

St. John Newsletter

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

February 2020

Editorial



Hello,

There is the usual feedback from the Parish council and the Trustees this month. As a result of their meetings there will be changes to the village website to make it easier to use. The 'upcoming functions', will be at the 'front' of the website and there will be a calendar where people can see the availability of the Hall when considering making a booking. Also, my archiving of the newsletters will be changed so that the newest issue is at the top rather than, as now, having to scroll to the bottom to find it. These changes will be taking place 'imminently'.

Last week was 'Village Hall week' and a few pages are devoted to this topic: Page 6 details a Photo Competition with generous prizes for the Hall and the photographer.

There is a limit of one photo per entrant but unlimited entries for the Village, and it is Free!

I am pleased to report that Kath's wildlife watch is attracting attention and I will be following it with interest as the seasons unfold. Good to have her expertise available.

There is no news from the Pub this month, because Gill was too busy to file a report in time, but generally things will continue as usual.

There is information on a choice of local films (one a modern masterpiece and the other a 1960's classic) and then there is the usual report from the walkers, who were close to home this month tramping around Craffhole and Portwrinkle and giving their custom to the newly opened Finneygook Inn.

David Greenhalgh

What's Your Parish Council Up To?



There have been a few complaints about dog fouling in the village, and whilst the problem is very small, it is nasty when it does affect you or your property. Could everyone please pick up their canine contributions, and also bear in mind that the bins outside the village hall doors, which volunteers put out for collection, are not dog bins and should not be treated as such. We do not want dedicated dog bins as they each cost £3k/year to empty! Apologies for the lecture!

We have again called Cormac out to deal with the flooding at the entrance to Jack's Lane and pleased to say they responded quickly. (They still await funding for a permanent solution)

Cormac have also started to remedy the flooding at Church Lane, including removing the build-up of surplus material dug out from the ditch, and improvements to the tarmac and kerbs. Mud and leaf debris still have to be cleared. If anyone has any ideas for any winter village "work-party" tasks then please let me know. derek764richards@gmail.com We remain in a good financial position and we expect further Solar Fund monies in January, so all ideas welcome?

Please see www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk for full minutes of meetings and account. Next meeting 7.30 pm on Thursday 28th Feb. in St John VH.

Del Richards

News from the Trustees



The trustees met on Monday 27th January and amongst matters discussed were:

- **Finances:** We are on target to meet the annual budget to cover the routine expenses of running the hall.
- **Website:** This is to be updated to be more “user friendly”.
- **Hirings:** We are hoping to make a facility for anyone wishing to book the hall to be able to check availability on-line.
- **Health & Safety:** A few small matters reviewed for planning into the Spring working party.
- **Defibrillator:** Tested and cleaned.

Our National Lottery grant application continues to progress, and we have now received funding for both Architect Services (Bartram Deakin Associates), who will now draw up the building plans, and for a Consultation Exercise (Catalyst Services). The Consultation Exercise is now at the questionnaire design stage and it is hoped to deliver the questionnaire to all St John households in late February. There will also be an open community event in the Village Hall in March or April. This exercise is crucial to our final grant application and we would very much appreciate your support with this consultation process.

Richard Dolton

St. John Wildlife Watch



Described as gregarious, graceful and grumpy by the RSPB, their distinctive black and white emblem is currently overwintering in our estuary, with 53 seen at Millbrook on January 26th. Flooding of coastal marshes has meant that the Avocet has returned to our shores after being extinct here for over 100 years. Since 1947, when they first returned, over wintering numbers have increased to over 7,500 birds of which 1,500 pairs now breed in the UK - a real success story.

There are still at least 9 Cattle Egrets around. and 30 Brent Geese were seen on St John's Lake on the same weekend. About the size as a Mallard duck, these geese return to Siberia to breed.

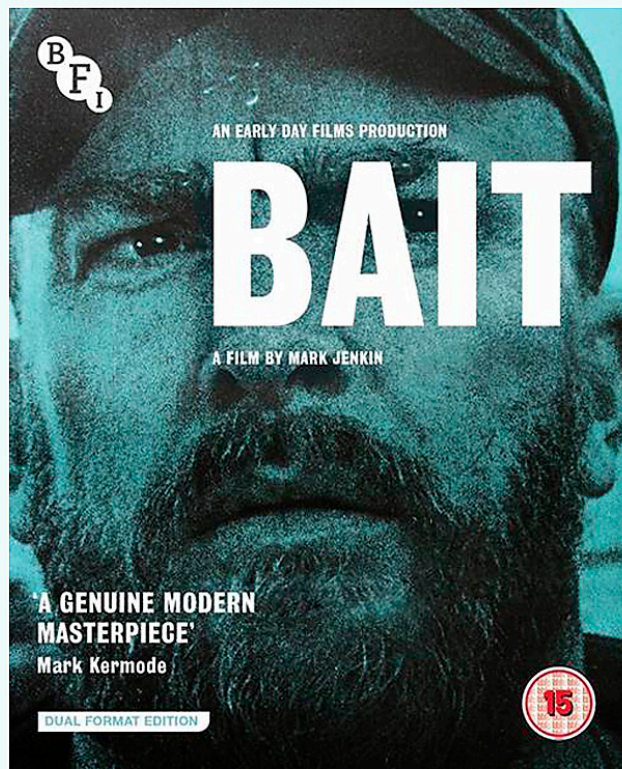


Frog spawn has already been recorded on the Lizard but I have none as yet. Since we have cleared willow branches from around our own pond the local heron has been a more frequent visitor so we may not have any this year. Neighbour Lynne however, has an abundance as you can see in her photograph. Advice from Cornwall Wildlife Trust; if you move frogspawn you are in danger of introducing invasive aquatic plants, as well as disease. We would love to include any of your wildlife photos. Species you don't recognise, unusual shots to puzzle us all. Please get snapping.
kath.overton@gmail.com



frogspawn - photo Lynne Betts

Local Films



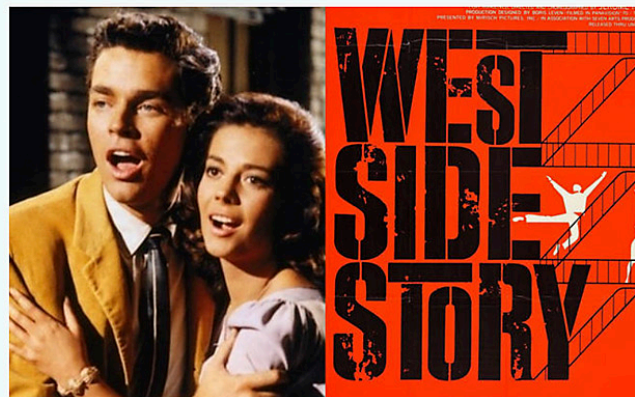
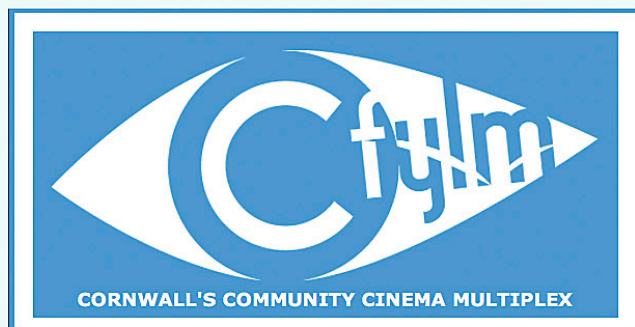
Modern-day Cornish fisherman Martin (Edward Rowe) is struggling to buy a boat while coping with family rivalry and the influx of London money, Airbnb and stag parties to his harbour village. The summer season brings simmering tensions between the locals and newcomers to boiling point, with tragic consequences. Stunningly shot on a vintage 16mm camera using monochrome Kodak stock, Mark Jenkin's *Bait* is a timely and funny, yet poignant new film that gets to the heart of a community facing unwelcome change.

Nominated for 2 BAFTA Film Awards. "Hand-cranked, caustic and wild-eyed, this home-brewed Cornish tourist-botherer captures the native temper of a blasted isle."

TICKETS £3. BYO GLASSES PROVIDED

TEL 01752 822132/822967

Monday Feb 3rd 7- 7.30 pm



Millbrook Village Hall

Saturday 15th February

Doors: 6.30 pm

Film: 7.30pm

Rating: PG

1961 American musical romantic drama film directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins, inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. Stars Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn, Rita Moreno and George Chakiris. Won 10 Academy Awards including Best Picture becoming the record holder for the most wins for a musical.

Lovers Maria and Tony find themselves entangled in the bitter battle between their gangster families. Knowing this feud will lead to disastrous consequences, Maria sends Tony to end the fight.

CONTACT:

Laurence Watkins

lmwatkins@tiscali.co.uk

PRICE:

£6 new members

£3 members

"Caradon Neighbourhood Watch" Damage to Car Tyres

Dear all

There have been a number of instances in Torpoint and the surrounding area where screws have been found in tyres, if you have suffered with this problem please inform the Police via 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk You are advised to inspect your tyres to ensure that you have not also suffered with this problem.

Kind Regards,

NW Office / Police Volunteers

C/O Torpoint Police Station

New Year Lunch



St. John village celebrated “Village Hall Week” (part of a campaign by Action with Communities in Rural England -ACRE), with a New Year Lunch.

Our annual lunch was attended by around 50 people, mostly from the village and some travelling from as far as Freathy!!

Everyone enjoyed a glass of sherry followed by a buffet of cold meat, quiches and salads with wine.

Deserts consisted of pavlovas and cheese-cakes.

The ‘100 Grid ’ was drawn, raising £75 for the village Hall, and the winning ticket with a prize of £25 was won by Steve Mann.

Chris Morris, using our new public address system, updated us all regarding the lottery application and proposed improvements to the village hall.

An event enjoyed by all and a lovely social start to 2020!

Any suggestions for more ideas for future events, would always be welcomed by the Village Hall Fund Raising Committee.

Sue.



Nice to see these two making an effort and enjoying themselves...



Richard ‘knocking them out’ with his charm & incisive wit!



Christian serving wine but, always on the lookout for a ‘wrong un’



‘Moneypenny’ collecting our annual 2020 subscriptions - Well done her!

St. John Walkers



St. John Walkers - 2020

Month	Date	Organiser	Telephone	Email
January	13	Sue & Del	823253	sueclarerichards@me.com
February	10	Yvonne	01579 363915	y.a.douglass@gmail.com
March	9	John McCollough	960267	john.mccollough@hotmail.co.uk
April	13	Alison & Richard	07977214776	doltonpc@gmail.com
May	11	Thelma & Kath	829113 813304	thelma.bryant@sky.com
June	8	Linda & Chris	822083	linda_morris1886@live.co.uk
July	8	No Walk		
August	12	No Walk		
September	14	Bob & Meg	823119	carswell212@aol.com
October	12	Paul & Val	823118	
November	9	Mary & Brian	822890	bbird748@yahoo.co.uk
December	14	Howard & Viv	823250	vivienne-walker@sky.com

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.



Despite a serious weather warning seventeen hardy walkers set out on the January Village Walk led by Sue and Del. We parked at Crafhole and headed down over the golfcourse with strong 50mph headwinds to Portwrinkle, took the path behind the Whitsand Bay Hotel and ascended by footpaths and lanes to Shevioc. We traversed a couple of fields parallel to the A374 and joined the rather muddy track heading up the valley to end at the Finneygook Inn. Twenty-six of us enjoyed a good pub lunch and the following stats from Graham's watch helped to convince us that the calories spent in the morning cancelled out all those from the fish and chips etc.

"Walk was 3.2 miles long of which 1 hour 43 was active walking at an average speed of 1.77 mph, burning a total of 787 calories 39% of which was fat-burn, 37% was easy exercise and the balance was other factors (talking?). Total climb was 448 feet, and Graham's maximum pulse was 138 (crossing that uphill field)."

Hope to see you all on Feb 10th when Yvonne will be leading the walk.

Sue



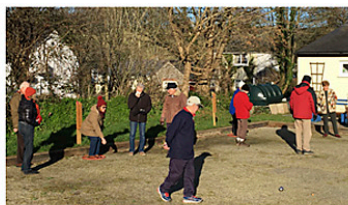
Boule



BOULE



It was a beautiful morning on Sunday 19th January - a bit chilly but lovely and sunny. Around 20 people turned up for a very enjoyable sociable session to play boule/pétanque. 4 teams battled it out and we all enjoyed a well earned break for tea, coffee and biscuits.



St. John Church

Saturday 1st February 2020 the church are holding a Spud and Pudd lunch between 12 pm and 2pm in the village hall.

We welcome the Revd Annabel King who, is now the assistant priest in the Rame Peninsula Team Ministry who will be assisting Fr. Michael at services. She will be taking alternate Sunday service in St John. all services commence at 9.15am

Susan

St John Church - 100 club.

The 100 Club winners for January are:
Richard Salter£20

Carole Amphlett.....£5

Alan Roberts£5

Ray Salter

Village Hall Week - Photo Competition

The Parish council received this invite to take part in a Photo Competition to promote Village Halls in rural communities.

With 'Village Halls Week 2020' (20-26 January) now upon us, we are running a photo competition to provide funds for cash-strapped rural community halls. The competition is designed to champion and emphasise the vital role that halls play in strengthening rural communities. The top prize is £1,000 to the village hall and £500 to the photographer.

To alert village communities and their halls, we've teamed up with various charity organisations (ACRE, Plunkett Foundation, and 30+ Regional Community Councils) to spread word to parishes, villages and halls which don't have a social media presence and are not in regular communication with other organisations. With over 10,000 community halls in Britain, that's a big task!

To help, would you be kind enough to pass on information about the competition to any appropriate villagers, parish councillors or village hall trustees in your area? If your community doesn't have its own hall, could you pass it to one that does? We are keen that all villages have an equal chance to take part, prompting villagers to collaborate and bring home the message of their hall's vital importance.

Here are the key points about the 'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition:

- Top prize is £1,000 to the community hall and £500 to the photographer.
- Theme: 'Village Life - a photo which characterises the value of community in your village'. (This is not about 'pretty villages' or professional photography, but rather capturing the essence of 'community' in a village.)
- It's open to all rural halls. No fee to enter. Halls can enter as many photos as they wish.
- Entrants can nominate any rural hall they wish. It doesn't have to be one that is local to them.
- Closing date is 15/3/20 but many halls are using Village Halls Week to capture great photos.
- Details and rules are available from <https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition>
- Trustees can download a poster for notice board display from the above link.
- We've received over a hundred entries already, with some very touching photos showing great community bonds. Please encourage villagers to vote for the best photos from other communities in order to help the judges.

Love Your Village, Love Your Village Hall!
Celebrating 100 Years of Village Halls

Allied Westminster The Home of VillageGuard

'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition

Running Now!

Ends 15th March 2020!

Win up to £1000 for your Village Hall and £500 for the photographer!

Submit Your Entry & Vote For Others.

Open to **ALL RURAL** UK Village & Community Halls.
Entry is **FREE**. No purchase necessary.

Details of prizes, theme and entry dates are in the **RULES** available from our Facebook page:
<https://facebook.com/AlliedWestminster>

AND on our website detailing free rebuild valuations:
<https://villagehallsurvey.com>

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) - Registration Number 308386

<https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition/photo-gallery>

Village Hall Week

I recently received this cutting from the Times newspaper through my letter box. It was delivered by a local villager (she knows who she is!!)

I have edited it so that it fits in the Newsletter but the main content is intact. I think it makes for interesting reading for various reasons but mainly the sheer number and diversity of the various Village Halls across the country. Anyway, it is 'food for thought' and I am sure it will provoke much interesting discussion and dare I say humour!

Ed.

Pole dancing and pinot noir help to revive village halls

Harry Shukman
Countryside Correspondent

Where can you attend a pole-dancing class, buy a decent bottle of wine and listen to country music all under one roof? The answer, it would appear, is your local village hall.

As other rural services and shops close, they are enjoying a resurgence. Many of England's 10,000 village halls are now bustling hubs that offer activities that once would have once raised an eyebrow.

After a period of poor attendance, Threlkeld Village Hall, near Keswick in the Lake District, is thriving after a refurbishment in 2014. The hall has underfloor heating sourced from the ground, electricity powered by solar panels and a coffee shop, as well as space for concerts and yoga.

"We used to struggle to get 30 tickets sold to a concert before but we now regularly sell out with 120 bums on seats," Steven Oldfield, 70, the secretary, said. "Our old hall was falling down. It was a typical old, cold village hall — the walls were running with condensation. There was very little on offer. It's impossible to compare now."

The government introduced a

£3 million grant scheme for the refurbishment of halls in April last year to foster community spirit in rural areas. So far 21 have received grants, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Other halls, such as Sandford Talking Shop in Oxfordshire, raised money through donations and are staffed by volunteers who sell home-made food, local produce and wine and offer refills for soap and shampoo bottles. The hall has a bustling café and space for table tennis, Pilates, a film club, a sewing group and the Women's Institute.

Gina Ashburner, 67, a volunteer at the hall, said that the village had suffered for the last 20 years after the local shop and post office closed. "We really missed a local place to see people — there's just the Sainsbury's down the road and nothing else," she said. "Before the Talking Shop opened there was no way to meet anyone. It's such a big change, it's brought people together. Now the elderly, who used to be quite isolated, come here, mothers with their babies. It's lovely to see."

Tammy Holden-White, 32, who was at the hall for lunch with her

partner, Simon, 37, said: "It's a uniquely welcoming place. You get such a diverse group of people hanging out. You would never see this in Costa. It's a wonderful place to bring a child, it's so bright. It's transformed the village."

Richard Howlett, 37, its manager, added: "The fundamental thing you get when you put a shop and a café in a village hall is that it becomes a second home. The impact of all the encounters you get when you bring people together is lovely. It's rebuilt those connections that have been lost since the other services closed down."

In Quatt, a village in Shropshire with a population of 200, the hall has managed to stay relevant by offering a wider range of activities. Stephanie Hinton, hall secretary, said that the building, which dates back to 1908, was used by the model train group as well as for fitness classes including pole dancing.

Recent performers at the hall include Alison Krauss, the American country music star, and the poet Ian McMillan.

"We're only a tiny village in Shropshire and fantastic people come and share their talents with us," she said. "We have a real diverse list of things going on. When you lose other services you have to look at providing different levels of support. We are lucky we still have a village shop but we don't have a post office any more."

In 2017 Action with Communities in Rural England noted the decline in village hall attendance as organisers struggled to get younger people inside. Two years later, Deborah Clarke, its rural evidence manager, said: "Volunteers managing the space realise the need to be forward thinking ... There are no end of possibilities — adaptation is the key to a successful hall."



50th Birthday



Many thanks to everyone for all of your kind wishes, cards, flowers, bottles of wine and various presents. Also a big thank to all that helped to set up and clear up the village hall.

I had a fabulous, memorable evening and I feel very lucky to live in such a wonderful village.

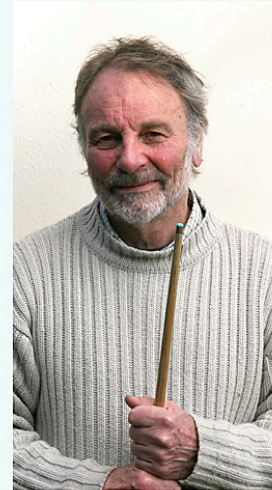
Charmaine.



Snooker



LADDER



Highest Break

David Greenhalgh	23
Pete Debono	18
Chris Trevitt	18
Clive Walley	17

NOTE:

Next month the ladder will only show 2020 paid up members.

David Greenhalgh
Chris Trevitt
Pete Debono
Clive Walley
Steve Wick
Chris Morris
Del Richards
Brian Bird
John Tanner
Richard Dolton
Chris Huke
Paul Tanner
Ray Salter
Lewis Wilton
Bob Keys

and finally.....

The other day I went to the corner shop – bought four corners.