

St. John Newsletter

A Publication of the St. John Village Trust

Village Website - www.stjohnincornwall.org.uk

December 2022

Editorial

Hello and Seasons' Greetings to you all.

Below, Del and the parish council are planning to put up Xmas lights around the church, while trying not to miss some football matches that are, apparently, going on at the moment! Good luck with that Del...

(I have included a pic from last year just for comparison - hope it helps!)

On page two we have Bob's comprehensive round up of everything that is going on at the moment while page three documents last month's walk, expertly led by Yvonne, as well as plans from Sue for December's walk celebrating 21 years of St John walkers' walks. Page four is the notice board of up coming events and on page five we have the regular 'Wildlife Watch',

which features another brilliant photo of a fox (from Lynne Betts), amazing fungus, lichens and red ivy berries that look as festive as holly berries? Page six's main feature is the return of the short mat bowls to Tuesday evenings but there is also info on the xmas 'Wine & Dine', the New Year lunch, the 100 club winners and an important Boule notice. Page seven this month has a contribution from Alison to Poetry Corner, yet more changes at the top of the snooker ladder, and, as usual, a few odds & ends to try and leave you with a bit of a smile to face the end of what turned out to be a difficult year! Lets hope 2023 is an improvement.

Best wishes and "Merry Christmas"...

Dave.



Parish Council

All is quiet in the Parish before Christmas, nothing stirred.... not even a mouse. We will be putting up the Christmas tree in the Memorial Garden and decorating it with lights on 10th December, including lighting of the church tower which was much appreciated last year. We will be switching on the lights at about 7 pm, please come and join us at the Church porch just before, for a warming mulled wine, and witness the amazing transformation of our totally dark village and church into a beautiful and cheerful sight...even the mice will stir! After the switch on those with tickets (via Janet 829225) can make their way up to the Christmas Wine Evening.

Del.



Xmas 2021 lights





Looking forward to Christmas.

The final pre-Christmas Local History Talk on Celtic Christianity: St Germanus and old Lanelled took place on 28th November, with mince pies and mulled wine for the finale, (Sessions to re-start after Christmas on the last Monday of each month, see <stjohnincornwall.org.uk> for latest information) Coffee mornings on Wednesdays and Dreckly Club on Fridays continue as usual at times advertised on the web site. Other regular user groups are now back to normal: Singing led by Janet Mitchell on Monday mornings continues as before, Boule led by Sue Huke takes its winter break and will re-start in the New Year, Short Mat Bowls (the indoor kind) has been revived very successfully by Richard Dolton and now will restart on Tuesday 3rd January. New Bowlers will be made particularly welcome. You don't need to have your own set of Bowls to play, just flexible joints (BUT: Not of the Hippy-Hippy kind!) Darts Club is the only former activity still in abeyance post-Covid. For younger, fitter folk the Hall still has a fine Table Tennis Table, if any adult wants to take the lead in organising occasional matches. While the former Bridge/Whist user groups could also be revived, given the 'much improved' heating and Acoustic situation in the Annexe.

New User Group/Booking for Tuesdays, 1500hrs

We have one new user group:

The Tai Chi- (errs?), which started on Tuesday afternoons, after some 'taster' sessions, at 3-30pm. This has already attracted enthusiastic support, it's suitable for all ages, so don't miss out. Further information on the programme will be available on the Village Hall site and from Berylyn Mann, who has taken the lead on organising this.

Many thanks to Berylyn!

Forthcoming Events

A Soup and Pudding Lunch, organised by the Church, will take place on Saturday 3rd December from 12 Noon onwards, "Early Birds" get to choose from the 'Full Soup Experience, and the delicious desserts.

The Village Hall's own 'Christmas Wine Evening' follows on Saturday 10th December at 7-30pm. Tickets still available from Janet Mitchell.

Early in the New Year we have an evening's musical entertainment from Gordon Carter Saxophonist on the evening of Saturday 28th January at 7-30pm. Tickets will be available from Janet Mitchell.

Additional News !

We now have Two Defibrilators in the Village. A new one at the Pub, thanks to Jill and Rob and all the 'regulars' who subscribed, while the former machine is now attached to the Village Hall by the Main Doorway, thanks to Christian and Tony.

New Activities/Users

Do you have an idea for a new Activity? The Chairman and Trustees are Happy to consider almost anything! Let us know in person or by e-mail; contact as below.

The Home page of St John in Cornwall parish council website has a Calendar & Diary for the most up-to-date information on all regular Hall Events and Bookings, as well as details on our Facebook link. The Hall is also fully available for private bookings by anyone considering a venue for a private function or public event.

Contact Emma Tanner:
emmatanner02@gmail.com for information on Hiring.

Bob.

St. John Walkers

The November village walk was through the Victorian industrial heritage site of Luxulyan Valley. There were 10 walkers and the path took us up through steep-sided woodland to the Treffrey Viaduct. We then followed the track bed of the horse-drawn tramway to the wheel pit where a 30ft waterwheel once hauled wagons up the inclined plane. The path then followed a leat and took us further up the steep sided valley to a view point where we could see Gribben Head in the distance. We were extremely lucky with the weather that day as the predicted wind and rain would have ruined any such view. We then followed a steep zig zag path, passing a mine shaft, to a bridge going over the inclined plane.

Turning left we joined the inclined plane and walked down to the path before turning sharp right to follow the River Par. We continued following the river until we reached the Trevanny Dry where the mined clay slurry was pumped and spread out to dry over a coal fired drying floor. After passing under the viaduct we returned to the start of the walk. I think the group were interested in researching more into the history of the area and talked of doing the walk again at different times of the year.

Lunch was at the Kings Arms, Luxulyan and the pub did very well to feed 17 of us. We'd all worked up quite an appetite.

Yvonne Douglass



Hi Everyone,

We look forward to leading you on a walk in the Meavy/Sheepstor area on Tuesday 13th December, leaving St John Village Hall at 9.30am and catching the 9.45am ferry. The walk will be approximately 4 miles with beautiful views, some uneven moorland paths and a few stiles, really lovely part of Dartmoor.

Lunch will be at The Royal Oak pub in Meavy. They have asked us to preorder our meal and pay a £5.00 deposit each. I am quite happy to do the latter for everybody but could you please all go on lineroyaloakinn.org.uk.....and let me know your order and if you are walking or just lunching by TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER, many thanks in advance.



Dogs are very welcome on the walk but afraid only allowed in the bar not the restaurant and we cannot reserve places in the bar, so will need to stay in cars or there are tables outside, or you might be lucky with a table in the bar.

We would be delighted for any "past walkers" to join us for lunch to mark 21 years of walks! We will be very near Burrator reservoir so that anyone who just wants a gentle stroll could enjoy that.

Sue



Carol Service

at
St John Church

Monday 19th December

at 7pm

Followed by mulled wine and
mince pies in the Church

All are welcome

St John Village Hall

Christmas Wine Evening

Saturday 10th December 7pm for 7.30pm
£12.50pp



Please Note :-
A change of format in order to lessen the high maintenance work in the kitchen at this event, we are asking if you would bring your own cutlery, plate and dish. (Glasses will be provided)
(This is known as the Wilcove System!)

Please contact Janet Mitchell 07837145952 to book
your place by Wednesday 7th December
in order to organise catering.

"FILM FANS"

SCREENING AT
**THE COMMUNITY HALL
KINGSAND**

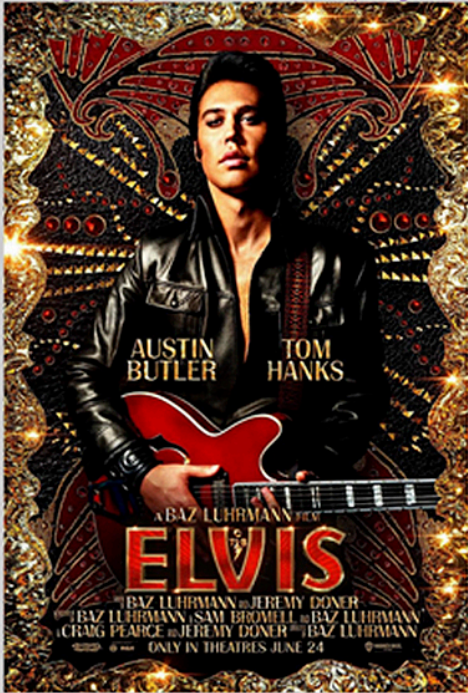
Tickets £3 at the door
Bring your own drinks and glasses etc
Tel 01752 822132/822967

Monday December 5th

ELVIS

7 PM START Very Important

This is a long but brilliant film, so we plan to start at 7 pm and have an interval halfway through and enjoy a Christmas drink and mince pies together.



The film explores the life and music of Elvis Presley (Austin Butler), seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). The story delves into the complex dynamic between Presley and Parker spanning over 20 years, from Presley's rise to fame to his unprecedented stardom, against the backdrop of the evolving cultural landscape and loss of innocence in America. Central to that journey is one of the most significant and influential people in Elvis's life, Priscilla Presley (Olivia DeJonge).

St John Village Hall

Soup and Pudding

Saturday 3rd December

Provided by St John Church

12 noon 'til 2
on Saturday 3rd
December is where
society will gather-
not merely to praise
the brightest of
soups and delicious
puddings, and to sip
the most fragrant
cup of tea or coffee,
but because one will
meet so many
interesting people.



The price will be .£8

Wildlife Watch

Seen anything with lime green legs? Val has spotted an unusual wader down by St John's lake, possibly the **Wood Sandpiper**, a rare migrant. On a sadder note, Janet found a dead swan in the ditch by the church. Possibly bird flu, but lead fishing weights can kill swans too, but it takes 2-3 weeks. The remains have been dragged to under the Copper Beech tree. Dog owners beware.



Fox from Lynne

The Teal are especially numerous this year and large numbers of Avocets are returning to Wacker.

It's a great time of year to enjoy the beauty of lichens. They are tricky to identify as it is thought there could be 28,000 species world-wide, 15,000 in the UK and you need a chemical test kit with you to be sure. They are very resilient often, growing in surprising locations.



"Holly or Ivy?"



Giant Cep weighing 4.7kg found in SW France.

On an intriguing note, Sue has discovered hen's eggs buried in a plant pot on Jack's lane and they have been unearthed in a flower bed at Brimbles too. No wonder there is an egg shortage! Know the culprit or the source?



Short Mat Bowls is up and running!



We've had four Tuesday evenings in November when several "novices" joined the group to play for the first time and it hasn't taken long for them to keep their bowls on the mat and become expert at hitting the "jack" – a little more frustrating is the centre "wood" which continues to catch out many players old and new! The club has plenty of spare bowls, many donated by the families of the previous founding players. If you haven't felt confident enough to come along make it your New Years Resolution! **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE OVER 60 TO PLAY!** We could do with some help with getting the bowls mats out and away and you don't have to come every week. We shall have a rest in December and re-start on **TUESDAY 3rd January at 6:45** to set up and **7:00** to play and normally finish about **8:30**. It's a good chance for a get together and chat and there's plenty of banter to keep a lively atmosphere. Our hope is to get both mats in use if we can get a regular group.



Look out for the timetable in January's Newsletter and on the village notice board. Give me a ring or text on **07977214776** for any more information.

Richard Dolton.

Village Hall Xmas Wine & Dine

December 10th, 7 for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50

Welcome to this festive 2 course dinner with wine or alcohol free alternative.

There will be a Secret Santa (gift value up to £5) so please bring a wrapped present for Santa's sack if you wish to participate.

A raffle will also be held.

To ensure that no Cinderellas (or even a Buttons or two) spend all evening in the kitchen we have decided to go the "Wilcove Way" so **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PLATE, DESSERT BOWL AND CUTLERY.**

Glasses and napkins will be provided.

This event is always very popular and fills up quickly, so to ensure your place please contact Janet on 01752 829225 or 07837 145952 as soon as possible.

The final date for places and payments will be December 7th.

Village Hall New Year's Lunch

This will be held on January 14th, 2023.

Booking available from December 11th, 2022 by contacting Janet on 01752 829225 or 07837 145952.

Full details will be in the January newsletter.



St Johns Church 100 Club

This months winners are :-

Steve Salter£20

Sally Hunt£5

Barbara Ball£5

A big thank you to those who attended the Remembrance Service the collection of £113 was donated to the British Legion.

*Regards
Ray.*

SUNDAY BOULE UPDATE



A note about boules... I am afraid that due to lack of consistent support, and of course, the inclement winter weather, we have decided to stop Sunday Boule until March 2023.

Those who still like to 'bowl a ball' and would like some gentle exercise, please bear in mind that on Tuesdays at 7pm, Indoor Bowls is now well underway for the rest of November. However there will not be games in December but will resume on January 3rd 2023.



For more information contact
Richard Dolton: 07977 214776

Poetry Corner



The Wind

Listen to the wind awaiting
Rattling the garden gate
Brushing the leaves of the oak tree
Rustling in the grate.

The cat lies flat on the hearth rug
Washing his face with his paws
The dog's asleep in the basket
Everyone's indoors.

It screams along the valleys
It bellows up the street
It groans between the gravestones
It bowls hats along the street.

It's pounding at the windows
Like the hooves of an angry horse
If it blows like this much longer
It'll knock the world of its course

It's quietened down at bedtime
Snoring loud and deep
At six it rattles the milk crates
And finally falls asleep.

Gareth Owen

Snooker



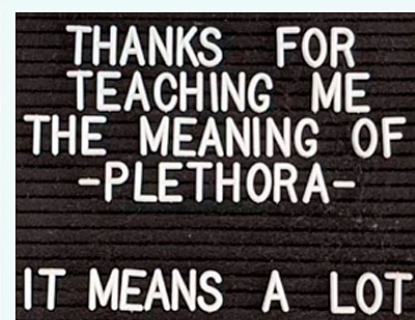
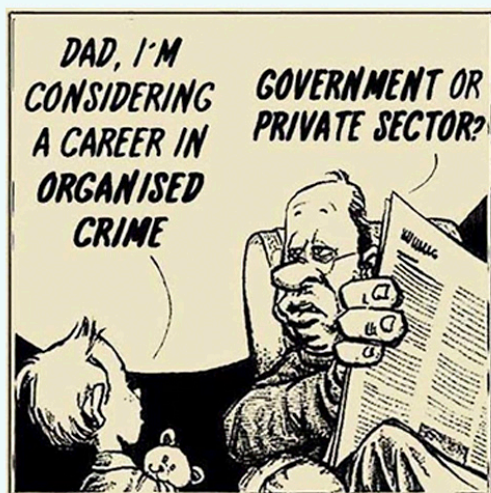
LADDER



Highest Break

David Greenhalgh	31
Chris Trevitt	27
Steve Wick	25
Pete Debono	22
Richard Dolton	18

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



and finally.....

All of my passwords are protected by amnesia