

# L'ÉTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



## Parish of St John

ISSUE 12

August 2007

### REVEREND ANDY THEWLIS

**The Rev Andy Thewlis is St John's Parish Rector at a time when the state of the physical structure and furnishings of the church have come to the fore. He spoke to ALASDAIR CROSBY**

ANYONE driving past St John's Village in recent months will not have failed to see that the exterior of the parish church has looked as if it has been wrapped up like a parcel, and the spire replaced by a tower of scaffolding. At the time of going to press, the packaging is being unwrapped, and very shortly the familiar – if much improved – exterior of the church will once again be visible.

The Rector, the Rev Andy Thewlis, was asked what had been going on.

'We have just completed the first stage of the church's restoration,' he said. 'We have known for a while that the church had a severe damp problem, and in 2000 we began to explore how best to deal with it. It was going to be very expensive, and so the best way of paying for this was, the parish agreed, to sell the rectory, build a newer, smaller one, and use the net proceeds of the sale (£500,000) to restore the church.'

'The restoration had two phases: exterior and interior. We have just completed the exterior restoration.'

In this just-completed first phase, the whole of the exterior of the building has been repointed in lime mortar; the weather cockerel at the top of the spire has been regilded, the clock has been restored, and emergency work on the roof completed. A new ring-beam for the bells has been

installed, as the last one, after 30 years' use, was beginning to rot – surely a worrying thought for the congregation below!

'The task now is to maintain the momentum and also to pay for the internal works,' Mr Thewlis said. 'We need to render the whole of the interior of the building, re-do the electrics and the wiring, add a new lighting system, adding up-lighters to the existing chandeliers. It will take around 18 months for the damp to dry out sufficiently, and consequently it will take some time for this second phase to be completed. In the meantime, there is to be some fund-raising as we need to defray some of the expenses of the civil parish.'

'I am looking forward to focusing on my ministry again, which is about people and the growth of the Kingdom. I am not denying the effort that has gone into the restoration, but it will be nice in due course not to have site meetings every other week!'

One suggested interior change has met with emphatic disapproval from a parish assembly: the proposal that pews be removed and replaced with modern seating that would have made for a more flexible use of the space, and opened up the building as well for use mid-week.

There were also concerns expressed about a dais installed, as a temporary measure, to the front of the pews. This is still there, and following approval at the Annual Ecclesiastical Assembly in April, awaits a faculty from the Ecclesiastical Court to make it permanent.

Together with the planned installation of an audio-visual system, there have been comments that all



this is really only for the benefit of the 11am service, which has a contemporary, informal style. He denied this, as well as the allegation that his interest in this was at the expense of the more traditional services held earlier on a Sunday morning.

'The dais helps me to view the congregation – at 5ft 7in, I am vertically challenged, and it would be nice to see more than the front rows,' he joked. 'It is also invaluable for services such as weddings and funerals, and services for the school. Yes, the installation of the audio-visual system is primarily for the 11am service, but people who like a more traditional 'feel' to a service have the benefit of prayer book services at 8am and traditional formal communion with hymns at 9.30am.

'The pews will remain, as that is the wish of parishioners: worship is a very special and personal experience.'

Mr Thewlis has been Rector now for the past 12 years. He is, he said, 'an M62 corridor man' – born near Huddersfield, university in Manchester, parish work in Leeds, and then, after Durham Theological College (a slight deviation from the corridor, admittedly, but still in the north of England), four year's curacy in Bury, Lancashire.

Then, suddenly, it was up and away southwards – and beyond southwards - to Jersey, the result of spotting an advertisement in the Church Times. He had wanted to stay in the Manchester diocese, but at the time there was no diocesan vacancies. He arrived in Jersey for his interview, and fell in love with the Island.

'Jersey is very different – and very lovely – of course,' he said, 'especially in a rural parish such as St John. The main difference is the real sense of community, and the very real links between the church and the municipality. The civil aspects of my role are absent in the UK. There one has to work hard to become involved in the civil community; in

Jersey, that is part of the rôle of being a Rector.

'My first Roads Committee meeting was held the day after I was licensed as Priest-in-Charge at St John. I was invited to go round the roads to decide which pot-holes needed filling in and which drains needed re-routing, and I thought to myself: "What have I let myself in for?!"

'It was actually one of the most helpful things I could have done: walking round the parish in the company of four people who knew it really well. The banter was such fun, and the welcome was so real. There is a very special relationship between the church and the parish. It is something that should be treasured and retained.'

## PARISH OF ST JOHN ADMINISTRATION

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### PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
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# JERSEY HOSPICE CARE

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Jersey Hospice Care is a specialist palliative nursing service which provides holistic care, free of charge, for cancer and motor neurone disease patients. It is committed to providing a professional service of the highest standard to all those entrusted to its care, whether within their own homes, or at the Day Hospice or In-Patient Unit at Clarkson House. In this way, all patients are enabled to live the remainder of their lives to the full, remaining at home if they wish, and to die with dignity where they choose.

Jersey Hospice Care was founded in 1982 with the Home Care Service. With the opening of Clarkson House at Grouville in 1985, a fully comprehensive service was developed, including Home Care, Day Hospice and In-Patient Unit for those who needed care. Because each person is unique, a combination of these options is frequently used to give the most appropriate form of care. In addition, Jersey Hospice Care provides a Bereavement Service and accepts referrals from both colleagues within Jersey Hospice Care and from within the Island community.

As the demand grew for the services offered, the opportunity to acquire more spacious accommodation at Mont Cochon came about in 1985. Through the generosity of the Islanders, Jersey Hospice Care is now based at this magnificent site – “the House on the Hill”.

In addition to the specialist nursing staff, there are nursing auxiliaries, cooks, cleaners and administration staff who all contribute to providing the full range of services.

Jersey Hospice Care also relies on a team of volunteers who provide invaluable help across the service. Their special talents are put to use in the 6-bed In-Patient unit and at Day Hospice held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Before volunteers are allowed to work with patients and their families, they must undertake comprehensive training. Other committed volunteers are used to transport patients to and from Day Hospice, or to help to maintain the oasis of calm that is the magnificent garden surrounding the House. As part of the Fundraising team, there are currently three Charity Shops manned by volunteers who sort goods donated by the public, prepare the items and man the tills. In order to become a volunteer Bereavement Support Worker, an intensive specialist training course must be completed.

Jersey Hospice Care currently costs £5,500.00



**Jersey Hospice Care**

per day to run. It makes no charge to its patients, and receives no grant from the States of Jersey, relying entirely on the generosity of the public, through donations or fundraising.

2007 is the 25th Anniversary of Jersey Hospice Care. Earlier this year, a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication was held at the Parish

Church of St Helier (Town Church) at which Jurat Mrs Jean King (one of the founders of Jersey Hospice Care) quoted the Duchess of Kent who once said “Hospices are places where tears and smiles walk side by side”.

Jersey Hospice Care has come a long way in twenty-five years and is ready to face the next twenty-five. Strong foundations have been laid on which the future generation will be able to build and continue to respond to changing needs of patients and their families.

*By Diane Weber,  
Trustee and Fundraising Secretary*

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## Marks and Spencer Simply Food St John Coming Soon...

Over the last few weeks major changes have taken place to Melbourne Garage the former car showroom in La Route des Issues. The site is now well under way in its transformation into a Marks and Spencer Simply Food store.

The site will also see the introduction of a modern automated fuel forecourt with chip & pin (credit/debit card) operated self-service pumps so drivers do not have to go into the store to pay.

The 3,000 sq ft M&S store will include an in-store bakery, baking fresh rolls, cakes and savouries seven days a week, an external ATM for cash withdrawals, a covered cycle bay and up to 2,000 of the very best food products from the Marks and Spencer catalogue. M&S Jersey's Head of Food, Steve Jackson says: "We are looking forward to serving the Parish of St John, and becoming an integral part of the community."

Ian Furmidge (**picture below**) will be Marks and Spencer's Simply Food St John's store manager:



"I am very excited to be opening the M&S St John store and would welcome any parishioner's comments regarding the product range. I would like the parishioners' input to ensure we are serving the community with the products they want to see. Please contact me on [ianfurmidge@marks-and-spencer.je](mailto:ianfurmidge@marks-and-spencer.je) or call 746620 to discuss.

The new M&S Simply Food store will open this autumn.





# DEPUTY ANDREW LEWIS

Before updating you on current issues I would refer you back to the Spring edition when I indicated to you that the Trustees of the Recreation Centre would be circulating a questionnaire to gauge parishioners' views and future hopes for sports and community facilities in the Parish. Unfortunately the Trustees were not minded to instigate this consultation process and as a consequence have signed a further 21 year lease. They have not as yet made public the information that led them to this decision. If you have any concern about this course of action then please contact the chairman of the board of Trustees, Connétable Butcher, who I am sure will be happy to explain further. In the meantime I will fully support any initiatives that help develop better community facilities in the parish, including any that are viable at the Rec.

## Recycling

Many of you have been asking when we can start recycling plastics and cartons. I have had a meeting with the recycling officer at TTS who has confirmed that the machinery for recycling plastics is now in place at Bellozane. We now have a few logistical issues to iron out, namely collection days, receptacles for collection and meeting the additional cost for an extra collection. The intention at the moment, once agreement has been reached with the parish contractors, is to begin collections in September. We will also be sending out information about the

availability of wheelie bins which are specifically designed for separated waste. The bins are designed so that your existing recycling boxes can neatly slot into them. Once we have agreed terms with a distributor, the bins will be available for purchase.

## Traffic Calming

You will have noticed the 30mph signs near Melbourne House indicating the approach to St John's Village, which I hope are helping make drivers more aware that they are entering a speed-restricted area.

Unfortunately the issue of traffic calming measures does not come high on the list of priorities for TTS,

despite my best efforts to keep it at the top of the agenda. I have discussed the matter again with the Minister for Transport and Technical Services who also has responsibility for the Community Safety Grant Fund. We have made application to this fund for monies to construct a pedestrian crossing and associated traffic calming measures outside the Parish Hall. We are still awaiting the outcome of this application, to which the minister assures me he is giving careful consideration. I have been contacted by several parishioners about the continuing issue of the speed of traffic and lack of safe pedestrian access at Sion. Unfortunately TTS do not believe there is a problem here.

Consequently it is going to take people power if this issue is to move forward. If you feel strongly about this, please write to me, the Minister, or even form your own petitions.

## Skateboarding

For the young people of the parish I have made some progress with the possibility of creating a small facility for skate boarding which could also be used for rollerblading and BMX bikes. We are still in negotiation with regards to the proposed site and it will, of course, need to go through the normal planning process. The proposed designs have been given to the youth club for their views on the preferred type of unit. Once the preferred option has been established, the scheme will then be costed out and funds identified for its construction. If any young people have any thoughts on the type and design of facility they would like to see constructed, please give me a call.

## Forth-coming States debate High Hedges

The States will shortly be debating the High Hedges Law. A number of you have already contacted me about this rather 'thorny' issue. If you are not aware of the full detail of the proposal you can access the white paper at [www.statesassembly.com](http://www.statesassembly.com). Click propositions P51. In a nutshell the proposed legislation is designed to protect people from having their properties overshadowed by unreasonably high hedges. An amendment to the proposition has also been lodged which proposes that it should not apply to hedges that pre-existed the proposition, which may be unacceptable to those of you who may have a problem with a neighbour's hedge now. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.





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## DEAR PARISHIONERS

Well needless to say my first six months has been a baptism of fire to say the least, what with the situation of the Recreation Centre, for which I am glad to say we seem to have a way forward.

I would hope that all the parishioners that objected to its demolition will now get behind the centre and use it.

### CHURCH

The work on repointing the church is nearing completion now, the building is looking great and I, for one, cannot wait to see the scaffolding removed. The bells have now been rehung after the ring beam supporting them was replaced. I have to congratulate the team at Colan Construction on their professional approach to the work. In particular I would like to thank the foreman, Alan Phillips, who has kept me up to speed on progress.

There is still work to be done on the church but this is unlikely to be undertaken for a little while as the building will need to dry out which will take some time. Depending on the amount of money left when this phase is complete and the final accounts are in, it may be prudent to look first at re-roofing the church, as the surveyors estimate that there is only ten years useful life in it. That way the whole of the exterior will have been repaired and should be completely wind and watertight for the foreseeable future.



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### PARISH HALL

I am working at present on the final detail of my proposal for the work on the parish hall. I still have some detail to work out with Planning and the Historic Buildings department as the building has an SSI status.

### DONATIONS

You will have seen recently that we advertised for donations for a gift for my predecessor. We will hold this open until the end of August 2007 so anyone wishing to contribute please send to the Parish Hall.

### HONORARY POLICE

We have vacancies in the Honorary Police and some more changes coming up in the not too distant future so, if you are interested in a chat, please give the Parish Hall a call and either one of the officers or myself would be glad to give you any information.

*Graeme Butcher  
Connétable*

## TWINNING NEWS- ST JOHN'S TWINNING ASSOCIATION

A party of 35 people enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Le Teilleul from 20th-22nd of April, spent en famille. We were able to celebrate with our French friends their fete de St George. We had a splendid evening with about 500 people for a fabulous dinner and dance in the sports hall at Le Teilleul. As always an enjoyable evening was had by all.

On the Sunday many of us went to a restaurant for lunch, where our hosts made a presentation to Mrs Daphne Hinault for her many years of organising the Twinning so successfully. We all finally departed on our way home on a coach after another successful weekend with our French friends.

If anyone is interested in being involved in the Twinning, please contact our Chairman Ron Le Herissier on tel 862010, or our secretary Mrs Myrtle Malzard tel. 862931



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# A VITAL HARVEST . . . A SISTER'S TALE

**Jersey Friends of Anthony Nolan Trust** has been in existence since January 1994, and I was one of the founder members. My involvement with ANT came about because my brother, Cyril Le Brun, who is 13 years older than I, was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia in 1991. This was a terrible shock as he had been living an active, outdoor life as a working farmer. Blood tests of siblings quickly indicated that two of us were potential tissue matches, but somehow I always knew that I would be the potential bone marrow donor.

Even with this information, it took many months of testing and waiting before the decision to go ahead with a transplant was made. Treatment was undertaken at the Hammersmith Hospital, London, under the supervision of Professor John Goldman, who was a pioneer in this field.

As a donor, I had to undergo health checks and counselling when we visited Hammersmith together one month before the date. They also took a pint of my blood to be stored and given back to me after the "harvest" of bone marrow, as it is quaintly called.

The date for the transplant was November 1993. Cyril had to go into hospital to have full body radiation and chemotherapy to kill off his own bone marrow. I followed ten days later and was admitted on the Thursday afternoon. On Friday morning, the harvest of bone marrow was taken under general anaesthetic, and I returned to the ward. I remember waking up and seeing the bag of blood with my name on it and knowing it was all over. I recovered for the rest of the day and was able to go down to see Cyril, who was already receiving the bone marrow, which looks like a blood transfusion. After a night's sleep, I felt much better, although I was stiff and bruised.

My husband came to collect me and we stayed in London for two nights, before returning home. I was able to go back to

work the following Monday – the body replaces bone marrow within ten days.

Cyril spent three months on the special unit at Hammersmith Hospital and some time as an outpatient before returning home. Recovery was a slow process with set backs and complications such as "Graft versus Host Disease" and other side effects. The regular checkups in London gradually became less frequent, but care has been ongoing at the local hospital. It takes a long time to build up their immune systems, so patients are vulnerable to all kinds of infections. Treatments have developed considerably since 1993, but it all comes down to the skill of the doctors.

## A LUCKY ONE

I know that Cyril has been one of the very lucky ones: a suitable donor was identified at an early stage; the medical team was prepared to treat someone in his late 50s; and the constant support of his wife and family has seen him through the tough times. It made me feel very happy to see Cyril walk his daughter down the aisle of Trinity Church just over a year after the transplant, and to know that, thirteen years later, he is fit and well and enjoying being Papa to his four grandchildren.

**Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a family member who could be a donor, so that is where the Anthony Nolan Trust Donor Register is so vital and can provide the chance of recovery from a deadly disease.**

The Trust's website is [www.anthonynolan.org.uk](http://www.anthonynolan.org.uk)

**The Jersey Friends of Anthony Nolan Trust**, established in January 1994, undertakes fund raising events and holds clinics to encourage potential donors to join the Register. The Cycle Challenge started in 1997 and Kleinwort Benson has been our main sponsors from the beginning. We also hold an annual Golf Day at Wheatlands in June, and a Grand Valentine Raffle. We have been able to raise the profile of the Charity over the years and people fundraise on our behalf. **Jersey Friends have raised more than £450,000 since 1994 and more than 900 local people have been added to the Donor Register.**

*Doreen Reed (tel 864682)  
petitbeaulieu@hotmail.com*



## 10th Anniversary Kleinwort Benson Cycle Challenge – Sunday 23rd September 2007 – In aid of Jersey Friends of The Anthony Nolan Trust.

The Challenge, now in its 10th year, has three routes to choose from: the popular Family Route over 10 miles and mostly on the cycle track; the Western Route over 25 miles for those looking for more of a challenge; and the Island Route which encompasses the whole Island and covers 60 miles for those serious cyclists!

At the end of the routes everyone will be welcomed back with a wonderful spread of homemade food and refreshing drinks. There will be a face painter and even a masseuse to ease those aching legs! Come and join in the fun!

For more information call 629800 or log on to the website at [www.cyclechallenge.org.je](http://www.cyclechallenge.org.je). Any further details can be obtained from Kate Baigent Vice-chairman of the Jersey Friends of The Anthony Nolan Trust on 746114





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## LES FRÈRES

Perhaps not all of the parishioners of St John are aware of the work done at Les Chapelles des Frères, Les Chenolles, St John, the Headquarters of the Boys' Brigade in Jersey.

Recently much has been made in the press of the need for a new community centre in St John but did you know that the Boys' Brigade has been letting out the Chapel to all sorts of groups for some years?

So what is the Boys' Brigade, when did it start and what is its purpose?

Sir William Alexander Smith founded the Boys' Brigade in Scotland in 1883. It was the first successful voluntary youth organisation in the world. It predates the Scouts and it was formed to give order to the boys attending Sunday school, and to provide weekday training and opportunities in an industrial age that experienced much poverty and hardship. As the years have rolled on the organisation has adopted many new ideas not thought of by the founder, but our object remains the same:

*The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.*

Today BB Companies exist in many countries and territories in the world. All Companies are attached to churches and all are striving to give sound guidance and opportunities for learning to boys from the areas in which they are situated.

There are presently three BB Companies in Jersey: one at Communicare, one at St Martin's Methodist Church and one at Georgetown Methodist Church. The Company at Georgetown has been in existence since 22nd October, 1922, and is one of the oldest youth organisations in the island.

When Les Frères Chapel was closed as a place of worship, highly experienced BB officers, who have since died, had the vision to approach the Methodist Church and persuade it to let the buildings rent-free to the Jersey Battalion, the BB.

The Battalion set about transforming a run-down church into the modern facility it is today. Beginning with only £84.00 in the church account many thousands of pounds were raised to renovate the two main buildings and build a kitchen and toilet block to the rear.

Visiting BB Companies, youth groups and, indeed, anyone who wishes to hire it have used the facilities, besides islanders who attend for archery, band practice, children's playgroups and dance groups. Currently the premises are used for a week-day toddler group, camping groups, parties, and the excellent sports' hall is used by various groups.

**For further information, please telephone Joan Streets on 863505**

*Peter Audrain*

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## BARRIER BROKEN BY ST JOHN'S CHRISTIAN AID

I first became the Christian Aid Parish Organiser in 1987 and that year's £741.06 was collected by 20 collectors. In today's society when everyone is so busy juggling work, children and home life, it can be quite a challenge finding enough people who are able to spare the time to help. To have the whole parish covered and to keep each route to a feasible task, ideally 30 collectors are needed. This year, struggling to find enough helpers, only 25, I expected the Parish total to be less than last year. However, after opening all the envelopes and counting the money I was very pleased to have a grand total of £2,686. Imagine my joy when subsequently two late donations arrived and we had broken the £2,700 barrier with a splendid record total of £2,726!

Christian Aid works with the world's poorest communities, investing in things that multiply and provide benefits for years to come, helping people to improve their own lives, whatever their race or religion. For example, £20 buys a resettlement pack to help a family displaced by the war in Angola to return home. The pack contains seeds and tools so that they can grow their own food. A herd of goats can go a long way in a place like Huichaca, Bolivia. Local farmers can borrow an adult goat, and when the goat has kids, some are given back so that others can benefit from them. A herd of four goats costs £60.

Over the past 21 years there have been a few loyal ladies who have always been available to help in the second week of May. They are Gwen Batho, Myrtle Malzard, Lucy Le Moignan, Margaret Petty,

and, sadly now deceased, Valerie Le Vesconte who collected Rue de Servais from 1989 to 2004.

Although most of my helpers are ladies, over the years a few men have been persuaded that they can do the job equally well. Since 2002 Trevor and Jane Pointon usually share the job, with Jane delivering and Trevor collecting. This year as I was becoming desperate for helpers Trevor very kindly agreed to take on an additional route and in so doing became this year's top collector with a total of £336.22.

Over the years I have found it easiest to deliver all the envelopes at the beginning of Christian Aid Week and return later in the week between 6 and 8.30pm when most people are at home. This saves waiting on the doorstep for anything up to 10 minutes whilst they find their purse, wallet or cheque book.

Some people do not like asking for money, but are happy to deliver the envelopes. This makes the task easier for a collector who does not need to go twice. If you are willing to help during next year's Christian Aid Week, either as a deliverer or a collector, I should be very pleased to hear from you on tel. 863263.



*Beryl Vautier*

## ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

**Is there something wrong with the world, or is it just me?**

"What you know you can't explain, but you feel it. You've felt it your entire life. There's something wrong with the world. You don't know what it is but it's there, like a splinter in your mind driving you mad." These lines from the film *The Matrix* have always struck a chord with me.

I know I'm not alone in sensing that there's something not right with the world. We see all the violence, injustice and disease and something inside tells us that this is not the way things are supposed to be. How is it that our world can be filled with such beauty and order, and yet at the same time be filled with such heartache and pain? How can all these things exist side by side in the same place at the same time?

Some think that Christians are people who are just hoping and waiting for the day when they'll escape this difficult world and make it to a better place.

But hoping and waiting – is that it? I don't know about you, but I need a God who's for now, who teaches me how to live now. I need a faith that's about today, that helps me understand the world that I live in today. I need to know how to live here and how to find meaning and purpose today. And if you look at the words of Jesus, this is exactly what he teaches.

His words are just as powerful and relevant today, as they show us how to live in the reality of now, here, today. They show us how we can actually make a difference in a world full of problems.

So, there might be something wrong with the world but we have the opportunity to be part of the solution.

*Mike Larbalestier*  
*Abundant Life Church, Wolf's Caves*  
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## News from the Pews



### Summer reading

Summer is a great time to relax, to sit in the sun and take time out with a good book, such as:-

Do nothing to change your life (Stephen Cottrell) - discovering what happens when you stop.

How many lightbulbs does it take to change a Christian (Claire Foster & David Shreeve) - a pocket guide to shrinking your ecological footprint.

Teenagers (Rob Parsons) - what every parent has to know.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August - 11am



### Beach service at Bonne Nuit

Fun in the sun, with songs, sandcastles and a story, about some fishermen Jesus once met on a beach.

PS Do remember to bring along your bucket and spade!



### Sounds of summer

In the autumn we are introducing some new songs at the 11am service.

A number of these come from:-  
Graham Kendrick's 'Out of the ordinary'  
and Hillsong's 'Mighty to save' Cd's.

Why not treat yourself to a gift and enjoy some inspirational listening!

Books and CD's can be purchased online at [www.wesleyowen.com](http://www.wesleyowen.com)

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November - 7pm



### Steve Price Gospel Illusionist In the Parish Hall

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# ST JOHN'S CHURCH COCKEREL

The St John's cockerel is an interesting bird with a great deal of history, as the dates inscribed on the bird and the repairs reveal.

The bird is copper, to ensure it conducts electricity from lightning strikes to the lightning conductor. It measure 64 cm in width from the point of its beak to the tips of its tail feathers and is 60cm tall from its base to the top of its head feathers and weighs approximately 5kg.

## Inscriptions

The inscriptions on its tail tell the story.

**1774** the assumed date of manufacture from which its age is calculated.

**1881**

**1967 PJ Le Marquand** the Constable of the day

**1973**

**1994 C J Hinault Connétable** the Constable of the day

**2007** the date of the most recent restoration works undertaken on the church when the external wall and spire were repointed in traditional lime mortar.

**J P Day Coppersmith, Jersey** undertook work on it in the past.

However the dates on the tail do not tell the whole story. For example, they do not record that in

1994, before it was removed for regilding in gold leaf, a local man, with a head for heights climbed the scaffolding and borrowed the bird. For three months it lay in the dark under the spare bed of a home, not more than 100 or so yards from the church, before it was found placed in a hedge near the church.

Neither do the inscriptions explain why a cockerel would sit on top of a parish church.

It's a weather-vane, which indicates the direction of the wind and, in days before newspapers, radio, TV, and internet weather forecasts, was helpful to the local farmers in their decision-making as to which crops to plant.

The cockerel is also a traditional symbol of fertility and therefore synonymous with the church's prayers for productivity and the blessings of a good harvest.

It's a reminder, too, for Christians of the cockerel that crowed on the morning of Good Friday, immediately after Peter had denied knowing

Jesus. A sign therefore to encourage us not to be ashamed of our faith, but to be confident and bold as friends and followers of Christ.

*Reverend Andy Thewlis*



## GOING UP THE TOP!

### Celia Jeune rises to the challenge

"You have been given the honour of putting the Cockerel back on his perch at the top of the spire as a topping -out ceremony. When can you do it?"

Alan Phillips, foreman of the Church restoration works, informed me on a sunny afternoon. I was extremely flattered to be even considered and thrilled at the thought of going up *again* but then I started to ask questions. How much higher than the top stage of the scaffolding? How will I attach it? How will I get up high enough? A twelve-foot ladder propped against the top stonework did not sound like fun as I have had a couple of flutters of vertigo when only halfway up and had to clamp it down fast and move on . . . up.

"You will need a pair of white cotton gloves to handle the gilded bird." This was a new angle; I would have to climb up in white gloves! A ruffle



Photo Courtesy of JEP





through my wardrobe only produced leather or nylon gloves but a visit to Hamons quickly sorted that problem.

Thursday came and the wind was blowing at 22km but at least it was dry. Alan escorted me up the spire accompanied by Peter Maurant, the JEP photographer. Now I would not allow myself to show any height nerves; if these chaps could do it, so could I! On the top platform the roof-covering was opened to allow us to get at the ladder. The new masonry work below needed protection from the elements as it dried out slowly. Jody Hingston of Héritage Stonemasons was finishing off the top rope course below us. All the safety arrangements were in place. I need not have worried and the cockerel looked magnificent with this year's date stamped clearly on his body, along with all the previous dates of refurbishment. He slotted on to his perch and then

the time came for the photos. I had a good hand-hold on the diamond shape of the rod coming out of the spire's capstone above the ladder. Holding onto the Church fabric was comforting as I knew it was going nowhere. I had vainly taken my hairbrush with me but there was no way I was going to do my hair perched on the ladder 110ft above the ground! What had I been thinking? The hair across my face was solved by turning into the blast of the wind and I ending up looking rather like the prow of a ship surrounded by a sea of plastic!

The whole experience has definitely been a high point and something to crow about as the symbol not only of fertility, but of Christianity that teaches us through Christ's life to get on alongside each other, to be concerned about others and to help those in need.

## THE STONEMASON'S ANGLE

Jody Hingston of Héritage Stonemasons still gets a thrill every time he walks into a church or cathedral. He knows that the building was built with love and dedication by craftsmen who wanted their work to endure and be beautiful; each generation having its say. On starting work on St John's Church he spotted the noticeable differences in the type of mortar used, the older part showing mortar with lime made from burnt limpet and oyster shells, as Jersey has no other natural source of lime. Parts of underburnt shell are still visible in the oldest mortar. Heritage Stonemasons are the only company in the Channel Islands still slaking their own lime from seashells when the job requires it. However, in the case of St John the engineers decided that because the aim was to dry out the church and there was a time factor involved, another form of hydraulic lime had to be utilised. A premix of blue lias limestone has been used as it provides a quicker set and works well when no air is present.

The sand used throughout the church has also changed over the years but Jody was determined to replicate the premedieval and medieval methods employed when the church was first constructed. Well washed beach sand was used as the grain size

was of similar dimensions and matched for colour. It can be seen as not too bright but a mellow colour which will match up well with the existing mortar over time. Jody reckoned that the length of the repointing done over the last six months would reach to Les Écréhous if counted up!



Photo Courtesy of JEP

One of the most interesting features he came across is the original buttress to the Tower on the South elevation. This would have come from the top of Mont Mado Quarry. Where there has been major stone repair the material has come from the inside of the spire where the new ring platform has been sited so that there is a match in age to the neighbouring stone. Thought has also gone into assisting the future explorers of the building, in that different bedding mortar has been used with these stone repairs and subsequently disguised with mortar so that the repaired parts can be easily discovered in the future, after a little excavation.

Although the work is hard and slow, Jody revels in the thought that his children's children will be able to admire their grandfather's work for a very long time.

*Celia Jeune*



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# CHURCH RESTORATION QUIZ

Church restoration quiz - Questions.					
1	How many kilometres of lime pointing were completed during the restoration of the church?	4	6	8	10
2	How many tonnes of lime and sand were used in the lime mortar for the external pointing and internal render in the spire?	3	10	13	30
3	How many men have worked on Phase 1?	24	27	30	33
4	How many bells are there in the tower?	6	8	9	10
5	How heavy, in kg, is the heaviest bell?	300	325	350	375
6	How heavy, in kg, is each of the three large beams that now support the bell frame?	300	350	450	500
7	In total, how heavy in kg is the peal of eight bells?	514	1014	1514	2014
8	What is the earliest date on the cockerel i.e. its age?	1674	1774	1874	1974
9	How large is the cockerel, in cm, from the point of its beak to the tips of its tail feathers?	44	54	64	74
10	How high, in feet, to the top of the spire?	93	108	121	136
11	How wide is the church clock in feet & inches?	4'8"	5'0"	5'4"	5'8"
12	How old is the clock bell?	53	153	205	253

Answers on page 24



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# REFLECTIONS OF THE FOREMAN

Alan Phillips was interviewed by Celia Jeune



Photo Courtesy of JEP

"This contract has been one of the most interesting I have ever worked on" so said Alan Phillips, Colan Construction Ltd's site foreman at St John's Church since January. He went on to explain that it was the romance of the history of the building which he found so fascinating. St John has been the stonemason's parish through the centuries and the church reflects that fact.

The Church has been added to over the centuries from the 11th to the 17th and during the 19th extensive work was done on the 11th-century Lady's Chapel.

Alan, with the help of Jody Hingston, the Héritage stonemason, enjoyed analyzing the different styles and working practices displayed by the granite work through the ages.

"You can see the uniformity of the 19th-century work when the masons had more advanced tools to cut the stone evenly. Look at the stonework on the east of the South Porch. The 16th-century wall on the opposite corner, the north-west, is made up of smaller rougher stones, the centuries separating the different styles. It is interesting to find marks on some of the stones which reveal how they were split. There are also 'putlog' holes which held the original scaffold platforms. These were filled with a small square stone as the scaffold was removed. Once you notice them they become more obvious. There are putlog stones on all surfaces of church. See if you can find them. Until the early 20th century scaffolds were made of timber and for stone-masons the platforms were about 5 feet apart. Today's scaffolds are sophisticated and designed by engineers for maximum safety, and thanks go to Neil Livesey's boys for getting us to the top of the spire!"

Mont Mado would have provided the majority of

the church's granite but the delicate tracery of the chancel window is of softer stone brought over from Chausey. Stone near the surface in any quarry has been exposed to the weather over many thousands of years and so becomes more friable and easier to work with and so it is likely that both the impressive gargoyle and the kneeler stones which hang out on each corner under the eaves came from this more weathered stone. This also means that the carvings, pristine in their time, have also deteriorated over the past hundreds of years through being regularly blasted by salt-laden winds.

Whilst repairing some of the roof where water had rotted the woodwork, Alan came across some examples of discarded medieval glazed ridge-tiles and some early slates which would have been held in place with oak pegs over the stone vault roof. The roofs have been replaced several times and each layer has left its mark.

## Challenging

One of the most challenging exercises Alan and his team had to face was how to get the various beams into the tower. Initially it was thought that the high-level concrete lifting beam was sound, but closer inspection revealed that it, too, had been damaged by water ingress and needed to come out and be replaced. A special oak beam had to be found at short notice and was shipped over by Jody Hingston from France. It had to be raised into position with a block and tackle with access through the narrow tower door. Because of its dimensions it cost blood, sweat and a very few tears to get it into place!



Photo Courtesy of JEP

*The Lieutenant-Governor inspects the beams*

The beams ordered to replace the concrete ring beam forming the bell platform would be even bigger and so not able to be lifted through the tower door. The three bigger beams of Nigerian Opepe wood (specified by Whitechapel Bell Foundry for its







Photo Courtesy of JEP

straight grain, density and stability) (*Nauclea diderichii*) weighed over 1/2 ton each, being 1ft x 1ft x 15ft. The Opepe tree stands 190ft tall with a trunk width of over 6ft and a density of 750kg per cubic metre, and grows throughout West Africa, bearing different names in each country.

Alan measured all the high-level tower openings and found that the lowest one on the North was widest and just large enough to allow the beams to pass through. Maybe it was positioned and sized for previous access for wide beams. The smaller stabilizing beams were also very heavy, although the Lieutenant-Governor was able to lift one end with only a little effort!

As with all old buildings almost nothing was square but surprisingly the south-east corner of the tower made an exact right-angle whilst the South West corner was over 2 degrees out. This meant that the giant steel joist hangers (needing two men to lift them) had to be individually made, by Five Oaks Iron Works, for each of the six positions and the beams had to be angled and prepared accordingly. It was a delight when the Whitechapel Bell Foundry team arrived and approved the bell platform fit for purpose.

### A lifetime's work

Alan joined the building trade straight from school at the age of 15 with his father's words of advice still ringing in his ears "You'll never be out of work as long as you've got a trade, Son". He became an apprentice joiner with Mark Amy Ltd (Westgate) and then an under-foreman working on the new St. Peter's village of 47 houses. As Foreman with Mark Amy, Alan was involved with other contracts included Barclays bank in Library place and Lloyds Bank where, during works in the banking hall, the beautiful plaster-work ceiling was temporarily uncovered and recommended for refurbishment. This work was carried out years later and the ceiling is now back to its former glory.

After setting up a business with a partner he

suffered a severe back injury which effectively put him out of business, and so had to take a more physically sedate job of designing and selling kitchens. However after two years the lure of the construction industry got to him again and his health allowed him to return to work for old friend, Tony Harris, and then for Tim Ruane. He has been working for Colan Construction for over four years now, and says that "Teamwork is everything, without a good team nothing can be achieved. I'm lucky to be part of a good team and without the MD, Colin Parkin, at the helm and Peter, Ewan, Elliott, Nigel and Tommy with their own areas of expertise I couldn't have done it".

One of the highlights of this contract has been the people he has met; not only the curious visitor but the other specialists who have been involved. Alan has always been there to exchange information and to learn more about the church. He was particularly thrilled when Dave Ferey popped in with a verbal and pictorial account of how the original concrete ring beam had been constructed in 1978-79, and the picture of Dave's famous ladder-climbing dog at the top of the spire after the cement rendering was taken off for the last time in 1973.

Ruth and Jonathon Cooke from the Glass Rainbow Trust were visiting all the island churches and were able to tell Alan all about the various artists who had provided the window art over the years. They were particularly delighted with the Bosdet, Morris and chapel windows and advised how best to clean them using only a duster, no water or chemicals! as more thorough cleaning is best left to glass conservators.

Alan has thoroughly enjoyed his time in St John and will always get a kick of pride when passing our beautiful church in the future.



Photo Courtesy of JEP



# ST JOHN'S CHURCH RESTORATION . . . NOW FOR THE SECOND PHASE

The first phase of the church restoration project is now complete. The bells are ringing again and the church, having been hidden for six months behind scaffolding, looks beautiful. The external works, along with work within the spire are complete, coming in on budget and funded entirely by the proceeds from the sale of the Old Rectory.

Now we need to keep the momentum going as we journey towards Phase Two, which is likely to be undertaken in 2009. Like the external works these works will be extensive:- including the removing and rerending of the interior of the church; renewing the electrical circuits; installing a new lighting system, whilst retaining the chandeliers, adding uplighters to provide the major source of light for services; installing a fixed audio-visual system; restoration work on the church windows and installing a new treasury to display the church silver which, due to the dampness of the existing treasury, has been in storage for many years.

All this work is necessary, for until it is complete we will not achieve the goal for which the journey began, i.e. resolving the damp problem in the church and creating a beautiful environment for worship, the purpose after all for which the church exists. Inevitably

this work will be expensive, but in order to minimise the burden on the parish rates charitable grants will be sought and your support is invited in the following ways:-

**Ian Rolls** has been commissioned to paint an original painting of the church, measuring 10" X14", from which a limited edition of 100 prints will be made and available for Christmas 2007. The original whose production has been generously sponsored by Hartigans, will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder, whilst 50% from the sale of each print will go towards the restoration costs. Please contact the Rector, if you'd like to make a bid for the original or order one of the prints.

**A Flower Festival** is being planned for 2008 and if you are able to help please contact Lynne Austin-Vautier on 865015.

**The Church Restoration Fund** has already received donations in lieu of flowers in memory of a former church member who recently passed away. If you would like to make a donation, please forward cheques payable to St John's Parish Church, to the Rectory, St John, JE3 4AF.

*Reverend Andy Thewlis*

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## SEA SUNDAY SERVICE

## AT BONNE NUIT BAY

With the inclement summer weather playing havoc with such stellar sporting events as Wimbledon and the Sark to Jersey Rowing Race, it was an intrepid band of worshippers who made it down to Bonne Nuit Bay for the annual St John's Group of Churches Sea Sunday Service. This took place on Sunday, June 24th in pouring rain which made all those present especially aware of the purpose of the service which is to remember and pray for all those who either make their living from the sea or spend their leisure time upon it.

The St Catherine's Lifeboat, which is normally in attendance, remained on her station this year as it was possible that she could be called out. Owing to the conditions no sound system or chairs could be used but about 25 people from the Parish Church, the United Reformed Church, Sion Methodist and

the Bonne Nuit Boat Owners association stood in a circle on the quay and were led in worship and prayers by the Reverend Andy Thewlis and the Reverend Patrick McManus.

Four young people from the Christian ship, Logos II, also took part, and one of them gave moving testimony about their life and mission aboard the ship. Prayers were offered for the safety of all seafarers and for their well-being ashore, often in a foreign port far from home.

As an island people we are heavily dependent on the boats and crews which service all our needs as consumers or passengers, and for a brief time each year we take time out to remember them.

*Rosie Bleasby*



Church restoration quiz – Answers.		
1	An amazing length of 8km of joints have been repointed in lime mortar. That is the equivalent of over 5 miles, the distance from church, via Haute Croix to Sion and back again.	8
2	Approximately 4 tons of lime and sand were used in the lime mortar for the external pointing and another 9 tons for the rendering inside the spire.	13
3	Work on phase 1 was a team effort involving the following workforce:- Colan Construction 8; Heritage Stonemasons 6; scaffold 4; bells 2; roof 2; ironworks 2; cockerel/clock 2; lightning conductor 2; electrician 1; Clock restoration 1; engineers 2; & QS 1.	33
4	The church has a peal of eight bells plus the clock bell	9
5	All eight bells were moved from the tower to allow the replacement of the ring beam, which supports the bell frame. The heaviest of these bells weighs 350kg	350
6	Each of the three large Nigerian Opepe beams that now support the Bell frame weighs half a ton, around 500. Each beam was lifted externally by crane and entered the spire through one of the northern vents.	500
7	In total the eight bells lowered from the tower to allow the replacement of the ring beam, weigh 1514kg.	1514
8	The cockerel, which was removed from the spire and regilded in gold leaf during the restoration, is 233 years old.	1774
9	The cockerel is 64 cm from tip of its beak to the end of its tail feathers.	64
10	The church from ground level to the top of the spire is 108 ft – 32.9m	108
11	The two faces of the clock are each 5'4" in diameter - 162.6 cm	5'4"
12	The clock bell was cast in the garden of Colomberie House, St. Helier, in 1754, making it 20 years older than the cockerel	253



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## GOOD NEWS FROM THE FOOTBALL CLUB

There is some good news coming out of St John football club. Following the recent AGM, a full committee was elected. The men and ladies both have new coaching teams and the juniors have an additional team.

Before accepting the position of President, I wanted to make sure that I had a strong committee and that the structure could be amended to ensure that responsibilities would be shared by many rather than a few. The football club now has a Secretary, Treasurer and 6 Vice-Presidents, each of whom has key responsibilities. Each will have a sub-committee with whom the work is carried out. The Vice-Presidents and structure are as follows:

Secretary	Graham Prescott
Treasurer	Steve Brady
VP - Seniors	Richard Trott
VP - Ladies	Beverley Luton
VP - Juniors	Alan Derrien
VP - Resources	Terry Roche
VP - Social & Fundraising	Jimmy Jackson
VP - Football Club development	Paul Cottillard

As President of the club my first aim is to consolidate the recent gains we have made and look to the future development of the football club.

We are hoping to have additional junior teams, particularly Under-10, Under-8 and girls' teams. Several local people have commented over the last few years that St John Football Club should have more teams for St John's kids to play with. My answer to that is: firstly, we are running three junior teams this year, one more than last year; secondly, we would like to run more teams, but

need support from the community. At present St John's Football Club has 11 coaches, of whom only two live in the parish, a statistic I would like to change. This will only happen if we can encourage people to come forward to coach or help with a team. You do not need any coaching experience, just enthusiasm and we will train you. If you are interested, or know of anyone who would be, please contact Alan Derrien the Vice President of the Junior Section, or myself.

I also feel it is also important that we build the social and fundraising side of the club. We will put out some dates soon and are also hoping to get sponsorship for each of our teams.

On the playing side the seniors have a new coaching team and several new signings. With 30+ players coming to training at present we are hoping for a good season. Jayson Lee, the ladies' coach, is taking a break from coaching and will be replaced by Alan "Postie" Tardival (ex-President). As mentioned above we are running an additional junior team - an Under-16 team will be added to the current Under-14 and Under-12 teams.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the previous committee, and Alan "Postie" Tardival in particular, for all the hard work they have given to St John Football Club. However, my focus is on the future. With a strong committee, enthusiastic coaches and support from the community, things look positive.

We are all looking forward to the new season, and hope it brings success for St John Football Club.

*Nigel Perrée, President, St John Football Club*

## FIRE ENGINES AND E NUMBERS AT SION PRE-SCHOOL

Hello again from the centre of the island and all the little important people at Sion Pre-School.

As I am sure you can imagine, this term has flown by. The children have had a visit from the Fire Service - just to show them an engine, not because of an emergency call out! Most of the children thought the machine fantastic and clambered over one another to sit in the driver's seat. Some were content to sit in the back seats trying on all the helmets and playing with the equipment. Harry did try on the boots and nearly disappeared up to his nose in them. Needless to say it was not long before they found the siren which then sent the more tentative ones running for cover! It was a fantastic morning though, and, the two firemen were a great hit with the children, especially when they let them play with the fire hoses.

We also took advantage of another service and this one was from Connex. A bus was brought up to the pre-school and the children were all treated to a short bus ride to the north coast and back. An excellent experience for the children, considering many of them never travel on a bus!

We all get such pleasure from providing these

experiences for the children and at Sion our priorities are to make sure the children feel secure and are happy to come into the setting. Our team always set up a staggering amount of interesting and varied activities and the children are free to explore, play and interact with the others in an unstructured way. We all prefer to play and care for the children, building up positive relationships, rather than doing the time-consuming reams of paperwork today's world seems to insist on.

Children constantly amaze us. Kaden marched in and asked his key-worker first thing in the morning, 'Hey, Julie, you know those cookie crisps we had. Have they got any E's in 'cos I was a bit hyper yesterday.' Well just to let you know, dear parishioner, Nestlé are doing a good job because they haven't got any E's in!

So the end of another school year and many of our children are moving on to 'big school'. This makes us all really sad as the relationships we build with them are so very special. Constant cuddles from little people who look you in the eye and say 'I love you' make our work so rewarding. I tell you, you can't beat it.

*Caroline Hopkinson*





# ST JOHN'S RECREATION CENTRE

The Editorial Team compiled a list of questions which we put to **Constable Graeme Butcher**, Chairman of Trustees of the Billy Butlin Memorial Trust (answers printed in green), and to **Mr Angus Spencer-Nairn**, Chairman of the Management Committee of St John's Sports and Recreation Club (answers are in black italics).

## What do you consider to be the main purposes of the Centre?

The purpose of the centre is to provide both Sport and Recreation. This remit certainly provides the management committee with a wide scope. Parishioners have asked that the centre become available to more of them and that it become more of a community facility.

*The Centre will become principally a facility for user groups (clubs) requiring specialist facilities (football, shooting, archery etc). Indeed this has already begun, for on June 23rd 2007, Lady Butlin opened the Jersey Gymnastics Club (formerly Grouville Gym Club). The club will have exclusive use of the Billy Butlin Memorial Hall from April to September, but during the winter months the hall will be shared by previous users such as the Jersey Archery Club, the Youth Club, tennis players and football groups.*

## Do you envisage that the Centre will be used primarily by Parishioners or Islanders as a whole?

We certainly hope that more parishioners will use the Centre. It is home to the Parish Youth club, the Parish Shooting club and the Parish Football club. There is scope for more people to use the facilities and it is hoped that they will be encouraged enough to do so. The Trust deeds state that the facility should be open to islanders as well as Parishioners.

*It is likely that most user groups will be based in St John. It is expected that many users will be from St John as the facility is located in their midst.*

## Do you see any potential conflicts?

In recent years the Centre has often been under utilised. The recent development of the Jersey Gym Club having exclusive use of the hall through the summer months has been achieved with the cooperation of other user groups. Seeing the facility used regularly by large groups of youngsters, when normally it has been empty, is very encouraging. The winter months will see the main hall used by many groups and bookings are already encouraging. If people have to cooperate then that is a sign that the facility is being far better utilised than in recent years. This in turn will enable improvements to be carried out.

No

## What consultation has been carried out about the future of the Centre, especially with key groups like the Golden Age Club, St John's School, the Youth Club, sports clubs etc?

Many requests for feedback have been made, in particular through this parish magazine. In addition a public meeting was held at the Parish Hall towards the end of last year, as well as an election. The feedback from both these events came out strongly in favour of seeing the current facility saved if at all possible.

All the sports clubs have been consulted. Previous arrangements didn't actually give any of these user groups assured usage. The new arrangements that have been agreed with the Management Committee see each of the four main user groups being granted an agreement for the full length of the new lease. These are the football, rifle, archery and youth clubs. Hopefully this will give them the encouragement to look to the future with some assurance. I am pleased to see that the School is now using the playing-field regularly. There is also scope for the school to use the indoor facilities. Improving access to the first floor is seen as a must. This would enable groups such as the Golden Age club to make better use of the facilities.

A questionnaire has been compiled and might be sent out later, but the arrival of the Jersey Gym Club has changed the situation.

*Significant consultation has taken place with both the Youth Club and the School, and also with the sports clubs using the Centre. In addition, many open requests have been made for any interested user groups to come forward and inform us of their requirements. The Connétable is considering a questionnaire to all parishioners.*

## Is a membership fee envisaged? If not, what are the licensing law implications?

The membership fee that was previously charged is due to be withdrawn. Some feel strongly that the membership scheme made the majority of parishioners feel "excluded". Not wanting to pay a membership fee to use the facility on an ad-hoc basis meant that people didn't use the facility at all.

The existing licence is for the club. Consideration is being given to the continuation of providing a bar facility, or whether to move to more of a café type facility. Initial discussions are taking place and one of the main considerations being given to the winding up of the "Sports" club is the bar licence.

*There will be no individual membership and therefore no membership fees. In the main, users will be members of user groups such as football clubs or gym clubs and the clubs themselves will pay for use of the facilities. As there will be no club, a club licence will no longer be appropriate. It remains to be seen whether a licence will be held at all; this will depend on user demand. The Management Committee does not believe that a licence is fundamental to the success of the Centre.*

## Who will determine the Centre's future policy?

The management team will determine the future policy. However, as stated previously, this will have to include the current four main user groups. Any changes to the building will not only require planning permission but initially will need the agreement of the Trustees of the Billy Butlin Memorial Trust, and will have to comply with the provision of sport or recreation.

*The Trustees and Management Committee – based on user demand.*

## In a perfect world, where would the Centre be sited and why?

Nearer to the heart of the village i.e. near the school, Parish Hall and Church, a far more convenient location for a community centre.

*On a large, protected site with suitable planning permissions, with ample parking and good access for users.*





**What are the advantages/disadvantages of its present site?**

It is a bit out on a limb where it is and has a distinct lack of parking when busy.

*The advantages are that it meets most of the criteria stated above. The only disadvantage is that the school, which is not one of our major users, is separated from the Centre by an arterial road.*

**What are the advantages/disadvantages of the site near the school?**

In an ideal world, and if we had several million in the bank, we might have looked at a centre near the Parish Hall and could have made new road layouts there to make things safer at school pick-up times, as well as increasing the parking in the area.

*There are no advantages other than it is nearer to the school.*

**Is there a long-term business plan, and if so, do you consider it to be sound?**

There is a good business plan in place and it is hoped that parishioners will give feedback and support the facility. The business plan includes the provision of staff accommodation and a large dedicated area for the youth club, separate from the shooting club.

This in itself will hopefully see both of these groups develop further, without their current constraints. Like all business plans it will need to be flexible. There is very clear recognition that sufficient revenue needs to be put to the ongoing maintenance and this needs to be insisted upon. The reason for continuing to have a lease allows for the Trustees of the BBM trust to monitor the facility and ensure that repairs are carried out in a timely fashion.

The raising of sufficient capital for the different phases will be challenging.

*The Trustees of the Billy Butlin Memorial Trust (the Connétable and the two Procureurs) have agreed to grant a 21-year lease to a new Limited Liability Company that is being set up to manage the facilities. This company will be run by the current Management Team. The plan is to provide specialist sporting facilities to a limited number of compatible user groups; to host the parish Youth Club; and to provide any other sport or recreational services that are compatible with the major user groups and with the overall requirement that the facilities must be self-financing.*

**Will the plan, either now or in the future, require Parish funding?**

Any request for Parish funding will have to be made through a Parish Assembly. Parishioners will be encouraged to use the playing field area and some form of financial recognition may be requested from the parish for this use. It is envisaged that the facility will be financed by the users. The Youth Club have some exciting plans and they may request financial assistance from the Parish to be able to implement them.

I think that it will be difficult to get backing from parishioners to put significant sums of money into a facility which is run by a private company. I do, however, feel that as a parish we do not give enough support to the youth club. The management team may make representation to the Parish in the future, and any such request would have to be put to a Parish Assembly.

*From the very beginning the Parish has stated that it did not intend to fund the Centre. But if the Centre provides services to the Parish, it is expected that the Parish should pay for them. For example a small sum should be provided because children play on the playing field. The Youth Club is a Parish entity and if it wishes to extend or develop facilities, the Centre will ask the Youth Club to provide money for this and the Youth Club is likely to apply to the Parish for funds.*

**What is the relationship between the Trustees, the Management Committee, the Parish and the landowners?**

The Land and buildings are wholly owned by the Butlin Memorial Trust. This trust was set up in 1986 and received the land and buildings as a gift from the Parish. The Trustees are the Connétable and two Procureurs who are responsible for ensuring that the facility is used for sport and recreation, and for ensuring that the building is kept well maintained. The relationship with the Management Committee is seen as partnership.

The day-to-day management of the centre is carried out by the Management Committee. The BBM Trust is represented by one Trustee sitting on the Management Committee. It is hoped that, as the Centre starts a new chapter, more parishioners will become users and benefit from the facilities on offer.

*The Trustees of the Billy Butlin Memorial Trust are Parish officials because in 1986 the Parish gave its interests in the land and buildings to the Trust. The new company will hold the lease from the Trustees. The Parish itself does not have any official relationship with the Centre.*

*The relationship between the Trustees and the Company Management is critical because the trustees' consent to future development is essential.*

**Do you consider that there are any conflicts of interest? If so, is it possible to resolve them?**

The Parish chose to give the land and buildings to the BBM Trust, to prevent it from becoming a burden on the Parish; it was also seen as a way of ensuring that the playing field didn't get encroached on by any extension to the village. By leasing the facility to the Management Committee there should not be a conflict. A detailed lease will be in place that makes each party's responsibility very clear.

Over the last six months a lot of work has been carried out to ensure that the Trustees have confidence in what the Management Committee is trying to achieve. If conflicts do arise it is important that everyone works together to find solutions. The success of the Centre is, and needs to remain, the focus of everyone's efforts.

*There can be conflicts of interest in having parish officials as Trustees because there may be occasions when the interests of the Parish and the Trust differ. Furthermore the Trustees are ex-officio, appointed for only short 3 year terms and they are not necessarily interested in sport.*

**The future**

At the present time the BBM Trustees have given in-principle agreement to granting a lease to the present Management Committee, but are awaiting a schedule for planned improvements before actually granting the lease. However if their efforts were to fail for any reason there may have to be consideration given to asking parishioners if they want the property brought back into Parish ownership.

*The existing Billy Butlin Memorial Trust will continue to own and lease to the company the land and buildings.*

*It is intended that the new company will be owned by a new trust, with the specific objectives of holding the shares of the company and, more importantly, having the requirement to monitor the effectiveness of the management, with the power to replace the management if they are failing in their role. It is planned to appoint three trustees, two of whom must hold no Parish office. Anyone interested in holding one of these three positions should contact Angus Spencer-Nairn on 861716.*



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YOUR M&S



# JERSEY GYMNASTICS CLUB

## An exciting development for gymnasts and for St John's Sports & Recreation Centre!

After months of hard work the Jersey Gymnastics Club (formerly Grouville Gym Club) moved in to the Billy Butlin Memorial Hall in May. At the Club's official launch on June 23rd Lady Butlin explained how her late husband, Sir Billy Butlin, would have been delighted to see the Sir Billy Butlin Hall come to life. She went on to say it was "a dream come true to see so many people packed into the Hall enjoying themselves".

And it is a dream come true for the Club and all its gymnasts too. For many years we have been struggling with poor facilities and no home of our own. The use of the Billy Butlin Memorial Hall on a dedicated basis for six months of the year is a major bonus and already we are seeing a marked improvement in our squad gymnasts' skills, particularly in their tumbling, with the use of a full-sized sprung floor. We are also delighted to have a group of gymnasts from John Grady's Jersey Special Gymnastics Club training alongside us.

The Club currently has 250 members with 50 of those being part of our competitive squads who train up to four times a week at St John. The Club also runs recreational classes throughout a number of the Island's primary schools. We are in the process of finalising winter usage hours at St John but we hope to be able to offer further recreational classes at the Centre as we already have a long waiting list. Our adult 'fun' gym sessions are also proving very popular!

For all class details please contact Class Secretary, Michelle Ollivro-Murphy on 870188 (after 7.00 p.m.). For details of our Summer School please contact President, Anne Frith on 863181. Full details of the Club can be found on our website at: [www.jerseygymnasticsclub.co.uk](http://www.jerseygymnasticsclub.co.uk).

Jersey Gymnastics Club was set up in 1974 as Grouville Gym Club at the request of the then Sports, Leisure & Recreation Committee to run recreational gym classes for as broad a range of children as possible from our Island schools. The first class was run at Grouville School – hence the Club's original name.

The Club is non-profit making and its aims are:

- To encourage and provide gymnastics throughout the Island.
- To provide an opportunity for as many children as possible to participate in gymnastics, regardless of ability or financial means.
- To encourage an 'elite' competitive squad of gymnasts for those wishing to take the sport to a higher level.

Jersey Gymnastics Club has, over many years, provided an environment in which hundreds of young children and teenagers benefit from sport on a regular basis and at a low cost. The club has a proven track record and, despite having no dedicated facilities, and minimal competition experience, has produced a number of very talented gymnasts.

With our recent move to St John we hope to build on our past successes as our vision of a dedicated gymnastics facility is becoming more of a reality. We also hope to make full use of all the facilities the Centre has to offer, by running regular competitions, including visiting mainland clubs, and by offering regular 'open days' for all our members. This, we hope, will breathe new life into a previously under-utilised facility.



We would like to thank the Committee of St John's Sports & Recreation Centre for giving us this opportunity and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

*Jackie Hill*

*Vice President, Jersey Gymnastics Club*

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# FROM ST JOHN'S PRIMARY TO REGGIO EMILIA

Earlier this year Shirley Shaw, and Liz Muir, our respective and, indeed, respected Nursery and Reception teachers, travelled to Italy to take part in a study week in the town of Reggio Emilia. The town is a world-renowned leader in early years learning and teaching, and Shirley and Liz returned absolutely brimming with dynamism and ideas. We presented these to parents at school and I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the philosophy of the Reggio approach with you, beginning with the importance of the community and its role in the school as a learning environment. I know how deeply you are involved and committed as parents and as a community in our school. We want to take every opportunity to extend that. It is only when school and home are truly working together with common aims and vision that our children can reach their full potential. Reggio has given us lots of ideas about making the aims and values of our school open and accessible, and we want this to be a two-way process so that everyone feels a full and valued member of the school.

Secondly, I can identify so strongly with the Reggio concept of placing children at the heart of their learning. This may seem such an obvious thing to do and indeed it is, because how can learning be meaningful to anyone unless they appreciate the purpose of it and can see its impact on their own individual lives? We want to engage all our learners to the greatest degree that we possibly can. We want them to be excited about what and how they are learning and we believe we can do this through listening to them, understanding them, their interests, their strengths and their weaknesses and building our teaching around these. We know how resourceful our children are and that is why we nurture their skills with learning behaviours, autonomy, cooperation, positive attitude, confidence and valuing. These are all within them; they bring them with them when they start school and we try to

provide the environment in which they can flourish. The Reggio approach places great value on children's own skills and knowledge and on providing the right conditions in which they can flourish and develop. We see critical skills and assessment for learning as doing the same job and, as you may know, these methods are central to what we do at St John's School. The ideas that we can take from Reggio complement and extend these approaches, tying them together in a unified system.

Hand in hand with these ideas goes the idea of transparency. We want to make the learning process, why we do what we do, and how we do it, as clear as possible. This brings us back to my first point about the importance of community involvement because it is only if these values and processes are clearly understood that they can be shared.

I hope that you will see and feel our values and principles being shared with our parish community. We would certainly like to welcome you as community members into our school to find out more about us. Who knows, you might like it so much you decide to join us!! Simply phone me on 852970 or email [a.willis@stjohn.sch.je](mailto:a.willis@stjohn.sch.je) to find out more.

*Andrew Willis – Head Teacher*



## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to our many advertisers and writers who have contributed to this bumper edition!  
The deadline for the December issue is November 10th.



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# ST JOHN'S YOUTH CLUB

They say from humble acorns grow mighty oaks. St John's Youth Club began its life as "The Room at the Top" in the first stages of the Recreation Centre Development. From a single Space Invaders machine and table tennis table, the club has continued to develop and grow. Although affiliated to the Jersey Youth Service, the club remains a completely volunteer-run organisation, one of the last three such clubs left in the Island.

Currently operating on two nights a week, the club plays host to the island's youth from their 8th birthday through to late teens.

The club aims to provide opportunities for young people, complementary to those of home, school and work. On offer is a wide range of activities of a physical, cultural and social nature, through which the members learn more about themselves and develop their physical, mental and moral approaches to society and life.



Five-a-Side Football, Netball, Tennis, Rounders, Badminton, Trampoline, Table Tennis, Table-top Football, Pool, Billiards, Nintendo, Discos, PC and any number of other activities and games are enjoyed. The Tuck Shop will always be popular as are our weekend camps to Crabbé, St. Aubin's Fort and Les Frères.

Camping weekends enable groups to experience some of the more specialist activities such as sailing, canoeing, fishing and power-boating. The Les Frères Camps have let our members experience the "pleasantries" of spending a night under canvas, something that, since the introduction of the chalet sleeping quarters at Crabbé, has not happened for at least ten years!

In early 2007 the club undertook a review of the session times it had on offer. Following some minor alterations, it is now able to accommodate both the

Junior and Intermediate sessions on Friday evenings, something that has proved extremely popular with our older members. September will see the club expand once again, as the older intermediate members are integrated into a brand new Senior Section. Just how and when this transition is achieved has still to be decided, but the newly elected Management Committee is committed to the reintroduction of the Senior Section.

## Tuesday Evenings:

1930 – 2130 Intermediate/Senior Club

## Friday Evenings:

1830 – 2015 Junior Club

2015 – 2200 Intermediate/Senior Club

A small number of dedicated workers offer their time, skills and efforts to run club sessions, with the welcome help of a small parental support network. From simple tasks such as manning the Tuck Shop, general area supervision and helping the workers with various activities, the parental support system is an essential part of the club structure. We are extremely grateful for the support the club does receive, but as with all volunteer organisations these days, we could offer so much more if we only had that little bit of additional help.

The workers do have the support of the Management Committee, who are there to look after the financial and more administrative side of running the club.

If anyone would like to learn more about the club, feels they might like to offer the odd couple of hours each month, or has a skill or hobby they think our members may be interested in, then please, feel free to pop in and have a chat with a Worker on any of our club nights. With the specialist help of the Jersey Youth Service, the Club is able to offer training and guidance for all aspects of Youth Work within the island.

*Darren Dupré*





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## WHERE ARE THE HEDGEHOGS?

**The Jersey Hedgehog Group** is running a hedgehog population survey from May till November.

We are concerned that the hedgehog population may be falling, especially in the East, of the Island as our admission figures have been declining in recent years and members of the public frequently report that they do not have hedgehogs visiting their gardens any more as they did in years gone by. We are asking everyone to record details of any hedgehog they see, either dead or alive, until the end of November.

Survey forms are available from Dru Burdon on 734340 or email: [druburdon@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:druburdon@jerseymail.co.uk) If you would like to help us and would like more information, please do get in touch.

*Dru Burdon  
Secretary JHPG*



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# LES MATHIONNETTES

## 'Northern Lights'



Our Northern Light, Noreen Syvret, was interviewed by Mary Rouillé

Noreen Syvret, the only daughter in a family of three children, was born in a second-floor bedroom at the old St John's Hotel in 1931. The hotel was owned from the 1920s by her maternal grandparents, Francis Salou and Eliza (née Le Breton). They had five daughters, Elsie, Jessie, Florence, Gladys (Noreen's mother) and Mayzell who all helped at the hotel until they were married. But even after her grandfather died in 1928 Jessie still assisted her grandmother with the running of the hotel.



Noreen grew up in and around St John's Hotel and has wonderful memories, especially at Christmas when the hotel was decorated like something from 'Fairyland'. At the age of five Noreen

began her schooling at St John's School, but left at the age of ten having won a scholarship to attend Jersey College for Girls. During the Occupation the Germans commandeered the hotel, using it as barracks for their soldiers and, as a consequence her grandmother had to leave the hotel. She moved initially to 'Anchor Lodge' and then to live with Jessie and her husband, Jack Barette, at 'Les Escaliers' where she died in 1954 at the age of seventy-seven. In 1945 the hotel was sold to Ann Street Brewery where it was managed by Mr and Mrs De Caux.



Noreen's father, Arthur Fauvel, lived in St Martin and used to visit her mother at the hotel, arriving on an extremely noisy motor bike much to the annoyance of her parents who forbade her to see him. This evidently was short lived as they married in 1926. Arthur then joined the Royal Navy and became a Petty Officer before being invalided out in 1937. After his return to Jersey he was employed as a civil engineer at the harbour works at La Collette.

The Fauvel family lived at the 'Hollies' throughout the Occupation with Noreen remembering seeing Russian prisoners-of-war being marched along to build the New North Road. In 1945 they moved to Carrefour Selous in St Lawrence where her mother ran a general grocery shop and Post Office.

After leaving school at the age of fifteen, Noreen was asked by her mother to help in the shop. Noreen recalled the use of ration books, which were issued to all families, restricting the amount of groceries they could buy. Unfortunately, at the age of eighteen she contracted Tuberculosis and had to be looked after at home by her mother for over a year.



Noreen met her husband Syd on a Guy Fawkes Night and was married in 1952 at the age of twenty-one. They initially lived in St Helier and then St Peter. In 1962 they came back to live in St John and built their current home, 'Sundown'. They have a daughter, Shirley and two sons, Gary and Nigel.

In the 1970's St John's Hotel was pulled down making way for the pub we see today. Noreen remembers seeing the demolition through the window of Central Stores (now Rstore) where she used to work. It brought back many memories and emotions, especially as the second floor bedroom hit the ground!

## A PLEASURE OR EYESORE

### Letter from Richard Day Dear readers,

I am writing to enquire of people's views on what I personally believe is the dreadful untidy planting on the corner of La Route du Nord and west of the parish church wall.

The Public Services some eight or so years ago were responsible, or irresponsible, for destroying what was a very interesting and attractive area. I am informed that it is now the responsibility of Transport and Technical Services, perhaps the same people under a different name?

It could be seen that I have a vested interest as I live nearby, but I do think it used to enhance the appearance and ambience of St John's Parish Village as it stands in such a prominent position. I feel it is a great opportunity and perhaps a starting point in establishing St John as a contender in the Britain in Bloom or Floral Island that we used to keep hearing about, but perhaps more importantly it could make us even more proud of our surroundings as blessed as we are.

St John's village, or Parish centre, unlike many in our Island does have a coherent centre with a very attractive layout and a comfortable range of positive and accessible local amenities. It has on its west side healthy open spaces, agricultural fields, a welcoming entrance and a statement that sets the scene for our magnificent parish church.

It was so fortunate to have built the shopping area so cosily hidden behind this grand Jersey heritage statement, the perfect place, if indeed not the perfect use of building design or materials to complement such a fine heritage centrepiece. Within the fine church granite walls we witness some very fortunate natural sculptural forms that are forever changing throughout the seasons. They take on a more skeletal

form during the winter and create great umbrella-like shade in the summer; I am referring to the great oaks of 'St John in the Oaks' our full parish title, unbeknown to many I believe.

The parish hall sits nicely opposite this grand church, a little unfortunately divided by the busy main road, but visually very pleasing. The entrance could possibly be improved if the path were to be carefully redirected around to the side road, as now the main road entrance does create a serious accident threat.

Behind our parish hall we have a little gem of a school building, modern, but blending in carefully, set in a picturesque 'peach of a lane' leading into another setting literally canopied by trees - such abounding and exciting contrasts! What a wonderful contrast of planning or natural development, unlike our bungled and scar faced Waterfront!

Jersey needs to invest now, today, in creating a much stronger body or association that is able to protect all that is good and positive within our Island. We do have many small groups that individually strive to protect what they believe is valuable in their area, but often in recent years their strength individually has proved to have been overlooked or overridden by our chosen few that seem to favour and so easily rubber stamp their destruction of our once lovely but rapidly changing Island!

It is essential that we strengthen the voice of the people and each individual effort by uniting together in a common aim of preserving the natural environment alongside positive, careful and sympathetic planning for future need, especially that of our future generations. Only collectively can we make ourselves heard if the real need is there - skate park, community centre, flower beds?

*Richard Day, 'Acorn Cottage',  
Meadow View, La Route du Nord, St John.*





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# PARISH DIARY - APRIL - JULY 07

## AUGUST

- Sun 26th 11.00am Beach service at Bonne Nuit Bay, organised by the Parish Church.
- Wed 29th 2.30pm Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

## SEPTEMBER

- Tues 4th Back to School
- Thurs 6th 2.15pm Visite de Branchage
- Thurs 13th 12.45pm Battle of Britain Air Display
- Tues 18th 7.00pm School PTA AGM
- Tues 25th 7.30pm Bingo in the Parish Hall
- Wed 26th 12.00pm Golden Age lunch. Meet at the Parish Hall

## OCTOBER

- Sat 6th Golden Age fundraiser
- Sun 7th Harvest Festival at the Parish Church
- Mon 8th – 12th School Art Week
- Sat 20th 7.30pm Harvest Social in the Parish Hall, organised by the St John's Group of Churches
- Fri 26th Last Day of school half-term
- Tues 30th 7.30pm Bingo in the Parish Hall
- Wed 31st 2.30pm Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

## NOVEMBER

- Mon 5th Back to School
- Sun 11th 10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service in the Parish Church, organised by the St John's Group of Churches
- Tues 27th 7.30pm Bingo in the Parish Hall
- Wed 28th 2.30pm Golden Age AGM in the Parish Hall
- Thurs 29th 7.00pm Steve Price Gospel Illusionist in the Parish Hall

## DECEMBER

- Tues 11th 7.30pm Bingo in the Parish Hall
- Fri 14th 1.15pm School performance of Robin Hood for Senior Citizens
- Sat 15th 2.00pm Golden Age Christmas Party
- Sun 16th 6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service in the Parish Church, organised by the St John's Group of Churches
- Thurs 20th Last day of school term

## 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

- Reverend Patrick McManus
- 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.

### 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.

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#### Editorial Team

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



# St John's Village Inn

Telephone 864690

## MEAL TIMES

Breakfast 9:30 to 11a.m.

Lunch 12:00 to 3p.m.

Dinner 6:00 to 9p.m.

## Sunday Lunch

12:00 to 4p.m.



Telephone 864690

## Quiz Night with Andy

9 to 11p.m. on the last

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Great fun with great

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**KARAOKE EVERY SECOND SATURDAY FROM 9p.m. UNTIL 11p.m.**

**ALTERNATING WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ON THE OTHER SATURDAY**

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**And don't forget - if you give us a months notice, we can apply for a late night extension, to help you celebrate your special occasion.**

## Hundreds and Hundreds and Hundreds...

In January of this year the Scouts of the 6th Jersey Scout Troop were set a challenge by Scout Headquarters in England to complete "100 Challenges in 100 Days". The challenge was taken on by about 15,000 Scouts from 3,500 Patrols from all over the UK. The competition was set in two stages. In the first stage the Scouts were asked to do numerous physical activities including sit-ups, football keep-ups, orientation challenges and various races. The Eagles Patrol from Jersey was the only group from the Channel Islands to progress to the 2nd stage.

The Eagles patrol included: Brandon Perrée, James Armstrong, Evan Bolle-Jones, Matthew Pallot, Ollie Brown, Oren Le Marquand and Ashton Vautier, James Ollie and Brandon are either present or former pupils of St John's School.

After securing their place in the top 100 patrols the Eagles set themselves to the challenge of completing the 100 tasks in 100 days. There was a wide variety of challenges to be met including giving 100 hours of community service, abseiling 100 metres, running 100 metres, cycling 100 miles, washing 100 cars, writing 100 words

about Scouting and having it published in the J.E.P and even eating 100 baked beans with a cocktail stick! All of the challenges were documented meticulously by their leaders, Jason Green, Karen Simon, Rob Quinn, Heather Jepson and Lucinda Overbury through photographs, video clips and even actual items created by the patrol and presented to the judging committee in a well-packed portfolio. The boys put a huge amount of time and effort into completing the tasks, and their parents and the Scouting community in Jersey were supportive throughout.

The Eagles Patrol will be rewarded for their efforts as VIP guests at the Worldwide Jamboree held in Gilwell Park, Essex. Patrol leader, Brandon Perrée, is already a member of the Jamboree contingent and is pleased that his patrol will have the opportunity to join him there.

'Well done' to all members of the Eagles patrol for their super effort and to their leaders who offered 100s of words of guidance and encouragement throughout.



Brandon's Beans

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