

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

October 2020

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the St John Newsletter.

Hope all is well with you as we get used to our 'new' future with zoom communication, hand washing, masks and constantly changing social distancing rules.

This month we cover the first ever AGM on zoom and learn that the Church is planning to open its doors again. We also say farewell to a larger than life character who has been a constant ever since I came to the village – Mike Holmes.

The village will definitely be poorer for his loss.

In the wildlife section there is a surprisingly varied content, from galls (sorry Linda!) to hedgehogs, to birds and gourds!



After the most recent Covid changes there are only 'socially distanced' coffee mornings (six in a garden) darts and snooker that are still legal. (I am pleased to announce that Pete and myself have regained our snooker 'mojo' and pushed Chris back into third place - although no doubt he will bounce back!)

So, perhaps we now need to follow Leonard Cohen's example: When asked about some new songs that he had recorded he said, " The cheerfulness just keeps breaking through"..... Even though we may all be 'fed-up', keep focusing on the positives and let's hope it won't last too long. Till next month then, keep safe.

David Greenhalgh

News about the Village Hall

The AGM was held using the novel new method of "Zoom" on 28th September having been postponed from April due to CoVid-19. The accounts for the year 2019-20 were agreed and fund-raising was up on recent years.

We are pleased to report a healthy balance to carry forward.

After the meeting Trustees discussed the report on the drains and the damage that has occurred with tree roots – there will be a significant expense to re-line the drains.

We are awaiting the final builders' tenders for the Improvements which will then enable the full application to go to the National Lottery during October/November.

Having just partially re-opened the hall, we have had to curtail many of the activities because of the "rule of 6" restriction. Darts and snooker still continue and if you would like to play contact Dave Greenhalgh or Sue Huke.

Richard Dolton.

Chairman of Trustees report for Annual Meeting of Village Hall 2020

Firstly may I thank all of you who have made the effort to attend this AGM which, like many organisations is being forced to be held “electronically” due to the current Corona Virus restrictions. The aim of an AGM is to provide the charity trustees and/or officers the opportunity to explain their management of the charity to the members. It also provides the members of the charity with an opportunity to ask questions before voting on business items on the agenda. This AGM is a review of the Trust’s activities for the year April 2019 – March 2020.

The Agenda will cover most items from the past year – so I will not duplicate on them. Once again as all past Chairmen have said – without the volunteers there would be no Village Hall and thanks must go out to all who have helped whether on the committees or with events and maintenance.

This April Del Richards stood down as Chair of the “Fundraising and Events” committee and I would especially like to thank him for his effort and enthusiasm in this role leading his strong band of committee members and other helpers for some very memorable events. I know he will be continuing to support as a Trustee.

Thanks too to Sue Huke who has taken on the mantle. Also a thanks to those who run the various clubs which are enjoyed by many far and wide.

Much work has gone on “behind the scenes” with our application to the National Lottery led by Chris Morris and the support shown in the village questionnaire in March was a fantastic endorsement of our ideas and we strive to move forward with this.

Again I want to thank David Greenhalgh for his “Village Newsletter” publication – it is an invaluable means of communication – highlighted in recent months when we haven’t been able to meet up. Although the AGM is about last year, I cannot let this meeting pass without reference to the current situation and I do want to emphasise my thanks on behalf of all villagers to those who have worked so very hard to enable the hall to open up with Covid-19 precautions in place – clearly we have had to curtail these recently, but we now have a structure in place which hopefully we can build upon as soon as we are permitted.

Richard Dolton.

St. John Church



!00 Club Winners:-

Paddy Hough£20

Chris Mills£5

Glennis Austin£5

(The numbers were selected by the postman)

Ray Salter.



Farewell Mike Holmes

It's with sadness that we report the death of another of our village family - Mike Holmes.

Mike and Susan moved to Penhale in the 1980's as he took up a transfer post to our local Weights and Measures office before retiring. Immediately, when meeting him, his ebullient character was obvious and so too, his love for all things mechanical, in particular steam engines. Many thought of Mike as our local "Fred Dibnah" and if there was some way of fixing things then he was your man to go to. He was a keen enthusiast of the Morval Steam events and would work tirelessly to encourage traction engine owners to travel far to our part of Cornwall for the August bank holiday show. Another charitable organisation "The Robey Trust" located in Tavistock saw his dedicated involvement in the preservation, restoration, operation and display of steam vehicles and other historic engines.

Mike enjoyed a pint – and would be seen at our local pubs on many an evening and had the great ability of being able to mix with people of all ages and expel his vast knowledge of facts and figures – a great help when in your team at a quiz! For many years Mike was on the committee of the Village Hall and took on the role of Chairman for a short period. His engineering knowledge came in when he designed and made the storage rollers for the bowls mats. He also helped behind the scenes at the church, fabricating and fixing the storm flood barrier on the porch, as well as many other unheralded things around our village. Mike will be sadly missed, and our thoughts go to his wife Susan and their children.

Richard Dolton.



Mike was a one of a kind and a real larger-than-life character. When I worked behind the bar at the St. John Inn and it was a quiet night, with very few patrons, the atmosphere was still lively and jovial if Mike was one of them. He was super friendly and could chat about anything with anyone. I'll always remember when I first started my photography business, and I was trying to set up on a 'shoe-string', I asked Mike's advice on buying sturdier poles to support my larger than standard photo backdrops and Mike, instead, just found me ones that worked perfectly from within his cavernous garage of mysteries and he wouldn't accept any payment for them. This really shows the kind of gent he was. He will be greatly missed.

Jessica Plank (formerly Greenhalgh)

Obitus - Webcast for Michael John Broadbent Holmes

Obitus

Service order for
Michael John Broadbent Holmes

Service Date	08-Oct-20 at 10:30
Service Chapel	Chapel - Glynn Valley
Website	https://www.obitus.com/
Username	Zuto7900
Password	418002
Webcast:	Live Webcast

Please send this username and password exactly as above to family and friends. You can login to our website at any time to view a test connection (and we strongly recommend you do this) but you'll only be able to view the Live Webcast approx. 5 mins before the service start time. Please be aware this is a public building and the timing of the Live webcast is semi-automated to allow for services running early or late – please use your discretion if you can see activities not applicable to the service you are here to watch.

By default there is a 150 viewer limit on this webcast. If you're expecting more than this please notify us; we will need to make changes and this may incur additional costs.

Michael Holmes funeral service will on the 8th of October 10:30am at Glynn Valley Crematorium in Bodmin. Because of the current restrictions the service will only be for close family, however people can view the service via a webcast using the login information below.

<https://www.obitus.com/>

User name - Zuto7900

Password - 418002

In addition we're asking that people in lieu of flowers, send a donation to St. John's church instead - via J Weakes Funeral Directors, The Hawthorns, St. Johns Road, Millbrook, Torpoint PL10 1EE

We'd also like to thank everyone in the village for their kind thoughts, card and flowers.

- Susan Holmes and family.



Specially for Linda hoping its not too galling (speedy recovery)

What can turn plants into zombies manipulating their growth and development? .

Often caused by an "infection" due to the injection of an egg, the incredible reaction of the plant is to grow something magical, sometimes grotesque. These structures vary according to the type of plant and species of tiny wasp leaving the egg and can occur on buds, stems or leaves. These structures are known as galls (they can also be caused by fungi, viruses or other insects)

The most common to be seen at the moment are those found on oaks,. Spangle, Silk button galls and Oak Apples on leaves, Oak Marble galls and Artichoke galls on buds and Knopper galls (first recorded in Devon in the 1950's) on the acorn cup.



Knopper Gall



Silk button Gall

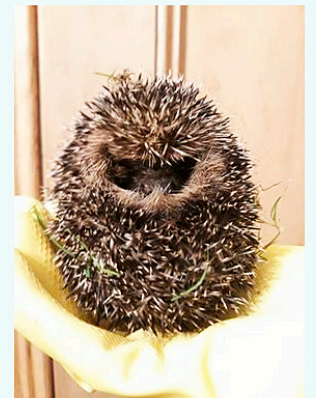


Oak Marble Gall

Baby Hog alert!

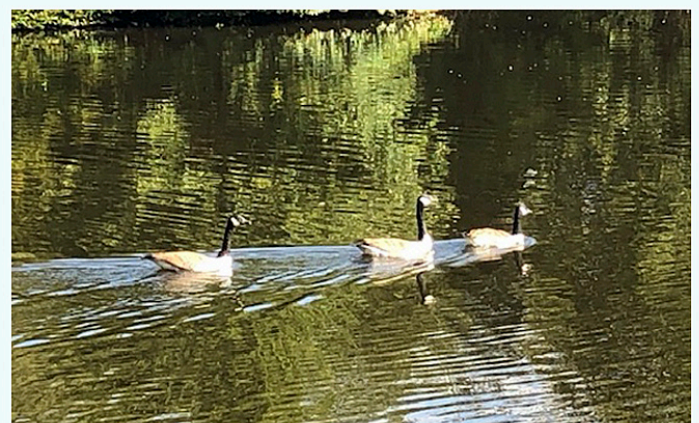


There are undersized hedgehogs around from late litters, unlikely to survive the winter. They need to be 600g to make it through hibernation. One found wandering around during the day is likely to be unwell and may need to be homed in a box. It will need to be fed and weighed daily and if it does not put on weight will need medical attention. It is crucial to minimise stress. Ideal food is cat biscuits and dog meat but not bread and milk or meal worms. You can help your night time visitors too by putting out the same food, but it will need to be covered by a box with hole, to avoid an obesity crisis in the St John cat population.



Birds to look out for

It's been a bumper year for Cough chicks this year in Cornwall with a record of 43 being raised. The Cattle Egrets are back at Millbrook and a Hobby, Merlin and Marsh Harrier have been seen on the Rame. In the last few days there have been reports of large numbers of Canada geese amassing on The Lake (thanks Del). Martyn counted 110 on Sunday 27th with more flying in. They are usually resident so unlikely that they are collecting to migrate. Ideas please?



Kath

Growing Matters

It's a great time for collecting plant seeds. Perhaps we could have a seed exchange? An accessible site for the biscuit tin is being decided. As the government tree planting scheme seems to have been put on hold, we can still do our bit. So don't forget to tag your spare young tree seedlings whilst they still have leaves, and dig them up in November for our tree bank. I am hoping we can supply free home grown plants to those who have areas they want to plant up, or increase the diversity of a hedgerow.



Blue Hubbard Squash



Albert the water Boy

St. John Walkers

Hi everyone,
It would have been really good to all meet up for a walk in October and Paul and Val had kindly recce a walk for us from Princeton. However with the current situation we feel that the risks from Covid 19 outweigh the benefits so I'm afraid we will have to postpone once again.
Hope you are all keeping well.
Best wishes
Sue



St. John Darts



After our first month of darts we have 6 regulars - well, 5 plus Liz, who can't play yet as she has broken her wrist. Sue Huke spices up the proceedings by bringing music along. We have to keep to 6 and it has worked out well. There have been different winners and it looks like we're improving.

Thelma Bryant

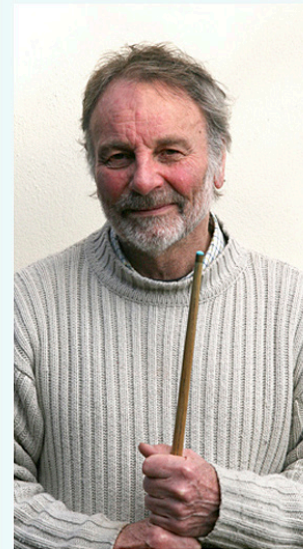


Snooker



LADDER

David Greenhalgh
Pete Debono
Chris Trevitt
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
Chris Trevitt	28
Pete Debono	25
Chris Morris	22
Howard Everard	18
Clive Walley	17
Chris Huke	16
Richard Dolton	16



Look Out! - this woman can move in any direction!

and finally.....

I just tried to set my password to 'beefstew1' - apparently it wasn't stroganoff!!