday nights have been focusing on skills in the kitchen, and in particular discussing healthy attitudes to diet and exercise, especially the appreciation of cake, in moderation...



Eight young people from the youth project took part in a Charity Kickabout at Gorey youth club, they played four other youth clubs over the course of the day and performed brilliantly coming second overall, but most importantly they displayed great sportsman ship and team work. Well done Liam, Kenan, Storm, Harry, Luca, Jasper, Jamie and Donny.



We need help! St John Youth Project relies on its volunteers to keep the project running. If you can help out on the sessions you will be provided with training and a DBS check not to mention a huge sense of reward! We also need people to sit on the project committee. If you would like to find out more please give Bill Moore a call at the project on 07797 819958 or email billmoore@jys.je

St. John Youth Club

Opening times

Free membership — £1 entry

TUESDAY **INTERS YEARS 7 - 9** **7.00—9.00**

WEDNESDAY **SENIOR YEARS 9—13** **7.00—9.00**

FRIDAY **JUNIORS YEARS 5 & 6** **6.30—8.30**



St. John youth project delivered in partnership with the Parish of St. John and the Jersey Youth Service

Contact the St John Youth worker Bill Moore 07797819958 or billmoore@jys.je



JERSEY HEDGEHOG PRESERVATION GROUP



The Jersey Hedgehog Group was founded in 1992 to care for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs. Once they are restored to health or are big enough to be independent they are released as near as possible to where they were found. We care for about 500 hedgehogs each year, usually returning about two-thirds of them to the wild. We hope the island's population is static; it is certainly not increasing, but may not be in such severe decline as is reported in the UK. Our intake remains about the same each year.

There is no mistaking a hedgehog: it is our only spiny mammal.

Hedgehogs in Jersey are Western European, brown-breasted hedgehogs and were probably introduced to Jersey in the 1860s. They eat all manner of invertebrates, so they are rightly called the gardener's friend. They are found all over the Island, as long as they are able to get in and out of your garden they may visit you at night if you provide the right habitat and encourage them to visit by putting out food and water for them. Any sort of dog or cat food is suitable, if the bowl is put under a box with a 5-inch hole cut in the side it will stay dry and cats and birds may be deterred from eating it before the hedgehog gets there! A bowl of water on the ground is vital especially in dry weather. If your garden is enclosed you may be able to make a CD-case-sized hole in your gate or fence to let them come and go. To have a hedgehog-friendly garden be organic or as sparing as you can with garden chemicals. Slug pellets and rat poison will kill them. Be less tidy or have a wildlife corner at the bottom of your garden, build a log pile and sweep your autumn leaves under your hedge or shed for hedgehogs to use as nest material.

They are nocturnal so a hedgehog out in daylight is likely to be in trouble unless its nest has just been disturbed. If you see a hedgehog lying out in the open during the day, please pick it up wearing gloves or use an old towel, put it in a box and give us a ring on 734340 so we can take it into care. They are very good at hiding their injuries and it can be hard to see



Prickly customer

if they are hurt. Last summer we started our strimmer awareness campaign to encourage everyone to look out for any hedgehogs before they start to cut or strim.



Injury caused by a strimmer

If you discover an injured hedgehog please give us a ring. If you are removing an old shed or clearing a garden, and find a nest with a mother and young, and if the area cannot be left, please make sure that mum does not run away by putting a bucket or dustbin over the entire nest and then give us a ring, we will take the family into care and release them once the babies are big enough to fend for themselves.

Please check your garden for other hedgehog hazards, uncovered drains, a swimming pool or garden pond with no escape ramp – a rough plank of wood or some stones can be put in a pond or a couple of lengths of rigid plastic mesh can be used as ladders at either end of a pool, hedgehogs are very





good swimmers and climbers, they just need something to climb up to get out. Please don't leave any holes or trenches uncovered overnight – if it's there they will fall into it! Steep steps can also trap young hedgehogs, their legs are not long enough to climb up – a plank

or a brick placed on each step will enable them to keep up with mum. Any sort of netting, whether used for plants or sports can be a hazard for an inquisitive hedgehog and the more they struggle to get free the tighter the strands get wound round their bodies and limbs, cutting off the blood supply. So please make sure that any nets are off the ground or pulled taut and secured. If you have a bonfire, please never set fire to it without first moving the pile on that day. A heap of twigs and brushwood looks like an inviting nest site to a hedgehog. Litter such as elastic bands, plastic four-pack rings, disposable cups or snack packets can all cause problems to hedgehogs – please bin them! If your dog is aggressive towards hedgehogs please take him out on a lead or put a soft muzzle on him at night. Please drive carefully there is really no excuse for the number of squashed hedgehogs on our roads with the speed limits we have in the Island.

Dru Burdon

*White Lodge, Waterworks Valley
St Helier, JE2 4ZR Tel 01534 734340*

email: jerseyhedgehogs@hotmail.co.uk

website: www.jerseyhedgehogs.co.uk



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Les Frères Mother & Toddler Group

St John's Recreational Centre

Les Frères Mother & Toddler Group is a voluntary non-profit-making association run entirely by mums who have children attending. The association was set up in 1980 by a group of mothers with a two-fold aim. They wanted to provide the best pre-school development opportunities for their children. They also wanted an opportunity themselves to meet and make friends with other parents and carers. This formula was an instant success and Les Frères Mother & Toddler Group has been thriving ever since. Many mums, dads and carers have forged long-lasting friendships through their involvement with this association.

Newly taken over in September 2016 by four enthusiastic, maybe slightly daunted mums, Les Frères Group is a joy to run and attend. Located at St John's Recreational Centre, with ample free parking on site, we are located in the bright and airy extension; which provides lots of space for your little ones to run around and play while you watch on. We aim to provide a friendly welcoming environment; as we really do want you to enjoy your morning as much as your youngsters.

Our Usual Routine

- 09:30 Playgroup starts, Playtime and Craft
- 10:30 Snack time for the children, teas and coffees, home bakes or biscuits for the grown-ups.
- 11:10 Tidy up time
- 11:20 Song Time
- 11:30 End of session

Cost of the session is £2 for children over 2 and £1 for children under 2. There is no commitment to attend every week, just when you can. We run in accordance with Jersey school timetable.

Once a month we aim to provide a special event for the children, for example a tractor visit,



*Amanda, Aileen, Sarah and Louise;
little ones are Aubin and Harrison*

Jersey library visit, police visit, outing to the beach to name but a few. We also hold summer, Halloween & Christmas Parties. Log onto our Facebook page for details of up and coming events. You can also sign up for weekly emails at lesfreres.toddler@hotmail.com

We have an array of toys to suit your child whether a baby, a dinosaur enthusiast or a princess at heart there is something for everyone. During the summer months we have a selection of outdoor toys and make full use of the playing fields situated onsite.

We are mums ourselves and want to provide our children with a safe and exciting environment to play and learn in. Whatever your situation if you are looking for a friendly group or a little adult conversation, we hope we can help.

A little about us – Louise, originally from the UK has her own interior design business and is always handy for a contractor recommendation! Louise puts her artistic skills to use every week and creates a wonderful craft for your little ones to complete. Amanda, a full time mum is Jersey born and bred, she used to attend Les Frères as a child. As well as Amanda's talent of accompanying singing time with her guitar, she has a wealth of Jersey knowledge and also has a few handy contacts for tractor visits to entertain the young ones. Aileen is a full time mum on a career break; Aileen brings joy to our morning with her infectious personality, and will always be wandering about chatting happily to everyone. And myself, Sarah, a full-time mum of four and the newest to the Island; having been here just 1½ years after living in Asia for ten, I found Les Frères has been a great way to meet new mums and get involved.

We look forward to welcoming you to Les Frères Playgroup: see diary opposite (page 21).

Sarah, Louise, Amanda and Aileen



St John Football Club

Midway through the season and St John have had mixed success. We have had some great one-off matches this season, but have lacked consistency that comes from having a settled team. As the business end of the season nears, it is the Under 16 team who will fly the flag for St John in the Alex Scott trophy on the 23rd of March at Springfield. We wish them success!

First Team

This season has been a challenging season for St John FC, coming on the back of relegation from the Premiership in May 2016. Joe Byrne, after a year away, has returned to manage the club, with his assistant Dan Garton. The squad is very young and they are still finding their feet in a competitive division. However, they are learning quickly, which bodes well for the future.

Reserves

The Reserves have experienced a season of highs and lows in Division II so far. They are still the only team to inflict defeat on league champions Trinity, earning all three points in a fantastic 4-1 win at home



The Reserves on a social night out

last September. But they have also been on the receiving end of some humbling score lines, with successive 10-0 defeats at the hands of St Peter and St Clement reflecting the imbalance in the league, which plays host to players of all ages and abilities. A mid-table finish looks likely, with the team hoping for a strong finish to the season and some wins over teams currently below them in the league. Nearly 40 players have turned out for the 'ressies' so far this season, with injuries, higher education, holidays, natural disasters and acts of God all combining to stretch the squad to its limits. The player-manager, Ramsay Cudlipp, has enjoyed his first season at the helm and thanked all players and club officials for their efforts and support.

Junior – Under 16

The U16s have had a solid season so far, lying third in the table and with a cup final coming up at Springfield. We have a core squad of 20 players,



A save by Ollie Dodds the St John keeper

Les Frères Mother & Toddler Group

St John's Recreational Centre – Friday 9.30 – 11.30

Activities for Summer Term

21/04/2017 – 21/07/2017

21st Apr	Welcome Back – Dragon Craft for St George's Day
28th Apr	Police Craft – Police Car Visit *
5th May	Liberation Day – 1940s Tea Party – Royston Visit *
12th May	Frogs Craft
19th May	Butterfly Craft
26th May	Bookmark Craft - Library Visit *
2nd Jun	No Playgroup – Half Term
9th Jun	Fish Puppet Craft
16th Jun	Playdough & Bubble Fun
23rd Jun	Ambulance Craft – Ambulance Visit *
30th Jun	Sports Day Fun
7th Jul	Beach Outing *
14th Jul	Boat Craft
21st Jul	Summer Party, Bouncy Castle – End of Term

See you in September, Sarah, Louise, Amanda & Aileen x

* Organised outings may have to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances; any changes will be posted on the FB page and emailed to all on the group list.



many of whom live in the parish and have been with the club for several years. The three coaches – Allan Watts, Matt Claxton and Dan Andrews – have been with this group for three years and watched them grow into a mature, talented team.

We play an exciting style of football, moving the ball quickly through our midfield and releasing our front runners who cause opposition defences problems with their pace and agility. With one league match left against St Paul's we are hopeful of making up one more place in the league by the end of the season. We are open to new players all the time and train weekly at the club on Saturday afternoons at 12.30.

The Jayson Lee Trophy

This is an annual match between St John FC and The Police, named after the Policeman Jayson Lee, who collapsed and died while playing football for St John FC several years ago. This year's game was played at St John at the start of February.

St John led 1-0 at half time thanks to a goal from Arthur Illingworth following a through ball from



The teams after the match

Chris Le Brocq. The lead was then doubled shortly after half time following a sweeping move down the left wing with Jason Cleworth scoring with a first time effort at the far post from an Arthur Illingworth cross. Police pulled a goal

back shortly after, the ball headed in from a corner that St John failed to clear. A fair but competitive game (The Police are always a tough match) which could have resulted in more goals for St John if it wasn't for an inspired keeper for the Police and poor finishing from St John.

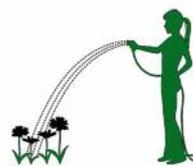
Mark Roche collected the trophy from Jayson's father.

*Nigel Perrée
Club Chairman*

BONNY'S COUNTRY GARDEN

Sion, St John

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NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

Thinking, Learning, Caring – these are St John's School's Core Values. At the beginning of the Spring Term 2017, staff and pupils made **Caring** our specific focus.

All staff at St John's School aim to inspire our pupils to **love learning and achieve their best**. We want our pupils to understand their role as **responsible global citizens** by becoming aware that not every child lives in a safe, beautiful place and that some children in the world have little or no access to education. We want our pupils to **value themselves, to respect others, to embrace difference and care for each other and the world they live in**.

Our learning environment and curriculum inspires **curiosity, exploration, discovery, creativity, reflection and risk taking**. We plan learning so children think of ways to care for others, their environment, their learning and themselves.

At the beginning of the **Spring Term 2017**, we thought about what it means to be a caring, responsible global citizen and how to engage children in thinking about this concept through practical ways.

Howard Zinn said: **'Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.'** So, we decided to put this into action. Each class was tasked to plan a small action/ activity that would benefit others and help our pupils understand what it means to be a **responsible global citizen**.

These were the different ways our pupils decided to think of others and make a difference to our school, the Island and the wider world:

Nursery decided to make magic wands and wishing bottles to sell in their Nursery pop-up shop. All proceeds from their enterprise was sent to Make a Wish Charity, set up to enable some of the wishes of sick children, come true.

Reception brought to school good quality toys to give to other children who may not have access to many toys.

Year 1 wanted to care for the environment by making a range of animal habitats, including bug homes, in and around their outside area. This supported and complimented Year 1's Animal Topic this term.

Year 2 planned a fair trade café to coincide with their Madagascar Topic. All proceeds from their sales went to support an animal at Durrell, whose species originated in Madagascar.

Year 3 focused on break and lunchtimes because these times can be challenging for some pupils. Our

children in Year 3 thought about fair playtime rules and learning playtime games for all children to play together.

Year 4 wanted to support Grace Trust with cakes to share at a Grace Trust Lunch.



Evie Dodd and Lilly Cotillard in Year 4. Certificates awarded for being enterprising and raising funds for the JSPCA with a 'How many sweets in the jar' competition

Year 5 decided to create a **compliment wall** to encourage all pupils in our school to look for positive ways pupils behave and react towards one another, ensuring these observations are recorded on a central wall for all to see.

Year 6 have planned a daily calendar of small, kind acts to support our community and beyond, These have ranged from reading for 10 minutes to a younger child, to sharing a smile with others in school.

We are very proud of our children and the mature way in which they have engaged in their thinking and their awareness of others. This demonstrates that **Thinking, Learning and Caring** is alive at St John's School.

*Trudie De La Haye, Headteacher
Spring Term 2017*



TWIN ISLANDS LIMITED

– a little bit of Mauritius in the heart of St John

Twin Islands Limited, nestled in the heart of St John's village is a little enterprise run by Kerwin, producing hot chilli sauces, curry and spices.

The company is a Genuine Jersey member and uses as much local ingredients as possible in the making of their products which includes Jersey's first Curry in a Jar. Recently launched during Christmas 2016, this curry is proving very popular and is quickly making a name for itself as a True Island Curry – the best of both Mauritius and Jersey.

Inspired by Mauritius, made in Jersey is the essence of the company and its name represents just that (Twin Islands – Mauritius and Jersey).

The company operates a five-star rated kitchen, packaging and storage facility together with a shop in the village precinct. St John was chosen due to its location close to major growers/farms and because it is a quiet yet busy village.



The company recently sent 3,000 jars of chilli sauce, all made in St John, to Mauritius and should this first consignment prove successful, thousands of miles away in the Indian Ocean, many more pallets will follow.

My Background:

My name is Kerwin I am 34 years old and I came to Jersey just over nine years ago. I am a qualified accountant with over ten years' experience and I am very passionate about food and cooking. Ever since I came to Jersey, I have been cooking Mauritian inspired dishes for friends and colleagues.

After our wedding in Jersey, Babita and I decided it was time to try the food adventure and late in 2012 the Company was incorporated, which we named Twin Islands. It took over two years and a lot of hard work to set up the production facility, the branding, packaging and completing all regulatory requirements.

Four years down the line now, the products made in St John have been sent to at least 25 countries via postal services, 3,000 jars in two pallets are on their way to Mauritius; Twin Islands products can be found in a number of local shops including the Grand Marché and new markets are actively being sought.

Beryl Vautier

*Left: Babita & Kerwin Mohun,
Below: where the magic happens*



News from the Pews

Reverend Beverley Sproats

We are delighted to be able to announce that the Queen has approved the appointment of the Reverend Beverley Sproats as the new Rector of St John. Beverley will take up her role at the end of August.

Beverley is a local girl, albeit one who has lived away from the Island since finishing university. She is married to Graeme and they have three children, Barnaby (16), Eve (13) and Ivan (11). The family are excited about their move to Jersey and we look forward to welcoming them all to St John towards the end of the summer.

Interregnum

During the Interregnum we are being well looked after by the Reverend Robin Dupré with occasional assistance from Canon Geoff Houghton, Rector of Trinity, and the Reverend Christopher Buckley. Reverend Dupré is also providing pastoral support, officiating at Baptisms and Funerals and speaking at school assemblies.

Lent Lunches

Our Lent Lunches are well under way, two at the Parish Hall, hosted

by the Parish Church and two hosted by the United Reformed Church at their church hall at Sion. The money collected at the Parish Hall will be going to our good friend Bishop Bahati of Bukavo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assist with their Christian mission there.

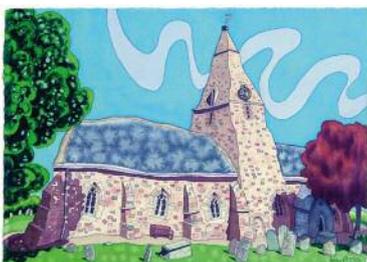


Welcome to our new Rector, Reverend Beverley Sproats

Register Research

In this day of email more requests are coming to the Parish by this method from all over the world. One recent request sent your Churchwarden to Jersey Archive to re-search a marriage supposedly celebrated in St John in July 1908. After careful perusal of our historic Marriage Register there, this was shown not to be the case but with the help of the friendly Archive staff the marriage was discovered to have taken place on that date at the Office of the Superintendent Registrar, between a Dutch merchant and a lady born in Vienna. Hopefully the family members now contacted again by email, have more accurate information about their ancestors.

*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



L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

The magazine is published for the Parish of St John by the Editorial team:

c/o East Wing, Les Issues, La Route des Issues, St John JE3 4FA. Tel: 861611

Email: nijofalla@gmail.com

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

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EDITORIAL TEAM

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Assistant editor – Roger Long

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www.starofthenorth.org.je

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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



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
Caesarean Handbell Ringers: Diane Nelson – 481898
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Golden Age Club: Wendy Rondel – 863667
Honorary Police: – 866560
Kickboxing: Tom – 07797 969522
Les Frères Mother & Toddler Group:
 Sarah Stewart – 07700 816776
Parish Hall: – 861999
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School: – 861692
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BLUE BAGS have changed into RED BOXES

When your recycling was collected in March, Gembusters should have delivered a **RED BOX** to each household in the Parish. If you did not get one, please contact the Parish Hall.



This box will replace the **BLUE BAG** you are currently using for plastic bottles.

PARISH DIARY April to August 2017

APRIL

Tues 11th	7.30pm	WI Gerry Padden Grace Trust
Fri 14th	10.30am	Good Friday service
Sun 16th		Easter Day
Tues 18th	8.45am	Summer Term begins St John's School
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo Parish Hall
Wed 26th	2.30pm	Golden Age Club meet at the Parish Hall

MAY

Mon 1st		St John's School closed for Bank Holiday
Sun 7th	10.30am	St John's Group of Churches Services for Liberation in the Parish Church
Tues 9th		St John's School closed for Bank Holiday
Thur 11th	7.30pm	WI Resolutions - Changed our night to Thursday as Tuesday Liberation Day
Fri 12th		St John's Unites for Funds – St Juff's Day – whole school fundraising walk, raising funds for our new outdoor play equipment
Thur 18th	3.00pm – 4.00pm	St John's School pop-in afternoon
Fri 26th	3.00pm	St John's School half-term begins
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo Parish Hall
Wed 31st	2.00pm	Golden Age afternoon tea – leave from Parish Hall

JUNE

Mon 5th	8.45am	St John's School begins
Tues 13th	7.30pm	WI – Heritage Lets
Fri 23rd		St John's School Sports Day pm
Sun 25th	9.30am	St John's Day Communion in the Parish Church with St John's WI Members
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo Parish Hall
Wed 28th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet Parish Hall

JULY

Thurs 6th	2.00pm	Visite de Branchage
Tues 11th	7.30pm	WI Zumba
Wed 19th	7.30pm	Parish Rates Assembly
Fri 21st	3.00pm	St John's School breaks up for summer holidays
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo Parish Hall
Wed 26th	2.00pm	Golden Age afternoon tea – leave from Parish Hall

AUGUST

Tues 29th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo Parish Hall
Wed 30th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet Parish Hall
		Social for WI – details to confirm



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We are closed on Mondays but will be open on bank Holidays

Elm tree planting in new Memorial Garden Field

St John Constable Christopher Taylor and Jersey Electricity's Health, Safety and Environment Manager Andre de St George braved fog, drizzle and mud this morning to plant the parish's final elm tree opposite the Parish Hall as part of the National Trust for Jersey's project to restore the Island's Elm population.

To mark its 80th anniversary in 2016 the Trust sought help to plant 80 elms across the Island and launch a 'Wildlife Hedge Fund' to plant 1km of hedges a year around the charity's 600 verges of agricultural lands. To encourage more of its customers to move from paper bills to ebills, Jersey Electricity donated £5 for every person who switched last autumn, raising £3,000 for the Trust. Over half of JEC's 50,000 customers now receive ebills. Those who also pay them by Direct Debit receive a £3 discount off their quarterly bills.



The final elm, well and truly planted

Lands Manager Jon Parkes said: 'Seventy five of the 80 elms have now been planted across 10 parishes, the remaining five are destined for La Feverie, Trinity, a National Trust property, and St Ouen's Manor.

Constable Taylor, said: 'The Trust planted the first five elms for us at various points around the Parish, including the Cemetery, allotments and sheltered housing. We have been waiting for a secure cattle guard to be erected before planting

this last one. Our plan is to turn part of this field into a new memorial garden for parishioners to enjoy as well as badly needed extra car parking for the school and church. We've planted all our six elms with an eye on the future. They will be magnificent in their various settings in years to come.'

Sue Rodrigues

