

# St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

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

May 2022 ( Bluebell Edition )



## Editorial

Hello again.

Well, the bluebells are out and the days are getting warmer but, sadly, the war in the Ukraine is casting gloom over all our moods.

This month's Newsletter is nine pages long... starting below with Viv's walkers report. Page two is the chairman's report on far ranging topics - fund-raising, entertainment, the upcoming AGM and much more. Also, a boule reminder and the 100 club winners.

On page three Richard remembers a dear friend and neighbour, in a moving and sensitive tribute to Dave Stevens, who has sadly died.

On page four we have Kath's wildlife watch which this month features ducks, butterflies, spiders and an excuse not to mow your lawn (!) while page five has the church's publication page, providing awareness of church and village hall AGMs etc.

Page six features Caroline Thompson's Children's Hospice and how they are planning to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee – contains all the information you need – and page seven has a report from Sue Huke on the entertaining musical evening of guitarist Mark Barnwell.

The penultimate page contains a detailed account of the Village Hall plans for the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and the back page has notices, sales, reminders, 'thank yous' and, of course, the vital information on snooker changes over the past month...

Finally, the winner of last month's 'spot the deliberate mistake in the newsletter', was won by Sam of Southampton – it wasn't a Daffodil, they were both Tulips!!!

So, until next time, let's hope for an enjoyable and spring-like May and a move towards a peaceful resolution in Ukraine.

Best wishes to you all

Dave.

## St John Walkers



For the April walk a small group of walkers plus dogs set off on a circular route around St. Neot. The walk passed through quiet lanes and foot paths to the open moorland of Berry Downs with extensive views across the countryside.

Then back to The London Inn for lunch. Interestingly the London Inn was the stopping place for travellers on route to London from Bodmin.

Viv.

The next Village walk will be on Tuesday 10th May and will be led by Richard and Alison, unknown destination at the moment. Details nearer the time. Meet as usual outside the Village Hall at 9.30 am. Everyone welcome. - Sue.





## Village Hall - Chairman's Report

The Easter Family Funday and Charity appeal, organised by Carol, Mary and Bet proved a great success with Hall and Field full to bursting. It was good to see so many old friends and faces, often with 'new faces', as the grandchildren joined in the games. Many thanks to those who 'manned' and 'womanned' the cake stalls etc, and especially my assistant tea-lady. All in all, the impressive sum of £674.55p has been sent off to the Ukraine: Disasters Emergency Committee, with the "Sealed Bids" for a weekend in a Shepherd's Hut, kindly donated by Mount Edgcumbe still open until the end of May. (Contact Mary Rogers, Gooseford House, St John)

A great night of Music on 30th April, courtesy of Mark Barnwell, with Spanish paella, courtesy of Julie Ellworthy, enjoyed by all those able to attend. We look forward to the postponed Band Concert, led by Barry Mills, still to come. Check the Calendar of Events in the St John in Cornwall Parish website for the latest information. Please check also to make sure you do not accidentally 'unintentionally interrupt' someone else's Private Hire Event, as we have had a couple of complaints recently, which makes the hard work of our Hiring & Booking Secretary unnecessarily difficult!

On a lighter Note!



Looking forward we have The Queen's Jubilee Picnic on Sunday 5th June, which should be a great family day out. Fun, games, musical entertainment, and a BBQ to finish off. Even a spot the Corgi Hunt perhaps! See the forthcoming Adverts!

### Most Important

**The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening: Monday 23rd May, 7pm.  
All welcome!**

We are returning to the Pre-Covid format of informal Wine and Nibbles and combining this with a meeting including general information about matters concerning the Village, the Parish and its Church in the coming year.

Everyone welcome! Villagers and residents old and new are encouraged to come along and get to know each other. We are of course hoping to pick up new members and people with new ideas about the future of the Hall now that it has been refurbished.

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](mailto:emmatanner02@gmail.com) for advice on Hiring)

Bob.

### Boule Reminder



The next Boule will be on Sunday 15th May  
Everyone welcome for a chat, coffee and  
a social game of boule.

Contact Sue Huke 0175 822742  
for more information



### St John Church -

100 club winners for April.

Charmaine Ferguson .....£20

David Eva .....£5

Robert Lucken .....£5

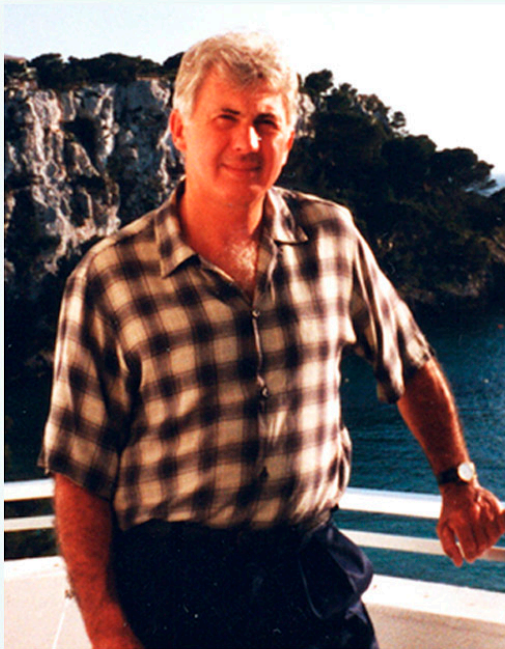
Ray.



## Our friend David Stevens

On the evening of the 13th March 1995 there was a private party being held in our Village Hall; the guests had all arrived and were enjoying themselves when shortly before 8pm the power went off – it must have been a fuse that had blown. Also on that same day it was Dave's 50th birthday and Lynne and her family had arranged to take him out for a meal, so just as the taxi had arrived, what they didn't want was the call for help at the hall. Dressed up in his best clothes, Dave put his tools in the taxi as they left home and they stopped off at the hall – he'd see what he could do before going on to his own party. The hall was pitch black as Ray stood at the gate and led Dave in; there was total hush as he turned to go to the fuses; at that same moment, all the lights came on and there was a resounding "HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVE" from all.

Yes, Lynne had tricked Dave to a surprise party with all his friends and family. He was speechless - Dave was not one for making himself the centre of attention – mind you he certainly showed off his dancing talents later on!



Mum and dad, Doris and Reg were living in Rectory Cottage, Jacks lane when Dave was born and together with his two sisters and brother Mike, they were all brought up in St John. After he married Lynne and living for a while in Torpoint, they were lucky enough to be able to build their own house in the village. Many of us have looked on in envy at the wonderful vegetable allotment at "The Saltings" and seen him digging over the soil with love and contentment. A quiet man, he never sought glory and praise and was always ready to help anyone when asked. Happy to give his time voluntarily, he was a Trustee of our Village Hall for more than 30 years and also served on the Parish Council. He kept our Hall and our Church going for decades right up to his retirement as an electrician. But it wasn't just here, I recall in the 70's and 80's that he would regularly check out and service the Torpoint Christmas lights and help the volunteers put them up across Fore Street.

Some might say that he really wanted to be a farmer and enjoyed helping the Turners and Lakemans with the harvests and driving his own tractor on his fields up Jacks lane; just a few months ago he was out with the flail fitted and cutting along the hedges of his garden. Back in the days when health and safety wasn't such an issue, he used to bring the tractor and trailer around the village for us to load and then transport up to the Hall field for the village bonfire.

Last year in lockdown, despite his own illness, Dave hadn't seen us about and rang to check we were OK; that is who Dave Stevens was. He did love a chat and I for one will miss those moments when we could put the world to rights. To have lived in the village that you were born in for your lifetime is a rare thing in these modern times. He was a gentle and kind man, friend to many – our thoughts go to Lynne, Ian, Aimi, Dan, Sophie and all of Dave's wider family.



*Richard Dolton.*





As summer migrants start to arrive in St John and nest building is underway for many species, it is the breeding success of our local Mallards that has been the most notable in the last month. There have been several reports of ducklings in garden ponds and streams including our own. And squadrons of Mallards flying past regularly to enjoy Lynne's snack bar.

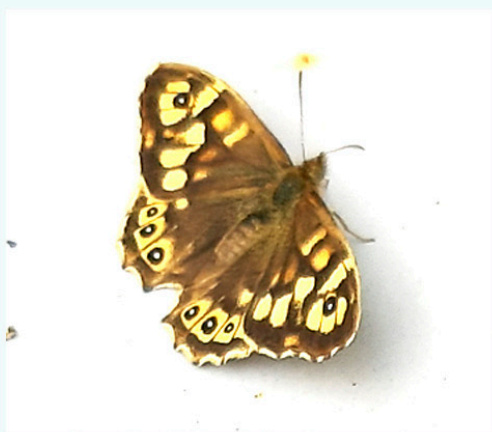


*Mallard ducks. ( photos - Lynne Betts)*



Ducklings leave the nest once their feathers are dry and are led by their mothers, to water, where they are immediately able to feed themselves on plant material, invertebrates and tadpoles. Our drake seems to rarely take on babysitting duties and whilst he was away the female was harassed by passing males and had to leave her ducklings to ward off unwelcome advances. We anxiously watched the drama when she returned, searching for her brood, quacking frantically. (It is only the female that has a loud quack).

**No mow May** It is time to give your grass cutter a rest and let your lawn bloom, it can increase available food for 10 times the number of invertebrates. There have been reports recently that the number of insect species have declined by over 40% and as insects can be vital as pollinators, they are also important food sources and likely to be the main protein in our own diets in the future. We need to Get Cornwall buzzing by encouraging wildflowers.



*Speckled Wood (early arrival)*



*Spectacular spider hatch-lings (bumper year for them!)*

**Spuds in a bucket.** Hope your plants are doing well, mine were caught by an unexpected frost but have since rallied. There have been some impressive specimens spotted in greenhouses, however. Anyone discovered Paddy's secret formula of success?

Don't forget to pass on spare seedlings/cuttings.

The **Swap Greenhouse** at the village hall has spaces on its shelves.

*Kath.*



**Monday**  
**23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**May**  
**2022**  
**7pm**

# **An Awareness Evening**

## **What is happening in St John**

### **St John Church**

The latest updates on the proposals

Many may have heard the rumours that the local Churches are the subject to significant reviews on viability and sustainability.

To bring you all up to date there will be an AWARENESS PRESENTATION by our Churchwardens at the Village Hall on MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7:00 pm. Do come along and find out what the plans are and give your ideas as to how we can keep our Church the heart of the village.



## **Village Hall Social Evening**

### **Followed by the AGM**

Come along on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7pm to the Village Hall and see the new layout and bring friends or new neighbours to meet and chat and catch up on old times!

The evening is intended to be informal for the first part and we would like ideas and feedback on what the Hall committees are doing whether its right or wrong!

There'll be some wine and snacks and so instead of watching *The One Show* or *Corrie* please come along and say hello even if you don't want to stay for the more formal bits later – and don't worry – just because you make some suggestions, you won't be forced to join committees (*although we would love to see some new volunteers!*)



### Raise a scone for Her Majesty at children's hospice cream tea

People are being invited to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee by tucking into a cream tea in aid of their local children's hospice.

The nation will come together over the weekend June 2-5 and Children's' Hospice South West (CHSW) is asking supporters to raise a scone in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's honour by taking part in the charity's Big South West Cream Tea.

CHSW Area Fundraiser Bernadette Chambers said: "Whether it's a garden get-together with friends and family, a picnic in the park or a street party with neighbours, why not share a delicious cream tea together and help raise some money to provide vital care for local families, one scone at a time!

"And if you've already got plans for the long jubilee weekend, you can still take part in The Big South West Cream Tea any time that suits you. You could even hold your cream tea on National Cream Tea Day itself, on June 24!

"Just visit our website and register your event to get your free fundraising pack with everything you need to get started. You'll find invites, sponsor forms, bunting, a scone recipe and thank-you cards. There are even some '#JamFirst' and '#CreamFirst' signs that you can use depending on how you prefer your cream tea!"

CHSW, which runs three children's hospices across the South West, including Little Harbour in St Austell has also partnered up with a host of local businesses that can deliver a cream tea straight to your front door, with a donation going to the charity.

"Just grab some scones, a spoonful of jam and a dollop of clotted cream and join the party," added Bernadette.

"You'll find all the information on our website, and every penny you're able to raise will make a real difference to children with life-limiting conditions and their families."

To register your cream tea event and for more information, visit **[www.chsw.org.uk/creamtea](http://www.chsw.org.uk/creamtea)**



Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West  
Registered Charity No. 1003314



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## An evening with Mark Barnwell - Guitarist



On Saturday 30th April approximately 40 people thoroughly enjoyed a great evening of guitar music, Mark played everything ..... gypsy jazz, a piece by Rodrigo, Santana, Sting and the Beatles - a wonderful variety of music to suit everyone!

Due to popular demand we hope Mark will come back for an evening at the end of the year.

We were also served with a delicious Paella Supper, cooked by Julie Elworthy.

Sincere thanks to those who helped.



S.H.



# ST JOHN VILLAGE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Sunday 5th June, 14:00 – 18:30 Hrs

The free St John Platinum Jubilee Celebration which is taking place within the grounds of the Village Hall is just 5 weeks away so start planning your picnic. We'll be kicking off the Event at about 14:00 hrs with a Pimm's Toast or a soft drink.

Last month we were CALLING ALL 'KNITTERS'! and I'm delighted to report that we've had a good response to our request, with quite a few knitters working hard on their Corgis, with some on their 3rd or 4th – thank you and please keep up the good work, we're aiming to have one Corgi per child for the 'Corgi Hunt'. If there's anyone else out there who would like the pattern please contact Liz:- [lizandderek1964@gmail.com](mailto:lizandderek1964@gmail.com), 07745 625774.

This month we're 'CALLING ALL BAKERS' for 'The Great Bake Off' Victoria Sponge Competition (ladies, men, and children). Also, we're looking for volunteers to bake scones which we plan on making available with jam and cream in small boxes for anyone who would like one on the 5th June.

Free activities for all ages, including, Skittles, Table Tennis, Low level children's assault course, Quoits, Badminton – if not too windy, Flying Rat, Giant Jenga, a Victoria Sponge Competition: 3 categories: ladies, men and children, a children's 'Hunt the Corgi', 'Kids Corner' for crafts, eg. painting, making crowns, etc., Bar Billiards, Bin Challenge, Horseshoe 'Hoop-La' – Adults only for safety!

We are planning to give each St John Village resident child, 16 yrs and under, a Commemorative Coin as a memento of the Event, although we are experiencing a slight problem with sourcing them due to numbers available being restricted. Hopefully we'll be in a position to distribute them to the village children a couple of days before the Event.

As previously mentioned, we would like everyone with Coronation/Jubilee memorabilia, or anything else relating to The Queen, to display it in the lockable cabinet in the Village Hall Annexe. General pictures of The Queen could possibly be displayed on the walls, subject to space. Please bring your items to the hall on any Wednesday Coffee Morning before the event from 10:30-12:00 hrs, or Saturday Coffee Morning 14th May from 10:30-12:00 noon, when I will be there. If you're unable to get to the hall please contact me: [blm48@live.co.uk](mailto:blm48@live.co.uk) for alternative

On a similar note of display: Our Queen: Her Jubilee. For 'Kids' of all Ages:-

Your chance to Paint, Draw, Crayon, Collage or make up a picture of the Queen, or an object that you think means something to her, on the Celebration of her Special Jubilee. You can bring it with you to the Picnic and it will be displayed in the Village Hall alongside those of other village children on the day. As big or as small as you please (as long as you can bring it with you without breaking it!). Family or group "constructions" welcome! It is NOT a competition! Just a chance to show what the Queen means to you on the day.

Kath Overton will be running the great 'unearthing' of the Spud in a Bucket competition during the afternoon, so get nurturing your potatoes.

We will have an Ice Cream van also offering coffee – both available to purchase. John and Lynne Betts will be providing barbecued burgers and hot dogs for those of you who may need a 'top up' after your picnic, also available to from about 16:00 hrs.

Morris Dancers 'Catseyes' will be performing during the afternoon, and music will be provided by 'Mods Unplugged' – we're assured music for all!

We're hoping everyone will enter into the spirit of the event and decorate the front of your homes, and please let me know if you'd like to help with the decorating of the village – bunting, decorating telegraph poles, etc. [blm48@live.co.uk](mailto:blm48@live.co.uk).

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Jubilee Celebration!

Beryllyn



# Notices

## Subscriptions

St John Village Trust Annual upkeep and maintenance subs are now overdue for those of you who have not paid, please can you drop into Magnolia Villa or pass to a member of the committee, who will forward on to me. £5.00 a head and £10.00 for snooker.

Many thanks. Charmaine



## For Sale



Staedtler A3 drawing board in good, usable condition, useful for sketching, drawing, artists, students, draughtsmen (persons) and photographers. Over £60 new - £5

Parallel motion A3 drawing board, adjustable frame. Handy as above, again over sixty pounds to buy new - £5

Pair of rollers, movers for heavy items fridges etc. As new. -£5  
Proceeds to Ukraine appeal. Call Mary on 822890

Brian.



## Thank you.

Lynne and family would like to thank everyone who has sent cards, flowers and messages of sympathy following the death of her beloved Dave.



# Snooker



## LADDER



## Highest Break

David Greenhalgh	30
Steve Wick	25
Pete Debono	22
Chris Trevitt	22
Richard Dolton	18

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

## Saturday Coffee Morning.

The next monthly coffee morning will be at 10.30 on Saturday 14th May. It will probably be the last one for a while as it hasn't attracted those otherwise engaged on a weekday morning. Thank you to all who have attended - and enjoyed the cakes!

Janet.



## and finally.....

A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank.  
The rabbit says, " I think I might be a type O "