

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

July 2020

Editorial



Hello, I hope this finds you all well despite the restrictions imposed on us. In this month's newsletter we have a very diverse and mixed bag indeed!

We cover ticks, the latest news from the Trustees on how we plan to jump through all the Gov. hoops to re-open our Village hall facilities, the walkers anticipating restarting, and the long awaited, exciting results of the 'spud in a bucket' challenge. The Church's 100 club winners, Wildlife watch, which is focusing on Birds this month, plus "What has taken up residence under my house??"

We discover what it is that causes trains not to run on time and, as if that is not enough excitement, we have the results of the Mersperson Competition. At the end there is my usual attempt to try and leave you with a smile on your face...

Lastly, the Zulus have a saying when they take their leave from friends which I think we could do well to follow, as we don't seem to be anywhere near the end of this virus's grip on us. It translates loosely as, "Go Carefully"...

David Greenhalgh

Ticking time?

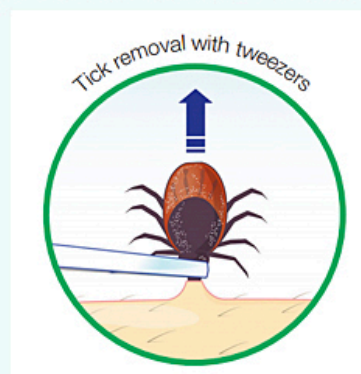
It is the talk of the village at the moment, with many of us being hosts to these unwelcome visitors. *Ixodes ricinus* the Sheep or Deer tick. It feeds 3 times during its life cycle; as a 6 legged larva, as nymph (8 legs) and as adult. Between moults it loiters at the top of grasses "questing" its first pairs of legs out stretched, hoping to latch on to a passing mammal.

Rumour has it that Howard is the tastiest morsel around at the moment.

Best to remove them as soon as possible before they regurgitate into your bloodstream, by gripping them as close to the skin as possible with fine tipped tweezers, otherwise they will continue feeding for up to 6 days and may infect you with Lyme disease. Look out for the bull's eye rash that appears a few days later.

To avoid getting ticks walk down the centre of paths or closely behind Howard.

Kath.



News from the Trustees



We are happy to announce that the limited Re-Opening of the Village Hall and Grounds will take place possibly in July and we will contact User Groups as soon as possible when we have responded to the latest Instructions from the Government and the Council. Hiring the Hall for Private/Public Functions & Events, however, will still not be possible at this moment in time. We are first required to do a Covid-19 Health & Safety Survey before we can Re-open to comply with the conditions imposed on us by the Government and our Health and Safety obligations.

Thanks to Everyone for their Help and an Appeal to Newsletter Readers

Many thanks to those who have already acted as Volunteer Helpers in the village during the Pandemic and to Tony, Bet' and Caitlin Taylor for their professional help and advice on Re-opening, from their own workplace experiences.

We have to comply with the most recent Government Covid-19 Regulations on Public Health and Safety and this will restrict the way in which we are able to use the Hall, particularly in regard to 'safe distancing' in the Main Hall and maintaining Hygiene in regard to the Kitchen and Toilet area.

Therefore, access to the Hall will initially have to be through the back outside Door to the Kitchen; the kitchen will be out of use for the foreseeable future in regard to preparing food and drink but will be used solely for the handwashing 'ritual' on Entry.

The Trustees have a special duty of care to; anyone over Seventy Years of Age, those who are Vulnerable, those who need Shielding from the Cruelties of the World, ie More or Less All of Us!

Initially, we will look into re-instating the Boule Court Group meetings and the Wednesday Coffee Mornings, but these will have to use the patio area. There will be NO ACCESS to the Hall itself for some time, but you can bring your own food and refreshments. The Snooker Room will be re-opened as soon as the Trustees are sure that this can be done in a way which is compliant with the more specific Government advice on these venues in relation to Covid-19.

Remember: Use your basic Common Sense,
Stay Alert & Keep Your Distance!

Anyone seeking further Information;
Contact me, for the Trustees.
Bob Keys.

St. John Walkers



A message from your leader !
"Hi everyone,
Hope you are all safe and well and ready to restart our Village walks from September providing no second wave of Covid 19.
Have a good summer.
Regards
Sue"

St. John Church



The 100 club winners for this month are:-

Karen Cardew£20

Viv Walker£5

Steve Salter£5

(The numbers were selected by our local postman)

Please Note: All numbers are included in the draw so could those who have not paid yet and still would like to belong please forward their subs to Margaret at Badgers Mount.

Ray

Christian's work party



Thank you to those who popped up to pull weeds at the boules court on 6th June.
The work was done in no time.
Christian.

(Christian, Your photographer could do with a wider angled lens so that he could have got the other three workers into the photo as well !!)

Ed.



Spuds in a bucket challenge

Well done to all who attempted this challenge in unfavourable weather conditions and with potatoes reluctant to sprout. It has been particularly heart -warming to hear of the delight amongst young and old, of un-earting their first ever home grown crop.



The lengths to which some of our number, would go, to impress the judges! Really!



Congratulations to our winner Paddy with an impressive weight of 1.2kg . I think getting her seed potato snug in its bucket early was, in some degree, key to her success.



Well done Paddy!..... and lovely and clean as well!



Nice one Julie!.. a bit 'mucky', compared to Paddy's though!

After deducting the prize money, we should be able to purchase enough wild flower seed to cover an area of 10m2. The plan is to sow a site on the village hall field at the end of August (a time recommended by Monty Don) as a test run

If you can collect suitable local wild flower seed to supplement our mix, we will be pleased to include it.

Good luck to the Sunflower growers!

Kath



Bird Watch

There have been reports of large numbers of Red Kites in Cornwall this year, the biggest influx in history. 306 were seen on May 10th further west and Bruce Taggart saw 13 in Millbrook. They were reportedly mainly immature birds from Scottish populations. Having inspected the area, it would be lovely if some returned to breed. It seems that a few have lingered longer into June.



Also spotted this month further West, have been Bee Eaters and Rosy Starlings. Crossbills have been extending their range too. 30 have been seen in Cardinham Woods recently.

For you keen birders Alison has sent a challenge. Can you identify these nests blown out of a tree in recent storms? And from Lynne, know this new chick on the block?

These beautiful little birds' nests were found in different places having been blown out of their trees by the strong winds we've had. Made of tiny twigs, lichen and lined with feathers, sheep's wool and odd soft leaves but including holly; no wonder if the babies left home early! Any ideas which bird(s) made them?

The swallow numbers flying north to stay over summer with us were apparently decimated by severe storms further south. There are hardly any around – if you have a nest or two consider yourselves lucky.

Alison.



Can anyone guess what Lynne's New chick on the block is?

(Maybe we should feature a picture of it each month until some one guesses it correctly and/or until it reaches maturity.) Ed.



Judith tends to feed all the birds including pigeons and pheasants - and squirrels.... in our garden.

A few days ago this Pheasant appeared with five chicks. Alas, it is not all a happy story as she only has four now thanks to a sparrow hawk incident!

David.

Wildlife watch (cont)...in Picture Hill.



Two weeks ago my daughter got up to find this little fella curled up on the railway sleeper we use as a step out of our house, which is timber framed and built up on studs. He has taken up residence under the house! Shining a light under the house Jessica thinks she saw two sets of eyes. We thus assumed that it was the mother, but we have yet to see her.



As he was obviously so young we decided to give him some food. However we did not want to make him totally dependent on us, so we have now compromised and only give him a little food each morning so that he won't starve but will be hungry enough to be motivated to hunt and forage for himself.

He (we don't know what sex he is?) comes out from under the house each morning, eats and then we don't see him again till the next morning.



If anyone has expertise or experience in this field we would be interested to hear from you. But for the present he seems to be thriving, content and successful.

David

Village Mermaid Competition.

We had some outstanding entries in the Mermaid/Merperson competition including two blood curdling pirates from Johnny and Leo De La Haye a blonde beauty from Neve Bray and a fine dusky maid as a joint effort from sisters Daisy and Rosie Burton. Youngest crafter was Albert Tanner who has obviously inherited his Grandad's skills (have you seen the new gates at Greenmantle?).

Leo and Johnny also worked together on their mermaid entry.



Pirates of the Caribbean. Excellent. Great detail work from Leo and Johnny De La Haye.



Brilliant stuff from Rosie and Daisy Burton, on the left and Neve Bray, right.



Albert Tanner's mermaid complete with purse.



Johnny and Leo also made a combined effort for their fine mermaid entry, above.

Well done everyone, all win a goody bag for their grand work.

Brian & Mary

Viewpoint:

Trains without people

"I went on a train last week, and oddly, apart from the echoing eeriness of the King's Cross concourse and having nowhere to buy coffee, this was my most enjoyable journey in years. I was spoilt for seats. My LNER express was box-fresh; no sticky tables or Pret detritus. The joy of rail travel is that the ever-changing landscape soothes a restless mind. The brain drifts and skips, problems tumble, spirits soar. Except normally there are distractions: a homebound corporate jolly hitting the buffet beers; fans of hot, stinking food. In short: people. A station master remarked that since lockdown there'd barely been a single delay. What stops trains running on time? People!"

Janice Turner in *The Times*



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The more things change
the more they stay the same!!

and finally.....

Never in the History of Calming Down has anyone calmed down
by being told to calm down !