

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

April 2020

Editorial

Well! Everything really has gone pear shaped this time! What extraordinary times we are living through. Everything is on Pause!

We start off with a report from the Chairman of the Trustees, bringing us up to date with how the application for the Hall renovations are proceeding and outlining some of the reasons why we have made the decisions we have made and our aims to preserve the 'character' of the building etc.

Page 2 is devoted to all things Covid-19 virus. The main info. being the support network that Bet & Caitlan Taylor et al, have set up to provide help to those in need. Also, notice of closures of the usual films.

The area that is a joy amid all the gloom is the wildlife watch- made additionally enjoyable by the lovely weather we are having enabling us to get out into our gardens and enjoy the spring. Getting seeds sowed and your 'spud in a bucket' going – all things to watch and care for over what could be a long haul!



The walkers last walk lead by John McCollough on page 4. and the pub reporting on the last events they had before the 'shut down'. Then there is Judith's report on the welsh 'Wine & Dine', which will be the last for some some time!

Just because we celebrate our 'highest breaks' in snooker, the bowls ladies feel they should not be left out. I have to say 18-0 is a thrashing - which ever way you look at it. Now, last month I was bragging about my timing at getting to the top of the ladder two days before the end of the month, well, Steve beat me a few days before everyone was advised to self isolate! So we are going to have to look at his ugly mug for some months to come – Well done Steve! Talking of timing, Andy Seedhouse has joined the snooker section just when it has all closed down – welcome Andy – we will have a game as soon as it opens.

David Greenhalgh

From the Chairman of the Hall Trustees

First of all, let me say thanks to everyone who is helping out in the village, in whatever way, as we combat the effects of the virus and consequential effects that we are all subject to. It seems so strange not to be able to pop next-door for a coffee or in my case to borrow a tool! But from the sound of the mowers and trimmers, it seems most of us are at least getting our gardens up to scratch!

Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire for our application to the National Lottery and also to the helpers who collected the forms. The public presentation in the hall was quite well attended and as I write this article I don't know what the responses were, but from the feedback at the doors, we seem to have an overwhelming support.



What is essential is that we can keep our hall in the best condition we can, whilst retaining the character and atmosphere that is so special; and yet bring it up-to-date. So many performers and visitors over the years have said it has great charm and good acoustics – we really must conserve this part of our village heritage. Thanks also to the volunteers who have now started to cut the grass, water the plants and general keep the place ship-shape! With the restrictions on public get-togethers, we have had no alternative but to keep the hall closed for the time but, as a central focus for the village, we shall do what we can to make sure that we can enable volunteers to make use of our community newsletter if nothing else.

Richard Dolton

St John COVID-19 Support Network

A network is being created to support the community during the on-going COVID-19 outbreak. The goal is to create a list of people willing to assist others who might be isolating or social distancing during the coming weeks.

If you are willing to join the network of volunteers or you need to be put in contact with a volunteer for support please use the contact details below (if calling please try multiple numbers as some of us work during the day):

- Email: caitlinelizabeth1994@yahoo.co.uk or bettaylor65@yahoo.co.uk or carswell212@aol.com or ionaskyeferguson@hotmail.com
- Phone: 07944605276 (Caitlin Taylor) or 07923631317 (Bet Taylor) or 01752823119 (Megan Keys) or 07534321829 (Iona Ferguson)
- Facebook: Search 'St John COVID-19 Support Network' or type in '<https://www.facebook.com/groups/209606030113986/>'

NOTE - People NOT on Facebook will have to access the Support Network using the Phone numbers.

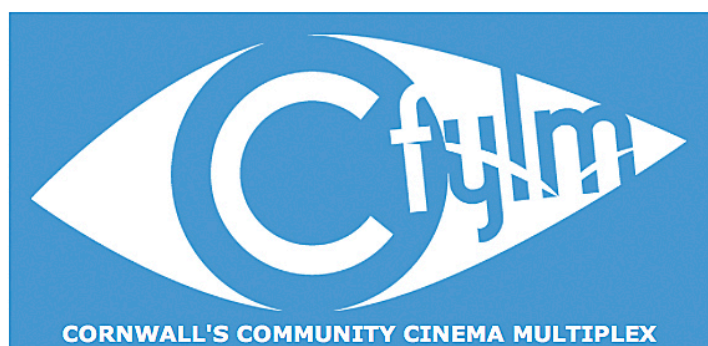
I heard a little rumour,
I don't know if it's true,
That the world is going to be at peace
For at least a month or maybe two.

I heard that folk must stay at home,
And spend time with their kin,
Slow down, relax and take a breath,
And find some peace within.

And though we may be worried,
About money, jobs and bills,
We will notice beauty everywhere,
Blue skies, fresh lakes, green hills.

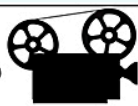
And when a month or two is over,
And we can all go back to our lives,
People will show gratitude,
That their loved ones all survived.

...from John & Glenda Benger.



In response to government advice on travel and cinema visits, and a rising number of concerns raised by our club organisers, we have made the decision to cancel all C Fylm events until June 2020.

"FILM FANS"



SCREENING AT

**THE COMMUNITY HALL
KINGSAND**

We are postponing our April film screening due to Covid 19.

Thank you for all your support over the winter and we look forward to happier times in the autumn.

We plan to recommence the first Monday in September 2020

Jill and Carol



Growing Matters!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the spud challenge. Your seed potatoes should be snuggling in their compost by the middle of April, but beware of frosts. We may have to rethink the weighing in June, I will keep you posted via the newsletter. Your potatoes may be worth a fortune by then! Late entrants, can still collect seed potatoes from outside the village hall.

On the subject of growing; could any keen gardeners especially those with greenhouses, please over produce your seedlings, both flowers and vegetables and make them available at the village hall for us all to share and keep our village colourful and productive, in the coming months.

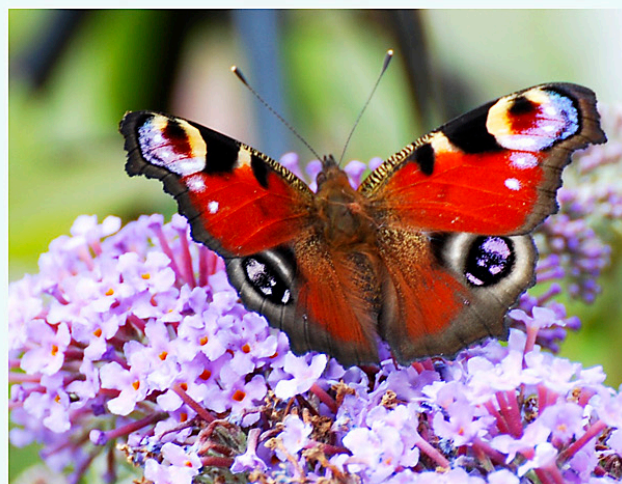
Many parishes in our area, have undertaken to plant more trees to mitigate against our Climate in Crisis and the Government has committed to plant 55million a year, but this has led to a shortage of trees, especially locally grown. So could I appeal to you, both young and old, to pot up any unwanted seedling trees you have in your gardens, or sow germinating acorns etc. you find on your woodland walks, care for them over the summer and bring to the village hall in November, perhaps during tree week to be distributed.

Wildlife Watch

You may have noticed Peacock butterflies are emerging from their hibernation sites. This cosmopolitan butterfly is territorial and you may notice males seeing off other males from their territory.

Males also have to undertake high performance flights to impress the female during courtship.

This fascinating butterfly not only deters predators by flashing its eyespots, its amazing camouflage when wings are closed, but is able to make auditory hisses during hibernation to put off hungry rodents. The caterpillars favour stinging nettles and hops, whereas nectar feeding adults could be attracted to rotting fruit, especially mushy bananas. They like over ripe citrus, strawberries and apples too. If you have children to entertain, try making a feeding station out of a plastic plate or lid. It could be flower shaped and coloured. Testing different options would be interesting science.



New kid on the block?

Lynne Bets photographed this leucistic Magpie in Plymouth a couple of weeks ago. Has this most intelligent of birds taken to disguise? Sorry Rossini you were wrong about shiny objects.

Weed and feed.

Been weeding out this common Hairy Bittercress? It could add a zing to your salads. A member of the Cruciferae, as are Brassicas, it has petals in a cross formation, if you can see them! Wild Garlic is emerging too. Worth a try since you shouldn't be getting too close to others at the moment. Enjoy.

Don't forget if you've managed to obtain a food delivery slot, you can amend your order the day before delivery. Perhaps one of your neighbours is short of perishable items.

Kath Overton





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.

I'm sure that you won't be surprised to hear that we are cancelling our Village walks until further notice. Let's hope that we can celebrate with a lovely walk and big party when this difficult time is over! Stay safe. Sue.

On reaching Higher Methereil, we carried on through the lanes to Lower Methereil, to walk past our eventual watering hole, The Carpenters Arms, so named after the carpenters who built Cotehele house in the 15 century. The settlement at Methereil was first recorded during Mediaeval times, in 1298. The name I think means 'middle hill'. Then through the edge of a field, down through a little gully, down a short flight of steps, down to the road. Crossing the road to Orchard Cottage where the owner had recently cut lovely smelling pine logs, nicely stacked by the side of the track.

At the bottom of this track there is a weir, which via a leat channels water from the Morden stream to drive an overshot waterwheel.

This led us back to the car park, where we piled into our cars and headed back to The Carpenters Arms for well needed sustenance.

All in all I think the walk was enjoyed by all.

The whistle did come in handy !!!

Till next time.....

John McCollough.

Cotehele Estate - Methereil, Circular.

Well, Monday 9th March and the walkers gathered ! 12 of us in total, and the rain held off.

We all set off in cars to The National Trust Cotehele Estate starting at the Discovery Centre, instead of walking up the road, we ascended a small steep climb up the bank, then onto the road. I did mention this was really the only climb of the walk, I think I regretted that statement!

We skirted Cotehele House, which belonged to the Edgcombe family for 600 years, prior to donation to the Nat Trust in 1947.

We continued along the track towards Calstock, then veered off to follow the stream, which was in fairly full flow, eventually arriving at Danescombe Sawmill. The mill was opened in 1878 and used a 43 ft waterwheel to drive the machinery. Power from the waterwheel was also used to haul carts up the tramway, which is now the track.

We continued on past Danescombe Farm to a 'slight' climb, through a couple of kissing gates to a lane, where a few of us tasted nice juicy Navelwort, growing in the hedgerow.



The St. John Inn



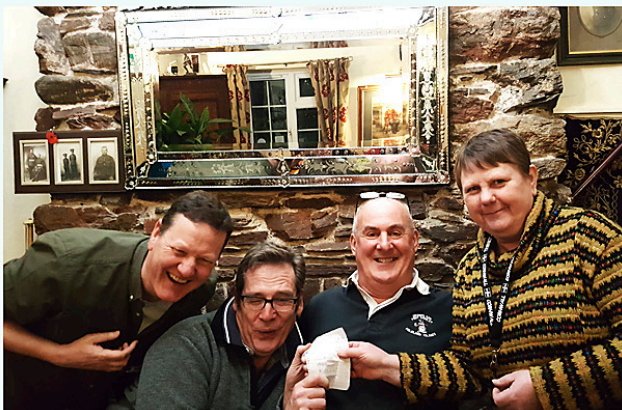
Well, that happened a bit quick didn't it !!!

Pub closed until further notice and mum just ready to get out and about meeting people.

We are now in lockdown and working our way through the stock - What a shame.

Going back to last month before all this chaos began -

A wonderful time was had by many at Liz's birthday party. Lots to eat and drink.



Some of you may remember 'the Snowman' alias Mark, who one stormy day arrived at the Inn on a folding pushbike with friends. They enjoyed the atmosphere so much that they left many hours later in the dark and actually managed to cycle back to Plymouth. Whilst here - in Dec 2017 - they made a small wager between themselves on whether Brexit would actually happen. Mark was finally announced as the winner early in Feb 2020 and he came to collect his meagre winnings. Again, he managed to stay for many hours but this time with friends and their partners.

St Pirans' day was celebrated in style on the 5th March by a good old sing song in the pub with the help of Halfway Harmony.

We all had a fantastic time and they finally stopped singing at closing time.

If you missed it you missed a traditional good time in the pub.



Onto more serious things-

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we were thinking of opening a community shop. This has now been rushed forward and we hope to have the building in 2 weeks with the shop opening for basic provisions as soon as we are able.

Does anyone have any shelving, or can they make some shelving to house stock ??

We have a fridge and freezer already sourced.

The shop will have hygiene measures in place and will be an honesty shop.

We hope you will all support this venture and please email / phone / text, with any ideas that may help.

Keep well and carry on.

See you on the other side.

Welsh Eve Wine & Dine (Sat 7th March)



Yet another successful wine evening and this time, as befits the beginning of March, with a Welsh theme.

Amid the red dragons and daffodils, the 'Master of Ceremonies' (Del) began the evening with a short speech about what delights were in store - all delivered in his own, inimitable, welsh accent... and then the 'catching-up', general conversation and wine began to flow.



To accompany the good selection of wines there was a choice of wonderfully tasty lamb (and vegetarian) dishes, cooked by the regular village 'chefs', followed by the usual tempting array of decadent desserts.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard and contributed to making the evening so enjoyable.

Judith



St John Church 100 club.

The winners for March are:

Neil & Barbara Rugg.....£20

Colin & Liz Chambers.....£5

Thelma Bryant.....£5

During these difficult times we are still going ahead with the monthly draws for the 100 Club and the first of the 12 monthly draws for this year will be later in April. So for those who haven't paid as yet and still want to be part of the club please forward their subscriptions at £16 per number or confirm to Margaret at Badgers Mount (Tel. 822438) if they still wish to belong.

Ray



Just had to squeeze these two in for you! - Ed.

Bowls



As we celebrate snooker players scores we thought we would let you see the highest score this season by Janet, Sue & Thelma against 3 formidable oponents (you know who you are)
Thelma

Well done girls! you will have to arrange a rematch when they finish their counselling! - Ed

Another Home Delivery Service you may wish to try.

Kevin James
MILKMAN

TEL NO: 01579 340386

Email: kjamesmilkman@hotmail.co.uk

A MILKMAN AND MUCH MORE
TWICE WEEKLY DELIVERIES (Monday & Thursday)
Milk, Cheese, Eggs, Vegetables, Fruit +

Be patient if you ring - they are very busy

Snooker



LADDER



Highest Break

David Greenhalgh	33
Pete Debono	25
Chris Trevitt	24
Chris Morris	22
Howard Everard	18
Clive Walley	17
Chris Huke	16

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

Letters to the Editor:-

Alison writes:

During the CoVid19 confinement and self-isolation please could we all bonfire only in the evening – if it is totally necessary- to avoid smoke engulfing our homes and gardens.

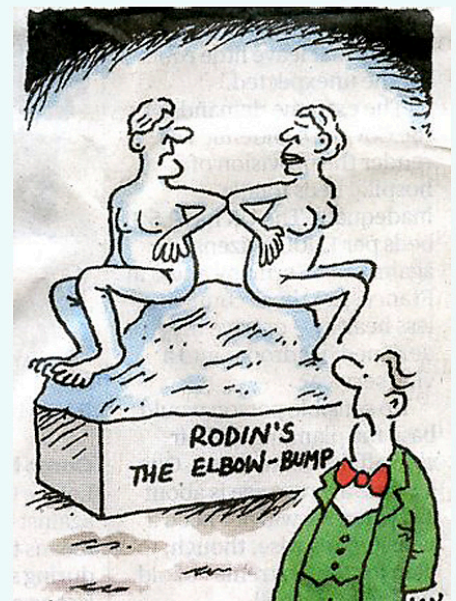
A thought – will any fire brigade be able to respond to a village emergency...?

Please be extra careful in all things you do, DIY, cooking, gardening etc indoors and outdoors for your own safety.

Look after yourselves until we can meet up again, we miss you all.

Easter Greetings and love from

Alison, Richard and family



and finally.....

I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.