

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD ★ STAR OF THE NORTH



Parish of St John

Issue 52

Winter 2020

Change See Page 8 *is afoot!*



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Dear Parishioners...

"What a year!" - And I'm only talking about my journey as the new editor of L'Étaile du Nord! I took over on Issue 49, with the content full of events past and events planned, news from the school, the allotments, the twinning association and the church. I was excited to start meeting people, businesses, sports clubs and organisations in the parish, to hear their news, their plans and let you all know about it. I was thrilled to discover a whole host of brilliant people ready to write articles for the magazine, even at a moments notice.

Then lockdown came and we discovered a new normal. In the midst of this, the magazine was still expected to be published – what was I supposed to put in it? Fear not, Issue 50 for me represents resilience and courage – with an eye on liberation celebrations and experiences from those islanders during the occupation; but also the experiences of our Parishioners during current times, living through the unknown, but carrying on and adapting so that we could still celebrate community and liberation.

I feel more settled in this role now, trying to bring you a balanced coverage of articles. We have our regular columns and subjects and I would love to hear from you if you want to contribute especially if you – have an honesty box; a party game to share with Party HQ; a small poem to celebrate the diversity of language in our parish; tips for those gardens; a project or event you want to let us know about or a person you want to celebrate and share their story with us. Get in touch.

New regular columns have also been added in this issue – I hope you enjoy them – we have a new Agony Arnt, Mrs StJohnnais, willing to help you with ANY question. Please send them her way, don't be shy. There is Toy In The Tree (TITT) Watch, bringing to you the ever changing diversity of stuffing in a tree. Please send your pictures or stories on which is your favourite TITT.

I would like to thank all the regular contributors for providing us all with great reading material, without you we would not have a regular parish magazine. I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Dupre for distributing the magazine, and Graeme Sproats for being our copy editor and lastly thank you for taking the time to read this small contribution to all the noise and information we receive daily.

I wish you Seasonal Greetings, Happy New Year and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Finally, please do get in contact, I'd love to hear from you, my email is editor@starofthenorth.org.je

Editor

Hilary Jeune



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St John Refuse Collections: GERMBUSTERS

Serving the Parish for 18 years

Come rain or shine, snow or storms our team of refuse collectors will battle through all weather to collect your refuse and recyclables. Even with the current pandemic, we have kitted and booted our staff to continue collecting your Parish Refuse and recyclables to ensure everyone's safety.

Their day starts early. Very early! This is to minimize the impact on peak time and school traffic. Collecting from homes, shops, the school, commercial premises and anywhere else in the Parish that needs refuse collecting. For this reason, we do always recommend that bins are put out the night before to ensure that they are collected.

The Parish contract stipulates that we collect from the curbside but the team are also aware of some situations, particularly the not so young residents whereby it is not so easy for them to take their rubbish to the roadside. We will endeavor to help by collecting their bins from a location nearer to the property.

In addition to the refuse collections, once a month, we have three vehicles collecting your recycling. One for glass, which saw a sizeable increase in bottles during lockdown!! One for paper and the third truck, which is split into two sections for the cans and plastic. Contrary to what some people believe, all of these goods are delivered to centres in the Island who then arrange for each product type to be recycled – so you really are doing your bit for the environment.

Paul in his cab



We have recently been running a mini campaign to help our glass collectors by asking people to purchase a wheelie bin for their glass which can be mechanically lifted into the trucks. Many households still use the old-style black bins (sometimes with lids) for their glass. To lift one bin, full of glass (and sometimes full of water - especially at this time of the year) four feet into the air to tip into the truck is no mean feat but to do this repeatedly throughout the day takes its toll on our collectors, so I do hope that you will be willing to support this initiative and help prevent our Team from suffering with back injuries.

In the main collecting refuse is a straightforward job, but from time to time we do have some unusual situations which adds a bit of interest to the day:

I think that one of the most unusual stories I have heard from St John collections was that of the missing tortoise:

It was nearing the end of a Tuesday round when the driver pulled up outside a very nice property and for reasons unknown something told him to lift up the lid before putting the bin on the back of the lorry. On lifting the dustbin lid he found a young, live, tortoise. Not wanting to put him into the crusher on the back of the lorry (for obvious reasons), he put the young tortoise in the cab of the lorry to keep

Ian hard at work



him safe. An hour or so later we received a phone call from a parishioner asking if we had seen a tortoise on our travels to which we were delighted to inform them that it was safe and well and able to reunite tortoise with the owners. It transpired that the elderly couple had bought the tortoise for the grand children but he had hid himself in some old clothes that they were disposing of and was accidentally put in the bin with the clothes. Thankfully, the story ended well for everyone.

Another story was of the disappearing suitcase. It is quite common for people to fill an old suitcase with items to be disposed of and put out with the bins to be collected. On one particular day such a suitcase was found next to the bins and so it was picked up and put into the back of the truck. Moments later a gentleman came running down the road to ask if we had picked up his case. He had put his case down next to the bins to save carrying it all the way up to a house that he had gone to, to ask for directions but on returning found that his suitcase had gone!! Luckily, we were able to retrieve it, slightly worse for wear but intact.

We have also had instances, back in the days when it was more common practice to get paid in cash, when jackets and trousers have been thrown away, forgetting to empty the contents of the pockets which included the weekly pay packet. Sadly, in most instances, into the fiery furnace went the items along with the cash.

We have a great crew working for us who enjoy their jobs but these lighter moments do make it more interesting.

Just to end my brief article I thought I would leave you with a few bin men jokes which I hope raises a small chuckle.

GARBAGE COLLECTOR

A father is asked by his friend, *"Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?"*

"Yes, he wants to be a garbage collector," replied the boy's father.

His friend thought for a moment and responded, *"That's a strange ambition to have for a career."*

"Well," said the boy's father, *"he thinks that garbage collectors only work on Tuesdays!"*

What do you call garbage wrapped in small trash bags?

...dumplings

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the parishioners all the very best for the festive period and thank them for their generosity to the boys especially at Xmas time.

Jorge doing his bit



The dynamic duo



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THE CONSTABLE

Dear Parishioners

I would most sincerely like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. It has been an exceptionally difficult year which I believe has adversely affected everyone, but I hope most parishioners will be able to enjoy some valuable family time together this coming yuletide.

Despite COVID-19 we have had a very busy year in the Parish. We started with great excitement with the preparations for **"Liberation 75"** only to have our plans dashed. However the Committee pulled together and we were able to deliver just over 140 "Red Cross Parcels" to parishioners who were here during the Occupation. I would once again like to thank all those involved.

During the year a number of volunteers came forward to offer their services if needed during the lockdown period. I would like to give them all a big thank you for coming forward although their services were not actually needed.

The Comite Rurale continued their hard work with a survey in February, and subsequent analysis of the returns. At the same time I have been working on a Village Plan for submission to the Island Plan that is supported by the findings of the Comite Rurale. As part of the Village Plan I have been in consultation with the Infrastructure Department to create a series of footpaths linking the school to all the villages, as well as linking all the villages to the shops and amenities. The broad outline of the Village Plan was in the summer edition of our Parish Magazine.

Here in the Parish Hall our staff have been kept very busy. I would like to thank Sue, Sandra and Kieranne for their diligence and dedication during this difficult time. St John was the only Parish Hall that was open throughout the Lockdown period and the phone was manned from 8am to 8pm five days a week to ensure any Parishioner with needs was catered for. I am sure you would all like to join me in saying a very big **"Thank You"** to them.

I would like to welcome Susan Morin (nee Rondel) as our new Parish Secretary. A fourth generation Parishioner Susan has already been working as Assistant Secretary in St Peter so knows the parochial system very well. I look forward to working with Susan and I know she is keen to meet with parishioners and work with you going forward.

This very sadly means we are saying farewell to our current Parish Secretary Sue Rodrigues. Sue joined us at the beginning of 2012 and has been our Parish Secretary for nine years. We have been most fortunate to have Sue as her knowledge and professionalism has been quite outstanding. On a personal note, as Constable, she has made my job so much easier, her advice and experience has been truly exceptional, and I know this is echoed by all who have worked with her. I am sure you all wish to join in with me in wishing her a very long and happy retirement.

Finally I would like to say a very big **"Thank you"** to the Honorary Police, the Roads Committee and Inspectors, Rates Assessors, Procuruers and the many other volunteers the Parish relies on for the smooth running of our Parish. I wish them and all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for next year.



Safer Sion Success! *Change is afoot*

by Kate Sibcy

The 'Safer Sion' campaign was started in May this year to raise the question of how we could join as a community to make Sion safer and nicer to live in. It came about partly in response to one of the few benefits of 'lockdown': many walks and family bikes rides along the almost deserted country roads. It reminded us that we chose to live in the countryside because we enjoy these things. Another timely event was the building of the new Co-op on the site of the former JFTU which, while a welcome improvement to the village, is likely to attract many more cars to what is an already busy and dangerous road with inadequate pavements, crossings and bus stops. Many locals had already started to think about how Sion could be improved and some smaller campaigns had also raised awareness of excessive vehicle speeds and the lack of bus shelters.

Our first public event, the 'Safer Sion Village Walk' took place Saturday 27th September and saw many of those who have campaigned alone for years come together as a community. We had a good turn-out which was just inside the 'Covid restriction' of 40 people and the socially distanced walk saw many family groups from Sion enjoy a walk and demonstrate in protection of their right to walk on the roadside around the village. We also received many apologies from those who were self-isolating or restricting social engagements to family. It is clear that there is a strong feeling among Sion residents that more needs to be done to make the road safer, especially for those hoping to walk or cycle to the new shop.

Early in October, the Safer Sion Steering committee met officials from the three parishes which converge in Sion (St John, Trinity and St Helier) and the Department for Infrastructure (IHE) to have our first joint meeting on the subject of making Sion Safer.





We were delighted with the outcome of that meeting and look forward to seeing many improvements in due course.

One such improvement is the long-awaited bus shelter which has finally appeared in the middle of the village. While we cannot take credit for this (as many have been asking for a very long time), I am sure many commuters and school students will be very grateful to see its arrival just before winter sets in.

You many have also noticed the '20 is plenty in Sion' yellow car window stickers. These were kindly donated to the campaign by the Co-op which, along with many other local businesses, is also supportive of road improvements and reduced speed through the main section of the village. Those who attended the walk were given one and anyone else who would like one can take one from either Sion garage, Bonny's Garden Centre, the Co-op or contact Kate (details below). Many of us have already started to drive slower through the village, especially in the wetter weather, out of respect for our neighbours and cyclists for whom the road is much more dangerous at this time of year. We ask that anyone passing through is patient and remembers that a few seconds added to your journey could save someone's life and will certainly make their journey more enjoyable. 30mph is the limit and not the target and no-one is doing anything wrong if they chose to travel slower than the limit.

The Safer Sion Steering Committee look forward to working with IHE and the parishes in the coming months to see further safety improvements. As always, if you would like to be involved in the campaign of would like to share your views, please contact us at 2020calmroadvision4sion@gmail.com



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A Cloudy Outlook

from St John's Deputy, Trevor Pointon

Unfortunately the Covid clouds are gathering again with cases increasing in the community, new legislation has been prepared, increasing restrictions on the population in order to ensure we all remain safe. We honestly believe we should try and avoid further lockdown if at all possible.

Clouds had gathered for the Chief Minister who endured an anxious two weeks waiting for the out come of a vote of no confidence. His suffering ended with a re affirmation of his position and the perpetrators of the proposition going away, on the one hand, with an increased resentment of their inability to find general support for their bid and a certain political group disappointed that the time is not yet ripe for a political coup.

We in the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel have been working hard to ensure the Education Department implements it's commitment to extend the Pupil Premium to the 16 to 18 age group. This is additional funding for those students that come from a disadvantaged background.

In addition we conducted a panel review into the issues surrounding teacher recruitment and retention, producing a detailed report that has greatly influenced the Education Department's response to the issue.

A major piece of work with Home Affairs seriously amended a proposition from the Minister to increase the number of TASER that SOJP have available at any one time.

The Minister has his new TASERs, but on a one year trial basis and with a requirement that he collect detailed data about their use. He will have to report back to the States Assembly and seek further approval at the end of that research year.

The Health and Social Services Scrutiny Panel, of which I am also a member, has had a pivotal influence on the Health Department's introduction of the Jersey Care Model. All of the Panels recommendations, bar one, were accepted by the Health Minister and we look forward to working with him and a newly appointed None Executive (monitoring) Board, recommended by the panel.

The Jersey Care Model is fundamental to informing the way that our new hospital is developed and decisions, as I write, that were taken today, to approve the site of the new hospital at Overdale will be reliant upon a continued critical input from the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Panel.



In the Parish, Covid has presented a significant challenge for those especially elderly people who were in lockdown. Having spoken to many on the phone and some in person, (suitably masked), I have reports that local traders and volunteer groups made all the difference for many parishioners who did not have family support close to hand. With Covid clouds looming yet again, my hope is that the same spirit will robustly prevail over the months to come.

Notably the retail community are responding to new customer needs and the announcement from Co-op that they will be providing an online service is very welcome. Many will be assisted by this service who would otherwise be retail isolated.

My efforts although remotely, as I continue to shield, will concentrate on ensuring that decisions about community and well-being continue to meet the aspirations of those people that I represent.

If you or your family have questions and or challenges that I can assist with I am really keen to listen and try to help resolve matters relating to your relationships with States of Jersey services and departments.

Indeed I will be continuing to ask questions in Assembly meetings that are generated by you the people of the Parish. Please keep me informed about pressing issues.

Finally, the whole purpose of a Christmas edition is to convey Christmas greetings and I will reinforce the tradition by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and successful New year.

Please all, Stay Safe and look forward to the possibility of a new vaccine and Covid free 2021.

Please be in touch.

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Mail: **t.pointon2@gov.je**



Limiting green washing

how to choose the right carbon offsetting scheme for you?

By Hilary Jeune

Carbon markets and the projects on offer, can seem rather complex, with prices fluctuating, confusing terminology and past controversies. However this article will set out criteria to help guide you in your choices, to ensure you're not only aiming for the highest standards but also making the biggest sustainable and positive impact. This can help whether you are a business, an individual or a family wanting to make a difference.

Climate Change - the on-going crisis

The UN has just declared that we shouldn't let our guard down with talks of global emissions falling during these terrible times. In fact, the fall is only short term— climate change is here to stay – with 2020 set to be the hottest year on record.

With evidence linking natural habitat destruction with the rise in pandemics (not only Covid-19 but Ebola, HIV, SARs) we will be witnessing even more in the future. Businesses need to continue to act on making substantial changes to their everyday activities, whether it's utilities usage, travel, procurement, investments or supply chain, to lower their impact on the environment and be resilient to the changing landscape of the future.

What is carbon offsetting?

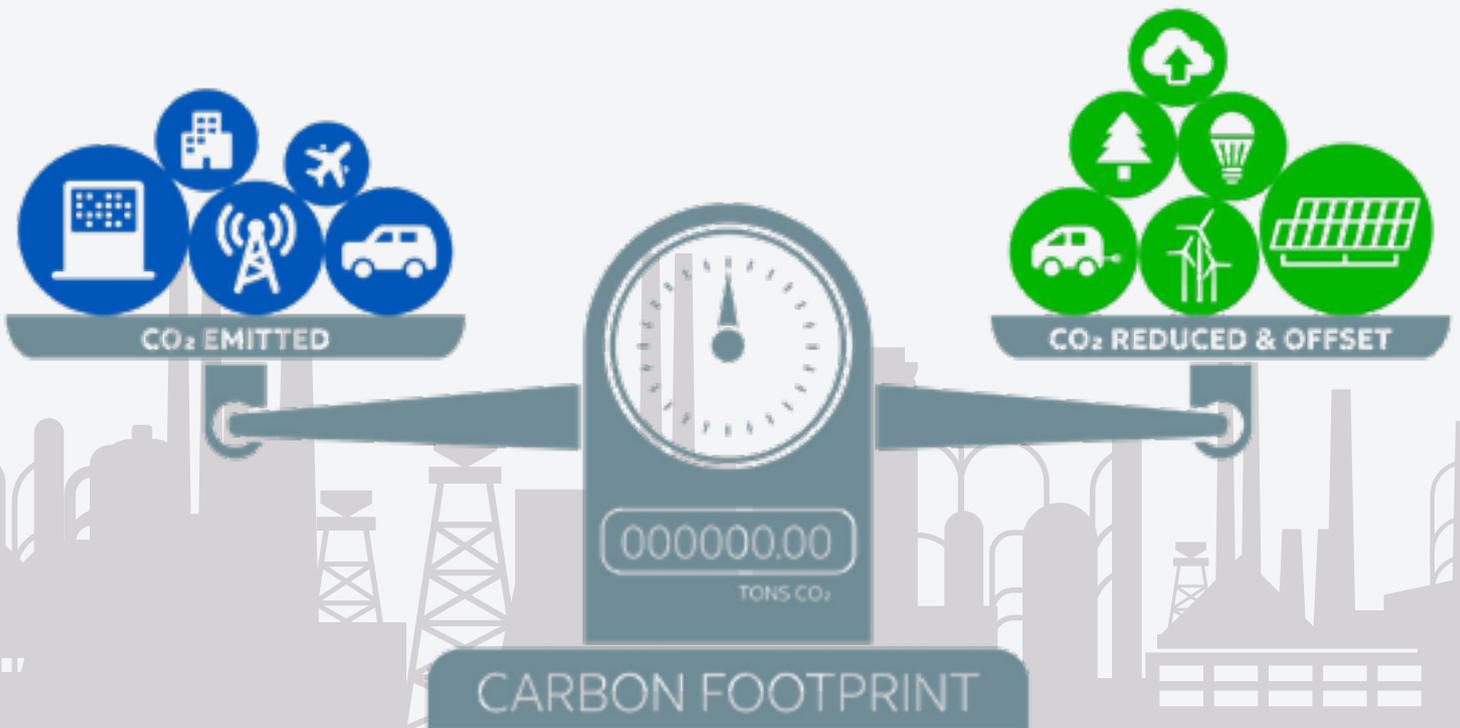
First thing for your carbon emissions strategy - reduce reduce reduce – develop a clear action plan on how to decarbonise and implement it – but that's a different article. Carbon offsetting is not genuine if you think you can pay your way out of this.

Carbon offsetting is a way to compensate your emissions by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere. This means ensuring there has been a net reduction in emissions and represents permanent emissions reductions. Projects are usually based in developing countries, though they don't have to be, and most common are designed to reduce, avoid and capture (sequester) future emissions. Offsets are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. One tonne of carbon offset or 'carbon credit' represents the reduction of one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) . They are usually certified/verified to an internationally recognised carbon accounting standard. Any purchased carbon credit must be cancelled/retired to ensure it has been accounted for and cannot be used again.

The value of carbon offsetting

Companies taking climate action through the purchase of offsets find it delivers value in the following ways:

- Reducing global carbon emissions
- Building a reputation for leadership on climate and sustainable development
- Winning new customers and increasing brand loyalty
- Increasing brand awareness and positioning products in key markets
- Attracting and retaining employees and partners
- Building resilience in supply chains.



Ensuring the 'highest standard' offsetting project

To ensure your business has chosen the 'highest standard' of carbon offsetting, I propose a set of criteria that could be developed into a principled approach to underpin any carbon offsetting strategy. With this principled methodology, you can approach credible project developers to develop projects that works for the climate, as well as for your ambitions. When deciding on which programme to support and carbon credits to purchase the following criteria should be followed:

- Be regularly monitored, reported, and verified to ensure projects stand up to scrutiny. Utilising digital technology, including integrated information management systems, satellite images, drone mapping etc, is a great way projects can support their monitoring and verification.
 - Be based on a realistic and credible baseline - The baseline is the level of emissions that would have occurred assuming a conservative "business as usual" emissions trajectory i.e., emissions without the emissions activity or offset project. Baselines and underlying assumptions must be publicly disclosed;
 - Do no net harm - Offset projects should not violate local, State/provincial, national or international regulations or obligations. Offset programs should show how they comply with social, environmental and ecological safeguards and should publicly disclose which institutions, processes, and procedures are used to implement, monitor, and enforce safeguards to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks.
 - Be transparent – flow of funds, due diligence, ex-ante and ex-post data – there should be a clear and transparent chain of custody. Offset credits should be assigned an identification number that can be tracked from when the unit is issued
- through to its transfer or use (cancellation or retirement) via a registry system(s) to ensure it is only counted once. The use of blockchain technology can be utilised to enhance transparency;
 - All stakeholders have been consulted (including in local language, gender equality, rights of marginalized groups) and there is access to grievance mechanisms – this should minimise the risk of land grabs, human rights abuses or projects being developed on local culturally sensitive locations;
 - Ensure there are clear agreements with local and national government on the ownership and distribution of carbon credits and money made from selling the credits;
 - Co-benefits are ensured. A key factor to sustainability must include a livelihoods focus for the local communities, biodiversity protection including native species focused and ensure there are no forest mono-culture projects, and linking climate mitigation and sustainable development benefits to ensure longevity of projects. Programs should publicly disclose the sustainable development criteria used, for example, how this contributes to achieving a country's stated sustainable development priorities.
 - Set a floor price – regardless of market price, under a certain cost, project sustainability doesn't work and it is not credible to develop a decent, sustainable project. Instead, set an internal floor price where, the premium (the amount left over after buying the carbon credit at market price) can be placed in a fund that specifically supports the development of more carbon offsetting projects, livelihood projects or local biodiversity enhancements;

Following these criteria you will be able to design a carbon offsetting strategy that will help guide you in finding the right project for your business or your family that ensures sustainable impact for both environment, climate and local communities.

This article was published by ChannelEye, an online digital platform for business and lifestyle news:

www.channeleye.media

Do reach out to discuss further details on how ValueMetrix: www.valuemetrix.je can support your own transition to a more low-carbon future: hilary@valuemetrix.je





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La Collette Foodservice have proudly been supplying the Islands best chefs & professional kitchens for over 30 years.

In these difficult times we have been able to continue trading throughout the Pandemic and support Islanders by opening up our products & services to the public through island-wide home delivery.

As part of our new normal, we will continue to offer free island wide delivery on all retail orders over £75, indefinitely. As the largest food wholesaler on the Island, we hold in stock all the goods we sell. Therefore customers will be able to order online via our new web shop for guaranteed next day delivery or collection.

After 33 years of trading as La Collette Foodservice, we have refreshed our branding to better represent our new direction and will be trading as Collette Foods Ltd into the future.

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Models shown are: C-HR Hybrid Dynamic 1.8 VVT-i Auto £28,849.18 including optional bi-tone metallic paint at £525. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 54.3 (5.2) - 58.9 (4.8). Combined CO₂ 118 - 110g/km. Corolla Excel + TRK 1.8 VVT-i Auto £25,808.56 including optional bi-tone pearlescent paint at £979.99. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 55.4 (5.1) - 57.6 (4.9). Combined CO₂ 116 - 112 g/km. MY20.5 RAV4 Hybrid Dynamic 2.5 VVT-i Auto FWD £32,798.89 including bi-tone metallic paint. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 48.7 (5.8) - 49.6 (5.7). Combined CO₂ 131 - 129g/km. NG Yaris Dynamic. Image is for illustrative purposes only. Please contact your local Toyota dealer for more information on All New Yaris. Camry Hybrid Excel 2.5 VVT-i Auto at £29,924.52 including in optional pearlescent paint at £809.37. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 50.4 (5.6) - 51.4 (5.5). Combined CO₂ 127 - 126g/km. Prius Excel 1.8 VVT-i Auto at £26,816.87 including in optional metallic paint at £538.12 Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 60.1 (4.7) - 61.4 (4.6). Combined CO₂ 107 - 104g/km. Corolla Touring Sports Hybrid Excel + TRK 1.8 VVT-i Auto £28,534.18 including optional pearlescent paint at £979.99. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 55.4 (5.1) - 57.6 (4.9). Combined CO₂ 116 - 113g/km. Corolla Saloon Hybrid Design 1.8 VVT-i Auto £24,815.43. Additional charges may apply on selected paint colours and finishes. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 54.3 (5.2) - 57.6 (4.9). Combined CO₂ 119 - 110 g/km. Prices correct at time of being published. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. Terms and conditions apply. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. All vehicles are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). CO₂ figures (and hence car tax and recommended 'on the road' prices) may differ from information printed before 1 April 2020, due to a change in the official method of calculation. This date may change, please visit www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp for the latest information. For details of your preferred model and grade derivative, please contact your local Toyota Centre. Choice of options and accessories fitted (pre-registration) may affect the official CO₂ figures, car tax and 'on the road' price.

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Preparing the allotment for winter

by Martin Whitley

As we come to the end of another year on St John's allotments we see the seasoned allotmenters preparing their winter crops. For many the Leeks, Onions and Garlic have gone in to the rich St John soil. Some will be planting fruit trees, soft fruit and broad beans or just pruning those cane fruits.

For all allotmenters however it is that time to start preparing the plot for the next season whilst clearing it from the old. The best approach is to remove all weeds. Couch grass is an old enemy for many gardeners. Its wiry, underground stems and creeping shoots pop up around garden plants and before long can take over a bed. As a perennial weed thorough killing or eradication of the roots is necessary. Some prefer the smaller border fork for this arduous task. Time taken now on this will certainly benefit your plants and shrubs. Unravelling the couch from your fruit trees or shrubs is a frustrating task and far better prevented.

The weeding done and the ground turned over it is time to feed the soil. Well-rotted horse or cow manure can be turned over into the soil straight away but fresh raw manure should be left on top of the soil for three months, maximising the time that manure has to work its magic on the soil. (Raw manure does smell however) If you leave the manure on the surface of the bed it also works to protect the precious soil below from the harsh weather. Of course there is Vraic which can be left to rot down over the plot and there are many views on which part of the Island beaches produces the best.

If you fancy having an herb border (a lot of herbs can be used in companion planting) winter is the time to prepare that area ready for spring planting. Runner beans like very rich soil that is full of nutrients, and creating the perfect environment for the plants will help provide a cracking summer harvest. Fill your runner bean trench with kitchen scraps, compost, manure, or any old plants you're done with. This 'stuff' will rot down and make sure the runner bean plants get all the nutrients and trace elements, as well as help to keep moisture around the roots.

One thing that preparing the site before Christmas helps with is that the soil is nice and soft which allows the rain to penetrate and prevents flooding and it goes a long way to prevent the soil compacting too much, especially when we get the rain we had last winter.

The extra organised allotmenter can wind-up the season by cleaning his or her gardening tools and putting them away. After that I would say 'get yourself a new book on allotments and a nice cup of tea and sit down and enjoy it'.

Finally have a great and safe Christmas from all on St John Allotments.

If you are interested in applying for an allotment, applications forms are available at the Parish Hall. St John Parishioners only.



Whole School Science Day

As schools returned in September, things were still looking a little different from the norm. However, undeterred by global pandemics, we set forth with our plan for a Whole School Day of Scientific Investigation.

Our KS2 classes (aged 7-11) spent the day at the Jersey Scout Centre and the surrounding area at Les Mielles. Children were engaged in a range of scientific activities including, making observations, collecting data, research and drawing conclusions. Due to the abundance of living things at Les Mielles, it is no surprise that the curriculum focus for these investigations was on Living Things and their Habitats. The children explored life cycles, seed dispersal, pollination, habitats and adaptation.

We were fortunate to have the support and guidance of Erin Cowham from the National Trust for Jersey, who shared her vast scientific knowledge. It was a great opportunity to meet and work with someone who is a scientist by profession!

Our children in Foundation Stage and KS1 did not miss out either. They spent the day at school exploring and investigating the world around them.

Using our outdoor environment, they all became scientists for the day. They were given opportunities to explore and notice patterns which not only developed their observation skills but encouraged them to ask questions about what they observed.

All of the activities we completed on the day have led to further research and investigation as we came away with so many questions.

It was a wonderful way to spend the day and kickstart our school's focus on science this year.



Do you know the lady in the picture?

1950's Picture of the Officials and Choir of St John's Church

By Richard Dupré

Earlier this year Roger Hamelin (one of those in the picture) contacted me to see if we would be interested in putting a copy of this picture in the magazine. In order to get the names of all the subjects in the photo I contacted Carl Hinault who was able to name the majority, and Alan Poingnard provided the penultimate one, but no one seems to know who the last lady in the middle row is. Please contact the Editor if you think you do know who she is.



St John's Church Officers and Choir in the 1950's

Back row L to R	Bridget Hinault	Jennifer Syrett ?	Valerie Surooul	Richard Holmes	Edward Le Gresley	Brian Surooul	Carlyle Hinault	Roger Hamelin	Pat Holmes	Ellen Mauger	Elisabeth Le Gresley	
Middle Row L to R	Frank Luce (Church-Warden)	Edward Coutanche (Sidesman)	Rosella Mauger	Jane Renault	Yvonne Mauger	Glynis Hughes	Alan Poingnard	Mrs Renouf	Madeline Mauger	Madeline Coutanche	Un-known	Edward Le Boutillier (Church-Warden)
Front Row L to R	Mrs Hamelin	Mrs Le Moignan	Mrs Langlois	Mr Smith (St Marv)	Cyril De La Haye (Organist)	Rev. Thom-Sooth (Rector)	Tom Le Marinel	Mrs Poingnard	Mrs Le Gresley	Mrs Beryl De La Haye	Jack Mallet (Vigier)	

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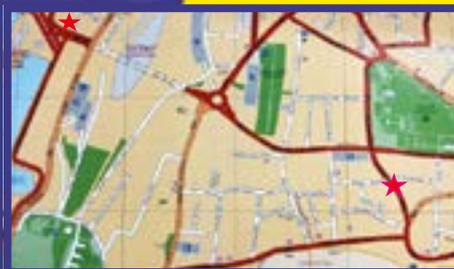
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St John's Youth Project Advisory Committee

Being a committee member at St John's Youth Service is a rewarding experience.

All committee members have either a child/children attend the youth club or are part of St John's community. Susie Kelly is one such member with two boys (Fin & Dexter), who have attended the club since 2016.

Susie explains, 2020 has had the usual challenges for the committee advising and supporting the fabulous parish youth workers carry out their duties. Lockdown brought new challenges for the service, but St John's youth workers adapted brilliantly offering an online service organising scavenger hunts around the home to online quizzes. These sessions were vital in offering our young people the opportunity to engage with one another during uncertain times. The committee were key in bridging the communication gap between the youth service and parents, using a private Facebook page to let parents know when online sessions were being run and how to access them. As lockdown eased outside sessions and activities were organised and again the committee played an important part informing parents.

2020 has also seen several changes in key personnel at St John's. To quote Fin Kelly age 13, the 'legend' that is Bill Moore, has recently left St John and moved to First Tower. Bill first joined St John in 2015 and was not only an inspirational leader for the young people of the parish, but also instrumental in growing the service both by increasing attendance numbers, and organising exciting activities for our young people to engage in. The committee were extremely grateful for Bill's continuous energy and enthusiasm, he will be sadly missed, and the committee wish Bill nothing but the best in his new role at First Tower.

Following Bill's departure, Mark Patterson has joined as St John's key youth worker and has really hit the ground running as the service adapts to the changing landscape brought on by Covid. Mark, a St John's resident, attended the youth club himself as a young person, moving away to study Youth and Community Work at University and gaining valuable youth work experience in Moss Side, Manchester before returning to Jersey in 2018. The committee are delighted to welcome Mark and look forward to supporting him as he develops St John's youth service.

Finally, Louise Minier who has been Chair of the Advisory Committee for almost 10 years and has seen the service change considerably, stepped down in September 2020. Louise was key in negotiating the service's permanent home at the recreational centre in St John and has worked tirelessly in establishing meaningful relationships within the parish. The committee are hugely sad to see Louise go and wish to publicly thank her for all her hard work. This of course means the committee is in need of a new chair person. If you are interested in volunteering and wish to find out more then please contact Mark Patterson via markpatterson@jys.je or **07797765439**.



YOUTH
PROJECT



As we continue to navigate the tough terrain of a worldwide pandemic, we are doing what we can to ensure the young people of the parish have a safe and welcoming escape from the stresses of their everyday lives. Now that we are back indoors, we are unable to offer as many activities as we did over summer as we comply with the relevant and ever-changing guidance. However, the young people have appreciated having their space back and continue to attend on a weekly basis, engaging in cooking activities, ping pong, pool, fozzeball, badminton and football, to name a few, as well as enjoying the use of our music room, chill-out area, skate park and of course, our tuck shop.



Young people enjoying the 'mummy' game over Halloween week

The club will continue to run until, and including, Friday December 18th, before we then have a few weeks break over the Christmas period. This is, of course, subject to change if our advice from the Government changes prior to this date.

Tuesday: Year 7/8 **Wednesday:** Year 9 + **Friday:** Year 6

All sessions are running **7pm to 8.30pm** and are £1 entry. *We are currently limited to 40 attendees per session as per guidance.*

If you require more information or have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark via markpatterson@jys.je or **07797765439**.

Goodbye Sue...

By Rosie Bleasby

Saying goodbye and thank you to Sue Rodrigues, Parish Secretary

"Education is the key," to inspire a lifetime love of learning and reading. This was the point made more than once by Sue Rodrigues during our interview. Sue, who is retiring at Christmas from her official role as Parish Secretary for St John - her unofficial title could be, "mother of the parish," if Constables are known as "father of the parish". Sue feels that her role, and that of other Parish Secretaries, is often misunderstood. In many eyes, the word secretary can simply equate to taking minutes and typing, whereas the role of Parish Secretary is more akin to that of CEO of a company. The Parish elected officials make the policy decisions but the Parish Secretary enables them to be carried out.

Sue's journey to this important role began as a young child at St Mark's School. Sue's admiration for Mr AB Carter, her headmaster there, is more than touching. His calling as an educator led him to open his office to bright young pupils from modest backgrounds and allow them to borrow any of the books from the bottom two shelves which wrapped around the room. It was this that honed Sue's love of reading and sharpened her academic ability and enabled her to pass the 11 plus and go on to Hautlieu Grammar School in 1970.

As Sue approached the end of her school days her ambition to go onto Drama College and become a professional actress was thwarted as no grants were available for this type of course at the time. Love had also appeared in the form of her future husband, Joe, and so she left school and entered the workforce in Jersey instead. For the first few years she worked for the Post Office at Mont Millais & Broad Street and then combined her role as a young mother with part time work. In 1993 she began her main career in parish work by joining the administrative staff in St Helier Parish Hall.



She continued her education through part time evening courses at Highlands College and progressed to be Assistant Finance Director of this busy Parish. It was during this time that Sue became heavily involved in the Parish entries and successes in the Britain in Bloom competition. Her skills were so recognised that in 2001 the



Royal National Horticultural Society of Great Britain asked her to become a national judge in the UK. She was the first Jersey person to be so recognised. From 2002 - 2006 she acted as a National judge for the annual Britain in Bloom competition around Great Britain.

During this time Sue's role in the Parish of St Helier came to an end as the result of a round of redundancies. Although very upset, Sue can now see, with hindsight, other doors and opportunities opened for her. In particular she was able to care for her elderly father in his last years, which she says was the "Silver lining of blessings". Sue was also invited to be one of only two British judges to judge the European in Bloom competition called Entente Florale and this she did for two years – 2010 & 2011. This involved her in much travel around Europe, meeting some wonderful, passionate people and must have done wonders for her collaborative skills.

After the death of her father, the opportunity to work for the Parish of St John arose. This was his home Parish where he grew up and went to school and Sue knows he would have been thrilled to see her in her present role. Sue started as a temp in St John in 2011, first of all in the front office but then in 2012 she became the Parish Secretary working with first of all Constable Philip Rondel and now Constable Chris Taylor.

During her six years in the role Sue has seen a significant increase in the work load of Parish Secretaries. Today, with the emphasis on transparency, there are many more legal requirements to comply with. With her financial / accountancy background, Sue has always been concerned with making sure the Parish rates are collected



efficiently, but also coming up with ways to make this easier for those parishioners who may have problems. Sue regrets that her role in welfare work has had to diminish with the advent of all the regulatory work which crosses her desk on a daily basis. She hopes that a lasting legacy of her time in St John might be that parishioners remember her as caring and approachable when they needed her help.

During Covid19, Sue and her team went to great lengths to keep the Parish affairs going and the Parish Hall open as usual. She and her two assistants worked different shifts during lockdown with Sue always working the early evening shift. This meant they stayed safe, adhered to the regulations but kept the affairs of the Parish going. The phone was manned for 12 hours per day so that Parishioners who needed help could contact the office. Covid-19 is also impacting on Sue's retirement plans. Along with many others, Sue and her husband, Joe, who retired two years ago, intended to travel in their retirement years. Those plans have to go on hold for now but after all her efforts for our Parish we wish Sue a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Time to add to those bookshelves, Sue!

...hi Sue

It's a welcome return to St John for the new Parish Secretary, Sue Morin.

Sue Rondel, as she was then, was born in the parish and attended St John's primary school. Most recently Sue has been a rates officer in St Peter for seven years and before that she worked in finance and the motor trade. Sue joins the St John Parish Hall team following the retirement of (another Sue) Rodrigues.



'Our Little Corner under the Northern Lights'

By Giles Morison

After almost three years, and approximately 70 property searches later, we had almost but given up on thinking we could find our 'future' forever home for us and the boys being desperate to stay in St John.

I remember seeing the advertisement for the house and immediately had a good feeling about it, given its timeless character that you get with granite farmhouses.

We had contacted the agent on the Monday and arranged a viewing for the Wednesday. I remember receiving a call before the appointment stating that someone had made an offer which had been accepted so we could no longer view. We were both gutted! Now usually at this point I would simply keep looking for alternatives but after a glass of wine to commiserate on Friday night, something told me to text the agent and ask him to let us know if the sale fell through (not really thinking that this would make any difference). The agent texted the following Monday to say that the property was back on the market and we could be the first to view. We arranged a viewing the following Wednesday.

The property had not been touched in decades and the garden and yard were so overgrown, it was difficult to notice that the property also came with a former old cart shed adjacent to the main house.



OUTSIDE – BEFORE & AFTER



ORIGINAL LOUNGE - BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE – LOUNGE WITH BREAD OVEN REMNANTS



AFTER

Once we saw the main house externally though, we couldn't help but fall in love with its character. Anything inside was therefore a bonus and after the viewing we made an offer which was accepted. The main house had no plumbing (only a small ground floor 1960's bathroom and kitchen in a poorly built single brick extension to the side of the property) and needed a lot more work than we originally hoped. There I was thinking a new kitchen and bathroom and we would be in within 6 months but no...

The property had no foundations, there was 60% rising damp, the end bearings on the wooden beams supporting both first and second floors had rotted away in many areas and there was no insulation to name but a few issues! Oh, and the barn was later condemned as the roof was about to collapse.

On the flip side it had a fantastic floor to ceiling granite fireplace in one lounge and hidden behind the walls in the other lounge was the original wood paneling, the remnants of an old bread oven and half the original granite fireplace.

So with the help and thanks to the architect, historical expert and planning department, builder, stonemason and structural engineer we set out to put the property back into a condition that would reflect what it would have been like 100's of years ago whilst maintaining the modern amenities needed for a family of four.

There were a lot of highs and a lot of lows in the build. We set out from the start by talking to others who had or were doing similar projects and they gave us a lot of tips to keep the costs down which really helped. All in all, we are really pleased with the end result and can now enjoy the rest of our lives in a small corner of St John under the Northern Lights!



KITCHEN – BEFORE & AFTER

Pollinator Preservation

Watch the fun and educational Pollinator Project animation at

www.snap.je/project/pollinator-project

created by Snap Design & Digital, illustrating links between our precious pollinators and the threat to the world food supply.



It is important to raise awareness of the significant positive impact these critters have on our environment and to guide and support our islanders on how to protect their habitats. By working together we can save our endangered pollinator population. This

project is narrated by local conservationist Bob Tompkins.

It's as simple as this! Pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, ants, thrips and earwigs) move between flowers and unwittingly spread pollen, enabling plants to produce many of our favorite fruits, seeds and new plants. This invaluable service is made possible by ensuring insect pollinators flourish in protected environments. Find out how you can play your part in protecting our pollinators.

Local pollinators are under threat due to...

Loss of habitat and changes in land use

- 80% reduction in earth's wild plants.
- 97% of Britain's wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s.

Increase of chemicals in gardening and farming

- 88% of our world's flowered plants rely solely on pollinators to reproduce.
- 1500 different insect species play a role in pollinating plants and trees in the UK.

Changes to life as we know it...

- 75% of our crops benefit from pollination. This includes fruits such as apples, grapes and strawberries as well as seeds, coffee, chocolate and baked beans!
- 1 in 3 mouthfuls of our food is provided through pollination.
- £690,000,000 UK crops are pollinated by insects each year.
- 1,500 different insect species play a role in pollinating plants and trees in the UK.

It's easy to help!

Do you have a garden, empty yard or spare window sill? Create pollinator friendly habitats by:

- Growing pollinator friendly plants and trees
- Installing bug holes and bee boxes
- Monitoring pollinators in your local area
- Cutting your grass less often
- Leaving part of your garden to grow wild
- Reducing your use of pesticides and chemicals

Head over to pollinatorproject.je for more information on how you can support Channel Island pollinator growth.

Contact our team at Snap to help creatively inspire a new project. www.snap.je



Comité Rurale

UPDATE

Following on from the last edition of the magazine we were not able to hold the planned open meeting on 5th September but would like to update you on a few current topics;

Field 525 proposal (Proposed creation of a playing field & 16 three bed dwellings next to the Primary School and Clos de l'École) – the Public Inquiry was held on 8th & 9th October and the independent Inspector's report should be issued in November. The Minister is then expected to make a final decision by the end of December.

Island Plan Review – a submission based on the survey results will be sent to the Environment Department before Christmas. The intention is that the Comité will take part in the Examination in Public next year, and we will keep you updated on the process. The Council of Ministers have now published their Preferred Strategy Report which you may find of interest. www.gov.je/government/pages/statesreports.aspx?reportid=5275

Ronez Quarry Extension – (Planning Application P/2016/0714) – when this proposal was originally submitted back in 2016 the Comité did lodge objections with the Planning Department relating to noise from the relocated motocross track and the visual impact of the extended quarrying area. The Managing Director of Ronez has recently presented some revised proposals to the Comité which would significantly improve both aspects and again we will keep you updated on this application.

Election of Comité members – we are pleased that both Hilary Jeune and Andrew Morris have agreed to be put forward for election as additional full members at the Parish Assembly on 9th December.

Ian Touzel
Chairman
Comité Rurale

Winter Hedgehog watch

Advice from the Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group to help hedgehogs during winter.

Please continue putting out food and water for the hogs which visit your garden as it can mean the difference between life and death for young hedgehogs who need to weigh at least 450g or 1lb to survive the winter. This only applies to this year's youngsters; adults should weigh more than this to get through hibernation. You can put the hedgehog's supper under a box with a (13cm/5") hole cut in the side, so that cats or seagulls can't reach it. Remember that they may not disappear and may come looking for food if it is mild.

You can boost the amount of natural food in your garden by not using any pesticides or weed killers, composting your garden waste rather than burning it and piling up dry fallen leaves or dry grass cuttings under your hedge or shed to encourage hogs to nest there. If you do decide to burn your garden rubbish, please don't set fire to a pile that has been there for

ages, to a hedgehog your bonfire heap could look like an inviting place to sleep. Please build the fire on the day you set fire to it, to ensure that there are no hogs underneath.

Once the weather gets cold, (with night time temps 5C and below) if you find a small hedgehog under 450g after dark, or any hedgehog whatever its size, lying out in daylight please pick it up with gloves, DON'T TOUCH ANY HEDGEHOG WITH YOUR BARE HANDS - put it in a box with some cat or dog food and a dish of water and give us a ring.

Hedgehog boxes both nesting and feeding, are available, thanks to the States of Jersey Prison Service at White Lodge, Waterworks Valley for £20 and £15.

For more information, fundraising ideas and useful contacts please visit www.jerseyhedgehogs.co.uk. Useful phone number DRU 734340 between 8am and 8pm and to phone the JSPCA 07797 720331 or New Era Vets 07797 711585 8pm - 8am.



Past the finish line!

Since the article published in the last edition of l'Étalle du Nord, the Jersey Kart and Motor Club has managed to complete the 2020 race season which, under the current situation, was no mean feat and has only been achievable due to the co-operation of the Parish and its residents, the Government of Jersey, Jersey Sport, Motorsport UK (our governing body), race Officials and the understanding of our racing members in adhering to the necessary restrictions that we were required to operate under.

Planning for 2021 is well underway and we hope that the Club can run a full Championship next year. There's a lot of interest from parents who would like to help their children take up kart racing next year and we're working hard to facilitate this and continue to be a completely inclusive Club.

I am sure that 2021 will still pose challenges to the Club, but I firmly believe that the resilience, professionalism and ability to find solutions to obstacles, that the Club has demonstrated this year, in particular the Committee, will result in a truly successful 2021 race season.

The Club wishes all residents of St John a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. As and when the guidelines allow it, we look forward to welcoming spectators back at the track next year. Please check our website for details of our 2021 race dates and any other information regarding the Club.

www.jerseykartclub.com



Ask Irene

Welcome to our very own St. John Agony Aunt#
have you a question? She may have an answer

There are all sorts of places to find the answer. Google, the back of the book, Let it be, smarties. One day when I was pondering the meaning of life while traversing the green lanes in Sion I met Mrs StJohnnais refilling her honesty box with black butter flavoured Jersey Wonders. During our brief encounter she solved my problem (the answer was chocolate) and I asked if she would help find other answers. Hence our St John Agony Aunt column has been born. If you have a problem, please do send it in to the editor and Mrs StJohnnais will have the answer.

Here are her latest words of wisdom

"My mother in law is coming round for Christmas day for the first time. Traditionally she cooks and the meal is prepped over 3 weeks previously, with 2 types of potatoes, 7 veg, 3 handmade sauces and 4 different deserts. And that's just lunch! I struggle with making beans on toast. Help what do I do?"

Ah ma luv, as we say here in the StJohnnais harsehold, carn your farm. It's just one lunch and she's just one lady. And if you can't beat them get a caterer. We did that for ma brothers birthday back in 1987 the cheese and parnapple on little sticks still makes mar knees knock. But with the prace of it Ah had to ecomomarse and only have half a pint of Breda in my daily pop in to the local public harse. You could go to one of our many parish food shops (Ah always buy in ma parish as ah don't trust them parishes next door, too many food miles) with meals that ah ready to cook but ah farnd it causes confusion in my recycling boxes so mah advarce to you it to sit back pour a jug of warne and get you other harf to do it.



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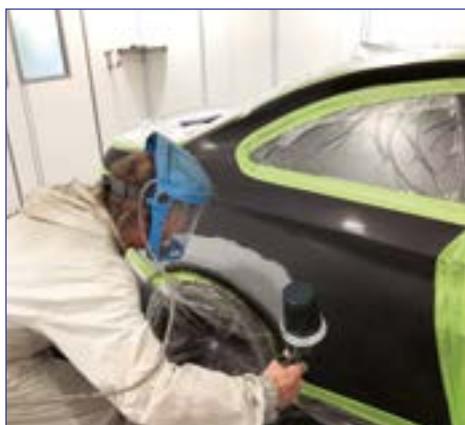


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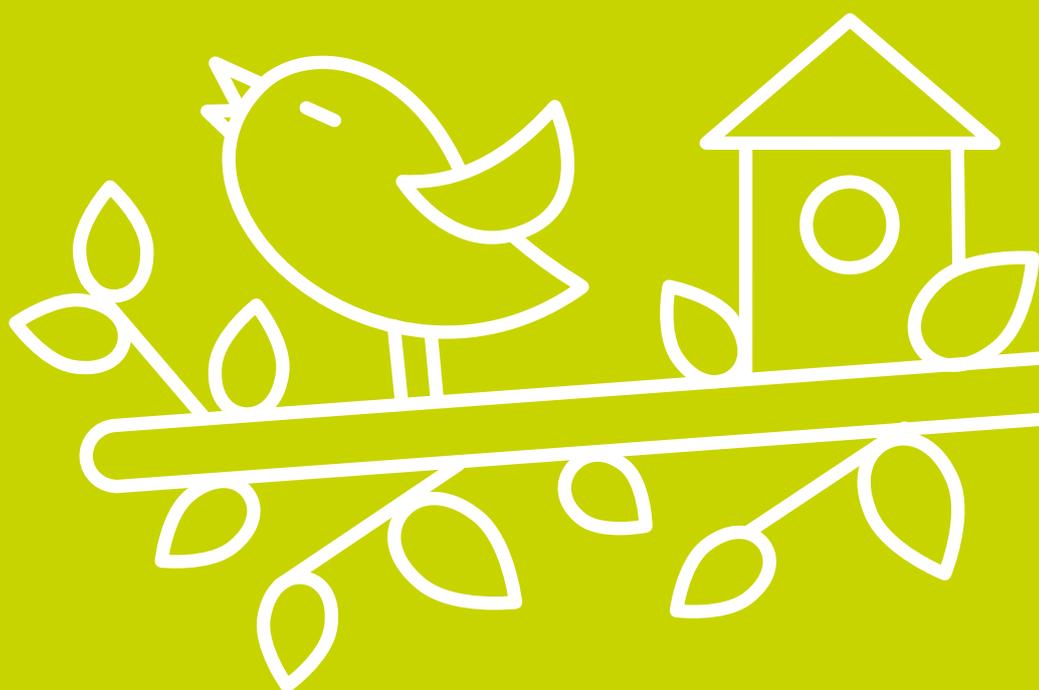
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and smile*

Let your hair down (or up) for Christmas

As December is upon us, Christmas hair doesn't have to be all big, bouncy blowdries and Hollywood waves that take hours and effort to achieve. Most of the time "more is less" understated chic!

Get yourself some high fashion easy to do Christmas hairstyle ideas straight from the runways with our edit of the party looks you should be rocking during this festive period. Whether you're out with friends for a small celebration or with family on Christmas Day; having your hair that little bit special always gives you a boost especially during these times. As we all know how much we valued and missed our Hairstylists during lockdown!



The Chignon

Chignons will never go out of style. Wear yours loose around the ears for an elegant but relaxed look. This hair up will take you through from practical work look to effortlessly glam.

Deck a simple style or blow dry with an oh-so extra headband or pin for instant impact! This is the quickest and simplest way to instantly get into the festive hair spirit.



The Hair accessories

A ribbon worn in a half-up, half-down style oozes femininity and go green, red or gold for the ultimate Christmas feel.

After all this partying, your hair can really suffer during the constant cold outside to the heat indoors. The change in temperatures can really dry out your hair, so start using a good quality professional salon conditioner every time you wash your hair - once a week use a deep treatment hair mask for that extra shine and nutritive repair. Now you're all set to go and enjoy the Christmas season with friends and family, with hair to knock them out with!



The ribbon

Shelley x



Registration & Renewal Reminder

Data Protection Registration and Renewal Reminder for 2021

If your business, organisation or charity uses any type of personal information about individuals, then you should already be registered for data protection with the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner (JOIC).



What is Registration?

Registration is the process by which data controllers and data processors (organisations that process personal information on behalf of controllers) inform the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner of certain details relating to their organisation. Registration attracts a fee for all organisations except charities and not-for-profit.

The principal purpose of registration is transparency and openness. It is a basic principle of data protection that the public should know (or should be able to find out) who is processing their personal information.

Registration or Renewal

If your business, organisation or charity is already registered with the JOIC, then you must renew your registration during the renewal window which runs from 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2021. Remember new registrations can still be made after this date and at any time during the year. That said, it is a criminal offence to use personal information without being registered with the JOIC.

Remember you need to register with the JOIC if your business, organisation or charity does any of the following:

- Collects names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses.
- Uses names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses in day to day business.
- Shares names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses with other organisations.
- Sends newsletters or marketing to customers and/or potential customers.
- Uses CCTV cameras.

Benefits

Registration provides access to bespoke data protection guidance on the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner's website www.jerseyoic.org. It also shows potential and existing customers that your organisation values and respects personal data, helping to build trust and confidence in your organisation.

Registration is only a small part of compliance with the Data Protection Jersey (Law) 2018. The law requires organisations processing personal information do so in line with the relevant aspects of the law and this should be a fundamental part of daily business at the highest level of any organisation via a design and default approach rather than as an add-on or afterthought.

For more information about how to register or renew your registration with the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner visit

www.jerseyoic.org and click 'Manage Registrations'.

If you have any questions, call the **JOIC** team office on **(01534) 716530** or email enquiries@jerseyoic.org.

Sinterklaas

by Leon Pluymaekers

Celebrating St John's diverse languages through seasonal poetry – Sinterklaas (Saint Nicolas)

Have you already made a drawing, put carrots and hay out to feed the horse, sing songs and put your shoe in front of the fireplace so that you can get a small present in the shoe the next day? Or have you received an answer to your wish-letter posted to Sinterklaas that always gets answered?

If the answer is no, you have not yet met Sinterklaas!

Every year Sinterklaas leaves his Spanish residence and arrives at the first Saturday after the 11th of November by boat in The Netherlands. He returns to Spain after his birthday celebration on the 5th of December.

During this time he and his helpers, all called Piet, visit people all over the country, at home, schools, churches, scouting, companies and elderly homes. Children as well as grown-ups have to come up to Sinterklaas and tell about the good and bad things they have done during the past year and sing a song. If you have been really bad, you only get a bag of salt and no sweets. You might even be taken back to Spain for disciplinary training! If you have been good you will get typical Sinterklaas sweets.

These might be very large Speculaas biscuits, A large Chocolate initial, Marsepan sweets and biscuit nuts.

Children are also allowed to put out their shoes and as a Grand Finale they receive a big present during the evening of the birthday of Sinterklaas on the 5th of December.

As said children, next to making drawings and putting out food for the horse of Sinterklaas, also have to sing. When Sinterklaas changed his mode of transport from Spain, from a regular boat to a steamboat in 1848 the song below was introduced.



Zie ginds komt de stoomboot uit Spanje weer aan
Hij brengt ons Sint Nicolaas, ik zie hem al staan
Hoe huppelt zijn paardje het dek op en neer
Hoe waaien de wimpels al heen en al weer.
Zijn knecht staat te lachten en roept ons reeds toe :
Wie zoet is krijgt lekkers, wie stout is de roe!
Och lieve Sint Nicolaas, och kom ook bij mij.
En rij dan niet stilletjes ons huisje voorbij.
(En rijd toch ons huisje vooral niet voorbij!)
(en rijd toch niet stilletjes ons huisje voorbij!)
Sint Nicolaas, de bisschop, schrijft op in zijn boek
al wat hij gehoord heeft bij 't jaarlijks bezoek
Wie zoet was, wie stout was hij schrijft het er bij.
Wat zou hij wel schrijven van jou en van mij?

See over there the steamboat from Spain arrives again
He brings us St. Nicholas, I can already see him
How his horse hops up and down the deck
How the pennants are blowing back and forth.
His servant is laughing and already calls out to us:
Who is sweet will get treats, who is naughty the roe!
Oh dear Saint Nicholas, oh come to me too.
And don't drive quietly past our house.
(And don't drive past our house!)
(and don't drive quietly past our house anyway!)
Saint Nicholas, the bishop, writes in his book
everything he has heard during the annual visit
Who was sweet, who was naughty, he adds it.
What would he write about you and me?





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St. John's Parish Church

Church news and forthcoming services and events

by Rev. Beverley Sproats, Rector of St. John's Parish Church.

Despite restrictions, it has been lovely to continue to worship together both in person in the church building and online. The 9.30am Contemporary Holy Communion service is streamed to Facebook live and then uploaded to YouTube. It gets several views on both sites. The online service is attracting both people who have not previously attended St. John's Parish Church, and also regular members of the congregation who cannot attend in person due to illness, shielding or self-isolating after travelling. The advantage of the people who watch at home is that they can sing their hearts out, because we are still not allowed to sing in church! We are making the best of things by humming along to pre-recorded hymns and have been blessed with recordings of a few hymns by Brian and Heather Woods which have been beautiful.

We celebrated Harvest at the end of September. The weather held and we were able to have a bring your own picnic in the churchyard after the Harvest Celebration service. Thank you to all those who donated non-perishable food including tins and packets and also toiletries. These all went to the Grace Trust that helps people in need in our island.

In October we collected Christmas Shoeboxes for Mustard Seed Jersey to send to people in need in Romania. Over 48 boxes were received, full of toiletries, clothing, stationery and other gifts. The boxes are packed according to age group, from children to adults. We also received donations for several more boxes. Lots of people got involved and also got their colleagues and families to join in.



Harvest picnic



Christmas Shoeboxes for Mustard Seed

Items collected for the Grace Trust during Harvest Service



Little Oaks Sunday Club continues on the first Sunday of every month at 9.30am for primary school aged children. After a couple of meetings in the Lady Chapel, the group has now moved back to the Vestry with more opportunity for singing and having stories.

It is lovely to hear what the children have been up to when they share with us back in the service during Church Family News.

Remembrance Sunday



Due to coronavirus restrictions we had to alter the United Service of Remembrance from its usual format. We also sadly had to limit numbers in Church for the start of the service and I'm grateful to everyone for their understanding. Others were able to join at the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance and the service concluded outside. It was poignant to hear the bells ringing half-muffled before the service and it was wonderful to hear the organ again played by Paul Matthams, as we hummed along to the hymns! The whole service was very moving as we gathered together to remember the fallen. The church was beautifully decorated by the Flower Team and Viv Day coordinated a fantastic community wreath of knitted and crocheted poppies!



Community wreath made by Viv Day from poppies knitted and crocheted by members of church/parish

As I write we are working on plans for how we can have Advent and Christmas services within current restrictions. Follow the Church Facebook page for more details

www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchje

To find out more and explore the Christian faith, please connect with us on social media [@stjohnschurchje](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchje) or contact **Rev. Beverley Sproats** on **861677** or **07700 731 114** or beverleysproats@gmail.com

Party Games HQ

playing a bit of

DIRTY SANTA

As we approach Christmas there is no shortage of games to be playing, we all have fond memories of monstrously long games of Monology, getting the Trivial Pursuit out and the mandatory Charades.

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving, who knew this could also be a game. We played it for the first time last Christmas and it is already eagerly anticipated for this year in Party HQ. This game has many names, Dirty Santa or White elephant to name a few. It has a plethora of versions but let's go with the card game version. It's great for large groups, up to 52 players! Old and young, all tastes and budgets.

On the day of your party ask each person to bring a present, set them out on a nearby table for all to see. Have two packs of playing cards ready. As games master keeps one pack aside. Deal out the other pack to all the guests until they are all divided up. Now you're ready to get your present.

The games master turns over a card from their pack and calls it to the group. The person with that card gets to choose a present from the table. You continue until all the cards are turned and the presents are picked. Happy Christmas!

The game gets interesting if you have less presents than players. Once all presents are picked from the table the next 'chooser' can steal someone else's present. You keep stealing until the games master has turned over all the cards.

Some can end up with more than one present, some with none.

There's so many of ways to spice up this game. Try asking people to bring a 'good pressie' and/or a 'basic pressie'. Think a tin of beans, if the present to person ratio is small never has someone been so keen to take home beans before, it'll never get stolen a least. Or if you're confident enough a 'recycled Christmas present' if something may have been given and needs a different home; but be sure to check the guest list. Have mystery prizes with some wrapped and some not. Or all wrapped until they are selected, then unwrap and then start stealing.

My only advice would be read your audience. Make sure there's a few classic pressies that everyone will love wine, choccies, smelly candles and some targeted presents you know someone will love and will prove irresistible for stealing. Well that's what happens in our family! That, or my cousin hides the best present under the table hoping no-one will notice!

Happy Christmas from Party HQ and looking forward to more fun and games in 2021.



Toy In The Tree

Watch (TITT)

Belgium may have a statue of a little boy that pees, well St John has a toy in a tree!

Welcome to our newest column that will feature the latest toys stuffed into the little hole in the tree on La Route de Saint-Jean as you travel West. **Have you noticed these toys? Have you wondered where they come from or why they are even there?** This space will be dedicated to documenting and celebrating these fun creatures, so you can all be part of the fun.

Let us know your theories on why they keep appearing? Who is it that keeps us all guessing and straining our eyes to see what's next? Where do these stuffed toys come from and where do they go?

Send us your own pictures, drawings or tell us your favorite toy in the tree (TiTT) Perhaps you have a tale to share on what adventures these toys get up to? Is the hole in the tree a portal to a secret toy world?

Happy toy hunting!



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HONESTY BOX CORNER



Shortening the journey from field to fork: News from an honesty box stall

Mrs Romeril, has an honesty box stall at Le Marinel Farm on Les Chenolles, South of St John's Village. She recently told us a bit about her passion for growing vegetables year round and keeping the honesty box filled:

I've been running an honesty box for over 40 years, first in St Brelades on our farm there and now here for the last 5 years. I was born and grew up in St John as my dad was a stone mason at Ronez. I used to live in a small cottage above the quarry.

I grow all sorts of vegetables, my favourite being pumpkins and crown prince squash, beans and tomatoes. I grow a lot of flowers and pot plants too, which I put on the stall during the summer months.

I have always worked with my hands, I love watching things grow. My vegetable patch and the honesty box gives me something to do: sometimes my husband helps me. I keep the soil well fertilised with the cow manure from our dairy cows.

Please do come and visit.

Check out the Jersey Honesty Box and Jersey HedgeVeg Facebook pages to find a map of all honesty box stalls, farm shops and organic shops around the Island as well as updated news on what produce has been freshly stocked that day. Support a more sustainable environment in our Island by shortening the journey from field to fork.

PARISH CONTACTS



Bell Ringing Justin Read - 888484
Bingo Muriel Poisson - 863184
Bonne Nuit Boat Owners Linda Carter - 864828
Brownies Donna Tupper - 865728
Caesarean Bell Ringers Diane Nelson - 481898
Church Rectory - 861677
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Friends of Bonne Nuit Gary Romeril - 861972
Golden Age Club Wendy Rondel - 863667
Magazine Parish Contacts & Diary - 866880
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PARISH DIARY



December 2020 to March 2021

All events subject to the ending of the coronavirus restrictions.

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES:

- 8am** Traditional Holy Communion in church.
- 9.30am** Contemporary Holy Communion in church and Facebook livestream.
- 9.30am** *First Sunday of the month* - Little Oaks Sunday Club.
- 9am-3pm on Wednesdays** - Church open for private prayer.

January

No events

February

- 27th** Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall I
(Covid19 restrictions permitting)
- 28th** Moto-X Training event Sorel Point

March

- 13th** Moto-X Training event Sorel Point
- 24th** Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall I
(Covid19 restrictions permitting)
- 28th** Moto-X Training event Sorel Point

Golden Age Club events for this year are cancelled

Check church Facebook page for updated events
www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchje

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD



The magazine is published for the Parish of St John by MediaMasters who do not necessarily hold the views that are expressed in the articles.

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 Distribution - Richard and Rosemary Dupré

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