



# St. John Newsletter

*A Publication of the St. John Village Trust*

Village Website - [www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk](http://www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk)

December 2020

## Editorial

Hello all.

At last a glimmer of hope, with the variety of vaccines ready to be made available and, as we are going to be in the lowest 'tier', we can restart the gradual opening of our social spaces. So, good news...

However, the timetable is tight for the Dreckly club's event (page 3) on Friday, as you need to book and payment is required by 1st December. Also, unfortunately, for the first time since 2004, we will not be able to hold the Xmas doubles snooker tournament this year – we would normally be well into the semi-finals by now!

Sadly we are saying farewell to Robin Austin, a long time member of the village. Some fond memories of him can be found on page 3 and I'm sure that we will all wish to send our condolences to his family.

On page 4 we are treated to a spectacular colourful display of Kath's slime moulds. She admits that she is, "A bit keen on slime moulds", and you can see why!

There are also items of interest for the 'twitchers' among us with an update on what's arrived in the area etc.

We feature our new festive tree with lights (page 5) and a possible plan to do some carol singing - but I think that might be illegal! Isn't it?

Caroline Swain (page 6) is a tireless campaigner for the Children's Hospice, 'Little Harbour', and I hope some of us can support her big Christmas event.

We have added pictures to the 'Freebay' section on page 7 to see if it will be more successful. It was started in response to an aversion to throwing perfectly good things away simply because you no longer need them...

Lastly, I encourage you to experience the 'Quarantine through Art' link from Tony Gillies. It is a lovely soundtrack with carefully chosen appropriate Art images - very soothing and with whimsical humour. Season's Greetings to you all and my best wishes for 2021.

Dave.



## What's your Parish Council Up To?

The Christmas tree, not donated by the people of Denmark but by the Liskeard garden centre, has now been planted in the Memorial Garden. Special thanks to Rob Williams who made a superb support frame and helped us to both collect and erect the tree. Decorations and lights are in hand and we hope that the final effect will be a tasteful contribution to brightening up this season. Should anyone have any spare lights that they would like to add then please let me know. Please be aware that some road closures on Military Road will take place over the next ten days whilst Cornwall undertake some welcome resurfacing work.

Thank you to all who registered their interest in the Rural Broadband Upgrade pilot. I think there is still time to register your interest on the website,

<https://broadband-upgrade-fund.campaign.gov.uk/about>

The next PC meeting has been planned for Tuesday 8th December at 7.30 pm in St John Village Hall, subject to Covid 19 restrictions. The agenda will be posted on the website and if you have any comments please contact our Clerk at [st.johnparishcouncilcornwall@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnparishcouncilcornwall@gmail.com)

Del.

see tree and switching on of lights (page 5)





## **DRECKLY CLUB**

The Dreckly Club is restarting a social occasion on Friday evenings at 6.00pm.

It is open to all Village Hall members and, as with most other regular events at the Hall, costs £1.00 which is payable on the evening. Members can BYO (drinks, 'nibbles' and/or picnic) or, on some occasions, choose to join with others to enjoy some 'take-away' food', e.g. fish & chips, pasties or chinese food.

The evenings are led by Julie Elworthy and Janet Mitchell and it is essential that anyone wishing to attend reserves their seat with Janet to avoid disappointment – Tel. 01752 829225. Booking is strictly, 'First come – First served', as numbers are obviously restricted due to Covid-19 regulations. If wishing to join in with 'Take-away' food, then payment is required by lunch-time on the Tuesday prior to the Friday event. N.B. The kitchen is still 'out of bounds', (other than for hand washing), so you will generally need to bring your own glassware, crockery and cutlery and please take it home to wash it!

Some of these sessions have been successfully trialled with the present regulations and it is required that anyone attending will adhere to the following rules.

- MASKS MUST BE WORN
- ENTER THROUGH REAR kitchen door and wash your hands at the sink.
- COMPLETE 'TRACK and TRACE' - Either register in book provided or use QR poster
- WEAR MASK – Masks should be worn until seated and also when getting up from the table e.g. to go to the toilet.
- GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR TABLE – Tables will be allocated. No more than 6 people may sit at any table. Tables and chairs must not be moved from their set positions
- NO 'MINGLING' – i.e. no moving around to 'chat' with people at other tables...
- SOCIAL DISTANCING will apply at all times - with 2 metre distancing wherever possible.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE UNWELL !!!**

If anyone has any queries or you require further information, please contact:

Julie Elworthy 01752 823381 or

Janet Mitchell 01752 829225

## **Village Hall Cofee Mornings**

### **\*\*\*GREAT NEWS\*\*\***

St John Village Hall community cofee mornings are resuming. There will of course, be restrictions due to the ongoing Covid 19 regulations, but the hall will be open from 10.30am to 11.30am for people to get together for cofee or tea and a chat providing everyone sits at an allocated table of 6.

Unfortunately the kitchen is still 'Out of Bounds', (other than for hand washing), we will all have to take our own drinks in a flask/cup/bottle etc which we will then take home to wash. It will also be required that, under the present circumstances, people will have to follow the basic rules for meeting in groups.

- MASKS MUST BE WORN
- ENTER THROUGH REAR kitchen door and wash your hands at the sink.
- COMPLETE TRACK & TRACE - Either register in book provided or use QR poster.
- WEAR MASK - Masks should be worn until seated and when getting up from the table e.g. to go to the toilet.
- GO DIRECTLY TO A TABLE - No more than 6 people may sit at any table. Tables and chairs must not be moved from their set positions.
- NO MINGLING - i.e. no moving around to 'chat' with people at other tables.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING will apply at all times with 2 metre distancing wherever possible.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE UNWELL!!**

If you have any queries or require further information please contact

Judith Greenhalgh 01752 822884



## Village Hall ( events )

### DRECKLY CLUB

We are starting off the Dreckly club again

with a

### Mad Hatters High Tea Party

Friday the 4th December at 6pm



Spaces are limited to 30 people, 5 tables of 6 so .....

**'Don't be late for a very important date'**

Janet is taking bookings.

To secure your place please ring her on 829225

Please pay by Tuesday 1st December.

Cost is £8 which includes food and the £1 hall fee.

BYO **Glass** and **Beverage**, all other crockery and cutlery will be provided by Julie.

Hats are compulsory, or its **'Off with your head'**

**'Yes we are all mad here'!**

A prize will be given for the most inventive Hat.

Please Note:

Entry to the hall will be through the back kitchen door, one at a time (or in pairs where appropriate) You must wash your hands at the kitchen sink, then exit into the corridor into the hall.

People must not mix with other tables and masks must be worn as appropriate at all times.

**The club will take place on a weekly basis unless the rules change.**

As well as Coffee mornings and the Dreckly club, we also intend recommencing Snooker and Darts. There will be an announcement in January about Boules and possibly Village Walks.

Snooker will also restart this Wednesday (Dec.2nd) with the regular 'doubles evening' and, obviously, with Covid precautions in place.

### St John Church 100 club

The 100 Club winners for November are:-

Rob & Gill Berry.....£20

Vi Lakeman.....£5

Barbara Ball.....£5

Numbers chosen by the Garden Refuse collector.

Hope you are all keeping well.

Ray Salter.

## Farewell Robin Austin



We are sad to inform readers of the Newsletter of the death of Robin Austin of Pathfields in St John. Robin was a long-term and well-known resident of the village. We send our condolences to Glennis and all the family at this sad time.

Robin proved a good neighbour, who we first encountered when newly arrived in the village. He volunteered to remove a large, 'paper' wasps' nest from the eave of our new house. This involved Robin with a small bonfire on the end of a pole and no protective clothing, while I held a shaky ladder below and Megan waited anxiously in-doors. Robin proved a dependable chap and a helpful friend, although often in unexpected ways.

From childhood Robin was always passionate about sailing and his collection of boats and boating 'bits and bobs' is of course legendary. He was until recently a stalwart of village events and an enthusiastic 'clearer-upper' of crockery, chairs and tables. He was also a bit of a 'demon bowler' at short mat bowls in the Village Hall and will be fondly remembered by members of the club.

Robin will also be recalled with great affection by the congregation of St John's Church. He designed and manufactured the metal candle holders that still sit on the interior church window ledges.

We will remember him and all that he contributed to the community, with respect and affection at the next Christmas Carol Service, when the candles are next used to light-up the little church.

Bob & Megan





Fungi are still prolific in the woods of St John and our gardens, but there are even weirder organisms revealing themselves in colourful hues and amazing shapes. They spend most of the year” skulking” in dark places eating bacteria and other microorganisms but now is the time for them to slither out. They can move at 1.35mm/sec

A puzzle for biologists, for they are not animals yet can move. Normally single celled, but during reproduction they fuse together to form a single pulsating organism(the plasmodium) and have been recorded to reach masses of several square metres and up to 20kg in weight.

Some species have 3 sexes, others as many as 11!

They can have endearing names like “Dog Vomit”.

### Meet the Slime Moulds.



Dogs sick



Slime mould ferruginosa



slime plasmodium

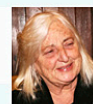


Slime on crab apple



Dogs vomit





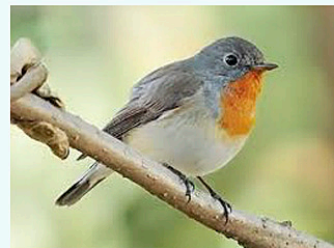
### Winter visitors

The sparrow- sized Snow Buntings seen on the Rame last month seem to have moved further west. It is a bird that breeds in the Arctic but overwinters in UK coastal habitats, but not usually as far West as Cornwall. But Loons or Great Northern Divers have arrived on St John's Lake and Avocets may be on their way, as 74 have been seen on Kingsmill Lake near Saltash in recent days. Worth looking out for.



Snow bunting (female)

Highlights for Cornish Birders this November have been the scarce Red breasted Flycatcher and Siberian Chiffchaff seen on the Lizard. You have to be good at warbler song to recognise the latter and the former could be mistaken for a Robin!



Red breasted flycatcher

### Growing Matters

The apple trees in the community orchard are doing well and some even bore fruit. One tree unfortunately died but has been kindly replaced by Ensleigh Garden Nursery (near Tavistock) with a very rare old Cornish variety the Banana Pippin, favoured by upper- class families in Victorian times due to its exclusivity. It's good to be able to help preserve old genetic stock.

If you have an aging, possibly rare apple tree in your garden, Adrian Steele at Ensleigh will happily graft from it on to a rootstock of your choice. Could make a special gift.

The **Tree Bank** at the village hall has received some deposits, feel happy to withdraw. I have included some Cotoneasters (horizontal and upright growing varieties) if you want to attract birds. Blackbirds are especially partial to the berries

Happy Christmas to all. Hope you see more birds than your turkey and you stay free of both slime and mould!

*Kath.*



New Christmas Tree by the memorial. Although the lights are already on, there is a 'formal' switching on of the lights on Saturday at 6.00 pm and carol singing ( if we are allowed!!)

### Village Hall News

Despite the sudden lock-down in November our committee has been planning ahead and thankfully (at the time of going to press) we are going to be in Tier 1 which allows a sensible use of our facilities.

Chris Morris has been finalising the paperwork for the National Lottery Grant now that we have received builders' tenders and we hope to get the application lodged in the coming days - so cross fingers!

This year we shall miss the Christmas Wine and Dine and the lovely food and company which is so special in our hall, but let's remember back to memorable past times; how lovely it is to see the Christmas Tree by the war memorial all decorated for us – thanks to all who have worked on this.

To all those who volunteer, work and quietly support our community throughout the year, and all villagers and families let me wish you, on behalf of the hall trustees, A Happy Christmas and New Year!

Richard Dolton

PS Don't forget if you buy on-line with Amazon – link to AmazonSmile to give our hall an extra boost!



Dear David,

This week Children's Hospice South West has launched its Santas on the Run goes freestyle event!

Registration is free and this virtual event will provide a chance to raise some festive cheer in your Christmas gear!

If St John Newsletter is running at the moment I hope this can be included in one of your next editions as this event is open to people to take part across the county and support their local children's hospice Little Harbour.

Best wishes,  
Caroline

### **Santas on the Run goes Freestyle!**

Children's Hospice South West's (CHSW) annual Santas on the Run event is back but not as you know it! Taking place over the weekend of the 11-13 December, supporters will be able to choose their distance, route and their festive dress.

CHSW's festive fundraisers are usually held at Eden, RHS Rosemoor and Bristol Harbourside. The events see thousands of people join together raising vital funds for CHSW and its three children's hospices including Little Harbour in St Austell. The local children's charity has taken the decision to hold it virtually this Christmas due to the pandemic.

Kiley Pearce, Events Fundraiser from CHSW, said:

"This year, Santas on the Run is going freestyle! Whilst we can't all be together, we can still spread some joy and laughter and we'd encourage everyone to go crackers with their festive fundraising! Whether you twinkle in tinsel or rock it like Rudolph, you can get creative with your costume and complete a distance of your choice, your way."

Together with community partner Whirlwind Sports, CHSW is asking this year's participants to raise sponsorship or make a donation to enable the charity to continue to provide care for children and families when they need it most, whether that be in the hospice, at home, or virtually.

Kiley continued: "Over the weekend of 11-13 December we will have a warm-up for people to join online each day as well as lots of prizes including for the best-dressed family, child and dog! Individuals who raise £15 or more will also receive a medal. It's undoubtedly been a challenging year and we would encourage people to get involved however they like this Christmas but most importantly help us raise money to continue supporting local children living with life-limiting conditions and their families." Registration is free! Simply register your interest at [www.chsw.org.uk/santas](http://www.chsw.org.uk/santas) and join the charity's event on Facebook by searching 'Santas on the Run - goes freestyle' [www.facebook.com/events/649916122169450](https://www.facebook.com/events/649916122169450)

You can dress in whatever festive attire you like to take part in Santas on the Run goes freestyle this December & support Children's Hospice South West





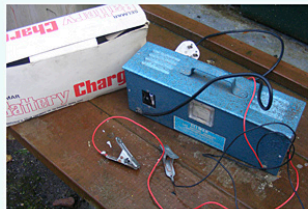
## Reader's Contributions

### freebay

Free to good home!  
4 ft florescent light unit. Needs new tube or starter. bought last year, a Trago special. Might be worth looking at for garage or similar.



Car battery charger, old style, steel case, in original box, works fine.



Brian 822890

On 'Freebay' a pair of brand new navy men's slippers size 9. Please contact Janet on 829225/07837145952.



I have been asked to remind everyone to keep the stamps from their Xmas cards for me please. I'm still collecting any old greetings cards that are getting chucked out. They can be left with Mary or Liz.

Dorethea - 07754 759853

Quarantine Through Art -click link below



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keXvCkm0FIA>

From Tony Gillies

### Advent windows

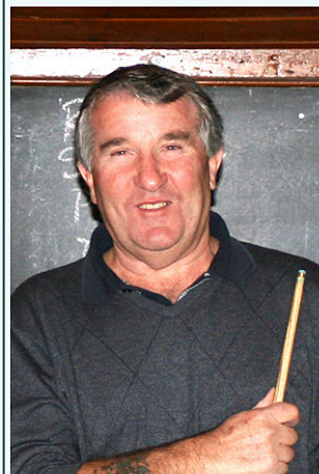
Decorate a window before Christmas.  
There is no need to drain the national grid .  
A simple display ,something for us to look at as we wander around .  
I am decorating a bedroom window as it is visible from the road.  
Quite a few people have expressed an interest.  
No competition, no pressure just a bit of fun to brighten up the village.

Megan.

## Snooker



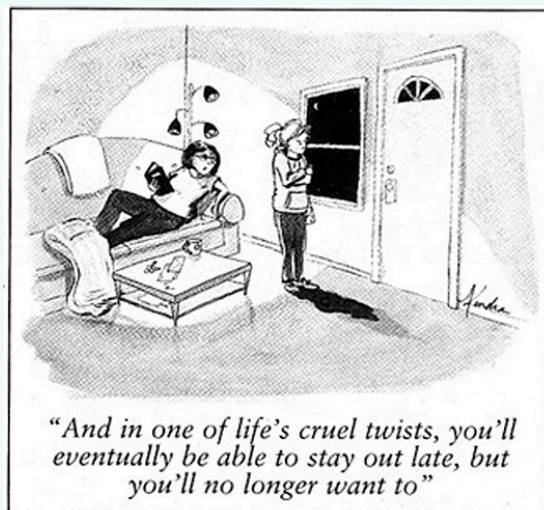
### LADDER



Pete Debono
David Greenhalgh
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



## and finally.....

The past tense of 'William Shakespeare' is 'Wouldiwas Shookspeared'