



St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

December 2021

Editorial

In the newsletter this month we have a detailed report from the Parish council covering many issues that affect us all. It is a useful reminder that there are people from the village working on our behalf all the time.

Page 2 is mainly a notice board of events planned for December, while page 3 has a report of last month's walk and information on what is planned for the walk in December. Also on page 3 is a brief account of the gathering of villagers in the Village Hall on Remembrance day.

Page 4 is devoted to Bob Keys' moving tribute to his friend Ernie Riddler.

Page 5 has information on the festivities the Carew Arms Pub has planned for the run up to Xmas and page 6 has a report on the great response to a call for help to clear the area around the church, and also information on the latest film screening at Kingsand Community Hall.

Page 7 has the St John Church notice of their Carol service and all the dates of other services over the Xmas period, as well as the annual news of the Xmas Doubles Pool Competition Draw. There is also advance notice of the New Year Lunch for 2022! Finally page 8 has a festive poem from Alison, by Charles Causley, and the latest news from the snooker club - with changes to the ladder and many new entries to the highest break table! Who says we are not improving?

Well, that's it for another year.

I wish you all a merry Xmas, take great care and I will see you in 2022.

Sadly, as I was writing this editorial, I received the news that our friend Pam Waldock had died on Sunday. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Ray and his family at this very sad time.

David Greenhalgh



Parish Council

We have been "encouraging" Cormac to undertake various improvements in the village. These have included repairs to the annoying and dangerous rut at the gate on the crest of Picture Hill, which has been formed by traffic using it as a passing point. Also, we have been promised improvements to the road edge at the parking area next to the BT box. Material will be removed at the ditch next to the church and Church Lane will be re-asphalted adjacent to the north side of the Church boundary. Cormac will investigate whether they can bring forward white line painting, especially highlighting speed humps. (You may be interested to learn that our village is almost unique in having speed bumps, as their provision has not been County policy for some time; we are fortunate in having them, thanks to Ray Waldock!) Various other minor works are on the action list, but a message to all is... if you see any pot-holes or flooding please go on the CC website where you can register your "complaint". This can add "strength to our arm" especially if you let us know too.

We have placed an order with Green Thumb to improve the condition of the grass in the memorial garden, hopefully this will look much better next summer.

Various matters were discussed at our last meeting including the proposed new national coastal cycleway along Military Rd, including the possible branch connection (to Torpoint) through our village, involving "shared space" where pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles may have shared access to the road, and where new signage may be provided to deter through traffic. We also discussed a possible consultation by the bus company on the idea of routing a (double decker) bus through the village, which we oppose. Our County Councillor Kate Ewert has been assisting us in several matters relating to planning issues, new village signage and has provided some funding to help in the new SSSI information board at the ford. Kate is having successful "mobile" surgeries around the ward and may soon be knocking on doors to introduce herself and seek comments on any local issues.

We will be setting up a Christmas tree again this year and the lights should be available from 7th December. This year we are hoping to illuminate the church tower to provide a backdrop to the festive lights.

The next PC meeting will be on 17th March. For those who did not attend our meeting last week the minutes will be published on the website in the next few days.

Del.





Registered Charity Number 1178524

St John Village Hall

Christmas Wine and Dine Evening

Saturday 4th December
7pm for 7.30pm

Join us for an enjoyable evening of good food,
good wine and good company!

£12.50 a head

Don't forget your Secret Santa Gift!



Please book and pay Janet Mitchell 01752 829225
by 1st December
to ensure your place and enable us to know
numbers for catering



St John Village Hall

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PLYMOUTH YOUTH CONCERT BAND

ON
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
12th DECEMBER

2pm til 4pm
Tea/coffee will be served in the interval

TICKETS £5 pp
Available from from Janet Mitchell 01752 829225

Proceeds to be shared between
ST JOHN'S CHURCH AND THE VILLAGE HALL

St John Village Hall
DRECKLY CLUB CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS !

PASTY, PIE AND PIANO EVENING

Friday 17th December 6pm until

Come and enjoy an evening of singing Christmas songs - sampling
the delicious Cornish Pod pasties plus mince/apple pies.
Please bring your own liquid refreshment

£4 pp
Please book and pay Janet Mitchell 01752 829225
to be sure of your place and to enable us to know numbers for catering

NEXT SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 10.30am.

*This is a new monthly coffee morning which we hope will be
more convenient for those of you who work
and can't attend Wednesday mornings.*

*They will take place on the 2nd Saturday of the month.
In the New Year it will be on Saturday 8th January
There may even be cake!*



DARTS

Nice to be back playing darts, 4 has
now reached 6. It is a social evening
but we do try our best, could do
with some tuition on getting
doubles, but I'm sure with practice
we will get there.

A few more players would be
welcome, Thursday evening 7pm
onwards.

Thelma.

St. John Village Quiz

The annual St. John village quiz was held on November 12th and
the questions, as usual, covered a wide variety of topics and
were very well balanced with some fairly straightforward, some
difficult and some benefitting from multiple choice answers.
The hall was full, with teams of up to 6 people all trying to win
what became a hotly contested battle for 1st place.
In the end, the 'Four Candles / Fork Handles'.....triumphed!
Many thanks go to Linda Morris and Sue Huke for all their
excellent work and for making it such an enjoyable evening.



St. John Walkers

Tale of two walks

It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times....

There were 7 of us on the Lanhydrock walk which started on Dreason Lane using private parking provided by Big Pan Party catering. The weather was dry and autumn colours still glorious despite the lack of sun. We plunged towards the river via a little known track that skirted Station pond before merging with the carriage way from Bodmin Parkway. We left the track to walk the water's edge as the water roared past in spate.

The group split at Fisherman's gate, the fitter bunch heading uphill through Hart's Wood and on to the cycle hub where they met up with Yvonne. The remainder continued on to Respryn Bridge being forced to look at the amazing array of fungi at regular intervals! At the cycle hub the "hill walkers" coffee was foregone to catch up time, so we set off downhill passed Lanhydrock House and up into the wood before descending under magnificent trees along the "Run in the Park" route which all declined to try. When the distant sounds of the Rivey Fowey were heard it was decided to shorten the walk and return to Respryn Bridge always chasing time. By now we were wondering where the label "Fitter Group" came from but relief was at hand as the ladies of the shorter walk group collected us in the cars and we made the Halfway House Inn on time. Here we were joined by three more, for a well-earned pub lunch.

Kath.

and the next walk ...

December's walk on Tuesday 14th will be from Talland Bay to Polperro and back led by John McCullough. We will then drive to the Ship Inn Lerryn. We will need to book places at the inn as well as selecting our main meal. There is a special Christmas menu for two (£22) or three (£25) courses, as well as their normal lunch selections. John does not have access to a computer and I will therefore be the point of contact for liaison. I will be e mailing details to our regular walkers nearer the time. We would be delighted if any past members of the walking group would like to join us at The Ship for lunch, if so please e mail me on sueclarerichards@me.com and I will send you the menu.

Many thanks
Sue

Remembrance Sunday



Following the two minute silence on Remembrance Sunday, St.John villagers gathered in the newly refurbished village hall for delicious, and very welcome, tea and cakes provided by Julie Elworthy.



Ernie Ridler: His Life and Our Memories The importance of being Ernest!

We remember Ernie as someone who was always ready to lend a helping hand to others and each one of you probably has a story of your own to celebrate his life.

Every Cornish village, both 'ancient and modern' has its own stories and its characters, but it should come as no surprise to all of us, that Ernest Ridler was one of the best known and well-loved natives of St John and the surrounding Rame villages. Although in one respect this is quite surprising, for he was also a very private man and for that very reason, one who could be trusted with a 'confidence' in the certain knowledge that he never betrayed a trust. And it is also for that reason each of us probably knows a slightly different Ernie, depending on how and when we met him, and how and when he first recounted a memorable local story, a village anecdote or just a memory of someone or something important from his own life.

In my case, although I grew up here, I only really got to know the 'Ridler' during Snooker Nights almost twenty years ago, with the 'man himself' and Hartley Osborne and John Matthews. Some of these matches became 'all-nighters' thanks to the adjacent 'hostelry' which kept us well supplied with refreshments and even on one occasion a breakfast. Ernie was then still working some late shifts at the Poron factory, while John always had to leave us early for the Postal Round.

Ernest Ridler had crossed the Tamar early and became a 'native' of the locality. He married and raised his family in and around St John. He would sometimes recall the effect of the Blitz on his early life, which still haunted him. And he would describe, quite graphically, his memories of walking through the ruins of Devonport and Plymouth and later the mistreatment he and his sister experienced at the hands of a farmer, to whose Ipplepen farm they had been evacuated. Their first big 'adventure' was to run away together from life on the farm and hide in the local countryside, eventually making their way back to Plymouth and then home.

Ernie did his National Service in the RAF Regiment and worked in the armoury at Cranwell, he progressed into service, with the Royal Navy, laying ships moorings along the coast and finally becoming a 'Skipper' on the Western Belle for the famous Millbrook Steamboat Company. Eventually he went to the Poron Factory, up the hill, where he worked for Freddie Briers, another local legend, and collected more friends and workmates.



Since retiring he continued to enjoy exploring Cornwall with his son Andrew, on their weekly trips and rambles. Ernie was a treasure chest of local memories and stories, but I can never remember him uttering a malicious word about others, whatever their trials and tribulations. You never came away from an evening chatting with Ernie without feeling the world was somehow a better place. And all the better because Ernie had passed through it. And that he had taken the time to tell you about himself, and those he had known along the way.

We send all of Ernie's family and close friends the sincere condolences of the whole village. He will be sorely missed.

We will all remember him with great affection.

And his legendary home-cooked Friday Night & Saturday Morning 'Baltis' at the Pub!

Bob Keys

The Carew Arms

The last few months have been exceptionally busy for us and we would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to those who have supported us. Our new head Chef Huw has settled in very well and his all new menu seems to be going down a storm. Huw has come to us from The Devonport in Kingsand and brought with him second chef Rory from Mount Edgumbe. Together they are enjoying creating new dishes with plenty of flavours from the sea and land. I have to say my personal favourite is the piggy platter featuring a mouth watering piece of belly pork.

Christmas is very much on it's way and I have to say it has come round especially quickly this year! With restrictions now hopefully a distant memory we are full steam ahead at The Carew Arms for this festive season.



We are kicking off with a **festive wreath** making class, with a local florist called Andrea, taking place on **Sunday 28th November, 5th December and 12th December.**

We still have a couple of spaces available so if you fancy it please give us a call for more details.



We also have **breakfast with Santa** every weekend in December. As an extra special treat for the young boys and girls in **Antony and St John** we are doing a completely free of charge **stories with Santa** event on **Christmas Eve from 10am.** Invitations will be posted through every door with more details in the coming weeks.

We have had lots of people asking us what we have planned for **New Year celebrations** and have managed to secure a local DJ so we can party through into 2022. We are also doing a **special 7 course tasting menu** to start the party off! Tickets are limited so don't hesitate to book your space.

Breakfast

With **Santa**

Santa is taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us at The Carew. Book your child's space and join us for a magical breakfast, ice your own gingerbread man, colouring and a special gift from Santa himself!

Running every Saturday and Sunday Morning throughout December from 10.30am. Excludes 25th & 26th December.

Be sure to book your child in today as spaces are limited.

All this is just £10 per child, adults go free!

A breakfast menu on the day will be available for the adults to enjoy.

Look forward to seeing you all

Santa

xxx

The Carew Arms, PL11 3AB 01752 814440 info@carewarm.com

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Team Carew

Emma Smith
Director
The Carew Arms Antony Limited
01752 814440

Clearup of Percy's Patch!

Thank you to everyone who turned up on Saturday 30th October to help clear the banks, churchyard and fallen trees in Percy's Patch. It was a huge task but under the positive guidance of Christine and everyone's hard work the churchyard looked amazing. It was made possible by everyone's positive, fun attitude and fuelled by cake, tea and coffee (and a good chat). All the rubbish was disposed of in a bonfire under the watchful eyes of our pyromaniac Tony Gillies! Missing from the photo is Howard who spent most of his time walking up and down to Percy's Patch. He must have been on one of these treks when the photo was taken. A big thank you to everyone. Your churchyard has not looked so good for a long time and was ready for Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you

Christine Mills.



Kingsand Film Club

"FILM FANS"

SCREENING AT
THE COMMUNITY HALL
KINGSAND

"KNIVES OUT"

REVIEWS

"An ingenious new thriller that takes the bones of Agatha Christie and brilliantly updates it for the most purely entertaining movie of the year."

This movie is amazing, it just grabs your attention, it simultaneously makes you laugh and lets you hold your breath throughout the course of events, making you want to know the truth! It works thanks to its great plot and fantastic performances...

A murder-mystery at its best, I loved it!"

Film Fans Monday December 6th
KINGSAND COMMUNITY HALL

7 for 7.30 PM TICKETS £3 at the door

Masks preferable, bring your own drinks and glasses.
Starring Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis, Toni Collette,
Christopher Plummer and more!
Tel 01752 822132/822967



St. Johns Church

Please note:

No services at St John on 25th and 26th December

Christmas Day

Maker church 10am

Maryfield Church Torpoint 11am

26th December

11am All Saints Millbrook

11am St James Torpoint

Any other queries please do not hesitate to contact

Christine Mills 829212

Susan Holmes 823090

Wishing you all a Happy Blessed Christmas



Carol Service

at
St John Church

Monday 20th December

at 7pm

Followed by mulled wine mince
pies in the Church

All are welcome

Xmas Doubles Pool Competition Draw

The annual Xmas Pool Doubles Competition got off to a good start in our new room in the Hall on Sunday 21st Nov. We draw for partners so that the teams are of equal strength and everyone plays with a different partner each year. Once the draw was complete and a few of the first round matches had been arranged, we stayed and enjoyed the ambience while we chatted and finished our beers. The competition is currently being played and will be completed by the third week in December.

Dave.



St John Village Hall

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Saturday 15th January 2022 12.30 for 1pm

Please join us for a sherry on arrival followed by
a buffet lunch with a glass of wine

£12.50 a head

Tickets from Janet Mitchell 01752 822742

Please note:

We will be taking the opportunity to collect your St. John Village Hall Trust annual
Upkeep & Maintenance Subscription £5 a head + £10 Snooker

Registered Charity No 1178524

Poets Corner



They're Fetching in Ivy and Holly

"They're fetching in ivy and holly
And putting it this way and that.
I simply can't think of the reason,"
Said Si-Si the Siamese cat.

"They're pinning up lanterns and streamers.
There's mistletoe over the door.
They've brought a tree from the garden.
I'd do wish I knew what it's for.

"It's covered with little glass candles
That go on and off without stop.
They've put it to stand in the corner
And tied up a fairy on top.

"They're stringing bright cars by the dozen
And letting them hang in a row.
Some people outside in the roadway
Are singing a song in the snow.

"I saw all the children write letters
And – I'm not at all sure this was wise –
They posted each one up the chimney.
I couldn't believe my own eyes.

"What on earth, in the middle of winter,
Does the family think it is at?
Won't somebody please come and tell me?"
Said Si-Si the Siamese cat.

Charles Causley

Isn't this a lovely alternative Christmas poem? - AD

Snooker



LADDER



Highest Break

Chris Morris	26
David Greenhalgh	24
Bob Keys	22
Del Richards	18
Pete Debono	18
Steve Wick	18
Chris Trevitt	18
Richard Dolton	18

Steve Wick
David Greenhalgh
Chris Trevitt
Pete Debono
Clive Walley
Chris Morris
Del Richards
Brian Bird
John Tanner
Richard Dolton
Chris Huke
Paul Tanner
Ray Salter
Lewis Wilton
Bob Keys
Howard Everard
Andy Seedhouse

A guide to British owls:



Barn

Snowy

Tawny

Teal



and finally.....

Dear Santa - This year please give me a big fat bank account and a slim body. Please don't mix those two up like you did last year, thanks.