

# L'ÉTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



*Parish of St John*

ISSUE 15

August 2008

## DOWN YOUR WAY – IN ST JOHN

ROGER AND MARGARET LONG ARE TWO OF THE REGULARS WHO ENJOY THE VARIETY CLUB'S ENTERTAINING SUNDAY AFTERNOON CHARITY WALKS WHICH TAKE PLACE TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR. HERE IS ROGER'S ACCOUNT OF THE SECOND ONE IN 2008.

'Down Your Way' was largely the brainwave of Frank Falle, a stalwart of Variety, in the mid-1990s, to add to the club's extremely successful fund-raising schemes. With the collaboration of the Committee of Constables, the Société Jersiaise and the Blue Badge Guides, and with the splendid support of the Lieutenant-Governors, it is now in its twelfth

St John's third turn at hosting 'Down Your Way' was on June the 29th, a beautiful, sunny day. We started eastwards from the Parish Hall and, after a pause to admire the proportions of Melbourne House and hear something of its history and, sometimes slightly eccentric, residents, we turned into Les Chenolles. It took some time for the party to wind its way to the turning into Rue du Bouillon as there was so much of interest to see. We stopped for Blair Adam House, Les Frères Chapel, Le Marinel, Ashley Court, the lavoir and lime-kiln at St Cyr as well as several other properties. Leaving Rue Militaire the route led us into Route de

Mont Mado and then Rue des Châtainiers. Along the way we passed a delightful little building – possibly a bakehouse – contrasting with the grandeur of the lovely house and outbuildings around the courtyard of Chestnut Grove. Venturing a little way into the entrances of some of these properties revealed fine aspects, often not visible to passers-by. The proprietors had been consulted beforehand and were pleased that we should want to see the facades of their fine houses. A retired senior member of the planning department remarked that he had no idea that such a small parish had so many interesting and beautiful houses and other buildings – and we had travelled only a couple of miles by then!

Hautmont, in Rue de la Mare des Prés, displays many architectural features which typify traditional Jersey farmhouses, and it is gratifying that, despite the alarming number which have been 'developed', rather too



*Lieutenant-General Ridgway practising to be a lollypop man!*

year and on its third circuit of the parishes. The set of twelve walks is spread over the five-year term of each Lieutenant-Governor who, accompanied by his wife, enthusiastically joins one of the twenty-strong groups of walkers.

grandly, many remain, enabling the island to retain much of its former rural character.

Although there is now little to see of Mont Mado quarry our guide told of the superb quality of its granite which was used for facades on many fine houses and important buildings. Apparently Élie Brévint wrote, in 1650, that 'These quarries are worth little now, for all the good granite is extracted', but they finally ceased being worked only in the late 1940s. The windmill which stood above the quarry was probably the highest one in the island.

Walking along Rue des Barraques allowed us a short diversion between two houses to a viewing point where the land falls away to give one of the most sublime vistas of cliffs, rocks and the sea to be seen anywhere in this island.

Passing the house named after St Blaize, the patron saint of wool-combers, which makes reference to the importance of sheep and the wool trade in Jersey in former centuries, our route took us into Rue de L'Église on the way back to our starting-point, where a refreshing drink awaited us. This brief description covers only a few of the lovely scenes and historical tales we experienced throughout the tour.

Amid the buzz and chatter in the Parish Hall we awaited the final group, and then a delicious supper was served to the hundred people present. Frank Falle thanked all who had contributed to the success of the event: the Constable and the guides for planning the route, providing police at main road crossings, compiling the historical and architectural notes; the Parish and sponsors for the food and drink; donors for the generous raffle prizes; and members of Variety for their work behind the scenes.

A substantial copper Jersey milk-can is commissioned by Variety at the start of each

series of walks and parish insignias are inscribed at the end of each one. After the final walk the can is handed over to the H. E. The Lieutenant-Governor and his wife in recognition of their support.

The Members of Variety raise remarkably large sums for charitable causes in Jersey. The entrance fee for these walks and other contributions are passed on in full to the charities. Costs are covered by Variety and their sponsors. The walks are very popular, so if you wish to take part you will have apply to the Variety Club very early.

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## FOOTBALL CLUB EXTRAVAGANZA

A fantastic day of food and football was enjoyed by club members and their families at St John's Sports Centre on July 19th, raising funds, and providing a grand day out for footballers of all ages. The morning kicked off with friendly matches for the Under-12, -14 and -16 teams followed by a BBQ lunch. The Ladies played in the afternoon, followed by the men's teams under the watchful eye of coach, Pete Herridge, as they took on Nomads in two friendly matches ending with one win and one draw.

Throughout the day members of the football committee manned the BBQ. The event culminated with the drawing of the annual raffle. A big thank you to all who made this day a huge success.

The new season starts August 4th, and St John are pleased to announce three new teams: C team, Over-35s team and an Under-18 team.

Please contact Nigel Perrée 865113 for further information, or if you want to come out of retirement and play for the Over-35s!

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# DEAR PARISHIONERS

## Parish Hall

Many of you will know that when I came into office one of the first things that I looked at was the plans for the Parish Hall. Had we continued with the approved plans the cost would have been around £670,000, because the original price, estimated in 2002, would have risen as a result of increased building costs. With the help of Andrew Morris Architects we have revised the plans and gained double the square footage over the old plans and anticipate doing the job for less than £500,000. The new scheme was approved unanimously at a recent assembly and the plans go before the planning applications panel on the 7th August. Fingers crossed!

You will have noticed that the bushes around the perimeter of the parish hall have now been removed and replaced by grass. This has exposed the lovely pillars that make up part of the original architecture of this handsome 1912 building.

If you visit the parish hall you will find in the main hall a 7-foot-long photo which is a complete panoramic view taken from the top of the church steeple (when the scaffolding was there of course). Smaller versions of this photo are available if you contact Stuart McAlister Photographers in West Centre.

## Maison Le Vesconte

We have now had the plans passed to convert no's 9, 10, 11 & 12 Maison Le Vesconte from bed sitters into spacious one-bedroom units. This work should take approximately six months from the time that the trustees accept one of the tenders.

## Down Your Way Walk

It was St John's turn for this walk on June 29th. This event was set up by the Comité des Connétables a number of years ago to raise money for the Variety Club and local children. The Lieutenant-Governor and his wife walk each of the 12 parishes during his term of office. The walk is guided by Blue Badge Guides and views many of the historical buildings in the



Parish. A Jersey copper milk jug engraved with each parish crest is passed between the parishes and presented to the Lieutenant-Governor on his departure from office.



After the walk a light supper for 100 people was served at the parish hall.

The whole event was a fantastic success. Ann and I would like to give a special thank you to all the helpers. Those who helped Ann with the organisation were Mary Rouillé, Anita Pallot, and Barbara Collins. Helpers on the day were Pauline Caurel, Beverley Cornelius, Rose Dupré, Natalie Pound, Kerrie Butcher, Daphne Hinault, Michelle Snape, and Kate Lewis who did a fantastic job. We would like to give a special thanks to Tina Lister for the flower arrangements.



I would also like to thank the management of the L'Auberge du Nord for providing the main course for the supper.

## July Branchage

We did the parish Branchage on Thursday 3rd July in the afternoon. A number of properties were fined for not cutting but most of the fines were for not picking up the debris afterwards. All were fined £25 with the maximum being £50.

It has been noticed by the Parish Roads Committee that a great number of farmers cut their field edges fairly early and did not pick up, hoping that the elements would blow most of the cuttings away so there would be less to pick up before our visit.

This practice causes significant problems by blocking up drains. At the next branchage this will be monitored early as fines can be issued prior to the branchage day if necessary.

**PLEASE PICK UP WHEN YOU CUT.**

*Connétable Graeme Butcher*



# DEPUTY ANDREW LEWIS

## Summer Arrives

Summer seemed to finally arrive which was a real bonus for the Sea Sunday celebration at Bonne Nuit. Bishop Buhati from the Congo and his wife were visiting Jersey prior to the Lambeth Conference and he blessed the boats moored in the Bay. I had the privilege of taking the Bishop back to St Helier by sea where he could see first hand the varied coastline around the Island.

## Down Your Way

Last month we welcomed some other important visitors to St John, namely the Lieutenant-Governor and his wife as they embarked on a 'Walk down your way' to raise funds for The Variety Club of Jersey. I must thank Ann Butcher and her team of volunteers for providing an excellent supper for the weary walkers – a real St John team effort.

## Rubbish talk

As you are no doubt aware there have been some lengthy States debates over the last few weeks, not least the two-day debate about the proposed new incinerator plant at La Collette. Whilst many members had difficulty coming to terms with the vast sum of money being committed to the scheme, I feel that there is no viable alternative to the proposal to deal with the issue of waste management in the long term.

I am proud that on many occasions St John was mentioned as being a pioneer of recycling and we owe it to future generations to keep up the momentum. It is our youth that are spear-heading the environmental message, to the extent that I have spent much of the weekend creating a compost bin at my eight-year-old's insistence.

## States business

Unfortunately much time has been taken up with matters of a personal nature such as the vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers and the censure motion against Senator Walker. I think it is a matter of regret that so much time was taken up with these protracted arguments rather than getting on with the business in hand.

The new ministerial system is not perfect, but I feel that we should give it a chance. The Isle of Man has had Ministerial Government for a number of years now and they still claim

that improvements can be made. One can't help but think that, despite our differences, we are extremely lucky to be living in a successful, democratic Island such as Jersey where we are granted freedom of speech and enjoy a very high standard of living.



## Summer holidays

I write this piece with only one week to go before schools break up for the Summer. It is a particularly poignant week for our family as our eldest son leaves St John's School and embarks on a new challenge at secondary school. I would publicly like to thank Mr Willis and his team for their continual striving for excellence at the school. We should all be proud to have such a wonderful facility available to us in our home parish.

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# News from the Pews

## Back to Church Sunday - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Across the Church of England, last year, 2,000 churches participated in the 'Back to church' initiative and welcomed back 20,000 friends.

This September, St John's Parish Church is participating in the 2008 'Back to Church' initiative and holding special services on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September to welcome friends back to church.

We recognise that people lose touch with church for all sorts of reasons. For example, moving to a new area; Sunday morning activities for the children; falling out with a member of the church, maybe even the minister; growing up and growing out of Sunday School; tensions with the work-life balance; etc.

So we'll listen to you if you want to talk about any of these things, otherwise we'll simply welcome you back and treat you like a VIP, for we believe everybody is special and that includes you.

We also realise that if you haven't been to church for a while you might feel a little unsure about what happens and may be a little anxious about coming through the church door on a Sunday morning. We're aware too that you might find it easier and feel more comfortable coming back to church on an occasion when you know other new people will also be there

So we're offering you an invitation to our 'Back to church' Sunday services, guaranteeing you a warm welcome and the promise to guide you through the service.

We also know that, with such busy lives, you don't want to be pressured to sign up for any jobs. So we invite you to come just as you are and be yourself.

## Will you accept our invitation to come back to Church?

### Links with the Congo

In July, we were delighted to welcome Bishop and Mrs Bahati to St John. They were visiting us on their way to the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops from across the world. Bishop Bahati is the Bishop of our link Diocese of Bukavu in the east of the DRC, a Diocese three times the size of England.

During his visit the Bishop and Mrs Bahati attended Sunday morning worship; blessed the boats and lifeboat at the conclusion of the Sea Sunday service at Bonne Nuit; and visited the school.



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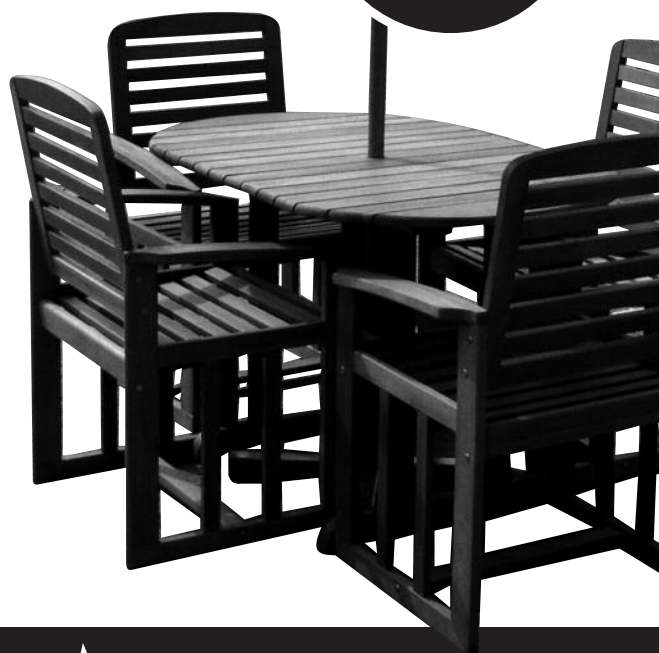
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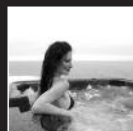


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## Where are they now? Can you tell us?

This photograph, sent by Pam Reynolds (née Jarrett), was taken in 1946 at the gymnasium, Mount Bingham. Pupils of St John's school visited the gym on Tuesday nights. They travelled to town via a Tantivity bus, which dropped them off in the Parade.

Back Row: – Marguerite Bailhache, ? Picot, Barbara Baudains, Doris Le Marquand, Enid Barette, and Doreen Guinard.

3rd Row: – Pam Jarrett, Roselle Feuillet, ? De Gruchy. Diane Didot, Paulette Le Cornu, Daphne Guinard, Beryl Le Marquand.

2nd Row: – Christine Lawless, Doreen Duquemin, Joan Vibert.

Front Row: – Jacqueline Fossey.



If anyone wishes to contact Pam, her address is as follows.

Mrs P Reynolds  
Marley, Quatre Saisons,  
Craig-y-Manach, Kilkenny,  
EIRE  
Telephone No: - 00 353 5997 24162

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

Dear Editor,

Just a little note to say your article about St John's Hotel was interesting. (August 2007)

My husband and I had our wedding reception there on September 30th 1954 when Mr and Mrs de Caux were at the hotel.

Regards  
Conrad and Dulcie Osmand



## SION PRE-SCHOOL

Hello once again from the centre of the island and all the wonderful little people who attend the pre-school.

We have had the most interesting few months and a great time introducing the children to animals of the world, recycling and growing.

A morning in our setting is a very busy and varied time for our pupils. Not only have they got to be brave and separate from their mum or dad but also learn to socialise and make new friends and then, best, of all they have a great many activities to complete, all within three and a half hours. I am sure many of you are aware of how huge our premises are and believe me those little voices echo like thunder in the main room. Many a parent leaves saying, 'How can you stand this racket?' After a time you don't notice the noise; the odd screech can make you cringe but I've yet to find one of us cowering in a corner.

Introducing them to different wild animals that do not enter their lives on a daily basis was a challenge met through art, stories, and various resources. We have many puppets that the children love, lots of 'mingoes and raffles' (flamingoes and giraffes to you). It is

easy to note the children who have stories or trips to the zoo with their families, they recognise gorillas and bats, but it is also very rewarding when those who don't go out and about pick up information and store it so quickly.

We had a couple of great parties in May too. Firstly the children made Maypoles and learnt about saying goodbye to the bad weather and hello to the sun. Luckily the weather did not let us down and with party food, and hyped up by the energetic staff they learnt to run around the pole all in the same direction to make a gorgeous pattern with the colourful ribbons. Believe me that was a mammoth task in itself!

We are also a band of ladies who believe very strongly in celebrating our very special Liberation Day and we had a fantastic 'old fashioned' tea party with the children in the sunshine. I hope you remember our front page photo in the J.E.P. The children all made their own Jersey Flag party crowns and they had homemade biscuits and cups of tea. They love cups of tea, milky, but tea all the same. Not to frighten them we just explained how lucky they were to live in such a beautiful

island and have such great opportunities and freedom, and again the sun was shining for us so they had a ball.

Talking about balls, we had a fund-raiser selling cotton shopping bags decorated with the children's faces, all drawn by themselves. With the profit we have bought the biggest ball for them to have fun with. It is really strong, made from parachute material. We ordered it from England and it arrived in a little box without instructions, but we love a challenge! With the help of Geoff at Mangers Garage it was inflated to the same size as one of our toddlers



*Children who are leaving to go to full-time education; in the background are their self portraits. I dare you not to laugh.*

and has been the highlight of the outside play area. Again thank heavens for the size of our premises.

We are now growing a variety of things with the children. They have watched caterpillars grow and turn into chrysalis and are eagerly awaiting the emergence of butterflies. We have planted many seeds – those within their snack-time apples as well as flowers and beans. Very excitingly we have been encouraged by Rondels Farm shop to enter the 'Carrot Competition' and Julie and Penny had a great morning on our 'allotment' there with the children being taught the finer skills of planting by Richard. Sullivan was way ahead of the professionals and it was easy to see who spends hours in the garden with Mum!

### Goodbye to Sion

This is my last article for the magazine as I am off to pastures new. I have been with Sion now for fifteen years and it was one of the most emotional decisions of my life. I have been involved in the transition of a play group into one of the most respected private pre-

schools. None of this could have happened without the support of the church and the most fantastic set of staff I have ever had the privilege to work with. I shall leave the group in the most capable hands of Liz Blampied, Julie Renouf and their team.

### The things they say

Not to finish on a sad note I have three funny children's comments for you.

Q. What does a fly catch in his web?

A. Amie 'A cold'.

Q. What is a Baby cat called?

A. Ellie 'A Kit Kat'

Livia 'Oh no my eyes are dripping down!' The sun was making her eyes water!

*Caroline Hopkinson.  
Manager Sion Pre-School*

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# THE THRILLS AND SPILLS OF HORSE DRIVING

Rob and I bought our horse, Prince, nearly thirteen years ago when he was two years old. Although he is a Welsh Cob he was born in Bude, Cornwall. This type of breed is strong and very versatile, so we were able to train him for both riding and driving. When we first started training him to pull the trap we soon discovered that he had a big dislike and fear of tractors. This led to some very nerve-wracking experiences! One day we were near Melbourne Garage (where the new Marks and Spencer is now) when a very large tractor travelling at speed came towards us. Prince did not like this one bit and promptly started reversing across the road towards the garage forecourt where a beautiful yellow Ferrari was parked. Thankfully Rob managed to get him to stop about 6 inches from the bonnet of the Ferrari! Prince will probably never like tractors, but we now manage to get past them without incident.

We belong to the Jersey Horse Driving Society and over the years we have entered various competitions and events, including Shows, Driving Trials, Skilled Driving, and Drives, when a group of between ten and twenty turnouts form a procession along the roads and lanes of the country parishes. We soon realized that Prince enjoyed some events more than others. His favourite is the cross-country section in the Driving Trials Competition because the course takes us along tracks, over hedges and around fields. We also have various timed obstacles featuring four or five gates which have to be driven through as fast as possible in a set order. This sometimes involves some tricky manoeuvres, twisting and turning from one gate to the next.

A couple of years ago we had just entered an obstacle through the starter flags and had to drive over a low hedge and then turn sharply to our right to get to the first gate. As we went over the hedge and turned, the left wheel hit a tree stump which bounced the wheel into the air where we teetered on one wheel on the

point of tipping over. As I was standing on a step at the back of the trap I was able to pull myself over to the left and the wheel thankfully returned to the ground with a thump and we were on our way again!

Many years ago when we had our previous horse, Flight, we were not so lucky. In those days we did not have a back step, so Rob and I used to sit side by side on the seat. We were in a cross country competition coming down the hill from Sorel and intending to turn into a track at Sorel Farm. Unfortunately Flight anticipated the turn and the wheel hit the boundary stone on the corner. When you are tipping and falling out you hope that you are going to have a soft

landing. I landed on my knees about a foot short of a lovely patch of stinging nettles! Rob also fell out of the trap and landed a few feet away. My immediate thought was that Flight was on his own and could very likely bolt. Luckily he was very obedient and when I shouted 'Flight STAND' he stood stock-still and gave Rob time to grab the reins again. I shouted so loudly that they heard me from two fields away. No wonder Flight didn't dare move!

Now Prince (and Rob!) are getting older they both enjoy riding just for pleasure. They also have fun taking part in Riding Club events i.e. showjumping, cross-country competitions and novice hunting. Once a year in September they participate in the Sponsored Ride for the Jersey Youth and Friendship Association and for the past three years they raised the most sponsorship in the Veteran Class.

Prince is quite a character and gets bored easily. As he needs to be given a constant variety of things to do he keeps us busy doing as many different activities as possible. Needless to say, we have a lot of fun with him and can often be seen riding or driving him on the roads in the country parishes, particularly in St John.



*Beryl Vautier*



# BONNE NUIT BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Bonne Nuit Boat Owners Association was founded in 1964 and has been running as an Association ever since. The Original objects of the Association were to:

- Co-operate with Harbours and Airport Committee in the administration and organisation of Bonne Nuit Harbour
- Allocate moorings and promote goodwill among boat owners
- Promote interest in boats and boating
- Hold social events

There are nine committee members who meet once a month in the Association Hut at Bonne Nuit in the summer and in a local hostelry during the winter to discuss issues, organise mail-shots, newsletters and arrange meetings with Harbours. These committee members are proposed and seconded by members at the AGM held in November each year.

There is a strong community spirit amongst the boat owners that proved itself when we had the storm back in May. From an initial telephone call by one of the members who happened to be down in the bay, several members turned up to help boats that were in danger of sinking, or had broken their moorings and even to safeguard huts that

were being damaged. The same spirit of community was noticeable the previous year when people were putting themselves at risk trying to save other members' boats.

Usually we hold a Fitting-out Supper in the spring and a Laying-up Dinner in the autumn that anyone is welcome to attend, even if they are not members.

Last year we had a very successful rally to Portbail when several boats together and guests joined in. It is a fun trip where the boats can be decorated and the crews can wear fancy dress to get in the party mood. This year we are trying something new. Once all the boats arrive in Portbail we are heading off by coach to the Normandy Landing Beaches, a Calvados tasting and a visit to a hypermarket for a bit of shopping. In the evening we are all off to a lovely restaurant for dinner. On Sunday we will return to Bonne Nuit, stopping at Les Écréhous for a picnic lunch.

All our events are open to anyone as we believe the more the merrier so keep an eye out for any of our events and please do join us.

*Linda Carter  
Secretary*

## ST JOHN'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB

### Come and join us

The Club is open to any Parishioner 60 years old and above.

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm and the meetings are quite varied, including bingo, quizzes, games afternoons, and speakers.

We go out for lunch in April and September and for afternoon tea in June and we have a Christmas Party in December.

We would be especially pleased to welcome new members so if you are interested please do contact any one of the following:

President	Mrs Ann Butcher	862450
Chair	Mrs Daphne Hinault	861467
Asst.Chair	Mrs Mayzel Renouf	861908
Treasurer	Mrs Mary Rouillé	862835
Secretary	Mrs Marie Griffiths	862217

Committee	Mrs Wendy Rondel	863667
"	Mrs June Saussey	862794
"	Mrs Pauline Breuilly	862012
"	Mrs Jean Gray	863202
"	Mrs Jean de la Mothe	862310
"	Mrs Pauline Caurel	861745

### Date for your diary

Saturday October 4th, 10am – 12noon. Coffee morning with home made cakes, fresh vegetables, raffle, books etc.

*Please come along and support us!*



## APPOINTMENT WITH THE DUKE – *Graham and Jane Le Lay go to the Tower*

Just before Christmas we received a letter from the House of Commons inviting us to take part in a car rally to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the wedding of HM The Queen and the HRH Duke of Edinburgh in 1947. The aim was to assemble 60 different British made cars manufactured in 1947 and our Triumph Roadster 1800 had been selected as it fully fitted the bill.

Although it was an honour to have been invited, living in Jersey created many problems which other mainland invitees did not have. How to travel? (Jane and I are not good seafarers) yet the boat was the only option. Was it too long a journey for the old car? Where to garage the car in London? Fortunately my brother lives in Chelsea so I asked him politely if his own car would give



*Jane and Graham in period outfits share a joke with HRH The Duke of Kent*

up its garage to my aged and fragile Triumph for three nights. This was agreed so we booked the ferry to Weymouth.

With some trepidation we set off at 8pm on Saturday 15th March on the fast ferry. Earlier in the week Jersey had suffered severe storms washing away the sea defences on Victoria Avenue, but although the sea was very rough we survived the boat journey surprisingly well, arriving just after midnight.

After a good night's sleep in Weymouth it was off at 10-30am the following morning for the 150-mile journey to London. Being a Sunday the motorway traffic was fairly light which was just as well as we had torrential rain for the entire journey and, in common

with most cars of this age, mine has a tendency to leak where the roof fits over the windscreen, so Jane was kept busy mopping up. We kept a steady 55 to 60 MPH on the motorway but the last 9 miles into London were very slow. What we had not appreciated was that there are no congestion charges in London on a Sunday. However by 3 o'clock we and the car were safely at our Chelsea base.

On Tuesday morning it was off through the heavy London traffic, grinding our way slowly through the many traffic lights and traffic congestions towards our destination at Horseguards Parade. The Triumph Roadster isn't easy to drive in heavy traffic and all the stops and starts certainly tested the clutch. Eventually we passed the Houses of Parliament and were soon at our destination where we assembled with the other impressive 60-year-old vehicles with most of the participants dressed in period outfits.

The crowds of people far exceeded our expectations. Camera crews, spectators and car boffins mingled with the car owners and there was lots of interest in our Triumph Roadster.

At midday it was time for the drive around London. Enthusiastic people lined the route; the escorting police included some 60-year-old British police motorcycles and police cars (Rileys with bells on the front). After a long and interesting tour around London, we finished up at the Tower of London being waved in by HRH the Duke of Kent. Unfortunately Her Majesty was unable to attend due to another engagement.

Once lined up along the Tower's curtain wall, we were invited into the Armoury Hall where welcomed tea and coffee was served in the company of HRH and many Members of Parliament. HRH mingled and spoke to most entrants. Speeches ensued with prizes for the best period outfit and we won the prize for having travelled the most distance to take part.

Then it was back to our cars so that the general public could be allowed into the enclosed area to view them. The heavy stream of enthusiastic spectators continued for some hours and once again HRH came to every car. He spent a very long time talking to us as he



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*The team: Wendy (left), Debbie (centre) and Kasia (right)*

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was keen to discuss Jersey in general, but in particular his visit last year on Liberation Day when he had viewed a cavalcade of old local cars which had been assembled by The Jersey Old Motor Club. He was amazed at the quantity and quality of vintage and veteran cars we have in Jersey. We found him a very nice chap, very easy to talk to and it was obvious that he has a lot of knowledge and a real interest in old vehicles.

At the end of the afternoon the car owners were treated to a private and conducted viewing of the Crown Jewels which was impressive to say the least. At 6 pm it was off back into the heavy traffic of London (without Police escort this time). Eventually we arrived at Chelsea and put the Roadster to bed.

The next day we drove back to Weymouth in glorious sunshine to experience another really rough sea journey.

However with another 350 miles on the Triumph Roadster's clock, and Jane and I surviving two rough boat journeys, all in all it was a once in a lifetime experience and one we would not have missed for anything.

## CALLING ALL WOMEN!

**The Women's Institute is coming to St John.**

**The opening meeting of the new St John's branch will take place on Thursday October 9th at 7.45 pm in the Parish Hall.**

All the Sub-committees will be represented – Sport, Leisure, Music, Drama, Home Economics, Craft – something for women of all ages and many interests. There will be a demonstration, followed by supper.

In addition to all the local events organised by the Federation, the WI also has Denman College in Oxford - where members are able to go to develop various skills. It is set in beautiful grounds and holds residential courses lasting from 2 to 5 days.

It may be that Thursdays will not be a good night for St. John; it will be for the meeting to decide which night they would like to meet.

In the meantime, St Lawrence WI invites you to join them on Friday September 12th at 7.45 at St Lawrence Parish Hall for a talk on the Probation Service.





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good summer!**





## STRESSY JESSY

After weeks of stress, revision, comfort eating, tears, strops and hissy fits I have finally completed the ordeal of AS exams. Thank Goodness. I really don't think I could have lasted much longer under those circumstances. I even have a stress rash, and about 5 ulcers to prove it (not to mention the wonderful half a stone I have foolishly gained during study leave). But all is well, because I can enjoy three weeks of bliss, with nothing to do except wash my hair and laugh at those unfortunate enough to have more exams to take. Hahaahaha.

OK. So my friends are allegedly revising. I've cleaned my room, remade my bed (twice) and even bleached the toilet. I don't think my dog wants to have another walk seeing as he starts crying whenever I bring out the lead. Please, please say someone is keen to go out tonight! Anyone? Oh, yes. Good. Great. Everyone wants to hit town!

OK. Not so good when everyone is going home early to revise in the morning. Are you joking? What is the point of three weeks off if I have no friends available? And I'm already bored of me-time. I think if I file my nails anymore I will have none left.

Well apparently buying Heat magazine doesn't help the boredom. Why oh why are these women so skinny? To be quite honest with you, I quite liked my body until I looked at this magazine and now I've just examined myself and found about 5 new areas to worry about. Oh my . . . I did not know I had cellulite there! Oh no.

Have ditched the magazine and am presently playing with Baby Born. She looks quite nice in red, I think. Being maternal has put into perspective my new-found body dissatisfaction, seeing as all my worries are channelled towards my new born (Baby Born)

and selflessly providing for her every need.

Mum has just caught me talking to Baby Born and asked if there was anything I needed to tell her. I have reassured her that she has nothing to worry about. At all. For at least five years. She was so overjoyed she has booked me a driving lesson. RESULT!

I have just planned a strict eating and exercise regime for the next three weeks. Oh wow. I've broken the eating plan. In my defence, I had a serious craving for chocolate and also found some shortbread biscuits which are now demolished. A phone call! YAY MY LIFE! Oh wait it's just my Mum. Bahh.

I think I'm going to open a café – a coffee shop in town, where I can sell my artwork of ashtrays and coffee cups and plates. Of course at the same time I can hold down a writing job. That would be brilliant. Or I could just carry on with these A levels and study Acting at University. Do I need my A levels though? Can I really do this for another year, and become demon child only to subject myself to more stress whilst at University and then come out in serious debt? Hmmm. I'm thinking that getting a job right now would not be a bad idea at all. I could build up a bit of bank money, sort out my life then go travelling. How brilliant. It would definitely be a plan, I think.

So, basically these three weeks have made me want to sack off school and get a job, when in actual fact they are supposed to have made me look forward to learning again. I am now completely unmotivated to begin any form of study; half a stone heavier seeing as I have been spending all my money on food; and have just discovered through self-diagnosis that I must have PMDD – Premenstrual Dysfunctional Disorder, which would explain my current schizophrenic behaviour. Well brilliant.

Fortunately, at Christmas last year I predicted this post-exam slump, and have booked and been saving for a rather lavish holiday to Crete. In less than two weeks I will be sunning in temperatures of over 45 degrees every day, with six of my friends, living independently in self-catering apartments for two weeks. No parents. No school work. No stress. It's going to be perfect . . . as long as I don't get sunstroke.

*Jess Stanier*







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## EDITORIAL

We hope that all our readers will find something of interest in this fifteenth edition of Star of the North – a snapshot of some of the varied activities with which parishioners are involved within St John, as well as expeditions further afield. New contributors are always welcome – so please 'Think Star' when you are involved in any activity or event which would make an interesting story.–

### Website

[www.starofthenorth.org.je](http://www.starofthenorth.org.je) is the address of our very own website, kindly sponsored for us by C.I. Web Solutions. If you have family members abroad they might be very pleased to access this site in order to catch up with parish news – so do inform them.

### December edition

Our next edition will be published in early December. Deadline for copy is November 8th. As well as suggestions for articles –and articles themselves – please make use of our Parish Diary to advertise any event you are planning between December 8th 2008 and April 10th next year.

### Team effort

Our parish magazine is a community effort. More than twenty writers have contributed to this edition; a band of distributors post the copies into more than a thousand letterboxes throughout the parish; our advertisers finance the publication; the editorial team plans and co-ordinates each edition; the professionals at Alpha Print complete the work.

Thank you all – you make Star happen.

More helpers and ideas are always welcome. Maybe your organisation has not yet been included or maybe you have suggestions for new features. If so, please contact me.

Angela Le Sueur, Editor

Telephone: 863994;

email: [ambles@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:ambles@jerseymail.co.uk)



# Miss St John 2008 COMPETITION



At the beginning of May a group of Parishioners gathered at the Cheval Roc Hotel for the 2008 'Miss St. John' competition. Despite all our efforts through advertising and the media, only two young ladies came forward. But without a doubt both Beth Cook and Lauren Osmond were equally worthy candidates, providing our invited judges, Constable and Mrs. Dan Murphy and Deputy Jackie Hilton, an extremely difficult task.

Following interviews ably conducted by co-organiser Barbara Collins, there was a short recession during which everyone partook of a scrumptious hot buffet served by Ian Florence, Manager of the hotel, and his staff.

After much deliberation the judges made known their decision and Constable Graeme

Butcher presented Beth Cook with the '2008 Miss St John' Winner's Sash and prize cheque of £150. Runner-Up Lauren Osmond received a consolation prize cheque of £75.

To bring the formalities to a close, a small in-house raffle was run and the two young ladies were each presented with a small posy of pale pink roses by 7-year-old Brooke Collins and 6-year-old Sharon Moullin – future Parish contestants in the making – who knows!!

Please give our Miss St John a huge St Jeannais wave on Battle Day to let her know how proud we are of her.

Finally, we sincerely hope that, when the time comes around next year and the Parish is looking for glamorous young ladies aged 18 and over, more candidates will come forward. We will be targeting you – Beware!!

*Rosemary Dupré and Barbara Collins*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year we raised a grand total, and a new record, of £3,082!

Well done and a big 'Thank you' to the people of St John for their generous giving for the door to door collection in support of Christian Aid Week 2008. Also many thanks to all those who gave their time and energy delivering and/or collecting envelopes, because without their efforts we would not have achieved anything.

I think the cyclone in Burma and the earthquake in China just before Christian Aid Week made us all aware just how lucky we are to live on our lovely island of Jersey. We can be reassured that the money raised by us in St John and throughout the UK will be used to help people rebuild their lives when they have lost everything in natural disasters like these.

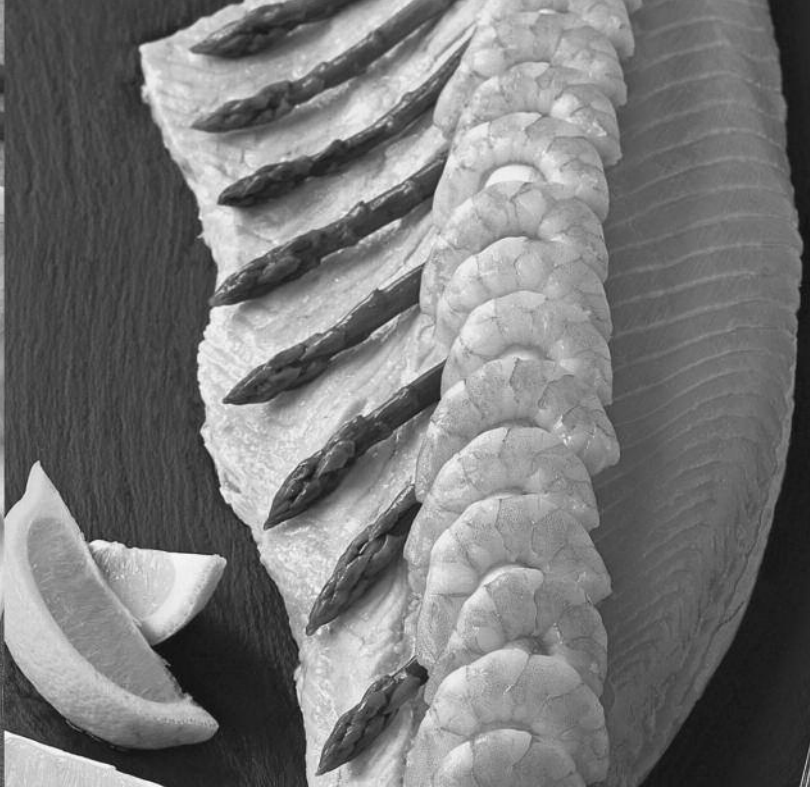
*Beryl Vautier  
Parish Organiser*

## WEBSITE

The Star of the North magazine now has a web site [www.starofthenorth.org.je](http://www.starofthenorth.org.je) that has been kindly sponsored by C.I. Web Solutions. The latest edition will be available on-line as soon as it is published. Archive editions will also be available for those who wish to view back numbers. The Editorial Committee are very grateful to CI Web Solutions for the provision of this facility.







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# SAYING IT WITH

In June, the parish church celebrated the conclusion of Phase 1 of the church restoration miracles of Jesus, created by members of the church family, a number of whom had no previous experience. One was stunning, prompting personal reflection upon the themes portrayed. In addition to a highly enjoyable weekend, with lots of visitors to church, the event was a success. A pictorial record of the floral festival will in due course be published.



*Welcome to the Festival*



*Doris Blair preparing: Changing the water into wine*



*Feeding the Five Thousand:  
Linda Brierly*



*The most amazing catch:  
Viv and Chiara Day*



# TH FLOWERS

Project with a floral festival of twenty-six floral arrangements depicting the parables and never previously arranged flowers. The arrangements were varied, but each and every one was well displayed and leading to much praise from visitors and church members alike. The event raised just £850 towards Phase 2 of the church restoration project. The event was added to the church website:- [www.stjohnschurch.org.je](http://www.stjohnschurch.org.je)



*Parable of the wise and foolish builders: John and Kitty Wade*



*Parable of the lost coin: Mike Rossiter*



*The prodigal son: Julie Renault*



*Lynne Austin-Vautier and Beryl Vautier preparing the pillars*



*Healing paralysed man: Liz de la Haye*





## STORY OF AN EDITION



This is where it all begins – around the Editor's table, asking questions, pooling thoughts and striking ideas off each other. Who will be the Northern Light? Is there a parishioner for the front page? Which Island charity shall we feature? What has been or will be happening in time for the next edition? How many adverts shall we have? How many pages can we fill? What is the publication date? When must everything be at Alpha Print?

Carl Hinault, our advertising manager is a VIP because he sells the adverts which finance the printing of Star of the North. Carl joined the team back in 2004 when we were planning the third edition. Prior to each edition he contacts all our regular advertisers either by telephone or email to confirm that they wish to continue advertising and if they need changes to be made to their advert. New customers are visited to discuss their requirements.

Until last year the account for the magazine was administered by the staff at the Parish Hall,



*Carl, camera in hand, and Angela, with notebook, at the opening of M&S in St John*

but following a request from the Constable the editorial team is now responsible for the account and Carl has been appointed Treasurer.

Rosie Bleasby has many parish and island contacts so she is full of ideas for copy and nearly always writes an article.

Mary Rouillé's main contribution is writing the Northern Light articles. She contacts the person the team suggests, and then an interview follows – if the person is willing! Mary always uses a cassette recorder to record the conversation then she writes out the article in draft form, types it up on the computer and 'plays' with the text until she is satisfied that it flows properly.

As well as writing about the activities at St John's Church, Rev'd Andy Thewlis compiles the Parish Diary. He emails his contacts to ask for dates, times and places of events in the parish, and then sets them out to save the editor a job. If, for any reason, you are not on Andy's contact list, please take the initiative and let him know if you have an event for the diary.

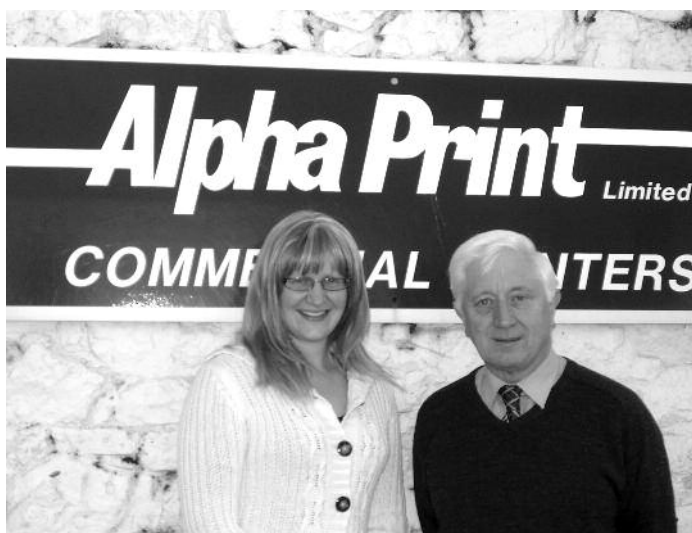
After the initial meeting, Angela emails or telephones all regular contributors, giving them the copy deadline date. Then all is quiet for a while until the copy begins to arrive – usually by email. Angela's job is then to edit all the pieces and email them to Alpha Print. Sometimes she also writes a piece – she enjoys interviewing people and finding out about different lives and activities.

The Editor has two kinds of nightmares – the first one is BLANK PAGES! There won't be enough copy. The second is TOO MUCH COPY! How shall I tell so-and-so that I cannot include the piece this time? The second nightmare is, however, a healthy sign – it's good that more and more people are writing for us, or giving us ideas for articles.

Once all the copy has been sent on, the professionals at Alpha Print take over. Until recently 'our printers' at Alpha print were parishioners Graham and Louise Minier, a father and daughter team. Recently, however, Graham retired and Louise moved on to other employment. We were sorry to see them go because we had enjoyed a happy partnership with them. Their helpfulness and enthusiasm never failed.

At first the team was a little apprehensive about working with different people, but Linda Kirk and Garry Lawrence who have produced this edition for us at Alpha Print could not be more helpful and we look forward to working





*Louise and Graham Minier – the father and daughter team who were, until very recently, 'our' printers.*

with them for a long time to come.

The printing process begins with a dummy, or template, of 'Star of the North' on to which the adverts, articles and photographs are laid out on the printer's computer. Then a first proof is printed off. Now it's the editor's turn again. Maybe some articles are taking up too much room and need shortening a little. Maybe there are some odd spaces that need filling – perhaps with a piece of late news. Maybe the order of some pieces needs to be changed. After examining these proofs, the editor has a meeting with the printers to discuss any major changes that need to be made and then a second proof is printed out. At this point Roger Long takes over from Angela.

Roger Long is Assistant Editor, the sort of title given to a general dogsbody who does everything not dealt with by others. The main part of Roger's work is done when the second proofs arrive. By then Angela is unable to see that any more changes need to be made. Roger brings a lot of experience of publishing and editing to checking the final text before it is printed. He looks for consistency of type-face and style of headings and by-lines and, of course, accents and our Jersey place names. Spelling and grammar also come under his scrutiny. That does not mean that our contributors and editor cannot spell! but Roger knows how easy it is to make small errors and be unable to see them. It is essential that another pair of eyes looks at everything and that is his job.

There is an old saying in the trade: 'The next book with no mistake will be the first book with no mistake!'

At last the new edition is printed and delivered to the Parish Hall. That, however, is not quite the end of the story- for the edition has to find its way to you. Richard and Rosemary Dupré are in charge of this part of the process. They have gathered a number of dedicated parishioners who assist with the distribution of the three editions each year. The first editions were posted, but this proved far too expensive. Those who can, join the Team at



*Roger, red pen in hand, corrects the proofs.*

the Parish Hall on the Saturday morning for the 'stuffing' party, when flyers are inserted and bundles of copies are sorted into delivery rounds. Rosemary provides refreshments.

Over the years the number of deliverers has increased, thereby reducing the size of the rounds. However we do have nearly 50 rounds and quite a few of our distributors have 2 or 3 rounds to deliver in order to distribute to the 1,085 households in the Parish. It would be great to have more people assisting, thereby reducing the load on the others. If you would like to help, please call Richard or Rosemary Dupré on 866880 or 07797711941.



*The 'stuffing' party*



## NED'S AFFAIR

THIS year was the holiday when our son, Edward, fell in love.

We didn't quite expect it, as he will only be four in August.

But then, as I am reliably informed, children are growing up quicker these days.

This affecting tale of young love concerns our holiday a few weeks ago in the Dordogne. It did not set off to the most promising of starts: six hours in a hot car thundering down the French motorway system. I had drawn the long straw: just keeping my hands on the wheel and concentrating on the road. My wife in the back, however, was already fielding questions, some ten minutes out from the ferry terminal at St Malo, along the lines of: 'Are we nearly there yet, Mummy?'

Poor Edward. His idea of a long drive is to travel from St John to St Clement. The six-hour car journey was a new experience, and not an entirely happy one. Thank heavens for portable DVD players!

But even DVD players cannot keep little people absorbed all the time. By the time Noddy had been succeeded by Little Red

Tractor, and then by Robin Hood, and then by Bob the Builder, and then by Piglet's Big Adventure, he had almost become square-eyed, and we were still on the motorway without any sign of the interminable journey coming to an end.

Mind you, he had his revenge: he has already learnt that to shout: 'Poo... I can't hold on... it's coming out...' has the same sort of galvanising effect as the order 'Scramble!' would have had on a Battle of Britain fighter squadron relaxing on the grass by the runway.

Suddenly Daddy is overtaking everything in sight in the fast lane, veering in to the 'Aire', and screeching to a halt at the verge. Edward finds himself lifted out of the car quicker than he ever thought possible, his shorts and pants pulled down, and plonked on the grass.... 'Don't want to go now, Daddy.'

Collapse of Mummy and Daddy through nervous prostration.

Anyway, we did get to journey's end at long last: a gîte in a tiny hamlet in the backwoods just south of the Dordogne. So tiny and so remote, that we were to find that our next door

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neighbour had retired there from Jersey. Subsequent conversations – over the garden fence, as it were – were mainly over the comparative merits of St Mary (his own parish) and St John.



We extricated ourselves from the car on our first evening, and introduced ourselves to the owners of the gîte who, of course, were English (this is the Dordogne, after all). Indeed, we experienced how thoroughly this area of France had been colonised by Britain.

Some days later, because we could get no phone signal for our mobile phones at the gîte, we drove to a nearby village so that Edward could say 'Happy birthday' to his Granny in Jersey. The conversation, of course, took place from a café, and as we left, we were approached by a somewhat overweight Englishman in shorts and lurid T-shirt who had overheard our conversation... as we were English, we must be local, and if ever we wanted his services as a builder and general factotum, well, here was his business card.

But we anticipate. As we arrived on the first evening, Edward went off immediately to investigate the interesting-looking 'play-area' – the usual combination of slide, swings, climbing frame, and so on – and that was where he met heart-throb Trudy (aged seven), daughter of the proprietors of our gîte.

For both, it was love at first sight.

Over the course of the next few days Trudy let Edward borrow her bike; she taught him the joys of jumping into a pool and splashing Daddy who was standing at the shallow end and slowly and cautiously introducing his middle and top bits to the rather cold water; they clambered over the climbing frame together; Trudy let Edward play on her rocking horse.

On coming downstairs in the morning, Trudy would be at the door – could Edward come and play?

In the evenings we would ask Edward what he would like to do tomorrow. 'Play with Trudy'

– well, what a surprise!

What, not get back in that car with Daddy and Mummy and look at mediaeval towns, and interesting churches, and prehistoric cave dwellings, and spend hours over restaurant meals...?

No. 'Play with Trudy.'

But all good things have to come to an end, and after two weeks, once again we packed up the car and squeezed ourselves into it, and set forth for the long, long trail back to St Malo and the ferry.

'Can Trudy come to my birthday party?' he asked, as late that night, we put him to bed at home in Jersey.

Edward likes France. He particularly likes French ladies whom he meets in cafés and supermarkets, and who say things to him like: 'Ah... les cheveux blonds, les yeux bleues... comme il est sage! Comme il est mignon!'

And now, in addition to all that, there is Trudy, from whom he has been so cruelly parted.

No prizes for guessing where he wants to go on holiday next year.

*Alasdair Crosby*

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# LES MATHIONNETTES

## 'Northern Lights'

*Chas and Diane Larbalestier, were interviewed by Mary Rouillé*

Jersey couple, Chas and Dianne Larbalestier, met in the Stable Bar at Grève de Lecq. They were married in 1964 and set up home in St Clement. Chas had a furniture removal business, which kept him busy during the day, but at night he changed his guise to a guitar player with a band called the Tennessee Three. The band was formed in 1958 and played to visitors and locals at the numerous hotels around the island.

Once their family, a boy and a girl, grew up, Dianne started to play, and eventually began to entertain with her band, Country Sunshine.

In 1988 they moved to St John and created a smallholding where Dianne's hobby of breeding goats expanded into keeping chickens, four cats and two dogs and a cow called Cleopatra who was an unusual silver wedding present!

Music has always been the focal point in their lives, with Chas playing the guitar and accordion and Dianne double and electric base. When the Tennessee Three retired as a group, Chas joined Dianne in Country Sunshine and they had a long and happy residency at Wolf's Caves until it closed in 2001. With the demise of many hotels in Jersey, they do not play their country music as much as previously, but enjoy playing acoustic French café music as a duo called Les Haricots Verts. Both their children have turned out to be excellent musicians, but with completely different styles. It is therefore interesting that one year they performed as a family at the Eisteddfod and got a 'highly recommended'!

As far as hobbies are concerned, Chas, who has always been interested in Jersey history, has collected Channel Island postcards for about twenty years. Many of the cards are photographs of places they have played through the years and are a reminder when Jersey had a thriving tourist industry. Chas has written two books, the first called 'A



Century of Music in Jersey' which is about local and visiting entertainers over the last hundred years, and the second is called 'The Postcards of Henry George Allix'. This latter book, published by the Société Jersiaise, is a reference book of postcards produced by Mr Allix who had a gift shop in Queen Street.

They both hope to continue with their music and hobbies for many years to come and are more than happy to be honorary St Jeannais.

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# ST JOHN'S SPORTS CENTRE

## Jersey Gymnastics Club

Last month Jersey Gymnastics Club celebrated its first birthday at St. John's Sports Centre with a spectacular 'Movies & Musical' Carnival. Over 150 spectators packed the gym to watch sixty of its squad gymnasts perform



dance and tumbling routines to their favourite songs as well as some individual apparatus routines.

Since moving to St. John's from Le Rocquier in May 2007, the club has gone from strength to strength increasing both its squad and recreational classes as well as continuing to offer recreational classes at five of the Island's schools. The Club operates seven days a week, has a membership of around 250, and is run by a committee of eight plus twenty-two qualified coaches.

The 'summer' season (from April to September) is the busiest as the Club has permanent use of the Hall with all its



equipment fully set up. Hence it is able to offer holiday 'camps', exchange visits with other mainland Clubs and a packed training programme for its performance gymnasts who are competing on a regular basis in both UK and international competitions.

The Club's next major 'project' is to try and improve conditions for both the gymnasts and coaches for the winter period (October to March) when equipment has to be moved on a sessional basis in order to share the Hall with other users. The Club is also hoping to join forces with Jersey Special Gymnastics Club who are having to move out of their current home at Mont à l'Abbé School. In order to do this the Club is looking at ways to improve accessibility of the equipment and is in desperate need of dry storage for the sprung floor and other pieces of equipment which cannot be used during this period. If anyone can help, please contact Jackie Hill on 07797 752969.

For further details on the Club's activities, plus all class information and application forms, please visit our website at:

[www.jerseygymnasticsclub.co.uk](http://www.jerseygymnasticsclub.co.uk)

*Jackie Hill  
President*

## Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic

Opening July 2008, the Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic is dedicated to improve sport science support and understanding in the island. We aim to provide the first scientifically based training and advice which is available to all athletes and the public in Jersey.

The clinic is also dedicated to help individuals seeking more specialist help in achieving their physical goals. All coaches at the clinic are highly qualified and have many years experience in helping people achieve their goal whether it be sporting or physical.

We offer athletes, coaches and the public these distinct programmes:

- 1) Sports Performance;
- 2) Functional (personal) Training;
- 3) Team Training;
- 4) Healthy Bodies – Injury Pre-habilitation and Advanced Stage Sport Rehabilitation and
- 5) Performance Camps.

The training programmes cater for anyone and everyone, regardless of age, gender, skill

level, or athletic or fitness goals. Our core programmes are designed for youth, middle school, senior school, and elite athletes, as well as adults and teams.

The purpose-designed conditioning facility at the St John's Sports Centre offers a wide range of uses from large group training to specialist one-on-one sessions. The equipment housed in the Clinic has been especially selected for its functional sports application, and you won't find it anywhere else in Jersey. The true key to the success of our training lies in the individualised programmes designed in-house by our strength and conditioning coaches who are highly qualified and experienced.

If you decide to join on one of the JSCC you will receive free of charge a performance lifestyle manager who will look after all aspects of your training from conditioning to nutrition and lifestyle advice.

The clinic offers a niche product to athletes and members of the public who are serious about their physical goal and want a more specialised service than is currently available

in Jersey.

The Clinic is also looking to engage the local community in sports performance programmes and is very keen to get the local youth population active. From August we will be providing sports performance sessions for the local youth on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Please visit us at  
[www.strengthandconditioningclinic.com](http://www.strengthandconditioningclinic.com) or  
 call John Scriven on: 07797845446 for more information.

*John Scriven MSc (Hons)  
 Strength and Conditioning Coach*

### Key contacts at St John's Sports Centre

Archery – Martin Pomroy tel. 855479

Carpet bowls – Shirley Caurel tel. 863825

Football – Nigel Perrée tel. 865113

Gymnastics – Michelle Ollivro-Murphy  
 tel. 870188

Shooting – John Renouf tel. 861908

Tennis – Tina Spencer-Nairn tel. 861716

Youth Club – Darren Dupré tel. 864561

## Hey, what if it's true?

If you are old enough to seriously be aware of how quick time passes then this is a word for you.

You may think that the idea of you snuffing it one day and winding up in another place with a new body is far too weird for serious contemplation. I hate to be the one to point out the obvious here but it has 'more or less' happened to you once already. The person you are now was placed in a body you didn't choose, put in a country you didn't choose, and put under the authority of parents you didn't choose.

I believe God is a committed father who has been seriously misrepresented. I say this in spite of my own dysfunctional upbringing.

My father was a violent drunk who spent his life in and out of jail and made no attempt to care for his family. Despite the damage it caused I knew this wasn't what a father was supposed to be and it took a long time for me to heal and exchange this head knowledge for a relationship with God as my Father. A relationship just like my 4-year-old now has with me. Well, a 'grown up' version.

But even if your parents did their job with flying colours, they can only take you part of the journey.

In the same way that my mindset was hard to break after a lifetime of misrepresentation, most people's concept of God is born out of decades of the same.

Folks, be bigger than your preconceived ideas or what society reckons to be credible. God is alive and well and knew you before you were born. He has a unique and exciting plan for your life whatever your background and even for people like my dad.

Psalm 139 verses 13-16,

13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous

15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

*Alan Adams  
 Abundant Life Church  
 Wolfs Caves St John*





# ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

Mohandas Gandhi once said, "To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves."

In today's busy and technological world it is easy to forget the fundamentals— and one of these is the cycle of life. We are all aware of the threat to our environment and it seems to us at St John's School that the only possible hope of successfully facing this threat is by developing an affinity with nature and the environment.

Our beautiful Sensory Garden is just one of many ways in which we are trying to know more about our environment – we also have class gardens, vegetable plots and even plans for a Nature Trail,.



Thinking, Learning & Caring are the foundation of our school and all three are right here to see in our Sensory Garden that was officially opened by Simon Hamon-Cole last month. There is all the 'Thinking' that the children and staff put into planning it; our 'Learning' about how to build it, to plant it, and to use our senses to enjoy it; and of course 'Caring' both for the plants and for each other in this calm and peaceful area.

It is a symbol also of an amazing community spirit. It was built entirely by the parents, staff and children of St John's School. We also had some very generous donations of materials from C. A. Frazier, Bonny's, Garden Scene, Dave Le Rendu and Fred Barette and as a school we extend our gratitude wholeheartedly, and with so much appreciation to everyone who helped in so many ways. In particular I would like to thank Alan Dodd, Paul Gautron, Nick Masefield, Paul Troy, Ian Averty and Dave Anderson for their amazing

expertise and professional know-how that they gave so generously. Thanks so much to the dozens of parents who came along on Saturday mornings as willing labourers.

I would also like to thank the fantastic staff of St John's and in particular the members of the Outdoor Learning Environment team who worked so hard – Mr Green, Mrs Godefroy, Mrs O'Malley and Mr Myatt – their energy and enthusiasm over so many hours was amazing!

Of course, as you may know, the Sensory Garden was first conceived as a lasting and growing tribute to the much loved and, I know, much missed Nadine Hamon-Cole. I never had the privilege of meeting Nadine but everything that I've been told about her makes me believe that she would have approved of this garden and the joy that grows in it.

The garden is truly a beautiful place but it is infinitely more beautiful when full of curious children investigating, observing, thinking, smelling, watching, playing and just being – only then is it truly complete.

*Andrew Willis  
Head Teacher*

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## OUR NEW SCHOOL BADGE

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that we have updated our school badge this year and the curious amongst you will be wondering why! Let me explain. A badge or emblem is very important in symbolising the organisation it represents. The design needs to communicate as much as possible about the community it represents and all in a quick glance!

As you know, we see ourselves very much as part of the parish and relish our place at the heart of St John. At the same time we wanted to show a little more of ourselves in our badge – what our values are.

We started with those core values – *Thinking, Learning, Caring* – and asked the children to discuss these values at home. Then we asked them to design a badge or

emblem that illustrated them simply and would sum up our school.

As you can see from the photo we had dozens of entries and of a very high standard. It was a very tricky job to find a 'winning' entry but after lots of consultation with members of our school community we chose Thomas Gowlett's design shown here. I am sure you will agree that it is exceptional for a child of 6 years. The three figures seemed to capture perfectly the co-operation, active learning and



child-centred approach that we value so highly.

Next we gave Thomas's design to Glen Smith at Image Ltd who performed all kinds of fancy computer wizardry to turn it into a badge. The only really big change that we wanted to make to the design was to put back in the parish crest and as you can see, we put not one but three St John's crosses at the heart of our figures to represent the centrality of the parish to our school.

So there you have it, our new badge that we think tells all who see it just what St John's School is all about.

*Andrew Willis*

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# THE GALLERY MONACO RALLY – A FUN FUND-RAISER FOR JERSEY HOSPICE CARE

The Gallery Magazine Monaco rally took place over the Liberation weekend. Thirty-one cars took part – including a taxi, some four-wheel drives, a couple of Ferraris and a few vans – the aim being to gain as many points as possible through a scavenger hunt whilst having fun and raising over £30,000 for Jersey Hospice Care.

Ben Davies from Gallery Magazine had heard that the former Route de la Liberation had been adopted by Hospice in 2007. When Hospice got in touch with Ben to see if he'd like to help promote the event, he saw the opportunity to use Gallery's ability to brand and market the event which was launched in October of last year.



The majority of competitors met up in February at the Royal Yacht where Chip Somers (aka 'The Cluemaster') gave us an insight into what we had actually signed up for – a drive of about 900 miles (providing you didn't get lost!), lovely French food and wine, together with a few clues along the way. Wonderful! Or so we thought!

We left Jersey on the morning of 9th May having indulged in croissants and coffee, courtesy of the Radisson Hotel. On arriving in St Malo we met to be given our first set of clues which went along the lines of: *'Looks like a*

*meaty place'*. This took us to Chateaubriant where we had to run round the town looking for the answer to: *'At the big house take two flights to see which insight confronts you'*. Obviously, we went straight to the chateau and up two flights of stairs where we found the word 'perception' written on a door. See how it works ~ easy!

The first leg took us from St Malo to Poitiers, arriving at the hotel an hour after our due time (having explored the pèage to La Rochelle along the way – only about 100 km off route) but not being last. Phew! The evening saw all the rally teams exchanging stories over dinner at the Novotel and then an early night ready for the second leg to Vichy.

Leaving the hotel in all directions and with Bruce and I having a police escort to the petrol station, we made our way to Chauvigny, St Savin, Neuvy St-Sepulchre (where a lovely lunch of steak-frites was had), Culan and then finally to Souvigny where we decided to relax with a coffee (or chilled beer) outside the bookshop before making our way to Vichy.

Most of the teams were up early on the third day ready to set off to Grenoble – then a few sleepy heads appeared, having only had a few hours sleep and spending a little of their team's petrol money whilst enjoying the sights of Vichy – no names mentioned!

Day 3 started with a quiz: *How many American states can you name in 5 minutes?* The aim here was to split the teams up as it was extremely close at the top. With a day of stunning scenery through Arronnes, St. Just en Chevalet, St Germain Laval, Bourg Argental, Serrieres and Ste Etienne de St Geoirs we arrived safely in Grenoble.

Once at the hotel we were tasked with making a paper plane. Points would be awarded for the distance travelled, together with the most colourful and attractive plane. The long corridors of the Novotel came in extremely





### **Jersey Hospice Care**

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**If you would like further information  
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email: [mel@jerseyhospicecare.com](mailto:mel@jerseyhospicecare.com) or  
[louise@jerseyhospicecare.com](mailto:louise@jerseyhospicecare.com)**

handy for flight tests but unfortunately weather conditions for the actual competition prevented our plane from performing. Well done to Andrea and Terri for winning best design and the Blackstones for furthest travelled!

### **The final day! To Monaco!**

Leaving the mountains of Grenobles behind us we made our way to Clelles (where the answer to the clue was in the men's toilet – apparently this was a very typical Chip clue. Note to self for next year).

Through Corps, Seyne and Entrevaux we arrived in Monte Carlo with an hour to spare. An hour to check in, pamper ourselves and get suited, booted and ball-dressed ready for the champagne reception in our wonderful hotel, the Metropole Palace. What an evening followed! After a fantastic meal the prizes were handed out. The Rondels (yes, Barry and Jean from the farm shop) are now in possession of the 'Lost in France' plates. The top twelve rally participants each won a prize, all of which had been kindly donated. Well done to Garry Taylor and Mike Nolan who came in first place, followed closely by Andrea Talibard and Teresa Rio.

### **A few final words...**

From Chip: *'By far and away the friendliest rally ever, the event is to be repeated next year with a final destination of Barcelona'. More details can be found at [www.galleryrally.com](http://www.galleryrally.com).*

From Katrina from Jersey Hospice Care: *'I had to be persuaded to go on the Rally – but I found it exhilarating being on the open road; hilarious swapping stories at the end of the night; and endearing meeting so many genuine supporters of Hospice. Now a convert and a hardy 'Rallyer' I'm first down on the list for Barcelona and ready to start the preparation, planning and prayers again! Looking forward to seeing you there!'*

and from me: *'What a brilliant experience! Visiting so many beautiful places, making new friends and supporting such a worthwhile local charity at the same time. I've already signed up for Barcelona – will you?'*

*Julie Hinault*

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# RECYCLE – RECYCLE – RECYCLE

St John's reign as the sole parish with monthly parish-wide kerbside collections of recyclable materials is coming to an end. Three more parishes are considering a similar scheme. But we were the FIRST!

I spent a fascinating hour at Bellozanne with John Rive, Recycling Officer of Transport and Technical Services – I didn't know that rubbish could be so interesting. Actually I came away with the idea that 'rubbish' is the wrong word for anything that we 'throw away' – for all of it can be turned into something else. In fact you might be wearing a plastic bottle or running your 'fridge on a flowerpot at this very minute!



*John Rive, Recycling Officer*

## Which tins can you bin?

That was my first question. Are large biscuit tins and chocolate tins acceptable alongside drinks cans, foil trays and baked bean tins? The answer is yes. Any metal food packaging is acceptable. The labels should be removed - not difficult as they are designed to come off easily, and the tins should be reasonably cleaned. Some St Jeannais actually wash their tins in the dishwasher!

## When is a catalogue too large?

Answer: When it's the size of a telephone directory. There are two reasons for this. Firstly such large, usually free, catalogues are made from very low grade paper which is unsuitable for recycling. Secondly these big catalogues are usually stuck together with large amounts of glue. Glue is a problem in the recycling process,

which is why envelopes are not acceptable. Otherwise all newspapers, magazines, junk mail and printed paper are welcome in the blue recycle bin. BUT please remove all plastic sleeves from catalogues or the batch will be spoiled. Why? Because plastic is not paper!

## Which plastic bottles?

I was unsure if all kinds of plastic bottles were acceptable in our bright blue recycling bags. Water bottles, yes – but what about shampoo, washing detergent and loo-cleaner bottles? – And why bottles only? What about my growing piles of plastic flowerpots which I don't like to throw away?

John's short answer to my question was that all bottle-shaped plastic is acceptable except DIY bottles which had contained paint stripper or thinner and the like.

N.B. Take off the bottle caps. Why? Read on for the answer.

## John's long answer was fascinating

There are 14 or more different types of plastic. The most common are labelled 1-6 and the unusual or mixed plastics have a 7. Types 1 and 2 are higher grade plastic that can be recycled. 95% of all plastic bottles are made from these grades and definitely worth

recycling. Have a look at the underside of your plastic bottles. Within a triangle is the number of the bottle's grade of plastic. (Ensure that the top is firmly screwed on before you upend the bottle!). Not all bottles are labelled, however, and the public is not expected to separate the various kinds.

Having been collected from St John, our plastic bottles are taken to Rue Des Prés where they are baled and shipped to England. The reason for removing the lids is to help with compaction in Jersey to improve transport efficiency. At a huge industrial plant the bottles are put on a conveyor belt where infra-red beams separate the different kinds of plastic. This sorting is essential because different kinds of plastic melt at different temperatures.

After sorting in England, the 5% of low grade plastic bottles are either incinerated or



sent to landfill. The higher grade plastic is melted and turned into pellets that are sent on to various manufacturers to be made into



something else. Your cosy fleece is made from plastic fibres. Drainpipes and garden furniture are also typical end products. There are also a growing number of new plastic bottles being made from recycle.

But what about plastic margarine tubs, yoghurt tubs and my stack of plastic flower pots? These are made from low-grade plastic which is generally not recycled in Britain – though it is in China! Sending it that far would be very expensive both financially and environmentally, therefore it remains in Jersey to be thrown away with the weekly collection of ordinary rubbish.

However I'll take back that word 'rubbish'. John Rive has given me another view of what we put out in the weekly collections to be burned at Bellozanne. The burning has a very useful by-product – electricity. The incinerator and sewage plant at Bellozanne does not 'buy' any electricity. It produces more than it needs. In fact, it produces enough power to run 2,000 homes. The new energy from waste plant (if it ever gets built) will do an even better – and much cleaner – job.

Thank you, John; with a clear conscience I can re-use my plastic flower pots where possible and be assured that I am doing the right thing by putting the superfluous ones in the dustbin.

*Angela Le Sueur*

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## PARISH CLEAN AND PRAYER WALK

On Saturday 26th April 2008, as part of the Winchester Diocesan Day of Prayer, 38 members of St John's Parish Church, ranging in age from 12 months to mid-seventies, were joined by Bishop Paul Butler, Bishop of Southampton, for a Parish Clean and Prayer Walk. After a team briefing in church and opening time of prayer, 13 teams departed in bright sunshine to designated routes within the parish to collect litter from the roadsides and to pray God's blessing upon the residents of every road within St John.

In total thirty bin bags of rubbish were collected, including nine wheel covers; twenty wing mirrors and various other car body parts; numerous bottles; cans; plastic bags and crisp packets, along with a golf ball, a pair of spectacles; a shoe and large quantity of electric cable.



*Parish Cleaners*

Revd Andy Thewlis, Rector of St John, commented, 'to touch the parish in this way, through prayer and practical action was a small yet significant expression of our care for the parish and reflection of God's love for those around us.'



*Some dustcart!*

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# PARISH DIARY - AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2008

## AUGUST

Sun 17th	11.00am	Beach Service at Bonne Nuit, Organised by the Parish Church
Sun 24th	12.00pm	Finish of Gorey to Bonne Nuit Rowing Race
Wed 27th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall
Sat 30th	Afternoon	Finish of Sark to Jersey Rowing Race

## SEPTEMBER

Wed 3rd		Back to School
Thurs 4th	2.15pm	Visit de Branchage
Thurs 11th		International Air Display Day
Wed 24th	12.00pm	Golden Age lunch leave from the Parish Hall
Sun 28th		Back to Church Sunday. All especially welcome to church worship today
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall

## OCTOBER

Sat 4th	10.00am	Golden Age fund raising event in the Parish Hall
Sun 5th	10.30am	All-age Harvest Celebration in the Parish Church
Thurs 9th	7.45pm	Women's Institute Inaugural meeting in the Parish Hall
Wed 15th		Elections for Senators
Fri 27th		Last day of school half-term
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 29th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

## NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd		Back to school
Sun 9th	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday service in the Parish Hall, Organised by the St John's Group of Churches
Wed 19th	2.30	Golden Age AGM in the Parish Hall
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 26th		Election for Deputy of St John

## DECEMBER

Thurs 4th	12.30	Parish Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch ( details in JEP later)
Thurs 11th	1.00pm	St John's School Christmas Production, 'The Blue Crystal' With choir and refreshments. Senior citizens welcome
Sat 13th	2.00pm	Golden Age Christmas Party
Thurs 18th		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

10.30am	Family Worship
	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
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## 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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If you would like to make a financial contribution to the next edition by advertising or sponsorship, please contact the Editor.

#### 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**

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entertainment on  
the other Saturday**

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

**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.**



*At Les Jeux Intervilles, Grainville*

