

L'ÊTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



Parish of St John

ISSUE 9

August 2006

OH! TO BE A TREASURY MINISTER

AS Treasury Minister, Senator Terry Le Sueur has one of the Island's more unenviable jobs: everybody agrees about the necessity of raising taxes, everybody agrees that it should be other people who has to pay them. Interview by ALASDAIR CROSBY

ST JOHN parishioner Senator Terry Le Sueur is better known in Island affairs rather than in parish or local affairs. He is – since the advent of ministerial government – Treasury Minister, and for three years before that, was president of the old Finance and Economics Committee; that followed a long stint as president of the Employment and Social Services Committee.

So his job makes him 'a money man' and a 'tax man' – and that is not the type of job most liable to encourage invariable and heartfelt good wishes from other Islanders.

'I don't like the idea of paying more tax,' he said, 'and part of the States' tax strategy involves moving the Tax burden away from companies towards individuals. The ordinary individual will be taxed more, either on income tax, or, in particular, because of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). 'GST will have a greater effect on people with lower incomes, but we have agreed, as part of the strategy, not only to protect those on lower income with Income Support, but also to claw back a bit more from those on higher incomes, by taking away some of their tax allowances.

'That principle is one with which everybody agrees, in theory, but in practice, nobody wants the change to affect

them. There is always some very good reason why you shouldn't take away child relief or life assurance relief, or mortgage relief, or any other relief or benefit upon which they have come to rely.'



He realised that people did depend on such things as the disabled transport allowance or housing support, and he did have more sympathy with people in such cases – as very probably they would not be able to make ends meet – and certainly more sympathy than he might have with a family earning £100,000 a year who said they would suffer by perhaps £1,000 a year if their relief on mortgage interest was taken away.

'We have tried to target the tax changes so that only those on high incomes have to pay a net amount more than before,' he said.

These tax changes result from the '20 means 20' policy – 20 per cent income tax means 20 per cent income tax, and not less, changes that were due to be debated by the States some days after this Étaile interview took place. However, any changes will only come into effect in the December budget; the July debate was to secure agreement in principle and equally to secure against 'nasty surprises' in the Chamber at Budget time!

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- Introducing Miss St John
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- Farewell to Mrs Pitman
- The Recreation Centre
- Le Mourier Valley

Although the proposals did mean a shifting of the tax burden away from businesses and more on to the shoulders of private tax payers, companies in Jersey would still remain proportionately among the highest taxed in Europe – if not because of their tax rate, than certainly in terms of their own contribution towards the overall 'pot' of Island taxation.

If 'high earners' were to be most affected, how were the parameters of 'high earning' going to be drawn? 'High earning,' is, after all, a very subjective concept!

PARISH OF ST JOHN ADMINISTRATION

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The Senator referred to the Island income distribution survey that had been carried out a couple of years ago. This concluded that there were indeed some Islanders earning incomes in excess, for example, of £200,000 a year, but very few of them. The vast majority had incomes of less than £25,000.

Eighty per cent of households had a combined income of less than £50,000, (a recent update has put the figure at more like £60,000), and although the balance of 20 per cent might be classed as 'high earners', he acknowledged that a couple each earning £30,000 a year might not actually perceive themselves as such. That was his difficulty, as the Treasury Minister, to drive an equitable tax furrow through an Island of 'middle earners'.

Undisputed high earners were, by definition, more mobile, and if they were pursued too aggressively for higher taxes they might well take advantage of their mobility to transfer themselves and their incomes elsewhere.

Mr Le Sueur said: 'What we are trying to do is to make sure that the tax rate does remain at 20 per cent, even for those on top incomes. Ultimately it will be a States decision, but I hope that the moral principle will be maintained that those who can pay more, will pay more – and not those less advantaged.'

The same moral principle is behind the equalisation of parish rates, which has meant a recent significant increase in St John rates and in those of other rural parishes – to benefit the more urban parishes who had been paying disproportionately more because of patterns of residence within the parishes.

The name 'Le Sueur' is, of course, not entirely unknown in the parish life of St John, but Senator Terry Le Sueur has lived in the parish for only 25 years – 'I am still a newcomer,' he joked. Even though his home, La Porte, is in the north of the parish not too far from Bonne Nuit, and is shown on the Godfrey map as occupied by a Le Sueur family in the 1840s, there is no connection: 'My family were poor farmers in St Peter and not well-off land-owners in St John,' he said.

He became a Deputy for St Helier No 3 in 1987 and, apart from his political career, has been a partner in the accountancy firm of Le Sueur Ireson. At one time he could spend three days a week in his accountancy practice, and two days a week on States business – but times have changed.

'I don't know whether the quality of decision-making has changed that much,' he said, 'we certainly seem to spend more time making up our minds than before.'

He was due to retire from the States at the last election, but he was prevailed upon to stand for another six years. Six months later, let alone six years, he joked, he was wondering whether he had actually made the right decision. He retired from his practice in the hope of having more time to spend with his family – wife, Angela, three grown-up children and their families – but since then he has found himself even busier: 'I hope,' he said, 'that when I do retire from the States I will not be prevailed upon to do something else quite as time-consuming!'



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the ninth edition of L'Étaile du Nord! It's almost three years since the editorial team was formed and the adventure of launching St John's own parish newsletter began. Mike Ruskin, a member of URC, who has recently

retired from the team, was in a true sense a founder member because he was part of the Island Springboard church initiative which was adopted by St John's Group of Churches, and resulted in a decision in 2003 to begin a parish magazine. Thank you, Mike, for all you have done.

Fill the gap

Mike's retirement leaves a gap to be filled by someone. Could that be you? Or someone you know? Do you have your ear to the ground so that you could suggest people, events, and issues to be covered? Are you involved with a particular section of the community? - sport, youth, the elderly, conservation, or...? Would you like to ensure that your group is featured? You don't have to do any writing unless you want to - bringing your ideas to the team discussions about the content of the next edition is the first and foremost task!

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

This magazine is published for the Parish of St John by the Editorial Team, c/o La Porte, La Rue de la Porte, St John JE3 4DE. Tel: 863994, email: ambles@jerseymail.co.uk

We do not necessarily hold the views that are expressed in the articles.

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Editorial Team

Angela Le Sueur – Editor
Carl Hinault – Advertising Manager
Rosemary Dupré – Distribution
Rosie Bleasby, Constable Richard Dupré,
Roger Long, Mary Rouillé
and Reverend Andy Thewlis

Many thanks to our distributors, and to Rosemary Dupré, who organises this aspect of the work. Our band of distributors is pictured inserting the flyers in the March edition, before setting off on their delivery rounds.

Nadine Hamon-Cole was there too – making the coffee and serving hot cross buns. She is sorely missed by so many.

Angela Le Sueur

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DEPUTY ANDREW LEWIS

It seems no time at all since I updated you on my experiences as a new Deputy three months in to the job. It is now 6 months and things are still pretty busy, not only in the Parish but in the Chamber too with the Strategic Plan debate and other controversial topics being put through their paces.

Recycling

I am delighted that we have had such a positive response to the kerb side collection recycling scheme. The feedback that I have had from the refuse contractor is that there was more than an 85% take up from households which is fantastic.

I would be fibbing if I were to say that it was without its occasional hiccup. Some households were initially issued with 2 lids which should not have happened and I can quite understand why some parishioners weren't happy when the spare was collected. Quite simply, the boxes will stack and hence the need for only one lid.



Glass, paper and tins awaiting collection

If anyone feels that one box is not enough, I believe there are still some spare boxes at the Parish Hall. Don't forget there are also recycling receptacles opposite the school.

I had the privilege of speaking to the children at St John's School recently on the topic of recycling and I was amazed by their enthusiasm and their awareness of the topic. We were joined at the assembly by the sponsors of the St John's Scheme, Cimandis and The Style Group. I know some of you expressed concern as to how much the scheme was going to cost the Parish – I am glad to report that due to the generosity of the sponsors, the cost to the Parish is minimal.

Deputy Lewis with representatives of sponsors Cimandis and The Style Group and enthusiastic recyclers from St John's School



Our first collection coincided with the States debate on the site for the new incinerator. If all the Parishes follow our lead, (which many have expressed interest in doing), it may pave the way for a smaller incinerator to be built



Traffic Calming

You may recall a few months ago the Constable and I were involved in high profile talks with Transport and Technical Services about traffic calming measures in the Parish. Having two young children myself, I fully empathise with other parents who are concerned at the speed of traffic through the village, on Rue de la Mare Ballam and other hot spots like Sion. We are, however, told that new larger speed signs for Sion are imminent

Rest assured I am still on the case but have been a little disappointed at the slow response by TTS in producing their report. I thought I would share with you a quote from their most recent communication:

'I appreciate your frustration with how long what seems like the simplest issue can take to solve but sometimes what appears simple to a member of the public can be quite a complex issue. Please be assured that we are looking at how best to progress just these kind of schemes but there is no doubt that we won't be able to do everything that everybody wants and must, therefore, prioritise those that will give the greatest benefit to the most people'

Do you remember the hit comedy classic "Yes Minister". Does this remind you of anything?!

I have also been urging the States Police to step up their speed checks along the main approach roads to the Village and also on Rue de la Mare Ballam.

Recreation Centre

As many of you are aware, there are talks progressing in relation to the future of the Rec. The support of the proposed idea has been more or less unanimous throughout the various organisations and sports clubs with whom I've been in contact. The Constable and I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter outlining the initial thoughts on the development of a purpose-built community centre close to the school.

I would encourage you to read the letter and should you have any questions, please contact Richard Dupré or myself –

to page 5



DEAR PARISHIONERS...

You may have seen already in this issue an appreciation of Nadine Hamon-Cole whose untimely death left the Parish without a Chef De Police. I am pleased to report that Centenier Carl Lee has acceded to my request to take on that responsibility. I am also pleased to report that Constable's Officer David Curtis has allowed his name to go forward for the vacant position of Centenier. David was elected unopposed earlier this month and will be sworn in on 28th July.

I would like to have been able to inform you that the Parish had entered the "Parish in Bloom" competition but regretfully only one Parishioner turned up to the meeting that was held to get it started. However the Parish does look fairly colourful at this time of the year, but this does not help to qualify it under the rules of the competition.

The Parish rates assembly took place on 27th June. The audited accounts were approved, as was my budget for the next year. Due to the revised island-wide rate being applied for the first time, the country parishes all find themselves with increased amounts to pay. This especially hits the businesses, as this category now has to fund a greater proportion of the island-wide rate. However in St John I have been able to keep the Parish rate down this year due to a surplus on last year's accounts. This surplus was due to an unexpected reduction of long-term care residents.

Willing to serve again

In December I will be coming to the end of my third year as your Connétable. My term of office finishes on 5th December. As the next publication of this

from page 4

far better to get the facts first hand rather than relying on second hand information that can be misleading if the information is not relayed correctly.

Finally.....

The school holidays loom and many of you will be enjoying the delights of Jersey or travelling further afield. Whatever your plans enjoy them and I will no doubt see many of you down at Bonne Nuit as my son plunges off the pier for the umpteenth time.

As always, I can be contacted at home 862663 or e-mail Andrew.lewis@image.je and I am grateful for all the encouragement you have given me in my first six months as Parish Deputy.

magazine will be coming out after that date I think it is timely to inform Parishioners of my intentions. I have enjoyed my first term of office, although the time it takes up was something I was not prepared for at first. If you, the Parishioners of St. John, wish that I continue in this position I will be happy to serve you for a further term of office as your Connétable.

Yours sincerely



Richard Dupré - Connétable




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TWINNING NEWS



In 1990 the late John Le Sueur, former Connétable of St John, had a dream which developed into the first 'Jeux Intervilles Jumelées' held in July 1992 at St John. Since then the games have been held every two years alternately in Jersey or in Normandy, France. This year Portbail which is twinned with Grouville were the hosts.

The teams and some supporters left Jersey at 5.45 a.m. by Manche Iles Express to Carteret on Saturday 24th June. After breakfast and transport to Portbail, the teams met up with their 'twins'. They all joined together at the Hotel de Ville and followed the local band up to the arena for the official opening by the Maire of Portbail, Monsieur Yver. Seven Connétables, including our own Mr Richard Dupré, attended and most of the teams were well supported.

There was quite a selection of games including sack races, wheelbarrow races, dressing up, balloon bursting with arrows, three-legged races, etc., and what with the early start to the day, all the teams were really shattered at the final whistle at 5.30PM!! The St Brelade/Granville team won the trophy. St John/Le Teilleul team came 10th out of 11 taking part and won the sportsmanship award. Only the Parish of St Clement has not yet twinned.

Our team representatives were Brian Richard, Paul de la Cour, Christopher Day, James Anderson, Heather Richard and Rychel Therin for St John and Gerard Galopin, Fabien Seigneul, Alexandre Heuzé, Armelle Heuzé, Benoit Courteille, Mathieu Le Boulanger, Estelle Le Comte and Juliane Palmier of Le Teilleul.

After a couple of hours in

which to unwind, get changed etc, everyone met again at 8.30pm in the Gymnasium for the Repas Dansant, which was attended by 530 people. Dancing was to two different bands with vocalists, and a four-course meal was served to all with wine and soft drinks available. A great time was had by all.

On the Sunday breakfast and lunch were supplied by Portbail to all the team members as well as transport back to Carteret for the evening boat back to Jersey. After a very long day and sleeping on the floor of the Maison de Ville the night before, everyone was really pleased to get to their own beds that evening!!

The next Jeux Intervilles Jumelées will be hosted by St Saviour in 2008.

Our friends from Le Teilleul will be coming to St John for the weekend of the 15th-17th September to celebrate the 21st anniversary of our twinning.

Daphne Hinault



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for L'Étaile du Nord

Eighth page	£25	Quarter page	£45	Half page	£80
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NADINE HAMON-COLE – AN APPRECIATION

It is with regret that since the last issue of this publication, I have to write this article concerning the sudden and tragic death of the Parish Chef De Police, Nadine Hamon-Cole.

Nadine was a very bubbly person. She was a very hard working person; she gave 100 percent to everything she took on. Nadine joined the Honorary Police in November 2000 and was enthusiastic about taking on the job of Centenier a year later. She was a very capable Centenier and I had no hesitation in making her Chef De Police on the retirement of Michel Larose in December 2004.

Nadine gave lots of her time freely to helping others for the good of the community. Besides her Parish Police work, she was the PTA chairperson, and President of St John's Netball Club. She helped with Battle of Flowers and many other parochial activities. How she found time



to fit everything in, together with her family and profession as a nurse, amazed many of us.

Nadine endeared herself to everyone she came into contact with. She was one of those people who inspired and motivated people, and always got things done. One of the last events I will remember her at was the School PTA 'car boot sale' she was there in the kitchen helping to make the bacon rolls. I believe this event was to help to raise money to purchase a new School Mini-bus, a project which she was keen to foster.

Nadine will leave a big hole to be filled, in so many ways.

Our heart felt sympathy goes out to her husband Simon and her three children Jean-Pierre, Bastian, and Sophie.

Connétable Dupré

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Fun in the sun, with, songs, sandcastles and a story Jesus told about building castles on the sand.

PS Do remember to bring along your bucket and spade!

If you require any further details or you didn't receive a tea-towel (we tried very hard to get around the whole parish and didn't mean to miss anyone) please contact Rev Andy Thewlis on 861677 or email athewlis@jerseymail.com



HOME TO JERSEY FROM CHAOS TO TRANQUILITY

After almost 25 years of struggling to make a life under the African sun, my clergyman husband, Canon Tim Neill, and I have exchanged the (often frightening) chaos and collapse of Zimbabwe for the order (mostly) and tranquillity of Jersey.

Having been born and brought up in St Ouen and St Mary (my maiden name was Treussard) it is good to finally be home.

As a young bride I arrived in the newly independent country at a time when it was considered a sign of hope for Africa, and Mugabe was being heralded internationally as one of Africa's greatest statesmen. As the years passed by I watched my children grow up in what was an idyllic childhood full of innocence and fun but with the dark clouds of destruction and oppression slowly gathering.

The first indication I personally had that all was not rosy in Zimbabwe was the 'Gukurahundi' massacres where thousands of citizens died at the hands of the Zimbabwean Army's 3rd Brigade. The massacre of its citizens was, of course, denied and it took the work of the Catholic Church to expose the depth of the horror inflicted.

My husband became more and more involved in civic society, human rights issues and therefore the democratic political movements in Zimbabwe. As time went on we did much to try to bring about the restoration of democratic government, the rule of law and a more just and gentler society. As we both became more involved not only was I a mother and a teacher but also I participated actively with human rights groups and wrote articles for the press highlighting some of the gross violations to which Zimbabweans were subjected by their own government. We were constantly watched by the Zimbabwean CIO (the secret police) and for a while, every night, two agents stayed outside the rectory gate.

Finally after years of intimidation from the authorities (we once had to flee the country and live in South Africa for six

months), coupled with terrible financial burdens and in fear for my husband's security as Mugabe ruled, we made the difficult decision to leave. I arrived back in Jersey in February of this year and my husband followed in March.

Delighting you Fashions

However, the plight of the African people, particularly the women, remains a deep concern for me. Women are very much second-class citizens in Zimbabwean society even though some achieve great career heights. My husband brought to my attention a small group of Zimbabwean rural

women who knit cotton cardigans and jumpers. These women are together in a co-operative. They get given the cotton and patterns and then agree with the distributor on a price they will be paid for each defect-free garment they produce. They then take the materials to their very humble homes and knit them there. The garments are of particularly good quality but the women by themselves simply cannot get their garments distributed over here and there is not a viable market any longer in Zimbabwe. My husband, along with our neighbour, Trevor Vibert, has set up a Jersey company 'Delighting You Fashions' to sell these garments in Jersey and Guernsey and we also hope to sell them in France and England.

We are hoping that this new venture will be successful as these women have a tremendous skill and deserve to make a living and enjoy the dignity that comes from working and supporting their families.

Carol Neill (née Treussard)



Hilary Lambert and Diana Nelson invite all former Guides to join

THE WESTERN JERSEY TREFOIL GUILD

The Trefoil Guild is part of the Guide Movement and is open to anyone over the age of 18 who has made the Guide Promise but does not hold a warrant as a leader.

Members have a responsibility to keep alive the spirit of the Guide Promise and Law by carrying it into the community where they live and work. Members also give support to Guiding by helping out at meetings, testing badges or raising funds.

The Western Trefoil Guild has its headquarters at the Barn, St Lawrence although many of the meetings are held out and about and are usually on the last Thursday of the month.

The yearly programme is varied and includes guest speakers, visits to places of interest and a variety of activities but above all there is always a lot of fun and laughter. The Guild also raises money for charity by taking part in Island events such as Cancer Research's Relay for Life.

Every year members are given the opportunity to camp (indoors or under canvas) at venues in Jersey. Holidays are organised for members and quite often their husbands will go along too. Destinations have included Switzerland, Ireland, Isle of Wight as well as England.

Anyone who has been involved in guiding, no matter how many years ago, and would be interested in joining the Trefoil Guild should contact M. Leonard tel. 873996 or J. Barker tel. 872707.

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JUST WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

If you've ever been into the Abundant Life Church Centre up at Wolf's Caves, perhaps whilst on the Itex or other walks, then more than likely you'll know what I mean when I say that we're learning to live life to the full. To quote some of the most recent walkers who passed through: 'Thanks for your amazing cakes, support and encouragement', 'Thank you for your warm and generous hospitality...we set-off with a renewed enthusiasm', 'Your kindness and hospitality helped me complete the challenge ... the smiling, encouraging people made my day worth remembering.'

It has to be said that getting people over the threshold of any Church can be difficult due to common pre-conceived ideas. Christians are often seen as 'religious' people with an irrelevant belief system and therefore considered as having little in common with those outside the Church.

But dig a little deeper and you might be surprised at what you discover. We can introduce you to people who came here seeking some meaning to their lives. As they explored Christianity rather than 'Churchianity' they found the answer. When you meet them now they'll tell you that that wouldn't even contemplate going back to a life without God.

Heads screwed on

These are often people who have lived full-on and fun-packed lives and I can assure you that they have their heads screwed on the right way. But they came to a point where they realised that they were never going to find true satisfaction without Jesus Christ. And many of these have only started coming here over the last twelve months. The great news is they still live full-on, fun-packed lives, but now with real purpose.

You only need to look around the room on a Sunday morning to see so many changed lives.

So if you can ever make it at 10:30am on any Sunday, do come along and be sure you chat with someone who has recently become a Christian. You'll find their personal story is compelling and probably more relevant than you'd have previously imagined.

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SCARECROW WEEK AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

It was very exciting to see Scarecrows appearing all over the Parish in the build up to and during Scarecrow week. People had shown a real interest and we received 28 Scarecrow nomination forms.

On Friday morning, our Constable, along with the School Council, Mrs Shaw our Nursery teacher, some Nursery children, Mr Myatt and myself jumped in the mini-bus and went out judging the Parish entries. Mr Gowlett, one of our Dads, had made a route map for us to follow which was brilliant. We saw the most amazing Scarecrows – one riding a bicycle, his legs and the wheels went round; one made from 16 different kinds of re-cycled rubbish; one completely made of bottles and one completely made of milk cartons. There were footballers, tin men, crows, even a pterodactyl and so many more great ideas

In one garden there were 29 Scarecrows and I am sure you will have spotted the 'Visitors from Down Under', made by Sion Nursery. It was also lovely to see the café and Salon in the village joining in the fun with their Scarecrows – well done and thank you.

Over the last few weeks, our school has looked like a workshop, as children have planned and created the most wonderfully imaginative Scarecrows ranging from 'Eeyore' to 'Hilda the hockey player', 'Lady walking a dog' to 'Spiderman'. It has been very exciting to see the children problem-solving, decision-making, collaborating, negotiating and evaluating whilst at the same time developing their Design Technology skills and having fun.

From all of us at school, thank you for making Scarecrow Week a real community event, one which typifies all that we believe is important and shows what a strong community we have in St. John. I would also like to thank the teenagers in the parish for not spoiling any of the Scarecrows. I wonder how many other parishes would have such support and respect from their youngsters.



Spikey Jo

Terri the Pterodactyl



Mr & Mrs Potts



Richard

Scarecrow Ville



In school we had lots of prizewinners, far too many

to mention. The Parish winners were:

'Richard' – the Gowlett family
Scarecrow ville – the Gallichan family
Visitors from down under – Sion Nursery
Terri the Pterodactyl – Ben Jehan
Spikey Jo and Friend – the Couriard family
Mr and Mrs Potts – D. Dupré & family

Pam Pitman





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INTRODUCING Miss St JOHN

I have just finished studying for my A-Levels in Mathematics, Physics, English Literature and Textiles, along with an AS Level in Further Mathematics at Beaulieu Convent School. I very much enjoyed my studies, particularly maths and textiles. The contrast between more academic subjects and the practical side of textiles made it easier to manage the workload, given the variation in the work I was required to do.

Now I am awaiting my results and hope to go to university, either Exeter or Surrey, to study Mathematics with Finance and possibly spend a year in a work placement during this time. I am very excited by the prospect of university life and can't wait to develop my own independence. I will however miss Beaulieu very much as I have been there since the age of four and don't feel I could have had a better school life than I have been given there. I will also miss Jersey as I have spent my whole life growing up here and love living in the beautiful countryside of St John. I live with my parents, younger brother and sister and our two cats in a lovely old granite farmhouse.

When I have finished my degree, I plan to return to Jersey, where all of my family live, and try to obtain a job in the finance industry, as I simply can't imagine spending the rest of my life away from this beautiful island. This should give me the opportunity to work with numbers which I have

had a passion for from a young age, and also hopefully the prospect of travel.

I have not really had the time recently to keep up with my hobbies, apart from going to the gym, as my A-Levels have taken up so much time, however they did allow me to sew, read and do maths, three things I really enjoy. I used to play netball both in and out of school, however at the start of my GCSEs I stopped as I felt I needed to concentrate on school work and I have not been able to take it up again since. Despite this I am hoping to be able to play again when I go to university. I also intend to swim more as this is something I have always enjoyed.

Entering the Miss St John competition was possibly one of the most nerve-racking things I have ever done but I am so glad that I did as it was a great experience and really boosted my confidence. I was amazed to win and so happy that I did. After winning the competition I was asked to open the St John Family Fun Day which was really great and I am very much looking forward to being in the Battle of Flowers! Also, my winning Miss St John has inspired my little sister to enter the Junior Miss Battle of Flowers competition so that we may have the possibility of being in the Battle together.

Stephanie Syvret



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VISITORS FROM DOWN-UNDER AT SION PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from the centre of the island! Well the pre-school has had a very busy time since Easter with various projects. As you can see from the picture, we entered the parish scarecrow competition and had many a laugh and quite a few hairy moments in the construction and even the 'planting' of the spectacular specimens. I hope we did not cause any near misses on the road with distracted drivers! Poor old Scarecrow John could not reach his BBQ as he was so tall and the Cricketer suffered from increasing bad cellulite. The surfer dude had terrible sunstroke and the Aborigine had an over-large head. Needless to say the kids thought they were marvellous!

Twenty-eight of our pupils are leaving this term for pastures new, and so, by the time you read this, we will have had our famous 'Leavers Concert.' The children are all very enthusiastic with the rhymes and songs during music time and then when they stand on the stage they actually

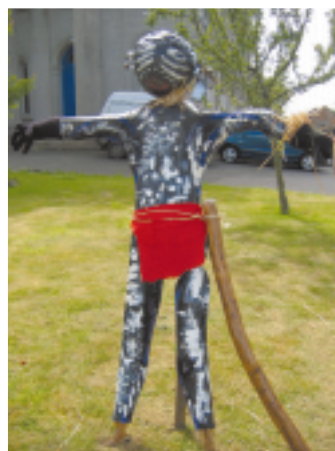
either go completely silent or play up to the limelight. Tissues are supplied to the audience for tears, caused by laughter or sadness.

Our 'home corner' these last few weeks has been a very popular 'Accessorise Shop'. The girls have enjoyed dressing as princesses and the boys have had capes that turned them into super heroes.

We have had a couple of new two-year-olds join us this term. We witnessed one of them taking the scissors, into the book corner quietly, take off her shoes and socks and attempt to give herself a pedicure! A beauty therapist in the making.

Well, we look forward to our Summer Club and the start of the new school year and I can honestly say no two days are ever the same.

Caroline Hopkinson
Manager



ROGER LONG finds some things

IN NEED OF PROTECTION

The west-east road which forms the boundary in the south of the parish at the northern end of St Lawrence is referred to as La Rue de la Scelleterie to the west of Handois Reservoir, and Le Hucquet (or Le Huchet) to the east of the reservoir, until it joins La Rue de Hérupe. Some readers might disagree with me over these names but none of the authorities I have consulted seem able to agree on them.

A couple of hundred metres east of Handois the road has been widened by a rectangular 'bay' on its north side, which puts it just in St John. The photograph shows that it is about 12 metres long and 2 metres wide and is bounded by its own granite wall.



Layby for tired horses

According to Jean Arthur, the historian who lives nearby along the same road, this 'lay-by' probably dates back to at least the eighteenth century, and is a reminder of the time when what is now Handois Reservoir was a busy working quarry. As there was then no direct road south from the quarry down to the town or the sea, the granite was drawn by horsepower up Le Huchet to the north-east. The loads would have been as heavy as the horses could manage and this area at the top of the slope was used as a temporary store for granite and as a place for the horses to rest and recuperate before continuing with their loads, mostly on the level or downhill. Jean does not know of any similar construction in the island and, of course, this one has not been used for its original purpose for a long time. Parts of its granite wall are damaged and are suffering from neglect. The States department responsible for such items of our heritage has been approached and I am hopeful that the wall can be restored to a secure condition. It happens to serve as a useful passing place for traffic on that narrow lane, but in addition I think its link with the past, unique within the island, merits our efforts to ensure that it is not allowed to

decay or be destroyed.

Another granite artefact, not more than another hundred metres to the east, also on the north side of the same road, and even more in danger of destruction, is one of the St John/St Lawrence boundary stones. The road forms the boundary between the two parishes and, to me, it seems likely that in much older times, when road maintenance was rudimentary, responsibility for it might have been less important than it became in the eighteenth century. Obviously, when substantial repairs became necessary, it would have been more practical to work on the full width of the road rather than from one side to the middle, and I

imagine that at some time the two parishes decided to allot to one of them the task of maintaining the whole road for a certain length after which responsibility for it was accepted by the other. This might have been about 1777, the date on one of the two boundary stones installed in the north bank of the road. The road from the west of the first one, a short distance from Jean's home, Les Ruettes, is in St John. From there to the second one, some eighty metres before the junction with Rue du Pont, the boundary runs along the north side of the road which is therefore in St Lawrence. They are both nicely carved stones standing about half a metre out of the ground, and the second one is surrounded by coarse grass which, by early summer, virtually hides it. In recent years the drivers of the tractor-mounted flails have failed to see it when slashing at the grass and it has been repeatedly chipped and is now broken. When I cleared the grass from around it in early June I found it already broken in two.

Other similar stones are equally vulnerable and I hope to arrange, with the two Constables and the relevant States department, to have this one repaired and to find ways to prevent further careless assaults on our historic artefacts.



Broken boundary stone

ST JOHN'S RECREATION CENTRE

There have continued to be a number of important developments at the Centre under the new management team.

Financial turnaround

Just over a year ago the Centre was financially insolvent. The new Committee took a number of steps to address the state of the Centre's finances. As a result of these steps, for the first time in many years the Centre generated a reasonable profit in its financial year to April 2006.

Building improvements

The turnaround in the finances has enabled us to fund some much-needed investment in the building. You may well have seen the scaffolding over the course of the last few months. A number of essential pieces of maintenance work have now been successfully completed and will therefore not require further attention for many years. The cosmetic appearance of the building has also improved greatly as a result of this work.



Corporate functions

The improvements in the appearance of the building, coupled with the fact that we are fortunate to have such a large outdoor area (and a bar licence!) has resulted in a number of organisations, charities and companies approaching the Centre for family fun days and corporate team-building activities.



Companies that have used the facility this summer include Abacus, Carey Olsen, Jersey Gas, Ogier, the Royal Bank of Scotland International, Rossboroughs and Rawlinson & Hunter. We anticipate that a few thousand people will have attended various functions over the summer period. This is a significant improvement compared to last year when only one firm held an event at the Centre.

We are confident that these functions will continue to be a highly profitable activity for the Centre and offer interesting scope for development in the future.



Football activities

Football has always been the most popular sports activity at the Centre. The Committee is firmly of the view that it will remain a key sport which the Centre wishes to continue to support.

Many football clubs on the island struggle to raise adequate levels of finance and St John's Football Club has been amongst them. Over the last 15 years the Centre has provided St John's Football Club with a subsidy, either directly or indirectly, of about £75,000. However this deprived the Centre of the opportunity to re-invest for the future. This also coincided with a period when there was an unprecedented improvement in other sports facilities in the island and resulted in the Centre becoming a less attractive venue for some sports activities.

We have had a number of discussions with St John's Football Club to assist them in identifying ways in which their finances can be put onto a firmer footing for the future and thereby not jeopardise the future of their Club and indeed the Centre.

The Football Club considered various other venues and we were delighted that they chose to remain at the Centre and agree to new terms.

We are supportive of the steps that the



Football Club has taken to address their finances. The Centre continues to subsidise the Football Club, albeit at a reduced level, as we believe that football will remain a key activity at the Centre. We are particularly keen to continue to encourage youth participation in the sport.

We are also delighted that Strikers Football Academy has again committed to using the indoor sports hall for the next year. This is a hugely popular football programme that is attended by large numbers of children from our parish and other parishes.

Leasehold renewal

The Centre's land and buildings are owned by a private Trust albeit the Trustees are senior parish officials. The 21-year lease is due for renewal next year. As we have a number of user groups who require long-term contracts, such as the Football Club, we recently approached the Trustees for their confirmation that the lease will be renewed.

As a result of this approach the Trustees have made us aware that there is an idea that has been mooted to develop an alternative site in the parish to create a new parish facility and consequently they do not want to renew the lease whilst this idea is being considered.

The Trustees are conscious of the fact that this uncertainty makes it impossible for the Centre's management to plan for the future and we have been

assured that a decision on whether to grant a new lease will be made by the Trustees by the end of September.

New committee members

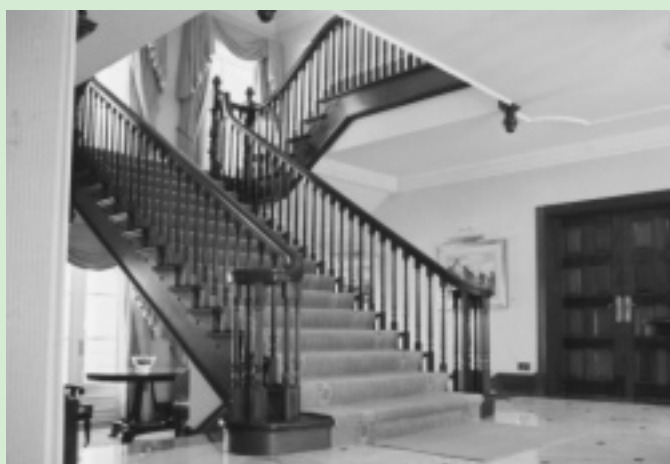
We are delighted that the Management Committee has been further strengthened with the addition of Helen Holmes and Tim Childe. In particular we are pleased that Steve Stegenwalner has volunteered to takeover from Ian Slack as our new Treasurer. We are indebted to Ian for all the hard work that he has done over the last year and we are pleased that he will be remaining on the Committee.

In summary, we do not underestimate the challenges that are ahead, however we are firmly of the view that we now have the strength and depth in our management team to move forward with the turnaround process.

If you wish to get involved with the Centre then please feel free to call either Craig Stewart (tel. 866413) or myself (tel. 861716).

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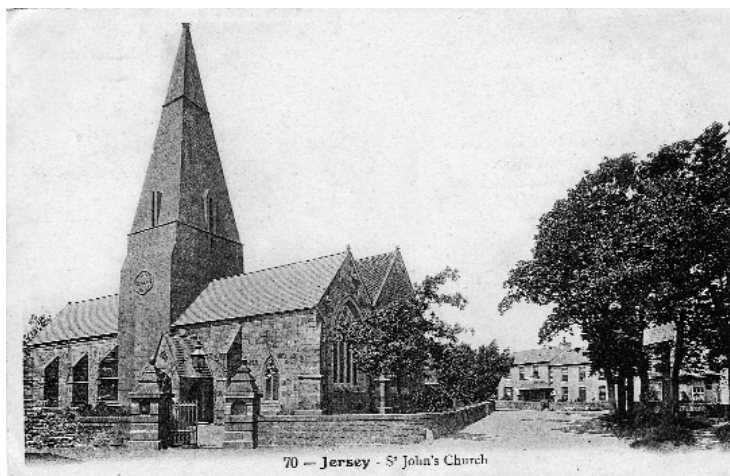
Miss Lillian Paul, long-time resident in St John's Village, talked to MARY ROUILLÉ

Lillian Paul was an only child born in 1916 in St Ouen. Her paternal grandfather, George, came from Truro to help build the wall on the Five Mile Road. Lillian's mother, whose maiden name was Rebindaine, came from France. Later in life Lillian discovered that she was related to the wealthy Alexander family who came from Windsor to live in St Ouen's in the 1850s. A family tree confirmed that her great grandmother, a Rossignol, married an Alexander. Unfortunately, Lillian has lost her copy of the tree.

At the age of five she started school at St Ouen's infant school which was located near the Farmers Inn. This was in order to accompany a girl called Violet who wouldn't go by herself. In fact Violet and Lillian ran back home across the fields on the first day because Violet did not want to stay at school. Thus Lillian did not start school until the compulsory age of six.

The Paul family moved to St John in 1928 where Lillian attended St John's school for a year before going to the Intermediate School in Brighton Road until the age of fourteen.

The reason for the move was that Mr and Mrs Paul had been given the opportunity of opening a sub Post Office in St John's Village at the wage of £3.00 per month, Mr Paul started a bakery in a building behind the Post Office. These premises were located where the front row of the local shops is today.



After leaving school, Lillian worked in the Post Office, mainly delivering telegrams on her bicycle to local farmers. These telegrams tended to be from buyers in the UK ordering potatoes, with the delivery charge to the recipient of a penny-halfpenny per mile. Lillian remembers cycling many times to Beauchamp with telegrams for the Le Brun family.

The Post Office was open from 9am-7pm, but they sometimes opened earlier to allow Ronez workers to buy Postal Orders for payment of the football pools. When Mr Paul died prematurely the bakery business carried on for a while, but eventually became too much for Lillian's mother to cope with.

In 1941, at the age of 25, Lillian started work at Bois and Bois solicitors for £2.10 shillings per week where she was employed as a general clerk collecting rents and debts from clients. There were no mortgage facilities in those days so people borrowed money privately and repaid the loans back through a solicitor. Because she was fluent in Jersey French many farmers preferred to deal with Lillian. During her 32 years of employment at Bois and Bois, Lillian worked for



The Bakery



Lilian is on the left



John Bisson, Philip Le Cras and finally Richard Falle. As well as working in town, Lillian also helped her mother with the Post Office accounts and during the war years delivered Red Cross messages to parishioners.

After the war, Lillian obtained a car and was issued with a licence from Constable John Le Masurier. There was no driving test in those days and Lillian remembers on an early morning drive managing to block the road, her car being at an angle of 90 degrees to oncoming traffic! The car made a big difference to her life as she could see her relatives more frequently.

Mr & Mrs Paul and their new van



Eventually Mrs Paul relinquished the Post Office and bought 'Strangeways', the house next to St John's pub. It took three months to repair and decorate before they could move in. Lillian lived in the house until 2001 when she became a resident at Clifton Nursing home. This year she has celebrated her 90th birthday!



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SAM AND ELLA

When we moved to St John in 1995 PJ came with us.

She was sixteen and had seen a bit of life. In fact she had probably had more close encounters with the grim reaper than was reasonable for one of her delicate and sensitive nature. As a youngster she had come off second best in a serious confrontation with a car, an event that left her nervous and less inclined to leave the house than previously. Later she had come down with a mysterious wasting illness that initially had those closest to her fearing the worst. Eventually she was diagnosed with having a malfunctioning thyroid and underwent quite radical surgery.

When the immediate concern about losing her subsided the after-effects of the operation became the cause of some amusement. The scalpel had opened her up from just below the neck to half way down her tummy and, stitched up, she looked like one of those soft toys with a zip in the middle given to children to keep their pyjamas in.

PJ took all the indignity with calm good humour, never complaining and returning affection in equal measure. In short she was a very special cat.

Sixteen is a pretty good age for a moggy and, bearing in mind the problems she'd experienced, we weren't sure how she would cope with the move to St John. We need not have worried, she was soon very much at home. Her last couple of years were spent in comfort with outdoor excursions reduced to calls of nature.

When she eventually passed peacefully to wherever it is cats go when they leave this world we said what so many others have said before and will doubtless say as long as people and animals co-exist; 'We won't have any more pets'. We meant it too.

Then one day, a little more than six months later, the Animal Shelter published one of their periodic appeals for homes for unwanted animals. We said we would pop in to the Shelter – just for a look you understand, after all, we had quite firmly resolved we were not in the market for another cat. We came home with two.

This pair were brother and sister and estimated by the staff at the Shelter to be a bit more than a year old. They had been placed with a family, but it had not been a good experience and they had had to be rescued. The boy was all front: as we approached their enclosure he propelled himself at us and as he arched his back you could read his mind, 'Take me, take me – I'm nice'. His sister was about as opposite as you could imagine. They had been sharing a big soft bed, but as her brother moved towards us the little girl cat tried to hide underneath it.

They had both been neutered, one of the kindest things the Animal Shelter does for homeless cats, and after identification chips had been carefully inserted under the skin and we had been examined to establish we were fit and proper people to be entrusted with their care, this unlikely pair were handed over.

We were told the names they had been given by their previous unsatisfactory owners, but as they showed

absolutely no recognition of either we decided to start again. PJ had been called, rather bizarrely you may think, after a New York bar and we tried a number of initial variations, but nothing seemed to fit. From the start they were very entertaining and as they were both black we settled on Sammy and Ella (as in Davis Jnr. and Fitzgerald respectively.)

Sammy was soon abbreviated to Sam and when they first went to the vet for flu jabs they arrived as Sam 'n' Ella. The girl on reception duty thought this was a hoot and at first we didn't get the joke. "Like food poisoning," said the receptionist, 'Salmonella – get it?'

Although we enquired about their unsatisfactory first home the staff at the Animal Shelter were much too discreet to go into any details, but we gathered they had not been at all well treated. We soon discovered that, while Sam seemed to have got over any problems, Ella was not at all keen on people and absolutely terrified of human feet. We concluded she had probably been used as a feline football. It took a very long time to win her trust and we are reconciled to the fact that she will always be a bit quirky, but she is a happy cat and has made her particular corner of the Parish her own personal hunting ground. I have lost count of the poor deceased creatures with which she has demonstrated her appreciation of the kindness we have shown her. I have also rescued innumerable numbers of them, quite literally, from the jaws of death.

Sam doesn't bring us presents: either he has decided he doesn't want to share them or, as we prefer to believe, he doesn't understand that hunting is supposed to be part of his nature. But Sam is, as our neighbour puts it, 'cool'. He has the ability to make himself at home even when the home is not his own. He has tried several alternatives in the neighbourhood, but always comes back – eventually.

At going on for nine they are middle-aged now, in cat terms, but they are still up for it if there is fun to be had. I tell Sam that it's undignified for a cat of his maturity to chase leaves, crane flies or, if nothing else catches his eye, his tail, but he pays no attention. One of Ella's tricks is to launch herself from behind the sofa to land on your shoulder, whence she walks down your body until she finds a bit she deems sufficiently comfortable; of course it makes no difference to her if the position in which she decides to stay leaves her bottom uncomfortably close to your chin and her tail in your eye.

But that's Sam and Ella, two entertainers resident in St John.

By John Henwood



LE MOURIER VALLEY AND CLIFFS



For its size our parish has a substantial stretch of beautiful coastline, and a few years ago the National Trust for Jersey was bequeathed a fine stretch of St John's coastal fields and cliff by Sir Angus Paton, encompassing some lovely cliff top scenery. In June this year it was announced that the Jersey New Waterworks Company would be passing over to the Trust the care of an area of land to the west of and adjoining the Don Paton. This extends inland from the sea, down into Le Mourier Valley as far as small pump house and the stream, which forms the boundary between St John and St Mary.

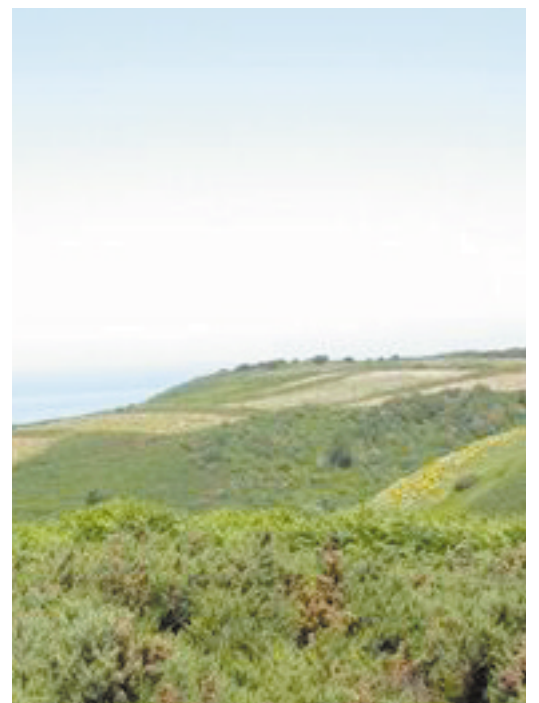
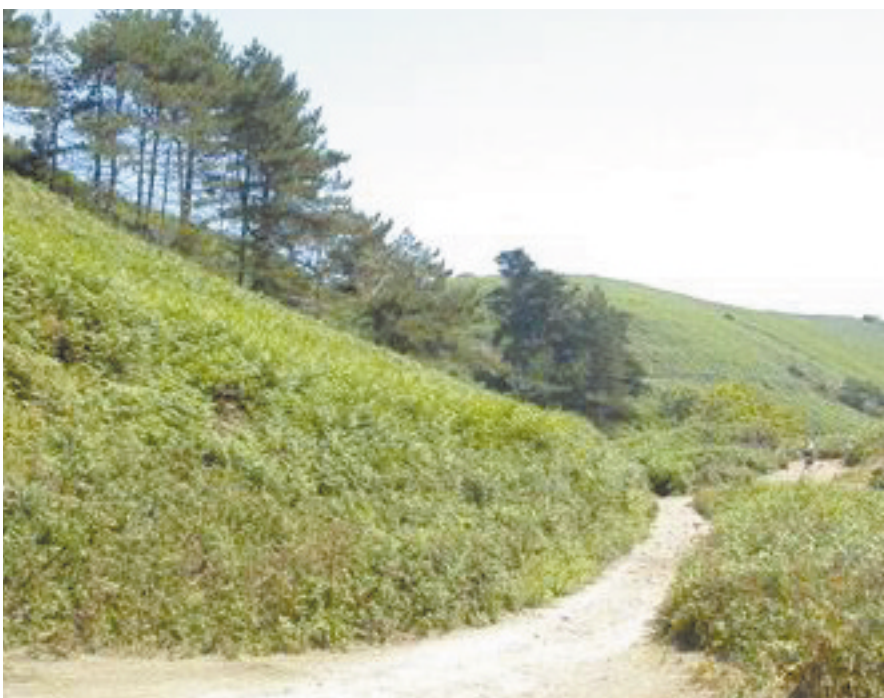
This is a boost for the Coastline Campaign, recently launched by the National Trust, which aims to preserve the best

features of Jersey's cliffs, dunes and beaches, and is a project worthy of everyone's support. Leaflets explaining how you can help are included with this Newsletter.

The Waterworks Company will retain use of the small reservoir but the building containing their machinery is no longer needed and they are pleased to offer to collaborate with the trust in managing the site from a line between the dam and the pump house northwards to the sea. Plans have yet to be made for the area, but they will probably begin with a measure of enclosure to allow certain worn areas to recover to a more natural state

This arrangement is a welcome addition to the success the National Trust has already had with its campaign in another part of the north coast.

Roger Long



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FAREWELL TO MRS PAM PITMAN

After three years and two terms at St John's School, Pam Pitman has accepted the challenge of moving to Grouville School, which has twice the number of pupils. Her successor at St John is Mr Andrew Willis, the Deputy Head at St Luke's, currently on a term's secondment to Samarès School. History is repeating itself, because Mrs Pitman was Deputy Head at St Luke's before coming to St John.

'It's a gift!' was Mrs Pitman's response when appointed to her first headship at St John. She explained: 'Teaching is the best job in the world and the most satisfying. It's a privilege to be given the responsibility to empower children.' She sees the job of leading a school as the opportunity to create capacity, to nurture and grow and to be a facilitator for the teachers. Her ideal is embodied in the school's Purpose Statement, prominently displayed inside the main entrance:

At St John's School we value everyone as an individual. We aim to nurture and empower both children and adults to develop as Responsible Citizens and life-Long learners.'

Everything the school does is linked to this statement. Everyone is valued for his or her individuality and all can

access the creative curriculum. The focus is on a person's strengths.

Neighbouring the Parish Hall and across the road from the Parish Church, the pub and the village shops, St John's School is physically at the parish centre, which helps to account for the school being so much a part of the community – an aspect which Mrs Pitman values highly. St John's school may be small, with only 212 pupils, but in her view, 'Its capacity is huge because everyone gives – staff, parents, children and the parish community.' A recent example was the support for Scarecrow week, which is featured elsewhere in this edition.

So what is Pam Pitman's final message?

'THANK YOU – to everyone who has made my time here so enjoyable.'

Enthusiasm for her profession – 28 years a teacher – and confidence in what people can achieve typify her. There were only two negative points made during our talk – Mrs Pitman hates paperwork and refused to have her photo taken – so the St John's school banner stands in for her!

Angela Le Sueur



Tales of the Unexpected



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PARISH DIARY

August 2006

- 20th 11.00am Beach service at Bonne Nuit, organised by the Parish Church
- 30th Golden Age in the Parish Hall
(Last Wednesday of each month)

September

- 11th Back to school
- 14th Branchage
- 17th 11.00am Things that Changed the World.
Seeker Celebration service at the Parish Church
- 23rd 7.30pm St John's Group of Churches Harvest social in the Parish Hall
- 26th Bingo in the Parish Hall
(Last Tuesday of each month)

October

- 8th 9.30am Visit of His Excellency and Mrs Ridgeway to St John. Service of Holy Communion in the Parish Church. Followed by Vin d'honneur in the Parish Hall
- 15th 11.00am The Power of Advertising.
Seeker Celebration service at the Parish Church
- 27th School breaks up for half term holiday

November

- 6th Back to School
- 12th 10.30am St John's Group of Churches Service of Remembrance in the Parish Church.
Followed by Vin d'honneur in the Parish Hall
- 26th 11.00am Thank You for the Music.
Seeker Celebration service at the Parish Church

December

- 14th Senior Citizens Christmas Party
- 16th Golden Age Christmas Party

If your organisation has dates and events to publicise, please contact the Editor on Tel: 863994 Fax: 865938 or email: ambles@jerseymail.co.uk

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN ST JOHN

THE PARISH CHURCH

Every Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Holy Communion with traditional hymns
- 11.00am Contemporary Worship - All-age Worship, Celebrations or Communion.

The Sunday Club meets weekly at 11.00am leaving church for their own teaching sessions at the school except during All-age worship services.

SION METHODIST CHURCH

Every Sunday

- 10.30am Morning Worship

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Every Sunday

- 10.30am Family Worship including Junior Church for Young People
Holy Communion on first Sunday of the Month
Rev Patrick McManus

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

Every Sunday

- 10.30am including Kids' Worship
- Every Monday
- 9.30am - 11.30am Champs Toddler Group

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MEAL TIMES

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Dinner 6:00 - 9p.m.

Tuesday to Saturday

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