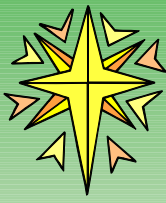


# L'ÉTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



*Parish of St John*

**ISSUE 10**

**December 2006**

## ST JOHN'S SCHOOL - NEW HEAD TEACHER

St John's School has a new head teacher: Andrew Willis who took up his appointment in September. He talked to ALASDAIR CROSBY

It was 4pm, a time when a primary school, where lessons finish an hour before, might be expected to be emptied and quiet. But not at St John's School, where in the background as the new head teacher chatted, came the sound of instruments, of rehearsals for Peter Pan, the school's Christmas production, the sounds of laughter and of running feet, and in general, young people having a good time.

'This is a place where everybody enjoys coming to learn, both children and teachers,' said the new head, Andrew Willis.

Mr Willis took up his new appointment in September at the start of the school year. He moved to St John's School from St Luke's School, where he was deputy head teacher for the past three-and-a-half years.

He and his wife, Janet, moved to Jersey in 1995. She is also a teacher, now at d'Auvergne School, previously at Rouge Bouillon.

After they moved to Jersey, he spent some time as a supply teacher, working in many different schools around the Island, including Victoria College Prep, Janvrin and Grouville.

'We did what most people do,' he said, 'thinking we'd come to Jersey for two or three years, but then finding we were hooked on Jersey and its atmosphere, on the sea and the scenery. My wife came here originally on a five-year contract, now we are building our lives here.'

He comes from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, his wife from Warrington in Cheshire. He had taken a degree at Sussex University, and followed that with teacher training at Liverpool; his first teaching job, before moving to Jersey, was at Kirkby in Merseyside, where he spent three-and-a-half years from 1991.

It might be easy to contrast Merseyside with Jersey, but from Mr Willis's educational perspective:



**Congratulations  
to our new  
Connétable,  
Graeme Butcher  
pictured here with  
his wife, Ann**



'The Jersey education service is very progressive and very supportive, it works together with schools and treats the teachers with a degree of professionalism that is not always given to teachers in the UK. There, schools are held to account in terms of their usage of resources, rather than for the quality of the education they offer.

'Jersey has an advantage over educational authorities in the UK because it is so small, and each school is known individually by the Education department, and it works closely with schools, and recognises their individual needs and strengths. By and large, Jersey schools are very well supported – and they are trusted more!'

There are around 200 children pupils at St John's School, aged between 3 and 11. There are around 30 children in the nursery class (ages 3 and 4), and then seven classes from reception class up to year 6. At the end of their time there, the children move on to secondary schools – St John is in the Grainville School catchment area.

There are eight class teachers, and a part-time teacher who teaches music to every class. There is also an extension project for children to give them added practice in maths and science – extending them in a way that is not always possible when there is a full class to teach.

A lot of time and effort was spent in supporting children who perhaps might need extra practice in in certain areas, and the needs of the most able pupils were also recognised, so that they could fulfil their potential: 'We don't want children coasting,' he said, 'or finding life too easy, or getting bored.'

Were all parish children eligible to be accepted at their local school?

Not invariably: 'Not every States school for example, has a nursery class. We are one of the lucky ones. The neighbouring parishes do not have a nursery class, so we take children of that age from them as well, so not every child from St John does necessarily get a place. With only 30 places available, we are over-subscribed.

'In the main school, first priority is given to children who have brothers or sisters already at the school. Next priority is

for children in the catchment area, and third priority is for children outside the area.

'I can understand the concerns of people whose families might have been living in the parish for many generations whose children are not given a place in the parish's local school, but the important thing to remember is that the school is a States school, not a parish school, although we are very closely linked to the parish, and we work closely within the parish community, and we see ourselves as part of that.

'Also, it is important to remember that there is a school place in the Island for all children.'

Mr Willis has taken over the headship of St John from Pam Pitman, who has moved to Grouville School. He said he did not intend to make any major changes to the school: 'It is a very creative, dynamic and enthusiastic place, and what I want most of all is for that to continue.'

## PARISH OF ST JOHN ADMINISTRATION

**CONNÉTABLE**  
**Graeme Butcher**

**PROCUREURS DU BIEN PUBLIC**  
**Michael Touzel, Michel Larose**

**RECTOR**  
**Revd Andy Thewlis**

**CENTENIERS**  
**Trevor Pointon, Carl Lee,**  
**Arthur O'Toole, David Curtis**

**VINGTENIERS**  
**Paul Vautier**

Hérupe:  
Nord:  
Douet:

**Ian Averty**

### CONSTABLE'S OFFICERS

Hérupe:

**John Gallichan,**  
**Manuel Pereira,**  
**Timothy Luce**  
**Trevor de la Mothe,**  
**Alan Le Monnier**  
**David Renouf,**  
**John Hunter**

Nord:

Douet:

**HONORARY POLICE CONTACT TELEPHONE 866560**

**DEPUTÉ**  
**Andrew Lewis**

**PARISH SECRETARY, Carol Falle** 861999  
**PARISH HALL:** Tel: 861999 Fax 864553  
Email: c.falle@posj.gov.je

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**CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY**

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Please send to: The Editor, La Porte, La Rue de la Porte, St John JE3 4DE



# THE GRACE TRUST

Our featured charity this month is a fairly new one, which is gaining support and hoping to grow its area of operations. Grace Trust (Jersey) is an evangelical Christian ministry to the poor and disadvantaged in Jersey and also has a sister organisation in Northern Uganda which runs a school and feeding centre for 1000 orphaned children.

In Jersey Grace Trust is already helping in many practical ways and is looking to expand, especially in the area of providing furniture and household goods for those in need. They are at present negotiating for larger premises to store what people donate.

They provide regular meals where the lonely and marginalised in our society can share in care and friendship and receive the Christian message of love and hope.

Outreach is a particular feature of this charity – to go where the people are. This may be to sit alongside the addicted or homeless – to help the unemployed with job applications – to make regular deliveries of food hampers and those, plus toys, at Christmas.

Grace Trust is not seeking to duplicate the work done by other charities working in these fields, and co-operates closely both with professional organisations, other charities and the Island's parishes. Miss Lucy Lutara, the founder of Grace Trust, and Mr Andrew de Gruchy gave a presentation to our own Constable and explained their purpose and aims.

The trustees and members come from a wide variety of Christian backgrounds, but all have a desire to help their neighbours in Christ and to show his love in practical ways, as well as through worship and prayer.

Already several parishioners are actively involved with the work of Grace Trust. Mr Ian Slack, a regular member of St John's Parish Church, has been involved with outreach work

in one of St Helier's tower blocks of flats. Another parishioner much involved is Mr Andrew de Gruchy, the pastor of the Abundant Life Church, St John. He is one of the trustees of the Trust and would be happy to explain the work of the Trust to any interested parishioner.

As with all charities, Grace Trust works with many volunteers. The Trust welcomes more help, from those who share the vision for the work. Grace trust are particularly keen to improve their advocacy service, whereby help can be offered with letter-writing, form filling and accompanying individuals to court appearances. If you feel you could help in any of these areas they would welcome your assistance.

At this time the members of Grace Trust are busy preparing and distributing Christmas hampers. Their message, along with the goods and toys, will be one of Christian love, with the promise of a real difference being brought into the lives of those they help.

Rosie Bleasby

Website : [www.gracetrust.com](http://www.gracetrust.com)

## TRUSTEES

Mr David Capps (Chairman)

Pastor Andrew de Gruchy (vice Chairman)

Miss Lucy Lutara (Founder)

Rev. Paul Brooks, Mrs Diana Pitt, Ms Vicki Lavarack

PATRON - Rev. Wynne Lewis

## L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

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

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 Carl Hinault – Advertising Manager  
 Rosemary Dupré – Distribution  
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 Roger Long, Mary Rouillé  
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# PROTECTING PEOPLE...

## St John's Honorary Police have been doing it for ages...

Jersey Honorary Police are probably the oldest Police Force in the world with a history going back hundreds of years.

Honorary Police Constable's Officers, Vingteniers and Centeniers are elected by parishioners to assist the Constable with the maintenance of law and order, to prevent crime and to protect the parishioners and their property.

Each of these ranks has a particular range of responsibilities. Members of all ranks are elected for a three-year term and take their oath in the Royal Court of Jersey.

There is a popular misconception that Honorary Police Officers do not have the same powers and authority as their States Police colleagues. This is not true! We have similar powers, but limited to use within our jurisdiction, of course.

The majority of our work is within the Parish boundaries (we have no jurisdiction outside except in special circumstances, for example, when we are requested to assist another Parish).

However, Parishes do give assistance to each other upon request and we regularly police events such as Live Aid, the Battle of Flowers, the Air Display, the Marathon, as well as the annual Island Car Rally. These events are great fun and enable us to practise working in co-ordination with other Parish forces and the States of Jersey Police.

### What else do we do?

We undertake foot and mobile patrols within the parish, speed checks, and general vehicle safety checks, all with the objective of protecting parishioners. We attend road accidents and other incidents within the Parish and give general support to the States of Jersey Police, if requested to do so. Missing persons, stray dogs, wandering horses or cattle can also be on the agenda!

### Who can join and what is expected

Honorary Officers must live in the Parish at the time of their election but may complete their term of office on moving to another parish.

The qualifying age range is 20 to 70 years of age and all eligible men and women are welcome to join. In fact, an increasing number of women are joining the Honorary Police and enjoying the opportunities given for personal development and progression.

In St John Constable's Officers and Vingteniers are on duty one week in five for 24 hours a day. The Centeniers (whose additional duties include the charging and bailing of offenders and the presentation of cases in the Magistrate's Court, as well as presiding at Parish Hall enquiries) work one week in four.

Actual duty time during the week is usually quite limited, but Officers do need to be available if called out to support their Honorary or States Police colleagues. Allowance is made for those officers with jobs which make it difficult for them to turn out at certain times.

### Personal growth

Training is, of course, given, but you will also 'learn on the job'. Skills such as safe driving (you will need a driving licence as you will be expected to drive the Parish Police Car), first aid, radio operation, together with general law and powers training, are among the subjects. Other specialist training is also available.

The skills and experience gained on duty in the Honorary Police can increase one's self-confidence and people-skills tremendously and you would no doubt see the benefit of this in your working life.

Many of our prominent States Members have started their public careers by serving the Honorary Police and obviously benefited from the broad experience gained, and the contacts made with a wide range of people.

Being part of the Honorary Police may not suit everyone. The induction process has become more refined and hopefully more informative in order to enable potential candidates to better understand the nature of the duties and responsibilities they could be undertaking when they take the oath. In this way we hope to ensure that our Parishioners are served by the best people.

Centenier Carl Lee, Chef de Police

Now for the commercial!

## Parish People Needed for Parish Police

### The Parish of St John needs additional officers

Ladies and Gentlemen of St John -  
Please come and talk to us and find  
out what you could be missing!

If you are interested in an exploratory chat,  
please ring our Parish Secretary, Carol Falle,  
on 861999 for an application form. A  
meeting can be arranged once the form has  
been returned.

If you would like further information about the  
Honorary Police, and have access to a  
computer, go to the Honorary Police website:  
**[Jerseyhonorarypolice.org](http://Jerseyhonorarypolice.org)**



# DEAR PARISHIONERS...

November 10th 2006

Dear Parishioners,

It is with some feelings of regret that I have decided over the last two months that I no longer wish to continue as your Connétable. The office of Connétable is a role that I have been happy to fulfil over the last three years. I have tried during that time to do the best that I could for the Parish of St John. One cannot hold a position like this and expect to please everyone all the time, but I trust that during my term of office you have found me to be fair in my dealings with Parishioners, and indeed in all Parish matters.

I firmly believe that the Connétables should remain in the States, and therefore it is the duty of the Connétable to take an active role in the House. Operating in both areas (and this especially applies to the rural Parishes) takes up a huge amount of time. I now wish to spend some time doing other things that I am interested in. I may even be able to use my boat more than the five or six times a year that I have been restricted to over the last three years! I wish my successor, Graeme Butcher, well in the next three years, and know that he will continue with the ongoing projects, especially the renovation of the church, which is ready to be commenced.

## Lady Butlin

Following the last edition of this magazine that included a flyer from our Parish Deputy, Andrew Lewis, explaining the proposal to move the Recreation Centre facility closer to the hub of St John, I received a letter from Lady Shelia Butlin.

Lady Butlin was upset that she had not been consulted about the project, even though the Butlin family had made a considerable contribution to the original Centre. My reply to Lady Butlin included the following paragraph: -

'It was intended from the time that Deputy Lewis proposed the idea of moving the Recreation Centre, that you would be consulted. However it is such a radical idea that the Trustees decided that it would be better to discover from the landowners of the proposed site, and the planning authorities, if the scheme was feasible. This process is continuing. If it is discovered that the proposed project is feasible then it is our intention to hold meetings with yourself,

Parishioners and members of the Centre to get a feel on the way the Trustees should proceed. The process has taken some considerable time'.

Due to the short time remaining of the existing lease, it is now time to have this consultation, but as Graeme Butcher will become one of the Trustees when he is elected, it is proposed to hold an open meeting in December after he has become Connétable. The other Trustees are the two Procureurs du Bien Public.

## Memorial to Nadine

Since the sad death of Nadine Hamon-Cole, it has been my intention to establish a memorial in her memory. To this end, having discussed it with other members of the Municipality, I am asking for contributions to be sent to the Parish Hall in order to purchase a bench (suitably inscribed) to be positioned near the flagpole opposite the Parish Hall. Please make cheques payable to "Parish of St John" but addressed to 'Nadine Memorial Fund'.

As this is the last time I will be writing through this medium as your Connétable, I wish to thank you for your support, and especially to thank the hard-working officers of the Municipality, especially the Honorary Police, and in particular the Centeniers, for the very difficult job that they do.

Kind regards




# Need a face-lift or body repair?

## Tim Blackiston is your man!

Tim Blackiston, a multi faceted craftsman, has advertised in almost every edition of the Star of the North magazine. He began his working life at the age of sixteen, learning his trade as a cabinetmaker and restorer in Chichester.

Always interested in woodwork, he was building canoes from the age of twelve and instructed the local scout group to build their own. After five years apprenticeship, in 1967 he decided to find adventure and move to Cornwall, only to find the beaches covered in oil due to the sinking of the Torrey Canyon tanker. Consequently, with rucksack and tent, he boarded a boat to Jersey, initially staying at Léoville campsite.

His first job in Jersey was with Channel Island Shopfitters where he progressed to being workshop manager. In 1987 he changed employment to work for David Hick Interiors in St Lawrence, where he stayed for over fifteen years.

On the 1st August 2003 Tim became self-employed, using traditional methods to restore antique furniture and make items from wood. An example of this is a communion tray commissioned by St Ouen's Methodist Church. The tray is a copy of their original tray made from oak with brass fittings, which were then silvered.

Mary Rouillé

## Repairing a clock



Stage 1  
Repairing and regluing the clock case



Stage 2  
Resilvering the face  
Before and after



Stage 3  
Fully made-up face!

From this...

To this!



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# News from the Pews

A little bit of news about plans at the parish church for Christmas and the new year. So get the dates in your new diaries and if there's anything you'd like to know more about don't hesitate to contact Rev Andy Thewlis. Tel 861677 or e-mail [athewlis@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:athewlis@jerseymail.co.uk)

## Christingle Service



### Christmas Eve - 5.30pm

We extend a special invitation to you to join us at the Parish Church as we focus our thoughts on Jesus the LIGHT and SAVIOUR of the world on the eve of his birthday. Please make your own Christingles and bring them with you to the service.

## HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE

- Take an orange and carefully make a hole in the top to take a candle.
- Fasten a red ribbon round the centre of the orange - flame proof crepe paper or red adhesive tape can be used.
- Take a piece of aluminium foil approx 4" square and place this round the base of the candle to act as a shield and reservoir for the wax.
- Place the candle in the hole in the orange deep enough for it to stand upright unsupported.
- Add four cocktail sticks and place fruits (raisins, sultanas etc) and nuts (monkey nuts are easy to handle) on the sticks.

## Seeker Celebration Services in early 2007 will include -

### Celebration of Marriage Celebration of baptism



As Valentines Day approaches we invite you to join us to celebrate the joys of love and family life.

The service will include a St John's version of the old TV show 'Mr & Mrs.'

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
11am



An opportunity to fulfil the baptism promises taken on behalf of our children.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
11am



Kidz Klub runs for KS2 children from St John's School, plus those who can get to school for the 3.15pm start.

We meet in the hall from 3.15 - 4.30pm on the four afternoons before half-term and two afternoons after half-term, so begin again on 25th Jan.

### Church building works



The extensive work on the church is to begin in January. The initial phase will be the repointing, in lime mortar, of the spire and external walls.



# Bonny's Country Garden

Sion, St. John



**CHRISTMAS TREES**  
**from 1st December**  
**Spruce or Nordman**  
**Pot-grown or cut**



**Choose early and we can keep until required - delivery available**  
**Orders taken for wreaths**

**A small selection of  
 pot plants available  
 from 2nd week in Dec.**

**We will be closed from 12.30 p.m.  
 on Christmas Eve. Open again on  
 Wednesday 3rd January 2007.**

**Alan, Veronica and Staff would like to wish you all a very  
 Happy Christmas - and hope to see you all in the new year.**

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# DEPUTY ANDREW LEWIS

I know it sounds like an old cliché, but it really seems impossible that a year has gone by since I have been in the office of Deputy of St John.

It has been a steep learning curve in terms of the procedures and protocol in the States Chamber and an eye opener also. I have been pleasantly surprised at just how cordial the members are in their respect for each other, irrespective of whether they agree with the other parties' point of view. All in all, I feel that with the new system of government, decisions, in the main are taken more quickly; however I believe there is still room for improvement.

Certain issues have dominated the autumn sittings, with GST being the big debate. No one, me included, likes to pay more tax, but if we want to maintain the quality and viability of all our public services it is necessary. I fully accept that this could affect the poorer members of our society most. I will therefore be insistent that the promised income support scheme is as comprehensive as it is claimed or I will be demanding that it is revised until it is good enough to protect the most needy against the effects of GST.

**The Parish** work is ongoing with, I am pleased to say, a steady stream of people contacting me directly, either to raise issues in the States or to advise on private matters. I believe that often through dialogue and mediation, problems which seem insurmountable, can be resolved and compromises sought.

**The recycling scheme** continues to be a success thanks to the overwhelming commitment on the part of parishioners and the professionalism of Wayne Le Marquand and his team. Many of you have asked when we can start recycling plastics e.g. milk cartons, yoghurt pots, fruit juice containers etc. The answer is the early part of 2007 when we will be introducing the recycling of plastic bottles and batteries. It goes without saying that we have our sponsors, Style Group and Cimandis, to thank for giving us the resources to 'kick start' the scheme.

**Cycle tracks** – it has become very obvious to me and many others that islanders' love affair with the motorcar continues to make our country roads quite unpleasant places to take a walk and indeed cycle. I would therefore very much like to see if more cycle tracks to complement the existing green lanes could be created. My idea is to see if it would be feasible to place cycle tracks through the edge of fields adjacent to our main roads wherever possible. To achieve this we will need the support of landowners. If any of you own or know people that own land next to some of our main roads, and would like to discuss this idea further, please give me a call. (Tel 862663) Just imagine being able to cycle all the way to town without being almost run over by a truck or an inconsiderate car driver. With a bit of luck it would help decrease the number of cars, as more of us would be happy to get on our bikes.

**Traffic** has been high on the agenda in the States recently as well as at Parish level. I continue to lobby Transport and Technical Services on the question of traffic

calming measures in the Parish and have I recently been given an update by the department.

I am told that the new, bigger speed signs for Sion are all ready and should be erected in early December. The changes to speed limits previously discussed have all been agreed in principle with the Transport Minister and now require the appropriate legislation to be drafted. This is in progress.

I am told that part-time speed limits outside the school remain an objective of TTS, and they hope to progress this sometime next year. Whilst progress, is slow, we are at least going in the right direction.

## PARISH UNITY

On a lighter note, since serving as your Deputy, I am delighted by the level of activity, charitable and otherwise, which takes place in St John. A few examples spring to mind...

**The Poppy Appeal** – My wife, Kate, helped with the distribution of poppies from door to door and was staggered at the generosity of the public to this worthwhile cause.

**The Golden Age Club** seems to thrive, thanks to the help of the ladies who run the club on a voluntary basis.

**St John's Twinning** – Kate and I had a great evening as guests at the Twinning dinner at the Westhill Hotel in September. Daphne Hinault did a wonderful job co-ordinating the weekend with her helpers. Maybe we could enhance the relationship with our French neighbours by involving the school with exchange trips?

**The Branchage** – We were honoured to be invited to the Branchage dinner at the Cheval Roc Hotel, and it was there that it struck home the dedication of our honorary officers in the Parish, from the honorary police to the Procureurs, rates assessors and many more. We are very lucky in St John to have such a great team – the tragedy of Nadine hit everyone very badly, but she would be pleased to know that her work continues.

**Youth Club** – Thanks to the voluntary work of the youth club volunteers this important part of parish life appears to flourish.

## NEW CONSTABLE

We were all sorry to see Richard Dupré retire as Constable, but I know we all understand his reasons. I would like to wish Graeme Butcher good luck in his new role and look forward to working with him for the good of the Parish.

## PUBLIC CLINICS - REMINDER

For any of you who want to discuss anything in particular, I am still running a clinic on the **First Wednesday of each month from 8.00pm by appointment**. Just call 862663 to leave a message, or speak to Kate or myself to arrange a time.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

All that remains is for me, on behalf of myself and my family, to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.





# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the tenth edition of Star of the North, featuring individuals and associations who contribute to our claim to be 'the centre of the universe'. (See page 28). Skills, service, friendship and fun sum up the contents – with many articles exemplifying all four.

We hope you are both informed and entertained – and perhaps even feel drawn to becoming actively involved, if you are not already. As you will read, several organisations would welcome more members, and need more help; for example St John's Football Club, the Golden Age Club, the Grace Trust, the Shooting Club, the Honorary Police and Les Frères.

On the theme of service, we welcome Graeme Butcher who, at the time of writing, is about to take his oath of office as our new Connétable. We wish him and his wife, Ann, Bon Courage!

We thank Richard Dupré for his unstinting hard work for the parish and the island during the last three years as our Connétable, and wish him a more relaxing time in future. Richard is a member of our editorial team and his wife, Rosemary, organises the distribution of the magazine.

The next edition will be published in April. **Deadline for copy is March 15th. Please THINK STAR** and let us have ideas, articles and pictures. Just phone 863994, or email [ambles@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:ambles@jerseymail.co.uk) with your suggestions for contributions. If you would rather not write the piece yourself, I know a friendly 'ghost' who will oblige! The April edition will include a 'small ads' column for parishioners, for which there will be a small charge.

Many thanks to all who have helped bring this 'Star' to you: - the enthusiastic and supportive members of the editorial team; all our contributors; our helpful printers, Graham and Louise Minier of Alpha Print, who have very kindly the cost of 4 extra pages in colour as a Christmas present to L'Étaile; and our band of distributors.

Finally, I should like to wish everyone all the blessings of Christmas.

Angela Le Sueur, December 2nd 2006



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**Wishes all the readers  
of L'Étaile du Nord  
a Merry Christmas  
and a Prosperous New Year.**



Past Achievements and glories to come at

## ST JOHN'S SHOOTING CLUB

St John's Shooting Club is now well into the winter programme of activities with three senior and one junior team competing in the Jersey Smallbore Shooting Association .22 rifle league which has three divisions, each comprising teams of six shooters with the junior teams each of four shooters. The club also has a team in the J.S.S.A. air-gun league and they are defending the trophy which they have won for the past two years. The club also shoots against Guernsey in a postal match which it won last year.

The club is also very well represented in the two open shooting matches held by the main shooting club in Normandy at Alençon each year bringing back the lion's share of trophies each visit, with wins in the various pistol disciplines as well as black powder and smallbore rifle.

Every year club members attend national championships in the U.K. and overseas and achieve very high standards. Club members David Ward and Mike Quénault represented Jersey at this year's Commonwealth Games and they showed their considerable skill and expertise at a very high level with Bob Blake attending as team manager.

The club is very pleased at the way St John's Recreation Centre has been redecorated. It is now much more welcoming to all which has resulted in more new people attending the shooting club on Monday nights for .22 rifle

practice and Wednesdays for air-gun practice.

We welcome anyone over the age of twelve to come and see what goes on at the club. We are the equal largest multi-discipline shooting club on the island and feel that we have an important role to play in our community and to that end we are very fortunate in having a brilliant team of volunteers who run the club.

We are now looking forward to the end of January 2007 which marks 20 years since the club was formed and we are looking at ways to celebrate our past achievements with thoughts of glories to come!

JOHN RENOUF  
President



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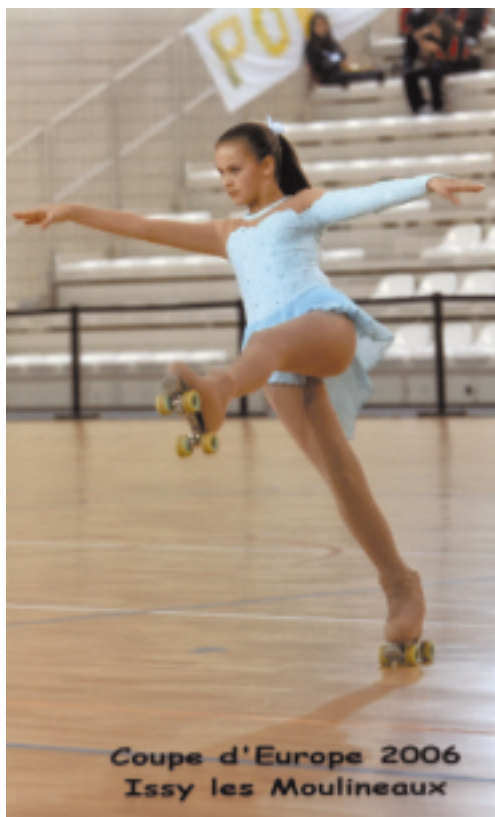


# ST JEANNAISE REPRESENTS BRITAIN IN PARIS!

Hello/Bonjour

I'm just back from Paris where I have been artistic roller-skating for Great Britain in the competition for the Coupe d'Europe (European Cup). It was great! There were eleven countries in the competition and I came 7th in my event (Espoirs). Lisa Channing who is 16 (another member of Regent Skating Club) was also competing but in the youth category. To get into the team we both had to skate in the British Championships in England and come in the top 3 in our events. It is a great honour to skate for Great Britain and also to represent Jersey.

My mum, dad and sister came over to support me; I also travelled with my coach, Janet Jacques. Myself, Lisa and coach



Janet had to stay in the GB team hotel. It was nice for all the team to be together and cheer each other on. After the closing ceremony we had a party and we had such fun with all the other competitors, and we made some great friends while we were there.

For the competition we spent nearly the whole half-term week away. We travelled on the boat on Monday morning and then my dad drove us down to Paris. We returned on the following Sunday night.

I have received a lot of help for my trip away but I must thank my coach Janet and also L. C. Pallot and Sons for their financial help.

Aimée Renouf (age 12)

## A Resounding Victory!

Maureen Porée, the Sun Bowls Ladies Novice Winner for 2006, started playing bowls three years ago whilst on holiday with husband Chummy in South Africa. She was lucky enough to be given her first lessons by Graham MacKenzie, South Africa's leading coach. From that moment onwards she took to bowls like a duck to water! Maureen is looking forward to 'playing with the big boys' as this win entitles her to enter local senior leagues. She is now hoping to improve her game at a higher level.

In 2005 Maureen helped St John to win the inter-parish competition and she played in the parish team again this year, though they were beaten into second place by one shot.



Sadly, Maureen will no longer be able to play for St John as she and her husband are moving to St Clement. We hope you are very happy in your new home!

Mary Rouillé

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# TWINS CELEBRATE 21ST BIRTHDAY



On Friday September 16th we welcomed 39 friends from Le Teilleul who came over to celebrate the 21st anniversary of our twinning. The evening was spent en famille.

On the Saturday a variety of activities were enjoyed including the Threshing Fair and Steam Museum at Sion, the Underground Hospital, shopping, and the Amazing Maze with the children.

In the evening a dinner-dance was held at the Westhill Country Hotel, where 99 of us thoroughly enjoyed a superb meal, followed by the birthday cake which was cut jointly by our Connétable Richard Dupré and Monsieur Patrice Achard, who was representing Monsieur J. Bizet, the Maire of Le Teilleul, who was unable to attend.



Monsieur Patrice Achard, Adjoint of the Maire of Le Teilleul, and Connétable Dupré, cutting the cake.

Our lady guests received a gift of a necklace, made by Mrs C. Sowden, of treated glass collected from local beaches. The men received whisky miniatures and the children sweets. Everyone received a twinning badge. Each visiting family was presented with a copy of the August edition of 'L'Étalle du Nord'.

Monsieur & Madame Le Blanc



Mr T. de la Mothe, Mr M. Thébault and Mr du Feu provided entertainment, and the dancing continued until 12.45am.

## FUN, GAMES AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Alan and Kathy Poignand, pictured here with their twins Jean-Pierre and Annick Le Mesnager, have been involved from 1985. They meet their French friends every year and in Alan's words, 'At every function we are the first to arrive and the last to leave!'



Thanks are due to the organisers of the party who are pictured above:

From left to right: Myrtle Malzard, David Renouf, Helen Haslam, Daphne Hinault, Pauline O'Toole, Michel Larose, Sue Renouf, Ron Le Herrissier







Brian Richard (on the extreme right of this picture) has also been involved for 21 years, as his parents were founder members of the Twinning. Together with Paul de la Cour and James Anderson, he is involved with the fun games, which are held every two years, alternately in Jersey and France. The 2006 Jeux Intervilles Jumelées were held in Portbail and St John-Le Teilleul won the Sportsmanship Award. 'We don't finish first but we have the best time. We are the best drinkers, partying until the very early hours the night before the games!'

Brian, Paul and James enjoy meeting new people and being invited back to France where they are 'comfortable with the language.' Also in the picture is Benoit, who has been coming to Jersey for five years, together with his girlfriend, Marie, for whom the visit was, 'Le premier fois... Jersey is beautiful.'

### INTO THE FUTURE

Perhaps the most important twins are the youngest – for if there is to be a 50th birthday in 2035, today's youngest twins will be organising it! This picture features a group of Jersey and French twins. Valentin, aged 12, 'Aime bien le paysage. C'est joli avec une bonne ambiance. On y mange très bien!'



Language is not a problem for these young people – if they can't find a word they play charades. Sometimes, though, that goes wrong, for example when a charade to explain fireworks was misinterpreted as meaning a bomb!

### TWIN STONES

On Sunday morning we all met at 12 noon near the Parish Hall where our Connétable and Monsieur Achard unveiled a commemorative stone, situated near the War Memorial. The stone was kindly donated by La Saline Masonry Co. Our original stone which came from the States Quarry at La Perruque was dressed and engraved by Mr F. Gautier as a donation to the Parish, and built into the wall by Mr L. Thérin and Mr G. Thérin. This stone is situated at the junction of Rue Militaire, La Route des Issues and La Route du Mont Mado.



Following the unveiling we made our way to the Parish Hall for a Vin d'Honneur, kindly hosted by our Connétable, who accepted the gift, from Mons Achard, of two pieces of pottery made in Ger, a small town near Le Teilleul.

Following lunch the weekend ended all too soon as farewells were said at the Elizabeth Terminal prior to our friends' departure at 5.15pm.

Daphne Hinault and Angela Le Sueur





# ST JOHN'S FOOTBALL CLUB

In previous editions you would have read about the problems the Football Club faced both on and off the field. I'm pleased to say that there is light at the end of the tunnel and things are looking better, BUT we are by no means home and dry yet.

The main problem the Club faced in the early part of the year was financial. Although we are not one of the wealthiest Clubs in Jersey, our financial situation has slowly improved during the year. This was helped enormously by the generosity shown by the Parishioners and the Connetable, who kindly agreed to donate £2,200 to the Football Club. Without this donation the Club would have had no option but to fold and therefore it goes without saying that the Parish has had a huge helping hand in ensuring the continued existence of St John Football Club and for this, the Club sends its deepest thanks to everyone in the Parish.

## Car Boot sales at The Rec.

Going forward, we are helping to run a weekly car boot sale on Sunday afternoons up at the Centre. Costs of a site are £8 and the Football Club's share of the proceeds goes towards the running of the Club. Not only are the sales proving to be a great success, it is good to see so many people back up at the Centre and enjoying themselves.

## News good and bad

On the pitch, the year has been one of success and of change. We have already told you about the Under 18 team winning the Cup and the ladies winning their league, well the ladies also won their Cup and became Channel Islands Champions by beating their Guernsey counterparts 2-1. This victory saw St John's ladies become the first ladies team from Jersey to win the 'treble'.

Due to six of our junior managers leaving the Club in the summer and the Club being unable to find any replacements, we found ourselves in the sad position of having to reduce the number of junior sides we could field for this season.

On the junior side, we are only running two teams this season, an Under 12 team and an Under 14 team. Both teams are doing extremely well and we thank the management and players for all the hard work and effort they have put in so far. Besides the two junior teams, there is a weekly soccer school up at the Centre for the younger children.

Our senior teams remain unchanged from last year. We have two senior men's teams and the hugely successful ladies' team.

The ladies team is very similar to the all-conquering team from last year and the one or two players who have left have been replaced to ensure competition for places remains healthy.

Our ladies won their pre-season tournament beating their nearest rivals First Tower in the final. This victory meant that the St John's ladies team are now the proud holders of all of the four trophies that are up for grabs in local ladies football.

Following on from their success, the ladies have obtained a new kit sponsor in the form of Office Choice Jersey Limited. To find out more about Office Choice Jersey Limited you can visit their website [www.office-choice.com](http://www.office-choice.com)

For the senior men's team this new season has been somewhat of a struggle. Both of the managers from last season have stepped down, and although the reserve team have a new manager the first team don't.

## Management

Training sessions are being taken by a couple of the senior players and they have kindly agreed to help with the running of the first team until a manager can be found. Not an ideal situation to be in but yet another hurdle the Club will undoubtedly clear!

Apart from a first team manager, the Club is always on the look out for volunteers for all sorts of things, such as helping with the car boot sales, administration of the Club, fund-raising activities, and sponsorship campaigns to name but a few. If anybody is interested in helping out please contact Club President Alan 'Postie' Tardivel on 07797 824943 or you can email the Club at [admin@stjohnfc.com](mailto:admin@stjohnfc.com). To find out more about the Club, including all results, please log on to our website [www.stjohnfc.com](http://www.stjohnfc.com)

## Thanks

Finally, St John Football Club would like to say thank you to those who work so hard behind the scenes ensuring the Club continues to run, all the managers, players, sponsors and supporters for all their time, effort and work during the year.

Have a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year from St John's Football Club.

Paul Cotillard

## POPPY DAY COFFEE MORNING

Dear Parishioners of St. John,

My sincere thanks for the support you have given me for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal over the last three years. Support by selling the poppies door-to-door, helping out, donating raffle prizes, cakes etc. for the annual Saturday Coffee Morning and for the monetary donations that have been received. This year's Coffee Morning raised the sum of £1,050.82 for the appeal. I am still awaiting notification of the door-to-door boxes and the total given at the 3-Churches Remembrance Day Service on Sunday and the total of donations. The final figure will be published in the J.E.P Thanks Column but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you in our own parish magazine. I sincerely hope that you will continue to give similar support to Ann Butcher during her forthcoming term as wife of our new Connétable.

Pictures of this event are on back page

Merci Beaucoup, Rosemary Dupré



8th OCTOBER 2006

## VISIT OF GENERAL AND MRS RIDGWAY

In lovely autumn sunshine, the Lieutenant-Governor, General Andrew Ridgway and Mrs Valerie Ridgway, made their first official visit to St John since their arrival in the island in June.

They attended the 9.30 am choral com-munion service at the Parish Church where they were welcomed first by the Connétable, Mr Richard Dupré and his wife, Rosemary; by the Rector, Reverend Andy Thewlis and by churchwardens Mrs Celia Jeune and Mr Charles Robottom.

The church, filled with a congregation of church members, parishioners and officers of the municipality, was looking its best, decorated with the rich colours of harvest. The lessons were read by the Connétable and by Parish Deputy Andrew Lewis, and the Rector preached the sermon.

After the service, General and Mrs Ridgway were conducted to the Parish Hall for a Vin d'Honneur hosted by the Connétable. The Lieutenant-Governor and his wife were very generous with their time in conversing with the groups of parishioners gathered in the hall.

At the Vin d'Honneur, the other special guest was Mr Philip Rondel who retired last year as the parish Deputy after 11 years of service; he had also given three years of service to the parish as a Centenier. He was presented with an Armada silver bowl by the Lieutenant-Governor on behalf of the Parish, as a token of gratitude for his years of service in the States of Jersey and for the Parish.

Mr Rondel was accompanied by his wife, Wendy, his daughters Helen-Claire and Penny, his step-daughter Louise, their husbands and six of his grandchildren.

The Connétable made a short speech of welcome and thanks, and General Ridgway graciously replied. He made reference to the themes

recently expressed in church, thinking about the safety of our troops serving in many parts of the world, both preserving our own democratic way of life, and trying to support the fledgling democratic governments in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan under the mandate of the United Nations.

General Ridgway reminded us of the undoubted freedom and benefits we enjoy in Jersey but, with no doubt a very relevant echo in the minds of some of those present, urged us not to be complacent.

The Parish and the church hope to welcome our distinguished guests again in the future.

Rosie Bleasby



General Ridgway addresses parishioners



Mrs Ridgway receives flowers



Daphne Hinault, Phil Rondel and Connétable Dupré



# LES MATHIONNETTES

## 'Northern Lights'

Donald Brook talked to Mary Rouillé about his busy, varied life.

Donald Brook was born in 1931 in the Headingley district of Leeds. His father managed a fish, poultry and fruit and veg shop. In 1939 the family moved to Bradford as his father had bought premises which he turned into a fish restaurant and a wet fish shop.

### Seabrook crisps

On leaving school in 1945 Donald worked for his parents in the fish shop while his mother ran the restaurant. Unfortunately Donald's father Charles, became diabetic and had to cut down on his workload, but this gave him the opportunity to experiment with a potato-slicing machine, which resembled a gramophone player. These potato slices were deep-fried on a small range located in the back of the fish shop, with the end result being crisps. The crisps were packaged into white stapled bags and sold in the shop for 3d a bag. Comments regarding the quality and taste of the crisps were welcome from customers until perfection was achieved. This was to be the beginning of Seabrook Crisps.

In 1946 Donald's brother, Colin, who had returned from service in the Navy, bought a small property in Bradford, which was turned into a crisp factory. Donald used to deliver fish in the morning, wash the van out at lunchtime and deliver crisps to pubs and shops in the afternoon.

In 1950 Donald was conscripted into the RAF where he spent most of his time in the Suez Canal area of Egypt, driving heavy transport vehicles. After being demobed in 1952, he returned to Bradford to work in the fish shop until it was sold in 1956. It was during this time that Donald learnt to fly small aircraft. This he did as a hobby for fifteen years. In the meantime, his father had moved the crisp factory into larger premises on the outskirts of Bradford.

### To Jersey – and other islands

After the closure of the fish shop, Donald came to Jersey for a two-week holiday and was so impressed with the island he came to live here in 1957. His first job in Jersey was with BEA, working at the airport on the check-in desk, and his following employment was as an installation inspector for Redifusion, a television and sound company.

During this time Donald tied the knot with Brenda. This was a whirlwind romance, which was set up by a mutual friend. Having been introduced to Brenda on the telephone, they met a fortnight later and were married within six months in 1962 and in 1967 bought their house 'Canberra' in St John, where Donald still lives today.

In 1965 Donald changed his employment to become a property developer working for Mr Overland who was based in Jersey. This job entailed working in Jersey, Guernsey and the Bahamas. During this time Brenda and Donald's two children, Joanne and Angus, were born.

In 1969 the family moved to the Seychelles. Donald was involved in the building of hotel, supermarket and cold storage facilities. As Chairman of the Builders Federation in the Seychelles he was presented in 1972 to the Queen on the Royal Yacht Britannia. This was only one of the events in which he met the Queen on the same day. The others were the opening of the airport in the morning and a garden party in the afternoon. He remembers Prince Philip referring to him and his colleagues as 'crooks corner'.

### Hotel bombed

Arriving back in Jersey in 1972 he carried on working for Mr Overland until 1974 when he joined a development company based in Cyprus. Donald moved to Cyprus, initially living in a hotel in Paphos, but three months later this came to an abrupt end when the Turks, who had invaded the north of the island, bombed the hotel and he was rapidly flown out by the RAF.

In 1977, following the Turkish-Greek conflict, the family once again ventured back to Cyprus and remained there until 1980, when once again they were on the move. This time it was back to Bradford as a new crisp factory was being built. Donald used his developing skills for this project, and after completion stayed on as marketing director.

In 1986 he returned to Jersey and was employed for three years by Huelin Estates who dealt with overseas properties, and in 1989 after such a hectic life, retired.

Donald maintains that he has always been in the right place at the right time along with the right people and the best of neighbours.



Donald with the bullet that was embedded in his hotel wall in Cyprus



## ST JOHN'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Are you over the age of 60 and living in St John?

We meet at 2.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month, in the Parish Hall and have speakers, entertainment, quizzes and bingo, as well as two lunches and one afternoon tea at various locations. We also hold a Christmas party with musical entertainment. The subscription is only £7.00 per year and the outings are partly subsidised.



### Help Wanted

Can you spare one afternoon per month to help with the teas, raffle etc?

Please contact any of the following for more information if you wish to join the club or to help the members:

Mrs R. Dupré	866880
Mrs D. Hinault	861467
Mrs M. Renouf	861908
Mrs W. Rondel	863667
Mrs M. Griffiths	862217
Mrs M. McFarlane	862685

Have you thought of joining our Club?

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# A BRUSSEL SPROUT IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!



Farmer Mike Greenwood from Amalgrow explains...

It amazes me that anybody bothers to grow sprouts at all. I, for one, do grow them, but only manage to eat about five a year, always on 25th December and only when completely covered with gravy and with my next forkful loaded with roast potato at the ready. They are not the coolest vegetable on the shelf and come with a very dodgy reputation, but some people actually do love them and eat them on days other than Christmas Day! My wife could eat a pan full at one sitting, with nothing else – I seldom let her do the cooking.

The sprout season is indeed a long one, which stretches from harvesting the first buttons during early September, right through to the end of the season in early April. This length of harvest is achieved largely by a combination of planting dates and different varieties. The sprout that lands on your plate on Christmas Day has actually been growing for about six months.

The earliest sowings start in March and it takes six to eight weeks for the young plant in the seed tray to be big enough and have a strong enough root system to be planted out in the field. Field choice for a sprout crop is critical because of the length of time the crop is going to be growing in it, before you have anything worth harvesting; as I found to our peril this year. Shortly after planting out in June this year, the field block selected appeared to be the local snack bar for hundreds of pigeons, pheasants and rabbits. Undeterred, we put rabbit fencing around the fields, which seemed only

to add to the challenge for them - apparently sprout leaves are also irresistible! The fields were eventually covered with fine mesh netting, which kept most wildlife out until the plants were big enough to grow away from the nibbling.

So now the plants were up and running and we could look forward to a bumper harvest of delicious green buttons, after all we were now well into the glorious summer of July. I know farmers always moan - my wife has to listen to it most nights, but it was just too dry! In farmers' terms it wasn't a glorious summer, it was a drought. Great for my young family on holiday, but not brilliant for crops grown locally, and definitely not good for our sprouts!

Despite the financial implications to me personally of a failed crop, would the drought mean that I wouldn't have to eat my five sprouts on 25th? Oh no! Despite field losses of 10-15%, the surviving crop is looking good and there should be plenty of sprouts on the shops' shelves this year.

The costs of production this year have been considerably higher, but that's just the nature of the job; you win some, you lose some.

The, so far, dry autumn has benefited the crop in that fungal diseases that often affect plant health and button quality have not been so prevalent this year. Also, the hot dry summer resulted in the plants making good strong roots, important for nutrient uptake and keeping the plant upright and healthy, so it wasn't all bad!

If, like me, you are not a sprout lover, try them again – they are not as bitter in taste as they used to be, largely thanks to plant breeders improving sweetness. You never know - I might even eat six this year.

## Christmas

“Joy to the world the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.”

These words from a well-known carol speak of all that Christmas is about. Christmas is a time of rejoicing in the coming of Jesus. It's a time to celebrate that God did not leave us alone without any knowledge of Him but came to the earth in order that we can get to know who he is and experience the love, joy and peace that he offers.

I know that for many people Christmas is way too commercialised and becomes far too stressful. But Christmas is not about all that. Sure it's great giving and receiving gifts. It's great eating delicious food that you wouldn't normally eat. It's great having time to meet with family and friends. All these things are a fantastic part of the Christmas celebrations. But they are not the central reason for the season. The Bible says that Jesus came to the world so that we might have life in abundance. The tragedy is that many people never come to experience the incredible life that Jesus offers. But as the carol says,

“Let earth receive her King”. We have been left with the decision whether or not to receive Jesus into our lives. Just as you will no doubt receive a gift from a loved one this Christmas, your Father in heaven offers you the greatest gift of all: eternal life through Jesus.

At Abundant Life Church we celebrate this gift every week. You are welcome to join us at any of our services. We would love to see you at our special Christmas celebration, which will take place on Sunday 17th December at 10.30am. Why don't you come along and discover the greatest gift that has ever be given to the world?

Kevin Houiellebecq  
Abundant Life Church



# FUN FOR MUMS & TODDLERS..... AND NO MESS AT HOME!

Les Frères Mother, Toddler & Baby Group is a voluntary non-profit making association run entirely by the parents or carers of the children who attend. The association was set up in 1980 by a group of mothers with a two-fold aim: they wanted to provide the best pre-school development opportunities for their children, and they also wanted an opportunity themselves to meet and make friends with other parents and carers. The formula was an instant success and Les Frères Mother and Toddler Group has thrived ever since. Many mums, dads and carers have forged long lasting friendships through their involvement with this association, and we hope many more will. Joining Les Frères when the children are about 18 months old limits the stress of having a group of active toddlers in your house! This way friends meet regularly, but without the aftermath of clearing up at home.

## The sessions

Les Frères runs on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings during term time. The sessions start at 9:30 am and finish at 11:30 am.

Les Frères operates from the Boys' Brigade facilities in St John, used throughout the week for all types of youth and community work. At each session we set up the toys in the light and airy (and centrally heated) main hall. Refreshments are served in a separate room. The building is well served by a live-in caretaker and is kept warm in the winter. During warmer weather we have an enclosed grassed area to play in as well. There is also ample, safe parking.

Each week there is a creative activity to join in with; be it painting, cake decorating, making pumpkins . . . the ideas are endless from our creative Mums and carers! This of course accompanies our hall filled with apparatus, imaginative play equipment, dressing up clothes, puzzles, play-dough, train sets . . . a 'sweet shop' of toys and fun to be had!

We have a library, as well as the toys and equipment, all of which are regularly upgraded and of the highest quality. At the beginning of each term we clean and sort out the toys, during the 'Toy Tidy', to ensure that they remain in tip-top condition. We have bought new equipment and introduced new activities to the sessions to make it more stimulating and varied.

Once the toys are tidied up we have time for singing, with instrumental accompaniment; marching and dancing; a choice of large and small parachutes (!) for some interesting fun; and sometimes the groups have story time.

## Mother In Charge

There are two mums or carers who volunteer themselves in each session to be MIC (Mother-in-Charge) for the term, who help each group to set up and run smoothly, but everyone assists. Les Frères is run in a special way. Whichever day you choose to join, the format is the same. Groups aim to be informal and very friendly. Everyone pitches in and helps out.

## Other activities

During the year we invite appropriate organisations to offer various items for sale, such as clothes, books, toys and cards at each of the daily sessions. We also host a professional photographer once a year, encourage a visit from a friendly fire engine and of course everyone enjoys the Christmas party.

## Your child's safety

We do have public liability insurance, but your child's safety is ultimately up to you as a parent or carer. There is basic first aid equipment available.

## Fees

The current fee at Les Frères is £2 per week for one child. Any further children in one family are charged at half price, but do not become liable for payment until they reach the age of one year if attending the toddler group with a sibling. Fees for the whole term are payable in advance, by cheque, to Les Frères Mother and Toddler Group.

## Membership contact

Should you wish to join Les Frères, please contact our membership secretary, Debbie Kennedy on 853830.

Lindsey Woodward



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# FUN LEARNING AT SION PRE-SCHOOL

Well hello, and Greetings from the centre of the island!

The summer fun club seems just a distant memory now and all the water activities bring but a shiver.

We have had an interesting and fun start to the new school year. September rushed through and brought all our new little pupils to us. As ever some walked in and hardly gave mum a backward glance and one or two others needed gentle diversions to stop the tears - and that, readers, includes some parents!

We are lucky with our premises being so large that many activities see each morning pass so quickly. Just the first half term saw us introducing the children to Diwali - a Hindu celebration of light. We had lots of art activities including Mendi painting on their hands. We had rice and flat breads for snack and the room was lit up with many colourful lights.

We also had Breast Cancer Awareness day and the youngsters joined in, managing each to wear something pink that day. Together with the church, the children and parents have been contributing to the 'shoe box' appeal, and I am pleased to report we made 27 boxes for this worthy cause.

The children learn through fun and play at Sion, and, they also give us much laughter in our busy schedule. Mostly this is provided by the things the children say and I hope I manage to describe these well enough to give you a chuckle too.

## The things they say!

Olivia walked in one morning and proudly told us she had 'Come to play with the old ladies!'

When being picked up at the end of the morning Robyn ran up to her mum and was delighted to say 'I done a Monet'. We introduce one artist a term to the children and she had copied one of Monet's pictures.

One little girl was racing around the play ground on a bike with her friends when she suddenly braked and said 'I'm just stopping for a fag!'

Each year we ask the children to draw their faces and we have them transposed on to a tea towel. Kayleigh drew her own face and then her younger brother's and when I asked her why she had put legs on his she said, 'So everyone can see he can stand up now.'

Rai has taken a shine to one member of staff and asked her if she would like to 'Come to the pub for a coffee.'

Mia loves to go to the park with her Mum and Dad but 'Mum nearly had a heart attack when Dad pushed her so high on the swing.'

So as I close this article we are in the half term leading up to the Christmas break and, believe, me there is not a more magical place to be at this time of year!

The children will perform our famous Nativity and there will be much hilarity both on and off stage. Hopefully this year 'Mary' will be taken at a more dignified pace on the donkey to the stable!

Enjoy this time of the year and give the children the time they deserve.

Caroline Hopkinson  
Manager, Sion Pre-School



## From Junk Mail to Tin Cans... but what about Cardboard?

Although the parish recycling scheme is still in its early days there seems to be general approval and co-operation with the collections.

As with any scheme of this nature there have been a few negative observations, such as: 'Why can't cardboard be included?' Most households have a fair amount of this product. Also there is some concern, especially for the elderly, of the potential danger of cutting oneself on a tin can when trying to wash it and remove the label.

On the whole, however, parishioners are embracing the scheme with enthusiasm - and trying not to be the first householder to ruin a whole load by including an envelope in with the newspapers!

Congratulations to our Constable and Deputy for putting St John on the recycling map for the island!

Rosie Bleasby





# Bodhi Tree Health & Organic Store



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Besides being the best source of Vitamins & Herbal remedies, with referrals from many local GPs, we also have an amazing range of Organic Wines, Beers, Ales, Ciders, Spirits and Champagnes - free of harmful chemicals and produced naturally in the old way from some of the most traditional vineyards – resulting in over 10 times more goodness, flavour and antioxidants than the new mass produced varieties.

Besides Wines, we have fabulous organic chocolates – over 5 brands and 30 varieties, brimming with goodness and exquisite flavours – we even have varieties suitable for diabetics and vegans – the organic high cacao contents means they are actually incredibly beneficial and should be available on the NHS!

Besides Chocolates, we also stock a great range of other organic foods including muesli, porridge, beans, rice, pasta and Superfoods like goji berries, noni juice and açai juice.

We stock the largest range of naturally pure organic Skin and Body Care, sheer beauty, free of chemicals and allergens, simply try the Ester-C and Collagen ranges compared to the chemical alternatives or treatments like Botox and face peels, you'll be amazed at the results.

**What can be a better way to celebrate the festive season than by supporting the organic and eco way of living and helping mankind, our planet and our children's future.**

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# BONNE NUIT BAY RED SQUIRRELS

In 2000 the Friends of Bonne Nuit started a project in the bay to help the local Red Squirrel population, working with the National Trust and the States Environmental Unit also the Men of The Trees and Dr Louise Magris. The aim of the project was to assist the squirrels' short to long-term survival in the area, and included three main points to achieve.

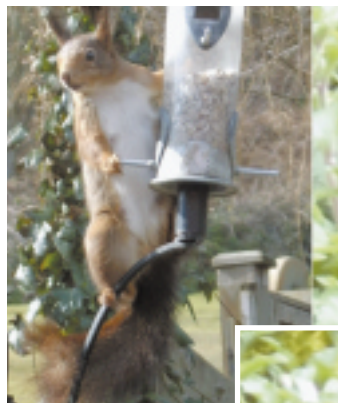


- The first was the short term, which has been achieved by providing supplementary feeding using feed boxes, which have proved to be a great attraction to the squirrels and a great success, judging by the numbers in the area.
- The second was a major tree planting in conjunction with the National Trust and financially supported by the Jersey Ecology Trust Fund. The trees are growing extremely well and should prove to be a great natural food source in the future for the squirrels and other wildlife.

- The third was a rope bridge on Les Charrières de Bonne Nuit which has just been put in place due to land transfers to the National Trust. A big thank you is due to

Sylvia Graucob and the National Trust to whose land the bridge is connected. Hopefully once we can get the squirrels to use the rope rather than the road we will be able to reduce the number of road deaths by vehicles.

Squirrels have no road sense, which makes initiatives



like these very important in helping them to survive and thrive in the Island. They are wonderful to watch and a great visitor attraction so we must all do what we can to ensure their future.



Gary Romeril

Secretary, Friends of Bonne Nuit

## STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Born in the Parish in 1987, I have lived here ever since with my parents and younger brother, Lee, at Les Tuiles.

I attended St John's School from the age of 5 and was very happy there. When I was 11 I moved to Haute Vallée School, becoming a prefect in my last year. I liked school and made a lot of friends with whom I have kept in touch.

I then went on to Highlands College to study a two-year course in Beauty Therapy at NVQ Level 3. I enjoyed it immensely and learned so much. The course was both practical and theoretical – and a lot of hard work – which evidently paid off as I was invited to attend an award ceremony at Highlands on November 16th. To my amazement and delight, I received a certificate for 'Student of the Year', along with some gifts!

I am now working at Elmina Hair and Beauty, and have just completed a week's training course in London on 'Aveda Facials'.

I should just like to say a big thank you to everybody who gave their time to come to Highlands College to be my practice models.

Laura Le Maistre



# THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE

We all know that the Island revolves around St John, and that we consider Jersey the most important place in the British Isles. Furthermore, there are those who, for many reasons, maintain that Britain's retention of its long-led central position in world civilisation, despite a few recent hiccups, goes without saying. So with the centre of Jersey placed firmly within our Parish one might well equate it with the centre of the Universe.

The precise centre of such an irregularly-shaped area as an oceanic island is not exactly easy to establish. The Jersey Heritage Trust marked the stone shown in the picture many years ago, and has recently replaced the notice with a new and better one. The writer of the words on this notice

omits to give any convincing authority for the 'knowledge' that this marks the centre spot, but I am sure that the term 'local' must extend quite widely, and it is marked on several maps!

If one cuts out of cardboard, or similar uniform, rigid material, a shape exactly matching the island's outline, and suspends it from various points around its edge, vertical lines drawn down from the points of suspension all seem to pass through an area quite near to the position of this stone. However, to do that one needs a steady hand in cutting round our jagged coastline.

For those who might not have seen the stone it is a hundred metres or so north-west of Sion crossroads in Rue Servais.

Words and  
Photos by  
Roger Long

## Centre Stone

This stone is known locally as the Centre Stone because it is reputed to mark the centre of the island.

It is granite quarried from the Mont Mado area of St John which is about 3 kms north of here.

The stone was possibly brought here from a nearby megalithic monument which has been lost or destroyed. The circular hollow on its surface may be a cupmark which indicates that it may be prehistoric in origin.

It now plays host to five different types of lichen.

La Pierre du Miton d'Île  
Cette pierre est connue localement comme la Pierre du Miton d'Île car elle a la réputation de marquer le centre de l'île.

Elle est en granit extrait de la région de Mont Mado à St John qui se trouve à environ 3 kms au Nord d'ici.

Cette pierre aurait pu être amenée ici d'un monument mégalithique voisin qui a été perdu ou détruit. Le petit creux circulaire sur sa surface pourrait être une 'cupule' d'origine préhistorique.

Elle accueille maintenant cinq espèces différentes de lichens.







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**Coastline** were very pleased to have been appointed by the Parish of St John to supply and install the new PVCu conservatory, windows and doors along with the fascia, soffits and rainwater products to the new rectory.

**Coastline** would like to wish Rev Andy Thewlis and his family every happiness in their new home.

We would like to thank the connetable Richard Dupre and Carl Hinault for their continued support.

Best wishes to Tony Le Brocq the site foreman whom it was a pleasure to work with. I am sure the parish are very proud of the high standard of workmanship throughout the new rectory and **Coastline** will continue to maintain standards for all future contracts and clients.

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# PARISH DIARY - DECEMBER 06 - APRIL 07

## DECEMBER 2006

Thurs 14th	7.00pm	School Christmas performance of Peter Pan
Fri 15th	1.30pm	School Christmas performance of Peter Pan for senior citizens
	7.00pm	School Christmas performance of Peter Pan
Sat 16th		Golden Age Christmas Party
Sun 17th	10.30am	Christmas Celebration with Carols old and new Abundant Life Church
	6.30pm	St John's Group of Churches Carol Service at Sion Methodist church
Wed 20th		Last Day of School term
Sun 24th	10.30am	Family Service at United Reformed Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship with Rev Chris White at Sion Methodist Church
	2.30pm	Party Time for all ages with a short time of celebration at 5.30pm at the Abundant Life Church
	5.30pm	Christingle at the Parish Church
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Mon 25th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) at the Parish Church
	10.00am	Family Worship for Christmas Day at the United Reformed Church
	10.30am	Christmas Day Worship led by Sue Le Riche, Sion Methodist Church
	10.30am	Christmas Day All-age Worship at the Parish Church
Sun 31st	5.00pm	Party Games and Tea for young families at the Abundant Life Church
	7.30pm	Party at the Abundant Life Centre with service at 11.00pm

## JANUARY 2007

Thurs 4th		Back to School
Sun 7th	9.30am	Plough Sunday Service in the Parish Church
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 31st	2.30pm	Golden Age in the Parish Hall

## FEBRUARY

Sun 11th	11.00am	Celebration of Marriage Service in the Parish Church
Fri 16th		School breaks up for half term holiday
Mon 26th		Back to School
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 28th	2.30pm	Golden Age in the Parish Hall

## MARCH

Sun 4th	11.00am	Celebration of Baptism Service in the Parish Church
Sun 18th	10.30am	Celebration of Mothering Sunday in the Parish Church
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 28th	2.30pm	Golden Age in the Parish Hall
Fri 30th		Last Day of School term

## APRIL

Fri 6th		Good Friday
Sun 8th		Easter Day
Mon 16th		Back to School
Tues 24th	7.30pm	Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Golden Age in the Parish Hall

## 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
Fridays	
7.30pm	Badminton Club at Les Frères

### ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

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

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



# St. John's Village Inn

## MEAL TIMES

Breakfast 9:30 to 11am

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New Years day - normal hours (no food)



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