

# St. John Newsletter

May 2018

## Editorial



This month we have more about the changes that are taking place in our village. On the village website, the 'events' tab is the central feature for finding out what is going on in the village – Also, the Village Hall, the Singing Group and the Snooker club pages have been updated. There are two new pages namely 'Terms of Hire' and 'Fire Safety Policy' which detail changes that will bring the village into the 21st century and also brings us more in line with the other local village halls. To navigate to them go to 'Community' > 'Village Hall' and they are all in this drop down menu. - [www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk](http://www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk)

The Parish Council reports on how it has been working to get the pot holes in our roads repaired among other things. There is a report on the well attended 'Open Meeting & AGM' with details on our application for Charitable Status etc. Also, a report on convictions of some 'Fly Tippers' caught in the ford area. (pg.2)

On Page 4 there is the usual Walkers outing- this month they were at Kit Hill. Page 5 has a report on the hugely successful Blasé Blues evening with photos. Pages 6 & 7 are full of the Pub's events and plans. Then the last two pages are filled with a letter from New Zealand about what Simon & Jackie Gooder have been up to since leaving our shores.

*David Greenhalgh*

## Parish Council



### What's Your Parish Council Up To?

Potholes have been getting worse and we have had to chase up repairs, which have now resulted in the deep pothole at the foot of Jack's lane being repaired at last. It seems that Cornwall County react only to reports of deep potholes, (a minimum of 60mm deep) and traffic or pedestrian safety issues. Please bear this in mind when you report potholes on the Cornwall County website, this is the link <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/highway-maintenance/potholes/>

We have had new signage down at the ford, but we are still chasing the new signs agreed for the junction near HMS Raleigh. CC made the wrong signs at first but have apologised and promised proper action now.

We have our Annual Meeting and AGM from 7pm on Thursday 24th May in the Village Hall, please come along and give us ideas or COMPLAIN if you want to! This is more encouraging to your parish councilors than sitting in front of empty chairs.

The Solar Community Fund committee is meeting on Thursday 3rd May when we will decide how to spend your money.

Please see [www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk](http://www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk) for full minutes of meetings and accounts, and details of future meeting dates.

*Del Richards*



# Open Meeting and AGM

A very well attended Open Meeting/AGM was held on 23rd April in the Village hall. Mr. Richard Dolton chaired the meeting on behalf of the Trustees.

Mr Ray Waldock, who has been chairman for the past 28 years, read his annual report and said that he was stepping down as chairman due to his increasing personal commitments. Mr Dolton gave his thanks to Mr Waldock and to Mrs Pam Waldock for their commitment and hard work on the committee over this time. This was met by a round of applause from all present.

The Treasurers Report from Mrs Charmaine Ferguson noted that we still had a good balance despite various refurbishments i.e. new cookers, water heater and decoration in the kitchen. Also, it was noted that voluntary subscriptions were down this year. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Ferguson for all her hard work throughout the year.

Mr Chris Morris outlined changes in the constitution which were needed to meet standards required by the Charity Commission and to show transparency in the management of the Village Hall Trust. These are required to support our re-application for charitable status.

Nominations were requested for new Trustees and four members put their names forward –

Mr. D Richards, Mr. B Keys, Mr C. Morris and Mrs E. Tanner. These will join Mr R Dolton, Mr. R Waldock, Mrs C. Ferguson Mr. C. Ferris and Mrs. S. Huke.

Mr. John Hough wished to stand down from the main committee. Mrs. B Taylor wished to remain on the committee but wants to stand down as Vice Chairman.



## Fly Tipping in St. John

Some time ago a couple of villagers were involved in catching some Fly Tippers down at the Ford, the Police were involved as the Fly Tippers were at the scene when caught by the villagers. This resulted in them going to court.

### RE: COURT CASE – FLY TIPPING

This is to update you with the results of the recent court case against the three young men who were all prosecuted by the ENVIRONMENT AGENCY for illegally depositing waste namely commercial, household and domestic waste at numerous locations in the Plymouth, South Hams and Cornwall area in late 2016 and early 2017.

All three recently appeared at PLYMOUTH MAGISTRATES COURT and pleaded guilty to charges of illegal deposits (Fly tipping) and a second charge of not being a registered waste carrier authorised by the ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.

They were each awarded 12 month Community Orders by the court with additional days working with the Probation service and unpaid work. They were fined as well. They were also given 5 year Community Behaviour Orders each which prevents them being involved in anything to do with waste material for that period, they are not permitted to be involved, carried in a vehicle involved in waste activities or have any connection to the waste industry. Any breach can result in going to prison.

*Phil Butterworth- Environmental Crime Officer.*

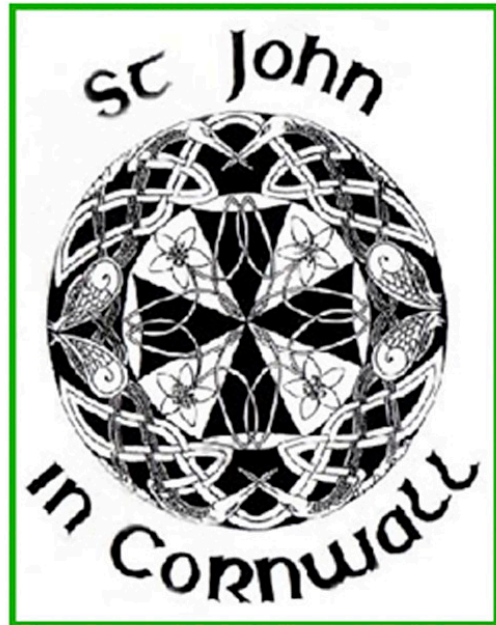


## History according to Bob

St John Village Hall  
Friday 11th May

Join us for an illustrated talk  
about St John and the  
surrounding area  
by Bob Keys  
7.30pm

This is an opportunity to learn more  
about the area and there will be an update  
from Megan Keys about the history group.



Coffee and tea will be available  
and there will be a small charge of  
£2 a head towards  
Village Hall funds

## Remembering Hilda

Hilda Merlane 1916 - 2017

On the 7th of April family and friends gathered in the woods by St Johns Lake to unveil memorials to Hilda and Chris. David Merlane also planted a walnut tree by the graveside which had been Hilda's wish. There was a buffet lunch afterwards at the Inn.

People new to the village may like to explore the wood which was planted by Hilda, and friend Chris Goodall, in the 1980's. The land was later gifted to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, for us all to enjoy.

Brian & Mary





# St. John Walkers

## St. John Walkers - 2018

Month	Date	Organiser	Telephone	Email
January	9	Yvonne	01579 363915	y.a.douglass@gmail.com
February	12	Richard & Alison	07977 214776	glenside2@btinternet.com
March	12	Howard & Viv	823250	vivienne-walker@sky.com
April	9	Mary & Brian	822890	bbird748@yahoo.co.uk
May	14	Linda & Chris	822083	linda_morris1886@live.co.uk
June	11	Thelma & Kath	829113	thelma.bryant@sky.com
July	9	No Walk		
August	13	No walk		
September	10	Janet & Sue	829225 822742	susan@huke.co.uk
October	8	Clive & Carol	822557	cliveandcarol@btinternet.com
November	12	Paul & Val	823118	
December	10			

1. Meet outside Village Hall at 9.30 am.
2. If for any reason you are unable to lead your walk please arrange to swap with another person and advise Sue Richards.
3. Please would everybody contact the organiser of the walk by email or telephone to check that the walk is going ahead in bad weather.

### Village Walk. 9th April

A grand turn out of seventeen walkers this month, plus dogs Daisy and Molly. There was some pleasing spring warmth for our low altitude circumnavigation of Kit Hill; with long views towards Dartmoor and the Tamar Valley.

We had some delay with lunch at the Cardinals Hatt, but luckily Bob Keys stepped in and provided an arresting cabaret by magically producing unexpected items out of his trousers.

Eventually everyone was fed and watered and the two for £12 menu proved very popular.

Next walk Monday 14th May, courtesy of Linda and Chris Morris, when we will renew our assault on the north face of Bodmin Moor after being driven back by the conditions in March.

All welcome.

Mary and Brian.





# Blasé Blues Evening



Soft blue lighting & relaxed, cafe style seating in the hall created a fine atmosphere for the sixty people attending. They were treated to an equally fine evening of entertainment by Blasé Blues, whose repertoire ranged from Robert Johnson to the Rolling Stones. A lot of fun & laughter, dancing & singing. What more could you want for a Friday night?!

*Linda Morris*



Tuning up instruments etc



Expectant Punters arrive and settle in



We couldn't stay seated for long!







A fantastic word of thanks to the following for helping unload a lot of turf on a not very nice day - Carol, Jill and Paul.

And a definite word of thanks for those that helped to lay the turf on a very wet and cold day, standing in inches of muddy slurry - Grace, Paul, Martin, Kerry and the unforgettable Rob Hilborne who aided with his mule (4 wheels and not 4 legs variety !), without whom we would be months away from the splendid garden we have now. (photos attached).

We also wish to thank Robbie Hayward for his tremendous efforts in getting the patio area ready in such a quick time. Almost finished.

If anyone knows of any railing we can beg, borrow, steal, pay for with beer or generally purchase, that will finish off the patio and stop people falling off the car park, we would be most appreciative.

## Royal Wedding Festival Day - May 19th.

To celebrate the royal wedding we are holding a day of merriment and cheer. There will be a Hog Roast, Marquee with live entertainment, real ales in abundance and fun for all the family.

We have rented the Village hall and shall be holding a table top / flea market (£5 per table) where you may get rid of all your unwanted valuables ! Ann and Steve have kindly offered to run this.

We are also looking to hold face painting, kids fancy dress, picnic lunch for the children, welly throwing - and anything else that springs to mind. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help, organise or make suggestions will be gratefully received. - We shall be having a meeting on each Saturday at 5pm in the pub for anyone who can help, please come along and have some input into this festival day.

## Fish and chip nights

The fish and chip nights have got off to a great start with plenty of support from locals and visitors alike. Phil is producing some delights in the outside kitchen - do check the menu each time as he likes to throw in something different each time. The nights for May are the 11th and 25th with the hog roast on the 19th.

## Quiz nights

The formula for once per month is working well and is well supported. This months winners are 'Ivory toast', with the losing team being 'Lowering the phone' who will be in control of the next quiz

## Accommodation request

Our regular customers Steve and Ann from Shevioc are looking for a rental property in the area as their current apartment is being converted back to a home and they need to be out in July. If anyone knows of anything available please could they get in touch with me so that I can pass on their details. They are both fully house trained ! with no kids or pets. And they may be able to restore any antiques you have :-)

Thanks again to all those who have given their tremendous support since we took on this iconic pub, we love you all.

*Rob & Gill*

Contact details - 01752829299. 07816502201 [stjohninncornwall@gmail.com](mailto:stjohninncornwall@gmail.com) . [visitrame.org.uk](http://visitrame.org.uk) . [stjohninncornwall.org.uk](http://stjohninncornwall.org.uk)



## St. John Inn ( cont.)



## Snooker

### LADDER



Chris Trevitt
Tony Rogers
Pete Debono
David Greenhalgh
Clive Walley
Steve Wick
John Woodfield
Del Richards
Brian Bird
Richard Dolton
Chris Huke
Chris Morris
Paul Tanner
Ray Salter

### Highest Break

David Greenhalgh	32
Chris Trevitt	27
Pete Debono	24
Tony Rogers	23
Steve Wick	23
Clive Walley	21
Howard Everard	17
Richard Dolton	16

Lewis Wilton
Dave Plank
Andy Ridler
Ernie Ridler
John Tanner
Howard Everard
Bob Keys

## Letters to the Editor

### Rame

Hello Dave. This might be of interest to some, it might not! For the past ten months I have been uploading to my YouTube channel entitled - Rameman. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcTUufT82NwjK1f8YesHn3Q?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcTUufT82NwjK1f8YesHn3Q?view_as=subscriber) On it there are short films, some have a St. John connection and most have a Rame peninsula one. The channel is still in its embryonic stage and bit by bit I am learning and getting better with the content and editing process. Thought it might interest some who enjoy the outdoors. There is also plenty of kayaking St. John creek films on there and in total, at present, there are 30 videos to watch, some good, bad and indifferent! Regards, Andy. (Ridler)

### Solar funds

What about spending some of the money on a play park?? A couple of swings, a slide/ zip wire (adults could have fun too) and a climbing thing. I don't know how much they cost, but would be willing to look into it.

*Vanessa Burton*

### St. John Church

The 100 Club Winners for April are-  
 £20 ..... Vi Lakeman  
 £5 ..... Susan Holmes  
 £5 ..... Mike Waldoock

*Ray Salter*

## and finally.....

Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time. I think I've forgotten this before!



# Letter from Simon & Jackie Gooder

Hi David,

We hope this finds you well, and we offer our congratulations on producing the village newsletter which finds its way to New Zealand. The photos of the village in the snow were especially evocative.

We have put together a "letter" from New Zealand which we offer as content for the Village Newsletter to let those who remember us in the village know what we have been up to since we last visited in 2013.

Simon and Jackie

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Letter from New Zealand

Older readers may recollect Alastair Cook's letter from America broadcast on Radio 4 – this is nothing like those insightful broadcasts !

It has been five years since we were last in the UK and visited the village, so we offer this narrative as an update for all those of you who remember us in St John.

The story so far

We moved from St John in October 2006 to explore new options in New Zealand. It was one of those carpe diem decisions based on the thought that we did not want to have to ask ourselves in years to come "We wonder what it would have been like if we had decided to go to New Zealand." As Bilbo Baggins in the Hobbit said, we went on an adventure. It was certainly a change and until September 2014 we lived in Auckland, NZ's largest city with a quarter of NZ's population, whilst Simon worked as a civilian navigation instructor for the Royal New Zealand Navy in Devonport. (Yes, the Auckland suburb of Devonport on the north shore of the Waitemata Harbour was named after Devonport UK in 1859, both are homes of Naval bases.) During that period 2006 – 14, we returned to the UK several times, that last occasion in August and September 2013 visiting Paris for our 40th wedding Anniversary. Whilst we lived in Auckland we were visited by Dorothea, Mike and Jean, Ray and Pam, Clive and Button, and then later Pete and Tracey Goss.

Since then....

We returned to NZ and quickly resumed our NZ life. Simon commuted daily from our coastal rental property by car – as Auckland public transport is found seriously wanting, so it could be 2½ hours/day driving in thick traffic. It was not really what we came to NZ for, but our part of Auckland's North Shore, the Whangaparoa peninsula, was quite a delightful environment, and we enjoyed sea views to die for from the property. This included watching orca cruising close inshore in search for stringrays to eat. It was just down the road to Shakespear country park which equated to Mount Edgcombe – except for the sub tropical bush and Pukekos.

In August 2014, we relocated to the capital Wellington for Simon to take up a post with the NZ maritime regulator Maritime New Zealand which is equivalent to the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency – but without the coastguard. This was our fourth/fifth relocation in eight years.

Air travel between centres in NZ is the norm as the rail infrastructure is mainly for freight not passengers. For example, the flight time between Wellington and Auckland is just under an hour. Regular travel to provincial NZ is an integral part of Simon's new job most of which is done by air. For more context NZ roads are not like those found in the UK. There are not many motorways and State Highway 1 the country's main arterial road is often nothing more than an A road in UK, being motorway/dual carriage-way only close to the main cities. Travel is measured in time rather than distance here in NZ, and we remain disappointed at the national standard of poor driving.

Both of us were full of heavy colds when we drove south in convoy for the 9 hour drive from Auckland to Wellington (about 870 km/545 miles). By departing very early – about 0530, we missed the Auckland commuter crawl and then, relieved, enjoyed the rural drive south. We stopped for breakfast in Taupo, then climbed up to the desert road passing the volcanic peaks of Tongariro and Mount Ruapehu, before descending to Bulls and onward to Wellington. As it was September – the back end of our winter, we were concerned about encountering snow, but fortunately it fell and closed the road the day after we travelled. We do not have snow chains which are a regular feature of NZ winter driving.

We rented a two bedroom flat in the Wellington suburb of Melrose, which overlooked the airport and was close to Kilburnie, one of the capitals "villages". Our furniture went into storage until we found somewhere larger to live.

Wellington is a significant contrast to Auckland. It is very windy, with hills that are seriously steep with houses clinging to them. It has a village feel to it, and people are friendly whereas Auckland was quite impersonal. Coming from St John we missed that sense of community in Auckland. We were fortunate to find the flat as accommodation is at a premium in the capital. Public transport compared to Auckland is amazing, and until earlier this year included trolley buses – no more driving to work for Simon! As the capital and also a university city, Wellington is very cosmopolitan and has quite a buzz. It is known as the "coolest small capital city in the world" and it is also the most southerly capital in the world!. The really vibrant eclectic mix of cultures is found in Cuba Street which is iconic in NZ. Wellington also has an awesome rugby team – the Hurricanes, with many All Blacks in the team and successfully conquer the Auckland team – the Blues, who do not perform to the same standard. "Go the 'Canes" as they say here!



The delights offset other issues such as the wind which is renowned for being strong. If it comes from the south there is nothing between us and the Antarctic so it can be cool in the temperature sense rather than being chilled out. The landings in the wind at Wellington Airport are legendary – often sideways. Simon has only been diverted to Christchurch once when his Airbus A320 could not land. The other elephant in the room is that Wellington lies on a known fault line on the edge of the Pacific rim. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake in November 2016 – the Kaikoura quake, was a significant shake that hit the area. Our pendant ceiling lights were moving like a ship's inclinometers in a gale.

That introduces another factor to life in NZ. There is a national need for resilience, having a plan to get through natural adversities such as quakes, floods, bush fires etc. We keep our “escape gear” (really our camping gear) at the entrance to the second garage, and have large 15 litre bottles of water, as well as food, just in case. We try to maintain the fuel level in our vehicles above half a tank in case fuel pumps are not available. It is now the new normal for us. One of our vehicles is a robust 4 x 4 for similar reasons. Both vehicles sport a St Piran's flag bumper sticker – which has nothing to do with resilience!

Interestingly, in NZ the local marae (equates to village hall) is used as a community sanctuary in such events. The debate about the St John village hall's future is almost a parallel where it could be seen as a community asset to be used if required as a similar sanctuary. That it is wooden makes it no different to the marae in NZ – they too are wooden, but lack central heating!

Our search for a larger home in Wellington was frustrating. Demand for property is strong and having decided to buy, as NZ citizens now, it was difficult. We missed several properties at tender in the southern part of the city so extended our horizons northwards up the coast which meant a longer commute to the city but made tolerable by utilizing the rapid electric train line. In September 2015 we eventually managed to buy a three bedroom cedar built house in a suburb called Whitby, in a street called The Crowsnest, in Porirua the next town north of Wellington. It takes us just over 20 minutes to drive down the dual carriageway to the Wellington CBD, and about 45 minutes on average to the airport – so not bad really! We are next to a reserve, ( - a natural green area of bush almost a wild park), and are quite high with significant water views over the Pauatahanui estuary, and across the Cook Strait to South Island. Wooden built houses are the norm in NZ which initially we found unusual but they are that way for a good reason – when you have a quake the house flexes and absorbs the shock, and we know that ours survived the 7.8 Kaikoura quake 14 months after we bought it! Pete and Tracey Goss have visited us here in our new NZ home. (They have now embarked on their own adventure). We look forward to welcoming others from the village – Charmaine and Christian, in the not too distant future.

As many will know, our son Jonathan preceded our arrival in NZ when he went travelling but did not return to UK. He survived the damaging quake in Christchurch in 2011 where he was working at the time but he has spent the last 6 years working in Australia, initially based in Brisbane before moving to Melbourne about 4 years ago. He will be returning to NZ soon to live in Napier with his partner.

Anna followed us to NZ in 2007 and lives and works in Auckland. All of us enjoy dual nationality now being both British and New Zealanders holding both passports.

It is ANZAC Day here as we complete this letter from NZ. It is a national holiday and commemorates the significant national sacrifices suffered by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915. What is especially noticeable is the impact to the national psyche with dawn services, town services later in the day and many acts of commemoration but by ALL ages in society. It is on a greater scale than Remembrance Sunday in the UK. In Wellington we have a feature created by Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings director) in the Dominion Museum behind the national war memorial which is something that all New Zealanders should see, as well as any visitors to NZ to understand the impact of war to this small nation.

(Even now there are only 4.5 million of us). As some will know, since arriving in NZ Jackie has become a keen quilter and one of her quilts is called “For those in Peril on the Sea” which she completed on the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in 2015.

About 18 months ago we expanded our family by adopting – from the SPCA, two absolutely fabulous black cats which we named Patsy and Eddie... They have been joined by our adopted dog a NZ sheepdog Huntaway cross who is named Cruze. He is truly endearing, and a 37 kg bundle of energy at 2 years old! All this means that now after some time, we are well settled here in NZ, indeed Simon continues to work after what would be compulsory retirement age in the UK. It is mentally stimulating and he does not feel old!

It has been tempting to add images to this letter but if it is of interest we would be happy to send some to illustrate life here in NZ.

It's time to wrap this up as it is a treat today. We are making pasties – proper job! The treat is that they are a very rare feature on our diet which is predominantly vegetarian nowadays. Awesome!

Nga mihi nui/Kind regards

Simon and Jackie Gooder

