

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

May 2020

Editorial

Well, we are still on 'pause', so there are no activities to report on, nor future events to notify you about. Thus, it is quite a 'thin' newsletter - but even the virus can't stop the wonderful spring unfolding, as evidenced by our own Nature Watch which fills almost two pages. The Parish Council have been busy repairing paths and stiles, which helps our enforced activity, walking around the village....

The official results of the household survey and questionnaire about the Village Hall have now been officially analysed and are reported on in the, 'News from the Trustees' report.

Ray Salter has had to indulge in some creative thinking to get round 'social distancing' restrictions in selecting the monthly 100 club winners (!) and as mentioned, Kath's nature

watch (page 3 and half of page 4) has some lovely pictures of spring scenes and information.

At approx 21.15 last Monday we had a total power failure in the village. Fortunately for my part of the village it only lasted 30 seconds or so, but for 'upper' St. John the excitement went on till the early hours of the morning and I believe that Western Power men, with head torches and trucks with cranes, set up a temporary generator. (I don't actually know the full story yet and only have pictures from the following day - in daylight!!) The last page has a plea for help from Charmaine, Megan's report, a face mask making link from Dorothea and a lovely link to Max Boyce's poem about the current crisis.

Best wishes

David Greenhalgh



What's your Parish Council Up To?

PC meetings have been cancelled although councillors are meeting online during this lockdown. Planning applications are still being considered. Some emergency funding has been released to the St John voluntary group supporting residents, and there is also financial support available from the Rame Community Fund. This Fund is for help with essential items, food, electricity or transport. Please visit www.ramecommunityfund.org.uk for application forms and further information or e mail info@ramecommunityfund.org.

Also, should you wish to donate to this local charity you can pick up a leaflet from the BT box. The current restrictions have been very difficult for all of us but we are fortunate to be surrounded with accessible countryside around our village. We have been improving some of the walking possibilities, and have made repairs to two styles, on the public FP to Penhale and the style at the top of Jack's Lane leading up to the solar park.

(Many thanks to Paul Tanner) Did you know that you can walk on the east side of the solar park to Freathy? We will be improving the FP from the foot of Mendennick Hill up to Gallows Park, so one can walk up from the village and buy a pasty soon! Also, the drainage arrangements at the Church have been further tidied up and improved. Whilst there are no public meetings planned at present, the website gives contact details for any enquiries. Stay well.

Del Richards





Fantastic Community Response to Lottery Questionnaire

Thanks to everyone who helped with the household survey; there was a particularly high response rate at 92% return of the 108 distributed surveys. The external independent contractor, Catalyst Consultancy Services (Devon Communities Together) who are specialists in this field, have analysed the responses and the key findings drawn from all consultation activities are:

1. Support for proposals.

- a. The community strongly support the proposed extension and related access improvements, toilets, storage, and community room which will enable an increased range of uses and access.
- b. The community strongly support infrastructure repairs which will enable the sustainability of the hall including and upgraded heating system.
- c. The community strongly support kitchen improvements and an updated heating system to make the hall more comfortable, user friendly, and therefore commercially attractive.

2. Impact of the village hall.

- a. The Village Hall provides a central focus and enhances community cohesion within St John, it is highly valued by residents.
- b. The Village Hall provides a range of regular activities that would not otherwise be available and is directly credited by many respondents for helping to create and sustain friendships and overcome social isolation.

News about our Planning Application.

The St John community has demonstrated their overwhelming support for the St John Village Hall regeneration proposals. However, The St John Village Hall Trustees have decided, in the best interest of harmony within the village, to withdraw this planning application and a new plan will be submitted in due course.

Richard Dolton

St. John Church - 100 club

April's 100 Club winners are :

Mary Rogers£20

Jonet Waldock£5

Kate turner£5

The numbers were chosen by our local postman when asked to select three numbers between 1 & 100.

Ray Salter.

(I believe the postman chose the birthdates of his three delightful daughters!) Ed.

St John wildlife Watch



Since the last newsletter, the Wild Garlic has really made an impression on the woodland floor (see Charmaine's stunning photograph) and to some an assault on the nostrils. There is still time to enjoy the young leaves in salads and sandwiches, make a pesto, soup or freeze. Like several onion species the Wild Garlic is thought to lower cholesterol and its boiled leaves make a disinfectant or can be used to repel cats in the garden. See BBC Wildlife website for recipes and only collect modestly and when you are sure of its identification.



Photo: Charmaine.



Photo: Charmaine

The sunny weather has encouraged more butterflies to our gardens. The Orange tip has been particularly numerous. Check out the underwing and green eyes if you can get close enough. Note only the male has orange tips to its upper wings.

This time of year our reptiles emerge. Adders have already been seen on sunny banks in our area. Do you have slow worms? I saw a squashed one on Goosefoot Lane last year. Would be pleased to hear of any sitings.



Photo: Coralie Barrow



Photo: Coralie Barrow.

Thought you would like to enjoy this blackbird's chick's thank you at being returned to its nest by grandson (photograph courtesy of daughter).

Not for the faint hearted – This extra time for closer inspection can reveal some amazing sights. Not sure if that Blackbird chick would enjoy these, but Wrens and Robins will, a spider hatch. Did they eat mum after she ate dad?



Photo: Coralie Barrow.

Kath Overton

Wildlife watch (cont)

Your "Spuds in a bucket" should be growing well by now. It seems prudent to abandon the grand reveal, at the pub on 6th June in favour of a submission of your photographs. Please collect, clean and weigh (in Kg not tonnes!!) that weekend, then send the details and pictures to David for judging by June 10th.

Thanks for the donations to the plant crèche behind the Village Hall, hope you have found a home for some too. Tomato plants should be available soon and more bedding.

It's getting a bit late to dig up tree seedlings, unless we have a wet spell and they are not too big. Instead you could tag them for removal in November, when people will be wanting to increase their planting.

Lovely to see so many of you busy in your gardens and a cheery exchange from passing neighbours is such a tonic. Perhaps it should be a competition for the best kept garden next!
Kath

kath.overton@gmail.com (I have a doppelganger in Doncaster who has just joined numerous dating agencies and my laptop is somewhat inundated at the moment, so please don't include your usual flattering comments when emailing me or you could end up as trash! Anyone know how to stop someone using your email address as theirs please?)

Power blackout Monday (27/04/20) night.



Here are some pictures of the faulty transformer being changed at Vanderbands Farm substation and the temporary generator opposite the Village Hall.



David Eva.



Thanks to all the team at Western Power who worked tirelessly through the night last Monday to get the electric back on. For some in the village the blip was a just a few minutes, for others it was more like 7 hours. And to bring the temporary generator to the village was a tremendous effort.

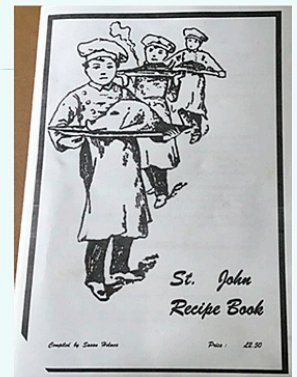
Richard Dolton

On tidying up my cookery books I came across the attached. Does anyone know the year it was produced?

I particularly liked the first recipe

2 cups of patience
1 heart full of love
2 handfuls of generosity
Dash of laughter
2 cups of loyalty
1 cup of understanding

Charmaine Ferguson



Cabin fever!

Notice for readers who may not use social media

I know many of you will have had regular updates via the St John Village and Pub news website.

It's worth looking back at some of the advice posted there.

Carol Carr Neale has provided an excellent platform to mix information with some light hearted features. I for one appreciate her service to the wider community.

'Power from her isolation.'

The recently created, St John COVID-19 Support Network deals with issues specifically relating to the current situation.

Bet and Caitlin Taylor deserve our thanks for their hard work and for producing a leaflet and volunteer cards.

The St John in Cornwall Parish Council website also kindly posted information about The Rame Community Fund. (Leaflets in the telephone box.)

It has been my privilege to deliver the volunteer cards.

I have had some wonderful conversations with old and new friends in the village. I have shouted over a lot of hedges and through a few fences.

A personal "Thank You" for all the support you have offered and for all the things you have done already.

I have not singled out particular volunteers. I will just need to know the colour of your wine when this is over. I sleep easier knowing that the village is, as usual, protecting its friends and neighbours

I hope you still have your information leaflets, but if not, do not hesitate to call.
Megan Keys 823119.



Yes five weeks isolating with Bob has taken its toll.



A week after publishing the April Newsletter Dorethea sent me this email - 'Make your own face mask'
<https://sarahmaker.com/how-to-sew-a-surgical-face-mask-for-hospitals-free-pattern/>



Thankyou for that Dorethea - attached below is a relevant article from our Doctors practice. -ed.

"Essential workers need face masks as part of their personal protective equipment in order to stay safe and carry out their jobs. But for most of the public, masks, especially homemade ones, won't do much in the way of protecting you against coronavirus. The main reason for wearing a mask would be to protect others if you are unwell.

Social distancing, self-isolating when sick, avoiding touching your face and washing your hands frequently are far more effective measures than just wearing a homemade or poorly worn mask. So if you do decide to wear one, learn how to use it properly – and don't let it give you a false sense of security. Wearing a mask should always be in addition to the other social distancing and hygiene measures in place."

Dr Sarah Jarvis MBE, Clinical Director at Patient

I think we all have an abundance of 'forwards', and sharing of funny clips etc and if I send them on, the recipients have usually already seen them... So I am resisting filling a page of humorous clips that have been sent to me - except I must recommend this one that I received from Tony Gillies: Max Boyce, the Welsh comedian/songwriter, wrote a poem about the present situation titled, 'When just the tide went out'. I have watched it a number of times and recommend it to you. (Although I know many of you will have seen it!)

<https://youtu.be/LQy67Y6Ytfg>

and finally.....

Remember only the mediocre are always at their best!