

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

June 2020

Editorial

Well, as lockdown continues there is less and less to report on.

However there is a detailed report from the Trustees on how they have been getting round the restrictions and informing us about what we have missed, like the AGM and the financial arrangements to compensate for our lost income from not being able to 'fund raise'.

Thank goodness for Wildlife Watch which this month focuses on Dragons and Damsels! (Honestly - full colour pics as well!) We are really lucky to have a talented photographer like Lynne who regularly brings Kath's Wildlife Watch to life and thanks go to her and everyone who sends in such interesting pictures.



There are revised rules for the exciting 'Spuds in a Bucket Challenge', and Christian is again calling for help to get the Boules court weeded and ready for action as well as other odd jobs.

There is the usual notice of the church's 100 club winners from Ray Salter and this month's edition also includes a very heartfelt message from John Woodfield, who has been a much loved member of our community for many years. I am sure that you will all join me in sending him our very best wishes.

David Greenhalgh

What's your Parish Council Up To?

Not a lot this month, whilst PC meetings have been cancelled during this lock-down we are intending to hold a virtual (Zoom) meeting in the near future. Anyone wishing to watch or participate in the public session will be able to request access details from our website.

The PC was disappointed that in the interest of village harmony the village hall trustees decided to withdraw its recent planning application following objections from the St John Inn.

However, the PC recognises the efforts made by Mr and Mrs Berry in setting up a village shop under the present difficult circumstances, and acknowledges the appreciation they received for this from DEFRA.

The clearing of the footpath from the foot of Mendennick Hill up to Gallows Park is now completed and ready for use. Takeaway pasties the reward at the end of the walk!

Del Richards



News from the Trustees



First and foremost grateful thanks once again to John Betts for mowing the field and making it a great place to relax on the benches and reflect on what a great village we live in and how supportive we can be in times of need. The village “plant swap” mini greenhouse seems to have been busy and its good to see that with the exception of one tree, our newly planted orchard is starting to thrive – well done to all who are watering and keeping an eye on everything!

Trustees have been “zooming” for their meetings and have been taking in all the Co-vid 19 guidelines, so until we are given the go ahead, we must hold back on arranging events. The AGM should have taken place by now and we have had a slight re-organisation of Trustees’ roles.

Del Richards has stepped down as “Fund Raising and Events” chair and will however continue as Trustee to represent the Parish Council. I’d like to thank Del for the tremendous enthusiasm and flair he has put into his responsibility. Sue Huke as Trustee will now co-ordinate this Committee sharing the role with other members of that group of very much appreciated volunteers. The Trust has qualified to receive the Co-vid 19 Government Grant funding for Community Halls which will alleviate the lost income and we have agreed that all members subscriptions received for this year will roll over to 2021. Revised plans for the hall improvements are being drawn up by the architect and we hope to be able to show these to everyone soon.

Richard Dolton

I’m writing a few lines on behalf of my father, John Woodfield, at his request. John and his wife Jill worshipped at St John since the mid-1970s and have felt not only welcomed but very much part of the village family there. As you will know John was churchwarden for many years and enjoyed his service to the parish and the building. John would like me to thank you all for your fellowship and friendship over many years. It is very unlikely that he will be able to return after lockdown is over – he has an untreatable blockage in his throat which prevents him from swallowing anything other than clear liquids – and is being cared for at home by his daughters and the wonderful Palliative care team. John is at peace with being at the end of his life, and is enjoying precious family time. He’d like to express his deep gratitude to people who have been important to him. So here is a big Thank you to the village of St John from John and the Woodfield family. Wishing you all the best of health. Bridget (Biddy) Cousins.



St. John Church

Audrey Wilton £20

Katherine Wells£5

Carole Ball£5

100 club winners

This months numbers were selected
by Carol & Clive from Millbrook

Ray Salter



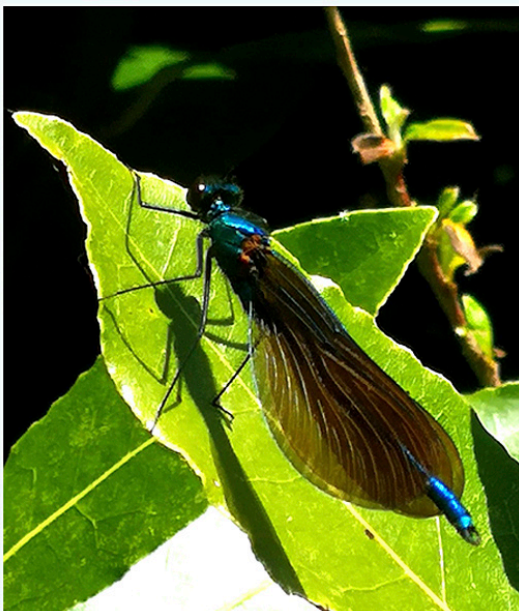
Dragons and Damsels

By now you may have seen one of the first emerging Dragonflies, likely to be the **Broad bodied Chaser**. Lynne has managed to photograph a male of this species with its typically blue coloured abdomen and a female with brown abdomen.

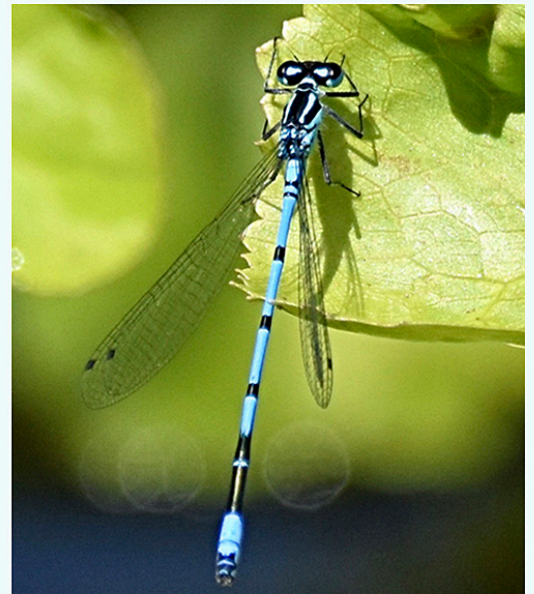


The fossil record shows dragon flies have changed little over the last 325 million years and are reputedly the largest insect that ever lived, with a wingspan (in fossil species) reaching 750mm.

Modern day Dragonflies are agile hunters reaching speeds of up to 54km/h. They often eat midges and mosquitoes. The longest you are likely to see is the **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** (see photo).



Damsel Flies are smaller, have a more fluttery flight and tend to fold their wings over their abdomens. The two illustrated here are a female **Demoiselle Agrion** with brown wings and the **Common Blue Damselfly**. Thanks again Lynne.






Heidie Fernbank took this photo of a **slow worm** making its way across Sunwell Lane. - Thanks Heidie.

Male Fox Moth trying to escape Hilda's Nature Reserve, apprehended by Mr Dolton. Do we need more barbed wire?



Kath Overton.



St John Village

SPUDS IN A BUCKET CHALLENGE


Great reveal **June 6th** at 2pm



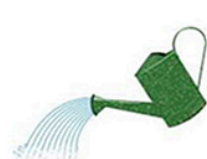



Due to the current situation, we hope that all participants in the challenge will tip out their buckets **at home**.

Please **Wash, Photograph and Weigh** the potatoes and email details to

kath.overton@gmail.com or susan@huke.co.uk

The 'unearthing' is not compulsory, if you wish to grow them on further and not be part of the challenge.





Help Needed

The boules court is looking a bit forlorn, and needs dead weeds pulled from it. John and Lynne have kindly prepared it to ease the weeds up but I aim to be there, weather dependant, on Saturday 6th June at 10am.

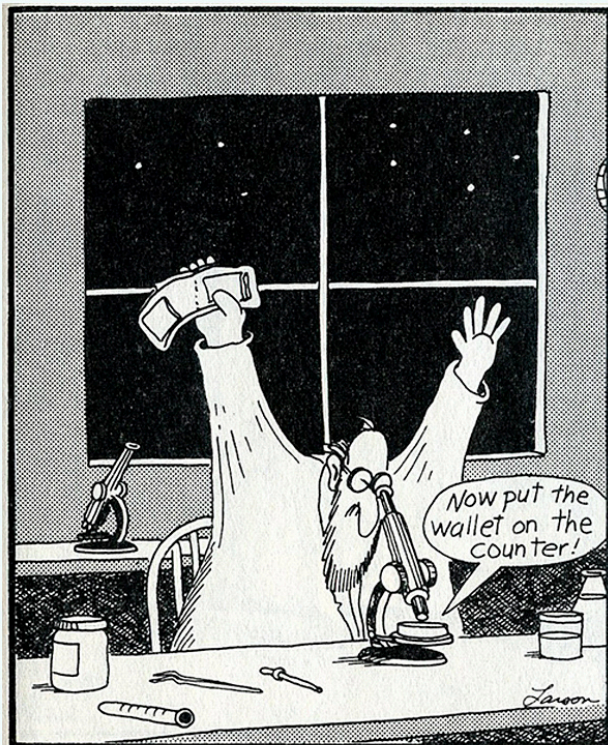
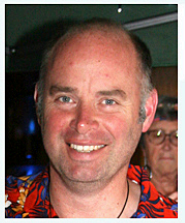
Anyone who happens to be passing will have space (a two metre square!) to help, or paint the rear fence if they can't stoop to weed.

Thank you.

Christian.

(I just thought, to take this photo today, you would need a very wide angled lens!!!

Ed.)



Working alone, Professor Dawson stumbles into a bad section of the petri dish.



and finally.....

“Working at the Jobcentre has to be a tense job – knowing that if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day.”