

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

March 2022 (Crocus & Daffodil edition)



Editorial

Hello.

I was looking back at my editorial from last March and how 'upbeat' we were about the success of the vaccines and looking forward to warmer, lighter days etc. Alas, this year we still have outbreaks of Omicron (although not seen as quite so severe), an increasing hike in energy prices, stormy weather and a general sense of gloom due to Putin and his invasion of Ukraine...

However, we start off below, with the intrepid walkers plus dogs.

Page 2 has Chairman Bob's report, the church's 100 club winners and a reminder that the 'Xmas grid', that was interrupted by the lockdown, will be given new life! Page 3 is Kath's report on frogs, deer and spuds in a bucket as well as the Platinum Jubilee plans, while page 4 features a notice board of events this month, plus a date for your diary.

Page 5 is an appeal by Caroline Thompson of Children's Hospice South West - the Newsletter's

charity that we support from time to time - who are hoping you will open your gardens as part of their fundraising efforts. I am sure that some of you will enjoy showing your gardens and help raise money for this worthy cause at the same time. Page 6, a late entry from Kingsand Film club (!), features Jacques- Yves Cousteau, the under water pioneer we all remember so well for giving us our first glimpse of underwater life on TV and on page 7 we have Alison's poet's corner and the latest changes to the snooker ladder and highest breaks.

I sent out the call for copy during the power cut that affected some of the village last week. As we had no power I had to use my mobile phone which seems to have caused some reply emails to be undelivered or 'go astray'. So, if your article doesn't feature, that may well be the reason...

Best wishes,
Dave.

St. John Walkers

Ten doughty walkers set off from Maker Church in warm but overcast conditions, making their way down past Picklecombe Fort and via the coastal path into the country park. In deference to Covid restrictions lunch was shelved in favour of coffee in the open quad by Farriers Cafe. The circle was completed through the fields and back to the cars.

A short local walk but the rain kept off, we had four happy dogs and, unusually, nobody was lost



Next walk is scheduled for March 8th, with Sue H and Linda in command.
If you fancy joining in, we generally meet at the Village Hall 9.30 or
have a word with Sue Richards for details: 823253

Brian.



Another 'Up and Down' Month

Just when we thought it was all over and had enjoyed a brilliant "Soup and Pudding" Saturday, rather like old times; a second burst of Covid has swept through the village and caught several of us unawares. This meant Boules for February and the re-scheduled Band Concert were once again postponed as well as the normal Events Committee Meeting that would have taken place. It seems that most of those afflicted are now out of isolation and well on the way to a full recovery. Best wishes to all for a happier, healthier Spring. Our 'Spring-Fest', the pre-Easter Buffet, ('Gool Gwenton' in Cornish, which sounds rather sinister, perhaps Gool Sen Jowan would be better!) will take place on Saturday the 19th March.

The Hall will be open from 12-30 for lunch at 1300 hrs, tickets on sale from Janet Mitchell from the start of March. I will be seeking flan and pudding volunteers to try and match the best efforts of the earlier and very successful Church soup and pud' event.

The Hall is now operating as normal again and although the old legal restrictions on Indoor and Outdoor meetings will no longer apply, we do expect that anyone with Covid or suspected Covid symptoms will still respect the health and safety of others by avoiding coming to Hall events and mingling, until they know they are not infectious (tests are still available). I can now personally testify to just how unpleasant the 'bug' is and how stressful quarantine can be even when you are with the right person!

Reminder:

The Home page of St John in Cornwall parish council website has a Calendar/Diary and the most up-to-date information on all regular Hall Events and Bookings, as well as our Facebook link. It also has its own section dedicated to regular User Groups and the facilities available.

The Hall is now fully available for future bookings by anyone considering a venue for a private function or public event.

Contact Emma Tanner:

emmatanner02@gmail.com for advice on Hiring)

I hope to see you all at the pre-Easter Buffet, meanwhile keep as safe as you dare but no safer! Or, for those with enough Cornish to correct me, a piece of local Cornish advice:

"Gwith vy saw bys gwenton!" "Keep me safe 'til Springtime!"

Bob Keys.

St John Church

The 100 club winners for Feb were :-

Mike & Viv Waldock£20

Janet Mitchell£5

Megan Keys£5

The numbers were chosen by members of Wednesday's coffee morning.

The Church wishes to thank everyone who supported our Soup & Pud lunch we made £427 for the church funds.

Regards,
Ray.



Lucky Grid

£1 a square

Just to say we have *not* forgotten the Lucky Grid (especially for those 14 who have already bought squares). It will soon reappear for coffee mornings and hopefully be drawn at the 'Early' Easter Lunch on Saturday 19th March



Every year I get reports of local frogspawn, a day after the newsletter deadline. Perhaps the laying dates don't vary according to recent warm rain, as some believe, or global warming, after all. Let me know if you have observed differently.

Oh deer.

These endearing animals are causing trouble in the village at the moment, enjoying breaking buds, leaves or stripping bark. They have attacked my camellias and defoliated my young conifers in recent days. I have hung nets of human hair on my fruit trees but they have afforded little protection. Any other ideas for deterring them, gratefully received. We have so much netting around now.

Females of the common frog lays approximately 2,000 eggs in a "raft" count the number of rafts and you have some idea of your female frog population. Approximately 10 out of every raft make it to adulthood.



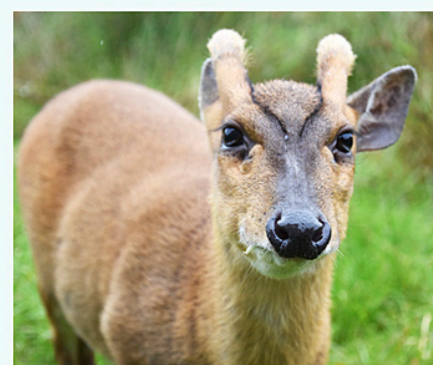
Fallow deer



Roe deer

We have several species of deer in East Cornwall, about 500 Red deer, the native Roe deer with small antlers and Fallow deer, escapees from Mount Edgecumbe deer park. Plus, rare records of the fox-sized Muntjac (including one caught on our webcam in the wood).

Sadly, one deer was recently spotted dead near the ford but I wasn't able to find out what species.



Muntjac deer

Growing Matters.

The "Spuds in a bucket" challenge has commenced, with the Duke of York being more popular than anticipated. New stocks of the seed potato are available at the village hall. You need to start **chitting** during March.

The **plant share** greenhouse will be returning to the village hall, so please pass on excess seedlings or spare plants. You might find something there you haven't grown before!

The Platinum Jubilee chest of Local Gems.

To celebrate this special year, please share, in the newsletter, your knowledge of the parish or interesting facts regarding your property (origin of house name or previous land use or past occupants) for those of us new to the area or to remind us of the interesting facts we have forgotten. Perhaps between us we can aim to collect 70 over the year.

To start us off 3 from our well-loved, local gem, Bob Keys.

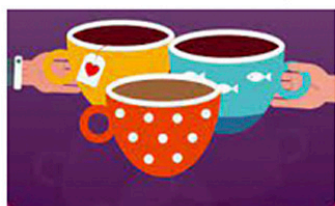
Did you know that the Iron Age fort at Vanderbands was used as a 'camping site' by visiting Scandinavian Hikers in the 10th century? Legend has it that St John in Newfoundland was named after St John in Cornwall after the Cabot brothers from Bristol (1497) anchored in St John creek to recruit some local sailors/fishermen, who had sailed to the island before. There was once a Windmill upon St John's Down where the present solar farm was built!

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 12th March 10.30am.

This is a new monthly coffee morning and it will take place on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

We hope this will be more convenient for those of you who work and can't attend on Wednesday mornings.



There may even be cake!

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

It is essential to book by 7th March in order that we know numbers for catering

St John Village

BOULE SUNDAY

20th March 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.

More details available from

Sue Huke 01752 822742

or

Janet Mitchell 01752 829225

ST JOHN VILLAGE HALL

A welcome return to

MARK BARNWELL

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



30th April 7.30 for 8pm

Mark will be playing an eclectic mix of contemporary, jazz/latin, world fusion and Spanish guitar pieces.

More details to follow end of March

Could your garden grow great donations?

Did your garden become your sanctuary during the pandemic? Did you spend many hours pruning and potting during lockdowns? If so, Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) is looking for people to open their gardens this year to help raise funds to run its local children's hospice; Little Harbour in St Austell.

Little Harbour costs more than £3 million a year to run and supports over 140 children and families from across Cornwall and Plymouth. The majority of these funds are raised through voluntary donations by the local community.

Whether it's an all-day event open to the public or simply an afternoon with friends and family, the opportunity to show off the hard work you have put into your garden while also raising vital funds for CHSW is open to all.

Bernadette Chambers, Area Fundraiser for CHSW said; "Gardening became incredibly popular during the pandemic as people spent more time than ever at home and their gardens became a labour of love. If you would be interested in opening your garden to celebrate your hard work and help raise funds then get in touch. Whatever time of year your garden will be looking its best we would be more than happy to support you with opening it as a fundraiser."

The gardens at Little Harbour children's hospice are always a firm favourite for the children and families visiting. With plenty of space to run around and let off steam or ride bikes, accessible play equipment that children can enjoy with their siblings, sensory gardens to explore and quiet corners for storytelling or bird watching, the hospice gardens have something for all members of the family to enjoy together.

If you think you could help by opening your garden to visitors and asking for a donation to enter, or by raising funds with refreshments, simply get in touch with Bernadette Chambers by calling 01726 871800 or emailing bernadette.chambers@chsw.org.uk who will be able to support you.

You will be raising vital funds needed to provide care to local children and families that are supported by Little Harbour.

For more information visit
www.chsw.org.uk/open-gardens

Caroline Thompson (Née Swain)
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Little Harbour, Porthpean Road, Porthpean, St Austell | PL26 6AZ
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email: caroline.swain@chsw.org.uk



"FILM FANS"



SCREENING AT
**THE COMMUNITY HALL
KINGSAND**



BECOMING COUSTEAU

Film Club Monday March 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

BAFTA FILM AWARDS 2 wins and 10 nominations

Adventurer, filmmaker, inventor, author, unlikely celebrity, and conservationist: For over four decades, Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his explorations under the ocean became synonymous with a love of science and the natural world. As he learned to protect the environment, he brought the whole world with him, sounding alarms more than 50 years ago about the warming seas and our planet's vulnerability. In BECOMING COUSTEAU, from National Geographic Documentary Films, two-time Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker LIZ GARBUS takes an inside look at Cousteau and his life, his iconic films and inventions, and the experiences that made him the 20th century's most unique and renowned environmental voice -- and the man who inspired generations to protect the Earth.

Quote "The film plays like a message for the present and the future more than a story about the past."



A Date with Spring

Got a date with Spring
Got to look me best.
Of all the trees
I'll be the smartest dressed.

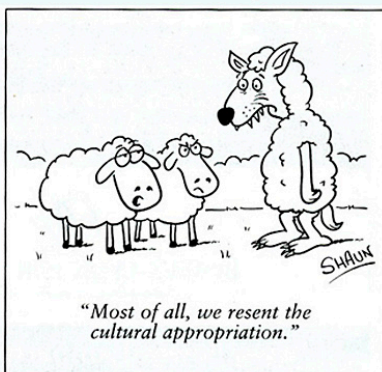
Perfumed breeze
behind me ear.
Pollen accessories
all in place.
Raindrop moisturiser
for me face.
Sunlight tints
to spuce up the hair.

What's the good of being a tree
if you can't flaunt your beauty?

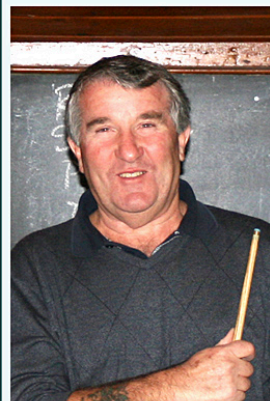
Winter, I was naked.
Exposed as can be.
Me wardrobe took off
with the wind.
Life was a frosty slumber.
Now, Spring, here I come.

Can't wait to slip in
to me little green number.

John Agard.



Ladder



Pete Debono
David Greenhalgh
Steve Wick
Chris Trevitt
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

David Greenhalgh	19
Pete Debono	17
Chris Trevitt	17



and finally.....

I saw a dyslexic Yorkshire man the other day - He was wearing a cat flap...