

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

February 2021 (snowdrop edition)



Editorial

Well - here we are again!

Everything is still much the same, except that we now have hope that the vaccines that are being developed will (eventually) set us free.

You will notice that I have called this the snowdrop edition as they are out in abundance everywhere you go, promising that spring is unfolding, days will get longer and all the spring flowers will come out in their well established procession.

This month there are two poems, sent in by readers, for contemplation and nourishment of your inner self... There is news of the Hall renovation which is about to start (details on page 2) and there are photos on the back page of some of the preparatory work that has been done, plus the sorry state of our snooker room, which is being used for storage and is piled high with all sorts of things!

There is a sombre article from Cornwall Council reminding us that we still need to have a lot of patience and conscientiously follow guidelines if we want the reward of a safe and more free society in the future.

We have the return of Wildlife watch (thanks Kath) which deals with lichens, mosses & liverworts and we will now be able to put names to things we used to see and think, 'I wonder what that is'!

Disturbing news that Avian Flu may have arrived on our shores - but, 'Well Done', Lynne Betts - what a great photo of a blue tit!!

I think everyone will wish to join me in congratulating June for winning the award with her dogs. Really pleased for you June - you deserve it!

Anyway, keep following Gov. advice... and have faith that the vaccines will work - we have no other option!

Dave.

Poets corner

Go for long walks,
indulge in hot baths,
Question your assumptions,
be kind to yourself,
live for the moment,
loosen up, scream,
curse the world,
count your blessings,
Just let go,
Just be.

by Carol Shields



Patience.

We will soon see the signs;
the birth of a new year,
with the snowdrops and daffodils,
among the first to appear.
To herald the pattern
of life so dear.

Enjoy the gifts that nature bestows,
with a helping hand, and Goodness knows,
your garden will bloom, and smile at you.
The birds will sing, and robin will pose
on a branch before you;
wherever you go, he goes.

Leonard Powling

Footnote.

If robin's world goes, you go !

St John Village Hall - Building Project 2021



Our Chairman confirmed last month that we have been most fortunate to have received some very generous funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for our building project.



Further Project information is as follows:

1. Our Project Manager will be Mr Peter Bartrum (Bartrum Deakin Associates, Looe) and our builders will be JASK Construction Ltd (Plymouth).
2. The building works will commence on Monday 1st February 2021 and is scheduled for completion in July 2021.
3. Hopefully this will coincide with a significant relaxation in the current Covid-19 restrictions and will allow us to have a 'grand opening', perhaps in the form of a summer garden party. Now wouldn't that be nice!
4. So that you are kept up to date I will aim to provide a monthly newsletter article on how the building works are progressing, including pictures.

Note: *Please could everyone be aware that the St Village Hall and grounds are now out of bounds until the building works have been completed.*

My thanks once again to the National Lottery Community Fund for their tremendous support to the Parish of St John.

Chris Morris
Vice-Chairman of Trustees

Cornwall County info on Covid - 19



As we enter the third week of the lockdown, the number of Covid cases recorded across Cornwall has started to reduce, with our rate now standing at 195.5 per 100,000, significantly down from its peak earlier this month.

However, this is still higher than the earlier peaks in Cornwall and the number of patients in our hospitals remains very high, with 90 people being treated at Treliske, and a further 55 in community hospitals across Cornwall.

We are also still seeing some significant outbreaks at care homes and in businesses, so now is clearly not the time to let our guard down. The sobering news yesterday that the overall total number of deaths in the UK has now exceeded 100,000 shows clearly why we must together do all that we can to follow the public health advice.

The lockdown restrictions may be tough, but they are helping to bring down the number of cases of the virus within our communities, and we must continue to encourage our residents to follow the rules.

We have also seen some evidence that the number of people being tested is dropping across Cornwall and with the number of asymptomatic and mild symptom cases still high, we need to see people being tested whenever they have the mildest of symptoms. Getting a test is simple and can be booked via the www.gov.uk website. You can help us by raising awareness in your local communities.

Del.



Wildlife Watch

Do we live in a temperate rainforest (also known as Atlantic Woodlands)? A globally rare habitat characterised by high rainfall and mild humid conditions. They are found in the SW and can be internationally important for their **lichens, mosses and liverworts**.



foliose lichen -



crustose lichen

This time of year lichens are at their best or at least most visible. They are formed by a quirky combination of two organisms; an alga or cyanobacterium, enrobed by a species of fungus. The former photosynthesises and the fungus filters out strong light damaging to the alga and is the partner responsible for reproduction.

They fall into 3 growth forms, crust-like (common on grave stones and bare rocks) foliose (leaf-like) and the branched or fruticose. This last group are most sensitive to air pollution so their presence usually indicates pure air and also of particular importance, ancient woodlands.



bearded or fruticose lichen

Plantlife (www.plantlife.org.uk /Atlantic woodlands) is trying to record Atlantic woodland as a citizen science project and you can find guides to identifying key lichens and other information on their website.

Birds

St John's Lake is excellent for a wide variety of waders at the moment. You could spot Avocets (around 40 were spotted off Wacker Quay in January) a few elegant Whimbrels, Black-tailed Godwits and Snipe amongst the usual crowd.

And a **Chough**, the crow of Cornwall, can still be seen on The Rame. Cornish name Palores meaning "digger". Associated with King Arthur and thought to be the form in which his soul departed this world. This aerobatic red billed and footed crow, returned to Cornwall in 2001 after 28 years absence and is breeding successfully on The Lizard, would be great to see them settling here too.

Unfortunately avian flu may have arrived in Cornwall, as 7 Little Egrets were found dead near Flushing on 23rd January. Please contact Defra if you find any dead waterfowl (but do not touch).



Chough

Cornwall Council has been selected as one of five areas in the country to trial a Nature Recovery Plan. If you want to have your say please complete the Nature Recovery Plan Survey by Feb 14th.

Thanks Kath

Wildlife Watch (cont.)

Growing Matters

With shortages in fresh vegetables and salad leaves predicted in the coming year, please over sow in February, so we can repeat the seedling share and encourage new would be growers. Flowers very welcome too. The plastic greenhouse behind the village hall will need to be relocated as building work is starting soon.

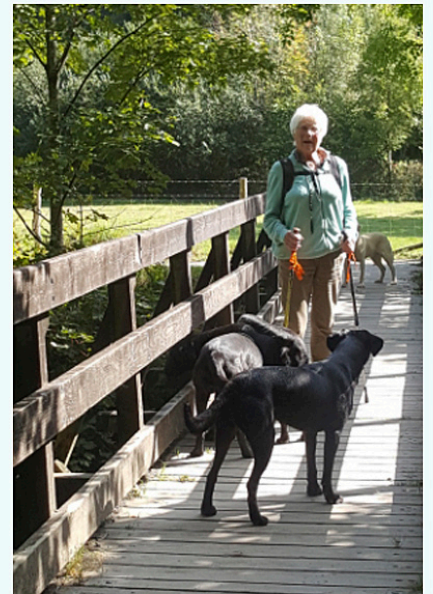
Look out for obcordate* structures in the middle of the month!

**Me neither! I had to look it up -
(of a leaf) in the shape of a heart with the pointed end at the base.
Ed*

Just had to find space for Lynne's lovely blue tit photo! Ed.



June Barrie - Award



We are delighted to announce that June Barrie's dedication to her gun dogs has paid off. Last year her shooting friends nominated her for an award from ' The Field ' which is a monthly shooting magazine, and she has won Best Amateur Pickup for 2020. This was published in the December issue. June is less interested in her national fame than the year's supply of gun dog food which will be delivered to her each month.

Del.



Village Hall



eBooks & Audiobooks

Get free eBooks and eAudiobooks from Cornwall library - they have a really good range. I've been using BookBub for a while now, it's a free service that creates a reading list of eBooks on special offer curated to your taste. Offers are often free or 0.99p.

<https://www.bookbub.com/welcome>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/your-library-online/ebooks-eaudiobooks-and-emagazines/>

Jackie Murfin

Snooker



Hello, This is what our snooker room looks like at the moment and for the duration of the building alterations. Hopefully, we will be able to get it back to full function about July - then it is down to the state of the virus... So watch this space!

Dave.



St John Church

100 club winners for January

Mike Stevens£20

Carol Dann£5

John Benger£5

This months numbers were selected by the local Tesco delivery driver.
Ray.



and finally.....

Why does my wife always wait until I'm at the opposite end of the house before asking me to "Merm frner mernferr brnerfer!" ?