

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

September 2020

Editorial



Hello. Well, not much has changed since last month with regard to 'the situation'.

However, we are pleased to offer many congratulations to Alice & Josh on their wedding but also, sadly, we mourn the passing of our friend John Woodfield.

Page two gives you a comprehensive 'state of play' as regards the careful opening up of Village Hall activities: obviously some are more difficult than others to easily comply with Covid restrictions. Also the news that planning permission for the hall has been granted so we can now look forward to the next stage in that process.

I really thought that our wildlife section would be short this month as Kath is away in France - but she came good and sent all sorts of 'nasties', including a swimming snake!

There is the latest picture of the 'new chick on the block' (still can't tell what it is?), and I'm sorry to report that I lost my 'edge' during lockdown and Chris Trevitt took the top snooker slot by thrashing me 5-0 - although I may well get over that!

David Greenhalgh

Notices

Children's Hospice South West

has recently launched a new event called 'Memories by Moonlight', which will offer people the chance to remember and celebrate the lives of their loved ones by joining us for a virtual memory ceremony.

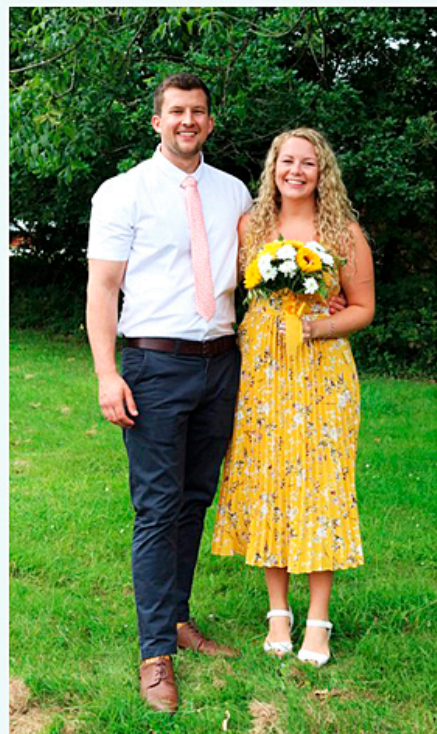
On the evening of 26th September we will be broadcasting our uplifting memory ceremony via facebook from Little Harbour children's hospice in St Austell and people will be able to join to remember their loved ones from the comfort of their own home.

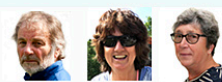
For more information about the event, you can call the CHSW Fundraising Team on 01726 871800 or visit

www.chsw.org.uk/moonlight

Caroline Swain,
Media Officer - Children's Hospice South West. "

Congratulations
to
Alice Edlin
and
Josh
who married
on
1st August 2020





St. John Village Hall Update

Please see the accompanying grid to see which activities are currently being trialled, and which are underway, under Covid 19 guidelines. Also shown are those clubs that, unfortunately, cannot take place yet (shown in red) but will go ahead when conditions allow.

If there is an activity that you are interested in, would you please register your interest with the respective organiser. All sessions have limited numbers and, for most of these, there is a small charge of £1 for members and £2 for non-members.

The exceptions to this are Wednesday Coffee Mornings, which are free, and Snooker, which is available to members (and their guests) only.

The Village Hall clubs are very well supported with an approximate attendance of around 100 members a week. There are 2 new clubs that we hope you will be interested in supporting – Darts and the 'Dreckly' club (see Table).

Wednesday morning coffee sessions are now taking place but the session is a 'get together' and, as the kitchen is out of use, you have to BYO coffee/tea. Please help to sanitise afterwards.

On Thursday evening we have a darts group. A new mat and dartboard are now in the hall and ready for action. The first session will be on Thursday 3rd September at 7.30pm. This can take place because with limited numbers social distancing is relatively easy to arrange.

We are also having a regular social 'gathering' on Friday evenings. This has been very successfully trialled and is known as the 'Dreckly' Club... 6pm – 8pm. This is also a BYO club.

It is important for you to register your interest in attending as the group is limited to a maximum of 30 - whilst being aware of social distancing at 1+ metre at all times.

Event	Day & Time	Information	Organiser
Singing	Monday 10am - 12 noon	NOT A CHOIR! Just a group who enjoy singing!	Janet Mitchell 01752 829225
Recorder	Monday 12 - 12.30	Recorder Lessons	Janet Mitchell 01752 829225
Walks	2nd Monday in the month	Meet outside Village Hall 9.30am	Sue Richards 01752 823523
Indoor Bowls	Tuesday 7.15 - 9.30pm		Janet Mitchell 01752 829225 Liz Miller 07745625774
Coffee Morning	Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30	Drop in for a chat BYO Coffee/Tea	
Bridge	Thursday 2pm - 4pm		Kathy Lewis 01752 813304
Boule/ Petanque	Every 3rd Sunday in the month 11am - 1pm	Next session 20th September	Sue Huke 01752 822742
Darts	Thursday 7.30pm	Starting Thursday 3rd September	Thelma Bryant 01752 829113
Dreckly Club	Friday 6 o'clock til 8pm approx	Social Evening (Numbers Limited to 30) BYO drink, glass, nibbles Occasional food evenings	Julie Elworthy 01752 823381 Janet Mitchell 01752 829225
Snooker		Available to members only	David Greenhalgh 01752 822884
Table Tennis		Available to members only	Janet Mitchell 01752 829225

Each event is charged at £1 member - £2 visitors except Coffee Morning & Snooker. Where events are shown in red, due to Covid 19 restrictions, they cannot go ahead until such time that the guidelines change.

There is an option, on some occasions, to be able to order 'take-away' food e.g. we have, so far, had Fish & Chips, Chinese food and Pasty evenings. The club has been very successful - with groups of about 13-15 people.

Please ensure that you contact Janet or Julie..... to register your interest.

Please note -

There is a 'Games', evening organised at the 4th September 'Dreckly' club with a BYO picnic. The games will be indoors and out – weather permitting. Please bring gloves.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

David Greenhalgh, Julie Elworthy and Sue Huke.

Great news!

Planning Permission has been granted for the revised plans for the hall improvements.

We are now inviting builders to tender for the project.

Once we have these, we will be in a position to apply to the National Lottery.

Richard Dolton.



Farewell John Woodfield

John passed away at home peacefully with two of his daughters at his bedside on 7th August aged 93. He would have been 94 this September.

Although he lived in Torpoint he was part of St John village. He was a member of St John Church for many years where he was church warden far beyond the required maximum of 6 years.

He was an avid supporter of the Village Hall and he and Jill could be seen at most events. John played short mat bowls, and snooker. He was part of a snooker group that regularly played together comprising of Gerald Lakeman, Lewis Wilton, John Ross, and Ray Salter.



I first met John at St John Church about 23 years ago. He and Jill welcomed Gina and me and we warmed to them immediately. John as churchwarden calmly and ably managed the church's affairs giving practical solutions. I found him pragmatic, practical, and positive. He would listen to any suggestion or information giving his full attention.

John was a man of many talents having the ability to put his hand to anything. I loved his enthusiasm. Many years ago, when his uncle retired and was looking for something to do, John challenged his uncle to make a violin after hearing about a course on violin making. His uncle insisted that John should do the same. He was a meticulous craftsman. He made several violins, and violas. He also made Violin bows. He made three harps one for his wife Jill and one each for his daughters Bridget and Susan. He made several guitars and also bamboo recorders. (And he mended many an instrument.)

John was an officer in the army in WW2. His main profession was school teaching which he loved and was headmaster at Carbeile County Primary school for many years. John loved sailing and had two sailing boats both of which he had bought as a shell and finished himself; the first was Shearwater, a Bass Boat, and the second a Drascombe Lugger called Pintail which was the one he still had at the time of his death. John and his family used to sail across to Millbrook from Torpoint and cook breakfast on the beach in the morning. He loved fly fishing and went camping with his family. He played golf at Whitsand Bay G.C. for many years. When the children had flown the nest, he continued camping with Jill well into their later years. He loved photography. He was an accomplished painter and went on courses into his late eighties. He published some of his paintings and photos in the form of cards selling them in aid of church funds. He was sketching and painting a week before he died, and he finished sketches of all his own children, plus all but the newest of his great grandchildren.

He played the piano and violin and for many years was the Musical Director of The Rame Male Voice Choir which won several prestigious awards for their performances under his directorship

Recently he installed a digital piano inside his piano after removing both the action and the keyboard. The piano given to them by Jill's Father when they were married, so he was keen to preserve it. He was playing this until very recently.

In his later years John did not become stubborn or cantankerous like many older men. With all his talents John was unpretentious and compassionate, always willing to pass on his knowledge and to learn new things.

Only a few months ago he knew that he did not have long for this world and he telephoned his friends to tell them how things were and to say that he had a wonderful life and he was quite happy to go. That was very moving. The love of his life was his wife Jill to whom he was devoted. He was hugely proud of his family. I saw his pleasure when playing music with them or listening to them.

There are not many people that we meet in life that we can say have made a lasting impression on us but also on numerous people, but John was one of those. He will never be forgotten by his friends at St John Church, the folks of St John, his friends, former pupils and especially his family who loved him to bits.

He is survived by his daughters Susan, Biddy, Anna and Kate and his son James, 10 Grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

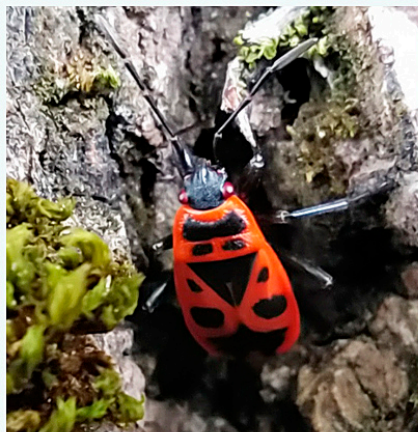
Tony Gillies

Letter from Les Landes



Dear All, especially those who have not ventured south this summer.

As we circled Bordeaux in 44 degrees we wondered what awaited us in less than an hour's drive (traffic jams permitting). Les Landes never fails to surprise. Usually by something big, numerous or itchy.



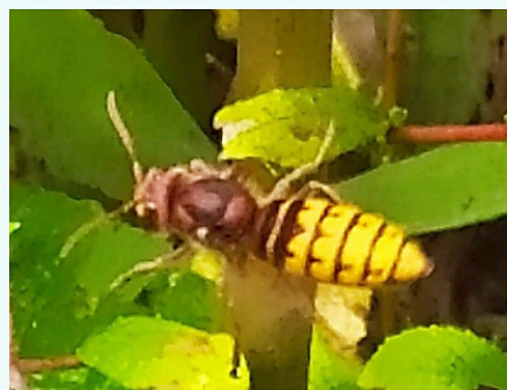
Fire bug



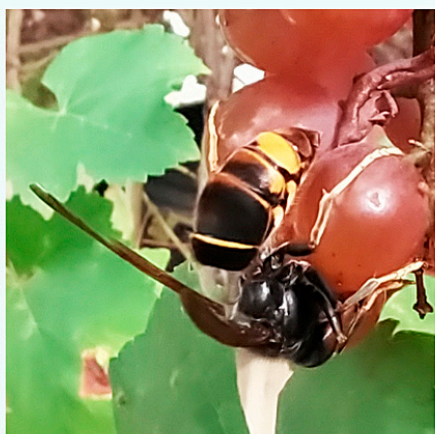
Our welcome earlier in the year, is usually an avalanche of red and black fire bugs that we have disturbed in hibernation in the door and window frames. This time it was a battalion of giant ants that have vacated their usual abode, possibly revenge for recent tree felling around us. We also found the usual wasp nest behind the shutters.

However, the most depressing find of our late arrival, was the death of so many trees and shrubs I had nurtured over 17 years, in this sandy inhospitable soil. No flowers, no grass, a desert.

After a few days, to our horror we had a repeat of last year's nightmare – march of the maggots! At 7.15 am precisely they appear on the kitchen floor, from apparently nowhere. Last year we moved every appliance, emptied every cupboard, with no success. They then determinedly wriggle towards the lounge to pupate under the Chinese rug. This ritual was repeated for 5 days. Each maggot knowing exactly where to go. We hadn't been here long enough for any food to have gone off and by their number they must have been feeding on a corpse of considerable size!



European Hornet



Asian Hornet

This summer we have watched, the Asiatic Hornet (an unwelcome inadvertent introduction that eats bees) milking aphids for their honey dew and attacking resident hornets with considerable aggression despite their smaller size. Worth looking out for as they have made it to the UK.

By the amount of loft insulation scattered around the house we can tell that the Beech Martin has been in residence in our roof for the winter again. Martyn is sent up to check for confirmatory poo. Search proves positive. Further droppings on our stored outdoor furniture, reassures us the Barn Owl has been back and that there may be pellets around for our granddaughter to dissect. Last year she found Tree frog remains in what we took back (fortunately not found by UK customs).



Uninvited swimming companion. Urgh!

"Wish you were here? Regards Kath."

Growing matters

It's been great hearing of various growing successes, often for the first time, or as a result of some one's kind donation to the plant stall at the back of the village hall. Especial thanks to all those who have watered and of course to those who have contributed plants.

An increasingly popular thing to grow in France at the moment is Spirulina a blue-green alga, rich in protein, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. It has been successfully used by NASA as a dietary supplement for astronauts and is believed to have been used by the Aztecs. It has many medicinal benefits and can be grown in a tank from a starter kit. It's ready to harvest in 3-6 weeks and no need to worry about compost, greenfly, slugs or caterpillars. It could be the food of the future.

Kath.

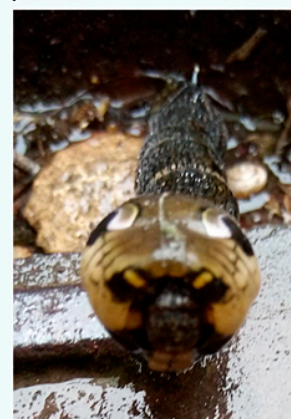


Kath's Cucamelons..... or are they standard watermelons on a massive hand?? *Ed.*



Thanks again to all our wonderful village plant donors. In place of the usual sunflower challenge we have had 30+ buds and blooms on one rudbeckia plant (black-eyed Susan). The tomato harvest is like picking sweetsies!
Alison Dolton

I found this exotic looking catapillar on a manhole cover! and I think it is an Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar?



Berylyn

Yes, Berylyn it is indeed an Elephant Hawk Moth's caterpillar. *Ed.*

St. John Church



This months 100 Club winners are :

Fr. Michael£20

Gus Goodman£5

Martin Overton£5

(numbers chosen by Ian Phillips of Trevol MOT)

Ray.

Latest photo of 'new chick on the block'



Letters to the editor



The Dreckly Club is aptly named as it's not basically day or time specific...

The Covid 19 rules and regulations set out by the government has meant the past 5 months our lives have been affected in one way or another, for some lonely hours in isolation. If it wasn't for Dear Janet many lives would have been very different. Janet has kept a really busy social link line going with socially distant visits and regular phone calls, so we have all been well catered for. Without this link who knows what our mental States would have been in

The reasoning behind the Dreckly Club is that we can now continue to meet in the village hall instead of our gardens as the weather is turning cooler, to have a couple of hours socializing with like minded people.

Julie

St John Walkers



Owing to the ongoing restrictions and Covid risk it will not be possible for us to restart our walks in September as planned.

Hopefully we might be able to start before Christmas!

Best wishes

Sue.

Snooker table Heaters

Christian and I have taken to lying under the snooker table - very relaxing!! Actually the heaters failed the PAT (Portable Appliance Test - I didn't know what it stood for either!!) so we ordered a new pair and fitted them the other morning. Judith was in the hall and took the picture!

Dave.



Snooker



LADDER

Chris Trevitt
David Greenhalgh
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

and finally.....

Did you know that if you weigh 200 lbs on earth you would only weigh 76 lbs on Mars. So you are **not** overweight, you are just living on the wrong planet!!