

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

February 2022 (snowdrop edition)



Editorial

Welcome to this, 'Snowdrop', newsletter.

Snowdrops are always the first to flower and brighten our mood and, hopefully, herald winter's ending and longer & warmer days on the horizon.

After a faltering start opening the Hall, the clubs and activities are now getting back to normal - we didn't dare wish for that a year ago!

Below, there is an appropriate Patience Strong poem from Alison and information about the church's Soup & Pud Lunch, while on page two we have Chairman Bob's first report (an overview of achievements and future goals) and a poster about Kingsand Community Hall's screening of an award winning film featuring two great actors.

Page three has a return of Wildlife Watch getting back to full power, featuring a lovely photo of a long tailed tit by Lynne, and below that are pictures of a mystery memorial bench appearing in the woodland Trust??

Page four has notices of future activities and events and and on page five there is a report of the St. John Walkers eventful trip to Calstock and a plea from Charmaine for a

recycling drive at her school, as well as the church 100 club winners.

Finally, on page six, are the results of the much delayed Xmas doubles Pool competition. Steve is no longer top of the snooker ladder and, although there have been two other names up there since, Chris Trevitt occupies it at present. We also have the highest break annual competition under way again, with breaks over 16.

There is a reminder from Thelma about the Darts evenings and Janet has a notice of rescheduling of the new Saturday Coffee mornings.

As I write this editorial I am indebted to my daughter Jessica for the 'and finally', as she desperately tries to finish her tax returns by today's deadline...

My best wishes to you all and I look forward to 'catching up' with you again next month.

Dave.

Poets Corner



The Whisperers

I thought that snow had fallen overnight
When I saw the willow ringed in white
Like a necklace looped around the tree.
Mystified I crossed the lawn to see
Snowdrops. Yes the snowdrops back again
Bright with beaded drops of frozen rain.

Every year it happens. Every year
And yet when the first I look and see them here
They always seem to take me by surprise
When winter's pall hangs heavy from the skies...
Too soon, I say. But as I stoop to stare
at the little flowerlets swinging there
I catch the whispered message that they bring
And hail them as the harbingers of Spring.

Patience Strong



St. John Church



St John Church
invite you to a
Soup and Pud lunch
in the Village Hall
on 12th February
from midday

£6



St. John Village Hall (New year message from the chairman.)



A belated Happy New Year to all!
As many of our Villagers and Visitors already know we have now re-opened to all our Members and regular User Groups. The past two years have included a number of 'ups and downs' for most of us and this has been true of the Hall as well. It is now well and truly re-opened and refurbished and hopefully will play a central role in the community life of the village and the parish without any further interruptions.

A warm welcome is therefore extended to past members, new residents and 'any and all' visitors, brave enough to navigate the lanes or wade through the Ford to our events. Those following the Calendar of Events will know that the postponed Church 'Soup and Pud' will now take place on Saturday the 12th February and the Spring Band Concert on Sunday the 20th February (Tickets available at the door). The postponed New Year Lunch will now be a pre-Easter Spring Buffet on Saturday 19th March, open from 12-30 for Lunch at 1300hrs. It will be held in the old style and provide an opportunity for residents, old and new, to renew old friendships

and perhaps begin new ones. (Tickets available from Janet Mitchell, to whom many thanks) While enjoying your buffet and drinks you may very well be encouraged also to renew your annual membership, or become a member for the first time, under the influence of our persuasive Treasure, Charmaine Ferguson.

As the new Chairman I am hoping to encourage new user groups and events, while maintaining our present range of activities. We still need volunteers to re-activate the Indoor Bowls and Bridge Clubs that closed before the Lockdown. Hopefully village life around and within the Church, and Hall can now return to normal: With the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations to look forward to in early June.

The Hall is also available for future bookings by anyone considering a venue for a future private function or public event (Contact Emma Tanner for advice on Hiring)

PS: Spot the Chairman's first (not deliberate?) mistake our Treasurer, who probably is a Treasure anyway!

Bob Keys

Film Club

"FILM FANS" SCREENING AT THE COMMUNITY HALL KINGSAND

Film Club Monday February 7th
Kingsand Community hall 7 for 7.30 pm
Tickets £3 at the door
Bring your own drinks and glasses etc
Tel 01752 822132/822967

Anthony (Academy Award Winner, Anthony Hopkins) is 80, mischievous, living defiantly alone and rejecting the carers that his daughter, Anne (Academy Award and Golden Globe Winner, Olivia Colman), encouragingly introduces. Yet help is also becoming a necessity for Anne; she can't make daily visits anymore and Anthony's grip on reality is unravelling. As we experience the ebb and flow of his memory, how much of his own identity and past can Anthony cling to? How does Anne cope as she grieves the loss of her father, while he still lives and breathes before her? THE FATHER warmly embraces real life, through loving reflection upon the vibrant human condition; heart-breaking and uncompromisingly poignant -- a movie that nestles in the truth of our own lives. Review "It's hard to find the words to describe this absolute masterpiece. Everything is brilliantly confusing and disrupting: the acting, the movie's structure, the innovative way to deal with the subject. A must see."



Wildlife Watch



Wacker Quay continues to be a good bird watching site this month with Spoonbills having been recorded recently. Unfortunately since hitting the headlines nationally, the White Tailed Eagle has been harassed by so many photographers that Cornish birding groups have decided to suspend publishing further records.

On a more positive note, the cute little Long Tailed Tit (thank you Lynne for the gorgeous photo) is increasing in numbers, the UK population having doubled since the 70's. In some areas it is nesting earlier and might be spotted collecting nest material in the coming month, as it takes 3 weeks to build its feather lined bottle shaped nest.

No reports of frogspawn yet, even from sites where it has been seen in December. I have found a Slow worm in my compost however. If you are interested in early sightings the Woodland Trust has created a website called Nature's Calendar. Records can help scientists to understand the implications of **Climate Change**.

Growing Matters

The Forest for Cornwall is offering a free Landmark tree to every community this year, to celebrate or commemorate an event or person. Details will soon be sent to Parish councils. The Forest for Cornwall website also has details of other free tree offers for community orchards, hedgerows and woodlands.

It has been suggested that the autumn fair run by Mary might also include a fruit and veg show for us oldies, suggestions please. We seem to be good at growing giant courgettes/marrows and comical specimens.

Time to start perfecting your compost!



Long Tailed Tit - Photo - Lynne Betts

For further information on protecting nature and fighting Climate Change see the excellent booklet produced by Maker with Rame Parish Council, **Green Rame**.

The "Green Rame" booklet will be available in the village in about a week to all interested households.

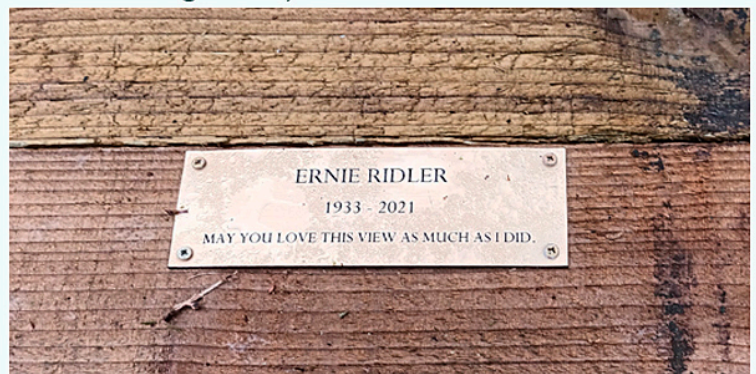
The "Spud in a bucket" competition is returning this year (through popular demand) and early seed potatoes will be available during Village Hall events, including coffee mornings. The aim is to reveal what we have grown in a 14 litre bucket during the Queen's jubilee celebration. Entry is £1 per seed potato and the winner will be presented with half the money raised, the remainder being used to buy plants for the new Village Hall flower beds. A First Early variety with royal connections has been chosen that promises to be highly productive and hopefully blight free.

Kath.

New Bench - Woodland Trust

Last Thursday, while walking my dogs, I noticed that a really nice, new bench in memory of Ernie Riddler had appeared overnight in Benskins wood!

(I don't think I need to wonder who was responsible for installing that....)



Notices

The Village of St John in Cornwall
Celebrates the

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE
SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

A date for your diary to celebrate the Queen's 70 years as Monarch.
St John Village is going to celebrate with a "Big Village Platinum Picnic" to be held in and around the Village Hall.
The plan is for everyone to come together with family, friends and neighbours and have fun.

Full details will be available once we have confirmed the various elements but to give you an idea of what to expect, it will be a BYO Village Platinum Picnic in the afternoon for all villagers. We could have games scattered around the site for everyone to play, eg. Splat the Rat, Skittles, 'seaside type' photo set, Table Tennis, Soft Ball Tennis, Boules, Table Top Skittles, 'low level' children's assault course and more.

There could also be A Children's 'Jubilee' Painting Competition, a Cake Competition & Music.
NB: All actual activities to be confirmed, all very much depending on your response.
Celebrations may continue into the evening and are still to be confirmed.

NOTE: All children under the age of 13 to be accompanied by a responsible adult and supervised throughout.

The Event will be run in line with relevant COVID-19 rules as at 5th June, 2022.

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT
This is **YOUR** celebration. Please let us know what you would like to see included for **ALL AGES**.
All suggestions will be put forward for consideration.
We can't guarantee to accommodate everything but will certainly do our best!
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INITIAL IDEAS BY MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY - Further suggestions welcome later.
By email: blm48@live.co.uk or pop into 'Holmwood' letterbox (plastic box left of doors).

St John Village Hall

'Early' EASTER LUNCH

(DELAYED NEW YEAR LUNCH)

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH

12.30 for 1 pm

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

£12.50 pp



Please note

We will be taking the
opportunity to collect your
St John Village Trust
Annual Upkeep and
Maintenance Subscription
£5 a head + £10 Snooker

Tickets for this event will be available from

Janet Mitchell 01752 829225 at the end of February

It is essential to book in order that we know numbers for catering

Dreckly - Roast Dinner Evening
Friday 4th February 6pm
£12.50 pp
Menu
Main Course
Roast Turkey, Roast Pork,
Beef Bourguignon
All served with roast potatoes and vegetables
Dessert
Lemon and white chocolate cheesecake with a fruit coulis



Table bookings 6
To be booked and paid by 1st February
Limited tickets of 36
Phone: Janet Mitchell 01752 829225

St John Village

BOULE SUNDAY

20th February 11am - 1pm



The usual refreshments will be available

Members £1 - Non-Members £2

EVERYONE WELCOME !
Do bring along friends, Mums, Dads, Aunties, Uncles and come to watch or just meet up and have a chat - even join in a friendly game of boules.

Please Note:
There is a Spring Concert in the hall starting at 2pm - so we hope, very much, you will be able to support this event.
(Proceeds from this event will be shared between the church and the village hall)

More details available from
Sue Huke 01752 822742 / Janet Mitchell 01752 829225

St John Village Hall

SPRING CONCERT

 **PLYMOUTH YOUTH CONCERT BAND** 

ON
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
20th February 2pm til 4pm
Refreshments will be served in the interval

Pay on the door £5 pp

Proceeds to be shared between
ST JOHNS CHURCH AND THE VILLAGE HALL



St. John Walkers



A memorable walk to start the year !

The drizzle and mist cleared as 11 of us arrived at Cotehele Quay to walk to Calstock and back.

The stroll through the woods and lanes was enjoyable as we caught up with news of each other's festive season, new grandchild etc.

At Calstock we watched as two locals clambered into a small inflatable, pushed off vigorously and then realised they had no key to the outboard or any paddles!

A good deal of frantic hand paddling followed, they arrived back to shore and found the key was not in the bag on land....Del hunting through it....but had come off the key ring and was in the bottom of his pocket after all....good deal of leg pulling followed.

We paused at the pottery shack on our return trip and various purchases were made.



As we arrived back at the quay we discovered that the last two shoppers had lingered too long and were missing having taken the wrong turning. A hero of a husband (no names) retraced his steps, eventually all met up and they rejoined us by 1.30pm.

Unfortunately our intrepid motor cyclist and passenger had left their crash helmets in the missing persons car for safe keeping and were delayed getting to the nearest pub.

Luckily the sun appeared, pasties were purchased and picnics eaten on seats by the river amongst much merriment. The tide was in, the birds sang and all was well. Thanks to everyone who came, lots of laughter and fun.

Sue

The Feb. walk on Tues. 8th will be led by Brian Bird.



Hello, my school (Stoke Dameral Community College) is collecting recycled materials.

Any donations can be dropped off to me at Magnolia Villa, by 25th February

Many thanks
Charmaine.



Recycle & Raise

Recycle your plastic containers
Raise money for charity

We can recycle:
Confectionery tubs
Ice cream tubs
Cracker tubs
Milk bottle tops
Takeaway containers

Must be clean,
5/PP grade plastic
Look for this logo!

Find your local drop-off point:
<https://bit.ly/recycleraise>

Drop off by
28th
February!

Proudly supporting **Dartmoor Zoo** & **Mind** for better mental health
Visit dcw.co.uk or email emily@dcw.co.uk for more information
Dartmoor Zoo registered charity number 1158422 Mind registered charity number 219830

St. John Church 100 Club



The January winners are :-

Judith Greenhalgh.....£20

Ruth Clarke£5

Colin & Liz Chambers£5

The numbers were drawn by members of Sunday's congregation.

Ray





Snooker

The Xmas doubles Pool final was finally concluded this last month. Howard & I played Pete & Brian in the final. Pete & Brian were the better players on the night and won 11-8. So they are the 2021 champions!!



There was also the playoff for third place between Chris Trevitt & John Tanner playing Bob & Andy. Chris & John were the more consistent and came out winning 11-5. So, bronze medal for them!



So that brings to an end what has been a most difficult tournament because of Covid. Initially with diminished numbers entering and then the closing of the Hall, causing a pause of a few weeks - but with perseverance and a positive attitude we finally got to the end.

Thank you and well done to all who took part. Also a big thank you to the Village Hall for, once again, sponsoring the prizes.

Lets hope for a more 'normal' year than last year!

Dave.

LADDER



Chris Trevitt
David Greenhalgh
Steve Wick
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

Highest Break

Pete Debono	17
David Greenhalgh	16

Subscriptions are due ! £15
(being recreation hall £5 + £10 snooker)



St John Village Hall
DARTS NIGHT
Thursdays 7pm

£1 member £2 Non-members

Do come and join us for a friendly couple of hours of very 'hit & miss darts'!

For more information
01752 829113

Saturday Coffee Morning

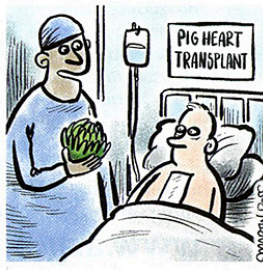
Due to unforeseen circumstances there won't be a Saturday coffee morning in February.

The next one will be **Saturday 12th March at 10.30.**

Hopefully, they will then be regular on the second Saturday of the month.

.....and there will be Cake!!

Janet



"We're working on a vegan option"

and finally.....

I'm really glad I learned about parallelograms instead of how to do taxes...
It's so useful in this parallelogram season!!!