



# St. John Newsletter

Village Website - [www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk](http://www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk)

## March 2020

### Editorial



Hello All.

First and foremost this month, Charmaine has asked me to remind all village residents that the annual Subs are now due... and may I also remind you that there is still time to enter a photograph in the 'Village Halls' competition focusing on 'community'.

If you intend to attend the 'Wine & Dine' next Saturday would you contact Janet for a ticket as we need to know numbers for catering and also, although I know that we all hate filling in questionnaires, would you please make an effort so that we can secure the grant to make improvements to the hall.

I would like to congratulate Yvonne Douglass for the excellent & prompt walkers report, complete with photos and map. She has set the bar very high for the walk leaders for the rest of the year. Well done!

There is a report on the ladies singing group and - is it me or do the singing group do an awful lot of lunching?

Kath Overton's Wildlife Watch is really taking off and I think we all have a lot to learn from her. ( page 4)

On page 6 Richard has shared his experience with a convincing scam operator to warn us all and there is a report on the frantic evening that was the Beetle Drive - I was exhausted and had to revive myself in the pub afterwards! Thanks to Sue for all her hard work organising.

Talking of which, it is nice to see Rob & Gill back on task with a range of future plans ( page 8) and I'm happy to report that I rediscovered my form on Thursday night and took the top of both ladder and highest break - just in time for the end of the month! ( its all about timing! )

Finally, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to Maggie Kay and Pat Edgcumbe who have recently moved into Broadlands.

*David Greenhalgh*

### St. John Litter Pick 12.2.2020

On Wednesday 12th February, we had a successful morning's wombling with a group of hardy litter pickers. So much rubbish had been washed up among the reed and salt marsh of the creek - and also mind-boggling amounts of waste thoughtlessly dumped further up the hill in the woods. We literally did find everything but the kitchen sink - including a lawnmower, sofa, antique scales and an iPhone 8!! Not to mention the sacks of drinks cans we collected (nearly all Stella... any Stella drinkers out there??) and confectionery packaging tossed into the verges.

Well done everybody for removing this huge amount of waste and getting it out of harm's way - great to have been able to grab it before the vegetation grows up to cover it all over again for another year.

Thanks to Claire Wallerstein, Vanessa Burton, Kath & Martyn Overton, Linda Morris, Sue Huke, Mary Rogers & Brian Bird. Also thanks to Cornwall Council too for arranging collection





# News from the Trustees



## St John Village Hall

St John Village Trust has applied to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant to allow us to carry out a range of improvements and refurbishments to ensure the future of the village hall building.

These improvements include:

- (i) A 3 meter extension to the west end of the Village Hall, to incorporate: wheelchair access; a disabled toilet; an improved function room; a dedicated storage room.
- (ii) Infrastructure repairs to Village Hall's timber frame together with new insulation and waterproofing.
- (iii) Improved kitchen facilities and equipment including a dishwasher!
- (iv) An updated heating system including a new compression boiler and radiators (as required).

The Trustees have commissioned the independent charity Devon Communities Together (DCT) to carry out a questionnaire survey to help us understand your support for the scheme and the importance of the village hall in St John. This will be carried out over the period Wednesday 26th February 2020 to Friday 6th March 2020.

### **There will also be a Community Consultation Event on Monday 16th March (16.00 - 19.00).**

Do drop in to the hall to see a sample of the results so far, and help us to better understand the best way to use the hall in the future! Refreshments will be provided.

*Note: if you haven't had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire and would like to, please email [doltonpc@gmail.com](mailto:doltonpc@gmail.com) and we will send you an on-line copy.*

Chris Morris



## St. John Singing Group.



The singing group celebrated in style on Monday 24th February, lunching out at The Old Rowing Club.

It was the exact day of our 6th anniversary, so what could we do but make an occasion of it? 22 of us enjoyed a very tasty meal after our usual singing, laughing, and definitely talking, session in the village hall.

We didn't have recorders this week, but it is going very well, and the group is becoming very proficient. As last reported - and I know some are following our progress with great interest(?) - we have now accomplished 5 notes, G, A, B, C, D, which mean we now have quite a few tunes under our belt, and they are quite recognisable. Well done one and all.



Janet



## Local Films



The film follows a Chinese family who, when they discover their beloved Grandmother has only a short while left to live, decide to keep her in the dark and schedule an impromptu wedding to gather before she passes. Billi, feeling like a fish out of water in her home country, struggles with the family's decision to hide the truth from her grandmother. Lulu Wang has crafted a tasty cinematic stew of family depression and grief, hugs and laughter, memories and regrets.

It's spiced with sweet, encouraging conversations and funny family dinners, examinations of the differences and similarities of Chinese and American cultures, blatant fibbing, and some pretty heavy drinking and smoking, too.

*The critics say... "The Farewell is a comedy of warmth and bracing honesty. Simply put, it's one of the best films of the year."*

Monday March 2nd at Kingsand Community Hall 7 – 7.30 PM  
TICKETS £3. BYO GLASSES PROVIDED -TEL 01752 822132/822967

## St. John Church



### Services on Sunday's at 9.15 am

Many thanks to all who supported the Spud and Pudd Lunch in the village hall on Saturday 2nd February, which was most enjoyable around £400 pounds were made for church funds.

On behalf on St. John Church our thanks go to Gill and Rob of the St. John Inn for the charity fund rising for the church, which have resulted in a donation of over £100 which will be used for new lighting.

Best Wishes  
Susan

### St John Church 100 club

February winners are:-

Steve Salter .....£20

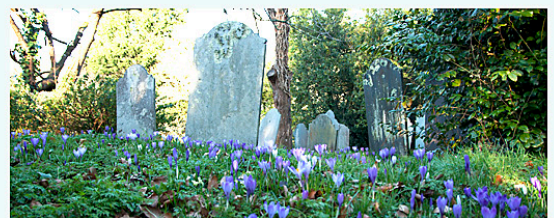
Sue Goss .....£5

David Turner .....£5

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last years draws and that this years subscriptions are now due, still only £16 for the years 12 draws.

If any one would like to participate in the 100 Club (there are numbers available for this years draws which is again to pay for the Church Insurance) should contact Margaret on 822438.

Ray







## Ashes to ashes?

The gales have left us with fallen trees and many severed branches. In checking my own trees I was alarmed to find considerable die back in the Ash trees. The dreaded Ash Die Back (Chalara) I feared, known now in our area since 2018. The tree trunks had long deep lesions and other mal formations (see photographs). The County tree man has confirmed that it is in fact Ash Bacterial Canker. This has left us in a dilemma, do we cut and burn and pollute the air with particulates, or leave as a natural habitat for wildlife and decomposers but also a reservoir of disease?

The Forest for Cornwall initiative encourages us to plant trees and I was glad to hear Mount Edgecombe Estate is planting thousands. If you know of any possible sites to accommodate trees in our parish, we could get together to acquire some free suitable species, to plant in the autumn.



## “Spud in a bucket”

We don't all have space to plant trees, so why not join in our “Spud in a bucket” challenge? First Early Seed Potatoes will be available for £1 from St John's Inn, the village hall at Wednesday coffee morning and me at Brimbles from March 1st. All welcome to participate young and old. Half the money raised will be prize money and the other half used to buy wild flower seed to be sown in suitable sites around the parish. You will also have a few notes to help get you started and the only rule i.e. your potato plant must be grown in a container with a volume no greater than a standard builder's bucket 14l. Growing medium your own secret formula – be inventive. The “big reveal” will be at St John's Inn 2pm June 6th (no peeking until then) when your containers will be emptied and potatoes weighed (and potatoes returned to you to enjoy). Please have a go, use old containers if possible and don't buy plastic.





St John Village

## SPUDS IN A BUCKET

### Challenge

*Great reveal June 6th at 2pm at St John's Inn.*  
*Entry £1 to include your seed potato (a first early variety) and competition rules.*  
*Prize is half the money collected, remainder to be used to buy Wild Flower Seed for the Village Hall field and other sites in St John.*  
*Potatoes available from the pub or during Coffee Morning on Wednesday's or Kath Overton at Brimbles throughout March.*





Frogspawn recorded by Feb 7th near Goosefoot Lane(Christian) Antony road (Vanessa] and first toadspawn last weekend(Lynne). Kingfisher seen nesting in St John (Rob) and Red breasted Merganser and Northern Diver near Millbrook (Rame Wildlife Group).

Have you spotted this little gem on the woodland floor? Very common at the moment. Scarlet Elf Cap.

Kath Overton



# St. John Walkers



## St. John Walkers - 2020

Month	Date	Organiser	Telephone	Email
January	13	Sue & Del	823253	sueclareichards@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.



The St. John's February walk took place at the Tamar Trails Centre in Gunnislake. It was quite a miracle it took place at all as it was the day after storm Ciara hit. I was in 2 minds whether to cancel or not but 9 brave walkers arrived to take it on. I'm sure there would have been more but sadly there were a few not well! Hope you're all feeling better soon!

Some were saying I must have friends in high places as the day started dry and sunny if a little chilly. We started out on the Devon Great Consols path through the woods, passing under the tree-surfing area but surprisingly no one had a go! It had tried to rain a few times at this point but soon petered out.

As we reached Wheal Anna Maria arsenic calciners (which were worked in the 1920's!), a sudden ground-shaking clap of thunder and a flash of lightning took us by surprise. We thought our luck had come to an end but it went as quickly as it had arrived. We stopped for a photo opportunity to admire the fantastic views across the Tamar valley. The 2 dogs (Daisy and Holly) were having a great time running around investigating and were very well behaved! The walkers were reasonably good too!! We continued our walk on Wheal Maria trail and then turned sharp left onto Wheal Josiah trail. This trail was quite steep and rugged but was through very pretty woodland and alongside a babbling brook so I think it made the hill almost a pleasure!! The path soon flattened out and we were soon back at the car park. The walk was 3.59 miles with a maximum gain of 346ft. After changing our boots we headed for The Cardinals Hatt for lunch. Some of the walk members that couldn't join us on the walk met up to enjoy a carvery or fish and chips. (16 of us in total!) Paddy was celebrating her birthday so of course we all helped her with that!(There was certainly plenty of laughter and banter!)

All in all I think/ hope that everyone enjoyed the day!  
Yvonne







## YET ANOTHER FRAUD WARNING

This is a summary of how close I got to falling into the scam trap.

At 10 past 10 last Friday evening, I received a phone call purporting to be from the fraud department of our bank. “Mr Dolton?” “I replied “Yes” “Good evening sir – this is Jonathan from the fraud department from your \*\*\*\* bank. Have you recently bought something online for £80 from xxxxx?” Flustered I replied, “No. But how do I know you are genuine caller?” “Yes sir, it’s sensible for you to ask – just to confirm that I am speaking to Mr Dolton, for data protection sir, please can you give me your address etc and date of birth please”

Tired from a frenetic 2hrs beetle drive, I did confirm these details; however, the man then asked if I could confirm the debit card I have, matched their record of the fraud. I said that my cards were not with me. The reply in so many words was “you can go to your local branch but we shall have to freeze your card until we get the verification, it would save a lot of hassle for you if we did this now; I can hold on while you get your card.”

I replied that I’d prefer to go to the branch and asked him for a call reference that I could quote – which he gave me. The guy rang off but then called me back a few minutes later “just checking you got the reference correct – we could sort this now if you get your card details to avoid stopping your card.” I replied that I would go to the bank.

We then sat for 10 minutes mulling this over and I decided to phone the bank direct. After the usual protocol the fraud department confirmed that it was a scam. Banks would never phone after normal working hours and normally text. Also, they would never ask for the full numbers of the bank card. So be warned – the call sounded so genuine – well spoken english and seemingly well mannered.

BE WARNED!

Richard Dolton

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I think this is a subject we are all worried about. I get quite a few automated calls telling me that my internet will be switched off unless I do something...? I just put the phone down and ignore it and nothing happens!

We must have some members who are tech savvy and that can advise us - can we ignore ‘automated’ calls as a general rule? If that is so, would you send me the advice please and I will share it in next month’s Newsletter.

Dave.



## Beetle Drive Evening

The Beetle Drive provided a fun evening for everyone who attended - & probably doubled as a keep fit session, given the number of times we all moved from table to table at a brisk pace.

It also delivered a mental workout as the scores from 23 rounds were totted up - not easy after the BYO had been consumed!

3 people managed totals of over 700, but Vanessa Burton proved to be the best of the bunch & is our new champion. Congratulations to her, thanks to Sue Huke, who organised the evening, & thanks also to everyone who came & supported the event.

*Linda Morris*



*And the winner is...*



*I wish I had paid attention when we did 'adding-up' at school !!*

## Wine & Dine evening (next Sat.)



St John Village Trust  
Registered Charity Number 1178524

# Wine & Dine

*(with a hint of Welsh Flavour)*

**Saturday 7th March 2020 7.30 for 8pm**

**£12.50 a head**



**Join us for an evening of good wine, food and company!**  
*There will be a raffle and maybe even a quiz!*

**Tickets available from Janet Mitchell 01752 829225**





# The St. John Inn



Sorry for my lack of submission for Feb but life was a little hectic with travelling up and down to Derbyshire to help my mum but this will soon be sorted when she moves into the lodge the first week in March.

I'm sure that you'll all make her welcome :-)

Rob has finally retired from the Ferry and we'll now have time to enjoy the pub far more and move forward with our plans.

## Future Plans

1,  
We have approached the not for profit organisation - 'the pub is the hub' with 2 plans.

The first is to ask for a community services grant towards providing a **small village shop**. The plans are in the early stages and we would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

The second is for the provision of a **colour printing facility** for villagers which will enable the pub, church and village hall to design and print posters etc, and individuals to use the facility at a minimal cost of paper.

We have forms in the pub if you would like to sign and give your opinion - we have over 70 signatures so far. There is also a photo of the proposed shop (shed).

If you wish to provide more in-depth comments please feel free to email [stjohninncornwall@gmail.com](mailto:stjohninncornwall@gmail.com)

2,

We are considering adding a 'Pod' to our camp field - this is a small shed type structure 'hobbit style' with just a double bed, small fridge and table - to allow people to stay over who don't have a tent available. Let your friends and relations know !

3,

The kitchen will be revamped in the next few months and will involve some building work - please be aware and watch out for rubble / signs / limited access to the pub. Hopefully this will be mainly during the first half of the week when we are closed.

## Charity donations

The latest donation from the 'jar on the bar' is £101.50 towards the church - they are going to use the money to improve the lighting in the church.

## Events

- I hope to re-organise the pamper weekend sometime in April - watch this space.
- Halfway Harmony will be singing in the pub to celebrate St Piran's day 5th March.
- Friday night is still food night- we've been busy lately and would suggest that if you are new to this then 5-6.30pm would be the best time to come.
- Quiz night is still the last Friday of the month - come along for a laugh ! there are volunteers to run the quiz for you should you be unfortunate enough to come last.

**COME AND JOIN A  
TRADITIONAL TRELAWNEY  
SHOUT ON ST PIRAN'S DAY  
THURSDAY 5TH OF MARCH AT 7.30**



**AT THE ST. JOHN INN  
WITH HALFWAY HARMONY**

**SING THE  
TRELAWNEY  
SONG WITH  
ALL OF  
CORNWALL  
AT 9 PM**



Rob & Gill



## Xmas Doubles challenge

In the run up to Xmas we ran a pool competition and a Plate for the 'first round losers'. Well... it has become a tradition for the winners of the plate to challenge the overall winners to a match.

This match took place on Tuesday 4th Feb. and the result was the plate winners, Doc. Morris & Biggles Burton, beat me and my trusty partner Cool Hand Huke 11-6 !

This is why the pool format is ideal for this event!

Dave

### Help needed.



I'm looking for an old wooden step-ladder, any condition. I need the ladder for my cat to be able to climb over my fence, not for decorative purposes. It can be any height from 3' to 6'. Preferably wooden but would consider other materials.

Thanks.  
Dorethea

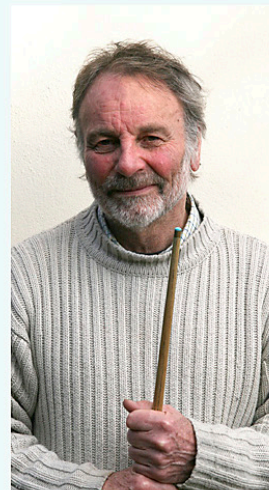


## Snooker



### LADDER

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
Howard Everard



### Highest Break

David Greenhalgh	33
Pete Debono	25
Chris Trevitt	24
Chris Morris	22
Clive Walley	17
Chris Huke	16

### STOP PRESS:

This Advert just arrived before I pressed ;send' Ed.

...only in Cornwall!!! Ed.

This Poll may have escaped your notice!

### Poll watch

A majority of Democrat voters in the US state of New Hampshire would rather a giant meteor struck the Earth, extinguishing all human life, than Donald Trump win another term.

Asked which outcome they preferred, **38%** opted for a Trump victory on 3 November 2020, and **62%** for the devastating meteor strike. However, the strength of feeling varied according to income bracket. Among the poorest Democrats (earning under \$50K a year) **69%** said they'd rather die in a giant meteor strike than live to see Trump re-elected; but among the richest (earning more than \$100,000 a year) a small majority of New Hampshire Democrats (**51%**) decided that a Trump win was preferable to the extinction of human life.

The University of Massachusetts



"I'm just going to plug in our new electric car"

**CFYLM & MILLBROOK MOVIES PRESENTS**  
a screening of

## THE SISTERS BROTHERS

**SATURDAY 14 MARCH**  
**MILLBROOK VILLAGE HALL**  
DOORS: 6.30pm  
FILM: 7.30pm  
PRICE: £6 new members  
£3 members  
CONTACT: Laurence Watkins  
lmwatkins@tiscali.co.uk

**ABOUT**  
In 1850s Oregon, the infamous duo of assassins, Eli and Charlie Sisters, chase a gold prospector and his unexpected ally.

**BROTHERS BY BLOOD, SISTERS BY NAME.**  
JOHN C. REILLY JACQUIN PHOENIX JAKE GYLLENHAAL RIZ AHMED  
**THE SISTERS BROTHERS**  
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and finally.....

Did you know that one in four frogs is a leapfrog.