



Spring 2021
Issue 53

L'Étaile du Nord

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Parish of St John



Seriously *Scavenging* over *Half Term*

See Page 24

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Dear Parishioners...

For a parish that was under strict rules around Covid-19, where shops and restaurants were closed in-doors; there was no meeting up in households or gardens; and the only place to meet was maximum 10 in a public place – I have been so impressed with the amount of community news and interests that fill this latest edition.

We have plenty of news about our youngsters - from St John's school, Haute Vallee School, the youth club, gymnastic competition, and the allotment focusing on children. One of our parishioners, (who by the way is an excellent babysitter!) tells us about how it has been to be a fresher at university during a global pandemic.

Did you participate in the St John's PTA scavenger hunt over half term? well done the organisers. We bring you a sample of the questions, the winners, the photos and limericks. We had a go as a family, it was great fun. I am very annoyed that we didn't get the solar panel location. Check out the pictures and see if you can find where it is located in our parish. I also found out that the URC in Sion was built in 1880 and used as a library – be sure to look up at the façade next time you drive (slowly) through Sion!

Regular articles hold lots of tip bits and chuckles including from our regular contributor our very own agony aunt Mrs St Johnnaise, news from party HQ and TITT watch. Please do keep sending in your questions to our agony aunt, your story or favourite sighting of TITT and if you have any party games to share with Party HQ.

Please take time to read the Church Treasurer's report. Luckily many church activities have still happened, in adapted form, during these times. However, the church has struggled to raise the funds it needs to meet its running costs and expenses. Our parish church has launched an appeal to the community to make a small donation to help it through.

I could keep going listing all the great articles, but that would be silly as I think you should just keep turning the pages and find out for yourself. I do want to highlight one, which is winter sea swimming. I have also taken up this extreme sport – I say extreme because you really do need to watch the amount of time you are in and ensure you read the weather and the tide times. But at the same time it helps create a bond with you and your swim mates which I am sure strengthens life long friendships, sharing stories as you swim and warming up together with hot tea and a biscuit or home made cake.

Happy to hear from you if you would like to contribute an article or join the editorial team (me!) – more the merrier. Please contact

editor@starofthenorth.org.je

Editor

Hilary Jeune



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Sensory GARDEN UPDATE



Planning meeting with Stuart

St. John's School Eco team have been extremely busy over the past year developing the school's sensory garden. We have very limited natural outdoor space at St. John's School so this little corner of the playground is particularly special to the school and local community. The area was so well loved it was beginning to feel tired and in need of a refresh.

In early 2019 the process began with the children taking ownership over the whole of the project. Firstly planning their ideas before talking to local landscape gardener, Stuart McBrearty, who shared his knowledge and discussed which plans would be possible and those which may be unlikely to succeed. With their new understanding, the Eco team prepared updated plans and agreed the areas to focus on.

Funding for the project was raised through contributions donated to our 2019 Christmas performances. Additionally, St. John's School won two awards from the 2019 Insurance Corporation Conservation Awards for our whole school project on climate justice. The awards were People's Choice and Best School Project, each with a cash prize to contribute towards our ongoing work. We also received a large award from the Jersey Charity Commission which was for the purpose of constructing the new much larger Gazebo. The Gazebo's increased size easily accommodates a whole class group and has provided the school with an important new learning space to use.

The securing of much of the funding and the physical labour was completed by parents from the school gardening club, under the guidance of Stuart. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has contributed to the project. It is an area of the school that will open up many new learning opportunities and has already become a space which is greatly enjoyed by the children and local wildlife alike.

Posters to help us recognise local wildlife



Stuart cutting the ribbon



New rockery



Opening of the sensory garden



HONESTY BOX CORNER

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

If you venture into St John's School playground you will find a lovely pale green honesty box.

The box is stocked with seasonal fruit, vegetables and flowers grown in the raised beds in the school playground.

In non Covid times there is a weekly after school gardening club whereby the school children can learn to

grow plants from seed and care for them until they produce fruit or vegetables that they can harvest. The honesty box has very much become part of

the school community and we encourage families from school to not only buy produce from the box but also donate any surplus produce they may have grown at home.

All monies raised from honesty box sales are utilised by the PTA to fund farm school trips and other school activities or equipment.

The box sold a variety of produce last year including Jersey Royals, courgettes, sweetcorn, tomatoes, sweat peas,

homemade chutney, homemade mincemeat and Christmas wreaths.

The honesty box is open

outside school hours to the parish community and when produce is available for sale posts are put on the School PTA and St John Resident facebook pages.

We look forward to all parishioners visiting the school honesty box in 2021 and if any parishioners would like to donate surplus seeds, plants or produce to the honesty box please feel free to do so, we would be extremely grateful :)

Many Thanks
Kerry Mcbrea



Our new grassed area



Our new gazebo



Improved fish pond



The Insurance Corporation Conservation Awards



Climate Justice Project



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THE CONSTABLE

Spring is upon us, the weather is improving, and we have much to look forward to. The past twelve months has been a most difficult time and we must look forward with optimism to the future. The Vaccination program is rolling out fast and by the summer virtually everyone should have had the opportunity of being vaccinated.

It is important not to forget what has happened and to draw knowledge from what we have gone through to ensure such crises are never repeated. Few parishioners can remember the experience of the last War but most of us have been taught the horror of it. Now we can all say we have experienced a pandemic, something we never wish to see again. I don't want to be negative, but we must be prepared for what the future holds, it may not be war or disease, but I am sure we will face the future with true spirit.

Great news, we have had Planning Approval for the School Playground and also sixteen homes for first time buyers. I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard, particularly Mark le Boutillier from GR Langlois, Stephanie Steedman our Planning Consultant, and Trudie de la Haye from St John's School. They have really put their shoulder to the wheel to achieve this good news. We can now look forward to providing a much needed facility for the School and will give our children vital outdoor space to let off energy.

When I first stood for Deputy in the Parish way back in 1994 one of the hot topics was to get part of the field as a playground for the School. A full generation has now gone through St John's School since that election without a decent playground, so I am particularly pleased this is now actually happening.

I am also delighted that part of the Planning Application for the School Playground is to provide sixteen much needed homes for first time buyers. The last Parish homes were built in 1992, again a whole generation ago. However, the Parish has submitted its plans for the next Island Plan which is due to be debated in the States early next year. Hopefully this will provide more homes for parishioners and keep the vibrancy of our Parish going into the future.

Finally, and by no means, lastly I would like to welcome our new Parish Secretary Sue Morin. Sue is very much a St Jeannais as her Grandfather and Great Grandfather both farmed in the Parish, and her parents live in Ville des Chenes. From my point of view the change has been almost seamless and I would like to thank both last Sue and new Sue for make my job so much easier.



Jersey Falconry

A Local Business Feature

Jersey Falconry has been a local business in Jersey for about 30 years. Run by Richard Hall with the help of two volunteers, Gill Hutchinson and Mike Entwistle, it moved to the beautiful grounds of St John's Manor 12 years ago.

Jersey Falconry offers falconry courses/training, flying experiences and photography opportunities. With the help of Richard, visitors can experience close encounters with such birds as owls (European Eagle Owl, Spectacled Owl, Barn owls, Bengal Eagle owl and a Little Owl), Harris Hawks, Saker and Gyr/Saker Falcons, a Kestrel and a Steppe Eagle.

The health and well-being of our birds are important and as Falconry was made a "living human Heritage" by UNESCO in 2016, we are especially proud to be associated with this ancient art that has drawn people to have relationships with birds of prey for thousands of years.

Jersey Falconry (JF) works closely with the local JSPCA on rehabilitating injured birds of prey; the Barn Owl Conservation Network in Jersey and the Environment Department. The team at JF have always kept up to date with the latest falconry research and techniques and have close affiliations with the Jersey Falconry Club (JFC) an organisation that has people with varying experience and different expertise. For example, together with the JFC Education Officer, we take birds into local schools on invitation to talk about the birds of prey we have in Jersey and link into the relevant curriculum topic being studied.

We also work with Jersey Heritage at Mont Orgueil Castle and one of our Harris Hawks, together with a volunteer in medieval costume, puts in an appearance every few weeks during the summer season, to talk about falconry.

We have a Facebook page – **JerseyFalconryRichardHall** and we try to keep our followers up to date with the goings on of our birds. Although this last year has been a strange time for us all, we managed to carry on delivering our experiences for as long as we could, as they all take place outside.

The total shutdown of the island in 2020 had a marked effect on our business as it did on so many, but a positive aspect for us has been the number of local people who have brought their families and friends for experiences during a staycation. This has meant that our local profile has risen somewhat and with word-of-mouth in Jersey being so important, our bookings for this year (2021) and sale of vouchers as presents, has continued.

Jersey Falconry has been privileged to be at St John's Manor for so many years, but it may be that time will come to a natural end as we look to expand and change our business model. Our goal is to open a falconry centre and tea rooms, where visitors and locals alike can come and enjoy our birds either as part of a demonstration or just a stop off for tea. If anyone is interested in this idea and where we could situate it, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Please contact **Richard Hall 07797 832837**

Hank little owl



Archimedes-Bengal eagle owl



Bart European eagle owl



Barn owl



Richard and Bart

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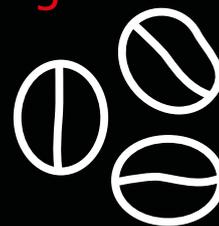
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Newly launched **St John's Jersey Residents Facebook Page**

Former Procureur Andy Jehan set up the Facebook page in November 2020, and after just 75 days, the membership reached 555 and is still growing.

Andy said *"It's not an original idea, in fact it was a former Parishioner, JEP journalist Lucy Stephenson who inspired me to set up the page. I read an article in the JEP about how she'd set up a similar page in St Ouen and thought we should have something very similar. Our page is a bit like a digital version of our local community and people are encouraged to post things of interest. We've had lost items, ranging from keys, purses, gloves and cats as well as people looking for accommodation in the Parish."*

There has been photographs ranging from the weather to old pictures from the 1940's - some of the pictures have clearly stirred many memories represented by the great discussions on the group. Businesses are also encouraged to post and spread the word about what they are doing and some have taken the opportunity to do this.

Parish groups are starting to use the page too including the School PTA, the Rec Centre, Bonne Nuit Boat owners and the Parish Church. There is also someone helping to promote more use of the excellent doorstep recycling we enjoy each month.

Pages like this are a great way for communities to keep interacting and stay connected during the COVID pandemic and beyond.

Please feel free to join the Facebook Page – find by searching for **St John, Jersey – Residents**. The idea is that it's the members of the group who keep it interesting. It doesn't matter if you're involved in anything, from Allotments to Zumba or if you've just taken a picture please feel free to contribute.



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A New. Appointment

for St John's Deputy, Trevor Pointon

The start of a new year and a new 2021 first edition of the parish magazine is here.

Well Christmas and the New Year were very different for us all, December's Covid numbers had prompted what amounted to a second "lock down" for all but the most essential services and people, and then we get the news that we will only be able to celebrate Christmas together on Christmas Day and Boxing Day with numbers restricted to 10.

For Jane and I this rule, as it was for many people in the Madeiran and Polish communities, was dismaying given that part of our normal Christmas is to have family members for festive supper on Christmas Eve. This time the plan was to have Boeuf Bourguignonne with trimmings and crackers followed by festive pudding, festive bubbles and table presents. Clearly there was to be no change of heart from government, so initially it looked as if the whole Christmas Eve event would have to be shelved.

We had been preparing ourselves for some months with things like crackers and table presents being purchased in the 2020 January sales before we entered the first lock down. We knew that cancelling this annual family get-together would cause some disappointment and result in wasted ingredients and props.

What to do? Well it occurred to me that although restaurants were not able to provide meals and drinks on site they were able to provide a takeaway service to customers. This was the solution, we would continue with our plans, the end product would be a takeaway.

On the 23rd December we purchased sufficient takeaway containers from Pound Magic and spent the day on 24th preparing as normal. We did though stick to the gathering limit of 10. By 18:30 all was complete and packed into boxes with news paper insulation, accompanied by the plonk, crackers and table presents. Each of the households involved had been primed to collect at staggered times including daughter Charlotte who made the journey 'all the way' from Maufant collecting for the four in her household. The remainder had but a short trip from their homes next door to us.

We had a really enjoyable time together, but separated. Why you ask is Christmas Eve so special. It is because other family members arrange the festivities on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Family traditions eh!

Remember the no confidence vote I mentioned in the last article, well there were two resignations prior to the debate. The Children and Housing Minister and one of the Assistant Health Ministers.



As a result of Children and Housing resigning the then Assistant Minister became acting Children and Housing, then in December the Education Minister resigned and Children and Housing became acting Education Minister so leaving a vacancy, at Children and Housing. All very convoluted, but the matter should be resolved at the Assembly sitting on the 9th February when a new Education Minister should be elected, but the Ministry is to be known as Education and Children.

In the meantime part of my intended designated role in the States is in limbo as I have been formally offered, but not as yet had ratified, the post of Assistant Minister to the Children's Minister, with responsibility for Mental Health this being because the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service falls within Education and is the responsibility of the Children's Minister. Oh by the Way Housing is moving into another Ministry that will be Housing and Community. Are you all following?

I'm glad you are! The problem is that as intimated above the role of Children's Minister is moving to the Education Minister who has only just been elected.

The much simpler aspect of this Whitehall Farce of a Ministerial shuffle is that I have been appointed Assistant Health Minister with responsibility for Adult Mental health.

My clear objective will be to bring Children and Adolescent services closer to the resources, practical and financial, that are available within Adult Mental Health.

My work in the parish continues as I support a number of parishioners who have found accessing States services difficult. If you have matters you would like to discuss please contact me;

Phone: **01534 864224**
Mob: **07797-724625**
Mail: **t.pointon2@gov.je**



Jersey Clipper Bursary

Apply now if you would like to make your nautical dream come true

Applicants of all ages are invited to apply for the 2021 Jersey Clipper Bursary – a £1,000 cash award aimed at furthering maritime endeavour.

The bursary is designed to assist an islander of any age to achieve a particular nautical ambition. This could, for example, be a trip on a tall ship, attending a training course, participating in a watersports competition or competing in an ocean race – anything with a maritime theme.

The annual award, a legacy from the three Jersey campaigns in the Clipper Round-the-World Race, was established 15 years ago through the generosity of Dandara, Les Pas Holdings and UBS.

Further funding to ensure the future of the award has recently been provided by UBS, enabling the trustees to increase the main bursary to £1,000 and offer a runner's-up award of £500.

The winner will follow in the wake of last year's winner, Laser dinghy sailor Will Dengate, who hopes one day to represent Great Britain in the European and World championships. Will had planned to use the bursary award to fund training trips in the UK but Covid-19 put paid to his travel plans. Instead he used the money to buy new sails for his Laser and concentrated on local races, a move that proved successful as he won trophies in both the Logicalis Gorey Regatta and the Carey Olsen Jersey Regatta.



The 14-year-old has also recently received the Cadet of the Year award (jointly with Luke Garnier) from the Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club.

Last year's runner's up award of £500 went to university student Lizzie Ellison to help her gain the Royal Yachting Association's Yachtmaster qualification. She has since completed and passed the theory course but due to the pandemic will not be able to take the practical exam until later this year.

The deadline for submitting written applications for this year's Jersey Clipper Bursary is the end of April 2021. They should be no more than 200 words in length and should be emailed to philipjeune@gmail.com.

Jersey Gymnastics Club (JGC) 2020 Recreational Gala

In November 2020 JGC happily managed to rearrange their Recreational Gala (previously cancelled in March 2020 because of the start of the Pandemic) just before new lockdown measures were put in place for sport. The event took part in the sports hall at St. John's Recreational Centre, the home of the Club.

Parents were unable to view the event and children had to compete in smaller class sizes to keep within the number restrictions in place at the time.

The gymnasts competed in different age groups from U6 to 10 & Over and had moves/routines judged on the Floor, Bar, Beam, Vault and Double Mini (a type of trampoline). Skills such as backward rolls, handstands, cartwheels, balances, star jumps and bar swings were all on display. Medals were presented for the best scores overall and everyone received a participation medal and a certificate for taking part.



Even with the restrictions in place it was still a great experience for the children having to compete one at a time in front of judges. The coaches saw some fantastic demonstrations of gymnastics, and after a lot of uncertainty it was just nice to put the event on in some capacity. Hopefully things can get back to some kind of normality this year so that the 2021 Gala can be watched by spectators, fingers crossed!



If anyone is interested in joining the Club please visit their website www.jerseygymnasticsclub.co.uk to register for a class or take part in one of their school holiday camps.



Children and Allotments

by Martin Whitley

Most of the time children don't really wonder how food grows, but if they see their Mum or Dad or even their Grandparents working on a vegetable patch, it may just spark a natural curiosity to find out "what's happening" at the end of Granny and Grandad's garden or on the family allotment.

If a flicker of enthusiasm shows, encourage it. Garden Centers or online shops will have some really encouraging seed packets for children, from vegetables and strawberries to herbs and even mixed seeds for attracting bees and butterflies and other insects to benefit the whole allotment site.

Let them have their own plot within the allotment, get them to mark it out, put a little fence around it if they want to, even make a raised bed, let them read the seed packet, plan it and plant it. Allowing them to do this makes it theirs and encourage the keeping of a diary. Children love to show off what they achieve so if they want to eat the peas from the pod or pick and eat their strawberries, does it matter if they don't make the kitchen? Let them experiment and have fun.

There are some really nice garden tools for children, let them clean and look after them and have a special place in the allotment tool box for them. Gloves are useful but children love to get their hands dirty and need to feel the soil to appreciate it, as long as they wash them afterwards and don't put their fingers in their mouths.

If you try and force a child to garden you will probably be wasting your time. They will always remember the allotment as a chore that may stay with them in to adulthood. If however, they do enjoy it, you have 'sown the seed' for the next generation of gardeners, well done! Maybe a few years later when they have a garden of their own they may realize that they do things in a way that they don't even remember learning - something sank in somewhere.

WILDLIFE

Children may notice that wildlife will land on what they are growing and what's nicer than the whole family learning from it. Encourage children to look for wildlife, listen to the birds that they will hear around and identify them, it makes nature much more interesting. It's good to have a book/pocket guide, kept in easy reach for just that purpose.

COMPOST

If you are interested in making your own compost on the allotment, encourage the children to help out with keeping things to put on it, help them find out the best things to put on the heap or in the bin and how to manage it. Then show them how it can be used to benefit what is being grown.

Most gardening books will show how to make compost.

SAFETY

Being safe on the allotment is the same as any garden, it's easy to trip over, get hurt with a tool and even poke yourself with something like a stick or cane. Everyone can benefit from taking their time and respecting the dangers.

Maybe cover the ends of canes or sticks with an old tennis ball or there are lots of colourful rubber ends that slot onto the top. No seed from a packet should be eaten, unless they are organic they may be treated. Bulbs are quite often poisonous, always handle seeds and bulbs with gloves on.

St John's Allotments have a number of families with young children that are helping mum and dad or just enjoying the fresh air.

If you are a St John Parishioner interested in an allotment and joining the waiting list, please collect an application form from St John's Parish Hall.



We share with friends and neighbours

Darcie-Wren Stanford dibbing-in her leeks!



Corn on the cob, the patient wait between nurturing and harvesting!



The Story of 14 Charing Cross



From grocery shop to travel agents, 13-15 Charing Cross has been a busy commercial site for centuries. As the building prepares for its next phase, as the Santander Work Café, we look at its heritage.

Walk around St Helier and ground level reveals shop frontages of the moment. Look up, and first and second floors reveal structures from the present day back to the early 18th century.

The streets around Charing Cross are no exception, with developments such as the new Premier Inn and Cooperative supermarket highlighting the age of the buildings around them.

Once the western edge of St Helier, Charing Cross was absorbed into the commercial heart of the town after the prison was demolished in 1811 to open the road, and the footprint of Charing Cross as we know it now came to be formed.

The building of 13-15 Charing Cross at the crossroads between Castle Street and Broad Street commands a fine view towards the Crapaud, the Croix de la Reine, and on to King Street.

Census records show a building on this site as far back as 1861, when Mary Esther Vibert, a grocer, was registered at Number 13, and Anne Portend, a housekeeper, at Number 15.

The buildings do not appear on the 1871 Census, but a return is found for 1891, showing William P. Simon, a general merchant and grocer at Number 13, and George Penry, the harbour policeman at Number 15.



Early examples of two of the occupant's trade adverts



From 1891 to 1911 Number 13 was inhabited by Peter P. Le Marquand, an ironmonger, and his family, with the Sauvage family, who 'lived off their own means', also mentioned in the earlier Census.

In 1891 Number 15 Charing Cross was uninhabited, but by 1901 it had become a butcher's shop, run by Henry R. Mesney. It was a private dwelling again in 1911, occupied by William Peter Brown, a crane driver for the harbour, and his wife.



Charing Cross in 1985 (top) & 1908 (bottom)



An artist's impression of the new Santander Work Café in Charing Cross

During the 20th century, the site remained primarily commercial, with Number 13 changing from an ironmonger to a bike shop and a motorcycle shop, run by the Illien family, while the 1955 Census shows Number 15 was used as a taxi and car hire shop.

Kelly Le Quesne, Genealogy Researcher at La Société Jersiaise, said: "When the lower part of the building was used as a shop it changed hands fairly regularly and there is not a natural flow to each proprietor. It is unusual not to see anyone registered at the building in the 1841, 1851, and 1871 censuses, but as the date of the building is unknown it may not have existed before 1861. Also, while it appears the building has always been known as Charing Cross, another name may have existed which has slipped between the cracks."

The current four-story building we see today, with its grand façade, was thought to be constructed in 1895, and significantly redeveloped to become one building, known as Number 14, in the late 20th century.

Jersey's PRIDE Registry of building records show the site was leased to Vanity Fayre Ltd., in 1986 and in 1987 to Helene Ltd. In 1993 the premises were purchased from Aquis Jersey Ltd., becoming the Thomas Cook building in 1994.

In 2019, Santander International signed the lease of 14 Charing Cross and began plans to turn the 7,973 square foot building into a Santander Work Café.

After extensive refurbishment, the new Work Café will include five free, bookable meeting

rooms equipped with state-of-the-art conference facilities, a barista zone serving freshly prepared food and sustainably sourced coffee, and co-working spaces. The upper floors will provide office space for Santander International's Channel Island headquarters, bringing staff from all parts of the business together. The renovations take the building up to the highest standards, offering spacious, well ventilated rooms, accessible bathrooms, and easy-to-clean surfaces.

Santander has over 50 Work Cafés in eight countries around the world. As well as the meeting rooms, co-working space, and café experience, Santander International's banking customers will be able to meet relationship managers in the building, open and manage accounts, and withdraw money by using an ATM.

James Pountney, Chief Executive Officer, Santander International, said: "Charing Cross is at the heart of St Helier, linking the main areas of town to the international financial district. We are proud to be able to give this prominent site a new role as a hub for all the community, helping entrepreneurs build on Jersey's commercial heritage, developing the businesses and services we need for the future."



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A different kind of first year at university

My name is Morgan Perrée. I was part of the graduating group who took their A-level examinations during the first lockdown. In September, I went on to begin my first year of studying at the University of Sussex. Our world has changed in a multitude of different ways and this is certainly true for a University student in 2020-2021. Let's get the obvious out the way, online learning is a hassle. Yes maybe, it has its benefits, mainly lessons being a couple metres from my bed but many of the affects are complicated. Tutors and students are constantly having to navigate new and different ways of teaching and learning. You need to be prepared to work for your own goals and outcomes; keeping cameras on in seminars is not mandatory so of course many students choose to focus on their phones rather than the droning lectures, furthermore more students miss learning with many lectures and seminars not using registers. This translates to my biggest frustration this year which involves group work or group presentation. For many students, group presentation is an easy grade. This is magnified with all the learning online, it is impossible to chase down the more slothful participants which often means double the number of hours put into research for students who really want to work and learn.

This year in terms of COVID-19 I have been lucky. While I did contract the virus along with 90% of my university peers in the great university petri dish experiment, it didn't put too much of a damper on my time. I was still able to meet friends around my block, visit Brighton town once or twice and drink far too much as any first-year student should. Not everyone was so lucky. At many other University's students were kept under constant surveillance being forced to remain in their flats, and rarely being able to communicate with others further than through a computer screen. For me, since the Christmas holidays I've been stuck in Jersey. Many of my English friends have been allowed to return, and while, fortunately I am able to save on accommodation fees many other students at different universities have not been able to and are forced to pay despite not taking up their residence. The future is full of unknowns, and it is my hope that it won't be long until this virus loosens its control over all of our lives. Although I believe that some effects of lockdown have brought us closer together, hopefully the students of the coming years will not have to experience a COVID year, life can go back to normal and Jersey kids can return to the real freshers' experience.

Jumping into the unknown

Joys of Winter Sea Swimming by Sarah Grigson

Shrieking! Cursing! Laughter! A lot of laughter. Those are the sounds that you might have heard over the winter months if you wandered down to Bonne Nuit and happened upon some of the many winter swimmers taking a brisk dip in the cold waters.

Winter swimming has taken off this year in an incredible way. Plenty of us enjoy a paddle or swim in the warm summer months, but for years I've viewed winter swimmers as an other-worldly, super hardy species. To be fair, I've done a few New Year's Day swims over the years, and I got a kick out of feeling brave and submerging myself in icy waters for a few minutes to start each year, but it did nothing to tempt me more widely to the sport.

But 2020 was a strange year. A year of new things. As we went through lockdown and home-schooling, Zoom socials and home working, I found myself needing to get out of the house and into nature regularly to stop a creeping sense that I was becoming a troglodyte, especially as autumn encroached and restrictions which had lifted over summer loomed back over the horizon.

It was a weekend in early November which changed everything. I ran into a friend at Bouley Bay who was deeply swaddled in what appeared to be a camouflage zipped up duvet. "I've just been swimming," she declared, to explain her outfit. I thought she was crazy. But the next day was gloriously sunny with calm waters and I happened upon a whole bevy of bathing beauties taking a dip and, to my astonishment, I felt envious. It was a lovely day, albeit cold, and the waters looked weirdly inviting.

I discussed it the next day in the St John's School playground with another mum, who informed me that she too had started winter swimming and was really enjoying it. That was it. My interest was piqued and the next day I ventured in for my first winter swim. It was freezing. It was also utterly exhilarating!

It's now a few months on and I have swum almost every day since that first tentative dip. It turns out winter swimming is completely addictive. You have the initial cold shock, of course, which takes your breath away, but this quickly turns into a strange euphoria. The 'happy dolphins' as one of my swimming friends laughingly refers to the endorphins that rush through your body as it battles the cold.

So, unexpectedly, Bonne Nuit has been one of our favourite haunts this winter since most of our swimming group live in St John, and we regularly sneak out for a quick lunchbreak swim, leaving our cares and worries behind us for a few blissful minutes of time in nature, with plenty of shrieking, laughter, friendship, and those glorious happy dolphins.

tips for winter swimmers

- Never swim alone
- Don't go in if it looks rough or unsafe
- Wetsuit gloves and booties help keep your extremities warm in the water
- Wear something bright, like a hat or attach a brightly coloured float so you can be seen in the water
- Take lots of layers to change into and change quickly when you get out the water
- Take a hot drink for afterwards
- Take a hot water bottle to slip amongst your layers



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Comité Rurale **UPDATE**

The Comité made its submission to the Island Plan Review before Christmas and we are currently waiting for the draft Island Plan which is due to be published by the Minister in March or April. The lockdown has curtailed our activities since then but we intend to take part in any further consultations and the Examination in Public later in the year, and we will keep you updated on the process.

In the meantime, we thought you might be interested to hear from the two new members who were elected on 9th December as they explain why they joined and what they want to achieve.

Ian Touzel

Chairman - Le Comité de la Commune Rurale de St Jean

Andrew Morris

My family and I have lived in the Parish for some twenty-one years. We fell in love with the Parish because of its tight-knit community and its unique amenities with the Village Centre, Recreation Grounds, pubs, not to mention its proximity to the lovely walks and cliff paths.

I have always assisted various charities and Parochial authorities throughout my career and felt that I could bring some of my experience as an Architect to the Parish via the Comité Rurale. I had been a co-opted member of the Comité for a number of years, however being invited to be a full member provides me with the ability to serve the Comité knowing that the Parishioners have supported my position.

For those that don't know me I have been a practising Architect for 34 years. I believe this experience enables me to give the Comité advice on planning and design matters and also assist in communications with local authorities to preserve the unique features of St. John. Some of my personal aspirations would be to achieve safe drop off and pedestrian routes to the school and also ensure the future vitality of the shops in St. John including the Village whilst advising the Comité on new developments to ensure that they are sympathetic to the character of St. John.

Hilary Jeune

In the course of campaigning for 'the Safer Sion campaign', I contacted a number of Comités' that contribute to the smooth running of the Parish. One of these was the 'Le Comité de la Commune Rurale de St Jean'. I wasn't entirely sure what it was or what it did, having only arrived back on the island a year before. After talking to Ian Touzel, the Chair and regular contributor to the parish magazine, I realised this Comité was actually an important and unique type of Comité. It's a Comité made up of elected parishioners who scrutinise planning developments and the conservation of land in St John's. Last year for example there was a survey to gather the inputs of the parishioners ahead of the Island Plan Review 2020, which was submitted to the government.

This year, all eyes are on the next proposal for the Island Plan and what this means for St John. In my discussions with Ian it became clear that Sion was not well represented on this Comité and so Ian asked if I would be willing to join. Having found how complicated it was to push for change as Sion sits on 3 parish borders and often feels left out in St John's decisions, I jumped at the chance to ensure Sion's voice is heard. I grew up in Sion, and though off island for 20 years, I am back in the house I grew up in, raising my children here. I am a sustainability consultant with considerable background in scrutinising and influencing public policy. I am delighted to be now an elected member of the Comité and glad I can bring my expertise to the discussions.



History of the Vaccine

by Rosie Bleasby



By the time you are reading this I expect many of you will have had at least your first shot of vaccine, if not your second. Those who are still waiting can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

It has seemed a long year since the start of the first lockdown, even though most of us in Jersey have had an easier time than those in the UK and elsewhere. It may seem as though we have faced something the world has never seen before but we would be wrong. Viruses have been around for thousands of years and from time to time in history outbreaks have decimated populations.

One of the scourges of populations before the last century was Smallpox. Elizabeth I is reckoned to be a survivor of this terrible disease which both killed and left many survivors badly scarred. To date it is the only virus known to be eradicated from the planet. Many others we have learned to live with. Although some diseases have become less prevalent because of better living

conditions, e.g. the Plague and Cholera, and others more treatable, because of the knowledge of the germ theory formulated by Pasteur and others, viruses are more difficult to identify and treat. They are also not very stable and we are all aware of the several mutations already of COVID-19. They also don't care if you are rich and powerful or poor and live in penury, they are colour blind and love sharing.

Some scientists are attracted to the study of virology and fortunately for us spend their careers trying to outwit the different viruses that come along and search for ways to negate them. We are fortunate that at this time in history we have an international group of brilliant researchers who have been working on the different viruses of the 21st Century; such as AIDS, Sars, Mers, Swine Flu and Ebola. They have been able to utilise the knowledge gained with working on these to look for treatments and produce vaccines for COVID in a fraction of the time it normally takes to bring something useful to the market.

The Astra-Zeneca team who initially hit the ground running in mid-February 2020 were led by five women, the best known of whom is Professor Susan Gilbert of Oxford University. The Pfizer team in Germany are headed by a Turkish husband and wife and they collaborate closely with their partners in America. All around the world in Asia, Europe, the Americas and elsewhere scientists worked day and night in order to develop the vaccines that might work. Normally, one of the things which slows down research and development in science is money. This time, with Governments around the world prepared to spend whatever it took, that hurdle was removed. Apart from work in laboratories, vaccination factories and facilities had to be ramped up - nothing had ever been attempted on this scale before. Governments everywhere were demanding tens of millions of doses, many paying up front to be first in the queue.

However, it is not a straightforward process to produce a vaccine and safety checks have to be made at every stage, and clinical trials carried out. These normally take years but have been compressed into a few months, without undue risks being taken. Israel, the first country in the world to have vaccinated the majority of its citizens, is showing major signs of getting on top of the virus, other countries will be hoping to follow suit.

I have actually had to quarantine because of a virus when I was 11. Two girls in my class at the grammar school contracted polio in our first term. We were sent home with all our possessions and a letter for our parents and had to stay away from school for a month. I was sent to stay with my grandmother as there were three younger children at home and we had a confectioners' shop. People today have forgotten how terrified parents were at this time of poliomyelitis. COVID-19 seems to affect the elderly the most but polio was a disease of children and young people. It was a killer but also left many survivors paralysed for life. Those of us who have ever seen one, could never forget the iron lung machine that many young patients had to live in. Both my classmates survived but one has been in a wheelchair ever since.

The hunt for a polio vaccine lasted many years but the names of Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin will be ever associated with it. It was 1961 before it became readily available in the UK. Only two



countries in the world have significant outbreaks of polio today. Pakistan and Afghanistan, and this is because they reject the vaccination programmes offered.

This brings us to the other side of vaccines, those who, for whatever reason, refuse them. Most of us, as new parents, are more than happy to allow our infants to be vaccinated against all the horrible infectious diseases that killed millions of children in earlier generations; TB, Flu, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, measles, mumps and rubella amongst others. But in the 20th and 21st centuries there have been campaigns against all of them. Sometimes people can't be vaccinated because of other health reasons but they are in a very small minority. In order to keep these diseases at bay the vast majority of the population need to be vaccinated.

Even Edward Jenner, in 1796, faced fierce opposition for his smallpox vaccines, produced from a mild disease, cowpox. Cartoonists vilified him, showing patients with cows growing out of their limbs etc. The Latin word for cow is Vacca, and cowpox, Vaccinia, and so Edward Jenner decided to call this new procedure "Vaccination". Today protestors suggest that mass vaccination is a way of the Government controlling your mind, taking away your freedom, fertility etc. There are quite a few of these in Jersey, if comments on social media are to be believed. Usually, mass vaccination is achieved by vaccinating infants at stages in their childhood, or giving the flu vaccine in winter. This is the first time a worldwide vaccination programme is being attempted simultaneously.

If a significant number of people refuse to have the vaccine, or the wealthy countries do not share the vaccines fairly, we will all remain at risk. In Jersey we are very fortunate to have an exceptional vaccination programme underway and it is our civic duty to our fellow citizens to come forward when it is offered, so we can open up our Island and return to the life we love, meeting our family and friends and coming close to them once more.

CLIMATE GUIDES

#wespeakclimate

A new project has been launched in Jersey with the aim of training climate guides to spark meaningful conversations around the topic of climate change.

Climate Guides has been created by Linzi Hawkin of Protect Blue and Sheena Brockie of The Good Jersey Life in response to the feeling of being in an echo chamber, having conversations with the same group of highly engaged people, but recognising the need to expand the discussions.



Climate Guides are specifically looking for 100 islanders to take part in a project to get more people talking about climate change. The interesting part is that they're not really looking for the usual suspects, the people who are already talking about climate or who work in this space. They would love to invite new voices in, so the issues can be explored from different perspectives and the opinions of all parts of the island community heard.

Part of the Climate Guides training focuses on climate adaptations: actions to help us cope with the effects of climate change, and on climate mitigations: actions that reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases. From a decarbonised power supply, marine protected areas, sustainable transport options and regenerative project – Jersey has a lot to talk about!

Basically, Climate Guides are looking for anyone who loves to talk. You don't need any knowledge of climate change or environmental issues – just a good dose of curiosity and a commitment to sparking conversations with your friends, family, co-workers and community.



If you're interested, Climate Guides will invite you to join them for a 90-minute workshop, outdoors in nature, to give you all the tools you need to get started, and a simple form to share feedback from the conversations you then spark.

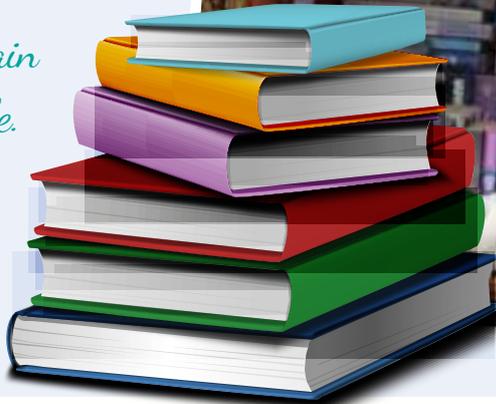
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H a u t e V a l l e e s c h o o l n e w s

Growing from strength to strength

As spring gently nudges us towards warmer days, we'd like to share some of the changes that have seen Haute Vallée School quietly transform over the past couple of years.

One of the major and most striking developments, especially if you have not visited the school for a couple of years, is the enormous new outdoor canopy.



This huge umbrella not only provided students with an interest in construction the opportunity to witness a significant structure being built in their playground called 'The Mall', it also offers all students year-round protection from rain and hot sunshine.

Cafeteria-style seating below the canopy gives students a sociable space outside for eating lunch and, while Covid-19 restrictions continue to mean that students are separated by year groups, they are all looking forward to a time when the space can be shared by everyone.

The Mall canopy also hosts the newly established daily 'Breakfast Club', which is very kindly sponsored by the Co-op. The club helps to ensure that all students can start the day well, with a free, healthy

breakfast. Being able to have breakfast at school is just one of the factors that has led to our attendance and punctuality rates consistently improve. Student feedback has also been extremely positive; they really appreciate not having to rush so much at home and staff notice better concentration levels in class. The club also offers a welcome opportunity to build relationships before school starts.

Another change you will notice if you haven't visited Haute Vallée for a while is the new Reception and the separate, secure entrances for students and members of the public.

We now have a much more welcoming Reception space at the front of the school with a suite of meeting spaces and administration offices. The Gardening Group, with the help of Sarah Maguire from the Jersey Biodiversity Centre, has laid the seeds for a Pollinator Patch at the doorway which we hope will add to the cheerful welcome our visitors receive.

The Gardening Group also continues to work towards building a community space and shed in the school garden. Our budding young gardeners eventually hope to invite interested neighbours and members of the community to see their work and get to know each other over a cup of tea to share tips about growing food and plants.

The Gardening Group is also expanding its influence in school and this year it

will organise Haute Vallée's first entry in The Genuine Jersey, Jersey Royals Competition, which will see all of our form groups nurture a bucket of (the very finest!) potatoes. We are delighted that our students will be able to get involved in this important process which highlights the link between the environment and our nutrition – as well as Jersey's rich agricultural heritage. The event is generously sponsored by The Channel Islands Co-operative Society.

Another change for our community has been Caring Cooks taking over the school canteen with 'Nourish'. Staff and students alike have been really impressed with the daily hot meals, pasta pots and quick-snack provision. It is great that students can now enjoy a hot, nutritious meal during the day. The card-payment and year-group queuing systems have also meant that service has been speedy and safe.

One of the highlights of this half-term was undoubtedly 'Australia Day', when everyone was invited to think of warmer climes and dress up in Australian-themed outfits to celebrate the diverse ethnic and cultural mixture of people in Australia. Students were given linked lessons to learn more about the history, geography, language and drama of Australia and also have a bit of brightly-coloured fun during what is often labelled as the gloomiest week of the year.

As the main states secondary school for our parish, we look forward to welcoming many more students and neighbours to our vibrant community which continues to grow and flourish.

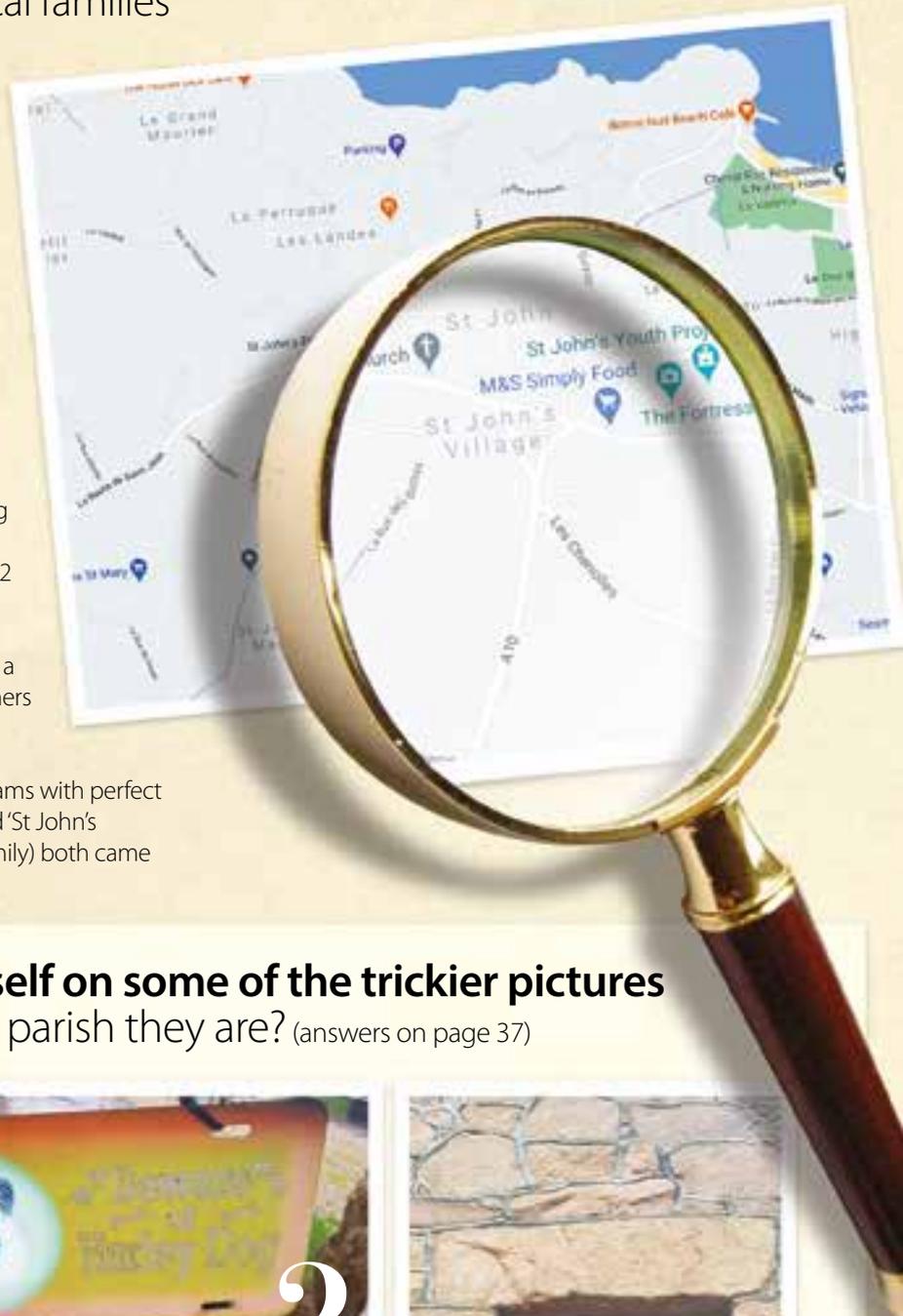


Keenly Combing for Clues

You might have spotted some furtive behaviour around the parish over half term in February as dozens of local families pitted themselves against each other to complete the St John's School PTA scavenger hunt. Set entirely within the parish borders, hunters had to answer questions and locate photos, leading to frustration and joy in equal measure depending on whether they could find the answers or not.

Some of the more devious questions included searching for the Marshall's sign at Bonne Nuit (it's stamped at the bottom of each white railing support), spotting the WW2 equipment on the school roof (the air raid siren) and working out what else the United Reform Church was used for in 1880 apart from a congregational hall (it was a library)! Some questions needed a bit of maths, and others very careful reading, so it wasn't an easy task.

Despite the tricky questions there were two winning teams with perfect scores. 'Just Pepin Out for a Hunt' (the Huelin family) and 'St John's Cheeky Hopeful Scavengers' (the Matthews/Malzard family) both came out on top to take the trophy.



Why don't you test yourself on some of the trickier pictures do you know where in the parish they are? (answers on page 37)



Prizes were also awarded for other categories including the best team name, won by the Jeune family with 'The Iron Lions from Sion', the best trick photo, won by the Lannigan family team 'The Shenanigans' with a brilliant photo of Kaia catching the weathervane golf ball, and for the best limerick, won by the Williams family team 'St John's Unbalanced' with the following super limerick.

*A father and son on this rainy day
Did a scavenger hunt for the P.T.A.
We got soaked to the skin
With few answers filled in
But with knowledge improved of our parish, eh!*

Some of the many brilliant limericks submitted:

A family were roaming St John
They had heard there were prizes to be won
They had missed certain clues
So were feeling the blues
But agreed there was no more to be done!!

A scavenger hunt in St John
Could all have gone horribly wrong
Looking for Marshalls sign
Nearly given a fine
For loitering there for too long!!!

There once was a boy from St John
During lockdown his hair got too long
A 'mum' haircut was out
He'd have looked like a lout
So Dad did it, what could go wrong?

There was a young team from St John
Who didn't know where they'd gone wrong
Up street and down lane
They searched round in vain
For the blinking sign with a pug on!!

Trick photos starting with the winning photo:



Who's hooping to be a Parish Champ?

Jersey Croquet Club are a small friendly club based at Les Quennevais, playing on a Tuesday evening from April to late September. Croquet itself is an easy game to pick up the basics, and an ongoing game to work out good tactics, but above all we like to have fun and some laughs along the way (it's also easy to keep your distance from each other!). We run a few simple tournaments for members during the season, and this year we're hoping to run an inter-Parish competition, and crown winners at the end of the summer. The trouble is we don't have members from each parish to make it a proper showdown, and we'd like to put that right. So if you'd like to step up to the challenge – or if you'd just like to come up and have some fun, then please get in touch, or pop up to the greens once we've been able to safely restart play on a Tuesday: you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

If you'd like more information, then find us on facebook: [JerseyCroquetClub](#) or drop us an email: jerseycroquetclub@gmail.com



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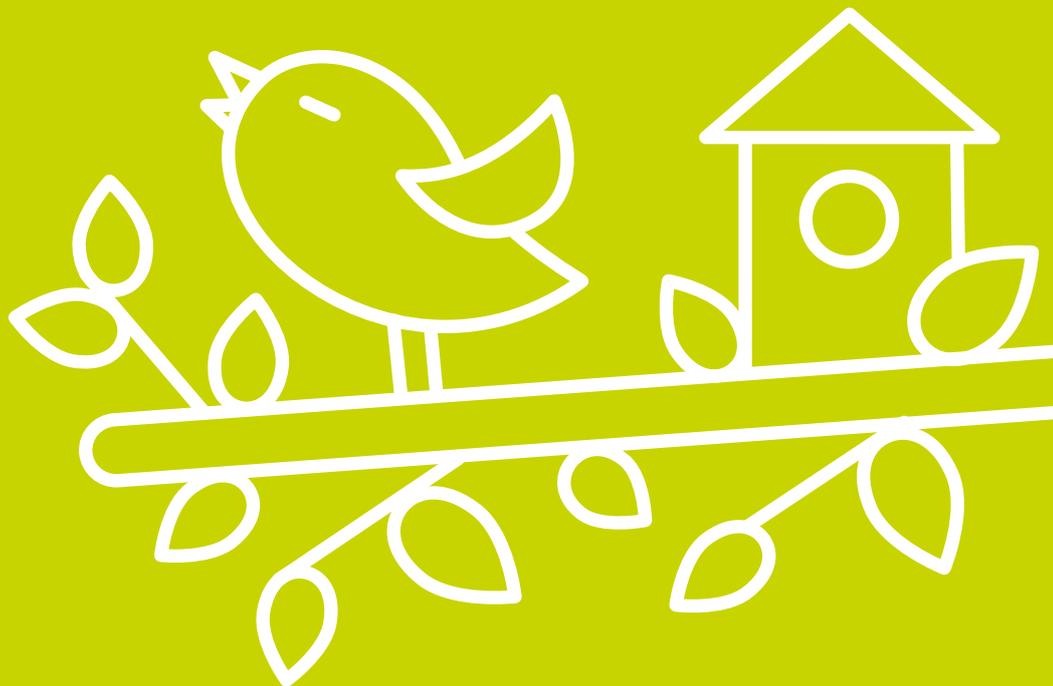
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News from St John's Recreation Centre

What a challenging year this has been. For half of the last 12 months we have experienced the highest level of user activity ever recorded by the Centre whilst for the other 6 months we have been closed due to government restrictions. The time of being closed has been particularly frustrating for us, all our user groups, and particularly all the many users who have been denied their chance to play outdoor and particularly indoor sport and keep fit. With government approval, we have been able to host the elite Island tennis training programme and the Youth Project has been allowed to operate so at least a small part of the community has been able to benefit from our facilities.

Our Health and Safety initiative and re-opening plan has been ably run by Andy Jehan who has been working with all user groups to ensure that they have Risk Assessed their operations with particular focus on COVID precautions. With the move to our summer schedules on 1st April we look forward to some semblance of normality and hopefully full normality by the autumn.

The time when we have been closed, however, has not been wasted as we have used it to carry out extensive electrical

maintenance works, which would have been difficult to do whilst all activities were running at full speed, and also much deep cleaning and general property maintenance.

Another change that you will notice is in the Café where Sam Coutanche has taken over its operation and rebranded it 'Brunch'. Sam has stripped the interior and given it a fresh new look. Many of you will know Sam as he lives just down the road and has built up a great reputation running Sam's Hog Roasts.

Although Tom is no longer running the Café, he has stayed on as our caretaker and cleaner. I know that many of you will share with us our appreciation of the commitment Tom has given to the Centre for the past 10 years.

With government taking a greater interest in sport and the general well-being of the community we expect to be involved in exploring with them new initiatives and establishing new ways in which we can deliver sport and recreation to our community.

Angus Spencer-Nairn



Sight loss charity launches spectacles voucher scheme for children under the age of 8.



EYECAN.

www.eyecan.je

EYECAN, the charity supporting Islanders with impaired sight, has launched a voucher scheme funding up to £90 towards the cost of prescription glasses for Island children under the age of 8.

Ed Daubeney, President of EYECAN explains, *"EYECAN supports Islanders with sight loss but it also works to promote eye health. A comprehensive eye examination is so important for children as early detection and treatment provide the best opportunity to correct vision problems. For this reason, the EYECAN voucher is available to all Island children under the age of 8. There is no means testing involved. We don't want financial considerations to deter any family from providing the best care for their child's eyes."*

The voucher scheme is the initiative of Sarah Evans, EYECAN Committee member and Senior Orthoptist at the Hospital Eye Department. She explains, *"Vision doesn't just happen. A child's brain learns how to use eyes to see, just as it learns how to use legs to walk or a mouth to form words, so the longer a vision problem goes undiagnosed and untreated, the more chance the child will have sight problems that last a lifetime. This initiative will support children academically, socially and athletically."*

Leaflets featuring integral vouchers have been distributed to Jersey's primary schools, pre-schools and nurseries. Vouchers are also available at Participating Opticians and can be downloaded from EYECAN's website. Parents and guardians can claim one EYECAN voucher per child each year by entering their child's JY number and date of birth on the voucher and presenting it at one of the opticians participating in the scheme. A list of Participating Opticians can be found on EYECAN's website.



Ask *Irene*

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

There are all sorts of places to find answers – Google, back of the book, bottom of your tea cup, smarties. Here in St John, down a green lane near Sion we have found our very own St John's Agony Aunt. During our brief encounter she solved my problem (the answer was M'n aérodresseux est remplyi d'andgullés). She has agreed to be our very own St John Agony Aunt. If you have a problem, please do send it to the editor and Mrs St Johnnais will have an answer. One parishioner has done so:

"After watching the Real Housewives of Jersey, I was a little bit disappointed to have not been asked or even considered for the show. If there are talks of a second series, what would the producers be looking for? What could I do to get myself on the show!"

Bouônjour. The Real Housewives of Jersey!!! Ah ma luv, and for all of those who have been asking - I did actually get the call up from the TV team to take part in the show. I almost sealed the deal, but they wanted me to film on a Tuesday..... Tuesday is bingo day and Muriel would never have forgiven me if I missed bingo. So I had to said nânîn

Some of you may not know this but I am known for my fabulously tall Jersey cabbage walking sticks here at La Caboche Caûminne on Rue Cannoter. Before the days of facebook and tik tok, holiday makers from all over the globe used to travel to Jersey to buy one of my walking sticks, finished with an enamel penny in the head, it really was the Louis Vuitton of it's time!

Also ma luv, you must be good at the cow milking. Real housewives of Jersey should be able to milk a cow with their left hand. Do you have a cow in the garden to practice with? My main tip, as my dear mother would say, that it doesn't work with cats/dogs or any other domestic animal. Can you chit a potato? I can't believe anybody would be able to hold the title of 'real housewif of Jersey', if you cant chit.

Lastly, knitting! My true love. Although this seems to be invented in Scotland, our fair wee island managed to secure it's lion share of the trade. So much so that the word "jersey" actually came to mean the word "knitting". Today, we still call a knitted jumper a "jersey". So get yer knitting needles out and get practising like a true Jersey housewif. Practise with your friends, or even swap some patterns, or start a little knitting group to make your own jerseys. I'm a size 16 in case you are wondering (extra room at the front deary!) But make sure your husband doesn't help you knit between August and September, men are still banned from knitting then and he could find himself hauled off to the magistrate. I hope the above helps m'anmîn, and don't forget to mention me when you're on the tele!



New sign to **SLOW DOWN** *for Squirrels* by Lynne Austin-Vautier

A few weeks ago I contacted the Constable and asked him if he could put a warning sign up just outside my house in La Rue de la Mare des Pres to alert motorists to squirrels crossing the road. He very kindly agreed to my request and Brian Brueilly arrived to put up the sign. I was delighted because we have a large population of old and young squirrels and, as motorists do not reduce their speed along this narrow lane.



I hoped that the sign would not only protect squirrels and other wildlife but would also encourage drivers to beware of cyclists and pedestrians who are now increasing in numbers as a result of Covid and the milder weather.

Through the Parish magazine, I would like to extend my thanks to the Constable and Brian for making this happen whilst other parish matters must be keeping them busy at this time.



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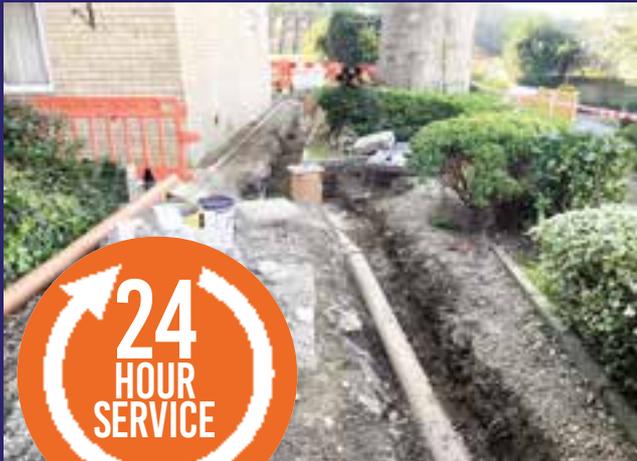
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JAYF

Jersey Association for Youth and Friendship



Celebrating 60 years with a fundraising drive to expand provision for the island's vulnerable young people

Jersey Association for Youth and Friendship (JAYF), a local charity with a mission to provide safe and secure accommodation for vulnerable young adults, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Armed with a packed events agenda and a brand-new website underway, the charity is aiming to mark the special anniversary by raising £1m to fund the purchase of a much-needed hostel.

JAYF provides safe and homely subsidised accommodation to young people aged between 18 and 25 years who would otherwise be homeless through no fault of their own. The charity currently runs four hostels, which can accommodate up to 29 residents in mainly self-contained units with access to cooking, laundry and communal facilities. Residents receive support from designated 'houseparents' and an experienced Liaison Officer, who provide guidance and encouragement as they embark upon their chosen paths, whether in education, training or employment.

Like many charities, JAYF's fundraising activities were badly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic last year. With limited hostel places available, JAYF's housing is now in higher demand than ever, so the charity is looking to purchase a fifth hostel to reduce the number of islanders on their waiting list. The immediate goal of raising a total of £1 million is already 80% underway, however a further £200,000 is required to fund the purchase and cover associated costs.

In order to raise much needed funds, JAYF are focusing on raising their profile within the local community by running a programme of open garden events this summer, subject to public health guidelines. The first open garden is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 25th April at the beautiful gardens of Domaine des Vaux in St Lawrence. Six further gardens will be open over the spring and summer months.

As part of the initiative to raise public awareness, JAYF are shortly launching a brand-new website, which will be announced on social media. Serving as a central information hub, covering the charity's long-standing history, fundraising initiatives and future plans, the website will also provide islanders with an option to make secure online donations.

In the meantime, for more information about the Open Gardens and other fundraising initiatives, please visit **JAYF Open Garden page** on **Facebook** or get in touch with **Sally Langlois** at sallang@me.com. Cheque donations can be made to **Treasurer Mike Berry**, c/o La Brecque, La Verte Rue, St Mary, JE3 3DA or by bank transfer to JAYF (Appeals) Lloyds Bank sort code **30-94-61**, account number **03041109**.

For further details about JAYF, please contact **Alan Binnington** at alanbinnington@gmail.com

For further details about JAYF's Open Garden programme, please contact **Fiona Breeze** at Fionabreeze@hotmail.com or **Dee farrow** at dee.farrow@googlemail.com

St. John's Parish Church

Church news and forthcoming services and events *by Rev. Beverley Sproats, Rector of St. John's Parish Church.*

After enjoying some time worshipping in person in the church building, in December 2020 we went back to online only worship due to coronavirus restrictions. The 9.30am Morning Worship service was streamed to Facebook live from the Rectory and then uploaded to YouTube. Pip MacAndrew is our online host and it's great to see people saying hello in the comments on Facebook as they join the service. Eve and Graeme have led the worship on piano and guitar from the Rectory living room, with Beverley and Ivan singing. We have continued to enjoy recordings of hymns by Brian and Heather Woods and other musicians.

Due to the limits on numbers, we held the Advent Service of Remembrance twice. It was very poignant to remember before God loved ones who have died and to light candles and pray.

We were completely online for Christmas services which involved back-to-back recordings of services in Church over a few weekends. Although we could not worship together in person, it was great to join together online to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One family got in touch to say that grandparents and grandchildren had shared the Christingle service together by the wonders of technology, as the grandparents could not visit for Christmas this year.

Towards the end of February, restrictions were eased so we were able to return to worship in person in church, as well as continuing with Facebook livestreaming. We are also going to try livestreaming the 8am Traditional Holy Communion service as well as the 9.30am Contemporary Holy Communion service.

We had another 'lockdown quiz' over Zoom which was attended by nine households and won by the 'Wychwood Wanderers' – Rosie Bleasby and Pip MacAndrew!

We had the Three Kings travelling 'virtually' around the parish. Instead of visiting one another's home to pass



Memorial service at Cheval Roc residential and nursing home



Paul Matthams played the organ for our Christmas services recorded in Church



The Read family rang handbells for our Advent and Christmas services



Advent service of remembrance

the kings on, several people telephoned one another to catch up. We celebrated Plough Sunday in January and Rev. Beverley Sproats ventured just over the border into St. Mary to interview farmer Cyril Genee, who has the honesty box vegetable stall on La Rue de Bel Air. It was great to hear about Cyril's experience of farming and I can highly recommend his stall for veg!

Recently we have been collecting tins for Grace Trust that helps people in need in our island. We have had many generous donations of tins of puddings and vegetables and thanks to Jill Keogh who has organized the collection and taken the tins to Grace Trust.

Rev. Beverley took a memorial service at Cheval Roc residential and nursing home in January to residents and staff in remembering before God those who have recently died. The short service was very moving and manager, Chantal Ballingall, lit candles in memory of those who had died. The residents were involved in choosing the bible reading and hymns and Rev. Beverley spoke of the hope offered by the Christian faith in the face of death and the comfort of knowing that God is with us in our sorrows.

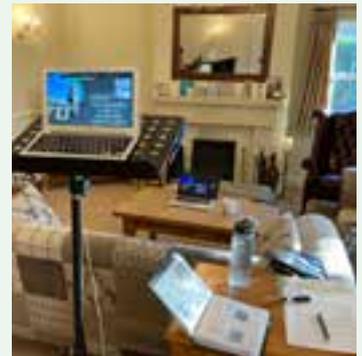
The Ash Wednesday service on 17th February 2021 was online and people were encouraged to ash themselves using ash, soil or soot from the wick of a candle or a spent match. This marks the start of a Lenten period of penitence and reflection leading to Easter. We are running a Lent Course this year using the materials from the Prayer Course part 2. The five sessions are being held over zoom using video materials and discussion, looking especially at unanswered prayer.

Follow the Church Facebook page for more details of church services, courses and forthcoming events. <https://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 email beverleysproats@gmail.com



Sunday morning worship online from the Rectory. Graeme and Eve leading worship



The set-up to livestream Sunday morning worship to Facebook from the Rectory!



Cyril Genee at his honesty box veg stall on La Rue de Bel Air



Tins collected for Grace Trust

News from the Church Treasurer

ST JOHN'S CHURCH NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

The last year has been extremely difficult for the people of every nation in the world and even here in Jersey we have felt the effects of the pandemic. Wearing masks, social distancing, shielding, queuing at the shops, self-isolating, and no hand shaking or hugging. We have however learnt to access technology, and have joined meetings on Zoom and livestreamed church services. Here in St. John we have been very fortunate that our Rector, Rev. Beverley has embraced this new way of having a church service and anyone who wished to could enjoy the service in their own home. Christmas time was especially difficult because all the usual much enjoyed services could not be held in church, however we were thankful that they could be viewed on line. This resulted in no cash collection for the Carol and the Christingle Services when there is usually a packed church.

Each year we have to pay a substantial amount to the Jersey Deanery and this year the figure has been set at £50,000. This payment is to resource the Anglican Church in the Island, from which the stipendiary clergy are paid, contributions are made towards the training of clergy, pension provisions and other costs associated with supporting ministry in Jersey. Although the church is a charity it is run the same as a small business and therefore incurs all the usual running costs and expenses of a small business.

We appreciate and sincerely thank the Municipality for the support received in respect of the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings. However, it is always a struggle to raise the huge amount of money needed to keep the church going. Throughout 2020 we have been unable to hold any social events such as the summer fete, coffee mornings, lent lunches, quiz nights and the harvest supper, added to this the lack of cash collections means that our finances have been severely impacted.

Generally throughout the parish the church is taken for granted and when you want it for a wedding, christening or funeral you are glad that the church is there. I appeal to all you parishioners to support your local church by making a donation today. Alternatively please consider making a regular contribution to St. John's Church. There are a couple of ways you can do this. We have a 5 year Deed of Covenant scheme in which the giver commits to donating a set amount each year, payable by standing order as a lump sum or by monthly instalments. Also one-off lump sum donations can be made at any time! If you are a taxpayer the church is able to reclaim an additional 25% in tax, with absolutely no cost to you, on all gifts of £50 and over. Another way to help is to request donations in lieu of flowers in memory of a loved one or alternatively you could make a bequest in your will.

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful church and hopefully by the time this magazine is distributed we will be able to worship in it once again. Whether you have never been to church or have not been for many years, I invite you to St. John's Parish Church where you will receive a warm welcome.

When restrictions are eased and in-person services are in the building:

- 8am** Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
- 9.30am** Holy Communion with hymns and songs followed by refreshments (when we are permitted to do so)
- 9.30am** On the 1st Sunday of the month, Little Oaks Sunday Club for children aged 3-11 years meets in church and then enjoys a Bible story with fun and crafts in the vestry. There is also a quiet area at the back of church for toddlers who may get restless during the service.

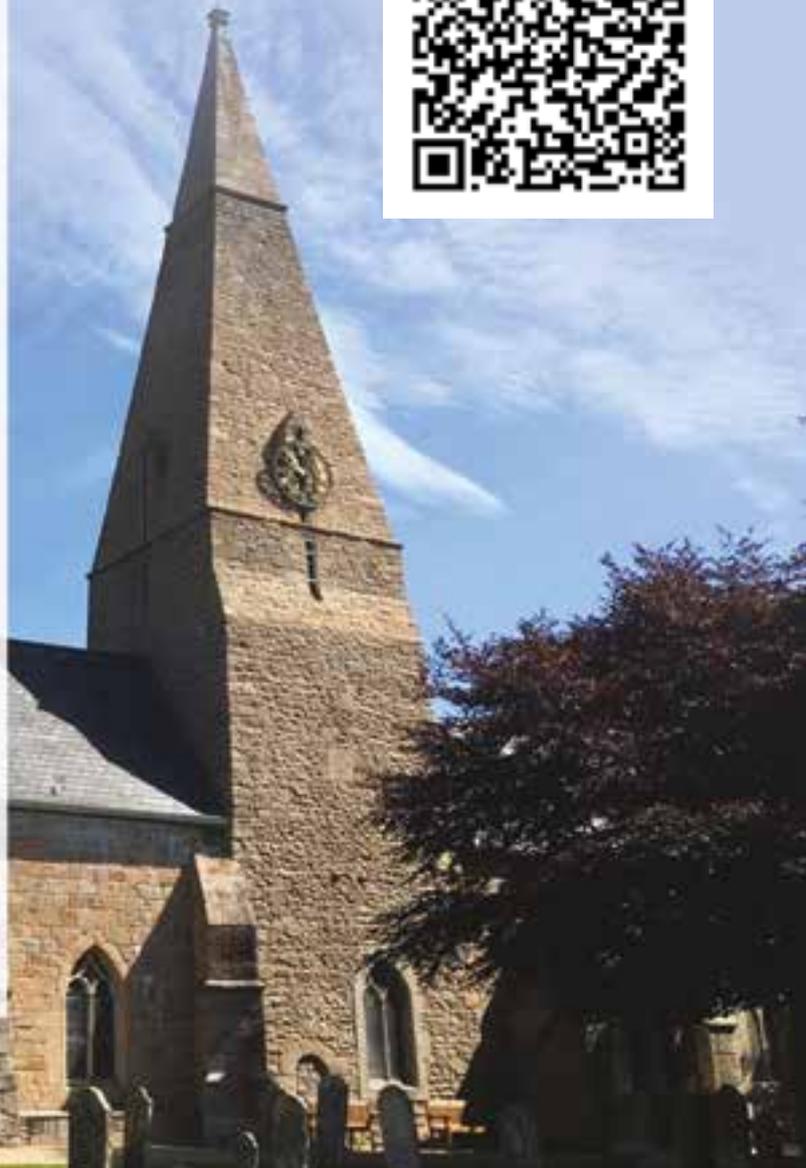
When the church building is closed for services, the church is still open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Saturdays 9am-3pm.

If the church building is still closed, do join us for the service live online on St. John's Church Facebook page at [stjohnschurchje](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchje).

I earnestly hope and pray that you will agree to support your local church, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on **863263**. If you would like to make a donation, please send a cheque payable to St. John's Parish Church to The Rectory, La Rue des Landes, St. John, JE3 4AF, or donate online at tinyurl.com/stjohnschurchje or scan the QR code.

Thank you taking the time to read this and I hope you understand why there is a need for this appeal.

Beryl Vautier
Church Treasurer.



Party HQ Hunting for Scavengers

There's a new craze sweeping the island (which I can confirm was started in St. John) as a game that can be done safely, involving all ages, low cost, great fun and lets the imagination go wild.

Scavenger Hunting

Other than making Mr Party HQ feel he needed to get an eye-test, (or just be more observant I coughed under my breath) the reviews of the ones we have done so far have been positively raving. It just needs a little time in the planning and the organiser to have an understanding of the age, patience and eye-sight of the participants, it can be as grand or as low key as you like.

If you haven't done a scavenger hunt since 1987, well let me refresh your memory (ahh I remember my first one in my favourite shell suitthose were the days). It is simply a collection of questions about the area you live in, or places you've never been or your house for a rainy day that require you to look at things in a different way and find something to observe about them. How many, what colour and where would you find are good questions as a starting point. If you are still not sure, check out page 24 to see the results of the St. John school PTA one held at half term. We ourselves took part and the clue of Marshalls in Bonne Nuit was a cracker.

To keep it lively, include photo rounds, team selfies, collect 3 things tasks, combinations of clues (where you take a number from Q1 and add to the answer of Q2), trick questions, or add a super-tricky round. The options are endless. But in summary at the very least they are handy for keeping the children entertained while we enjoyed watching a couple of games of the recent 6 Nations on a Saturday afternoon.

Toy In The Tree Watch (TITT)

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

What fun it has been to see several changes of the TITT since the launch of TITT Watch in the last edition of the parish magazine. We are happy to announce that its joy has spread across the island, with the latest discussion found on the Facebook Page – Jersey – Acts of kindness. A long discussion ensued after a concerned resident asked if anyone had any idea what this changing toy was all about. Lots of theories fell in glittery rainbow arches such as the long running theory of it being the rubbish collectors, to it being some farm workers to it being Santa Claus as part of his part time job between Christmases. Finally the rainbow discussion landed at it being one of the important roles of the magical fairies of St John. Someone claimed that they have been driving past the tree for over 40 years and always remembering a toy being there, wow what a feat! Anyone else feel its been there that long?



But most of the comments were that it brings smiles and joy to children and adults alike. We all love the surprise, the mystery, the suspense, and so there were lots of calls to not spoil it, some things should just be left as such. So we at the parish magazine, will continue to bring you TITT Watch, to celebrate this magical fairy mystery but if we ever find out who actually is responsible, we promise, we will never ever tell you!

Remember send us your pictures, drawings or tell us your favourite toy in the tree.

Scavenger Hunt Answers

1. On the slipway at Bonne Nuit
2. Le Marinel Farm on Les Chenolles
3. On the Sorel lighthouse roof
4. On Le Chasse Cottage by the Centre Stone





Introduction to New Youth Worker

Hi there! My name is Mark Patterson and I am the newly appointed Youth Worker for the St John Project. As I haven't had the chance to meet a lot of you yet due to the ongoing circumstances surrounding us, I thought it might be nice to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me and why I am here! A born-and-bred St Johnnie (and proud), I attended both the parish School and Youth Project as a young person myself, both of which, as I am sure you can imagine, are very different now! I have many fond memories of life in the parish as I was growing up and I hope that my experiences will help to better understand and support your young people.

When I left school, I worked a number of different jobs before eventually 'finding my calling' through work with children and young people. I then attended Manchester Metropolitan University as a mature student, earning a degree in Youth and Community Work and gaining lots of valuable work experience in the inner-city. The majority of my youth work experience prior to taking on this role has been UK-based, working in areas of Manchester such as Moss Side, Hulme, Rusholme, Wythenshawe and more. The challenges we face in Jersey can be different to those in the UK, however I hope that my experience will prove valuable in the support and development of the young people who attend our project.

Starting a new job role mid-pandemic has been a major challenge but I am very grateful to have received a warm welcome and plenty of ongoing support, as I settle into the role. Firstly, I would like to say a massive thanks to Bill Moore, who has done an incredible job building an amazing foundation at the project for us to build on. Loved and respected by all, he will surely be missed! I would also like to thank the wonderful young people at the project, my amazing staff team, the supportive Project Committee and Recreation Centre Committee, the Jersey Youth Service and of course any parents I have had the pleasure of meeting, for making me feel so welcome. I really appreciate it and I look forward to meeting more members of the community as soon as restrictions allow!

Update from the Young People

For this edition of the Parish Magazine, I thought it would be a nice idea to get the views of the young people from our project to share with you all. They were just asked to tell everyone about the project – whether this is what it means to them, why they come, anything really! Young people – see if you can guess which of your friends wrote what! Parents – can you guess what your young person had to say? Each quote is from a different young person who attends our project.

"At Youth Club you can have fun! The staff here are so fun."

"You can be yourself! You don't have to put on an act to be appreciated. All the youth workers are very supportive towards us. They also respect us and trust us to be responsible."

"The reason that I like Youth Club is because when I left primary school, I found that I struggled to make friends, but at club I can catch up with my old friends. It's my favourite day of the week!"

"I get to see all my friends."

"It's a friendly environment!"

"It's a safe place to hang out and is fun."

"The youth workers are kind and supportive."

"There are friends."

"Really fun place to meet friends."

"I like coming to youth club as it's a fun environment to hang out with friends."

"I look forward to it every week, I appreciate all the effort the youth workers make to keep us happy and entertained."

"The youth workers make the club experience better and more enjoyable."

"Always lots to do, plenty of activities through both summer and winter – you never get bored!"

"They helped me get through problems with friendships and made me feel confident in myself again!"

"I get to hang out with my best friend and gives me something to do!"

"Club is a place for me to relax, away from the stress of school and the anxiety of the people there."



Young People e

Congratulations

I would also like to give a massive CONGRATULATIONS to Kenan who has recently won both the Lion's Club Young Ambassador of Jersey, as well as for the South West of England. A massive achievement and one we are truly proud of him for. Kenan has been an instrumental team member during his time volunteering with us, which we are truly grateful for. We are all certain he has a very bright future ahead of him. Well done Kenan! Anyway, without embarrassing him too much, here is what he had to say about the project;

Young Ambassador of Jersey and South West of England

- Who would have thought that we would be in this position still, one year later from our first lockdown? The last year has been such a testing time for us all here at the project but look, we have all come out the other side! Although the times we are living in are still far from ideal, we are still able to leave our house, go to school and youth projects but most importantly, meet our friends and since we were forced into our homes to stare at the same four walls for weeks on end, it has made us all appreciate the things in life we used to take for granted. To come through the other side with the same groups of young people shows how much they love this project but also about the amazing work Mark, Tina, Jo, Niamh, Jenny and all our other workers are doing.

If anyone has any questions or would like more information regarding the project, please do contact **Mark** via markpatterson@jys.je



enjoying an impromptu pool tournament.

Spring Awakening for Asian Hornet Foe

As winter inexorably gives way to the warmer weather of spring, an unwelcome invader is likely to be emerging from their hibernation or even taking to the wing and heading in our direction from nearby French shores. We are talking Asian hornets!

Asian hornets are highly successful and adaptable invasive insects and are voracious predators of other insects, including honeybees. They could potentially impact upon our native pollinators and diverse Jersey ecology. They can also build their nests low down, within populated areas and if disturbed, they have been known to defend their nest area. This was amply demonstrated by discovery of a nest in a shrub in Howard Davis Park in June last year.



Although nest number fell last year to less than half of 2019, the Jersey's Asian Hornet Coordinator, Alastair Christie, said: *"There is no room for complacency. In other areas of Europe, number have been known to drop and then dramatically rise again. It is imperative that we remain vigilant, maintain the pressure and keep control of the small Asian hornet population in Jersey."*

This spring, trained volunteers will once again carry out targeted and monitored trapping and I would ask the public to continue to report any sightings of concern. Islanders, with their keen sense of observation and community spirit have proved to be our most valuable asset when it comes to controlling this invasive insect.



At this time of year, look out for Asian hornets themselves, but also check sheds, garages, car-ports and lean-tos for the distinctive, round, creamy-beige coloured, golf ball to orange-sized primary nests. If it can be done safely, please take a photo too. Asian hornet insects are distinctively dark with one yellow band across their backside, a bright yellow "belt" at the waist and yellow tips to their legs.

More information about Asian hornets, and how to identify and report them, are on gov.je/asianhornet.

Possible sightings can be reported by emailing asianhornet@gov.je, attaching your photo if you have been able to take one. You can also call the coordinator on **01534 441633**, and there is a simple-to-use app, **Asian Hornet Watch**, which is free from app stores.



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For further information on our service please contact:

Chris Cotillard
Director

+44 (0)1534 753777
chris.cotillard@alexpicottrust.com

alexpicottrust.com



ALEX PICOT TRUST

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Tel: +44 (0) 1534 753777

Alex Picot Trust is a registered business name of Alex Picot Trust Company Ltd which is regulated by the Jersey Financial Services Commission to conduct trust company business.



PARISH DIARY



March 2021 to June 2021

All events subject to the ending of the coronavirus restrictions.

March

13th & 28th Moto-X Training event Sorel Point

April

3rd & 25th Moto-X Training event Sorel Point

May

1st/2nd & 16th Moto-X Training event Sorel Point

June No Events

Murial's Bingo (Usually the 4 Tuesday of the month) is cancelled during Covid restrictions.

Golden Age Club events are cancelled during the pandemic.

Check church Facebook page for updated events

www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchje

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

Duty Centenier - 866560

Football Club Nigel Perrée - 865113

Friends of Bonne Nuit Gary Romeril - 861972

Golden Age Club Wendy Rondel - 863667

Magazine Parish Contacts & Diary - 866880

Recreation Centre - 483696

Recreation Centre Caretaker - 07797969522

School - 861692

Shooting Club John Renouf - 861908

Skateboard Association Sophie Kilkpatrick - 07700862188

Twinning Association Stephen Masters - 862880

Woman's Institute Treena Le Couillard - 499378

United Reformed Church Mike Ruskin - 482366

Youth Project St John's Rec. - 280548

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD



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www.parish.gov.je/st_john/

Parish Hall opening hours

Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00am - 1:00 & 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-1:00 & 2:00pm-7:00pm

Closed all day on Thursday

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