

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



Parish of St John

ISSUE 17

April 2009

In December parishioners re-elected Philip Rondel as its Deputy after a three-year intermission. As he told ALASDAIR CROSBY, he's glad to be back.

LAST December Philip ('Phil') Rondel stood once again at the elections for Deputy, and was re-elected to his old seat that he had vacated three years earlier. He said: 'There is a time to come and a time to go, in all things – and three years ago it wasn't my time to go! After I took the oath on 8th December, and took my place once again in the States Chamber, it was just like coming home after a long holiday. It felt good to be home!

Deputy Rondel first became St John's Deputy in 1994, when the then Deputy, Carl Hinault, was elected Constable. His career in the Municipality has been much longer – it was around 30 years ago that he became Appreciateur, then a Centenier, and then member and subsequently chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee. Even before his move to St John in the mid 1970s he was ten years in St Helier Honorary Police, eight of them as a Centenier.

He said he was not perplexed by changes in the system of government that had taken place during his absence: 'Everybody told me that I would not understand the new system. There have been some changes, but I have had no trouble understanding them! And what remains constant is that you have 53 individuals, each with their own ideas, each doing what they believe is right for the Island.'

And were the changes for the better or the worse?

'It certainly isn't as democratic as it used to be, and neither is it as transparent, but I'm working on that. I have lodged a proposition already to make some slight amendments to the system – there's a bit of tweaking needed to make it more democratic and transparent, and more accountable by members.

'A lot of work has been done already in the last three years to make sure the whole thing is more workable. I hope to have an input on that.'

In the new States Assembly, Deputy Rondel is a chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel, in which he sits with Deputy Wimberley of St Mary and the Constables of St Peter and St Saviour – 'a reasonable bunch,' in his words, 'with diverse views.'

They are currently discussing both the RAMSAR designation of the south east coast of the Island, and also energy – the latter being a big issue (if not one of the biggest) at the moment.

He is also a member of the Chairmen's Scrutiny Panel, with Planning and Environment, and Transport and Technical Services as his special spheres of responsibility. There were

some big issues due to be decided upon, such as the fact that around £250 million pounds needed to be spent over the next 25 years on the 'liquid waste strategy', which includes things such as rubbish disposal at Bellozanne, a pumping station, the sewage system, creating satellite sewage stations – 'a whole host of things that still have to be done'.

Then there is the road infrastructure, again which



In this issue:

***Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival – Bicentenary of URC
Developments at Recreation Centre – Youth Project news***

needs massive amounts of money. At the moment, around £1.5 million a year is being spent on road repairs, whereas in fact the figure should be around three times that. All these are things to be scrutinised, to ensure that the Island receives value for money

Always, he said, there was lots of reading – ‘files and files and files’. When he went skiing with his family recently, he took a couple of big bulging briefcases with him – and if people see him apparently relaxing on his boat, he is more likely to be sitting reading documents rather than sun-bathing. But then, as he says, he enjoys the process of highlighting pertinent extracts and preparing questions.

He then reviewed his busy agenda in the parish. He has been out and about with the Constable looking at some of the sites recommended for Site of Special Interest (SSI) status. These include La Hougue Boëte, the prehistoric tumulus in private ownership which is almost ‘shaved’ by the edge of the Rue des Buttes that runs alongside its base. It was excavated in 1910, and some horse and human bones found, suggesting, possibly, the burial of a chieftain and his chariot team.

‘If it were to become an SSI,’ he said, ‘it would have a 25-metre exclusion zone around it – which would include the kitchen of the neighbouring property – so bad luck if the owners wanted to change the wallpaper or replace the sink: they’d have to ask Planning permission first! Hopefully common sense will prevail.’

Sorel is another potential SSI with potential issues for the neighbours. So he is contacting all the stakeholders to make sure they are aware of what an SSI means. The parish is a stakeholder at La Hougue Boëte, and the parish had not been approached by Planning – and he is sure that the potential stakeholders at Sorel were not approached, either. . . They all will have done by the time decisions are made by the Minister.

There is also the continuing search for a skate park for the youngsters. He is hopeful that one can

be provided at the Recreation Centre; if not, another location needs to be found – a problem at which both he and the Constable are looking. Also on the agenda is putting some more ‘humps and bumps’ on the obstacle cycle course near the Millennium Cross.

Work needs to be done on both the Parish Hall and on the second phase of the church repairs. Then there are the problems of individual parishioners – he normally receives about six phone calls a week from people who have problems of one sort or another.

‘Some people just want to chat,’ he continued, ‘others need you to do just a little bit more to help them. But for a country Deputy, that’s what it’s all about!’

PARISH OF ST JOHN ADMINISTRATION

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Jo Carter

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Philip Rondel

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Squash & Racketball at St John's Recreation Centre . . . on the up!

The Jersey Squash & Racketball Association (JSRA), with continued sponsorship support from the Bedell Group, are delighted to announce that one of the squash courts at St John's Recreation Centre is going to be refurbished by the JSRA.

Nick Taylor, the Director of Squash & Racketball for the Island, spotted that there was potential:

"Having put a structure in place for squash and racketball in Jersey, I recognised that St John's Recreation Centre has real potential to be part of our five-year vision. I have already delivered a squash festival at St John's and St Mary's Primary schools for over 300 children. A lot of these children are obviously living in the area and it makes perfect sense to encourage them to use the local squash club. We also have to make our sport attractive and safe so we recognised the court needed to be refurbished. We approached the Centre's committee and they are fully supportive of this initiative. We are doing the work at cost with the labour being free. JSRA wins because we get a new-looking squash court, and so does the Centre."

Saturday morning junior squash sessions and mid week ladies racketball mornings are the main focus with hopefully summer and winter leagues both against other teams/clubs on the Island and internal leagues.

Racketball is the fastest growing racket sport in the UK and appeals to women and men over fifty, although anybody can play. Squash and racketball have been voted "The World's healthiest sport" by Forbes magazine in the U.S.A for cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and calories burnt.

Jim Lord, Director of Development for squash's governing body, England Squash, said after a recent visit to Jersey to launch the racketball programme: ***"Racketball is playing a pivotal role in the development of squash facilities throughout England. It is competitive, easy to play, a great workout for the heart and lungs but, most of all, fun! Squash clubs in the UK who have embraced this new sport are going from strength to strength, and Jersey squash are doing their part."***

JSRA has recently held a racketball coaching course at Jersey Squash Club and there are now eight local Jersey people who are qualified to deliver and promote the sport Island wide.

Sarah Taylor, Nick's wife, who is a qualified squash & racketball coach and will be the coach delivering sessions at the Recreation Centre said: ***"Racketball is fantastic! We have about fifteen to twenty ladies already playing who all love it and have already seen a difference in their fitness level. I am hoping that the Recreation Centre is going to be a bit of a hot-bed for ladies playing and I hope that one day soon we can have a small league***

running from the facility. It provides a great opportunity to have fun, get fit, and meet new friends. The ladies who play have all said it is definitely better than going to the gym!"

We have really big hopes for squash and racketball at the Recreation Centre and the JSRA's main sponsors, Bedell Group, are delighted to see this initiative at the Centre. Peter Byrne of Bedell Group said: ***"Squash is once again becoming a popular sport, both globally and in Jersey, and racketball is a new and growing alternative. Jersey has a strong tradition in the squash world, and we're very pleased to see the Recreation Centre now part of the Squash & Racketball Development programme, providing another venue in the North of the Island."***

The refurbishment will take place on the weekend of 20th March and the programme will start in April. If you would like any further information on the programme both at St John's Recreation Centre and Island wide, please do not hesitate to contact Nick on 07797 747034 or email nick@uksquashonline.com

Nick Taylor

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DEAR PARISHIONERS

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.

It was great to be able to hold the senior citizen's lunch back in the parish again at L'Auberge du Nord with approximately 95 in attendance. The staff at L'Auberge did us proud and it appeared that everyone enjoyed themselves very much. We had a nice lunch followed by a raffle with many prizes donated by parish businesses. We even had an unannounced visit by Santa, who did the rounds wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



I might add that Santa's surprise visit was not planned by me. It was the brainchild of a parishioner, and I know that many there were not aware who was dressed up as Santa and I do not intend to enlighten you. It can remain a Parish secret!



Santa's visit

The 10th of December saw the annual visit to the Parish Hall by Santa. It was a great turnout by the children of the Parish who brought presents to donate to the Round Table Christmas appeal. The children had a great time. Mince pies mulled wine were enjoyed by all. Thanks goes out to all of the helpers. Without them these things would be difficult to hold.



Maison Le Vesconte

Work on the homes is coming on well and is on schedule to be completed at the end of April or thereabout. We will have four one-bed units to fill, which I am sure will not present a problem.

Parish Hall

We will be opening the tenders for the refurbishment at the Parish Hall at the end of March, with a view to starting the work around the end of April. If this time frame is followed the work is likely to go on until the end of January 2010. Naturally there will be major disruption to the operation of the parish hall in terms of what facilities we will have available. We will try to keep needed facilities operational as long as possible but there will be times when we will not have either a usable kitchen or toilets.

The whole area from which the office staff operate will not be available, so my intention is to build a temporary structure within the main hall for the staff to work in. It will not be the best operating conditions so we ask that parishioners have patience with us.

Recreation Centre

Recently there have been some issues regarding damage done by skateboarders using tables as ramps and causing damage to them. These items were taken off the patio and placed in the tennis courts.

I ask everyone to treat the exterior of the Recreation Centre with respect.

BMX and Skateboard facilities

I am in discussions with various parties with regard to trying to build a purpose-built BMX track for parish youngsters to use, as there is very little in the parish to occupy them. There perhaps is a need for some basic skateboard facility but then we come to the problems of where to put it and who is going to pay for it . . .

I would be interested to hear from any parents who may have some suggestions.

Fly-tipping

We are regularly dealing with fly-tipping on the loop road. All sorts of builders' rubbish and rubble are



being dumped there as it is fairly secluded.

I ask any parishioner who uses that area and witnesses anything like this happening, to please either contact me directly or call the parish hall with any details.

WE WILL PROSECUTE IF WE HAVE THE EVIDENCE.

*Graeme Butcher
Connétable*

St John's Youth &
Community Trust



Following the untimely death of Peter LARBALÉSTIER last year, his widow, Heidi, expressed the sentiment of the family that it was their wish to establish a Trust which would enable Parishioners to make a donation in her late husband's memory. This in turn would build the foundation of an ongoing project to enhance facilities in St John.

Following discussions between Heidi LARBALÉSTIER and Rev Andy Thewlis, it was agreed that a Charitable Trust be set up to benefit, in particular, the youth and the elderly of the Parish of St John.

The aim of the Trust is to act as a channel for charitable giving for social projects in the Parish of St John that are not otherwise provided by the municipality, for the benefit of all parishioners but particularly the young and the elderly. It was agreed that projects should be tangible and provide a lasting legacy to the benefactors.

It is the intention of the Trustees to grow the fund through various means, and any parishioners who wish to donate to the Trust or acquire further information, can contact Rev Andy Thewlis at the Rectory. Alternatively one may contact any of the other Trustees who are: John Henwood, Andrew Lewis, Celia Jeune and Alison Fosse.

The Trust is registered with the Jersey Financial Services Commission as a non-profit making Organisation and is a member of the Jersey Association of Charities.

Some of the suggestions for possible projects have included a skateboarding facility, fitness trail, picnic benches along the North Coast, cycle tracks and an additional play area. The Trustees are open to any other suggestions that Parishioners may have. Projects need to be realistically attainable without being a future burden on the Municipality.

The Trust is a non-political, non-religious body whose aim is to benefit the residents of the Parish and for the Trust to grow in the ensuing years.

The Trustees



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TIME FOR THE CRUNCH DOWN

A young person's view

Watching as the banks seem to fall around us, and the Government tries to hold them up, it seems the economic recession, apparently the worst for a century, is going to continue for longer than we think. As a sixteen-year-old with no current income whatsoever and watching my bank balance slowly dwindle after an initial injection some months ago, the money issue is big enough without the 'credit crunch' bringing more problems to deal with.

Not having a job, and not needing to pay a mortgage or school fees, means that my account balance isn't too touched by the lack of credit but subconsciously, it seems that I, along with the rest of the nation, have been affected by the recession.

Only the 'Best'

Firstly, getting a Saturday job is a lot harder, and although I don't try too hard to find one (I have other pressing matters to attend to) it is more difficult when I do apply. Companies are cutting down and apparently don't need hard-working Saturday girls like me. What's more, the continuous remarks from Father, dear, suggesting that I won't get a job if I don't try 'my best' are encouraging me to work that bit harder at my A-levels to ensure that a university and – hopefully – a work place will kindly take me. Dad says, 'Employers will only want the ones that have shown they can work hard'. This seems to ring true in view of the many redundancies. Subconsciously I think I have been trying to do better at school considering that the recession, if it is as bad as people make out, it may still be in its slump when I finish at university, meaning that employers really will be looking for only 'the best'.

A good way of making money is babysitting. However as more people start to watch the pennies, fewer couples are going out on the town or to eat in restaurants, meaning less business for the babysitters, restaurants, taxi drivers and, alas, a constantly low bank balance for me.

Somewhere in my wardrobe

Another thing I have noticed is that I have been spending less on clothes that (to be honest) I don't really need. I'm not sure if it's to do with my lack of income or my paltry attempts at trying to save up for the Reading Festival, but I have definitely been trying to save more overall. However the money still seems to disappear from my humble bank account and it seems much more distressing than before the recession impinged on my life. I didn't have a job last year but oddly enough had more money and recklessly spent insane amounts on clothes and shoes that are piled somewhere in my wardrobe, worn once and now forgotten. If only I could have seen into the future and exercised some self control every time I passed Topshop!

Watching what we spend seems to be a popular choice amongst friends as well. This weekend we decided against a restaurant meal and went for a romantic meal at my friend's house before we went out – and spent money we didn't have. At least we saved money on the food! A friend at school says that she's been worried, 'Because my dad's business relies on other businesses needing advice.' As businesses are cutting down on the 'luxuries', they are suffering and my friend finds that her dad isn't handing out pocket money as freely as he used to.

Employees are working harder, people seem to have a permanent look of distress and everyone's worried but we know in our hearts that it'll end and we'll go back to being the happy-go-lucky consumers that we love to be.

To put into context, my little brother is hopeful the 'credit crunchie' will end soon so that dad will stop hogging the TV remote to find money programmes, and normal service will resume with The Simpsons and Futurama taking precedence again. Here's hoping!

Charlotte Lombardi

ST JOHN'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

– is off to a flying start!

St John Women's Institute is off to a flying start with 24 members joining up since the inaugural meeting on 14th January 2009.

At the January meeting Sue Hardy, our guest speaker, gave us a very interesting local history talk about Lady Otway and for a moment we felt that we were back in Victorian times.

In February Elvina Davey demonstrated the art of making Valentine cards. I am sure that many husbands and partners were pleasantly surprised when they received these cards on 14th February.

We are looking forward to the forthcoming meeting on 11th March.

On 8th April we are delighted that Mike Stentiford will be giving us a talk on wildlife. Unfortunately he was unable to come in January due to ill health.

If you feel that you would like to join the W.I. please do come along to St John's Parish Hall. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month, at 7.30 p.m. We always end our meetings with supper and a friendly get-together.

If you require further information, please contact: Myrtle Malzard (President) Tel: 862931 or Karen Cotillard (Secretary) Tel: 863296.

Myrtle Malzard



HEADWAY JERSEY – What does it do?

Most Islanders have heard of Headway Jersey the brain injury charity and think it is a wonderful cause but how many know what it actually does?

Starting as a small support group for a few families Headway Jersey has grown dramatically over recent years to become an organisation with over 100 local brain-injured sufferers on its books. But we know there are more people that we are not yet helping. These sufferers require a wide variety of support, and the demands on the charity are growing significantly year on year. Brain injuries come about for a wide variety of reasons including accidents, strokes, tumours, illnesses and even mosquito bites. Everyone is at risk regardless of age or social standing. The effects on the sufferer and their families are dramatic. Most will require some form of assistance. **How would you feel if your child, partner or family member couldn't remember who you are, where they live or even whom they are married to? Can't even think about it? Headway Jersey does.**

Many sufferers of brain injury experience lack of confidence. We provide support in a number of ways including the provision of a calm, supportive environment with regular social events both in the Headway Centre at Le Coie, and outside accompanied visits to help sufferers reintegrate back to normality. This support has been essential for some, but others have different needs.

Headway Jersey has developed services to cover as many needs as possible. Already sufferers can benefit from a range of facilities from meditation and music **earobics** – a therapy involving listening to music which aids thought processes - to the help and advice of our advocacy officer. There are many other services that we are seeking to provide to support sufferers when they move from medical care to rehabilitation. Working with primary care providers, we want to assist with the recovery process to enable sufferers to reach their full potential. We have many initiatives we wish to take forward to benefit the local brain-injured and this, of course, will require money!

How you can help

Are you the right person to help on a fundraising committee? Have you got great ideas on how to raise funds for Headway Jersey? Can you organise a team or run in the Jersey marathon on behalf of Headway Jersey? Do you work for a firm that has dress-down days or other charity events? Do you make individual or regular donations? If so, please let us know. We will assist with any ideas you have and support any fundraising initiatives.

This is going to be a difficult year for raising funds. If Headway Jersey is to provide the help and services that are so important to the local brain-injured we need your help.

If you think you can help in any way please contact Ray on 505937 or Sara on 768866.

Sara Dunford-Lloyd

RUN FOR IT!

The fourth Standard Chartered Bank Marathon will take place this year on Sunday 27th September. This is a great sporting event, with a run for everyone; the Marathon, the Relay race and the 3k Fun Run means there is an opportunity whatever your age or running ability to participate in a fun and exciting day. If you are a runner, but not ready for the full marathon, why not run for the Parish of St John? We would like to enter a male/female or mixed team of St Jeannais for the Relay Race to represent our parish. If you are interested in getting involved, finding a local running partner and giving it a go, contact Alison on 863551 or email alimckerrrow@hotmail.com. We would also like as many fun fit and fearless St Jeannais as possible to enter the Fun Run!

You don't have to run to be involved! Volunteers are always needed on the day – help is always needed, for example marshalling and manning water stations.

Any Suggestions for a team name (witty or otherwise) will be considered!

Alison Lombardi



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Madame Henry goes ACROSS to Lourdes

'To pray and to have fun' is how Madame Alice Henry sums up the reasons for going on pilgrimage to Lourdes last April with the Jersey Across Group

Initially she was reluctant to go because of her asthma, a heart condition, her medication, and the fact that she didn't like the idea of a wheelchair, but she was persuaded by nurse Noreen Hayward's words, 'You must come – you'll be well looked after' – and she was. It was 'un voyage formidable – j'étais heureuse – très heureuse. Pour moi c'est super!' – And the wheelchair? – well it was pushed by Tessa Purvis, a French lady, so that was a happy partnership. 2008 was a special year for the Jersey Across Group for it was honoured in its 25th anniversary year by receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

For each of the 25 years a group of about 45 people has set off to spend a week in Lourdes in the South of France. About 20 of these are VIPs – sick, disabled or elderly people, accompanied by 20 general helpers and wheel-chair-pushers, as well as

The VIPs travel free of charge; the helpers pay a substantial contribution to their travel costs, the rest of the money being provided by fundraising and donations. VIPs are introduced to Jersey Across in a variety of ways. It was Alice Henry's hairdresser who told her about the group, and once Alice had put her name forward, Nurse Noreen Hayward visited her to assess how much care she would need.

2008 marked the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to St Bernadette – so there were crowds at Lourdes. On the Sunday the Jersey party attended the International Mass in the underground Basilica which was nearly full – and it can take over 20,000 people! The Blessing of the Sick and the Torchlight procession were other religious highlights. (Alice keeps her candle as a special souvenir). Otherwise coach trips up the mountains as far as the Spanish border were memorable. Alice

loved the mountain scenery and the streams – and the cows with bells round their necks. Wheelchair dancing, bingo, a variety show and a fancy dress party occupied the evenings.

Alice loves Jersey where she has lived for most of her life, but she is also proud to be French. Born in St Brieuc, her mother died when she was two and her older sister, Marie-Thérèse, was five. They were brought up by their grandmother. Alice first came to Jersey in 1953 when she was 20 to 'do a season' on a farm in Trinity. Long before she was born her father had worked at a farm in St Lawrence. Work and living conditions were hard, but he was pleased to have the money, especially as the rate of

exchange from sterling to francs was favourable. Conditions had improved when Alice's older sister first came at the age of 18, and by the time Alice arrived, proper beds were provided for the workers – between the boxes of potatoes.

In 1962 Alice returned to France to marry Pierre, her French husband, whom she had met in Jersey. She wanted to live in France, but her husband said, 'Let's go to Jersey for one more year.' He worked at Ronez whilst Alice continued with farm work. When



Alice with Tessa

3 or 4 nurses, and a chaplain – this time Father Brian Sandeman. Jersey Across is an ecumenical Christian organisation with a Catholic destination. About 60% of the helpers are Catholic, and recruitment is by word of mouth. Helpers need to be youngish and very fit! Selection of VIPs is based on need and does not take into account the religion – or lack of it – of the applicant. All travellers are asked to attend three major religious ceremonies during the week, other services being optional.





In fancy dress

her first son was born he was sent to France at the age of three months to be cared for by her sister.

Eventually Alice and Pierre rented a farm in Mourier Valley. Her second son was born seven years after the first, who by now had returned to Jersey. Alice remembers his difficulty on his first day at St Mary's school at the age of four. He did not want to stay because he could not understand

anything but after only two weeks he could understand English!

The years in Mourier Valley were happy. From Monday to Friday Pierre worked at Ronez, whilst Alice worked on the côtils (with help from labourers) growing potatoes, tomatoes, onions, green peas, carrots and winter potatoes and cauliflower. Some of these vegetables were sold on the wall, and every Friday evening her husband took a consignment to the market. Alice never learned to drive. It was a hard life, but a happy one. 'J'ai toujours aimé travailler' says Alice, who spent a total of 30 years on the farm, living alone there and working the land for five years after Pierre died.

Alice has now lived at Maison Le Vesconte for six years. At first she was not very happy because she had no work to do and she missed the farm. 'C'est bien ici – mais pas comme la bas. C'est merveilleux la bas.' Now Alice has settled happily into retired life.

Sadly, her son Lionel died at the age of 39, leaving an eight-year-old daughter, Monique. She is almost 14 now and Grandmère is very proud of her. She won two cups at the recent Eisteddfod, one for a French poem that Meme had taught her. Monique is also bilingual, speaking French fluently - 'From me' says Alice, 'Je suis fière d'elle.'

If you would like to find out more about Jersey Across, contact Mary Renouf on 858187

Angela Le Sueur



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News from the Pews

Parish clean - Saturday 2nd May 2009

On Saturday 2nd May members of the congregation will be joined by our friends from St John's School for a second annual Parish clean.

In 2008, over 30 bin bags of rubbish were collected and in 2009, with more people, we plan to walk even more of the parish to make an even bigger impact.



Clearly more volunteers would be a great help, so if you're free and would like to join us on the morning of May 2nd do contact the Rector, on 861677 and join us in church at 9.30am, for a briefing before setting off to walk, in teams of two, the lanes and roads of the parish, picking up litter from the roadsides as we go.

St John's Church Sunday Club

Here at St John's Sunday Club (age range 3-14) we want to invite you to come and enjoy some fun with us, puppet power, lively worship including flags & ribbons, dramas to watch and be involved in, games, arts & crafts, fun group discussions and so much more. It is important for us to worship the Lord, read and hear his word, pray and listen; all our activities will be based around this.

Our ultimate goal is for our children to grow in their love for God. We want them to get to know him better and just how much he loves them! And we want this to be done in the most enjoyable way possible.

If you want to explore Christianity, your faith or just our church, please do get in contact with Sophie Carrington, Sunday Club Co-Coordinator, 01534 869829 or 07797 888 076. We hope to see you at our 11am service soon!!

Bell ringing at St John

If you are 10 or over, have you considered taking up the hobby of bell ringing? Our local group in St John meets on Wednesday nights from 7.30pm - 9.00pm, and would welcome the opportunity to teach new members. If you are interested give Justin Read a call on 888484.

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WEBSITE

The Star of the North magazine now has a web site 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.



Editorial

Hello to our readers from the 20 contributors to this 17th edition of STAR. It is wonderful to have so many writers willing to pen their bit in our Parish magazine. I am especially pleased to welcome Dylan Hopwood, aged 11, and Charlotte Lombardi, aged 16. I hope you enjoy their very different pieces. Any more young writers out there?

Milestones

In our parish, and at the heart of the island, is the United Reformed Church, Sion, which celebrates its bicentenary on 26th April. A short but fascinating history is included. There are several events planned to celebrate this milestone – see the Parish Diary.

I am writing this on the 50th birthday of Durrell - or 'the Zoo' as it was familiarly known. When I first visited it all those years ago I had no idea of the worldwide significance of this organisation. St John is home to three senior staff members of Durrell whom I was privileged to interview. Their idealistic dedication to their work is humbling and inspiring. Celebrate with Durrell by attending some events, such as the production of 'My Family and Other Stories' during June and July.

Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival

Saturday 18th July is the date of this community festival for all the family down in beautiful Bonne Nuit. Those wishing to help are invited to a meeting at St John's Hotel at 7.30 on Monday 11th May.

Deadline for our August edition is 8th July

We always welcome new ideas and new contributors, so please 'Think Star'. Maybe you would like to include your organisation or activity in the list of St John's Parish Contacts.

Distributors needed

If you could spare a couple of hours three times a year to help with posting the magazine through letterboxes, we should be delighted to hear from you. We have a group of dedicated distributors – some of whom have very long rounds that could be divided up if more people came forward.

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

Angela Le Sueur, Editor

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At St John's School we love books. Of course this naturally leads us on to writing and producing our own. Year 6 have recently been building on their research work about South America and have put a great deal of time and effort into creating fabulous stories set in the time of the Aztecs. Here is just one example of these great stories written by Dylan Hopwood, aged 11.

If you would like to read more, then pop into school where the finished books are proudly displayed.

*Andrew Willis,
Head Teacher*

THE EMPEROR'S ARTIST

He was woken from a peaceful sleep by an alarming shake from his mother. Moolow was a young boy who had lost his hearing at the age of one month. Moolow was very shy and timid. He didn't have many talents and in school he wasn't the brightest of pupils, but he adored art. Moolow was gifted with a brush. He would have a thought and see a picture in his mind, and then his hand would take over and "bang" a picture of many colours, so eye catching it was hard not to look away.

Moolow was an only child with a loving mother. He lived on the beautiful coast of the Aztec island of Tenchlan. Moolow had a good life. In the morning he would prepare a long and bendy stick, a piece of strong string and a tender slice of meat and go and catch a fish, if he was lucky! One morning, Moolow returned quite fed up after two hours of fishing with only one small catch. He slowly strolled in looking around for his mother. He knew she loved to watch the sunrise. He eventually found her on a large boulder facing a glimmering sunrise. She saw Moolow approaching her so she stopped her daydreaming and drew a picture indicating that they needed food. She had one way of communicating with Moolow and that was by drawing a picture to explain what she required. Moolow set off in search of food.

The market was gigantic with tall stalls selling colourful materials and bright, ripe fruit. Craftsmen slowly worked around a statue making precise cuts into the stone.

Suddenly, a mob of people ran through the market, like a cat running away from a dog. A stand of sundials was knocked down, the circle shaped rocks were smashed into a million pieces. The mob of people was running away from a very muscular man with short, curly hair and a beret on his head. He was wearing red clothes and he had bodyguards with silver swords and a flag with red and white stripes. Moolow knew that this man must be important and he saw the man walking up the temple steps leading to the Emperor's palace, so Moolow secretly followed.

"Guards, seize them!" said the Emperor, pointing to the man in red.

"I bring you no harm," said the man. "I am Cortes, leader of the Spanish army. I have walked through your magnificent city and it is very impressive".

"Yes I know," said the Emperor. He thought to himself, "Is this the god of all gods, come to take back his throne". He said, "Are you treated like a god where you come from?"

"Yes," replied Cortes.

"We will treat you like a god", said the Emperor.

Moolow had no clue what the conversation was about. Then suddenly the Emperor saw Moolow and



asked his guard "Who is this little boy?" The guard replied "Moolow, the son of the sick woman who lives in the village". He also told the Emperor that Moolow was deaf and dumb. So the Emperor drew a picture of Moolow drawing. Moolow studied the



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picture and then nodded. Then Moolow drew a picture of Cortes. The Emperor tried to say in picture form that he wanted Moolow to draw an amazing picture for Cortes and it had to be done in twenty four hours. Moolow understood what was required of him and sprinted down the steps and raced straight home.

Moolow desperately needed to tell his mother the great news. He ran through the door and around the house. She was nowhere to be seen. Then suddenly he saw her on the floor. He felt her heart, there was no beat. Moolow shook her frantically. A tear rolled down his face. He slowly placed her back on the floor and then he saw in her left hand a scrunpled piece of paper. It was a picture drawn by her of them watching the sunrise together. A tear began to roll slowly down his face.

He ran back to the Emperor with the picture. When the Emperor looked at the picture he thought that Moolow had drawn it and was not impressed. He was very angry and he ordered his guards to take him to be sacrificed. The guards grabbed Moolow's arms. Moolow knew what was about to happen to him. At this point the Emperor ripped up the picture his mother had drawn. This was too much for Moolow to bear! He could feel his mind shouting and his heart racing and he pulled away from the guard and raced up to the Emperor and lashed out with a furious punch! One of the guards had a

wooden stick. He hit Moolow, making him collapse and pass out with the intense pain.

When Moolow woke he could feel a tight squeeze coming from the two guards. Moolow could see some steps leading up to the temple, but he knew that these steps led to his death. He saw one good point in this awful situation, that he would be with his mother in a new life in heaven. They would again be able to watch the sun rise. A hard rock was awaiting him, a rock that had taken many lives. The rock had four metal chains. Suddenly Moolow was thrown onto the floor close to the rock. Music started and people were singing. The beat got faster and faster. Suddenly the Emperor flung out his arms and shouted "Stop!" Everyone fell silent. He stared at Moolow who refused to look at him. A young boy offered Moolow a mask but he refused to wear it. He was attached to the chains and placed on the cold and bloody rock. He saw the knife being raised. The sharp point would be piercing his body any moment now. The music started again and the clouds appeared and rain fell down like tears on his tiny body. He was ready to receive his fate

Dylan Hopwood



Department of Planning and Environment

Do you have a private water supply?

Water is essential for our life, not only for drinking but also for agriculture, business and the Island's diverse flora and fauna. On 1 January 2009, the Water Resources (Jersey) Law 2007 will come into force to help protect this precious resource.

If you get your water from a borehole or well, or if you take large amounts of water from a stream or reservoir this will need to be either **registered** or **licensed**.

If you obtain water from a well or borehole for domestic use or up to 15 cubic metres (3300 gallons) in any 24 hour period for other uses, you will need to **register** this by **30 April 2009**. There is no charge for registering or using a registered borehole or well.

If you take a lot of water, (more than 15 cubic meters in any 24 hour period, the equivalent of 15,000 litres, 3300 gallons or 75 full baths), from boreholes, wells or surface streams and reservoirs this will need to be **licensed**. You should submit a licence application by **31 March 2009**.

You can obtain an application form and a map (on which you should mark the position of your water source), or find out more information and receive help to complete the form from the **Water Resources Help Desk on (01534) 441622**. Copies of the Registration application form and guidance notes can also be obtained from the Environment Department section of the States of Jersey website at;

<http://www.gov.je/PlanningEnvironment/Environment/Environmental+Protection/WaterResourceManagement.htm>



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or dressing up?



Read a story



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Bang an instrument and dance along,



All tired out? Let's have a rest.
Some juice and biscuits are the best!
Don't forget mum, she'll have some too!



Then back to business on a tractor or two!



Like what you see? Then come along,
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Les Frères Playgroup!

Les Frères Chapel, Les Chenolles, St John
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Last image courtesy of Expressions Photography



ABUNDANT LIFE

WWJD

Are you wondering what the above abbreviation stands for?

What Would Jesus Do!

How often does that question come to our minds when faced with the daily pressures and joys of living? Perhaps we feel that God is too busy or could not possibly be interested in our situation. Maybe we think that our concerns are too trivial to take to the Lord?

STOP!

Please stop thinking this way about Jesus.

The Bible tells us that he:

cares for us,
loves us,
promises never to leave us,
died for us,
prays for us,
loves to spend time with us.
empowers us,
guides us,
and so much more!

So what did Jesus do when he was faced with trials, challenges and big decisions? We read on several occasions how he would withdraw to be alone with the Father.

The Saviour of the world took time out to be alone with his father.

How much more so do we need to?

Luke 4:1-13 shows us how he responded to the taunts and temptations of the devil. He quoted scripture showing the devil that he served the Father and only sought to do what he wanted.

But how does God speak to me? Let me put it this way. Put your name in the spaces that follow.

¹⁶"For God so loved you..... that he gave his one and only Son, that if you..... believe in him you..... shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn you....., but to save you..... through him. ¹⁸If you..... believe in him you are not condemned, but if you do not believe you stand condemned already because you.....have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:17-18)

God's word is powerful, but we have to apply it to our lives. We must understand that the Lord's word is relevant to our lives today. We will not know how to stand or to act in life if we do not know his word, or how to apply it to our lives.

Remember this, the devil has come only to steal, and kill and destroy; but Jesus said that he has come to give you... Life and Life in abundance. (John 10:10)

Do you need help? I know a man who can!

Perhaps you have never read your Bible on a regular basis and would now like to start. I can only say that it will be the greatest investment of time you will ever make.

Stop Press

By the time of reading this, spring will be well and truly upon us. It is such a wonderful time of year as nature explodes with new growth all around us. As a church we are in a season of new growth and change. Many of you will already know that we have continued to grow since we started meeting at the old Wolfs Caves pub back in 2003. This May sees us moving out of what has been our home as a church for the past 5 years. We are also amalgamating with another church on the Island and will now be known as Freedom Church. More details of that merger were printed in the JEP a few months back. We would like to extend a very big thank you to the people and Parish of St John for your support during our growth and development as a church. Thank you too to all those who have come along and shared with us in some way. More details will follow at some point in the JEP.

Every blessing

Andrew de Gruchy
Pastor




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ST JOHN'S TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We are looking forward to another year of spending time with our friends in Le Teilleul. This year it is our turn to go over to France and spend the weekend of 25th and 26th April in Le Teilleul, staying with our host families. Together with our French friends we will celebrate La Fête de St George with a dinner and dancing which is always a very enjoyable evening. The rest of the time will be spent en famille, before we return by coach from Le Teilleul to St Malo on the Sunday evening.

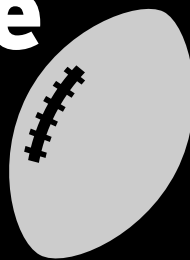
We are organising a social dinner to be held on Saturday 28th March 2009, at 7 for 7.30, at The Red Rose Restaurant, Trinity Hill, for all members of the St John Twining Association. We look forward to seeing all members at the two forthcoming events.

Le Teilleul is a lovely little Normandy village where we all feel at home and are made very welcome by all. Going for a walk around the village means constantly saying 'Bonjour' and having a chat with the inhabitants. We are so lucky to be part of the Twinning Association and benefiting from the friendships!

Anyone interested in joining the Twinning Association, please contact our Secretary, Mrs Myrtle Malzard, on Tel: 862931; or our chairman, Mr Ron Le Herissier, on Tel: 862010.

Myrtle Malzard

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY DURRELL!

On March 26th Durrell celebrated its fiftieth birthday. In order to mark this milestone in the life of this world famous charitable organisation which Jersey is privileged to house, Angela Le Sueur went to meet three senior members of staff who also happen to live in St John.

Dr Stephan M. Funk – Senior Conservation Biologist

What gets Dr Funk up in the morning is his belief that his two young children and all children 'have the right to see a world that is as intact as possible,' even though 'a little bit of nature is lost every day.' He also wishes to offer children an interest more significant than internet games and Big Brother-type TV shows.

Born into a farming / banking / mining family in Saarland – or La Sarre – in an area that has changed hands between France and Germany many times during the last 200 years, Stephan Funk was always 'very connected with nature.' After a first degree in zoology, he specialised in genetics at the Institute of Zoology in London with academic affiliations with UCL and Cambridge University, studied in Bristol and, amongst a string of other qualifications and appointments, became a Research Fellow at the University of Puerto Rico. Stephan describes himself as mainly 'an all-round biologist with a passion for carnivores' – and as such has undertaken projects on foxes, jackals, wolves and spotted hyenas, travelling to and working in China, Croatia, Namibia, Kenya and Chile (where he met his wife) and elsewhere. Whilst based in Puerto Rico he started working for Durrell, providing scientific advice mainly at conservation sites abroad and conservation genetics.

Having given scientific advice for a number of years, as well as teaching short courses in Jersey in recent years whilst he was based in London, Dr Funk took up the position of Senior Conservation Biologist at Durrell Wildlife in Jersey in July 2007. At present he and his family are residing in St John.

Dr Funk's job is very varied. He teaches a masters degree in conservation biology at Imperial College, London, jointly run by Durrell, Imperial College, Kew Gardens and the Zoological Society of London. The students also spend time in Jersey for their studies. This year Durrell hosted 30 MSc students for one month. Other courses involve students from all over the world, who come together in Jersey.

His genetic knowledge has many applications. One of Dr Funk's major projects at Durrell has been to support and provide crucial advice on genetics to the captive breeding programme in Grand Cayman to save the nearly extinct Blue Iguana. (See the photo). He has also worked with lizards in St Lucia, the Pygmy Hog in India and just started genetic work on the Livingstone Fruit Bats in the Comoros. He also feels that there are many important applications for

genetic research in Jersey such as apple trees because they have an interesting bio-diversity.

Passionately dedicated to his conservation work, Dr Funk declares, 'Economically I'm a fool.' Had he followed his fellow students into the pharmaceutical industry, he would have had no trouble in buying a house 'even in Jersey'.



Taken in December 2008 at the Blue Iguana Recovery Meeting in Grand Cayman, where Dr Funk represented Durrell. (All Durrell staff act as "ambassadors" for Jersey when overseas).

Will Masefield - Senior Keeper

Will's journey to Durrell began in Sussex where he grew up on a farm. He studied ancient history at university, and then took a gap year in Zimbabwe teaching history (not ancient!) rugby and cricket, and spending the school holidays visiting the national parks. This experience and the influence of Gerald Durrell's books, made him decide to go into wildlife conservation, so he did an animal management correspondence course, and eleven and a half years ago came to Jersey for nine weeks practical work – and stayed, as a job came up at Durrell.

'It's an exciting place to work,' said Will, who was originally 'eased into the work' by learning on the job. At first he worked mainly with the Orang-utans. He emphasises that not only are there different



species of animals, but different individual characteristics within each species which one gets to know by working with them. Even Livingstone's Fruit Bats have individual character traits! There are 30 of these at Durrell and Will can recognise each one through subtle changes in their natural markings, ear-shape or behavioural traits. This knowledge of individual creatures is very useful when deciding, for example, how to mix animals in as risk-free a manner as possible.

Highlands and islands are core areas of the most threatened 'endemic' species, and work with the Livingstone Fruit Bat has taken Will three times to the Comoros islands in the Indian Ocean to run conservation projects which are as much about people as bats. 'You can't look at wildlife outside people,' says Will. Survival of the forests is essential to the survival of the people of the Comoros. Bats play a major part in conserving the forests because they are seed dispersers. The people clear the forests for subsistence agriculture – otherwise they would not have enough to eat. But after a couple of years these cleared areas lose their fertility – more forest is cleared and bats lose more of their habitat. This vicious circle of deforestation leads to ecological crisis and flash flooding. Forty years ago there were forty rivers in the Comoros – but now there are only seven.

The people need sustainable livelihoods from community-managed, protected areas – so there is much more to a bat project than simply bats.

Back in Jersey Will is also involved in the Jersey Bat Group, which is seeking to help our own, unfairly-maligned, native bats.

Will emphasises that Durrell is a charity. People need to come to Durrell for an exciting day out – to be inspired by wildlife in order to become committed to it. He knows that Durrell is well thought of globally and that Jersey's 'zoo' has accelerated zoos worldwide towards the conservation of animals rather than just exhibition. 'People need to be connected to wildlife-to be inspired by it.'



The photo shows Will with Nikitoire Amir in the Comorian forests, collecting bat poo for genetic analysis! The idea is to find out a lot about the species' population structure without actually disturbing them.

Mark Brayshaw – Mammal Supervisor

Mark Brayshaw, who hails from Romsey, Hampshire always wanted to work in conservation. After studying zoology at university he wrote to Durrell, got a job and has now been here for 16 years.

'Everyone here is passionate about conservation,' says Mark. 'It is a vocation rather than a job. None of us are in this for the money!'

Having worked in all departments, Mark is now chiefly occupied with the enclosure housing the otters and Andean Bears, whose loud calls were a background to our conversation. He has a soft spot for these very strong creatures, but never goes into their enclosure as it's 'their territory' and entering could be dangerous. The main threat to these bears is loss or degradation of habitat – though some have been successfully rehabilitated in South America.



Will with silvery marmoset

Mark describes Gerald Durrell as 'a visionary' in many ways. He was arguably the first to think of captive populations of animals as an insurance against extinction in the wild. Now most zoos worldwide are adopting this policy of study and conservation.

Throughout the world there are now seven hundred Rodrigues Fruit Bats in captivity, housed in thirty institutions. Mark describes these as an 'insurance population'. The origin of this quite large population was Gerald Durrell's capture of 10 bats from the wild – at a time when the total number of these creatures was thought to number less than a hundred. Thankfully through educational initiatives on the island the wild population is recovering, yet remains vulnerable to cyclones.

Mark's dedication to his work is obvious. He speaks with equal enthusiasm about all the creatures mentioned – as well as the Lion Tamarins he has bottle-fed. 'Trying to make a difference' is his summing-up of his work. His enthusiasm must be catching as one of his little daughters wants to look after the otters when she grows up!

Angela Le Sueur

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St John's Recreation Centre

There are various new initiatives to report

Jersey Motor Cycle and Light Car Club

The Jersey Motor Cycle and Light Car Club is a well-established club which encompasses many different forms of motor sport in the island. It is a very successful and active club and has in excess of 600 members.

They have a significant number of meetings each year primarily to organise competitive events and they identified the Centre as being a highly suitable location to accommodate their needs. We are delighted that the Club will be relocating its administrative headquarters to the Centre in April.

They will widen our user profile and bring a significant number of extra visitors to the Centre; we very much look forward to welcoming them.

Squash court refurbishment

The Centre was approached earlier in the year by Nick Taylor who is the Director of Squash and head coach at the Jersey Squash Club. Nick wishes to pursue various initiatives at the Centre to promote squash and racketball with a particular emphasis on introducing more youngsters to the sport.

He produced a proposal for a refurbishment of the squash court. The Centre is very supportive of this initiative and has approved the capital expend-

The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March so hopefully it will have been completed by the time you read this article!

Nick has produced a separate article to cover this initiative which is also featured in this issue of the Star of the North.

Catering operation

Sue Bannister, who is a resident of the parish, is hoping to launch a new healthy cafe/juice bar in the lounge area in the late spring.

The plan is for the lounge to be refurbished and transformed into a comfortable room with a relaxed atmosphere. Families will be welcome with the introduction of a play area to keep children entertained.

The emphasis will be on fresh, locally produced food in order to offer a healthy and high quality menu. The new café will be serving coffees, speciality teas, juices, homemade cakes, sandwiches, salads and light snacks. We believe that the café and the bar will help to revitalise the social aspect of the Centre.

We are very excited about this development as we see it as an important part of the rejuvenation programme which is being rolled out at the Centre.

Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic

John Scriven's clinic specialises in sports fitness and sports injury rehabilitation. John has completely transformed one of the rooms in the Centre and has invested a significant amount of capital in order to create a first class facility.

The Clinic is going from strength to strength. It has proved to be particularly popular with island sports teams who are in preparation for the Island Games and have been taking full advantage of this excellent facility.

John's website is www.strengthandconditioning.com and his contact telephone number is 07797 845446.

Volunteers

We are always on the look-out for people who wish to participate in the improvement programme at the Centre. In particular we would welcome someone who would be prepared to take on the responsibility of overseeing day-to-day maintenance at the Centre. Please feel free to contact me (tel. 861716) if you wish to get involved.

Key contacts for all activities see page 39.



iture to enable it to go-ahead. Much of the work is being done either at preferential rates or on a voluntary basis.

*Angus Spencer-Nairn
Chairman*



LES MATHIONNETTES

'Northern Lights'

Our Northern Light, Agnes Vasselin, was interviewed by Mary Rouillé

Agnes Vasselin, née Michel, was born on the 15th of November 1920 in the Parish of St Peter. Her mother was a housewife and her father worked on a farm for most of his working life. Schooling for Agnes began at St Peter but finished at the age of fourteen in St Martin as the family had moved house.

After leaving school she found employment at a small shop selling groceries in St Martin, but left there to work for Briggs, a department store located on the now Marks and Spencer site in St Helier.

On the 20th of June 1940, Agnes, her mother and sister were evacuated. Her father was to join them later but was prohibited from leaving Jersey as by then the Germans had invaded.

Agnes remembers an extremely rough crossing on the cargo boat, which took them to Weymouth. On arrival in the UK they were met by the local Women's Voluntary Service who supplied them with tea and coffee before they boarded a train to Lancashire. Some of the evacuees went to Bolton; others, including the Michel, family to Oldham. They spent three days in a holding area for evacuees where they were issued with mattresses, blankets and pillows before going with two other families to live in a hostel. Eventually, permanent accommodation was found for each family, with the Michels moving to a house up the road from the hostel, which the locals helped to furnish.

Once a month the Jersey and Guernsey evacuees met in Bolton for a get together and, although they had known each other previously in Jersey, it was here that Agnes met her future husband, Cyril. Cyril had joined the army in 1940, after originally working in an asbestos factory in Bolton. Throughout the war they corresponded and eventually on the 2nd of January 1945 they were married in Oldham.

In 1940 Agnes found a job with a clothes store in the centre of Oldham, but life was to change. When coming back from work one evening she saw a poster requiring girls to volunteer for the Women's Army Territorial Service (ATS). She subsequently

joined up, receiving five shillings for doing so. After attending courses in Lancaster and London, Agnes was posted to the Isle of Man where she performed clerical duties in the orderly room. In 1943 she was transferred to an army base at Cairnryan in Scotland where the ATS girls were housed in Nissen huts with only one stove between twelve of them. Agnes's work was of a highly confidential nature, a job that she found very interesting.

After the war ended, Agnes stayed in Lancashire, finding work in a grocery shop, but her mother and sister returned to Jersey. During his time in the army Cyril had been sent to Iceland and Gibraltar and in 1943 he was posted to Egypt where he was eventually demobilised and sent directly back to Jersey. Agnes was informed of this and arrived by mailboat on the 11th of November 1945. She remembers many people waiting at the harbour for their nearest and dearest to return. Cyril was given leave but then was posted back to Egypt, only to find that he was surplus to requirements. He returned to Jersey, was in Guernsey for two weeks and then spent the remainder of his time in the army, based at Fort Regent.

The couple initially went to live with Cyril's parents who were farmers in St John, and Cyril found a job as a builder's labourer. After his father retired they rented his farmland and in 1951 moved to 'Beau Regard' on La Route de St Jean where his grand-mother lived. When she passed away the house was sold and in 1952 Cyril and Agnes bought it and became arable farmers. Agnes lived at 'Beau Regard' for fifty-four years before moving to the converted outbuildings. Her granddaughter now lives in the main house; her daughter has built a bungalow in the garden, and her grandson lives next door.

Today, Agnes spends her time knitting garments for sale at the British Legion coffee morning, playing indoor bowls and attending the Golden Age Club once a month.





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**Here's to a
good summer!**

A Bétôt (Goodbye) Mr Butel

David Butel, stalwart of St John's Youth Project (formerly Youth Club) has decided, after 14 years of service, to 'hang up his hat' and retire this Easter.

David has lived in St John for around 29 years and had his thirst for youth work triggered off when he took his eldest daughter, Tara, aged 7½ at the time, to a rehearsal for one of the Arts Alive shows. Here he met Club Leaders, Marlene and Tony Lilley and seeing that there was a shortage of adult helpers present he asked if he could help out with the staging and back-drops. Enjoying the experience so much he then went on to help out with activities in the main hall at the Centre and was 'hooked' from then onwards.

In the early days his role was really just low key, helping out where he was required. He then attended a Youth Foundation Course run by the Youth Service which, he states, aided him tremendously in his approach to the youngsters and also helped to keep a balance between friendship and authority. He agrees that obviously mistakes were made from time to time but he feels that on the whole this only provided a continual learning curve.

Amongst his most memorable events that gave him the most satisfaction he mentions the Arts Alive Shows. Helping with sketches etc. and seeing the finished product with the youngsters enjoying themselves gave a warm glow and the Club Weekend Camps at Crabbé and St Aubin's Fort have also provided much fun, albeit a little tiring. David also feels there is great satisfaction that can be had from listening to and helping youngsters to sort through problems and issues.

At this present time David is responsible for introducing the musical aspect to the Club through firstly drumming sessions and subsequently bringing in guitar and keyboard. Although retiring he intends to continue attending from time to time in order to encourage and oversee this activity.

His main pet hate whilst serving as a Junior 'Worker' has been the administration side. Although he can see that there is a necessity for this he gets really frustrated in having to spend the time to complete forms etc. when he could be interacting with the youngsters.

David would like to state that he is extremely grateful to Sean Matthews for 'volunteering' to take over the Junior Section. It has always been one enormous concern of his that when the time came for him to retire there would not be anyone willing to take the role on and the section would have to close. He is also very pleased and proud that some of his past juniors are now returning to help out and

give something back to their Club. He also hopes that the parental support that he has been lucky to have had over the years will continue to be given to Sean who will, needless to say, need all he can get.

Finally, I asked David, what was he going to do with all this spare time he will now have and he replied that he intends to spend more time with his wife, Sue, who has always supported him over the years and he looks forward to

being able to accept the odd invitation to functions on Friday nights, a thing he has not been able to do for many a year.

Beinvnu (Welcome) Mr Matthews

Twenty-four-year-old, Sean Matthews also resides in St John. Sean had an early introduction to youth work whilst in his last year at St Lawrence School. Then at the age of 16 he stayed on to help which, being just a young lad himself, proved a considerable challenge. It did however give him some tremendous learning experiences in how to deal with youngsters.

Sean became attached to St John's Youth Club some five years ago now having taken over the Senior Section from his mother. Sadly this section ceased but Sean decided to help with the Intermediate Group instead, in the hope that the senior group would recommence at some stage.

In reply to my question as to what had prompted him to take over the Juniors from David, Sean stated that he was keen not to see the section close and there was also an added incentive that a part-time, paid, youth worker would be supplied for the older groups, freeing him to work with the younger section. Having worked with a wide range of ages, Sean is aware that working with the junior age group is quite different in many aspects including having to



Hello Sean, Goodbye Dave



be more of a rôle setter.

Sean hopes that there will be no major hurdles for him to overcome but states that he is fully aware that some parents, because of his age, might not be too receptive to any disciplinary decisions that he might have to bring into being but he is confident that this hurdle, should it arise, will be short-lived.

Sean is looking forward to taking up his new rôle after the Easter break and tells me he has many ideas in mind which he hopes will be welcomed and help to bring the Junior Section into the 21st century.

David and Sean would both like to take this opportunity to thank all who presently come along and help out and sincerely trust that they will continue to do so. They would also like to stress that more helpers would be welcomed with open arms especially if they come with some expertise which could be passed on to the youngsters.

In closing, I am sure that you would like me to pass on your sincere thanks to both these gallant gentlemen for their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication in helping to mould our youngsters into responsible citizens of the future.

Rosemary Dupré



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ST JOHN'S YOUTH PROJECT

(Formerly known as St John's Youth Club)

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**Honorary Treasurer
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plus**

General Committee Members

**The purpose of the
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is to offer support and guidance to
the Workers and provide extra funding
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**The Chairman, Darren Dupré
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Your guide to recycling in St John

Our Parish kerbside recycling collection has been running for two and a half years and during that time we have collected over two hundred tonnes of paper, cans and plastic bottles for recycling – equivalent to the weight of nine large Aurigny aircraft full of passengers and their luggage! Other Parishes are starting to follow our example as St Lawrence, St Mary and Trinity are launching similar schemes this year.

To help you continue to get the most out of the Parish recycling collection, here is a guide for you to cut out and keep:

Material	What can and can't be recycled?	Helpful tip	Where can I recycle this?
Paper 	 newspapers, magazines, sheet paper, shredded paper, envelopes & catalogues  telephone directories, plastic bags & cardboard	Remove the plastic wrapping from junk mail and newspaper supplements before recycling the contents	Monthly parish kerbside collection Recycling bank in the Village Precinct
Plastic Bottles 	 drink bottles, shampoo bottles & detergent bottles  DIY bottles (i.e. paint thinner), bottle tops & other plastics i.e. pots, tubs & plastic packaging	Only plastic bottles are collected for recycling. Yoghurt pots, meat trays, etc. are not currently suitable for recycling	Monthly parish kerbside collection Recycling bank in the Village Precinct
Cans 	 aluminium drink cans, steel food tins, foil, foil trays & aerosol cans  Plastic lids & unwashed cans	Rinse your cans in the sink at the end of the washing up	Monthly parish kerbside collection Recycling bank in the Village Precinct
Glass 	 clean bottles & jars  bottle tops, jar lids, food & liquid residue	Pieces of broken crockery can also be put in your glass bin	Monthly parish kerbside collection

Your paper, plastic bottles and cans are collected once a month on the same day as the glass collection, either the first Thursday or Friday of the month.

Please contact the Parish Hall if you need further information on the Parish recycling collection, Tel. 861999 or Email stjohn@posj.gov.je

Happy recycling!

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BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

for the United Reformed Church

Sion Chapel

As you enter Sion village from the south, you will pass on your left the dramatic classical façade of the Methodist Chapel which was built in 1880. But just 200 metres further north on the right hand side is a small, almost non-descript terracotta building which has a particular place in the history of Christianity in Jersey. This is the oldest nonconformist chapel in Jersey and this year it is celebrating its bicentenary.

Acquisition of land

In April 1809, a land contract was passed by the Royal Court by which a small patch of land on the edge of the main St John Road, belonging to Mr Jean Le Sueur of Beauverd, was given to Reverend François Perrot. Reverend Perrot and his brother Clement had been the pioneers in establishing nonconformist churches in the Channel Islands. Their first church had been established on the site of the present church in Halkett Place. It was very popular and attracted a congregation from all over the island. By 1809, those who lived in the northern parishes wanted to establish a chapel closer to their homes. The site chosen was the northern end of Sion village.

The construction of the sanctuary was a communal effort. The local families collected building materials and transported them to the site in carts. The building of the walls in rough granite was crude but robust since they still form the exterior of the sanctuary to the present day. Originally it was a rectangular building with an earthen floor and a thatched roof. There would have been no pews or organ but probably a functional pulpit and communion table.

The building of the church was completed within a year and the first church service was held in 1810. The church was finally designated as independent of the Halkett Place congregation in 1812. At that time there were 62 members and a substantial Sunday School of 282 children.

Manse and Library built

Throughout, the church has known its good and bad times. In 1850 the church was to construct a Manse just north of the present sanctuary and in 1880 a substantial library was added to the north wall of the Sanctuary. It contained a number of spiritual books



available for research purposes as well as a lecture room for the dissemination of religious education.

Secret listening

In the 20th century the church remained a vibrant and active community. Older members remember lively social events, exciting church services, and a community of the Holy Spirit. In the Second World War, the then minister, Reverend Corrin, refused to hand in his wireless to the German occupying forces. After each Sunday service he would invite a few members of the church to adjourn to the substantial church organ and through a small door this small group would enter the centre of the pipe organ hidden from view and listen to BBC broadcasts so that local morale could be maintained during those dark days.

However, there have been times when the church was close to closing. In 1886 a number of the members had savings in the Jersey Banking Company which collapsed and therefore they suffered severe losses. Consequently the minister, Reverend Binet, offered to accept a reduction in his stipend (salary) to assist the church during these difficult times. However, financial concerns continued to affect the church. In 1900, relations between the minister, Reverend Van der Beken, and members broke down over the lack of finance for building repairs. As a consequence, the minister decided to establish a new chapel in Sion and refused to vacate the Manse until he felt his arrears in salary had been met. This led to a major split in the church with a third of the members worshipping at the new chapel. It was many years before this wound was healed.

However, through all its tribulations the church has continued to grow and develop. In the last few years the church has been completely renovated to meet the needs of a spiritual centre for the 21st Century. Over the next year, the church will be celebrating its bicentenary with a series of events. Between 3rd and 5th April there will be an art exhibition in the church. On April 26th at 3pm the church will be holding its bicentenary service and then from June 12th to 14th there will be a flower festival. Finally, later in the year there will be a grand concert.

Michael Sheldrake



Tackling the credit crunch by going back to traditional values

I think we would be naïve to suggest that the credit crunch is not, in some shape or form, affecting each of us. Perhaps we are in a better position to weather the storm in Jersey than if we were living in the UK, however news of redundancies and pay freezes have not escaped our shores.

Magazines and newspapers are bombarding us with 'Ten Ways to beat the Credit Crunch'. However, on reflection much of which is being advised, to me, is common sense. Perhaps the credit crunch is a wake-up call to us all that over the years we have become complacent and even wasteful in our daily lives.



Those Islanders who lived through the Occupation will still have 'waste not want not' embedded on their minds and that ethos is often passed down through the generations. We are being encouraged to 'cook from scratch' and resist buying expensive ready made meals, however this is what our parents and grandparents practised as the norm. With the increase in levels of obesity and the trend towards eating meals in front of the TV, maybe again this is a wake up call and not only would families save money, we might see the social benefits of families eating healthy food together.

I would appeal to landowners in St John who have fields or land that is lying unused, to come forward and offer it as possible allotments for those wishing to grow their own vegetables but who don't have the land themselves.

Statistics show that there has been a huge increase in the enrolment of adults on to DIY courses and sewing classes. Sewing machine manufacturers have also seen a huge increase in sales that shows a correlation in people's desire to become more self-sufficient. In essence perhaps we are moving away from 'the throwaway society' and returning to traditional practices. Our grandmothers would never

have dreamed of throwing away socks without having darned them a dozen times!

In business it is a time to take stock and look at our working practices – a time to trim down possibly. In our business we are seeing companies enclosing marketing material with other documents, such as when mailing out invoices. This will be saving them postage as well as other costs. Organisations are re-evaluating their working practices and as a result are making their operations leaner and more efficient.

Out of my staff of 14, well over half either cycle, walk or share lifts to work which is a real proactive stance against the rising costs of parking and fuel, and a conscious decision to reduce their carbon footprint. They are going back to when our parents thought nothing of walking everywhere through necessity.

Let us hope that the recession will be short lived with not too many resultant casualties in Jersey and that those who survive will come out even stronger.

Andrew Lewis

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ST JOHN FOOTBALL CLUB

JAYSON LEE

Earlier this year, St John player, Jason Lee, collapsed while playing for St John and died soon after in hospital.

Jayson was a great servant of the club in many capacities. He played centre half and was always strong and tenacious in the tackle, and a great header of the ball. He was also a great manager, who achieved something no other manager has achieved and that was to win all four trophies available to the Ladies team, in one season. During the 2005-06 season, St John Ladies won the League, Zenith Cup, Colin Welsh Cup and the Upton in Guernsey. In the last year Jayson was player manager of the C team.

Jayson was a real gentleman; he lived life with a smile on his face and was always positive, and

always committed 110%. Football and St John's FC was in his blood, and his successes were many. He was an all-round great guy and will be sorely missed by all associated with St John's FC

Recently, we held a social 'race night' at the Townhouse in St Helier. Funds were collected both in aid of the club, but also as donation to Hospice (Jayson's chosen charity – he was a great supporter of this cause). A great night was had by all, and in addition we collected nearly £500 for Hospice, including a £170 donation from the guys (Ryan, Chris, Mark and others) who won the last race. A big thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to Pete Herridge who encouraged us all to spend, spend, spend, and Richard Trott for organising a terrific evening.

Club News

As the 2008-09 season draws to a close, we find that while our League positions are nothing to brag about, we have reached two finals. The club is gradually building in strength and attracting new members, all of which bodes well for our future.

Jayson Lee Memorial Trophy

St John Over-40's will play St Peter Over-40's at Springfield, Thursday April 16th (7.30 pm kick off) for the Jayson Lee Memorial Trophy. It is the Veterans' Knock-out Final and is a tribute match for Jayson. All funds will be donated to Hospice.

We do hope that you will come along and lend your support.

St John FC – 90 Years old

This year St John Football club is celebrating 90 years as a football club, having being formed in 1919 after the First World War. We are planning an autumn dinner to celebrate and would like to invite all members of the St John FC community, past and present, but especially past, as it is the efforts of many throughout the years that has made the club what it is today. I will include details in the next edition of Star.

We are trying to compile and digitise old photos, or newspaper clippings about the club, and would be very interested in hearing from anyone who has stories or old photos about St John FC. In fact they don't

need to be old, just pre-date the digital age. I have included a copy of the oldest team photo that we have, but unfortunately do not have any names. We would be very interested to hear from anyone, who may recognise a family member or friend.

Annual Dinner

The Annual dinner will be held at the Hotel Ambassadeur, St Clement on Saturday 18th April. It is a chance for all members and supporters, past and present, to get together. It will be £25 per head, including entertainment and we are planning a coach from St John's church to the Ambassadeur, returning after (if enough people). You are all cordially invited.



Raffle

Our major fundraiser, the annual raffle, will be drawn 18th April at the Annual Dinner. The first Prize is an all-expenses trip to Madrid for two nights, to watch a match at the Bernabau stadium. The prize includes flights, hotel stay and two tickets for a Real Madrid home match during the 2009/10 season.

Further prizes are: 2nd Prize £500; 3rd Prize £200; 4th Prize £100; 5th Prize £50. Plus 5 consolation prizes.

There are a maximum of 1000 tickets, each for £5. Go on, why not buy one? You have one in a thousand chance of two tickets to a Real Madrid match – pretty good odds!

Cory Cup Final

St John Under-14 team, under the direction of Adrian Dixon, have reached the Final of the Cory Cup. The match will be played at Springfield on Thursday April 28th, kick off at 7.30pm. Good luck - We hope that some of you will come and cheer them on!

Club Officials

With the 2008/09 season drawing to conclusion, our thoughts are already turning next season. We are on the lookout for volunteers to help out on match days, ranging from those who are willing to help run a team, and take training, to those who just want to come along on match days and help set up. We have

one lad who is training to be a referee, who runs the line at every first team match. He is learning while being part of the St John FC community.

Car Boot Sales

The football club is currently in discussions to re-start the Sunday Car Boot Sales. The in-door sales during the winter were cancelled. With the onset of spring and warmer weather, we would like to introduce an outdoor car boot sale on every Sunday during the summer, starting in April.

Thanks

I would thank all of you that have supported St John FC in whatever capacity. To Chris Murray who has sponsored the first team match balls this season. To Rod Ellis who has made a donation to the club based on the number of goals the first team score this season. To Gary Syvret who has donated his time in making repairs to the changing rooms at the St John Centre (Recreation), and to an anonymous donor who has purchased the Under-12 football kit. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to each and every one of you that has supported St John FC.

Nigel Perrée, President

Please contact Nigel Perrée 865113 if you would like any further information about St John FC

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Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival 2009

A community festival for all the family is to take place at Bonne Nuit Harbour from 11am – 11pm on Saturday 18th July 2009.

The event is being organised by the recently formed Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival Committee,



whose chair is Neil Cotillard (07797 797834) with members from the Bonne Nuit Boat Owners; the Parish Church; the school PTA; the municipal parish; with the additional active support of St John's W.I.

The day will begin, in bright sunshine, with a fancy dress procession down to the bay by children from St John's school, followed by a performance from the School African drum band. School head, Mr Andrew Willis, said, 'We're thrilled to be invited to participate in what promises to be a really great and enjoyable community event.'

Games on the beach, including a 'SAND-CASTLE COMPETITION' and 'FIND THE BURIED TREASURE' are being organised by the PTA to run from 12noon through till 3pm, whilst there will also be a HAY BALE ADVENTURE SITE at the top of the beach around from the café.

Later on in the afternoon, there will be a TUG-OF-WAR competition. So if you've got a few friends, do consider entering a team? Or why not get a few colleagues together from work, to see if you can win the inaugural Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival tug-of-war competition?

Throughout the afternoon and evening there will be entertainment from the stage that is to be erected opposite the boat owners hut. In the afternoon, there will be 'BONNIE-BABY' and 'KNOBBLY KNEES' competitions along with a 'SEAFOOD CHALLENGE,' for our local politicians and parish officials. In the evening there'll be the 'YARD-OF-ALE' with live music throughout the day from up-and-coming LOCAL BANDS.

There'll be stalls selling local produce down the slip road and along the harbour wall, including 'THAI FOOD; BAR and 'OX ROAST'.

Naturally the bay itself will be shut to traffic during the day, with a minibus shuttle service operating from the primary parking location, which is a large field at Les Platons.

Admission will be kept to a minimum of just £2.00 for adults, whilst additional funding will be received through a grand prize draw with a thousand £5 tickets available from mid-June and a £1,000 first prize. At the time of writing there remains an opportunity for companies to show their support as official sponsors of the event.

Proceeds, after setting aside funding for 2010, will be divided equally between St John's school PTA; St John's Parish Church; Bonne Nuit Boat Owners; and Help a Jersey Child.

If you'd like to get involved in supporting this exciting community event in a practical way then do please join us at an open meeting, which is to be held in St John's Hotel at 7.30pm on Monday 11th May.

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

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

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PARISH DIARY - April 2009 to August 2009

APRIL

Fri 3rd		Last day of school term
Wed 8th	7.30pm	St John's WI meet in the Parish Hall.
Thurs 9th	8.00pm	Tenebrae Service at URC
Fri 10th	10.30am	Good Friday Worship in the Parish Church
Sun 12th		Easter Day
Wed 22nd		Back to School
Sun 26th	3.00pm	Service at the URC to celebrate their 200th Anniversary
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 29th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

MAY

Sat 2nd	9.15am	Parish Clean, organised by the Parish Church and school
Wed 13th	7.30pm	St John's WI meeting. Venue to be confirmed
Sun 17th	11.00am	Celebration of Education service in the parish church with the participation of St John's school
Wed 20th	3.00pm	School Pop-in day – EVERYONE WELCOME – not just school families!!!
Fri 22nd		Last day of school half-term
Tues 26th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo
Wed 27th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting

JUNE

Mon 1st		Back to School
Wed 10th	7.30pm	St John's WI meeting
Fri 12th – Sun 14th		Flower Festival at the URC
Sun 21st	11.00am	Celebration of Baptism service in the Parish Church
Sun 21st	4.00pm	St John's Group of Churches Sea Sunday Service at Bonne Nuit
Wed 24th		Golden Age afternoon tea outing
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo

JULY

Sat 4th		Sark to Jersey Rowing Race finishes at Bonne Nuit
Wed 8th	7.30pm	St John's WI meeting
Fri 10th	1pm-4pm	School Chelsea Flower Show – EVERYONE WELCOME
Fri 17th		Last day of school summer term
Sat 18th	11am – 11pm	Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo
Wed 29th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting

AUGUST

Sun 23rd.	11.00am	Beach Service at Bonne Nuit, organised by the Parish Church
Wed 26th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting.

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 3rd		Back to School
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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.

St John's Parish Contacts

Archery – Martin Pomroy – 855479
 Badminton – Joan Streets – 863505
 Bell ringing – Justin Read – 888484
 Bingo – Muriel Poisson – 863184
 Bonne Nuit Boat Owners – Linda Carter – 864828
 Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival – Neil Cotillard – 077977 97834
 Brownies – Donna Tupper – 865728
 Carpet Bowls – Shirley Caurel – 863825
 Constable – Graeme Butcher – 862450
 Deputy – Phil Rondel – 861455
 Editor (Star) – Angela le Sueur – 863994
 Football club – Nigel Perree – 865113
 Friends of Bonne Nuit – Gary Romeril – 861972
 Golden Age Club – Wendy Rondel – 863667
 Gymnastics – Michelle Ollivro-Murphy – 870188
 Honorary Police – 866560
 Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic – John Scriven – 07797 845446
 Les Frères Mother Toddler and Baby Group – Sharon Day – 725224
 Parish Church – Rev Andy Thewlis – 861677
 Parish Hall – 861999
 School – 861692
 Shooting Club – John Renouf – 861908
 Sion Methodist Church – Liz Blampied – 853888
 Sion Pre-school Nursery – Liz Blampied – 853888
 St John's Youth & Community Trust – Andrew Lewis – 862663
 Tennis – Tina Spencer-Nairn – 861716
 Twining Association – Ron Le Herissier – 862010
 Women's Institute – Myrtle Malzard – 862931
 Untied Reformed Church – Rev Patrick McManus – 861386
 Youth Club – Darren Dupré – 865728



St John's Village Inn

Telephone 864690

MEAL TIMES

Breakfast 9:30 to 11a.m.

Lunch 12:00 to 3p.m.

Dinner 6:00 to 9p.m.

Sunday Lunch

12:00 to 4p.m.



Telephone 864690

Karaoke every
second Saturday
from 9pm to 11pm
Alternating with live
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.**

CALLING ALL ST JOHN'S YOUNG LADIES

Are you resident in the Parish and aged 18 or over by 1st AUGUST 2009?

Well your Parish NEEDS YOU

We are currently on the look out for entrants for our

MISS ST JOHN COMPETITION

on Saturday 2nd May, 2009

at Cheval Roc Hotel

There is a cash Prize of £150 for the winning contestant, plus sash and automatic entry into this year's Miss Battle of Flowers Competition.

The Runner-Up will receive £75 and may also enter the Miss Battle of Flowers Competition if she wishes.

We would like to impress upon you all that it is NOT a beauty competition, just a chat with a friendly interviewer as to your hopes and interests, in front of your supporters and panel of independent judges.

SO COME ON GIRLS!

Please get in touch with Barbara Collins on 861975 or Rosemary Dupré 866880 to find out more. We are waiting for your call.....

