

# St. John Newsletter

*A Publication of the St. John Village Trust*

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

April 2021 ( Primrose Edition )



## Editorial

We have lost one hour of sleep (which we will regain in Oct!) but have gained an extra hour of daylight and the brighter outlook continues with many of us expecting our second jab this month - although AstraZenica's problems continue in Europe as I write this.

Just below are the details of the Parish Council Elections and all the links you may need for information. These are important elections to ensure that we elect the right people, who will 'get things done' and make a difference to our environment and living conditions.

On page two Chris Morris reports on the excellent progress that the Village Hall building project is making. There is even a chance that it could be completed ahead of schedule, which is unheard of in building circles!

On the same page the church is asking an existential question of itself.

Wildlife watch on page three is a colourful bonanza of primroses with details of how 'promiscuous' they are - they are apparently keen to interbreed with any willing plant (quite shocking little blighters!) and there are answers for all the questions that I had about them... As if that was not enough, on page four we are introduced to the Marmorated Stink Bug. There is a link to a Mammal Mapper, which you may find interesting, as well as changes to the 'share greenhouse' and a threat to hold a 'spud in a bucket' competition next year!

On the back page we welcome new residents to the Old Rectory and feature Alison's choice of spring poem. I would also like to thank Jackie for the 'and finally' this month.

*David Greenhalgh*



## Parish Council Election 6th May

There will be elections for our County Councillor, Police Commissioner and Parish Councillors, all on 6th May. We have had confirmation that our polling station will be Antony Village Hall. You may find it easier, and safer to arrange a postal vote. If you visit this link you can download CC's postal vote form, which takes only a few minutes to complete, sign and send to CC by post. (one form for each voter).

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/different-ways-to-vote/postal-voting/> Alternatively, you can request forms by calling CC on 03001232115.

You can register for a postal vote any time up to eleven days before the election date. We hope that we get a good turn-out to ensure that we have a sound democratically elected Parish Council for the next four years.

Our PC has six councillors, and as the parish comprises two equal (but very different) settlements, St John village and Freathy/Tregonhawke,

we have always endeavoured to have a balance of councillors between the two, (particularly as they each have very different planning rules). However, the ballot paper will not differentiate between candidates from either area, but this will explain why you may see several names that you may not recognise. Some guidance on this will be issued in the next Newsletter after the list of candidates is known.

I would urge you to please read the minutes of the last PC meeting to see what "issues" we've been involved with recently, just click this link to open the minutes of the last meeting on 8th December 2020.

<https://stjohnincornwall.org.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

There will be a short final meeting of the current Parish Council at Freathy Sports and Social Club from 7.30pm on Thursday 15th April.

*Del.*



# St John Village Hall - Building Project 2021



## Update:

In the last month the UK's COVID-19 vaccination programme has seen much progress, as indeed has our building project. Outside the annexe's external brickwork is almost complete and the roof itself should be fully constructed by the time of the May newsletter. Inside the building of the toilet complex's walls and door frames has finished and the plastering stage has commenced. In addition the new kitchen door has been opened up and the new stainless steel units have been ordered.



With the Lockdown roadmap published, and the relaxation already commenced, I suspect many will be keen to know when the village hall is likely to be ready. Hopefully the whole project will be completed in early June, which would indeed tie in very nicely with the final relaxation of restrictions. We shall see...

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

Chris.



## St John Church

### What is the Church for?

As we prepare for returning to our church buildings, we have been encouraged to 'hit the ground listening!' We are asking everyone in the community, both individuals and community groups to let us know what you think the church should offer as we try to shape a post-pandemic church. The world has changed as a result of the pandemic and life will never be exactly as it was before. However, it's not all negative as there have been many examples of people supporting others in their community during lockdown. We need to build on that, in whatever way we can, as we take what we have learned in the last year and continue in a sustainable way. Please send your comments to [fr.michaelbrown1662@gmail.com](mailto:fr.michaelbrown1662@gmail.com) and [annabelking0@gmail.com](mailto:annabelking0@gmail.com)

Thank you,

Fr. Michael Brown & Rev'd Annabel King  
Rame Peninsula Team Ministry



### March's 100 club winners are:

Christian Ferris .....£20  
Malcolm Spurrell .....£5  
Barbara Ball .....£5

This month's numbers chosen by the Lantoom Quarry delivery man ( Sam Hunt ).

The club's year starts this month (April) and those who haven't paid and still wish to support us, the £16 subs is now due.

Enquiries- Ray/Margaret Salter Badgers Mount. Tel 01752822438



## Wildlife Watch

### Which variant would you like?

Variants are commonplace in the natural world, arising from interbreeding or genetic mutation. This month sees **primroses** at their most glorious, but also, they expose how variable and promiscuous they are.

They naturally occur in 2 forms, **pin** (stigmas prominent) and **thrum** (stamens prominent). You need to take a close look. There are also pink forms which may be due to genetic mutation. Also, they interbreed with Cowslips as well as the hybrids we have created. Can you work out the ancestry? All these are growing in the same area.



Soon Bluebells will be out too. Half the world's population grows in the UK. However, hybridisation between our native wild species and the more upright Spanish bluebell has caused concern amongst botanists, many advocating eradication of the latter, as it both interbreeds and outcompetes with our native species. In Cornwall Bluebells are at their southern limit of distribution. Could some Iberian genes prove beneficial as the climate warms or could we lose those amazing scented woodland carpets?



"grand parent" of primrose dynasty.



Thank you Charmaine for sharing your daffodil story. This *Narcissus canaliculatus* hybrid (probably "Avalanche") was moved to St John from Cawsand and believed to be 200 years old.

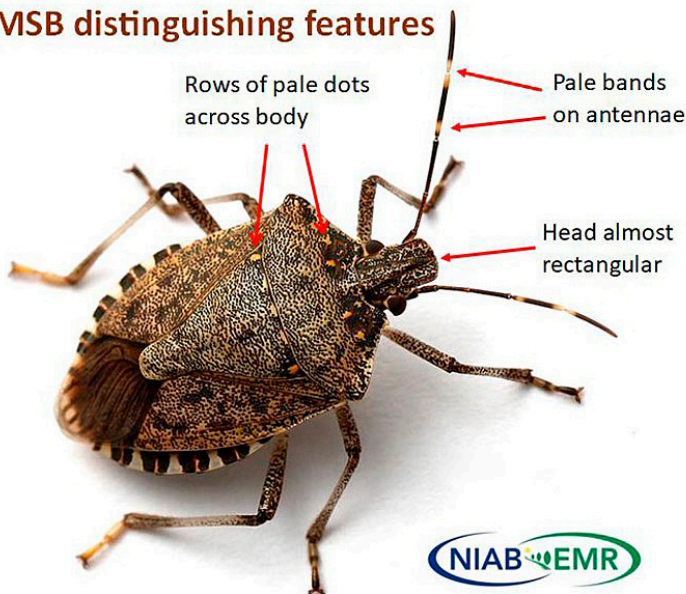


## Wildlife Watch ( cont.)

All parts of the Primrose are edible and full of vitamin C, but all parts of the Bluebell are poisonous.,



### BMSB distinguishing features



Look out for brown Marmorated Stink Bugs. Martyn has just found one crawling out of his computer, (hope none of you have bugs in your computers)! These unpleasant smelling Shield bugs are an invasive species from China, coming in on timber and are pesky pests of fruit and veg. They will distort your produce and leave rotting spots as well as adding an unpleasant flavour to your home-made wine. But they only smell if you upset them. (they don't respond to shouting!) However, there are many species of UK Shield Bug some of which are brown too.

With longer days and animals coming out of hibernation perhaps you seen some wild mammals recently. Even our iconic mammal species are poorly monitored and the Mammal Society would be keen to have your records and as a result have produced a free "Mammal Mapper" App.

[www.mammal.org.uk/volunteering/mammal-mapper/](http://www.mammal.org.uk/volunteering/mammal-mapper/)

## Growing Matters

The plantlet share greenhouse has been temporarily relocated to outside the church porch and will be accepting donations of your excess seedlings and plants from the middle of the month. With the real prospect of fewer plants coming from the EU I am sure anything you can spare will be particularly appreciated.

Don't let your spud bucket remain unused this year, you could be honing your potato growing skills for next year's competition.





"Free to good home.....Garden composter, good usable condition. Also two leaky, plastic water butts that we could saw the bottom off to serve the same purpose, if required. Ring Mary 822890."



## Welcome

The village would like to extend a warm welcome to Laurence and Ruth Clarke and their daughter Francesca who have moved into the Old Rectory. We hope you settle in well and look forward to meeting you.



## Poets Corner

Every Spring is New



I knew it was all going to happen again:  
the wallflowers aglow in the bright April rain,  
the violets quivering under the hedge,  
the primroses clustering at the wood's edge.

Daffodils dancing in the garden and park.  
Rapture of bird-song from dawn till dark.  
Green waves advancing as fresh leaves unfold –  
Purple and emerald, coral and gold.

Blossom of apple, pear, cherry and plum.  
I knew, yes I knew that it all had to come –  
But now that the magic is working one more,  
It seems that it never so happened before....  
And when you think of it, isn't' it true?  
This spring is different. This spring is new.

Patience Strong



Life on cloud eight

and finally.....

Yesterday I failed my ventriloquist exams. I can't say I'm surprised!