



KEEPING THE FLYING MACHINES UNDER CONTROL

Those magnificent men in their flying machines – take up the attention of Darren Dupré from St John in his work as an air traffic control officer. But when it comes to the annual Air Display – it takes up even more of his time as air display co-ordinator. He spoke to ALASDAIR CROSBY.

To be a watch manager of a team of air traffic controllers is the sort of job that most of us would find profoundly scaring. It is, however, the career of Darren Dupré – better known to many parishioners as chairman of the St John Youth Project Management Committee.

Did he ever lie awake at night wondering what might have gone wrong and how near things had got to catastrophe? (The question referred only to the day job).



'You get taught to cope,' he said calmly, 'The rules and regulations, all the procedures, the right phraseology to use when you are in contact with pilots – all these are in place to make the job as standard and safe as possible. They create an immediate common understanding between the pilot and the controller that should stop things becoming scary.'

When he is working as watch manager, he is responsible for a team looking after the Channel Islands' air space, not only for aircraft landing and

taking off from Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney but also those that overfly, for example, winging their way high above the Island en route, for example, from Spain to Southampton.

Air Traffic Control has always had an important role in the annual Battle of Britain Air Display. For the past ten years Darren has been helping out every year, co-ordinating the display flights and integrating all that extra traffic with the Airport's normal commercial and passenger departures and arrivals. It is an extra voluntary job, and he acts as the intermediary between the Airport and the display organiser. It is usually a question of opening up

Late News

PHIL RONDEL RETURNED



Philip Rondel – elected Deputy for St John

additional positions within the normal Air Traffic schedule to safeguard all the aircraft, because of all the extra air movements.

For the week of the display he is based at the Airport social club, sorting out briefings for the pilots of the display aircraft, flight planning, and, of course, working closely with all the personnel that come across to Jersey to help man the annual event – usually military personnel, such as an army unit or a University Air Squadron. These act as crowd marshals, help with 'car parking' and clear beaches where and when need be.

As part of the Flying Control Committee, he provides the local input on display safety. The chairman and other members are all former military or civilian display pilots, with a vast knowledge of what should, and should not happen at air displays.

Darren puts together all the necessary documentation: Pilot briefing notes, event plan, disaster plan, sending out questionnaires to all the pilots, finding out what are their fuel and oil requirements, and a host of other technical issues, including squeezing all the visiting aircraft into the relatively tight pre-arranged 'parking spaces'.

'It all seems to work well in the end,' he said, 'even with all the short-notice changes.'

And did those 'short-notice' changes produce moments of – fright and horror?

No – (nice to know) – but there was at least one incident, that took place several years ago, and that sticks in his memory: 'A pilot of one of the planes due to take part in the display telephoned me to say that he was running late flying to Jersey, but he would be there in time for his own slot in the performance. He did arrive 25 minutes before he was due to display. I told him to come for a quick briefing with the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer – in his turn, he told me to grab the parachute and get in his plane – "I could give him the briefing while in the air", he told me.

'And that's what happened – I briefed him from the back seat as we headed out over Noirmont Point,

and I found myself not just co-ordinating the Air Display, but part of it.

I did enjoy every single minute of it, even though we overshot the turn-off from the runway when we landed. Never mind, we just 'backed up' and took the right turn!

'At the end of every display, there is always some new lesson learned to make things easier and safer for the following year,' he said.

Was he pleased when the strain of organising the event was over?

'Best pleased when there are no bent aircraft and the weather has not prevented us from putting on the show,' he replied.

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Pétanque

Seven years ago the Constable of St Mary, Mr Ken Le Brun, inaugurated an inter-parochial petanque competition. Each parish may enter two teams of two players. This year for the first time it was won by St John. The two team members were Maurice Richard and Alain Aoutin.

Ron Le Herissier



Maurice Richard, Constable Ken Le Brun, Alain Aoutin

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DEAR PARISHIONERS



Poppy with St John's Crest

Outgoing Parish Deputy

I would like to thank Andrew Lewis for the support that he has given me during his time in office, and wish him and his family well for the future. I hope that they all have some great trips in the new boat.

I am sure that this will not be the last that we see of Andrew on the political scene.

Nadine Hamon-Cole Memorial

Parishioners may already be aware that a granite plaque has been inserted in one of the capping stones on the pier at Bonne Nuit, near the crane, in the place where Nadine loved to sit and soak up the sun whilst watching her family and all of the kids pier jumping.

Maison Le Vesconte

For the first phase of the development, the conversion of the four bed-sitters in into one-bedroom units, we have awarded the contract to Hacquoil & Cook. The work started on October 27th and it is hoped to have them ready for occupation early in the New Year.

Also, the exterior of units 13-22 has been repainted

Parish in Bloom

I would be interested in hearing from any parishioners who would be prepared to form a committee to organize floral decorations in the parish so that we may enter the Parish in Bloom Competition, should there be enough interest.

Adopt a lane

I have received a number of complaints recently about rubbish being dumped in the hedgerows in some of the prettiest lanes that we have in the parish. The rubbish includes cans, bottles and takeaway food containers. It is hoped that many



parishioners will get together and pick up any rubbish that they find in the hedgerows, on the lanes and even the main roads, to help keep the parish a very special place.

Many parishioners may have noticed that the large tree in the church playground has been removed. It was dying and had been inspected by a tree surgeon; I felt it better to remove it before branches fell and hurt someone.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

We held the annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning at the Parish Hall on the 8th of November. Once again there was tremendous parochial support. The Parish Hall was packed with both old and young, supporting this very worthwhile cause.

We had tremendous support from businesses in the parish in donating prizes for the raffle.

The ladies of the parish did an excellent job as usual. As did Michel, David and Alan on the vegetable stall, (although I may well have made a mistake in giving Alan Poignard a microphone. I thought that he was going to break out in song at one stage!). Seriously, they did a great job !!

The Coffee morning alone raised £1,454.72

Remembrance Day

Reverend Andy Thewlis conducted a lovely service on the Sunday and the rain managed to stay away for the outdoor part of the service at the War Memorial.



The Rector leads Remembrance Day Service





Vin d'Honneur

After the service many of the congregation joined Ann and me for a Vin d'Honneur at the Parish Hall. It was a pleasure to see so many there.



Busy scene at Coffee Morning

GRAND TOTAL for British Legion funds was £4,487.00. This was made up from poppy rounds, donations, the coffee morning and the church collection.



Vegetable Stall

Greetings

With the festive season fast approaching, Ann and I would like to wish all Parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Graeme Butcher
Connétable*

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JERSEY BLIND SOCIETY – JERSEY'S OLDEST ESTABLISHED CHARITY

If you can see to read this article without any aid or with only minimal help from reading glasses, you are fortunate in your eyesight. More than 700 people in Jersey are registered either as blind or partially sighted.

There are many medical conditions which can lead to deterioration in eyesight and even with modern techniques of laser treatment, cataract, and cornea operations not all conditions can be cured. Many people, especially in their later years, struggle to read or even to watch television in comfort. For many of these people the Jersey Society for the Blind provides a range of services both in their homes and at a day centre which can often make all the difference.

The society is the oldest established charity in Jersey. It was first set up in 1886 and ever since has worked tirelessly in the island to give practical and financial help to all those with failing sight. The support worker in the community, Deena Andrews, visits many of the 700 people mentioned above and can provide help with many different kinds of aids such as magnifying screens for televisions, talking book services etc.

In St Martin's parish is the beautiful property of Westlea, the permanent base of the Jersey Blind Society. Here on Tuesdays and Thursdays the centre is host to approximately 50 visually-impaired people

who attend the day centre. The day centre co-ordinator is Mrs Sue Bougourd who organises a programme of activities on these two days. People who attend can take advantage of hairdressing, manicure, or chiropody treatments.

The resident housekeepers and chefs, Jan Muddiman and Julie Ormiston, provide a wonderful cooked lunch on these occasions and see that everyone is comfortable and well cared for. The centre also provides residential accommodation with en-suite facilities. Preference is given to the visually impaired and carers but when it is not required is available to the general public.

Naturally, as a charity, the society relies heavily on its volunteers. There are several people who act as drivers, collecting clients from their homes and taking them to the centre and then home again at the end of the day. Others help with the activities during the day and help with serving the lunches and teas. Mrs Kathleen Le Cornu has helped the society in this way for more than 25 years. Mrs Jean Robinson and Mrs Rosie Bleasby from St John also help as volunteers.

The people who attend the centre are often living alone and made more isolated by their visual impairment. The visits to the day centre provide companionship, friendship, activities and pampering which can be the highlight of their week.

The president of the society is Mr Bob Gaiger who recently took over from the long-serving Mr Peter Blampied. Mrs Jane Crill is the energetic and lively chairperson of the committee, and one of the favourite committee members of those who attend the day centre is Major-General William Cornock who is also president of the Scouts Association in Jersey. He visits the day centre regularly and chats with the members and the staff and brightens everyone's day.

Westlea centre was converted from a farm cottage and opened in 1994. It is set in the most delightful gardens and is a haven of tranquility in the countryside where everything is safe for those with failing sight. It is uplifting to be a volunteer and the charity will always value help, both in time and donations. The contact is Mrs Sue Bougourd 86398.

Rosie Bleasby



Three volunteers from St John, ready for after-lunch bingo with members of the Jersey Blind Society

Standing: Mrs Jean Richardson, a member of the United Reformed Church, Sion and Mrs Rosie Bleasby. Sitting: (first on left) Mrs Jacqueline Coote



EDITORIAL

We hope you will find this edition to be 'a good read'.

Certainly there is quite a variety of activities described in these pages. We are pleased to welcome the first contribution from the Jersey Kart and Motor Club and hope they will write for us again. Mobility of different kinds is certainly a theme this time. Celia Jeune's piece about her voyage around the Indian Ocean to see some of the work carried out by Durrell in far away places makes one realise how privileged Jersey is to be the 'home' of this worldwide conservation work. Val Fort's letter about her place on the Bedell Group Jersey Hospice Cycle Challenge to Ecuador is a reminder both of a vital local cause, and of the energy and dedication of fundraisers.

Last December I welcomed Jess Stanier's first article, and I am delighted to say that you will find her fourth wise and witty piece this time.

Ladies of St John - the Women's Institute has come!

Newly formed in November, St John's WI will next meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday January 14th at the Parish Hall. Several of my friends are enthusiastic WI members who enjoy the fun and friendship of membership – as well as the opportunity to learn new skills. Why not go along to the next meeting and see if the WI is for you?

Hello and Goodbye

Welcome to our 'new' Deputy Phil Rondel!

Best wishes for the future to retiring Deputy Andrew Lewis. Thank you, Andrew, for your hard work in the States during the past three years, as well as for finding the time to write for every edition of Star since you took office.

Deadline for our April edition is March 8th

We hope to receive pieces from new and regular contributors and we welcome ideas for new features. Do you have a hobby or interest you could share with us to add to our series continued in this edition by Daphne Hinault's article on research into one's own family history as an absorbing hobby? Do you have a funny or interesting story to tell? Does your organisation feature in Star? Just let us know.

Finally I should like to thank everyone who has made this edition possible – from the writers and advertisers to the printers and distributors.

On behalf of the Editorial Team I should like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Angela Le Sueur, Editor

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FAMILY HISTORY – a lifelong interest for Daphne Hinault

My interest in this fascinating subject began when I was quite young and staying with my grandparents in Trinity. I remember going up the back staircase into the room at the top of the stairs and seeing a glass case containing a wooden leg!!! Asking Grandpa Ahier whose leg it was – the reply was, 'One of your ancestors by the name of Philippe'. He was Grandpa's great-grandfather – my great-great-great-grandfather. Each time I visited my grandparents I asked a lot of questions about the family, sometimes successfully but quite often they did not know the answers, but I wrote down whatever I learnt.

Many years later, in 1978, the Channel Islands Family History Society (C.I.F.H.S.) was formed and just recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a dinner at Les Ormes, attended by 90 members including some from Canada and the UK.

Access to Church records was made available to members of the new C.I.F.H.S, who copied by hand, typed up, and indexed all these records up to 1842. This was before the computer age! These are all now available for the public to use in their research at the Jersey Archive, where one can also view census records which are really useful for checking addresses and all the family members at that address. In 1842 Civil Registration was introduced and it became the law for all births, marriages and deaths to be registered at the office of the Superintendent Registrar, instead of only at the churches.

As a hobby it is very time-consuming but very satisfying when one finds a long-lost member of the family. I did all my family trees on the back of rolls of wallpaper, although now it is easily possible to do them on a computer as there are several good programmes available. It can also be very frustrating as families had the habit of carrying on the same Christian names through various generations. For example, in the baptism records one could find several Jean Ahiers within a time span of maybe ten years, so one has to use the names of godparents as a possible clue as to which 'Jean' fits into which branch of the surname. This doesn't always work of course. Another source of information could be wills, many of which are held at the Jersey Archive.

The C.I.F.H.S. and the Jersey Archives both have researchers who can do the work for you for a fee. Contact them for further information. But it is definitely more satisfying doing the research for oneself. Besides the Ahiers I have also researched the Le Seelleurs (my family name), the Billots and Binets (great-grandparents) and the Hinaults and Le Herissiers (Carl's families). For these last two families who originated in France, I found the Mairies (Mayor's offices) in each village involved very helpful indeed. I have also visited the departmental Archives in St Lô, Normandy, and in St Brieuc, Brittany.

I would encourage everyone to do their family trees and pass them on to their children or grandchildren.

Little did I think that a wooden leg would take up so much time but give me so much satisfaction. Why don't you try it?

Useful addresses

C.I.F.H.S., P.O. Box 507, St Helier, JE4 5TN

Or Membership Secretary – cifhs@yahoo.co.uk

Jersey Archive, Clarence Road, St Helier, JE2 4JY.
Tel.833300

On computer – Google search – Jersey Archive –
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The C.I.F.H.S. meets in the Members' Room of the Société Jersiaise, 7 Pier Road, at 8.00pm on the last Monday of each month except August and December.

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LES MATHIONNETTES

'Northern Lights'

Our Northern Light, Brian Breuilly, was interviewed by Mary Rouillé

Although not born in St John, Brian has lived in the parish for 36 years. He has been married to Pauline for 27 years and has done his bit for the Parish by serving in the Honorary Police for 15 years as a Constable's Officer and Roads Inspector. Born at the maternity hospital in St Helier, he lived in St Saviour



for twenty-three years before moving in 1972 to live at Ville des Chênes, St John. Coming to the Parish was nothing new to Brian as he followed St John's football club, becoming a committee member and treasurer, and in the late 1950's he attended dances at the Belle Étoile, where he came to know many of the local lads.

As a youngster, Brian attended St Saviour's Primary School but admits he wasn't the best of pupils, preferring sport to academia. Between the ages of 8 and 11 he played football for St Saviour's juniors and seniors, and also represented the school in the intermediate high jumping competition, which he won one year. After failing the 11-plus he went to St Helier Boys' School, initially to New Street, and then at the age of 12 to La Motte Street. At New Street he joined the junior first-XI football team and at La Motte Street represented his house team as well as the overall school side at football. He also attended training for the junior island football side but pulled out as he decided his preference was to play cricket.

After leaving school at the age of 15 Brian wanted to join the JEP as an apprentice printer, but there were no vacancies, so he took his second option, learning plastering with Horn Brothers, a building company, based in Winchester Street. Needless to say it was a hard job especially during the winter

months as in those days each employee had to load his materials for the job in a handcart and wheel them to work. This lasted only four months as the JEP contacted him to say that there was a vacancy in the print department. Brian completed his 6 years training but could not see much of a future there as he would have had to wait for 'dead man's shoes' to progress.

His next job was with Robinson's Bakery, delivering bread in St Saviour, St Martin, Trinity and St John which brought him back into contact with people in St John whom he had known previously. After three years he moved employment to work for a wholesale deep-freeze company which supplied hotels and guesthouses. This was an indoor job, assembling orders ready for delivery.

Brian's next position was as a taxi driver, which lasted for a year when he went to work at Huelin's as an articulated lorry driver based at Five Oaks. This job entailed delivering potato barrels, tomato trays, cauliflower boxes etc for the farming community. After a few years with Huelin's, he joined Norman's doing a similar job, delivering agricultural products.

In 1969 Curwood's became his next employer. This company supplied taxis and limousines for weddings and funerals. Although sounding like a morbid job, it did have its lighter moments. Brian remembers the occasion when one of his colleagues fell on to the coffin after lowering it into the grave. Another mishap occurred, while parked outside St Thomas's Church, where the same colleague got out of the hearse too quickly and was knocked down by a passing car. Fortunately he was not hurt. And another time at Gorey Methodist Church, the same gentleman put the two stands to

receive the coffin in front of the altar but forgot to open them so when the bearers tried to lower the coffin the stands fell over.

In December 1969, once again Brian was on the move, after applying to the JEP for a job delivering newspapers to shops around the island. Here he



stayed for the next 25 years, working his way up to the post of transport manager. This involved supervising deliveries of the JEP to the shops and the 87 houses of the delivery boys and girls who were paid by the JEP.

He left the JEP in 1993 and began his next post, a temporary position, delivering milk products to shops and hotels for Jersey Milk. This was short lived, as a few months later he was made redundant. But on New Year's Eve of 1993 he received a telephone call from Jersey Milk offering him a job as a milkman, delivering to the west side of the island. He stayed in this job until 2002 when the company decided to change their working practices, offering milkmen the chance to become self employed. This entailed them buying their milk from Jersey Milk. Brian decided not to take up the offer and as a result went indoors to work on the milk production line. He left in September 2003 after being offered early redundancy, and with only 14 months to go to retirement age Brian began working at Mauger's Garage, serving petrol.

Now retired he still keeps himself busy painting, gardening and valeting cars, a job

he was au fait with, having worked at Curwood's who insisted their cars had to be immaculately clean. He also delivers 1500 copies every month of the Jersey Life magazine to houses in St John, St Lawrence and St Mary.



Brian at the JEP (right)

Bonny's Country Garden

Sion, St. John



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Letter to the Editor

Hello Mrs Le Sueur,

I live at Oak Place, Rue du Temple, St John.

I have a place on the Bedell Group Jersey Hospice Cycle Challenge to Ecuador next November and I need to raise a minimum of £2,750.00 in the course of the next year. I wondered if you could give my name a mention in the Parish Magazine in an effort to find people who might sponsor me.

I will be 61 in January so I have left it rather late in life to be embarking on this sort of challenge but after successfully cycling 1,000 kilometres coast to coast from St, Malo to Sète in the south of France with my friends Sheila Le Boutillier and Janet Hughes. This summer, both Sheila and I have decided we would like to tackle this rather tougher cycle challenge to raise money for Jersey Hospice.

The challenge is as quoted from the itinerary: To cycle from dense tropical rainforest over the Andes and down into the steaming jungle and banana plantations of the Pacific coast. We will have to tackle the heat in the jungle, the cold in the mountains and the huge climbs through the Andes and, of course, the altitude.

We are looking forward to the challenge of raising

the money and getting extra fit so we can make the most of what we think will be a very exciting once-in-a-lifetime trip for us.

Inevitably, as well as earning money for the cause, I will have to ask outright for sponsorship from friends and acquaintances so if you could help me with publicity it will be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,
Val Fort



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St John's Sports Centre

Many of you will be aware that the Centre was technically insolvent three years ago. Due to the hard work of the new management team we have improved our financial position, whilst at the same time undertaking various projects to gradually improve the infrastructure of the building.

Under the careful stewardship of our Treasurer, Steve Stegenwalner, we are now in a significantly more stable financial position.

Management structure

The previous membership club has been terminated and a new structure is now in place with the facilities being licensed to user clubs on a block-booking basis. The objective of this change has been to make the facilities more accessible to a greater number of people.

The clubs and a contact person are listed at the end of this article.

Jersey Gymnastics Club

We were delighted to attract the Jersey Gymnastics Club to the Centre a year ago. They have settled in extremely well and they are a very professional club with a dynamic and highly motivated management team.

They have exclusive use of the sports hall from April to September and then we operate the hall on a multi-user model for the October to March period. We are aware of the fact that they would ideally like exclusive use of the hall all year round. However, after careful deliberation, we decided that this would not be in accordance with our key objectives as it would have hindered and, in some cases, terminated the activities of a number of our core user groups.

We are hopeful that the Jersey Gymnastics Club will make the Centre their long-term home.

Hall usage

We are delighted to see the increase in user levels of the sports hall. This is a key source of revenue for the Centre and bodes well for the future.

We have reached saturation point for the sports hall at peak times faster than we had anticipated. However there are various slots available, particularly weekdays before 4pm, Saturday afternoons after 3.30pm and Sundays after 12.30pm. Any interested persons should contact the relevant Clubs or me (tel. 861716).

Personal training facility

We were approached a few months ago by John Scriven of the Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic with a business proposal to base a new activity at the Centre, specialising in sports fitness and sports injury rehabilitation. We were pleased to be able to accommodate this in the room that had formerly been used for snooker, because the usage of the snooker tables had fallen away over the years and the associated revenue was negligible.

During the course of the past few months John and his business partner have worked incredibly hard and done an excellent job in transforming the room. They are now open for business and have attracted a number of clients. We wish them all the best with their new venture. John's contact details are at the end of this article.

This will generate extra revenue for the Centre and will complement our existing users groups.

Special thanks

We would like to sincerely thank the St John's honorary police for all their assistance in connection with the facility, in particular when the roads in the surrounding area become congested due to the



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popularity of the Centre.

We would also like to say an extremely big thank you to Ian Slack. Ian was part of the management team who volunteered to rejuvenate the Centre when it was on the verge of closure. His involvement was crucial in ensuring the ongoing existence of the Centre and he has been heavily involved with the Centre over the last 3 years. Ian will be moving parishes in the near future and we wish to extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to him.

Plans for the future

Our medium-term priorities are as follows:

- to continue to be supportive of St John's Youth Club which has been working hard on various plans to extend their activities and develop new facilities at the north end of the Centre. We very much look forward to the outcome of their research.
- to have a caretaker living on-site at the Centre to enhance security as well as assist with various operational tasks. This is likely to be at the north end of the Centre and therefore needs to dovetail with the Youth Club's proposals.
- to refurbish the changing rooms and toilet facilities.

We look forward to working in partnership with the

Parish Trustees to ensure that the Centre continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community.

Management team

The Centre has a committed and enthusiastic management team. However we are always looking for new volunteers and if you would like to get involved then please feel free to contact me (tel. 861716).

*Angus Spencer-Nairn
Chairman*

Key contacts

Archery – Martin Pomroy tel. 855479
 Carpet bowls – Shirley Caurel tel. 863825
 Football – Nigel Perrée tel. 865113
 Gymnastics – Michelle Ollivro-Murphy tel. 870188
 Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic –
 John Scriven tel. 07797 845446
 Shooting – John Renouf tel. 861908
 Tennis – Tina Spencer-Nairn tel. 861716
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STRESSY JESSY

As per usual my plans have not gone to plan. The long-awaited holiday to Crete, Malia, turned out to be a complete disaster, which resulted in my

returning a week before I should have done, and having a fair few relationships to restitch when the rest of the group returned home. The other girls stayed on for the second week, and were gutted that they had to return home but for me it was very different. I couldn't handle the heat, the constant crowds, always being tired....I don't like saying it because I feel like a complete party-poop but I hated it. I missed home, which surprises me because I always thought I was quite independent. But I did learn from the holiday, which I guess is the most important thing. Anyway four months on, relationships have healed and thankfully everything is going brilliantly. It's good because I know they all loved the holiday, but also they all respect that I didn't. It's not really something I want to dwell upon, or bring up because it's all sorted, so that's all that matters.

The last time I wrote to you I had just finished my AS exams, remember? I ended up with one A and three B's! The fam was very impressed but the unfortunate thing is that I still have another year's worth of exams, so regrettably these grades could change a lot. University-wise I have decided to put off the big decision until next year, as by that time I will have hopefully had some form of revelation and know what my life's path should be. Hopefully, anyway. So I've got a year off!

The year of me

Unfortunately in order to achieve the year of me I shall have to work for six months first. So the year of me is immediately reduced to six months of me. Which in fact is still pretty good, I think, when I am used to having only six weeks off maximum at any one time. (I say 'only' and I am sure that many

readers will think 'What! I have only two weeks off, if that!' But if you want more than two weeks holiday then go back to school, and you will realise you need that time to become sound of mind). Anyhow, after I have worked to acquire enough funding, the plan is to journey to either Fiji, the Cook Islands or Brazil to do charity work at an orphanage with a non-profit ethical organisation.

On each destination there is a brief summary of the job description and the help that you will be giving, and the Brazil explanation really pulled on my heart-strings. It read that there are so many street children in Brazil that the government have ordered death squads to assassinate the children. Some of the kids who are brought to this orphanage have been so badly mutilated that they are unrecognisable from photographs, and the few who are brought to the orphanage are lucky because they are the few who have escaped drug-trafficking or child prostitution. I don't know, when I read this I just thought about how lucky I was and just if I could make any difference to any of these kids' lives it would be unbelievable. Of course, seeing as it is in Brazil I am going to have to learn some Portuguese which will be challenge but I think it would definitely be worth the work. So that's my plan for next year, and from then who knows...? I'd still love to open a coffee shop.

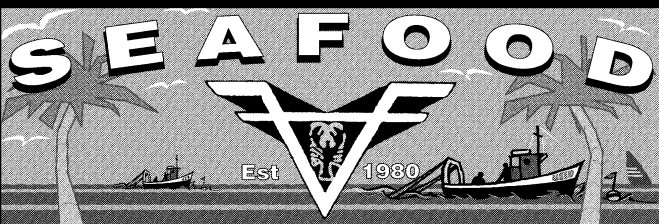
The credit crunch surely has approached at an appropriate season. I don't know if anyone has seen the Woolworths Christmas display but it is evident from that that all sorts are low on funding. I must say, though, I was very relieved when my mum told me that I should only be spending £10 on each family member. There I was stressing that I was going to have to take out a loan to afford Christmas, and I'm only 17. I honestly have no idea how parents cope with the stress. I was thinking I'd be spending from £150-200 on my seven family members that I would be buying for but the thought of having to spend only £70 is very relieving I must admit. Although £10 doesn't buy a lot. At all. With £10 I think I'd probably be able to afford a bag of Cole or a bottle of mulled wine, that's about it, or a pair of socks. The reason I am so skint is because I have spent all my precious money on a weekend trip to London for my forever-in-my-debt boyfriend. His favourite band is playing on the 20th of December at the London O₂, so I've purchased tickets – which I am worrying about because I am still waiting on one ticket to arrive.

Jess Stanier

WEBSITE

The Star of the North magazine now has a web site www.starofthenorth.org.ie 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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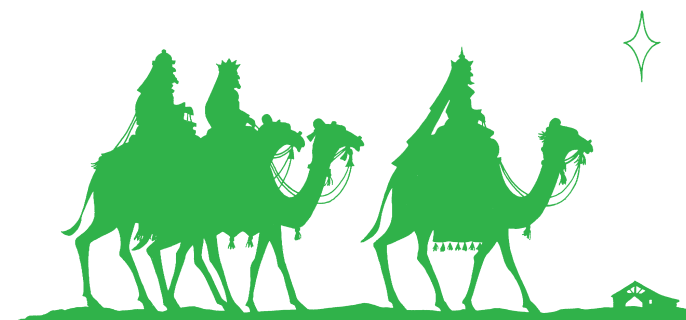
In recent months St John's church has become a collection point for goods for this locally based charity. Tony and Rosemary Coote began the charity several years ago after a visit to Romania. Since then they have set up a partnership with an organisation on the ground in Romania, and the work of Ecce Homo is now wide ranging.

They have built a home for orphans and dis-advantaged children, a clinic for young mothers, and run several outreach schemes in the local community around the orphanage. One of these schemes is the 'Jersey Fields'. On these they plant potatoes, the local staple diet. This provides work for a number of people, and therefore a small wage. Potatoes are given to all the families they help, and the surplus is sold to provide an income.

The goods donated in Jersey are sorted and packed and then taken out to Romania. In the parish church there is a box under the table opposite the main door where items can be placed. Good quality clothes are always useful, as would be pens, pencils, coloured crayons etc. for the children.

St John's church is happy to be supporting this work amongst the still very poor and disadvantaged people of Romania. More information about the charity can be gained from Rosemary Coote, tel. no. 741736

Rosie Bleasby



DEPUTY ANDREW LEWIS

A week is a long time in politics

A week ago, at the time of writing this piece, I was the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, the election for Senators was in full swing and we were all speculating about the outcome of the poll. Honest Nev was spot-on again, with the pundits predicting Ian Le Marquand to top the poll. I do not think any of us would have imagined quite the extent of Ian's winning margin.

This week saw the resignation of Senator Wendy Kinnard as Minister for Home Affairs and I now find myself in the hot seat. I feel privileged to have been nominated by the Chief Minister and I will endeavour to perform to the best of my ability, albeit for the remaining six weeks of my term of office.

Stepping down

Most of you will know that I am not offering myself for re-election. I have thoroughly enjoyed my three-year term in the States and embraced the challenges presented to me. I have gained much satisfaction from being able to represent the parishioners of St John, not just in the chamber, but on a number of parochial issues, many of which have been at a very personal level.

I felt I could not commit to another three years as a States member at present whilst still running a large business and devoting time to a growing family. Certainly I would not rule out a return to politics when my circumstances are such that I can



give the time required.

May I take this opportunity of wishing both candidates the very best in their campaigns. It doesn't seem like three years ago when I too was walking the roads of St John and being heartened by the warm words of welcome I received and the copious cups of tea.

Highs and lows

It was a great source of disappointment to me that I wasn't able to progress my plans for the Recreation Centre. I will be continuing to work towards improving facilities for the youngsters of the Parish through a charitable trust which has been set up in memory of Peter Larbalestier, of which I am a Trustee.

I have experienced a great deal of frustration particularly in relation to the tardiness of Transport and Technical Services in tackling some of the traffic issues in St John. I hope that our next Parish representative will continue to lobby the department just as I have been doing to see some kind of traffic-calming measures put in place. However, TTS have finally put in the long promised temporary speed limit of 20mph through the village during School opening and closing time which I believe is already having a very positive effect on the behaviour of drivers.

On a positive note, the recycling initiative has been a high point and my goal of encouraging all the parishes to operate kerb-side collections is beginning to materialise, thanks largely to the generous sponsorship of RBSI, and the willingness of certain Constables to implement the scheme. Certainly the sponsorship received from Style Group of Companies was instrumental in getting the St John's scheme off the ground.

Kate and I have been overwhelmed by the many kind words of support that we have received by email, letters and phone calls. It only remains for me to wish you and your families a wonderful festive season, and wish my successor, whoever he might be, all the very best for the next three years.



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FURTHER THAN TRINITY – Celia Jeune visits Durrell in the Indian Ocean

To The Land of the Lemur – a new form of Ecotourism

Two weeks sailing around the little visited islands of the Indian Ocean was made even more enticing by the promise of visiting Durrell conservation sites in an ecological habitat unique in the world. The MV Island Sky, sailed from Dar es Salaam, with four leaders, four specialist speakers, and 85 guests, towards Zanzibar, an Arab trading post for many centuries. Stone Town consisted of winding shady alleys where beautifully decorated doors opened on



A sifaka; one of a colourful group of the many species of lemur endemic to Madagascar

delightful courtyards. When the slave market was closed down by the British in the late nineteenth century, an Anglican Cathedral and compound was built over the cramped cells. A wooden cross hangs near the pulpit, made from the tree under which Doctor Livingstone expired in 1873.

Then we sailed across a calm sea where a pod of sperm whales was spotted, towards the Comores Islands, and arrived at Mayotte, a French outpost with a population of 200,000 with 96% Muslim and 3% Roman Catholic. Some of the ladies like to wear decorated face packs during the day to protect their skin, a custom we spotted in Madagascar too.

We then crossed the Mozambique Channel into Madagascan waters to commence the most exciting part of the tour. From Baly Bay we disembarked by Zodiac onto a pristine tropical beach fringed by palms backed by a sand dune leading to a dry deciduous forest. Locals, park wardens, and Durrell

staff had built and waymarked a 3-kilometre path through the landscape to Toby Beaboaly, Durrell's release site of the endangered Ploughshare Tortoises. It was a very hot walk with temperatures in the 40s but at every step there was a wonder to spot - chameleons, curious insects, butterflies, birds and plants. The land was green from recent rain and nature was making the most of the favourable conditions. Having crossed a semi-dried lake bed full of birds we heard that sifakas had been spotted and to our delight a family of six was eating and playing in a giant tree beside the path. They chased each other, agilely flying through the branches with cream coats, dark hands, feet, and faces. These primates are similar to lemurs and equally endangered through loss of habitat.

At the release site we learned about the careful capturing, breeding and rearing of the Ploughshare Tortoise, so named because the lower carapace shell has an extended hook below the throat so that the male can hook and overturn his opponent and so win the female! Over forty individuals have been released since the opening of the site. Tortoises had been fair game to hungry seafarers in the past as they were easily caught and, once turned upside-down on deck, remained available as fresh meat for some time; now they are hunted for the pet trade or for their decorative shells.

At the camp, Durrell staff oversees the new arrivals, ten-year-old animals from the breeding pens at Ampijoroa. These are quarantined to check that all is well before they are fitted with radio transmitters and released. It was fun following a chap with a box slung around his neck, holding a large rugby goal-shaped aerial. We tramped through the forest and then plunged into the undergrowth straight to a thorny bamboo bush under which a tortoise was



One of the more than forty native species of chameleons

trying to hide but as he had the tell-tale toy radio-car aerial sticking up from his back there was no hiding place! The monitoring is important to gain a better understanding of these creatures, enabling appropriate plans to be drawn up to protect their environment and ensure their survival. Poachers and bush fires remain their worst dangers.

Soon we returned to be greeted at the beach by the villagers who had been anticipating the first ecotourists for a year. Most had never seen more than two white people at any one time and there were nearly 100 of us! They had constructed a beautiful shade pavilion from poles and leaves of the palm, complete with benches, from which we were able to enjoy a dancing and singing display. The teenage boys sang, accompanied by a young man with an ingenious home-made guitar. The girls performed an intricate and charming dance centered on the process of pounding rice in a mortar made from the trunk of a palm tree. Durrell works hard with the locals at each of their sites to encourage them to



Celebrating a crop with a rice dance

nurture the treasure that surrounds them. It was good to hear that Jersey Overseas Aid are partners with Durrell in providing reliable water sources for some of these communities. Our visit raised sums for all the village children to visit the nearest hospital for thorough health checks.

The next day we visited the captive breeding centre which currently houses three tortoise species and the Madagascar Side-necked Turtle. Durrell's centre at Ampijoroa Forestry Station boasts wonderful Lac Ravelobe on which we were thrilled to spy a Madagascan Fish Eagle, one of only 200 in the world! The reed beds were teeming with at least four types of heron busy breeding and we glimpsed a Réunion Marsh Harrier, a Pygmy Kingfisher and a crocodile. We walked through the deciduous forest by day and again during the evening and spotted a Grey Mouse Lemur in a banana tree, a Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur high above us and innumerable spectacular lizards, chameleons and geckos, some

remaining motionless within inches of us, as well as birds at roost.

Our next highlight was the chance to snorkel on a pristine coral reef; only local fishermen visit the tiny island and so we were able to admire nature almost untouched. It was the first time I had used an underwater camera which added to the fun of recording the stunning array of fish and corals. By the evening we were on the edge of a tropical storm which later developed into a very nasty cyclone causing destruction on the West coast of Madagascar. Our Captain managed to steer away from it and we arrived at the historic port of Diego Suarez the next morning. Rusting wrecks were poking out of the water in the middle of this large natural harbour, recording a famous battle from World War 2; these wrecks were war graves.

The rain accompanied us on the drive inland to the reserve at Ankarana. We crossed tumultuous, rich brown water cascading past homesteads with drenched yards; families and chickens sheltering from the weather on their tin verandas. At last came the chance to shop at a tourist store where we purchased local crafts and mementos of the curious and beautiful animals we had seen. These will be a lasting reminder of a stunning trip to an amazing part of the world where a Jersey organization is painstakingly doing so much to preserve the treasures for generations to come.



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St John's Twinning Association

During the weekend of the 19th, 20th and 21st of September 2008 our friends from Le Teilleul arrived in Jersey. We were blessed with fine weather, and they arrived by boat from Granville, feeling well after a good crossing on the Friday evening. There were 33 people in the group being hosted by various people of the parish. The Saturday was spent en famille and as it was a lovely sunny Saturday it was a delight to show our guests our beautiful island. On Saturday evening a dinner was held at L' Auberge du Nord for 62 people where we were served with an excellent dinner followed by dancing to the sounds of Chas & Di Larbalestier on the accordion and bass. Our French friends enjoyed the dancing along with many of us also.

On the Sunday lunch time a group of 66 people attended a barbecue held at the home of Myrtle and Mick Malzard at High View Cottage where a friendly gathering of the two villages and a lot of chatter went on. The ages ranged from 3 to 90+ but everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. After a delightful lunch cooked by Ron, Michel and Mick, and a lovely array of salads, we were served with a wide choice of



desserts made by all our Jersey hosts. The waistline went by the wayside for the weekend!

Following the lunch the young ones were taken for a tractor and trailer ride by Benjamin Fosse who demonstrated his driving skills - not bad for an eight year old! The men then joined in for a rounders match and much fun was had by all, either playing or just relaxing in the sun. The weekend was truly an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

We are always looking for new host families so anyone interested please contact either Ron Le Herissier, Tel: 862010 or Myrtle Malzard on 862931.

Ron Le Herissier, Chairman

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News from St John's School

Fun with our friends from down the road

Last year we built up a close relationship with our friends at Mont à l'Abbé School through music. We visited each other to share songs and to take part in



Combined Band

African drumming workshops. We are continuing our musical liaison this year as well as trying something new.

Each Wednesday a group of year-6 children from St John go to take part in PE sessions with some of the Mont à l'Abbé secondary age students. The groups rotate each week so that everyone gets the chance to participate in a whole range of activities from balloon volleyball, to netball, to football. Our children's favourite choice is always the Fitness Room with its array of running and rowing machines – it's all very exciting, not to mention sweaty!

Enjoyable as the activities are, they are not, of course, the main point of the exercise. For all the students from both schools, the opportunity to join in activities together is an invaluable one. They learn so much about building new relationships, about acceptance and about understanding the different needs that all of us have whatever our background!

Proof of the strength of our partnership and of the understanding of the children came in the week before half-term. A small group of year-6 girls – Kelly, Immie, Emily and Kira – did a brilliant job in organising a Hallowe'en party. We invited our friends from Mont à l'Abbé and everyone had a brilliant time dancing, eating and playing silly games together! The magic moment for me was seeing every single student and adult in the hall dancing to some suitably spooky song – united in enjoyment and excitement rather than divided by uncertainty and difference.

It made me realise once more, that whilst we may

have the title of teachers, we have as much to learn from our children as they do from us. Needless to say, our partnership will continue to grow and develop, to everyone's benefit in my view, and I look forward to hearing about the friendships that have been formed perhaps continuing outside of the school environment as the children grow-up and spread their wings. Certainly I know that the young people who will leave us next July to go to their



Hallowe'en party – with friends from Mont à l'Abbé

various secondary schools, and from there to who knows where, have had their lives enriched immeasurably through fun with our friends from down the road!

*Andrew Willis
Head Teacher*



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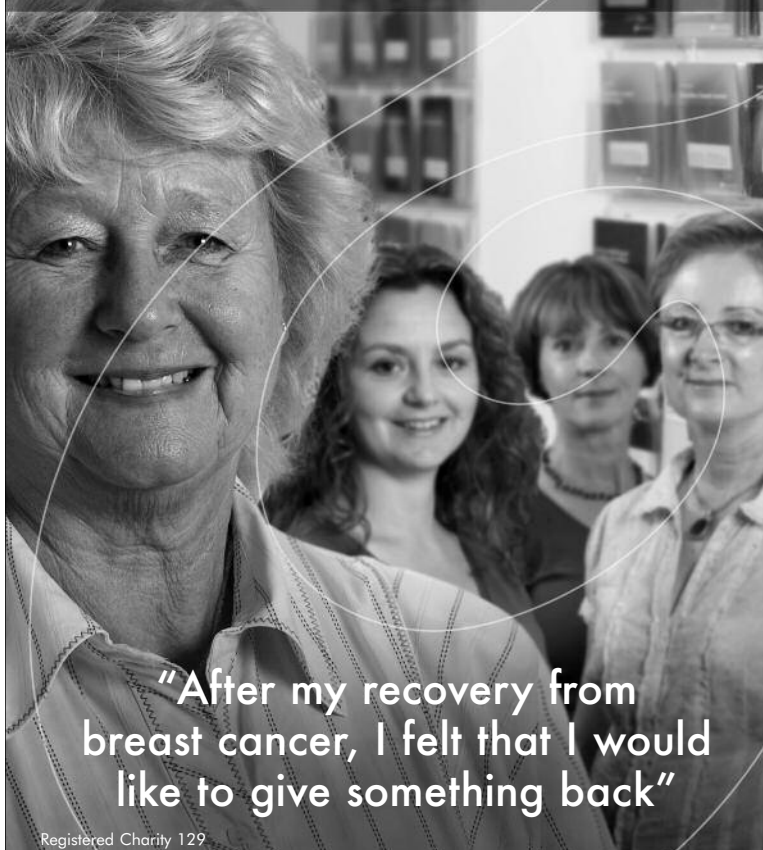
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St John's Football Club

As the 2008 season gets well under way St John's Football Club continues to go from strength to strength. Our teams are benefiting from increased membership, and old and new faces combine to create a competitive but friendly atmosphere.

Jersey Football Combination

As you may have seen in the JEP, the JFC leagues have new names. The administration felt that they should mirror that of the English FA. So the First Division is now known as the Premiership, while the old Second Division is now known as the Championship. All other division names remain as in previous years.

Senior Men

St John plays in the Championship Division. However, under the steady guidance of Pete Herridge, we are hopeful of making our way up the league. Pete came on board at the end of last season (his third spell at the club) and has instilled discipline. Improvements are noticeable, while results have yet to go our way. Often it is down to confidence and we are hopeful that our last match, a 2-0 defeat of Magpies, will start the ball rolling, and we will begin to see a run of positive results.

In a similar fashion, the Reserves have played some good football, but results have been elusive. The C team have made a welcome return (after a 3-year absence) with a wealth (some would say too much) experience. It is good to see some familiar faces back at the club, enjoying their football. A semi-final beckons, only one game away from Springfield.

Ladies

The ladies have made a solid start to the season, and have already played in the Zenith Cup final at Springfield. They were defeated 3-1 by First Tower after extra time, and would have won, but Martha Ascensao's 25-yard shot rebounded off the bar with only a couple of minutes of normal time remaining. Exhaustion and a number of injuries meant that we finished with ten players, but the Ladies can hold their heads high after a credible display.

Juniors

This season St John have started an Under 18 team (run by Martin Le Blancq), and now have Junior teams for every age group from Under 12 through to Under 18. I would also like to extend a welcome to Lee Jones and Tim Le Feuvre, who both coach the Under 12s. Both the U18 & U16 are enjoying their football, but struggling in terms of results, however both the U14s and U12s are flying.

Thank You

In no particular order I would like to thank people for their contribution to the club. Firstly to Alan Baudin who has generously purchased equipment for the men's teams. The club is also grateful to Ronez, who have purchased a new kit for the U14 (see photo), and in particular to Kevin Le Herrisier for arranging this sponsorship. Thanks also go to the Probation Service for maintaining the hedges that surround the field, and to Reg's Skips for their help. I would also like to extend a big thank you to all others who have



contributed to the club, in whatever manner, over the last few months

Why not pop round and see one of our matches?

Notices

It is good to see that the St John Centre bar area is very much back in use following all games. A list of all St John matches can be found on our web-site www.stjohnnfc.org

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have contributed to St John Football Club, including committee members, coaches, sponsors and supporters. We want to win competitions, but it is important that we have fun while we are doing it. We attempt to provide an environment where men, women and kids can enjoy their football and the atmosphere it creates.

All that remains is for me to wish you a merry Christmas.

Nigel Perrée
President



The Jersey Kart and Motor Club

The Jersey Kart and Motor Club was established in 1960 at the time of the opening of the kart track at Belle Vue, St Brelade. In 1994 the site was compulsorily purchased by the States of Jersey to provide social housing. For two years the Club was unable to race in Jersey until 1996 when the loop road at Sorel (opposite Les Fontaines pub), was allowed to be used by the club as a temporary track. The Club has been constantly looking for a permanent home since the closure of Belle Vue.

One only has to look at competitive motor sport throughout the world (Formula 1, Touring Cars, and Formula 3) to see that the vast majority of top racing drivers have all started learning their skills in karting. Lewis Hamilton, Kimi Räikkönen and Michael Schumacher were all karting champions in their respective countries.

ment in the access road to the loop, which then turns into a pit area for that day. At 8am, come rain or shine (mostly rain for the 2008 season) everyone commences the set-up of the track. This involves setting out tyres for the safety walls along the pavement, and erecting safety fencing all around the granite wall of the loop road. The first corner of the loop road is also turned into the entrance and exit of the pits, which also needs tyres, fencing, and other safety barriers.

Setting up takes approximately 1½ hours, with all hands to the pump. The junior competitors also have jobs to do which involves spectator fencing and the placing of sponsorship barriers along the track.

Racing always starts with a drivers' briefing by the Clerk of the Course. This briefing is the Clerk's opportunity to remind drivers about safety out on the



Members of the Jersey Kart and Motor Club

Andy Priaulx, three times Champion in touring cars, and James Walker, currently racing in Formula 3, both started their motor sport careers in the Channel Islands.

Because the loop road is a temporary track, each race day it must be advertised as closed for that day. The day (mostly Sundays) starts as early as 7am when competitors, including juniors some as young as 8, start to set up their own gazebos and equip-

track and remind them of flag signals when racing. Racing, which takes place in the opposite direction to the normal flow of traffic, then starts at 10 am. There are seven different classes, ranging from the Cadets (8-13 yrs of age) to the 125cc open, more commonly known as 'gearbox.' In the Cadet classes, speeds of 48-50 mph have been recorded on the back straight of the loop road, with speeds in the gearbox class being recorded at 80-85 mph.



The new breed of water-cooled engines in both two- and four-stroke engines is considerably quieter than the old air-cooled engines.

After practice, there are three qualifying heats and then the final race of the day, which earns the drivers points towards the Jersey Kart and Motor Club's Championship in their respective class. Time is also found for any novices or unlicensed drivers to practise and obtain a pass in order for them to get their racing licence. This consists of an on-track evaluation by a qualified examiner, plus a written and oral test on the rules and regulations of motor racing.

At the end of racing, rain or shine, the entire track has to be taken down and everything stored away for the next time. The loop road turns back into a public road and is then reopened for 5pm.

Dedicated

The Club is dedicated to the development of karting, the interests of its members, and the advancement of its cadet and junior sections, but only with a permanent and purpose-built track will these aims be achieved.

Some quotes from Cadet Racers:-

Max – Honda Cadets

I like karting because I have made a lot of new friends and I have learned a new skill. I have a lot of fun and Mum and Dad help too. A new track would be the best thing that could happen.

Hannah – Honda Cadets

I think that karting is the best sport in the world because I love the thrill of the speed. I am also excited because my little sister is bursting to start which means I can race her next year. Karting is always a great family outing.

Michael – Honda Cadets

I used to watch Michael Schumacher race in F1 and would think that he started in karting.

Getting involved

If you want to get involved in racing karts, or you just want to help out, i.e. marshalling on race days, then please take a look at our web site, which is www.jerseykartclub.com.

The 2009 race days are also posted on the web site and The Jersey Kart and Motor Club extends a

warm welcome to anyone who wants to come up the "The Loop Rd" and see us racing.

Final Championship Podium position places for the Jersey Kart and Motor Club 2008 "Closed" Jersey Championship season are as follows:-

Cadets Honda (Kindly Sponsored by Derek Warwick Honda)

1st – Lewis BOSCHAT
2nd – Sam ALLEN
3rd – Michael GIBAUT

Cadets WTP/Comer

1st - Edward FOSSEY
2nd – Harry TORPY
3rd – Elliott CASTELLINO

Juniors Max

1st – Joshua VAUTIER
2nd – Struan MOORE
3rd – Sam LUCE

Juniors Mini Max

1st – Connor CARRÉ
2nd – Ross PINEL

Seniors K100

1st – Ryan LE CORNU
2nd – Nigel CARRÉ

125 Max

1st – Greg HARRIS
2nd – Hugo WILSON
3rd – Edward VERRECHIO

125 Open

1st – Gary FERREY
2nd – Simon BONNY
3rd – Matthew DAVIS

Andrew Gibaut

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St John's Youth Project

Since we commenced our new Club year in September, the Centre has been humming with plenty of new Junior Members eagerly taking part in the activities on offer on Friday nights. A good number of our transition Intermediates have now become fully fledged Intermediates and this section too has grown considerably, with the newly formed Senior

Youth Workers. Early in the New Year the Jersey Youth Service will be advertising nationally, and we can only hope that a suitable applicant will step forward. Once again, though, we do urgently need more parental and/or grandparental support and help. Please be supportive and come along, albeit just once or twice a month to help out with an activity or run the all important tuck shop for us. Remember, the Club is continuing to be run at the present time entirely by volunteers with guidance from the Youth Office.

Although the Club was closed over half-term our Intermediate Members were invited along to The Rusty Eerie Cauldron (aka The Rec) where ghosts and witches, wizards and ghouls alike could enjoy a spooky disco. Attendance was a wee bit disappointing but a few youngsters did take the time to dress up and were presented with boxes of chocolates in appreciation. No-one would want to meet any of them on a dark and dismal night, that's for sure!

As this is the last Parish Magazine before Christmas, please may we request that you make a note of the following Festive Closure and New Year Opening dates:

The Last Junior & Intermediate Club sessions will be FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER; recommencing on FRIDAY

16th JANUARY 2009

The Last Senior Club session will be TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER; recommencing on TUESDAY 16th JANUARY 2009.

May we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at the newly named ST. JOHN'S YOUTH PROJECT.

Rosemary Dupré



Section rapidly becoming popular.

We have altered the age ranges slightly for the Junior and Intermediate Club Sections. The Junior section now runs from the youngsters' 8th birthday to School Year 6 (age 10 on 1st September 2008) and the Intermediates are eligible to attend from School Years 7, 8, and 9 (age 11 to 13 inc. on 1st September 2008). Tuesday Club nights are now solely designated Senior Club nights. This brings us in line with Jersey Youth Service age ranges and will allow greater opportunities for inter-club activities to take place.

Following the adoption of a new constitution earlier in the year, the Club will now be known as The St John's Youth Project. An in-house competition is to be launched in December to design a new logo, with the lucky winner receiving a £50 H&M voucher!! Closing date for designs will be the last Friday in January 2009, so Club Members, get doodling over the Christmas break!

Volunteers

Plans for a dedicated area along with the development of the Youth Club itself have stalled slightly due to the lack of any suitably qualified local



Friday Fun at Les Frères Mother, Toddler & Baby Group

Les Frères Mother, Toddler & Baby Group is an informal, friendly, voluntary, non-profit making association run entirely by the parents / carers of the children who attend. Everyone pitches in and helps out!

How the sessions run

Les Frères runs on Friday mornings during term time only, from 9:30 am -11:30 am.

The group operates from the Boys' Brigade chapel in Les Chenolles, St John. At each session we set up the toys in the main hall for play time, which includes apparatus, imaginative play equipment, dressing-up clothes, puzzles, play dough, train sets, and lots more! Coffee, tea, juice, biscuits and/or a healthy snack are served at around 10.30am in a separate room. During warmer weather we have an enclosed grassed area to play in. There is ample, safe parking.

Each week there is a creative activity to join in with – be it painting, cake-decorating, making pumpkin – the ideas are endless from our creative mums and carers! We have a library, as well as the toys and equipment, which are regularly upgraded. Once the toys are tidied up we have time for singing and sometimes the groups have story time.

At the end of each term at the 'Toy Tidy' we clean and sort out the toys, to ensure that they remain in tip-top condition.

There is a mum/carers who volunteers to be MIC (Mother in charge) for the term. She helps the group to set up and run smoothly.

Other activities

During the year we invite appropriate organisations to offer various items for sale, such as clothes, books, toys and cards. We also host a professional photographer once a year; encourage a visit from a friendly fire engine, or police car; hear stories with the library; and of course everyone enjoys the Christmas party.

New Fee Structure!

The current fee at Les Frères is £2 per week for one child. Any further children in one family are charged at half price, but do not become payable until they reach the age of one year if attending the toddler group with a sibling. Fees can now be paid either weekly or for the whole term.

Membership contact

Should you wish to join Les Frères, please contact our membership secretary, Sharon Day, on tel: 725224 or contact the Chairperson, Victoria Slack on tel: 865683.

Victoria Slack

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Life in the Trenches

On Friday, 24th October 2008, a contingent of cadets from Jersey's Victoria College Combined Cadet Force route-marched to a rendezvous with history. Their destination was an authentic replica of a Great War trench.

That weekend, my son, Harry, and I went down to Samarès to get a taste of what life must have been like in the trenches during the First World War. For young people these days, it is unimaginable to forgo the luxuries of modern-day life – a concept my 11-year-old found hard to comprehend. We met Dave Rotherham from Victoria College who chaperoned our visit.

For almost three days the cadets had relived and endured combat-zone hardships that were commonplace along the Western Front. They gave up their watches, mobile telephones and i-pods, donned authentic Great War uniforms, and armed themselves with SM Lee-Enfield Mk 1 No.3 rifles and bayonets. Their firepower was also supplemented by a replica Vickers machine-gun built for the project by the engineering students of Jersey's Highlands College.



Whilst talking to some of the young men that afternoon, they commented that sleep deprivation, a limited diet and uncomfortable conditions were hard enough, but enduring long hours in the elements tested their resolve. I think that the project as a whole was an excellent idea and a way of making our young people realise just what the soldiers had to cope with.

Under the command of 2nd Lt (Acting Capt.) Jon Hale, the ten cadets' gruelling experience included a night-time raid by enemy troops, a simulated poison gas attack and sniper fire. While in the trench they also received a special mail delivery, organised by Jersey Post. At the conclusion of their 'occupation' the cadets went 'over the top' to the accompaniment of a spectacular and realistic barrage. While in the trench they existed on typical front-line rations of bully beef, hard-tack biscuits, sardines and tea, had to use field latrines and be subject to strict military discipline at all times. Had it rained, their only shelter would have been sheets of corrugated iron.

Our visit to the trenches was fascinating and I congratulate Dave Rotherham and the rest of his teaching staff for an excellent example of a living-history project which I am sure will be remembered by his students for many years to come. I must admit it made us appreciate even more our centrally-heated home and a hot cup of tea when we got home that cold, wet Sunday.

Andrew & Harry Lewis



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A Farmer's notes.....

The Rising Cost of Food

Over the last twelve months the cost of our weekly supermarket shopping has risen sharply. By far and away the steepest rise has been seen in cereal-based foods, along with meat and dairy products, which are dependent on cereals, largely in the form of animal feeds. In the U.K. in the space of a year, butter has risen by 60%, milk by 16%, cheese by 25%, beef by about 17% and a loaf of bread by about 20%.

There are many reasons for the rising cost of food, but one of the underlying factors is worldwide demand. The world population has reached about 6 billion and is predicted to rise to over 9 billion over the next 40 years, which will undoubtedly put pressure on the world's resources and its ability to feed itself. As countries such as India and China become wealthier, their populations are eating more and their diet is becoming more varied. Consequently the demand for meat and dairy products has risen significantly over recent years. It has been quoted in various journals that to produce 1 kilogram of beef requires 8 kilograms of cereal, in the form of feed, unless, of course, it is produced organically, in which case the land requirement is greater and the time-scale longer.

The cost of oil is also an important factor. The price of oil has risen by about 400% over the last seven years. Intensive agriculture and food production rely heavily on oil, as it is used in many forms throughout the production cycle and, of course, in the transport and distribution of food. With fears over oil availability and price we have seen a degree of diversification, especially in the United States, towards growing crops to produce bio-fuels, and consequently the area of land used for cereal production has decreased.

Add to this the effects of global warming and climate change, the increasing unpredictability of harvests, and suddenly we have to ask how much longer will food be 'cheap' in the developed world? We are now more and more part of a global food economy and it is interesting to note that the U.K. now produces only about 60% of the food that we eat, compared to 75% in the mid 1990s.

Local agriculture

So how secure and viable is agriculture locally? Well we now know that the glasshouse industry producing tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and flowers has announced it will no longer be exporting to the U.K. and, for the time being at least, will survive only as a scaled-down operation supplying the local market. This situation has been brought about largely by the price of heating oil and wages in relation to the price U.K. supermarkets are prepared to pay for Jersey produce.

Vegetable production within the island has also come under increasing pressure from input costs. Fertiliser alone has nearly doubled in the last twelve months, as world-wide demand for potash and phosphates has led to a degree of profiteering by the companies controlling these elements. With the minimum wage set to rise again in the New Year, our labour-intensive industry will be under serious pressure to balance the books.

But enough doom and gloom! The island is blessed with fertile, productive land, with the ability to grow a range of crops, and whilst there are still a few farmers out there, food production locally is safe! Unless of course world-wide demand for bio fuels provides us with an irresistible opportunity...!

*Mike Greenwood
Amalgrow*

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – New Branch formed in St John

The newly formed St John's Women's Institute is holding its first monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 14th 2009 at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall.

We welcome women of all ages who are interested in getting involved in this new group in our parish community.

For further information, please phone either: President, Myrtle Malzard – 862931, or Secretary, Karen Cotillard – 863296.



ST JOHN'S SHOOTING CLUB



Hayden Lister

The club continues to prosper and is now participating in the various winter league shoots organised by our local governing body. Some of our members shot in the British Championships at Bisley in August with Hayden Lister winning one competition and gaining good results in others.

In October a team of target shooters and friends went to the Alençon open competitions in Normandy. All eight shooters were very satisfied with their performances in many different shooting disciplines ranging from airgun to heavy calibre military pistol at a club which has 350 members. Hayden Lister retained his title, winning the small-bore 50 metre event. Dave Ward won the free pistol and standard pistol competitions and was second in the centrefire and sport pistol. His wife, Jennie, won the ladies' sport, air, and standard pistol competitions. Helen Pulley came second in the ladies' 50 metre small-bore rifle, and young George Winstanley bagged three firsts, centre fire, standard and sport pistol in his class. David Mills came fourth in small-bore rifle, seventh in sport pistol

and eighth in standard pistol. Noel Romano achieved sixth in both air pistol and sport pistol and John Renouf snr won air pistol and came second in sport and standard pistol in his class. Overall an excellent weekend in terms of results but also in terms of keeping our friendship with our French cousins as warm as ever!

We are now looking forward to the inter-insular matches at the end of November with St John hosting the air rifle matches with hopefully our local shooters warding off the old enemy, Guernsey.

We should like to remind folk that the club is open on Mondays for small-bore rifle, and Wednesdays for airguns at 7.30pm, club equipment free of charge. Normal charges are £2.50 for small-bore and £2 for airguns, to cover targets and ammunition.

Good news! – we are the first local club/range to be approved by the inspecting officers of the National Small-bore Rifle Association and National Rifle Association under the new guidelines for range safety and construction, and we have the certificates to prove it.

The president, vice-presidents, committee, and all the members of our club wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

John Renouf

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Adam Godwin – boy racer

The Godwins have been made to feel very welcome as family members of the Jersey Motor Cycle & Light Car Club.

Young Adam, who turned 6 on 7th August, had been practising for the last year on his little Honda then moved up to a KTM last Christmas. He loved going to watch all the bigger boys and girls and cheer them on, whilst waiting for the day he could finally race.



Adam made his debut on the 8th of August 2008 at Bel Royal Sand Racing event. He came second in his first race, and after that there was no stopping him because he managed to win the next four. What a start to his new hobby!

The following event took Adam to West Park where conditions are completely different. Adam was on the heel of the Guernsey boy who had come over for this meeting, with Joshua's age and experience just pipping Adam to the overall win.

The next meeting was back at Bel Royal where once again Adam was pipped to the finish line by Joshua from Guernsey. Lucy Jackson took first place, Joshua Lambourne, second and Adam took to the podium in third place overall in the sand racing, having competed in only three races!

On the motocross side of things Adam first raced on the 24th August 2008. Weather conditions were not the best, but that didn't stop any of the young lads and a lady! The practice laps were terrible, with thick mud and slippery conditions enough to put the parents off, let alone the children – but no they carried on with great gusto! Adam was fourth overall. On the 7th September the conditions were perfect for all concerned and Adam came second.

On the 20th and 21st September Jersey hosted the two-day motocross with people coming from Jersey, Guernsey, and United Kingdom. With ten entrants in the Automatic 50 cc, the overall win went to Jersey's Joshua Connery with 240 points, second was Guernsey boy Joshua Lambourne, but Adam once again managed to make it to the podium,

coming in third place.

On the 11th and 12th October Guernsey hosted their two day motocross. Adam wanted to have a go on their track, so he and a few others from Jersey travelled the waters and entered. Guernsey's course is very different – flatter, with fewer swoops and table-tops but, as all the boys say, it's a faster track! Adam gave his best, coming third in the first race and, after getting the feel of the foreign land, he finished in second place in the following five races, giving him second place on the podium overall. There was at least one Jersey person on the podium in every class.

Adam went to Sheffield at the end of October to cheer on all his fellow competitors from Jersey, and will enter the inter-insular motocross in Guernsey on November 22nd.

Adam has been lucky to have been taught by his dad, Harry Bertram, and Rob Jackson. His two sisters act as cheer leaders and we have also had a lot of support from all members of the sand racing and motocross people.

Penny Godwin

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News from the Pews

Prayers and support for the Congo

At the Parish Church we have a very real link with the Diocese of Bukavu in Eastern Congo, brought alive for us in 2008 by the visit of the diocesan Bishop to St John in early February, and reinforced through the return visit of the Bishop, along with Mrs Bahati, in July.

Consequently, we have been deeply shocked by the intensification of tension in that region this autumn; the fighting between government troops, UN peacekeepers and rebel forces; the displacement of over 250,000 people, abandoning homes and possessions, fleeing in fear, living outside in extreme hardship without water, food or clothing and thus exposed to hunger, illness and death.



In early November, Bishop Bahati wrote describing how some churches had been destroyed by bombs, but highlighting the human tragedy of families whose homes have been destroyed, and telling us of those psychologically traumatised by the horrific scenes they have witnessed. His request is first and foremost for prayer, 'For peace to reign in our communities in particular, and in the D.R. Congo in general.'



Financial Appeal for the Congo

Clearly, there is a massive need to provide aid for the Eastern Congo at this time. As a church we have the bank details for the Diocese of Bukavu, so are able to send monies direct to Bishop Bahati. This means 100% of the money will be used to support those who have lost everything as a consequence of the conflict.

Please consider supporting our Christmas Congo Appeal by sending cheques made payable to 'St John's Church' to The Rectory, St John, JE3 4AF, which we'll forward to Bishop Bahati, in the New Year.

Christingle Service

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to join us at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, the eve of his birthday, to celebrate, with the aid of our symbolic oranges, the good news that Jesus is the LIGHT of the world.

Please remember to bring along your own Christingle to the service.



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SION PRE-SCHOOL

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

Well, the start of the new school year brought many changes. Not only were we saying goodbye to our 'big' boys and girls who were starting their new term at Primary School, we were also saying good bye to Caroline, a fantastic colleague and true friend who had been at Sion for 15 years, the last six as manager. Although greatly missed by staff, children and parents, Caroline, we wish you well in your new role. Also off to pastures new is Brenda, a wonderful pre-school practitioner who had been at Sion for six years – Brenda takes up the position of Nursery Officer at St John's School and will be a great asset to the school. That said, we still have a strong, dedicated team at Sion: Liz heads the team as manager, myself as deputy manager and we have two great assistants in Penny and Jenny.

September saw the arrival of many new little faces and I'm glad to say they have all settled in well and are enjoying their mornings of fun and frolics. The older children really enjoy being the 'bigger' ones and helping the younger children find their way around. It gives them a great sense of importance.

In early June we entered the Big Carrot Competition which was open to all schools Island wide. Richard Rondel of Rondel Farm Shop let us use a small plot of land in order to grow our crop. (Richard; thanks again!) Over the next few months the children tended their crop regularly and their hard work paid off. As you can see from the photo we had a bumper crop which we took to the Central Market for judging – we didn't win any prizes but it was a great learning experience for the children (I think they will still be eating carrots in December!).



Carrots!

As well as the daily activities that form part of our curriculum the children packed 23 shoe boxes for Romania. Many thanks to parents and family for their gifts. Their generosity will mean that others can have a present to open at Christmas-time.

The run-up to Christmas is always a special time when you work with children. Their enthusiasm, excitement, and the great pride they show when making gifts for their family, never cease to amaze me. At Sion we stage the traditional Christmas Nativity which always proves to be eventful. We can expect anything from stage fright to Mary's resignation, the three Kings having fisticuffs, to a runaway donkey but whatever the Nativity brings, parents, family and staff will have a wonderful time and will be extremely proud.

The end of term is finished off with a Christmas Party and a visit from the big fella in the red suit, a fitting end to another great year at Sion.

We wish you Health and Happiness at Christmas time.

Julie Renouf

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25th St John's Brownies – have a busy time

25th St John's Brownies took part in a campfire with St Saviour's Guides; a day trip to Cobac Parc – Brittany, with three other Jersey Brownie packs; an adventure at Elizabeth Castle; helped to run a toy stall at our Girl-Guiding Summer Fête; and finished off their busy summer term by holding a Mini Olympic Games on St Aubin's Beach. The girls brought a picnic tea, played games and all were awarded a medal and certificate. It was also a sad



Brand new Brownies

night as we said goodbye to eight of the older girls as it was their last meeting.

After a well-earned break, 25th St John's Brownies have been joined by eight new girls, each wishing to become a Brownie. These girls have been working towards their promise and we celebrated this occasion on Wednesday, 12th November. We were joined by parents and friends. Our District Commissioner, Michele Peace, presented the badges.

We are proud to share our good news –

For the first time ever, 25th St John's Brownies came first in the annual Brownie Quiz. Our six girls, Isobel Parkin, Charlotte Lees, Charlotte Le Cornu, Christina Druce, Saoirse Robertson, and Aimee Hill took on other Brownie teams to win the shield. Well done to you all!

We celebrated Diwali, The Festival of Lights, by making lanterns, dressing up in national costume, tasting Indian food and playing Brownie games from India. We were joined by Mrs Mahasweta Datta who talked about her country and showed the girls how



Festival of Lights

to wear a sari. It was a cultural evening with lots of fun.

This term we are working towards our Friends to Animals Badge. Jenny Stafford, who is blind, will be visiting the pack with her guide dog, Pacha, on November 19th and we are to visit the JSPCA Animals Shelter on the 26th November. The girls are knitting squares to be sewn into blankets for the cats and dogs.

We will be finishing off the term with Christmas Craft, a Christmas Party, and the Candlelight Carol Service at St John's Church.

The Brownie pack is full at present and we have a waiting list. If anyone is interested, it's best to put her name down. Telephone me on 865728 or email: donnacrobbie@hotmail.com

Donna Tupper



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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

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PARISH DIARY - December 2009 to April 2009

DECEMBER

Tues 9th	7.30pm	Christmas bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 10th	5.45pm	Visit of Father Christmas at the Parish Hall
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
Sun 14th	10.30am	Parish Church Children's Nativity in the Parish Hall
Sun 14th	6.00pm	St John's Group of Churches Candelit Carol Service in the Parish Church
Mon 15th	2-4pm	Baby Clinic at the Parish Hall (last in 2008)
Thurs 18th		Last day of school term
Sun 21st	10.30am	Family Service of Lessons and Carols at the URC
Sun 21st	4-5.30pm	Christmas Family Service at the Abundant Life Church
Wed 24th	5.30pm	Christingle Service at the Parish Church
Wed 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Thurs 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day family service at the URC
Thurs 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day All-age Celebration at the Parish Church
Thurs 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day celebration at the Abundant Life Church
Wed 31st	7.30pm	New Year's Eve Party at the Abundant Life Church followed by service to see in the New Year at 11.30pm

JANUARY

Tues 6th		Back to School
Mon 5th	2-4pm	Baby Clinic at the Parish Hall (every other Monday)
Mon 5th	7.30pm	Monday night Line Dancing in the Parish Hall (weekly)
Sun 11th	9.30am	Plough Sunday Service in the Parish Church
Wed 14th	7.30pm	St John's Women's Institute in the Parish Hall
Thurs 15th	7.30pm	Thursday night Line Dancing in the Parish Hall (weekly)
Wed 28th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

FEBRUARY

Wed 11th	3.00pm	Open afternoon at St John's School. All welcome.
Fri 13th		End of School half-term

Sun 15th	11.00am	Celebration of Marriage Service at the Parish Church
Mon 22nd		Back to School
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Golden Age meet in the Parish Hall

MARCH

Tues 3rd	8.00pm	Christian Aid 'Focus on the Congo evening' at St John's School
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Celebration Service at the Parish Church
Wed 25th	12.00pm	Golden Age Lunch – venue to be confirmed

APRIL

Fri 3rd		End of School term
Sun 12th		Easter Day
Wed 22nd		Back to School

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
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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
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Every Monday

9.30am - 11.30am	Champs Toddler Group
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St. John's Village Inn

MEAL TIMES



Breakfast 9:30 to 11am

Lunch 12 noon to 3pm

Dinner 6:00 to 9pm

Tuesday to Saturday

Sunday Lunch 12 to 4pm

tel.:- 864690

George & staff wish
all their customers a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year



**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
9 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.**



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Xmas Eve rest. open 12 - 3 & 6 - 9pm

Christmas Day 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Boxing day - 11 a.m. to 5p.m. (no food)

New Year's Eve Extension until 1a.m.

New Year's day - 11 a.m. to 5p.m. (no food)



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Private Party - tickets only
Entertainment all night

Buffet from 7p.m. -
till late £10 per head
Children welcome - free

We cater for any occasion, you name it - we can do it - Buffet menus available

À BEINTÔT and THANK YOU



Retiring Deputy Andrew Lewis, wife Kate and sons Harry and James

