



St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

August 2020

Editorial



Hello. I hope you are all well and maintaining your sanity...

Despite the restrictions we have a reasonable variety of news this month. The parish council has a report on parking and the Village Hall has submitted the new application for Hall improvements to comply with disabled access and general Health and safety regulations. Some Village Hall activities are now able to take place again and boules and snooker have restarted. We also have an interesting letter from the designer of our village logo. As is usual in these times the bulk of the newsletter is taken up with wildlife watch; this month covering butterflies, dragon flies and birds and of course an update on my lodger the fox!

Alison has been very busy this month with two contributions containing lots of advice and information, there is an invitation to take part in the "big butterfly count" and the continuing saga of guess what Lynne's 'new chick on the block' is(?).

Finally, I would like to welcome our new resident James Mills who has moved into Smoke Barn Cottage. I hope he will settle in and be happy here.

Until next time, be patient, be kind and proceed with caution.

David Greenhalgh

What's your Parish Council Up To?



We have dealt with a few planning applications this month. We have agreed to work with Antony and Maker with Rame parish councils to hopefully discourage unauthorised parking on the Clearway of Military Road. We have already repainted the yellow lines on the Freathy section and it is hoped that we can get double yellow lines along the road outside Tregantle Fort. This is necessary because access for buses and emergency vehicles has been blocked by cars parked on the road. The new Satnav sign erected near the finger post is fine, but a small request please.....if anyone has any more suggestions for such signs we would be grateful if you could discuss them with us, as we do have some experience with Cornwall County (in the past they have taken down any unauthorised signage that they consider may be confusing).

We are holding a PC meeting on Thursday 13th August in the village hall, from 5.00pm. This formal meeting is necessary for us to sign off our accounts and audits for the last year and will be a short meeting taking Covid precautions. We do not expect parishioner attendance, which under the present conditions is the safest option, however, should anyone have any issue that they wish to bring to our attention then you are welcome to attend; we would only request that you let me or our Clerk know in advance, and of course you will have to comply with the hygiene rules laid down by the VH Trustees. The agenda will be fairly simple and posted on the website and notice boards.

Del.



Following the relaxation of the Co-Vid 19 restrictions, we have "trialled" a game of Petanque and found that we could, with care, play "at a safe distance" – although having seen how some boules were so far from the jack – it seems some took this a bit too far! Sue Huke will let those regulars know the plan for August – but we do need to restrict the number of players to avoid grouping too close when the chit-chat goes on. The Snooker Room has been opened too, and a few games played – so if you want to book, contact Dave and follow the guidelines.

The routine electrical testing has been carried out to comply with "PAT" testing regulations; this now has to be done annually – nothing serious has been reported, Bob and Christian can sort this.

Bartram Deakin Architects have now submitted the planning application for a revised arrangement to the improvement scheme for the hall toilets, storage, kitchen and community room space; these can be seen online at the Cornwall Planning website the reference is PA20/05726.

And finally, how joyful it is to see the first apples on our "mini" orchard – I wonder who'll get the first bite?

Richard.

Boule

A "Socially Distanced Invitation Morning of Boule" took place on Sundays 19th July.

This was an experiment to see how many people could actually play, whilst the Covid 19 guidelines are still in place.

With just 6 couples playing, staying with their partners throughout the session, the Boules were all sanitised along with the jacks and where necessary the recommended distance was adhered to.

All scores were kept by each pair and written down and no score board were used. I think that it proved that, for the present, it is only possible to play with a limited number of players.

Therefore I will keep those who wish to play, updated as to when we can start our Boule Sundays fully. The prize was a bottle of wine for the winning pair which was won by Thelma and David.

Roll on the New Normal!

Sue.



St John Church 100 club

Winners for July are:

Chris Morris£20.

Chris Mills£5.

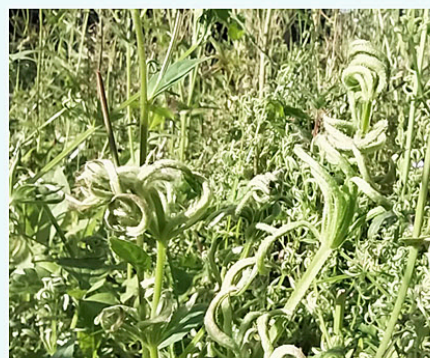
Rob & Gill Berry£5.

(Numbers selected by Sam Hunt)

Ray.

Newsflash!!

"Virus outbreak in St John, check symptoms in your Goosegrass"



(me neither !- don't ask me, ask Kath!)

Message from the designer of our St. John logo.

Dear St John,

I just wanted to say thankyou for using my design in your village, it is a great privilege and I feel very honoured indeed.

As an explanation of how it came about, I should explain that many years ago, I fell for a young Wrecker called Jonet Waldock.

She introduced me to Cornwall, and especially St John and the surrounding countryside.

I fell, not only for her, but also for the place, and I was inspired by the beauty and wildlife to create this design.

The herons represent the wading birds that we watched over many years down at St John's Lake.

The flower is St John's Wort, appropriate because of the name, and also because it grows in the hedges and fields around.

There is a black cross of St John, because it worked well within the design, and within the circle it creates another white cross which reflects the cross of St Piran, and the black and white colours of the flag of Cornwall.

Again, thankyou for taking this design to your hearts, I did not think when I originally drew it, that it would end up as a symbol of the village, or a pub sign!

Best regards

Nobby Clarke



St. John Wildlife Watch

Birds to look out for on St John's lake at the moment, include the **Great Crested Grebe** (pictured) whose plumage was once sought after for hats and ruffs, and the **Sandwich Tern**. This tern is remarkably white with black cap, beak and legs.

Glad to report the occasional **Red Kite** is still being seen flying over Cornwall.



Great crested Grebe.



I think we are supposed to guess what this is?
Ed.





Lovely shot of metamorphosis completing, from Del.

You can see the large retractable mouthparts in the nymph. Not yet fully coloured for definite identification but likely to be the **Southern Hawker**.



Common Blue.



Pearl Bordered Fritillary.

Want to help monitor the health of our environment by sitting in the sun for 15 minutes? Join the **Big Butterfly Count** from now until **August 9th**. Check the website for a free identification app or chart and to find out how to enter your statistics.



Ringlet.

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/about> .

Growing matters!

There has been no intelligence received so far on what became of the “spuds in a bucket” that evaded being eaten in June. Anyone with information please come forward, your details will be confidential, (except to the readers of this newsletter!).

Any other growing successes this season? Please send photos of flowers or produce for the next newsletter.

Have you grown the biggest courgette or marrow? This is your chance to become famous and be the envy of the village. Carrots with interesting anatomy published at the discretion of the editor! (*well known for having very little discretion! Ed.*)

The sowing of the wild flower seed is being postponed until September (sorry Monty). My test run has been a long way from impressive although some quirky characters emerged.

Kath.



New chick on the block.

She/he has been doing some growing since last month! ..but what is she/he??

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

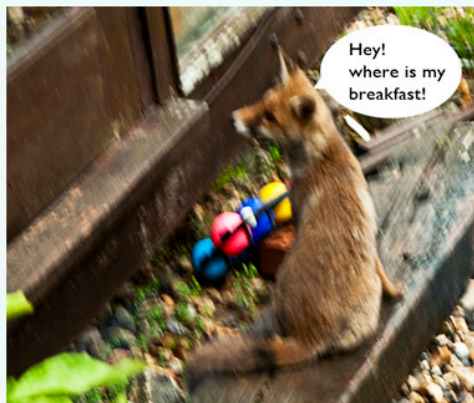
This unwelcome visitor arrived at my pond one morning last week. I have goldfish in the pond but fortunately it is too deep for him to have much success. While I don't like him visiting, he is a magnificent bird to see up close!



Jessica took this one - showing off her superior Photographic skills

I have been asked how the fox, living under our house, is getting on. Well, he is still there and we only see him in the morning and at dusk he sets off across the lawn towards the stream and beyond....

He is growing but he is a lot more nervous and skittish when eating his 'breakfast' in the mornings than he used to be a month ago. However he seems to be thriving.



Jess showing off again!



taken Wed this week.

From Alison.

Birds last month- little duckling of Lynne's could be called Boris if a boy or Borisa if a girl, with a haircut (sorry feathers) like that! Do tell its name! Its bees and butterflies this month. At home we've spotted a hummingbird moth, but more rarely a hermit butterfly (no camera to hand.... Always carry one with you). A large clover patch has been left uncut here to attract the bees – hardly a one, but a swarm was taken from the hedge by a local beekeeper.

Police stations used to keep a list if you were in need; check carefully if working on shrubs, trees and hedging in case of a concealed birds, bees or wasp nest. The Garden House at Buckland Monachorum is now open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays – there are toilets, a pre-loved book shed and apparently the new café opens this week-end – no booking seems necessary to access the gardens. A feast for the eyes and numerous insects. NT Gardens need pre-booking on-line from Fridays for the following week.

thanks Alison but it is not a duck! - Ed.



Letters to the editor

A big thanks you to all of you (known and unknown) kind donors of the veg and flower plants in the village swap scheme. We have thoroughly enjoyed our c.a.c.a lettuces, beetroots (going to do a late sowing) french beans and parsley and looking forward to the runners, sweetcorn and courgettes/marrows – none of which we would have attempted ourselves. Its been a very comforting experience to have shared your bounty, efforts and kindness throughout the last few months.

Alison Dolton



Wow! what big apples on such a small tree! I can see we will have to have some summer celebration apple/cider date in the future.

Ed.

Snooker



LADDER

David Greenhalgh

Chris Trevitt

Pete Debono

Clive Walley

Chris Morris

Steve Wick

Del Richards

Brian Bird

John Tanner

Richard Dolton

Chris Huke

Paul Tanner

Ray Salter

Lewis Wilton

Bob Keys

Howard Everard

Andy Seedhouse

HIGHEST BREAK

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

We have started playing snooker again, with Covid precautions. After two weeks it appears to be working fine! A welcome bit of normality creeping back!

Dave.



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and finally.....

Alcohol won't solve any of your problems.....but then neither will milk or water!!