

# L'ÉTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



## Parish of St John

ISSUE 11

April 2007

### GRAEME BUTCHER - THE NEW CONNÉTABLE

St John has a new Constable: Graeme Butcher, who was elected in December. He spoke to ALASDAIR CROSBY

ST JOHN'S Village will not be turned into 'a new town in the country, or have a by-pass, over-pass, giant supermarket, 120 new houses, or any of the other interesting ideas put forward recently in a much-publicised designer's plan.

Or at least that's the very decided view of the new Constable, Graeme Butcher.

'I wouldn't support it one iota,' he said. 'It's too big, and it's totally unnecessary.' He added: 'We certainly don't need as many units of sheltered housing as the plan proposed – and we are already looking at sites for 60 units. The Island needs 400 to 500 sites, so the Parish is doing more than its bit by finding sites for more than ten per cent of that number. We don't want the parish swamped by buildings; it is a country parish.'

Well, that seems to be fairly conclusive. A question about the future of the Recreation Centre, however, needed a rather longer reply: 'We want to explore as many avenues as we possibly can. We have no preconceived agenda, but we do want to look at ideas in which the Rec could be run profitably.'

It was not well designed for the needs of today's users, and in his opinion it would need major investment if it were to attract greater usage.

Some of those who did use it at the moment also needed to face the reality of higher charges: current charges paid by some organisations did not pay their way as a contribution to the total upkeep.

The space occupied by the Youth Club was shared by the Rifle Club (though not at the same time!), and they could do with a dedicated space of their own, he said.

In fact it was only two days after he had been sworn in as Constable that he chaired a public meeting at the Parish Hall about the future of the

Rec that had been prepared by the parish Deputy, Andrew Lewis. More than 200 people attended it – the queue stretched out of the door – and parishioners made it very clear that Something Must Be Done to save the Rec. But what exactly? The expressions of support were stronger than the number of parishioners who were prepared to do something themselves, he said.

However, a steering group was formed and there has since been vigorous discussion with the trustees, and markedly different views about the future. There was some support for a long lease to be given to the present leaseholders, but the Constable said that he supported a three-year lease to give the Parish time to weigh up different options to safeguard its long-term future.

'We must do the right job, and ensure that more income is generated. The way forward is as clear as mud, and any hesitation in granting a long lease is not the trustees being awkward: I just don't feel that we want to spend the next twenty-one years running the place without sufficient capital



and income, and seeing it run down.'

Also on his agenda is the long-discussed redecoration, refurbishment and extension of the Parish Hall. It was in 2000 that this was first discussed at a Parish Assembly, and a refurbishment plan that then cost £400,000 was agreed. That cost would have increased by now to between £600,000 to £700,000, he said, and in any case he was not prepared to spend that amount of the parish's money.

'We are currently on Plan D', he joked, 'and looking at less costly building plans. We do need to move forward: moving the Constable's office, for example so that parishioners can have more privacy if they come to see him with sensitive problems, and making the present Constable's office into the Police Office, with an adequate waiting area in front of it. Together with architects, I am looking at a plan that, very roughly, would cost somewhere around £250,000 to £300,000.'

Mr Butcher was unopposed at his election – much to his surprise – as he had been quite prepared to mount an election campaign. He admitted that he was well-known in the parish – or at least in the Village area. He has been in the Honorary Police for the past nine years, and he and his wife, Ann, have lived in Ville des Chênes for 26 years. They were both born in Jersey, and Mr Butcher spent his working life in local businesses: he managed Channel Island Yacht Services for 13 years on behalf of its owners, Guernsey Gas, and left there to work for himself – he was involved with some small-scale property development, mainly in the UK. He and his wife have three grown-up children, Daren, Kerrie and Mark. He said he was thoroughly enjoying himself, and if his voice has not yet been heard in the States, it is because he sees no point in just repeating what another Member had just said. When he did speak, it would at least be short and succinct.

Another priority of his as Constable, he said, was to try to preserve, as much as was possible these days, the sense of

parish community.

'As anywhere else, this seems to be drifting away,' he said. 'People have busy lives, and cannot help the parish as much as they used to do – although the Honorary Police is down by only two members on its establishment number.'

'There is much that can be done to improve parish life, but any idea that we might have needs leadership and people who have the time and inclination to do lots of organising. If a team can get together to work on projects, then a lot can indeed be done.'

## PARISH OF ST JOHN ADMINISTRATION

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# A BENEFACTRESS FROM SAINT JEAN

The story of the Don de Faye Trust on page 14 brings to mind another generous benefactor, from Victorian times, Jeanne Gruchy, a lady of this Parish, daughter of Jean Gruchy and Jeanne Baudains. She lived from 1763 to 1848 and, in her will, called herself a native and resident of St John. According to 'Old Jersey Houses' by Joan Stevens she was living, probably with her parents, at Beaupré, south of Hautes Croix, where she had a small shop selling cloths and materials.

In his invaluable 'Biographical Dictionary' G. R. Balleine quotes from her will as follows: 'As to the of my property I leave it for the benefit of the Poor of the twelve parishes to be divided equally among the parishes for the purchase of land, and that the produce or rent of that land be em-ployed every year to succour the necessitous Poor,' The poverty that led Jeanne Gruchy to leave the greater part of her wealth to this and other bequests to the poor, has long been alleviated, but the Constable, the Rector and members of the Comité Paroissiale continue to use their discretion in applying the income from this bequest in accord with her wishes.

Most of the parishes erected handsome carved and engraved stones in the walls of the fields that they purchase with this gift. In St John two adjoining fields were acquired and granite stones were placed by each in grateful acknowledgment.

Our story does not end there, as when the opportunity arose in the 1970s to build what is now the Recreation Centre, for a number of reasons the most convenient site was deemed to be the two Clos des Pauvres bought under the terms of the Don Gruchy. A plan to use these fields was nurtured by Constable Wilfred Tomes who, with commendable drive and hard work persuaded the Royal Court to allow them to be amalgamated and built upon, on condition that other fields generating the same income for charity were acquired to replace them. This was done and the two 'Don Gruchy' stones were moved, which is why one can now see them on the south sides of La Route de Mont Mado, opposite the Recreation Centre, and La Route des Issues near its junction with La Route Militaire.

words and pictures by Roger Long



Clos des Pauvres stone in Route de Mont Mado



Clos des Pauvres stone in Route des Issues

## Please can anyone help?

I am looking for photos of the two Don Gruchy stones shown here before they were moved, i.e. in the 1970s. If you know of any would you please phone Roger Long or the Editor - addresses on page 35

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# NURSE JUDY DE LA HAYE (NÉE GRAYSON)

## ... still working for the community

Mrs Judy de la Haye came to Jersey more than fifty years ago to work for Trinity and St Martin's District Nursing Association – so she is a fitting subject to tell her story in 2007 when Family Nursing and Home Care is celebrating 100 Years of Community Care.

Born in Yorkshire, where her father, who worked in the wool trade, used to take her on outings to a vantage point from which 37 mill chimneys could be seen, Judith's first venture was across the Pennines to Manchester Royal Infirmary to train as a nurse. Having completed her midwifery training in Leeds, she delivered babies in back-to-back houses which were black from the mill chimneys and 'pretty grim'.

One day Judy and colleagues cut out adverts from nursing magazines which featured jobs in places that were 'warmer and cleaner' than Leeds. Seventeen nurses moved! Judith came to Jersey, much to the disgust of her aunt, a retired hospital matron, who exclaimed, 'What on earth do you want to go to that backwater for!'

In April 1953 Judy found herself in Jersey's General Hospital where she particularly remembers nursing a patient in an iron lung. After ten months she had to return home to nurse her grandfather and after his death she worked as a Theatre Sister in Manchester Royal Infirmary.

But Jersey had not forgotten Judith, for in 1955 she received a letter 'out of the blue' offering her a job with Trinity and St Martin's District Nursing Association. The conditions were that she must give three years service in return for Jersey paying for her to do the Queen's Nursing Training, specific to district nursing, at Westminster and Chelsea District Nursing Centre. She remembers learning sterilising techniques – no longer needed, because nowadays much equipment is thrown away after a single use.

Judy loved Jersey – and remembers that in those days she could see the lovely gardens because there were no fences (perhaps burned as firewood during the Occupation). She found the people open, friendly and curious – though there were language issues. 'You come by fly?' she was asked by someone whose first language was Jersey French. She made friends with a French lady who spoke no English – Judy's schoolgirl French wasn't much use, so hilarious pantomimes were needed for the nurse to

explain what must be done to the patient! Judy remembers the effect of rationing on two elderly twins sisters who, although they lived together, went separately to the shop, each purchasing her own butter, sugar and margarine.

At first Judy lodged with Kay and Philip Crill in Trinity. They were kind and supportive. In 1957 Judy moved to a flat in Gloucester Lodge, St Saviour's Road which had been converted into flats for District Nurses. In 1962 she moved to the house in St John where she still lives.

In preparation for her job in Jersey, Judy had learned to drive in Manchester, though she needed additional reversing practice at Jardin d'Olivet – where she only flattened one potato barrel! This was a better record than her predecessor's – according to Dr McKinstry who interviewed Judy on arrival in Jersey. This unfortunate nurse had 'knocked a bus back by six feet!' and was afterwards

covered (the nurse, not the bus) with brown paper because she had so many bruises! Knowing how to drive was one thing – knowing how to reach a patient was quite another. There were no road signs in those days, so Judy was given directions like, 'Drive down the road until you see a haystack . . .' The first Perry's Guide was great progress!

When Judith moved to St John in 1962 the answerphone had not yet been invented and the Northern



Telephone Exchange was still in operation. At first the telephone operator took messages from patients when Judy was out on her rounds, then Mary Falle, a friend and retired nurse, took on the job, so Judy phoned the operator whenever she was going out, to request that calls be transferred to Mary.

In 1964 Judy was married to Laurence de la Haye and on the birth of her son in 1965, gave up nursing for a time. Later she did some private nursing before returning to the Jersey District Nursing Association, working in various parts of the island.

Between 1977 and 1981 she was a Domiciliary Midwife, doing post-natal visits in people's homes, because by then all babies were born in the Maternity Hospital in St Saviour's Road. The years 1981-1989 were spent working for the Helath Care Team for the Elderly, under the auspices of the head of the District Nursing Service. Judy enjoyed this work and was well suited to it, for by now she had built up a wide experience and knew where to turn for help for her patients. Part of her work entailed liaising with the Willows Day Care Centre for the elderly, offering advice to clients with regard to health problems. She was the only qualified person in charge of volunteer staff on the Wednesday Day Care days at Communicare, where elderly people had access to assisted bathing and hairdressing services. Important though these services were, the company was the most important aspect of these days.

Judy 'retired' in 1989 – and went to work part time at Maison St Brelade for five years. In 1994 she retired again. At present she serves on the committee of Jersey Cancer Relief which exists to help those who are anxious about the financial cost of cancer. Judy is concerned that there are still many people who have not heard of JCR and the help it can offer to meet expenses like doctors' bills, heating and travel to mainland hospitals. Funds are raised in Jersey by a Round the Island Cycle Race and collecting tins in shops. All funds are used in Jersey. This is a charity close to Judy's heart – she remembers the daughter who had to give up work to nurse her mother and then had no income except Parish Welfare. Judith regrets, however, that there are still those who will not accept 'charity'.

Angela Le Sueur

**Judy is willing to take calls from anyone needing help from Jersey Cancer Relief. Her telephone number is 861215.**



As the main provider of Community Care within Jersey, Family Nursing and Home Care will celebrate 100 years as a charity in 2007. Employing 250 staff and delivering community services from birth to end of life, Family Nursing and Home Care currently have to raise £2 million in addition to its States of Jersey payment of £5.3 million in order to develop and enhance Community Care for the island.

Key fundraising events to be held this year are:

**Flag Day for Family Nursing and Home Care ~**

4 – 9 June 2007. Collections will be made throughout the island supermarkets during the week and collections made in St Helier on Saturday, 9 June 2007

**Centenary Ball ~** Saturday, 7 July 2007 at Hotel de France with live entertainment, auction and raffle.

**Itex Walk ~** Family Nursing and Home Care will be a beneficiary of funds raised from the walk this year.

For further information on membership, events or volunteering events, please contact 789950 to support the continued work of this essential charity.

## St John's Church under Repair or

**WHAT'S HAPPENING UNDER THE PLASTIC?**

Over the last few weeks St John's Church has been having a face lift under all that plastic and scaffolding. An army of masons and builders have been repairing the walls and tower of this ancient building. The Church was suffering from water ingress, the interior plaster was breaking down and the walls weeping. At one point the central internal granite arch was pouring with water after a particularly wet winter.

Water was getting into the fabric of the church and, not being able to get out, was building up between the inner and outer walls and seriously compromising the whole building. The prospect of the spire deteriorating with the potential for collapse was becoming more real as time went by. A great deal of historical and specific physical research and observation led to the decision to carry out major repairs. This carried huge cost implications with which a small Parish would find hard to cope. However, to save ratepayers, the Rectory was sold. The proceeds, after the new rectory had been built, have been dedicated to the repair and refurbishment of the most ancient and historic Parish building.

The south-east part of the church (the Lady Chapel) and a tower were built in the twelfth century when the Island was under Norman influence, although the outer walls have a Victorian 'cladding'. The South Aisle was added in the thirteenth century and the chancel to the north-east was constructed in the fifteenth century. During a storm it appears that the tower fell and damaged the South Aisle, so it was rebuilt with a spire during the reigns of James and Charles I with the Nave on the north-west constructed to complete the main church as we know it today.

Through the ages various methods have been used to keep the church watertight. This has led to the spire being rendered at least four times! Each time the rendering broke down it was taken off; the last removal was during Reverend Manton's time. It is doubtful that the planners would ever allow the tower to be rendered again as the glory of granite is revered.

Instead the masons have been tasked to remove the cement-based mortar, to make repairs and fill voids in the

walls and to insert lime-based mortar so that any water ingressing the building via the older porous granite can evaporate through the new mortar mix. The plastic sheeting, or monoflex, to give it its proper name, is not there just for the men's comfort, or the safety of those passing below, but is needed to keep the joints dry and protected from the weather as it takes a few days for the mortar to 'cure'.

Repairs and renewal to parts of the roof, guttering and other building sections have been carried out whilst the scaffolding is in place. Also, during this stage of work, the bells have been lowered in order to replace the concrete ringbeam from which they hung. Unfortunately the water, over time, has rotted the reinforcing rods, so wooden beams will now be used to take the weight of the eight bells. The Church family have been delighted at the way the men, and particularly Alan, the foreman, have looked after the interior of the Church, allowing us to continue to use the Church for services. It is hoped that the scaffolding will be coming down in the next few weeks so that we can all admire the work of Jody and his team of masons.

This will not mark the end of the job but the end of stage one. The need to dry out the internal walls of the church will require removal of some of the lining plaster, particularly around the tower crossing, and its

replacement with a more breathable mix. At this stage the church services will move across the road . . . but that's another story.

Celia Jeune



St John's Church, gift-wrapped!



The new lime mortar contrasts with the older, dark cement above it



## News from the Pews

The Parish Church website has recently been refreshed and updated. Online you will find lots of information about forthcoming services and activities, including the weekly notices, plus lots more about life at the parish church. Why not pop along and visit us at:-

# [www.stjohnschurch.org.je](http://www.stjohnschurch.org.je)

During lent 2007, members of the church joined together in the **LOVE LIFE LIVE LENT** Lenten challenge, whereby through 36 simple actions (6 each week of lent) we became the change we wanted to see in the world, including the following actions:-



- Going for a litter walk and cleaning up as we walked.
- Writing to someone and thanking them
- Having TV and computer free day
- Making and sharing some cakes
- Living, like half the world, on less than £1.40 for a day.
- Being nice to someone behind their back

Whilst Lent has passed for another year, the opportunity exists every single day to make a different, and in so doing to feel better about life. Why not visit [www.stjohnschurch.org.je](http://www.stjohnschurch.org.je) and try the 36 simple challenges for yourself.

### Celebration of Education



All parishioners are invited to join us for a special celebration of education service with members of St John's School.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May - 11.00am**

There'll be a photographic quiz - so come along and see if Mr Willis recognizes all the places?

Everybody welcome

### Sermon Series

#### Abba Father - Speaking with my Daddy

The Lord's Prayer is one prayer that most people can recite from memory, but what do those familiar words mean. To find out more, why not join us for our forthcoming teaching series.



- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Our Father
- June 10<sup>th</sup> - Your kingdom come
- June 17<sup>th</sup> - Give us our daily bread
- June 24<sup>th</sup> - Forgive us our sins
- July 5<sup>th</sup> - Lead us not into temptation
- July 8<sup>th</sup> - For yours is the kingdom

**Church a new  
recipe**

## A service for everyone

**Sunday's 8.00am, 9.30am & 11.00am**

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# DEAR PARISHIONERS...

Last year when Deputy Phil Rondel decided to stand down as Parish Deputy, I considered standing for that position, but decided against it as I was still heavily involved in a property development in the UK.

I asked Richard Dupré, who was then Connétable, around to my home to discuss the fact that I was considering giving up my position as a Vingtenier in the Honorary Police and wanted to have something more to do with the running of the Parish. It was at that time Richard told me that he was reconsidering his position. I told him immediately that if he did not stand that I would. I had been receiving some encouragement to stand against Richard; I am not sure that I would have been comfortable with that.

I declared my intention to stand as soon as Richard advised me that he did not intend to. I had a first class team of supporters ready and willing to help with an election campaign. There was nobody more surprised than I was at the nomination meeting when no one else came forward. On one hand it saved a lot of hard work for the team as well as myself, on the other hand it has a downside in that there are many of you that I have not yet been able to meet.

My first few months in office have been hectic to say the least; I have had to give Ann a photo so that she remembers who she is married to! There are a number of major projects ongoing in the parish with the Recreation Centre and the church refurbishment. Also, I intend to get things started at the Parish Hall. I think that we might be on plan D by now. I am hoping to make a significant saving on the projected costs of plans accepted at an assembly some years ago when the cost was estimated at £500,000. God only knows where the price would be now.

We are also looking at sheltered housing schemes in the parish. There appears to be a need identified for this kind of accommodation and the Parish, in my opinion, has to do its fair share, but only its fair share.

## Nadine Hamon – Cole Memorial Appeal

Donations have been coming into the Parish Hall on a regular basis; we intend to have a closing date, so if you wish to donate, please ensure that the donation is sent to the Parish Hall by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2007, after which I intend to consult with Simon and family about an appropriate memorial.

Graeme Butcher  
Connétable

## Honorary Police - Ladies wanted (and men as well)

If you are interested in putting something back into the community you live in, you could do worse than join the Honorary Police. Whilst we do take the job very seriously, we are a country parish and that is reflected in our officers' attitude; we very much adopt the helpful stance rather than being too officious.

If elected for a three year term the routine is that you are a police officer 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You would be on duty one week in five. There is a certain amount of training that can be undertaken. We are very much aware that this is a voluntary job and that your work and family come first.

You would find the job very rewarding as I have done over the nine years that I served.

If you would like to have a non-committal chat with myself or any of the officers, please give the Parish Hall a ring and someone will get back to you and arrange for an informal chat.

Graeme F. Butcher  
Connétable

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# DEPUTY ANDREW LEWIS

## Hot Topic

I suppose it is true to say that talk of the Recreation Centre has been the notable topic of conversation in the Parish since the public meeting. I am glad that whatever one's opinion is of the fate of the centre, it has given the issue a public airing and I know the Trustees are working on compiling a questionnaire to be circulated to all parishioners.

I would urge you whilst completing the questionnaire to look to the future and demonstrate how you feel the needs of the Parish could be best served in years to come. We all acknowledge our thanks to the initial benefactors and this should never be forgotten.

I would like to take this opportunity of clarifying some misunderstanding which seems to be circulating. Firstly if the option of selling the existing site and moving to the field near the school was considered, it would result in only 10 additional homes being created in the parish. This would be by virtue of a land swap with land already zoned for housing behind the school. Consequently only a small proportion of the land at the Rec would be developed, the rest would either remain as a football pitch or be landscaped into a country park. Like many of you I, too, would not like to see this site totally developed.

I would also like to remind those of you who attended the public meeting that I fully supported the motion that all options for improved community facilities should be explored, including assessing the feasibility and cost implication of improving what we already have.

## Traffic

The traffic issue is one that continues to dominate and there is increasingly concern from residents who walk their children to school on roads without pavements. Unfortunately Transport & Technical Services (TTS) claim to be restricted by cuts in their budgets and therefore traffic calming measures, signs and speed lights are not happening as quickly as I would like. I do however intend to make application to the Community Safety Panel for a grant to construct a pedestrian crossing outside the parish hall together with associated traffic calming measures. You may also have noticed that TTS have placed testing equipment on the road at Sion which is assessing the speed and volume of traffic in this area. We await the results of this in order to establish what more can be done to improve this area particularly for pedestrians.

## Security

I am looking in to the feasibility of CCTV cameras in the precinct as a deterrent to those who are not only causing

damage to some businesses in the area but also to target perpetrators of litter dropping and illegal parking. I do not view this in any way as a 'big brother' stance, but a measure to give better protection to the businesses and the public using these services. The



Honorary Police fully support this initiative. The cost will be significant but we also hope to make a successful application for a community safety grant.

## The States

There are some contentious debates coming up in the States in the next few months. A major debate will concern Sunday Trading. I would be interested in hearing some of your comments. My initial feeling is that Sunday should be kept as a special day and my concern would be for shop staff who might be pressed in to working on a Sunday to the detriment of the family unit. On the other hand, we want to attract visitors from the UK who expect to shop seven days a week. A difficult issue whichever way you look at it.

## Recycling

Many thanks for your continued support for this initiative. I am delighted to report that nearly everyone is taking this issue very seriously. I am now in discussions with TTS with a view of introducing the collection of plastic bottles for recycling. Lookout for information coming to you soon about this addition.

## Skateboarding

The young people have for a long time asked for an area where they can safely skateboard. I have had some plans produced for a facility and am currently in negotiations for a suitable piece of land on which to place a skateboard facility. I am now seeking a sponsor to pay for the apparatus so if anyone is interested, please let me know. There is also the opportunity for our young people to help with a little fund raising too, so give me a call if you have some ideas.



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# GREAT BRITAIN TWO-WOMAN BOBSLEIGH

**Lauren Thérin, a Commonwealth Games athlete and resident of St John faces a new sporting challenge.**

I suppose you could say that my entry into Bobsleigh was somewhat an act of fate. Having been earlier rejected in the summer skeleton trials held at Bath University, I was at a loose end for the pursuit of winter sport success until I received a phone call from an extremely talented Bobsleigh athlete, Jackie Davis. She convinced me to return to Bath University for trials. I made the team and just as quickly was in Austria doing the real thing!

My next trip saw me in Lake Placid, America; a track renowned for its 21 corners of difficult and fast driving. It lived up to its reputation and I was speechless at the end of my first full run from the top of the track. Initial feelings ranged from nausea to anger; it really was something I was quite convinced I could not ever actually enjoy!

However, since then I have grown to trust my driver, Nicola Minichiello, and our sled, and I have come around full circle in my outlook on what could possibly be termed an 'aerodynamic coffin.'

Nicola and I won the British Championships; were silver medal winners in Canada for the Americas Cup Race; and bronze medal winners in Italy for the Europa Cup.

Unfortunately we didn't do so well in the World Championships in St Moritz, coming 16th out of 25 teams.

I am very much committed to doing Bobsleigh until the next Winter Olympics in Toronto, Canada in 2010. I am also pursuing athletics and would like to take part in the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi in 2010.

This is an opportune moment to thank those who have helped me along the way: Carol Derrien my Jersey Spartan Athletic Club throws coach; Bronwin Carter from Portsmouth my County throws coach; John Hillier from London my National throws coach, and John Davies from Swansea my Welsh Event Javelin coach. Most important of all my family and my sponsors, Richard and Shirley Wilkinson, a retired couple, who started out by sponsoring Jersey Spartan Athletic Club's top male and female athlete, Ian Carter and myself, and have continued sponsoring me and other athletes. Their help has been immense and I am very grateful to all concerned.

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# EVERY PARISH HAS A DON DE FAYE

Every parish has a Don de Faye. I don't mean that there are 12 chaps with this moniker in the Island but that the Don refers to a generous gift bequeathed to the Parishes by the late Jurat P. C. Cabot who died in 1959. The Trust is looked after by the Treasurer of the States and each December the Rector and Churchwardens are directed 'to distribute the funds for the benefit of needy parishioners of all social standing annually, during the third week of December'.

The Income from the Trust is divided into thirteen portions of which each parish has one except St. Clement, the donor's home parish, which receives two lots. In our small parish the sum annually received appears very generous compared to the more populous parishes, which historically means that not all the funds have been distributed at Christmas but held over for the needs of parishioners through the year. However, this year funds were not only given to folk, young and old, but used to support generic organisations in the parish such as the Golden Age Club, St John's School and the Youth Club.

The Trust relies on income generated from shareholdings

and so the total available each year varies. The Rector and Churchwardens always consult the Connétable regarding the distribution so that all parishioners can be considered. One parishioner was able to purchase a cooker; another was helped with funeral expenses.

If any reader is aware of a parishioner in need of funds for a specific reason would they please notify the Rector by email at [athewlis@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:athewlis@jerseymail.co.uk) so that the request can be considered.

Celia Jeune

## Can Anyone Help?

Dear Parishioners,

I have been contacted by the son of a lady regarding a very precious piece of memorabilia that regrettably was never returned to her after the display in the Parish Hall for the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation. The item in question, a small autograph book containing various family and soldiers' signatures, was loaned following an article in the J.E.P.

As far as the Parish Hall knows, all items on loan were collected after the display. I have been in contact with the Heritage Trust, J.E.P and even our 'unofficial Parish Historian', Luke Le Moignan, in case someone had passed the book to one of them for safe keeping. All to no avail I am afraid. Hence the reason for this letter.

It is quite possible that someone may have mistakenly picked up this little book along with their own belongings and have it tucked away unknowingly. I am hopeful that this letter may unravel the mystery so please, if you can help in any way, contact me on 866880 (h) or 861692 (w).

Rosemary Dupré

## TWINNING NEWS

### St John's Twinning Association Formed

In 1985 Constable John Le Sueur initiated St John's twinning activities and asked Mrs Daphne Hinault to assist him. During the following 22 years Daphne assisted succeeding constables in this work which also involved many other parishioners in an informal arrangement.

On March 7th, all the families who have been involved with the twinning were invited to a meeting at which the St John's Twinning Association was formed.

The following were elected to the Committee, to take effect in May.

President	Connetable Graeme Butcher
Chairman	Mr Ron Le Herissier
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs Myrtle Malzard
Social Committee	Mr Ron Le Herissier, Mrs Myrtle Malzard, Mrs Sue Renouf, Mrs Pauline O'Toole, Mrs Sue Haslam, Mr Michel Larose, Mr David Renouf.

Anyone interested in future involvement with the twinning can contact any of the above for further information.

A party of 32 will be visiting Le Tailleul over the weekend of April 20th - 22nd to celebrate the feast of "St George" which is their fete day. A full report of the visit will be in the next issue of the magazine.







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# GOD STILL NOT THE DRUMBEAT OF SACRIFICE



## Private Colin Clifford 1960 – 1982

St John's Church has many memorials to past worshippers and residents of St John. These include the beautiful reredos behind the altar, many magnificent stained glass windows, church furniture, beautiful silverware and of course the ring of eight bells; but none of these is more poignant than a slim glass case placed on the wall of the transept in front of the chancel. Inside this case is the memorial drummer's sash of Private Colin Clifford.

This month of April, 2007, sees the 25th anniversary of Colin Clifford's death whilst on active service with the army in Northern Ireland. The anniversary could not be more meaningful as just eight days after the date of Colin's death (30th April), the Northern Ireland Assembly will be re-invoked with power sharing between Iain Paisley's political party and that of Gerry Adams, two men who, until recently, had not been on speaking terms. Many young British servicemen like Colin and countless Irish civilians had to die before this latest progress towards democratic rule.

Private Colin Clifford was just 21 years old when he stood on a landmine whilst on foot patrol with his company in Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. The grief of his family and friends in Jersey can only be imagined but also the shock to the whole island community. Colin was the second Jerseyman to be killed on active service in Northern Ireland after Sergeant Ian Harris in 1973.

On 6th May, 1982, Colin Clifford was buried with full military honours in St John's cemetery after a funeral service in the parish church conducted by the rector, the Reverend Peter Manton. In his address the Reverend Manton spoke of the tragic loss and said how it served to remind everyone what the cost of freedom can be. How those words resonate today when we think of British servicemen and

women in Iraq and Afghanistan! Many high-ranking officers from Private Clifford's regiment were present including his commanding officer and a bearer party. Private Colin Clifford's name is inscribed on the war memorial at St John along with the names of the fallen from the two world wars, and is read out publicly every Remembrance Sunday when every year his mother and stepfather, M. et Mme Parette lay a wreath in his memory.

Colin Clifford attended Les Quennevais School and his great ambition was to join the police force and become a dog handler. Because of his young age (15 in 1976), the easiest route to become a policeman in due course was to join the army as a boy soldier which he did in the September of that year. Colin came from a proud military tradition with both his maternal grandfather and two uncles having been in the army. Perhaps more importantly his mother also, had spent two years in the army, eventually being one of only two women soldiers to be chosen to work as telephonists with the Royal Household Cavalry. Whilst Colin was growing up in Jersey, his mother ran the Taunton Guest House in Gloucester Street where all the army recruiting officers came to stay year after year. It is not surprising that a young teenaged Colin was attracted to a military career.

Colin joined the Royal Hampshire regiment and after initial training served in several places including Münster in Germany where he was visited by his mother and stepfather. One of Colin's interests was realised in the army and he became a skilled drummer in the regimental band. One of his family's proudest moments was when Colin visited the island, with his regimental band in 1981 and played in the island parks. They were especially proud as that year Colin had been chosen as his commanding officer's Drummer of the Year.

Colin's regiment had been due to leave Northern Ireland, where he was on his second deployment, later in 1982 and he had then been due to serve in Belize. Considering his young age Colin had seen much of the world and achieved a great deal to make his family proud but none of this can make up for his loss.

Much was happening in the wider world and in Jersey in April 25 years ago. The Falklands War had just broken out and events such as the sinking of the Belgrano, HMS Sheffield and the attack on the RNAS Sir Galahad were about to claim the headlines. It is ironic that in the week before Colin's death a party of 40 underprivileged children from Northern Ireland were in Jersey on a trip organised by St John resident, Donal O'Regan. He had been helping to organise these trips since 1973. That year, 1982, he received a special award from the bailiff, Sir Frank Ereaut, another St John resident, in recognition of his work for the children of Northern Ireland.



Of great significance to the island, that last week of April 1982, saw the setting up of Jersey Hospice Care with Suzanne McAllister as the first hospice nurse.

These events help to place Colin's death in context. Whilst in Northern Ireland the cruel bigots of the Provisional IRA were claiming responsibility for his death, the people of other islands - the Falklands were also relying on British forces, far from home, to be prepared to fight and die for their freedom, and on the island of Colin's birth ordinary men and women were making huge efforts to care for those caught up in events beyond their control or facing an uncertain future because of illness.

Private Colin Clifford was proud to serve in the British army and we are proud to honour his memory. There will be a special anniversary service for Colin in St John's Church on April 29th at 9-30am. which will be attended by members of his family and his regiment. When you visit St John's Church in future please pause awhile in front of his memorial sash and give thanks for his life and sacrifice.

Rosie Bleasby



## BEING A SITE OF SPECIAL INTEREST CAN BE A BAD THING . . . as Sion Methodist Church has discovered

I have for most of my life been a member of Sion Methodist Chapel. During my childhood the church thrived with a large Sunday School and active congregation.

During the last twenty years membership has slowly dwindled, and recently seven of our members have passed away. The congregation is now down to about thirty regular members, and it has become increasingly difficult to maintain this old building, which is designated as a Site of Special Interest (SSI). We were looking to merge with other Methodist churches, however due to car parking difficulties the merger fell through.

Before Christmas we received an inquiry from the Rotary Club of Jersey who are looking for suitable premises for a replacement building for the Good Companions Clubs in order to relocate to a site with ample parking. Sion would be ideal if the building could be altered to suit, and the Sion members could also continue to use part of the building for worship.

Their proposed plans would not alter the external appearance of the Chapel itself, but they have a need to sub-divide the main church horizontally to create two floors. They would also like to alter the schoolroom at the rear to enable full use for their required purposes.

Initially we met on site representatives of Rotary and members of the Planning Department, including the Historic Buildings Officer, who was adamant that a sub-division across the length of the Church should not take place. In fact the initial attitude was that the whole of the internal fabric should not be altered.

Subsequent meetings with the Minister for Planning and the Historic Buildings Officer have led to certain possibilities, although the internal area of the Chapel is adamantly held that it should be retained as an open space, from floor to ceiling and wall to wall.

While we are only at an early discussion stage with Rotary at the moment, we do have a building here that could have a new lease of life as a first class community facility in the centre of the Island, with the external fabric of the main building remaining unaltered. To my certain knowledge, when the Methodist churches were made SSIs, the decision was made without the decision-makers having access to the internal parts of the buildings, although subsequent revisions have included internal inspections.

Unlike the Parish Churches all our building maintenance costs need to be funded by the members, and like the Parish Churches we also have the shared costs of ministerial stipends etc. At this moment, Sion needs a large injection of cash that we do not possess and, with an ageing congregation, it would be unviable even if cash were available.

Other Churches (mostly categorised as SSI) will certainly follow Sion in the future, and many will fall into disrepair and disintegrate if new viable uses are not found for them. We are still hopeful that Sion can accommodate this proposed community facility and escape this fate.

Richard Dupré





# FROM SEED TO SHOP - A FULFILLING LIFE

Tony Le Brun of Amal-Grow is amazed at the number of people in Jersey and even in rural St John who know nothing about farming. Primary school children of five and six years who recently visited the farm were astonished to learn that the orange part of carrots grows below the ground 'in that dirty soil!'

Tony's great grandfather farmed in St Lawrence. Grandfather moved to St John and Tony followed his own father on the farm. The family tradition may not continue as neither of Tony's children seems to show any interest in the farm – this reflects the fact that very few commercial family farming businesses are left in St John. The trend is to much larger businesses, like the consolidation of potato growing with the corporate farming of Jersey Royals.

Much bigger units are economically desirable, but this results in the land being farmed by people remote from it. The actual heads of the organisations are not in the fields any more, they are in the office – the place where Tony spends most of his working life – yet he became a farmer because he did not want to work in an office! This anomaly arises because farms are businesses – but farmers do not necessarily make good businessmen and are not always comfortable with red tape. Tony feels that sometimes an accountant with an interest in farming might be better at the top.

## Had a good season?

Thirty to forty years ago this was a common question. In those days a farmer would rely on a single crop – e.g. Jersey Royals or tomatoes – that had a defined season, now 'the season never ends.' Consumers are largely ignorant of seasons, for supermarkets can source products world-wide so that strawberries, for example, are available year round and one can enjoy runner beans – from Kenya – in December.

Indeed supermarkets may feel a greater responsibility to their customers than to local growers, so that if a local farm has a particular crop ready, but does not inform the

supermarket at the critical time, that product will have already been ordered from suppliers in another part of the world and those contracts must be honoured. Whilst saying this, Tony took pains to emphasise the support given to Jersey growers by both C.I. Traders and the Co-Op.

Amal-Grow provides a great variety of local produce seasonally for the Jersey consumer. Such fresh food is good for our health – and for the environment – for no-one in Jersey lives further than five miles from the field in which the carrots on his plate have been grown. (Think how many 'food miles' are clocked up by importing beans from Kenya and the consequent cost to the environment in terms of carbon emissions) But such a variety of crops is not always good

business; the trend is for more efficiency and greater specialisation. Most of the carrots consumed in the U.K. are grown by five farmers only! They probably provide in one day the quantity that Amal-Grow produce in a whole year.

Another threat to local growing is that production costs are higher in Jersey so sometimes it is cheaper to use imports. Recently the mushroom farm, owned by an English company, closed, so another local product has gone and will now need to be imported – more food miles.

## Desecration or good husbandry?

In 2004 two of Tony's management team, Mike Greenwood and Colin Mallett joined him in Amal-Grow as directors and shareholders. This strengthened the company for the future



The modern day farmer - busy at his computer



Two of the main storage buildings with the accommodation units on the left

as they embarked on the daunting prospect of building a completely new farm at Haute Croix. This was needed to replace the premises Tony had been forced to vacate at the end of his lease. He is aware that taking a green field and putting buildings on it could be considered by some to have 'desecrated a field with concrete', however, by developing this new farm complex to store maincrop potatoes throughout the winter they are keeping a large area of the later land in the Island growing crops in a sustainable way. This is a less intensive use of land, managing a greater area for the same amount of production. Not only is this good husbandry, but more economical too as fewer chemical inputs will be needed and this will benefit the environment – and people's health.

### Who are the farmers of the future?

By and large local young people are not interested, for their perception is that farming involves long hours of not-very-well-paid hard work. It's difficult for young people to see beyond this to appreciate the sense of fulfilment which comes from the process of starting off with seeds and ending with a crop, delivered to a shop, ready to be eaten.

Tony acknowledges that the farming industry is not good at promoting itself as a career option in schools – the agricultural course at Highlands folded due to lack of demand, though Amal-Grow did have one student from the Project Trident Work Experience scheme during the past year.



Packing potatoes for sale

So who works Tony's land? When I asked how many of his employees were local, Tony responded, 'What's local?' Nearly half of his workers are permanently established in the island. The other half are seasonal employees who work in Jersey for ten or eleven months of the year, for so diverse are Amal-Grow's crops that these workers can be employed semi-permanently. The recent massive

investment at Haute Croix includes twelve accommodation units for seasonal workers, mostly husband- and-wife teams.

It is not only the crops that are varied; the jobs are too – a fact that is not always known. Of Tony's fifty employees, a team of ten is involved in preparing the harvested crops for the shops – washing, trimming, labelling. Five employees spend their time driving vans and lorries to transport the produce to the point of sale. There are three mechanics maintaining the machinery, and four are involved with administration. That leaves 28 of the 50 for the actual growing of crops from seed to harvest. There's much more to farming than meets the eye!

In Tony's words, farming has recently undergone 'a big shift' from the traditional farming of his father and grandfather. He is clear-sighted about the complexities of this transition and optimistically idealistic about the future. His biggest concern for his business is that another supermarket might enter the Jersey market and not buy locally, failing to support Jersey producers in the same way existing supermarkets do.



The water recycling plant, an important feature of the farm's green credentials

Inbred traditions die hard – for Tony a 'best day' is, 'When I'm not behind a desk. When I'm covering for someone on holiday and I see the farm as a farmer should.' And a worst? – 'Going through all that paperwork and useless forms!'

Angela Le Sueur



# LES MATHIONNETTES

## 'Northern Lights'



### Maurice Richard talked to Mary Rouillé about his interesting life

Maurice Etienne Richard was born in 1927 at La Grande Maison, on the La Grande Route de St Jean. His father was a farmer, cider maker and threshing and ploughing contractor. The farm was mixed, including potatoes, wheat, cattle and pigs. From the age of six he attended an infant school in Sion but left a year and a half later due to his aversion to the girls and joined De La Salle College.

Leaving school in 1942 at the age of fifteen, Maurice went to work for his father on the farm. He really wanted to be an engineer working at the harbour, but it was not to be as the Germans had control over the airport and harbour and Maurice's father would not agree to his son working for the Germans. On the farm Maurice milked the cows, fed the animals and when threshing time came he worked on the thresher which was located directly opposite the house. In those days Jersey was self sufficient in the growing of wheat, barley and with the threshing season starting in October and finishing at Christmas. Peas and beans were also threshed with different sized sieves being used. Monitoring the threshing were two inspectors, one local and one German. This was to ensure that the farmers only kept a certain amount of the grain, the rest going to the State.

Along with their crop, farmers used to bring a flagon of cider to quench their thirst while threshing, with a glass or two being offered to the German inspector. When he was out of the way they siphoned off extra bags of oats and corn into the bottom of a horse-drawn cart and covered them with straw.

During the war the Germans commandeered half of La Grande Maison, which had eighteen rooms, and turned it into a

telecommunications centre. Cables ran from the house to Egypt in Trinity where the tall communications masts were located. On top of the house was a look-out post from where most of the island was visible for enemy plane spotting.

After the war Maurice decided he wanted to join the Army Tank Corp but because he was the only child his father asked him to remain on the farm, as there was no one else to carry on the business.

In 1947 Maurice met Beryl and they were married in 1949, setting up home at La Porte, a farm which was originally owned by his paternal grandfather who originated in Normandy, and his grandmother from Brittany. They had met whilst working on the Jersey farms.

When the war ended the family used to import up to thirty tons of apples a year for cider making, which produced 200 gallon barrels. As well as at St John they had threshing depots at St Clement and St Martin and also visited larger farms with a threshing machine.

In 1951 his father sold La Grande Maison as he found the property was too large with only twenty vergées of land for farming, and bought Haute Croix farm.

Maurice carried on farming at La Porte until he retired at the age of 55. His son Alan farmed there for another five



Maurice making cider at Ashley Court, 1970s



l-r John Labey, Maurice, Raymond Labey

years but gave it up in favour of joining the Ambulance Service. Consequently La Porte farm was sold to a developer who turned the outbuildings into housing. Maurice kept some of the adjacent land and built a house where they used to keep visitors who had previously holidayed at the farm. This house was eventually sold and he built a bungalow named Chalet des Fleurs next door, where they now live. After retiring from farming Maurice



helped his son, David, a landscape gardener, for twelve years before finally hanging up his spade. His other son, Brian, also went into the gardening business.

Joining St John's Honorary Police in 1971, he became a Constable's Officer for nine years and from 1985 to 2001 a Roads Inspector.

Beryl and Maurice are keen gardeners and in 1996 their garden was voted by the RJAHS the best in the island in the medium-sized garden category. Maurice is also musically inclined and became drum major for the Scottish Pipe Band who used to practice at La Porte. He has also played the spoons and bones, which he learnt at the age of twelve, for the Jersey Accordion Band. Four years ago he began

playing petanque and is a member of the Carrefour Pétanque Club based at the Nicolle Centre in St Lawrence. Maurice is very competitive and has won numerous cups, playing singles, doubles and triples.



Threshing at Old St John's Manor, October 1930



Three generations of Richards at La Grande Maison, 1950s

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# FROM COOKING TO DISCOS

Hello once again from the bustling centre of the island! January 4th seems a long distant memory when on that cold morning we dragged ourselves, not too enthusiastically, from our beds. All dull thoughts of returning to work soon disappeared when we were welcomed by all the children bursting to tell us about all the fun they had had over the holiday period.

Our theme for the first month was 'Night and Day'. Santa's grotto was soon transformed into a child's bedroom, complete with sleeping bags and night lights. A set of twins had joined us this term and, unused to our routine, were found nicely tucked up in the sleeping bags, reading books at tidy-up time.

One of our main aims at the pre-school is to ensure the children master all their personal skills. True to form, every time they come in from outside they drop their coats on the floor when something else has caught their attention. Although we must be embarking on the right train of thought as Mia one day, at home, told her dad quite categorically to 'pick his socks up and put them on his peg!'

As we surfaced from the dark mornings of January we dismantled the 'bedroom' and rebuilt a kitchen. Many a meal of delicacies such as peas and birthday cake are served to us and can be washed down by a bowl of tea delivered on a saucer.

## ... not a quiet day at Sion Pre-School

One day, I was passing the home corner when Rai was holding a spatula over a frying pan, with a grey can in his other hand said, 'Caroline I'm the chef and this is my beer!'

Just this week one of our little girls asked if we could have a disco. It transpired that her older sister had had one at 'big school' and not to be outdone she wanted one at her school. Well we never like to disappoint the children and rose to the occasion with great gusto. Within a short space of time the 'quiet room' was transformed with a booming stereo, flashing lights and many teasing psychedelic-coloured homespun pictures. All the children queued for their tickets in their disco clothes. Naturally the staff did their best but it was Julie who stole the show and managed to stop the children in their tracks (not to mention the postman) with her fabulous 60s style outfit.

One Granny did comment that she had never seen clothes like that in Jersey before.

Well with Spring appearing we have a new topic, - 'New Life'. No doubt I will have a few little anecdotes to tell in the next edition. Oh yes and our 'art' of the month will involve 'Aboriginal' influence, so that should be fun.

Caroline Hopkinson  
Manager Sion Pre-School.

## Editorial

Small St John's Parish may be – but boring it certainly isn't, as shown by the activities covered in this edition: from food production to football; from caring for the ancient Parish Church, to developing Sion Methodist for 21st century use; from long-dead benefactors whose gifts continue to help people today, to today's people benefiting others who live in great poverty by giving time, energy and money to enable children to be fed and the sick to access basic healthcare. We cover the long and interesting careers of some parishioners, but also pay tribute to Drummer Colin Clifford who was barely 22 when he was killed.

How many parishioners will take advantage of the free introductory computer session offered by St Brelade's College, especially geared to people who would like to use a computer, but are scared!

Our next edition will appear in early August. **Copy deadline is July 15th.** Please THINK STAR and let us have ideas, articles and pictures. Contact me on telephone 863994 or email [ambles@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:ambles@jerseymail.co.uk)

Thanks to the many who have helped to produce this edition – those who provide ideas, give interviews; those who interview, write, proof-read, design and print; and to our very important advertisers. Finally our thanks go to the merry band of distributors.

Angela Le Sueur

## A Dream Fulfilled

by June Beslievre

This is the story of the founding of many local charities for disabled people in the 60's and 70's. These include the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Jersey, the Jersey Society for the Disabled, Maison des Landes Hotel and the Jersey Cheshire Home – with many human interest stories showing great courage on the part of disabled people.

A foreword by Sir John Cheshire describes the book as an important record of one significant element of Jersey's social history.

Mary Phillips, local historian, says: 'The book, partly biographical, partly historical, shows how the care for and understanding of disabled people in Jersey has developed in the past fifty or so years.'

Sir Nigel Broomfield, Chairman of Leonard Cheshire, says: 'The account of how the Jersey Home was finally established is fascinating and shows how much can be achieved by faith, determination and perseverance.'

A 200-page paperback, the sale price of £9.99p is solely in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Jersey. Copies are obtainable from the Christian Bookshop in the Central Market.

For further information, contact June on 861821 or email: [junebes@localdial.com](mailto:junebes@localdial.com)



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## SAVING THE PLANET STARTS IN ST JOHN

The 100,000 tonnes of waste which Jersey currently produces annually is not an inevitability we should accept without question. Nor is it something we can ignore is happening.

While waste cannot be eliminated, we can reduce its environmental impact. It is possible, for example, to prevent waste and also to make more sustainable use of what is produced. We can also promote a community-wide change in attitude, as we have in our parish, encouraging every individual to be aware of, and responsible for, their own contribution. Unless we - Jersey as a whole - take steps to manage our waste responsibly and to the highest standards, it will begin to impact on the quality of our lives and the state of our environment.

I am very proud to say that we in St John have been doing a very good job with our doorstep recycling scheme. Recent figures indicate that since the scheme launched in May 2006 we have recycled 18.5 per cent of all of our household waste. This peaked in September 2006 when we recycled 23.3 per cent. Although, compared with figures from 2005 which show that as an island we dispose of 4,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard, 1,000 tonnes of timber, 14 tonnes of aluminium, 327 tonnes of clothes, 500 tonnes of agricultural plastics, 5,800 tonnes of glass and 11,900 tonnes of green waste every year, our contribution looks like a drop in the ocean, it is far from it. We have made a very good start on the waste monster which Jersey must try to tame.

2005 figures also state that the recycling rate in Jersey stands at 24 per cent which, contrary to many beliefs, is better than the 23 per cent (2004/2005) UK rate. We do, however, have one of the lowest rates in Europe. Municipal

waste recycling figures from the EU (2003/2004) indicate that the Netherlands recycles 59 per cent, Austria 58 per cent, Germany 53 per cent and Belgium and Sweden 39 per cent.

The States has set itself a target recycling rate of 32 per cent by 2009, an achievable figure as demonstrated by many other communities. I am confident that, as a parish, we can achieve this rate. I am currently investigating the possibility of introducing plastic bottle recycling to our scheme, an addition I hope to have up and running this summer. With aluminium and tins, plastic bottles and paper, we should have no trouble in reaching 32 percent; setting a fine example for the rest of the island's parishes.

Our scheme has been pioneering in many ways. With commercial sponsorship from Cimandis and Style Group we are able to operate the scheme, in conjunction with Transport and Technical Services, at no extra cost to residents. I strongly believe that if we want recycling to be taken seriously, the States and other parishes must explore the options and support them financially. Not only have Cimandis and Style Group demonstrated themselves to be socially responsible, they have identified the need to encourage staff to recycle both at work and at home.

We want to achieve our dream of recycling 32 per cent of all waste by 2009. However, we do not want to do this at significant extra cost to Jersey residents. So the challenge, I believe, is laid before not only Jersey residents but also in front of Jersey businesses to follow the lead of St John's supporters and invest in initiatives which help realise this target and benefit Jersey's entire community.

Deputy Andrew Lewis

## ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

### I still haven't found what I'm looking for

In a more reflective moment the U2 song title can sum up it all up. Whatever our circumstances, it always seems instinctive to be looking for something else, something more. Whether we have nothing or everything it is not unusual to have a sense of emptiness to varying degrees. Success in relationships, career, finances, sports etc can feel great, for a time, but somehow we know it's not enough.

It's tempting to fill our lives with stuff and busyness so as to avoid the issue, but we can risk being in denial. We can sense that the answer is probably spiritual but society doesn't make it easy for us to admit that in public. To do so is to risk all credibility. So denial can win the day, but the problem never seems to want to go away.

Enter the Christian who'd love to tell you about some 'Good News' they have. But why would you listen to them - do they have an attractive and fulfilling lifestyle? Do they make a difference in the community around them? In any

case some of that 'Good News' sounds pretty uncomfortable doesn't it?

The problem is that Christians, being mere humans, will make mistakes and you will definitely come across some you don't like. But to give up your search for an answer on this basis is to risk missing the point. Look beyond the weakness of the Christian to the compelling life of the one they follow. This is the point where you see an attractive and fulfilling lifestyle and someone who made a difference in His community.

When you begin to look at this man's life you will get a sense that perhaps you might have stumbled across what it is you've been looking for.

Mike Larbalestier

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## BUDDING GROWERS AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

Time has flown since I took up the post of head teacher two terms ago and I would like to thank all parishioners who have made me feel extremely welcome and helped me settle into community life. I must say that I am enjoying it very much. In order to get to know the parish a little more my family and I have taken several walks around the beautiful lanes. As we wandered I took photographs of some more unusual sights and challenged you to try and beat me and identify the fifty views – all taken within roughly three-quarters of a mile radius of school. The competition was called 'Where in St John?' and it was wonderful to see so many people strolling along, booklet in hand, eyes peeled for that elusive shot. I have lost count of the number of conversations I had with people taking part and thoroughly enjoying the challenge. I hope that you found it a lovely way to get out and explore the parish. Thank you in advance for any support that you were able to give us with this fundraising event.

Life in any primary school is always busy and we are no exception. The children and staff are magnificent in their desire to learn and develop whilst parents and community members give us so much support. A great example of this is our current development of our Outdoor Learning Environment. The staff team has looked at ways in which we can make the maximum use of our outdoor school site. This is especially important to us given its relatively small area when compared with other schools. We are looking for any possibility for learning opportunities and one way in which we have decided to develop is in learning more about natural cycles and all things horticultural. The Nursery class has taken on the challenge with their usual enthusiasm and have been very busy creating several vegetable beds. The looks on the children's faces when Mr Anderson's JCB arrived full of top soil were a picture – as were the teachers' when they realised how much we would have to shift! As usual, though, everyone pulled together and with a great team effort the soil was barrowed around to the plot. Several weeks later and the children are again excited as they think about pulling their first crop of Royals! The learning has been tremendous – from Mr Myatt's construction of the beds, the cooperation to fill them, planting, composting for next year and keeping the plants growing. We think it is vital that our children have a deep knowledge of these natural processes and we have plans for all the classes to have their own vegetable plots on the school grounds. Who knows, we could soon have our own organic vegetable business – with lots more learning about marketing, organisation, profit and loss to go with it!

Another way in which we are developing our Outdoor Learning Environment is with the making of a sensory garden. We currently have a slightly sad looking corner of grass under a majestic beech tree but the staff and children together have drawn up plans for a garden of varied sensory experiences full of colour, fragrance, textures and sounds. Each class will take on some responsibility for the upkeep of the garden and contribute to its evolution. It will be a place for the whole school to use for stimulation, contemplation and reflection – all vital components of successful learners. We hope that a beautiful arbour in the garden will be a fitting tribute to the late Nadine Hamon-Cole, who was such an inspirational figure in the life of the school.

As you can see we have many exciting projects under way and we are always keen to share our development with our parish community. If there is any way, however small, that you would like to contribute or be involved with these projects you would be welcomed warmly. Perhaps you have gardening expertise and could help us for a hour, or maybe you are remodelling your own garden and have materials that we may be able to use, or you may want to donate a plant from our 'Garden Wish List' – please do drop into school or give me a ring. We would very happy to talk to you.

Finally, thank you so much to everyone who visited us for our Open Day on 29th March. It was lovely to see you and to welcome you into our school of which we are very proud. I hope that you enjoyed your visit.

Andrew Willis





# ST JOHN'S FOOTBALL CLUB

At the start of what has been a tricky season, we found ourselves struggling to find sufficient senior players, a senior coach/manager, as well as struggling financially off the field.

Well I'm pleased to say that financially, things have improved. This is mainly due to the hugely successful car boot sales that the Football Club helped to organise every Sunday. As well as helping the Club's finances it was good to see so many people back up at the Centre enjoying themselves. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped the sales, the residents of the surrounding areas, the parishioners, the parish officials, the stall holders and all those who came along and spent their money.

Although the senior men's teams eventually had sufficient signings to run two sides it remained a struggle on the pitch. The 1st team won three league games and finished the season bottom of their division. The reserve team won more games in their division and finished just below half way. It has been somewhat of a miracle that they managed to field two senior men's teams and fulfil all their games when you take in to account that they had no trainer or 1st team manager. It is only thanks to the Club Secretary, who took the training sessions, and to the Club President and Secretary who helped manage the 1st team that the Club was able to field two sides.

Our ladies team started the season in tremendous form by winning their pre-season tournament, beating their nearest rivals, First Tower, in the final. This victory meant that at the time St John's ladies team were the proud holders of all of the four trophies that are up for grabs in local ladies' football. However, due to injuries and players leaving the Island they were unable to hold on to any of the three trophies they won last season. With their league form patchy and with only three games left, they find themselves in second place, unable to catch the team above them.

After being in charge of the ladies team for three years, their manager, Jayson Lee, will be stepping down at the end of the current season. The Club and players would like to

thank Jayson for all his hard work and for helping the team achieve so much success over the past couple of years.

As you are aware, due to a lack of support on the managerial side, we had to reduce the number of junior sides at St John from six to two. Not only was this disappointing from the Club's point of view but even more so for the children who wanted to play but whom we had to refuse.

## The future?

Apart from the problems mentioned above, you are no doubt aware that during the summer, the Club came extremely close to folding, after 87 years of existence. Another season on and things are not looking that much brighter. There is still no 1st team trainer or manager and we cannot expect to go another season with the Secretary and President taking training and the 1st team, as well as trying to run the Club off the field. On top of that, the ladies' team will soon need a new manager to replace Jayson. The number of committee members also fell during the season, which meant more work for those already working their socks off for the Club.

**Yet again, the Club finds itself in desperate need for managers, trainers and committee members. If none are found then, who knows what will happen to the Club? If you can help, please contact Club President Alan 'Postie' Tardivel on 07797 824943 or email the Club at [admin@stjohnfc.com](mailto:admin@stjohnfc.com)**

Finally, St John's Football Club would like to say thank you to all the players for their efforts during the season, to all the managers for the time and hard work they have given, to all the supporters that have come to watch the games and to all the Club's sponsors for their kind donations.

To find out more about the Club, including all results, please log on to our website [www.stjohnfc.com](http://www.stjohnfc.com)

Paul Coutillard

## UNDER 14 TEAM

### St John lose a thrilling final, but walk away with their heads held high.

Tuesday March 27th saw a truly thrilling Cory Cup final, played by the Under-14 teams of St John and Rozel Rovers. The game had everything, from five goals, good passing, tremendous support and was played in a great atmosphere by both teams.

The path to the final saw some interesting games for St John. The Quarter final against Jersey Wanderers B went to penalties after a nail-biting game where St John twice came from behind to level. The St John lads kept their heads, scoring all their penalties. The semi-final against St Ouen was a very different affair with St John 6-0 winners.

Prior to the kick-off for the final at Springfield, the players lined up to be presented to the officials. It was clear that the

size difference between the two teams would play an important part in the game. For the first ten minutes the lads on both sides were finding their feet, but in the next fifteen minutes it was Rozel that seized the opportunity to open up a lead with three well taken goals. During this period Rozel were camped in the St John half and the Rozel right winger, Connor Mallet, twice showed a turn of pace to reach the by line, and crossed the ball for a simple tap in. A third was added from close range.

However, St John was far from out of the game. Hugo Powell who gave away a good six inches in height to the Rozel centre back, raced onto a through ball from Mark Goddard, but the Rozel keeper made an excellent save, diving to his right. This was followed soon after by a Richard Streets shot that hit the bar. Both teams pushed forward for the remainder of the first half, but each defence proved solid.





The second half was only 30 seconds old when Rozel scored their fourth goal. A cross from the right was deflected onto the post by Mark Goddard, and Rozel were the first to respond and beat the keeper from close range. This was a cruel turn of events for Mark, who barely put a foot wrong all night. Rozel scored a fifth, following a goal mouth scramble, but not before Richard Streets had hit the post after a good build up on the right hand side of midfield.



problems every time they had the ball. Matthew Derrien, Freddie Phipps, Francis O'Halloran and Danny Galloway each played in a number of positions throughout the game, and gave a valuable contribution to the team performance.

St John's played some excellent football. They refused to give up and

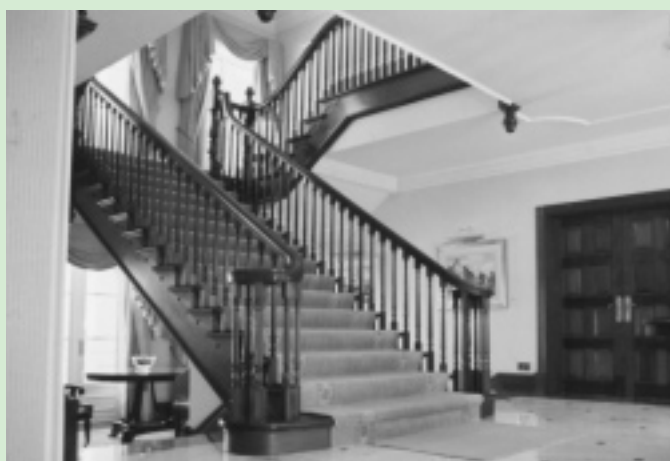
battled for every ball of the 90 minutes. They played with fantastic team spirit and gave everything for their team mates and the club. They can all be proud of their performance in terms of commitment, style and the way in which they conducted themselves, and we can be proud of each and every one of them.

Last but by no means least, a great big thanks to the St John supporters, who cheered their team throughout. A number of the boys commented that the encouragement from the St John crowd lifted their performance. It would not have been the same without you!

Our aim is to go one better next year!

Nigel Perrée

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# FROM JERSEY TO KENYA

**Parishioners Dave and Betty Ellis and Alain Aoutin were members of a Jersey group who travelled to Kenya last November. Dave Ellis tells their tale.**

In October 2004 Paul Okumu, a Kenyan working in Jersey, spoke to the town Christian Unity Group about life in his home village of Nyalkinyi. As a result of what he said, and his humbling account of an incredible faith, the group decided to try to help the villagers.

## Water and health

Our first goal was to provide clean water; most water was collected from a muddy pond also used to water the cattle. After some fund-raising we sent over the money to have a borehole drilled and fitted with a pump.

In the meantime we discovered that the villagers' most pressing need was a health centre, as none was available in their area. The Jersey Overseas Aid commission offered to fund the materials for a health centre if the Unity Group raised a team of volunteers to go and help with the building. Finding the volunteers was the easy bit; we ended up with four Anglicans, three Catholics, three Methodists and a Presbyterian. They proved to be an incredible team of hard-workers whose ability to work together was held an example of what 'ecumenical' should mean.

A health centre needs staff housing, so we started raising funds to build two staff houses. The Jersey team would live in the houses whilst in Kenya then they would be used to attract staff for the centre. We also learned that the children were always hungry; few got breakfast and with no school feeding programme their only meal was at night. We sent money for the children to be fed at school for November

and January with the idea that while in Kenya we would look for a longer-term solution.

Fund-raising, preparation, lectures and team building made the time pass very quickly until on 3rd November we left Jersey to travel to Nyalkinyi. We found that the two staff houses had become a terrace of four two-roomed houses of a very high standard, with a bathroom block of three toilets and showers. The borehole project also took us by surprise; the borehole was fitted with a submersible pump run by a generator which filled a water storage tank on a high concrete tower, from where gravity took water to the two stand pipes for the villagers' use and to the health centre and its staff houses.

After a colourful welcoming ceremony - with plenty of speeches - the next day it was down to work. The first week was spent in carrying tons of rocks for the foundations, covering them with a layer of hoggins and then a thick layer of concrete.

From then on it was a question of our carrying bricks and cement for the locals who knew a lot more than us about bricklaying. We dug holes in the rock-hard ground and erected support posts for the security fence. As we left, the local team had just finished the walls up to ring-beam height so the roof would soon be going on. Throughout the project the locals could not get over the fact that we were there to work hard. They kept saying "but you are the sponsors, we didn't expect you to work as well".



Collecting the clean water



Alain Aoutin and Ces Ommissi up to their necks!

During our stay Doctor Jon Osmont, a team member, started an out-patient clinic in the village; the local health authority agreed to staff this until the health centre opens. We also visited the primary and secondary schools and donated money for books and equipment as well as taking paper, pencils, football strips and a football.

There are a number of orphans in the village. We visited a 15-year boy and his 12-year-old sister who have to fend for themselves. They rarely have breakfast and evening meals





depend on what they have been given that day. The boy makes some money selling charcoal: it takes him two days to make a large bag full, which he carries five miles to town and if he is lucky sells for 40p. He can see no other future; he cannot afford to go to secondary school and cannot leave his younger sister – a hard life and typical of the many orphans in Africa.

### Food for the future

We discussed the feeding of the school children with the teachers and the village Elders. The most viable option seemed to be the purchase of a farm sufficiently large to feed the schools and in-patients at the clinic, with surplus to sell at a small profit to pay two labourers to run the farm. We looked at two local farms that were for sale. The first was suitable for growing maize and beans. The second had good grassland and was a possible home for four Jersey-cross, milk cows and a thousand chickens. It also had a fertile strip along the banks of a stream, ideal for growing tomatoes and onions, the standard flavourings for the nyoyo that will make up the midday meal for the school. Both farms would need a small semi-permanent house for a labourer and one would need stabling for the cows and a house for the chickens. Together with some tools, seeds and six months' pay for the labourers the whole project will cost around £10,000.

We are also considering buying either four oxen or a reconditioned tractor that will help with the food production and create income by being hired out to neighbouring farms – very few farmers can afford to buy such luxuries and have to 'plough' by hand.

The vast majority are subsistence farmers in the very true sense of the phrase – if they can't grow it they can't eat it. Every day we saw a procession of ladies on their way to Town five miles away carrying baskets on their heads filled with fresh local fruit including pineapples, pawpaw, mangoes, bananas and oranges grown on their family plots. In the evening they return, sometimes bringing fish from nearby Lake Victoria or vegetables like sweet potatoes that did not grow well in the village - but only if they had sold their fruit.

We were able to enjoy many social activities including a boat trip on Lake Naivasha which was full of hippos. We went into the Safari Park and saw 'the big five' in just over ninety minutes. The scenery and the sky are glorious and coupled with magnificent animals in their natural surroundings it made a magical end to our time in Kenya.

It was a truly memorable project, giving the team memories of a warm, friendly people that will remain for a lifetime. We are grateful to the many people who contributed to our fund-raising over the last two years and can assure them that the money was well used.



Dave Ellis with spear and shield, given to him as Honorary Son of Africa

### Fancy sponsoring a chicken? Or naming a cow?

Since this article was written, the Unity Group have raised £9,000 towards the cost of the farming project. The two farms have been purchased, fencing erected and stables are being built. Maize and beans are now being planted. The villagers are so encouraged and excited by these major improvements to their lives and prospects that they are about to construct a bush road leading directly from the farm to the school.

Money is still needed to buy the livestock. Would you like to buy a chicken for the farm- or a cow-or an ox?

Chickens are only 60 pence each.

An ox will cost you £170 – two are needed, and four would be better.

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Students follow a course individually in small classes of up to 8 students with on-hand guidance from the course instructors. This personalised attention has proven popular with many people who find technology intimidating. **'Students can use their lesson as an opportunity to get general advice on technology, - for example they can bring in their digital camera for advice on connecting it to their computer, or**

**ask about other computer problems they may have encountered at home'**, states Rudi.

Students who complete the basic course can then choose to continue to complete the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). This internationally recognised qualification provides users with essential computer skills in a broad range of office computer programmes such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software. It is ideal for people with no prior knowledge looking to find work in an office, or those who simply want to broaden their use of computer software for home and hobby purposes.

Courses are held at St Brelade's College during the daytime and evening. The flexible structure means that students can choose from one to five sessions per week, depending on their needs. The classrooms are fully equipped, and all course-books are provided, so all students need is a desire to discover the exciting world online! As a special incentive, St John's parishioners are offered a free introductory lesson before they enrol on the ten week course.

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# PARISH DIARY - APRIL - JULY 07

## APRIL 2007

Sun 29th	9.30am	Memorial Service for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the death of Drummer Colin Clifford, in the Parish Church.
Tues 24th		Bingo in the Parish Hall - (Last Tuesday of each month)
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

## MAY

May 9th	?am	Traditional Ceremony in Liberation Square
	12 Noon.	Special events in the People's Park begin, including Jersey Big Band; a food fair; 1940's party.
	3.45 pm	Performance of guests of honour, Sir John Dankworth, Dame Cleo Lane and friends.
	5 pm	Gala Orchestral Concert with King's Chamber Orchestra, Jersey Chamber Orchestra, Jersey Premier Brass and massed children's and island choirs.

These events are free to all. Come and celebrate...

Mon 14th	7.30pm	'Rededication of the Peace Cross at the URC
	8.00pm	AGM of Christians Together in Jersey at the URC
Sun 20th	11.00am	Celebration of Education service in the Parish Church
Fri 26th		Last day of school half-term
Wed 30th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

## JUNE

Mon 4th		Back to school
Mon 11th - Fri 15th		School Environment Week
Sun 24th	3.00pm	St John's Group of Churches Sea Sunday Service at Bonne Nuit Bay.
Wed 27th	2.00pm	Golden Age meet at the Parish Hall for Afternoon Tea outing.

## JULY

Fri 20th		Last day of school term
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

**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
	'All-age' worship on the last Sunday of the month
	Reverend Patrick McManus

### ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

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

## 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.

The magazine is designed and printed by Alpha Print Limited.

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Roger Long	-	Assistant Editor
Carl Hinault	-	Advertising Manager
Rosemary Dupré	-	Distribution
Rosie Bleasby, Richard Dupré, Mary Rouillé and Reverend Andy Thewlis		





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Sunday Lunch 12 - 4 p.m.



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prizes - 4 to 6 people  
in a team £1 per head

**KARAOKE EVERY OTHER SATURDAY FROM 9 UNTIL 11P.M.**

**We cater for any occasion. Buffet menus available. You name it - we can do it.**

**Don't forget - if you give us a month's notice we can apply for a  
late night extension to help you celebrate your special occasion**

## **Miss St John**

Miss St John 2007 is Charlotte Keen, an 18-year-old Brighton University student. Both Charlotte and the runner-up, Ashley Le Feuvre, will go through to the Miss Battle of Flowers Contest to be held at the Pomme D'Or Hotel on June 8th.

**Congratulations!**

