

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



Parish of St John

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FROM ST JOHN TO SUZHOU

St John's School will lose its head, Andrew Willis, for the next school year, as he leaves the Parish of the North for the Venice of the East. Report by ALASDAIR CROSBY

ETON House – it sounds an English sort of name, and on 1 August Andrew Willis, the head of St John's School, will be travelling with his wife, Janet, and two children Lucy and Rosie, on a year's career break to work at this independent primary school.

But Eton House, as English as it might sound, is situated one hour by train west from Shanghai, on the lower Yang-Tse, in the historic town of Suzhou. It is a town that has been called 'the Venice of China' because of its rivers and canals, beautiful stone bridges, pagodas, and meticulously designed gardens.

All a bit different from St John, so, in a word – why?

'Principally,' he said, 'because our two children were adopted from China, so we wanted a shared experience of there as a family, so that we could understand better the life and culture of China, and could talk about it and share it together.'

'When we adopted Lucy and Rosie, we really felt that we had been adopted by them as much as they had been adopted by us, and that part of us was linked to China as well as to Jersey and the UK. We thought that with Lucy aged 8 and going into Year 5, and Rosie aged 5, now was the time to make such a trip before it disrupted their future secondary education.'

Eton House teaches the International Baccalaureate Primary Years programme – an exciting curriculum, he said, from which they would learn much, and which he has already investigated to see what lessons might be applied to Jersey primary education. So professionally as well as personally he looks forward to teaching in China as a valuable and stimulating experience.

There are lots of international schools in Suzhou, as one might expect in a town known as 'the Venice of China', and Eton House is owned by a Singapore-



based company that has six schools in China. On arrival, the first two weeks will consist of training and a conference of all the Eton House Schools getting

In this issue:

Miss St John – URC Celebrations – Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival – Local artist – Bionic Man

together at the Suzhou branch, to discuss the International Baccalaureate. The other teachers are mainly Australian, New Zealand and Canadians. The children are a mixture of nationalities: about 40 per cent are Koreans, reflecting the fact that there are plenty of Korean companies with branches in Suzhou, western ex-pat children – and some Chinese children. The teaching is in English, with daily Mandarin lessons.

It is not the same part of China from where their children come – but it is only a train ride away – and because they finish at Eton House at the end of term in June 2010, there will be plenty of time for the family to travel around China.

The girls – at present at Grouville School – are very excited, of course, about their trip to China (just a bit worried about missing their friends). The whole family are learning Mandarin Chinese at the moment, but because there are so many different dialects

within China, they are not quite sure how useful it might be – rather like a Chinese person learning standard English and then trying to practise that in Glasgow.

By the start of the Autumn term in 2010 Mr Willis will be once more back at St John's School. In the meantime, deputy head Trudie de la Haye will be the acting head during his absence, and Liz Muir and Lynn Parkes will be acting deputies, so it will be 'business as usual' while he is away in China.

But – not the least part of the adventure will be the return trip: catching a train from Shanghai, and taking the Trans-Mongolian Railway across Central Asia, and then joining up with the Trans-Siberian Railway, which will carry them across the Russian steppes to St Petersburg, and then homewards through the European railway system.

'Shanghai to St Malo by train (and ferry to Jersey),' he said. 'Some journey!'

2009 Miss St John Competition

At the beginning of May the Cheval Roc Hotel once again hosted our annual 'Miss St John' Competition.

This year we were lucky enough to have three young ladies of our parish come forward (without any arm twisting from us this time I hasten to add !) which made the event even more enjoyable.

The three contestants, all aged 18 and friends from Hautlieu School, were Tallie Renouf, Jessica Stanier and Chloe Howell-Jackson.



Chloe Howell-Johnson, Tallie Renouf and Jessica Stanier

The judges for the competition this year were, Jurat-elect Geoffrey Fisher, Mrs Liz Fisher and Mrs Mary Karch, and the evening was attended by approximately 45 parishioners, supporters and friends.

Once again Barbara Collins, despite having been suffering from a loss of voice earlier in the week, ably compered the interviews, giving the girls an

opportunity to give us an insight to their backgrounds, interests and hopes for the future. In order to give the judges time to deliberate and come to a decision we were all treated to an extremely enjoyable hot buffet prepared by Ian and Maya Florence and staff of the Cheval Roc Hotel

Regretfully our Constable, Graham Butcher, was out of the island and unable to attend and our Deputy, Phil Rondel, had a previous engagement but both sent their apologies and best wishes, therefore it fell upon Jurat-elect Geoffrey Fisher to announce the winner and present the sash.

In doing so, he stated that the judges had had an extremely difficult time in separating the three contestants as they had all conducted themselves very well and had given those present an interesting and amusing evening. He then presented the Miss St John 2009 Winner Sash to Jessica Stanier, naming Tallie Renouf as runner up and Chloe Howell-Jackson in third place.

St John Battle of Flowers Association Chairman, Michel Larose, congratulated the girls and presented them with their relevant cheques and 9 year old Brooke Collins presented them each with a small bouquet of roses.

The evening was brought to a close with a small in-house raffle organised by Muriel Poisson, Mary Daley and Pauline Caurel and sincere thanks were given to all who had very generously donated prizes or had helped out in any way.

Rosemary Dupré

St John's Twinning Association



twinning, and to keep the friendship ongoing we would like more families to join. Contact can be made by phoning the secretary Mrs M. Malzard on 862931.

Ron Le Herrisier, President

On the weekend of April 25th and 26th a party of thirty-four members of our parish twinning association, travelled to Le Teilleul in Normandy, the town with which St John is twinned.

We were met by our hosts and taken to their respective homes, where with usual French custom a meal was served. The afternoon was spent en famille and most visited places of interest in the surrounding countryside.

In the evening we all went to the local sports complex where a vin d'honneur in our honour was hosted by the mayor of Le Teilleul, M. Jean Bizet, who is also a senator in the French Senate.

Our visit usually coincides with the Fête de St George which the French seem to celebrate more than the English. We joined over five hundred people to a meal and entertainment.

On Sunday morning most of our group, along with our hosts, went to the square where there was



M. Jean Bizet, mayor of Le Teilleul, welcomes the St John's party led by Ron Le Herissier together with Mrs Le Herissier and Mme Christine Seigneul, the President of Le Teilleul Twinning.

an excellent display of vintage cars and a small fair, and also, as the French say, 'un spectacle'. Where but in France would you close the main street to hold a pig race? All the pigs were numbered so that you could place your bets on your particular favourite. Nobody from our party made his fortune!

At lunch time we then adjourned to a local hotel for another meal. After bidding our hosts a fond farewell, we then returned by coach to St Malo.

Amongst our group this year were three new families, two of which had young children. They all spoke highly of their first trip, and thoroughly enjoyed their first twinning experience.

Next year will be the 25th anniversary of our

Editorial

The first Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival on July 18th was enjoyed by almost 2,000 people – I hope the pictures in this edition bring back happy – if damp – memories! This was a real community event, reflecting the spirit of the Parish of St John. Thanks are due to many people – but here it is appropriate to single out the Star distributors who did an extra round to deliver Festival flyers to every home in the parish. Thank you!

Bon voyage

We say au revoir to St John's School head, Andrew Willis who, with his wife, Janet, and daughters, is to spend a year in China, where Andrew will be teaching in a very different environment. We wish them a happy, interesting and fulfilling time – and look forward to reading all about it in future editions of Star.

Deadline for our December edition is November 9th

Twenty-five people contributed to this edition – maybe you will be our next writer? Please 'Think Star' as you work for the community, both in the parish, the Island or the wider world. Share with us the interests and activities you enjoy, as well as travels and unusual experiences. If you have an axe to grind, maybe we can publish your views.

If you would like to join our team of distributors, please let us know. The larger the team, the shorter the rounds!

The editorial team hopes you will enjoy reading this varied edition which describes a broad range of interests and activities in which parishioners are involved both in and off the island.

Finally, thanks to our advertisers, writers, printers and distributors who have been responsible for bringing you Issue 18. Happy reading!

Angela Le Sueur, Editor

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Tel: 863994. or Email: ambles@jerseymail.co.uk*



DEAR PARISHIONERS

Maison Le Vesconte

Many of you will have noticed that we have been undertaking a development on numbers 9-12 Maison Le Vesconte. These units were bedsitters and the development has changed them into modern one bedroom units including wet rooms instead of baths and showers. I am pleased to say that all of these units are now fully occupied.

In the near future we have some other units becoming available once redecorated. Should any parishioner be interested in being considered for any available units, please give the Parish Hall a call and an application form will be sent to you.

Parish Hall

The refurbishment of the Parish Hall is well underway now with the anticipated finish in spring 2010. We are undertaking the work in the same way that the New Rectory was done, and I would ask all parishioners to be patient with us as we are operating in very cramped conditions for the duration of the work.

I do not have an office at the Parish Hall whilst the



Branchage tea at Bonne Nuit

work is going on but can meet anyone either at the parish hall or at my home. I can be contacted at home 862450 or mobile 07797-737966 or the Parish Hall 861999.

Millennium Cross

I have had some flower troughs placed around the seating area on La Rue du Nord. I think that we have one of the best locations for the parish millennium crosses. The area deserved some colour and I hope that it will be appreciated for the future.



Branchage

There has been a phenomenal amount of growth on the banks and hedgerows this year. A number of banks have been cut early and the cuttings have been left on the roadside in the hope that the elements will remove them prior to the Visite du Branchage but if the cuttings are not picked up we end up with blocked drains and flooding. I ask everyone that does cutting to please pick up as soon as possible.

Being unable to use the Parish Hall committee room for after-visit tea and cakes, we went to Bonne Nuit Café and were looked after very well.

Parish Rate

By the time that this article is read you will have had your rates bills and hopefully will be pleased that we have been able to keep the rate the same as last year. The all-island rate has gone up a little and of course we have no control over that.

Connétable Election

I am being asked by many parishioners if I am standing for re-election at the end of this year. I am happy to confirm that I WILL DEFINITELY be standing. Whilst the team and I have achieved a lot in 2½ years, we still have a number of things that we would like to achieve, none of which will have an

effect on the parish rate.

Ann and I have enjoyed our roles in the parish over the past two and a half years and look forward to another term, Parishioners willing. I have been very fortunate to have had Ann's full support, which is an extremely important asset for the role of Connétable.

*Graeme Butcher
Connétable*



Sion Pre-School

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

Last term we focused on Dinosaurs and as usual the children delighted us with their enthusiasm. Dinosaurs graced every inch of the school, all species of dinosaurs made out of anything and everything. The children used a range of media to create the most amazing display measuring 15' x 3' – There were some wonderful comments from parents and visitors. One little boy was so taken by this topic that his dad took him to the Natural History Museum, an experience that he really enjoyed. Together we have written 'The Dinosaur Rap'. The children love singing and doing the actions – this will be one of the songs at the Leavers' Concert.

Penny brought her puppy (Pickles) into school and explained how to care for him. The children enjoyed brushing him and thought his antics were hilarious. A month or so later a puppy ran down the car park and sat at the gate looking in. We thought he must be lost so we let him in. The children quickly put their new skills into practice, fetching bowls of water and blankets, patting him gently and using little voices. Due to his having a name tag his owner quickly retrieved him.

Summer term and at last the sunshine shows itself! Our topics this term are holidays and transport so there have been plenty of sand and water activities. Recycling cardboard boxes, the children have made a small aircraft complete with headphones and control panel and all manner of other vehicles.

Sion Teddy has already been on a number of holidays – Italy, Lihou, England, Egypt, and twice to France – the children enjoy taking him away and the photos become more and more adventurous each year. This year he has ridden on a camel and been down a water-slide. On his return the children proudly show their photos and recall their holiday fun at circle time.

The last few weeks of term will be very busy with last minute rehearsals, a Teddy Bears Picnic (raising funds for CLIC Sargent), and a farewell party on the last day of term. No doubt there will be a few tears shed when we say our goodbyes to those moving on, but we wish them luck as they make their transition to primary school.

Have a fabulous summer.

Julie Renouf

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to the doctor?**

Because he felt crummy



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Deputy Phil Rondel

Returning to the Office of Deputy was like coming home after a long holiday – I'm pleased to be back.

With my return to the States on 8th December 08 it has been a busy six months getting updates with both parochial and States issues.

Within the Parish I, along with the Constable and others, have been trying to resolve the issue of a site for skate-boarding and trying, along with other States Departments, to secure a site that we hope would not be controversial for a local haulage company – both these are progressing.

I have also been contacted by residents in out-lying areas of the parish who require mains services and this is on-going. I also sit on the Maison Le Vesconte Trust which has recently allocated a number of new units.

As promised, after several months in office, a meeting was held in April in the Parish Hall to update parishioners. Some 50 parishioners attended. This went well and I shared the platform with the Constable. The meeting lasted approximately two hours and a whole range of topics was covered. Hopefully another meeting will be held in the autumn.

In doing my bit for the environment I invested in a scooter and had been doing well until skidding on a dirty road. Now I'm sporting a black and blue thigh and my scooter didn't fair any better with bumps and scratches!

In the States

In the States, I have been elected as Chairman of the Environmental Scrutiny Panel which reviews works to be undertaken by the Planning and Environment Ministry and Transport and Technical Services Ministry. The Panel is also conducting several reviews, namely Ramsar, Energy, Liquid Waste and Recycling, plus much more within the Planning and Environment, and Transport and Technical Services remit.

Currently being undertaken is the Ramsar review which covers issues to do with the impact of possible water and air pollution from the energy from waste plant being built at La Collette which abuts the Ramsar site, this being a wetland Site of Special Interest, and this is of concern to many Islanders.

The Energy Review covers the savings that should and could be made across all States departments and buildings. It also looks at the three main suppliers of energy – electricity, gas and oil. Both of these reviews are mid-way through the process.

Within other areas of the States I have been active in putting propositions forward and suc-



cessfully taken a code of conduct on States members to the assembly which was accepted 43/7. However I was unsuccessful in bringing forward a review of Government Reform. It appears that members had no appetite for more reform as this was heavily defeated.

At the time of writing I currently have several other propositions awaiting debate – (a) defer work on the waterfront, (b) Committee of Inquiry into the secret police files on Islanders and States members, with an in-committee debate preceding the States debate on this proposition. This is a procedure rarely used by the States. I believe that in my time in the House I have only ever sat through two such debates in 12 years in the assembly. This procedure allows members to speak more than once and ask questions of non-States members who are permitted into the Chamber for the debate.

In other States debates I have been sparring across the chamber with other members and of course, had one or two rebuffs from the Chair – all part of politics. One must always respect the view of the Chair and other members, no matter how outlandish they may be. Likewise the President/Speaker of the House has a devil of a job at times. Some members appear not to understand that whoever chairs a meeting has a difficult job to do given there are 53 elected people who did not get into politics by not being vocal!

In my first six months I have renewed many acquaintances with many parishioners and taken on many issues across the parish and island. Some I have been able to help resolve easily; others take a little longer.

I am grateful for the support of Wendy and my family, the Constable and Municipality for their help, likewise the team of Officers who support my Scrutiny Panel, and Julie, my secretary, who has to decipher my writing (given that I am dyslexic).

I wish you all a good summer.

Until next time, au revoir.

Deputy Phil Rondel



A Durrell Volunteer

Six years ago, finding myself with time on my hands and being keen on any kind of D.I.Y., I went along to Durrell and volunteered my services. I was immediately snapped up by the Maintenance Department where I have been happily painting, constructing and repairing each Friday afternoon. The great thing about the Maintenance Department is that they do just that: if anything needs fixing, the chances are that someone in the department has the skills to do it.

My first afternoon in January 2003 will remain in my mind forever. I was faced by two very large wooden crates about 5ft x 4ft x 4ft with strong wire mesh fronts. They were, my mentor Glyn explained, for transporting orang-utans to Australia and Holland respectively. They had been used a number of times before and needed the outsides reproofing. No, I was not expected to complete both in the next two and a half hours: they'd still be there next week for me to finish.

As I worked on them, I noticed that the bases were attached by two nuts which had been welded on to the bolts! Later that afternoon, over a welcome cup of coffee, I mentioned this to Georges (the Frenchman in charge of the department) who laughed and told me why this had been done. On



the previous occasion when the crates were used, single nuts only had secured the floor to the walls – the orang-utan had amused herself by stretching her fingers through the grill at the front and undoing the nuts. All that prevented her escaping was the fact that she couldn't get her arms through the grill to undo the nuts at the back.

Three years later I was again confronted by the devious and clever nature of these wonderful creatures. I was helping with the painting of the back area of the orang-utans' complex. When we finished for the day, the paint cloths were stored in the office because, as Steve the painter told me, he had lost two cloths the previous day having left them too close to their cages. Orang-utans have long arms

and there is nothing they like better than old cloths or bags to hide under.

But there are other enjoyable tasks to be done, including making boxes for the wild squirrels that inhabit the chestnut trees by the department.

The children's play area was furnished three or four years ago with a range of wooden animals, climbing frames, slides and see-saws. It is within sight of the orang-utan and gibbon aerial walkways. Who's watching whom?

Jess and Milly, my granddaughters, are suitably impressed by the fact that 'Papy' painted the crocodile in the playground and also helped to build the path in the indoor aviary – one of their favourite areas.

Life in the Maintenance Department is never dull, often very interesting, or even exciting and no matter how small or simple the task you perform as a volunteer your work is always much appreciated – it's a great place to spend your free time.

John Slack

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A busy Spring for St John's Women's Institute

St John's Women's Institute has had a busy and interesting few months.

In March Nigel Truscott from St John's Ambulance gave us a very interesting talk about resuscitation, and the support that the Association gives to the community. In April we were privileged to hear Mike Stentiford on various aspects of wildlife.

In May we discussed the W.I. Resolutions which this year concerned the honey bee and the importance they have in our environment. Our vote was taken to the National Women's Institute A.G.M. which was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. We finished the evening with a beetle drive.

In June our visit to Judith Querée's garden was rained off. We were lucky to have John Fosse, the Unit Manager at H.M. Prison, La Moye who talked to us about life at La Moye and how the prison staff try to encourage prisoners to retrain so that they are better equipped for the outside world. Thank you, John, for a very interesting talk, and for coming at such short notice.

On July 8th we had A Ball's Up fun evening at the house of Maureen and Lawrence de Gruchy. Husbands and partners were invited and we all had the opportunity of trying out various games such as bowls, petanque and croquet. As you can imagine there was lots of laughter as many of us were having

a go for the first time! After a wonderful summer's evening in beautiful surroundings, the evening concluded with supper. A good time was had by all!

Forthcoming events

The W.I. manned the entrance gates for the Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival. We were pleased to help with this community event.

There will be no meeting in August. On September 9th there will be a walk around St John, followed by a meal at The Farm Restaurant (formerly L'Auberge du Nord)

We shall be delighted to welcome Peter Le Rossignol on October 14th. Peter is organising an Antiques Road Show – so, members, bring along your treasures! I'm sure Peter will enlighten us with his knowledge and wisdom.

Invitation

Please come to any of the forthcoming events if you would like to! Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm at St John's Parish Hall. Meetings always end with supper.

If you require any further information, please contact me on 862931, or our secretary, Karen Cotillard, on telephone 863296

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Stressy Jessy

Well hello fellow St Johnians!

As you may well have heard by now, I will be wearing the sash of St John in the famous Battle of Flowers this year! Yet, I have not been able to choose which kind of dress to purchase for the event. . . thing is, I don't know how princess-ish to go. Of course I want to look lavish in an open-top car (hopefully if I find someone who is willing to lend a vehicle for the Battle) but then again I cannot outshine Miss Battle with my dress choice. It is all a very complicated matter really.

Well, let's see what has happened since I last wrote in the parish mag. I have finally finished the great trial of A Levels (thank goodness) and am worriedly awaiting my results along with the rest of my year group. Luckily for me, I am not planning on going to university this year, and therefore do not have to achieve certain grades

On the holiday front, in mid-July I am travelling to Barcelona to a huge music festival called Benicassim. As you can imagine, I am stupidly excited, although not particularly looking forward to attempting to sleep in a condensation- ridden tent for ten days, in temperatures soaring to maybe 40 degrees.

Why, you may ask, am I doing this to myself?



Three words: Kings of Leon. Possibly the best band in the entire universe, whom I have worshipped ever since I fell in love with them three years ago at my very first festival in Reading. Of course other bands are playing; amongst them are Oasis, and Lily Allen. But Kings of Leon. Oh my! May I just add that I purchased a VIP ticket to the festival in the sheer ludicrous hope that they might, possibly, venture to the VIP bar after their set, and that they might, possibly, share a pint with me over some light conversation ending in me partying with them and hopefully becoming their new best friend. Not delusional – I would describe it as being a dreamer.

So this week is preparation week where I am basically aiming to sort out my life in order to be festival-ready, seeing as it will be roasting hot which equals minimal clothing, which equals body out, which presently equals oh no! About three months ago I planned a fitness regime called 'Beni Body', with ridiculous optimism that my body would become worthy of an extras part in Baywatch. Alas the regime has slipped like sand through my fingers. This has caused me severe panic, and so I came up with two solutions. One, partake in an extreme crash diet of only cabbage passing my lips for the next three days in order to detox, and fight the flab. This idea actually seemed like the solution to all problems at the time, but thinking it over again I am seriously unsure of how long I could eat cabbage before feeling like the human skunk. The second option was to exercise twice a day for an hour a time – this plan didn't seem good at the time and it doesn't seem any more inviting now. Then of course comes the third and final solution which is looking in the mirror and just accepting what is there and feeling happy about it. Being the motivated, extremely self-disciplined

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person that I am, I have decided to carry on indulging in the food I love, and just accept that I am not a worthy Baywatch Babe. At the end of the day, my body works pretty much perfectly well, and for that I should be grateful, because is that not the most important thing? Whenever I bring this up to my mum her only form of reassurance is, 'You are eighteen. This is the best it is going to get', which is actually a quite depressing thought to be perfectly honest. I'm assuming she means that everything is still facing north at this point in my life, which of course I do appreciate. I guess no-one is ever completely happy in their own skin until they have learnt that looks aren't everything.

Otherwise in my general life I have managed to secure myself a job for October this year. I have to say that the interview wasn't exactly the easiest thing in the world. Not only did I have to prepare a ten-minute presentation on myself and my greatest non-academic achievement (thankfully my parents share a mild case of OCD, and have filed every single event in my life from birth, which did help a great deal) but also had to undergo a maths, general knowledge and English test. General knowledge I scored 76%, English I got 96%. . . and then of course I did the maths test. 16%. Horrendous. With no paper and sums like $96 \div 12 \times 5 =$, it seemed impossible with a five minute time limit to answer 50 questions. I was in the interview for a whopping two hours. To be honest with you I really didn't think I had got the job,

because I figured I would need to be good at maths to work at CPA as they have such a huge finance section to their business

I had been job hunting for the past three months. I applied for anything from the position of dental nurse to a day-care assistant, to working as an activity carer with over 70s. It started to really worry me because I heard nothing back from the majority of the twelve positions I applied for. I had four responses which were along the same lines of I wasn't old enough, or didn't have enough experience. Seems funny to me really, because what experience can people expect you to have if you only left school two weeks ago? Anyway, all is well because I managed to get the job at CPA! And it is perfect because it is a nine-month stint so I will have the money and time afterwards to go and do all the charity work and travelling I had been looking forward to.

Finally it seems that everything is beginning to fall into place, and that the decision not to face university straight away isn't such a bad one. But I still have one nagging thing in the back of my mind – what on earth do I wear to the Battle of Flowers? And is it acceptable to wear a tiara if you're not Miss Battle?!

j.stanier@live.co.uk

Jessica Stanier aka Miss St John!!!! X



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INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS FOR CLASS OF '02

To reach the age of eighteen and to have been friends for fifteen years or more, is no mean feat. The class of '02 have managed to accomplish that amongst many other respectable achievements. On 4th July we had our own independence celebrations at the Farmhouse Restaurant for some very fine young parishioners. The parents and youngsters have all been friends either from the time the children were born or since meeting at Sion Pre-School, and everyone has definitely been friends since 1995, the year their education began at St John's Primary School. The years have rolled along very smoothly and the parents and the children's friendships are so strong now we shall all be linked for the rest of our lives.

Unfortunately not all of our group were able to







attend our 'soirée' due to previously booked engagements and our night did clash with a surprise eighteenth birthday party. However, Becky Hopkinson, Abby Luce, Gina Pemberton, Tallie Renouf, Jessica Stanier, Charlotte Bayliss, Jamie Arthurs and Rhys Hidrio, together with Mums and Dads, indulged themselves with gorgeous food and fine wines and many fabulous memories. Other guests in the restaurant were sheltered from our laughter and continuous chatter as we were strategically placed in the elevated corner especially kept for raucous diners!

These young people, bar one, all went on to Grainville School for two years and, naturally due to their inherited genes, went on to attend Hautlieu School where they continued to support each other in education and the all-important social life. These guys also enjoyed the local youth club together and the activities that the club provided. As parents we have taken on honorary positions supporting the youth club and the PTAs at the three schools.

This circle of friends remains firmly intact and we now await the all important 'A' level results in August. From there its Uni, Highlands, Gap Year or joining the workforce – but one thing is for sure, 'All the St John's crowd stick together!'

Caroline Hopkinson

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25th St John's Brownies

The 25th St John's Brownies had their Christmas party in January at Wild Jacks. The girls wore their posh frocks and each decorated a masquerade mask. They had a three- course meal and danced away to DJ Roger Rondel, a Brownie parent, who kindly provided the music.



In the spring term we challenged ourselves to do the First Aid badge. John Sutherland, a paramedic, visited the pack twice to assist us with our knowledge. John came back to test the girls and all their hard work paid off as they all passed.

I set myself a challenge by organizing our first sleepover at Guide Headquarters to gain my Brownie Holiday Licence. Twelve of our oldest girls were picked to take part in this two night, three day event. The theme was 'The Circus Comes to Town'. The girls got to be cooks, housekeepers and waitresses which gave them all new skills. Conjuring Kites gave a circus workshop which was fun. The girls all gained their Brownie Holiday and Circus Performer badges. It was a great success and I hope to take the whole pack on future sleepovers.

We had a Mothers' Day evening and invited all mums to come along and be pampered by their



daughters. Jane Young from Tranquility Hair, St John, showed the Brownies how to massage their mums' hands. The ladies were totally relaxed and were served with fruit kebabs and chocolates at the end of the evening. 25th St John's Brownies also attended Mothering Sunday at St John's Church.

We had our annual day trip to Cobac Parc, Brittany, with three other Jersey Brownie packs and one Jersey Guide pack. This truly was a great day. Other activities included meeting up with St Saviour's Guides for a games night and having a sandcastle competition at Grève d'Lecq beach with St Saviour's Brownies. We are finishing off our summer term with a 'PINK PARTY'.



Sadly one of our leaders, Sarah Bougeard, is leaving after five years at St John's pack. She is off to university and we wish her every success for the future.

Donna Tupper



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Introducing James Wilson

For some time members of St John's Church had been praying for an organist to accompany their services and are delighted that their prayers have been answered! A young man now resides in the parish who has taken on various jobs because he wants to feel involved with his community.

James Wilson has been in the Island for three years, having come as a visitor, liked what he saw and managed his life so that he could return more permanently. At 24 he is now a registered nurse but trained as a musician at the Royal School of Music where he majored with the organ and also studied the piano.

Some parishioners may know him as a Constable's Officer, a post he has held for a few months, but now the congregation at St John's Church 9.30am service is getting to know him and to enjoy his virtuosity on the magnificent organ our church houses.



Celia Jeune

Success stories for Jersey Gymnastics Club

Jersey Gymnastics Club based at St John's Sports and Recreation Centre has been awarded the prestigious British Gymnastics' GymMark accreditation and is the first club in the Channel Islands to achieve this. Helen Bushell, English Gym-

Club's Performance squad have just returned from the Island Games in Åland with a clutch of medals. There were good performances all round from the men's squad of Matthew Maletroit, James Evans, Matthew Hill, André Romeril, and coach Ben Frith.

They were up against tough opposition particularly from the Isle of Man but Matthew Maletroit secured a total of seven medals including one gold, five silvers and one bronze, whilst 16-year-old team mate Matthew Hill came away with one silver and one bronze from his first games. 12-year-old Aimée McDonnell was the youngest competitor in the whole Jersey Island Games team and she performed exceptionally well in her first games as part of the women's squad.

As there is no gymnastics in the Isle of Wight in 2011, Jersey has been approached to host the 'Inter Island Games'. Depending on the availability of adequate facilities and funding we may see gymnasts from the Isle of Man, Bermuda, Faroe Islands, Åland, Menorca, Ynys Mon and Gibraltar

taking part in what will be the biggest gymnastics competition held in the Island since Jersey hosted the main Games in 1997.

nastics Regional Development Officer, recently visited the Island to make the presentation at the Club's St John headquarters.

Jackie Hill, President, commented: "When we moved into our new premises two years ago we decided that achieving GymMark would be the natural way forward to improve the standard of the Club. With a Club the size of ours – we have 220 members participating in gymnastics for over 30 hours a week – it is important to maintain a well-structured organisation with all the appropriate standards and policies in place. The GymMark slogan is 'safe, effective and child friendly' and all our parents can be assured that their children are enjoying gymnastics in such an environment".

Following on from this success, six members of the



News from the Pews

Is St John the best Parish in Jersey?

Fifteen years ago, in September 1995, I recall sitting in the Constable's office, chatting to Carl Hinault. I was over on interview and was learning about the Parochial side of being a Rector in an ancient parish, which would involve passing judgements on overhanging hedges on the Visite du Branchage, and offering advice on drainage and new entrances as Roads Committee member. But what I recall most from that conversation was the genuine warmth of welcome and Carl's expressed view that 'St John was a beautiful Parish - indeed the best in Jersey.'

In journeying towards the inaugural Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival, I found myself remembering and reflecting upon those words. For St John truly is a beautiful parish in terms of natural beauty, with a stunning bay. But also beautiful in the real sense of community that remains strong, exhibited in the organisation of the festival. An event brought to life by the involvement of so many, including to name a few: the magazine distributors delivering publicity flyers to every house in the parish; the Women's Institute looking after the gate; the school children's sea life carnival parade; the Constable's wife helping to judge the Bonnie Baby competition; the parish Deputy enjoying the Tucker Trial; the generosity of the local employer, Ronez, as major sponsor, and many volunteer marshals.

Fifteen summers on I continue to fully concur with our former Constable's words, 'St John is a beautiful Parish', and to adapt a certain Lager advert's slogan, 'probably the best parish in the world.' Others may come close, but none surpass the community spirit that is St John and was so visibly demonstrated at Bonne Nuit on 18th July. Thank you for all you do to contribute to community life here in St John, which continues to make it a joy and privilege to serve you as Rector in -

..... probably the best parish in the world.

Beach Service at Bonne Nuit - 11.00am - Sunday 16th August



A warm invitation is extended to all ages to join members of the parish church for our annual beach service at Bonne Nuit, followed by a picnic on the beach. So please do bring your food and drink and stay around for fun in the sun.

Ps Don't forget to bring along your bucket and spade for our annual sandcastle building competition. Points will again be awarded for the following categories: - size; design; decoration; description and overall impression. Get planning today!!!!

Back to Church Sunday - Sunday 27th September

Where St John's goes, other follow! It's true of Roadside Recycling collection. It's also true for Back to Church Sunday. Last year, we were one of thirty-one parishes in the Diocese of Winchester and the only church in Jersey to participate in the Back to Church initiative. We welcomed back 23 adults and 12 young people to worship, including one lady who reflected. "I just got out of the habit of going to church and have been thinking about coming for a while. The personal invitation I received to church today was just what I needed. I'll definitely be coming back."

This year we'll be joined by eight other churches in Jersey participating in the 2009 Back to Church initiative, in which members of the church will be offering personal invitations to friends, who in the past were worshipping members of a church, to come back to church with them. There'll be no strings attached - you won't be pressured to sign up for any jobs, so just come and be yourself. Other new people will also be there, so you can feel confident for we guarantee you a warm welcome and promise to guide you through the service.

So if you're one of the 40% of the parish population who was a worshipping member of a church sometime in the past, then regardless of the reason why you've not been for a while, do consider our invitation to come back to church. We'd love to welcome you back and will treat you like a VIP, for we believe everybody is special, including you.

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LES MATHIONNETTES

'Northern Lights'

Our Northern Light, Nicholas Romeril, was interviewed by Mary Rouillé

Nicholas Romeril's family have resided at La Petit Catelet in St John for five or six generations, with his brother now living there and carrying on the tradition. His father, Philip Josué Romeril, was in the main a cattle farmer, although he also grew potatoes. His mother, Daphne Bichard, born in St Lawrence was also from a farming background. Both his mother and father were on the creative side – Philip being an amateur artist and Daphne into craft work. Nick remembers when he was growing up that there were always projects being undertaken in the house as his mother had a bespoke sewing room where she made quilts, cushion covers etc.

Although Nick was born in St John he attended infant school in St Mary, but at the age of seven moved to De La Salle College. It was here that he got the taste for drawing, and when reaching the age of fourteen, Fred Sands, his teacher, thought his art-work exceptional.

After passing his A-Levels he went to Birmingham Polytechnic for a year, taking a foundation course in Art and Design. On returning to Jersey he met his future wife, Audrey, who ran a bar which he used to frequent. It was also during this time he lived in Caen for three months, painting a portrait of the family friend he stayed with.

In 1988 he applied to Camberwell College of Art and Design in London which he attended for five years, achieving a BA in Fine Art Painting and an MA in Fine Art Printing. Whilst in London his father died and Nick had to make the decision whether to become a farmer or professional artist. It was in the same year he came third in an international art competition and also exhibited at the Royal College



of Art. With this, and the fact that he had no interest in farming and that his father had previously told him farming would be going through some sticky times, Nick made his mind up to become an artist.

During his time at Camberwell he rented a large studio for a couple of years, subletting parts of it to other artists and started a small gardening business, tending fifteen gardens. He also got employment contracting for a company who worked for the Sultan of Brunei. This entailed decorating gold mirrors for the Sultan's London home.

In 1995 Audrey and Nick were married and returned to live in Jersey. They moved into his maternal grandfather's house in St Lawrence where he created an art studio and began exhibiting his paintings in London and Jersey and taking up part time employment as a lecturer at Highlands College. Within a month of living back in Jersey, Audrey found out she was pregnant with twins; William and Daniel.

Today, Nick's family live at Les Charrières; a house at the top of Bonne Nuit. The house is one of eight which his paternal



grandfather, Philip Josué Romeril, purchased in the late 1950s, early 1960s with Nick being the first Romeril to have lived there as previously it had always been rented out. They moved there in 2004 and have been renovating the property, now finished, with the first task being to create a studio.

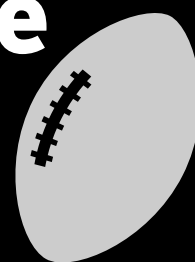
Since the year 2000 Nick has gone from strength to strength, with his paintings selling very well. For two weeks in July 2006, Nick lived and worked on Les Minquiers. Whilst there he created nine paintings and was alone for eight days apart from the wild life. He has private and corporate clients based in the Far East, North America as well as Europe; some who are major collectors of important international artists. His paintings are exhibited for sale in the East West Gallery in London and the Thomas Dutoit Gallery based just outside Basle in Switzerland where next year he will have a one-man show. In Jersey, Nick represents himself and exhibits at David Hick Interiors in St Lawrence.

Recently he has began to create sculptures, and at the moment is involved with making a maquette (scaled model) of a shoal of fish for the Carlton Development at Havre des Pas.

As to what the future holds: well, Nick hopes to improve each day with his art work and to receive a greater international reputation.

To find out more, visit Nick's Website at:
www.nicholasromeril.com

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St John Football Club

Club news

At the end of the first World War, a group of lads got together and founded St John F.C. Little did they know that ninety years later the same football club would still be going strong. This season we will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of St John F.C., and are holding a celebration dinner at The Farmhouse Restaurant, on Saturday 17th October. If anyone, with past or present involvement with the club, would like tickets, please contact me (details below).

Last season

St John had a good end to the season, finishing 6th in the Championship while the Ladies came third in the women's division. The Juniors brought home two trophies; the Under-14s team beat Jersey Wanderers 1-0 thanks to a goal by Jamie Simpson, cheered on by a large band of vocal supporters, while the Under-12s won the U12 St Peter's League tournament beating St Paul's, St

Peter and Grouville on the way. Finally, at the end of year Jersey Football combination dinner St John were the big winners, taking home the Gold



Under-14s win the Cory Cup at Springfield

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Sportsmanship award (jointly with Beeches) for the 2008-09 season, and therefore being the top prize winners in monetary terms of all 19 football clubs.

The Over-40s were unfortunate to lose the inaugural Jayson Lee Cup Final 5-3 to St Peter. Played at Springfield in front of a large crowd, and with Jayson's children, fiancée and parents in attendance the crowd were treated to a real spectacle as the players turned back the years to produce some great football and a fitting memory to Jayson. The money raised on the evening, together with that raised at the St John Race Night meant that nearly £900 was donated to Hospice in Jayson's memory.

Annual dinner

Some 75 people attended our annual dinner held recently at the Hotel Ambassadeur. As well as a slide show and videos of St John teams and players, past and present, there was a band made up of several players. Rodney Marais was voted player of the season, while Pauline Smart was Ladies player of the season. Well done to all the winners.

I would like to thank all those who made the evening such a great success, together with the band members and LJ Electronics for providing the lighting, video and musical equipment. Also, a big thank-you to all the patrons who attended and added a certain joviality to the proceedings.

2009/10 season

Pre-season training has already started, friendlies already planned, the goalposts will soon go up and League and cup matches will commence in August. The teams have a few new faces and we are hopeful for a good start to the season.

There are number of new coaches joining St John. Alan 'Postie' Tardival and Steve Proffitt will be joining Pete Herridge with the first team, while Chris Jones has taken on the coach's role for the Ladies. Mike McKinlay and Paddy Peffers will be taking the C Team. Welcome, and good luck to all of them.

I would like to finish by saying thank you to all those who helped support St John Football club during this past season. We have had some challenging times, but have emerged stronger and fitter, with an expectation for better things.

I would also like to say a big thank-you all members past and present who have given their time and effort so that the club would survive and prosper during these last 90 years. Their hard work and hard play has made St John football club what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.

Nigel Perrée
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Bonne Nuit Harbo

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The many volunteers who assisted both before and on the day

The Constable, Honorary Police and Parish of St John

Image – for publicity design and printing

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Reflections on the 2009 Harbour Festival and suggestions for 2010 (26th June) would be most welcome and should be forwarded to athewlis@jerseymail.co.uk



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Bonny Baby Lexie with judges



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St John's Youth Project

Here we are again at the end of our summer term and club year. We were hoping that the young people would be putting pen to paper, so to speak, for this issue of the Parish Magazine but due to pressures of exams and other commitments this has not come to fruition. We are sure that when we start back in September they will come forward with some interesting items and news for the (dare I say it?) Christmas edition.

Since the retirement of Dave Butel at Easter the Junior section has continued to thrive under the guidance of Sean Matthews, Roy Bredonchel and parents and we are particularly pleased to report that some of our ex-senior members have also decided to come along and give something back to their Club at both Junior and Intermediate levels. This has been an enormous help to Sean, not only in the day-to-day running of the Club, but also in allowing development of outdoor activities and the reinstatement of Arts & Crafts.

Sadly we have had to accept the resignation of Brenda Martin, one of the Intermediate Workers, due to work and family commitments. We are sure that you will want to join with us in thanking Brenda for all that she has done for the youngsters over the years.

Also, our present Honorary Treasurer, Yvonne Le Cornu, has indicated that she will not be standing for re-election at our Annual General Meeting on 16th September 2009. Once again, our sincerest thanks go to Yvonne for her dedication in keeping a tight

reign on the finances and all the 'extra' help that she has given us over the years.

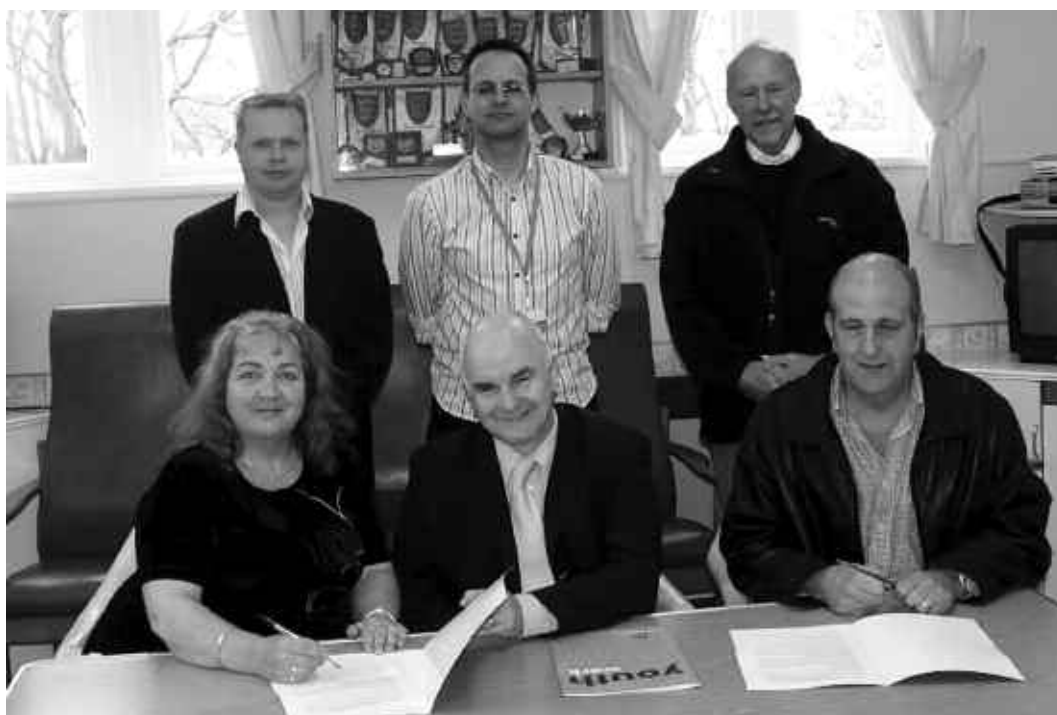
Now on to an exciting topic. In the last edition of the Parish Magazine you may recall that a mention was made of a new funding partnership between ourselves and the Youth Service. This partnership has now been formed and on the 8th April, 2009, the new three-year funding agreement in support of a Senior Youth Worker was signed (*see photo*). The Worker will be shared between ourselves, St Ouen's and St Mary's Youth Projects. A short-list of candidates was compiled and the 'lucky' applicants interviewed at the beginning of July and we are extremely pleased to announce that Simon Bell was successfully appointed and should commence duties during this coming September or October. Hopefully we will all get an opportunity to meet and greet Simon at our aforementioned Annual General Meeting.

There will be one initial change to our Club age-range this coming September. With the long awaited return of a Senior Section, and the above mentioned agreement with the Jersey Youth Service, we will be consolidating the Junior Section's age range in line with the School Years 4, 5 and 6. Should there be any further alterations, notification will be given to members prior to the start of the new term.

The Management Committee is primarily responsible for looking after the funding of the Club, and with the introduction of a part-time Youth Worker and Sessional Workers, the Committee is hopeful that a

vibrant, thriving Senior Section will return to St John. The Committee is always on the look out for people with the drive and motivation to get involved behind the scenes, and as it only meets around six times a year the work is not too time consuming. We hopefully have managed to secure the services of a new Honorary Treasurer but we are still on the look out for an independent Honorary Auditor. Please contact us if you would like any additional information or are willing to help out in any capacity.

Best wishes to you all for a super summer and here's to a great 'clubbing' new year!



Representatives of the St John, St Ouen and St Mary Youth Project Committees, and the Assistant minister for ESC, Andrew Green, signed the three-year funding agreement

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URC Celebrations – *Bicentenary Service*

The Bicentenary day had finally arrived. I could recall the extent of planning that had taken place over the previous two years and now it had finally arrived – 26th April, 2009. At 2.15, I arrived at church to see a number of members beveling away in preparing the church and the afternoon tea. I went over to the Manse and found Reverend Roberta Rominger and her parents with Reverend Adrian Bully waiting for proceedings to begin. Shortly after 2.30, the Bailiff and his wife arrived and joined us in the Manse lounge to be followed shortly afterwards



URC Moderator Rev Adrian Bully, with the Bailiff, the Lieutenant-Governor, Rev Partrick McManus and Rev Roberta Rominger

by the Lieutenant-Governor and his wife. They showed genuine interest in the history of the church and our pattern of worship. Roberta indicated that she had been reading the history articles in the church magazine and had found them most interesting.

At 3.00 we moved to the church for the beginning of the service. Our Minister welcomed the guests who included the Constable and the Deputy of St John and senior clergy from the major denominations. He then began the service with Hymn 484 "We come unto our Faithful God". After prayers, the Moderator of the Wessex Synod, Reverend Adrian Bully, brought greetings from the national church and praised the dedication of all those members both past and present who had sustained Christianity in Sion since 1809.

The first lesson came from Chapter 16 of St Matthew's Gospel and described the moment when Peter recognized the divine nature of Jesus. This was complemented by the second reading from St John's first letter which emphasized that we were all children of God through his love, and that our faith is sustained by holding on to those truths that we have been told from the earliest times in the church. These two readings were separated by the

magnificent hymn 'Great is thy Faithfulness.'

After the singing of 'O God, your Love's undying Flame', Reverend Roberta Rominger addressed the congregation using the steadfastness of Peter in sustaining the faith as a metaphor for what had been done over 200 years in Sion. But she also emphasized the need for continuing the work of advertising God's love as a beacon of light in the community in the future. The service then ended with a rousing rendition of the hymn "Lord, for the years".

After the service, the congregation went into the Manse to witness the planting of the commemorative tree. It had been a beautiful day but as this moment came closer so the clouds gathered and the rain drifted in the air. Nevertheless, the Lieutenant-Governor grasped the shiny spade and vigorously ensured that the tree was truly planted, to the applause of the assembled group and then all repaired to the hall. There we were greeted by a splendid feast and an opportunity to mix and talk about the wonderful occasion. Before the end of proceedings, the Secretary thanked all those who had helped to make this such a memorable occasion.

The Flower Festival



A profusion of blooms and a riot of colour. "I have never seen the church looking so good" said a member on entering the Flower Festival.

So long in preparing, the flower festival has become one of the most exciting events in the church history. In the spirit of the bicentenary celebrations, the chosen theme was anniversaries, and the displays reflected events such as the 250th anniversary of Robbie Burns's birth and the 100th anniversary of the Jersey Green Room Club. Other family celebrations such as baptisms and weddings were displayed in flowers and symbols with the centerpiece being a representation of 'For all the Years' a celebration of 200 years of church life at Sion in St John.

The displays combined amusing symbolism as well as being reverential and respectful of religious themes. The display illustrating the 50th anniversary of Durrell consisted of plants and flowers found in equatorial jungles, complemented by tall grasses of the savannah. But when you looked carefully, hiding and camouflaged within their natural environment were the tails of two ring-tailed lemurs. The display entitled 'Sea Sunday' was designed on a three-tier stand with the azure prominences of hydrangers and roses swimming in the swell of white gypsophila. At the foot of the stand were lobster pots and sea rope surrounded by the salty eminence of sea holly.

'Harvest' reflected the warm abundance of God's gifts. A range of vegetables of the ripest and fullest nature were praised by the use of red and crimson gerberas and carnations framed by the greenest vitality of large succulent leaves.

'Battle of Britain' confirmed the patriotic victory with the use of blue delphiniums, red roses and white carnations intertwined by similar bunting. But the sacrifice of the RAF was also reflected in the use of models of Spitfires and Lancasters.

'Wedding' was almost upstaged by the ravishing and fulsome claret wedding dress but the three-tiered wedding cake was complemented by the champagne roses as they spilled down from their stand. 'Holy Communion' consisted of pure white lilies uplifted towards heaven, and the promise of eternal life was assured through draping of the evergreen ivy around the bare church cross.

There were 34 displays arranged around the sanctuary, and I have offered a simple description of those that took my fancy but it was clear to all visitors that all the displays were of a very high calibre. Our thanks must go to the St Clement's Club for their efforts and also to Philip Fowles for his time and effort in coordinating this wonderful event.

Michael Sheldrake



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Scouting Today . . . *needs your help*

I suppose it is because I come from a Scouting background that I have always been supportive of the scouting movement and continue to believe that it is as relevant today as it was when Baden-Powell held his first camp at Brownsea Island. My father was actively involved as a Scout Leader, a Group Scout Leader, and later as an Assistant Island Commissioner. I also went through every phase of the movement, culminating in me running the cub packs in the UK and in Jersey for many years.

In 2007 the movement celebrated its 100th anniversary. As part of the celebrations the scouts of the UK were set a challenge to complete 100 different challenges. The winning patrol of this national competition came from the 6th Jersey, which speaks volumes about the commitment of the children and their adult leaders of this very successful group.

Today Scouting is the biggest youth movement in the world with over 28 Million members across the globe. Scouting nationally continues to grow in popularity and boasts a total membership of over 500,000, 14% of whom are now girls. In fact scouting in the UK has the highest number of members that it has seen for seven years and is the largest co-educational youth movement in the country.

I was recently asked to take on the role of Group Scout Leader for the 6th Jersey Scout Group. The job



involves helping manage the resources and governance of all sections of the Group. It currently operates from two centres – St Mary's Community Centre and Trinity Youth Centre – with over 100 youngsters belonging to the two Beaver Colonies, two Cub Packs and one Scout Group. Both my own children are involved in the association and I had hinted that I probably would give more time to the cause when Harry and James became active members. I wouldn't say that I have more time since leaving the States, as work and family commitments still take precedence, however I feel strongly that it is a cause worth supporting and I am prepared to give it my best shot.

The leaders give a huge amount of time and I think it is fair to say that most, if not all, have jobs and families so their scouting work has to be fitted in around these other commitments. The 6th Jersey is a well-established successful group but we are in dire need of more helpers, preferably who would be prepared to undertake training to become uniformed leaders. Currently we have vacancies for Assistant Cub Leaders and we require assistance in running the Scout section.

To have a full complement of leaders means that we can offer a varied and exciting programme with fresh ideas and initiatives.

If you think that you would like to find out more about becoming involved, you can speak to me in the first instance on tel 862663 or email me on andrew.lewis@imageci.com to have an informal chat.

Let's face it, if Bear Grylls, the new Chief Scout, thinks it is a cause worth supporting then it must be cool!

Yours in Scouting
Andrew Lewis
 Group Scout Leader, 6th Jersey

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE HONEY BEES GONE?

Perhaps you have missed the sounds this summer of busy bees making their way from flower to flower and buzzing off contentedly to their hives laden with pollen. If so you are not alone. The shortage of bees is causing alarm all around the world and not just because there will be fewer jars of honey on the shelves.

Most of us take for granted that flowers will flower, fruit trees will crop and, given enough rain, all plants will grow – but we should not be so complacent. For probably a multi-complexity of reasons there is a world shortage of bees. The worst doom-laden scenario is that if all the bees disappear so will eventually all the crops and the world will die of famine. Hopefully this will not be the case.

This year the main resolution at the AGM of the Women's Institute, held in London at the Royal Albert Hall, was to ask the Government to give more money for research into the decline of the honey bee. Recently, Martha Carney, the English journalist and broadcaster, also a beekeeper, made a special programme for BBC 2 highlighting the disappearance of bees both in this country and particularly the USA. The reasons could be changes in the climate, wet winters, the varroa virus, which can be deadly to bees, or one of many reasons not yet discovered. The Americans are especially alarmed as they rely on bees to pollinate their vast fruit and nut orchards, and because of the death and disappearance of so many native bees we are having to import them from

Australia where, so far, they haven't had the same problems – one reason why the planes arriving from the Americas and Europe are fumigated on arrival. The film showing the capture, methods of transportation and preparation for flight to the USA of millions of bees was awe-inspiring. Do we ever know what is in the hold of these aircraft we so blithely board?

Leicester University is doing crucial work in research in this area trying to breed bees which are more resistant to disease, and are becoming world leaders in this field.

"The bee has become a mascot, a totem representing the health of our planet. It is estimated that bees contribute 850 million pounds a year to Britain's economy simply by pollinating commercial crops," writes Michael Hanlon, Science Editor, The Daily Mail.

Beekeeping has always been important in Jersey and local honey is greatly prized. One of the St John bell-ringers, Judy Collins, is very involved with the local beekeepers and tends the hives at Government House. If you have any questions about bees she would be a good person to approach.

Next time a bee buzzes around you please do not squash him as his numbers are seriously under threat. We need bees more than they need us so we must allow them their place in the sun.

Rosie Bleasby



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ST JOHN'S SCHOOL'S WINS ENVIRONMENT AWARD



For the second year running St John's School was invited to Durrell for the annual Environment Awards that form part of the Education, Sport and Culture Department's 'Environment Week'. This year we have really focussed on placing the children at the centre of the environmental work that we do. The Green Team are a kind of steering group that oversees eco-learning throughout the school. The members of the team meet to plan new initiatives and to feedback opinions and ideas from their classmates. When the judges for the awards visited I was able to hand them completely over to the Green Team who took them on an extensive tour of the school and filled them on all the details. The feedback from the judges was that the children were "superb ambas-



Deputy Anne Pryke and Head teacher Andrew Willis with staff members Jeannine Godefroy & James Matthews; the children are: Dana Stamps, Niomi Orlandini, Etienne Helie-Merrony, Shaynee Whiteman, Charlotte Shaw & Kumiko Orlandini



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sadors" for the school.

The class gardens are magnificent and are coming to full glory just in time for our Chelsea Flower Show. The sensory garden is now really well established and provides so many opportunities for investigations during playtimes – there is even a seating circle in the buddleia that the children love hiding in for story time! Work on the nature trail is now underway and this previously unused area at the front of the school will soon be growing into a little slice of wild Jersey.

In addition we take the children out frequently to our 'Forest School' near Devil's Hole where they interact with nature and learn so much. The result of course is that our children are growing up with such an enhanced understanding of their world and the vital role that we play in creating the environments that we inhabit.

Back at Durrell when the results were announced we were delighted to be placed third and even happier to receive a cheque for £500 that will contribute to the development of the nature trail.

As always, if you would like to know more about our work at St John's School or if you could contribute your knowledge or time we would love to see you – just pop-in!

Andrew Willis – Head Teacher



AN OVERSEAS AID TRIP TO KENYA

*to renovate and extend a school
for Pala village*



In October we are going out to the village of Pala in the Homa Bay district of Kenya. Pala is designated by the Kenyan government as an area of high poverty. We visited the village two years ago whilst in Kenya on another aid trip and found their situation to be very grim. The village school was in a very poor state and the headmaster told us that as a result the children's education was suffering. As we know that it is only through education that the youngsters are eventually going to work their way out of poverty we felt that we needed to do something to help. I gave a presentation of our findings to Jersey Overseas Aid

Commission and they have kindly offered to fund this project to renovate and extend the school.

We are fund raising because as a team we are keen to be able to take with us some school equipment and also some money that we can spend in Kenya on equipment to help the school.

If you feel able to make a donation to support this work you can be assured that every penny we raise will be used for the benefit of that village.

Cheques can be made payable to Help From The Rock, a Jersey registered Charity (No. 282) and sent to Dave Ellis, the group leader, at the address below.

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Dave Ellis

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

Phil Vibert – *Bionic Man*

"Would you like a route plan for your trip, Mum?" asked our youngest daughter.

"I'll see what 'himself' thinks", I replied.

'Himself', having travelled the world in his younger days was confident that a journey to Nottingham would be quite straightforward, so the route plan was declined.

After suffering for nearly four years with osteoarthritis in his hip, Phil eventually had a hip replacement in July 2008. Whilst he had relief from his hip, he was still in agony with both shoulders. Subsequently another visit to see a specialist was arranged with the outcome being that complete shoulder replacements were necessary. The operations were not to be carried out at the same time, as apart from the pain, how was he going to blow his nose! We were both very concerned as without the operations Phil would lose the use of his arms and hands within eighteen months to two years. The specialist knew of a Professor Angus Wallace who had pioneered shoulder replacements, so arrangements were made for us to see him in Nottingham.

At 10am on December 3rd 2008 we boarded our flight to Gatwick. After forty-five years of marriage I've become a reasonable co-pilot, but on this occasion 'himself' knew the way blindfolded. After all hadn't he motored to all the various furniture exhibitions in Manchester, Birmingham, London etc, sometimes having to drive back late at night? I happily sat back in my seat.

I occasionally glanced at my map, and after 40 – 60 minutes began to notice place names that weren't meant to be on the planned route. "Are we going the right way?" I asked.

"Mmmm, I think I should have turned off at that last junction, but don't worry there'll be another ahead," came the reply. I couldn't see another turn off, but I had every confidence in 'himself' as we headed towards Dartford instead of Leatherhead!

It seemed a long way round the M25 but eventually we came to the exit for the M1. Nowhere in Europe, not even the USA have I seen so much traffic, making it very nerve-wracking and scary, and as to the speed, well! We hit Nottingham at around 5:30pm and melted into a new flow of traffic. The workforce was homeward bound, and we went with the flow, crossing the same bridge at least five times! Having asked directions many times we were given instructions, left, right, straight on or across the bridge! By 7:15 pm we were still turning left and right and felt as though we were on planet Mars! Then suddenly looming ahead was our hotel. What a relief! But it would have helped considerably if we had been informed that the hotel's name had changed! When my daughter heard of our being lost in the dark in a strange city for two hours she replied, "The route plan would have helped then, Mum!"



Professor Wallace is a charming but very busy man who has clinics around the world. He studied the x-rays we'd brought, and sent Phil for more. Less than fifteen minutes later the professor was studying them on his computer screen. We could see he was puzzled and concerned. Rubbing his chin, he faced us and said there was a problem. Phil had been born without shoulder blades. He was surprised how Phil had managed to work all his life without his arms slipping out of their sockets. Anyway he was ready for the challenge, and informed us that although the procedure hadn't been done before, he'd read about it and was happy and confident that he could achieve a good result. January 24th 2009 was the suggested date for the operation. Phil was taken aback at the speed which things were happening, so before he could change his mind I said, "Yes, that will be fine". It's always easier to agree to something when it's not one's own body involved!

We left Jersey on the 23rd of January, this time flying to East Midlands Airport. After four days in hospital, undergoing physiotherapy from the day after his operation, he was discharged. This saw us flying home, Phil with his arm in a sling. Going through security at the airport made bells ring and lights flash. Anyone with spare parts will understand.

Phil's recuperation should have taken five to six months, but being Phil, he returned to work for a couple of days a week after three months. In late March Phil saw the Professor who was delighted with the result of his work and hopes that Phil will be able to achieve 90% of movement in his shoulder and arm by October. Then we have to do it all again for the right shoulder. At least next time we will know where we are going, though I'm not taking any chances as I gave him a sat-nav for Christmas. But the only problem is, will he remember to pack it?!

Nan Vibert





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Butterflies Galore!

The massive invasion of the island in May by Painted Lady butterflies was probably seen by most people, especially those living in a country parish. Of course, the influx affected not only Jersey but extended over



A Painted Lady, photographed by Richard Perchard

most of north and west Europe. Entomologists in North Africa and around the western Mediterranean were aware early on in the spring that their mild and wet weather of late winter and early spring was extremely favourable for a better than normal breeding season for some insects because of the continued green growth of food plants. The vegetation in some fields, rather than withering in the usual hot, dry weather, was supporting up to 150,000 Painted Lady pupae per field ready to transform into adults. Why those conditions should have had such a dramatic effect on one butterfly and not, as far as we know, any others is not clear but the result was certainly phenomenal.

Following their exceptional emergence Painted Ladies may have tried to disperse in all directions, but those spreading northwards were watched coming up through France, some stopping to breed, until the numbers in the main wave which crossed the English Channel in early May was – according to the watchers – of the order of fifty to a hundred million! We began to see them here quite soon after that, and during their peak in early June the numbers to be seen on every flowery garden and meadow were truly astonishing. The previous invasion, in 1996, was also spectacular but not like this one.

Having arrived they have naturally continued to breed before moving on and we are now seeing the consequences of that in equally remarkable numbers of their caterpillars marching, it seems, in massive columns, from where they hatched and presumably exhausted all the food supply, in search of more.

They normally feed on certain thistles but all thistles and probably nettles and other common wild plants will be consumed *faux de mieux*. We have heard from many people that these caterpillars have attacked beans and have devastated some crops. Although they have a slightly hairy appearance it seems that they do not have the harmful effects that other hairy caterpillars induce, and apart from their voraciousness are not harmful.

As we write, in early July, we are just beginning to see bright, freshly-emerged adult butterflies on the wing and it is probable that there will be the pleasing appearance of many more Painted Ladies from now on to brighten our summer hedgerows and gardens, which we hope might provide compensation for the loss of some people's bean harvest.

Roger and Margaret Long

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

This magazine is published for the Parish of St John by the Editorial Team, c/o La Porte, La Rue de la Porte, St John JE3 4DE. Tel: 863994, email: ambles@jerseymail.co.uk

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

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Roger Long	– Assistant Editor
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St John's Recreation Centre

The management team has some significant news regarding the rejuvenation programme that we have been rolling out at the Centre since rescuing it from bankruptcy in 2005.

The strategic plan which we formulated in 2005 envisaged that the rejuvenation would consist of various distinct phases.

Phase 1

- recruit a new management team
- avert closure
- address vandalism problems
- achieve financial stabilisation
- carry out essential property maintenance
- renegotiate terms with certain clubs to ensure they made financial sense and to address the issue of cross-subsidisation.

Phase 1 was completed by mid 2006 including £40,000 of property maintenance work (the cost to the Centre was only a fraction of this, thanks to the generosity of an island resident).

Phase 2

The roll-out of phase 2 was set back by a year due to a delay in the renewal of the long-term lease. The vote of confidence by the Trust that owns the land and buildings and is run by Parish officials provided us with certainty.

The main thrust of phase 2 has been to pursue initiatives to maximise use of the facilities and attract new user groups. Some of the achievements have been as follows:

- Jersey Gymnastics Club relocated their operation to the Centre in 2007
- Jersey Strength and Conditioning Clinic refurbished the old snooker room and opened for business in late 2008
- Jersey Motor Cycle and Light Car Club relocated their administrative operations to the Centre in early 2009
- Squash court completely refurbished in 2009
- Club structure replaced in 2008 with a more inclusive 'user pays' model
- New management structure established to ensure management succession
- New catering operator to commence business later in the summer (see separate article).

The result of these initiatives has been to significantly increase the usage of the facilities and, as a consequence, to establish a reasonably healthy trading profit before setting aside money for future maintenance work. By the end of this year we will also have paid off the final instalment of the brewery loan which stood at £10,000 back in 2005.

Phase 3

We recognised that to achieve our ambition of a long-term transformation of the Centre a significant infusion of capital would be required to enable us to modernise the facilities. Phase 3 was contingent on this.

We were exceedingly fortunate to have been approached earlier in the year by a UK Trust founded by the Butlin family offering financial assistance. As many of you will be aware it was the generosity of the Butlin family which played such an important part in establishing the Centre back in the 1970s and 1980s. We submitted a comprehensive proposal and, after a thorough vetting process by the UK Trustees, we were offered a meaningful sum of money despite numerous competing bids for funding from UK charities; subject to us achieving matching funding.

We have a comprehensive list of work that we wish to undertake. However this will have to be planned in a structured and careful manner and will undoubtedly take a considerable period of time to formulate and implement.

Two project groups will be formed; one to co-ordinate the fund-raising and the second to focus on the building refurbishment. Our overriding objective is that we produce an infrastructure which lasts the test of time and is for the long-term benefit of Parishioners and others.

In the meantime the management team would like to express its sincere thanks to Helen Pulley who has decided to leave the user committee. Helen has played many key roles, as Chairperson during a difficult period earlier this decade, and as manager of the bar in more recent times. She has been a stalwart of the Centre and will be greatly missed.

If you wish to be part of this community success story then please feel free to contact me. Details of the various user groups are contained in the contact section of the magazine.

Angus Spencer-Nairn
Chairman

Catering operation to open early Autumn

We are delighted to report that Sue Bannister, a parishioner of St John, has signed an agreement to operate a catering business from the Centre.

Sue will soon be commencing her refurbishment work of the lounge with the intention of transforming it into a comfortable room with a relaxed atmosphere for the new healthy cafe/bar. A play area is



being added for the enjoyment of children.

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.

Sue is undecided on a name for the café, and would appreciate your help in letting her know which of the following names you think would be appropriate:

Totally Roasted
Ben & Daisy's
The Funky Bean
The Naked Ref

Please email Sue with your favourite name suebannister@newtelsurf.com

The cafe/bar will be available for private functions and children's parties, please contact Sue to discuss any requirements that you may have on 863574.



St John's Parish Contacts

Archery – Martin Pomroy – 855479
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
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Football club – Nigel Perree – 865113
Friends of Bonne Nuit – Gary Romeril – 861972
Golden Age Club – Wendy Rondel – 863667
Honorary Police – 866560
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Parish Hall – 861999
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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
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GALLERY RALLY

in aid of Jersey Hospice

The Gallery magazine Barcelona Rally took place in June. 24 cars carrying teams of 2 people took part – the aim being to gain as many points as possible through a scavenger hunt whilst having fun and raising money for Jersey Hospice Care. Easier said than done, for some!

Having indulged in bacon rolls, croissants and some Earl Grey tea (courtesy of the Royal Yacht Hotel) we made our way to the harbour for check-in wearing our green hats (extra 10 points if you had found this clue in your rally pack). Our first set of questions was given to us for the boat journey and went something like this – 12 S O T Z – 12 signs of the zodiac! Fortunately Bruce and I did extremely well on this round so got off to a great start.

Our first day took us through Dol de Bretagne, Fougères, Ecommoy, Montoire-sur-Loir, ending up in beautiful Blois in the Loire Valley. The evening saw all the rally teams exchanging stories over dinner at the Novotel and then an early night ready for the second leg to Clermont-Ferrand.



An early start on Day 2 and a quiz! Capital cities of the world. Why is it one always seems to get a mind block when put on the spot – not sure we performed our best at this task! So we got on with planning our route which took us to Cour-Cheverny,

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Valencay, Lignières, Boussac and Pionsat (assisting those low on fuel along the way!) arriving at the Novotel, Clermont-Ferrand just on time.

Day 3 started with the teams being given details of our task for that evening: make something that resembles 'summer' out of plasticine. With thinking caps on, we set off to Blesle, Chaudes-Aigues, sight-seeing and lunch at Millau, then on to Lunas and Olargues and the Hotel Mercure in Carcassonne. Today was by far the best for beautiful scenery, great driving and the melting of plasticine in the heat of the day (37°C). Whilst some teams put their plasticine in a cold bath or ice buckets, Bruce and I worked with what we had. This resulted in us making a beach with sunloungers, lilos and palm trees. Unfortunately our efforts resulted in 'NIL points' but well done to Chris and Geoff Blackstone for their very professional model!



A few sleepy heads appeared for breakfast on the final day. We were warned that the driving that day would be a little hair-raising in places through the Pyrenées. No mistake there! Leaving the beautiful city of Carcassonne behind us we drove to Axat, Saillagouse, Ripoll and Tona looking for our final clues.

Barcelona! We arrived at the five-star Hotel Miramar overlooking the beautiful city of Barcelona with most teams having a well-deserved swim and one or two beers before pampering themselves for

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the Gala Dinner. Congratulations to the Blackstones who did so well during the four days and were proud recipients of the silver rally plates!

A few final words.

From Louise at Hospice: "We are so pleased with the success of the rally. We had a fantastic group of ralliers who were really dedicated fund-raisers, and came up with all sorts of ideas to raise money for Jersey Hospice Care. Thank you to everybody for their time, effort and imaginations!"

And from me: "Another wonderful rally! Fun, fun, fun, whilst supporting a worthwhile local charity! Can't wait to see where the next one will take us!"

A big thank you to the overall sponsors of the event – Gallery Magazine, The Royal Yacht and Moore Stephens together with our own sponsors – Alex Picot, Bambola Toymaster, Channel 103 and JB Decorators.

Julie Hinault and Bruce Renouf

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PARISH DIARY - August 2009 to December 2009

AUGUST

Sun 16th 11.00am Beach Service at Bonne Nuit organised by the Parish Church
Wed 26th 2.30pm Golden Age meeting. The Conservatory, St John's Inn

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 3rd Back to School
Visite Du Branchage
Wed 9th 6.30pm St John's WI meet at Parish Hall for Scavenger hunt and supper
Thurs 10th Jersey International Air Show
Sun 13th Missionary Sunday at the Parish Church with Friends of Ecce Home
Mon 14th 7.00pm School PTA AGM
Fri 25th 11.00am School Harvest Celebration in Church
Sun 27th Back to Church Sunday at the Parish Church
Tues 29th 7.30pm Muriel's bingo in St John's Inn
Wed 30th 12.00pm Golden Age Outing

OCTOBER

Sun 4th 10.30am All-age Harvest Celebration at the Parish Church
Mon 5th School Art Week
Sun 11th 6.00pm Confirmation service, in the Parish Church with The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt, Bishop of Winchester
Wed 14th 7.30pm St John's WI Antiques Roadshow with Peter Le Rossignol at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Mon 19th School Technology Week
Wed 23rd School St JUFFs (St John Unites For Funds) fund raising day
Fri 25th Last day of school half-term
Tues 27th 7.30pm Muriel's bingo in St John's Inn
Wed 28th 2.30pm Golden Age meeting. The Conservatory, St John's Inn

NOVEMBER

Mon 2nd Back to School
Sun 8th 10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service in the Parish Church. Organised by the St John's Group of Churches
Wed 11th 7.30pm St John's WI AGM at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Fri 13th School Children in Need Charity Event
Tues 24th 7.30pm Muriel's bingo in St John's Inn

Wed 25th 2.30pm Golden Age meeting. The Conservatory, St John's Inn
Fri 27th School Deco Day. All day whole school celebration of Christmas

DECEMBER

Mon 7th 1.30pm School Reception/ KS1 Christmas Performance
Tues 8th 1.30pm School Reception/ KS1 Christmas Performance
7.30pm Muriel's bingo in St John's Inn
Wed 9th 7.30pm St John's WI Christmas Party at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Thurs 10th 7.00pm School performance of Wind in the Willows
Fri 11th 1.00pm School performance of Wind in the Willows
7.00pm School performance of Wind in the Willows with tea for the Friends of the school
Wed 16th 11.00am School Carol Service in Church
Last day of school term

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN ST JOHN

THE PARISH CHURCH

Every Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion with traditional hymns
11.00am Contemporary Worship – All-age Worship, Celebrations or Communion.

The Sunday Club meets weekly at 11.00am leaving church for their own teaching sessions at the school except during all-age worship services.

SION METHODIST CHURCH

Every Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Every Sunday

10.30am Family Worship
Holy Communion on first Sunday of the month
'All-age' worship on the last Sunday of the month.

Anyone living outside the parish who wishes to receive "L'Étaile du Nord" is invited to take out a year's subscription (3 issues) for £5. Please send us the following information:

Name

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I enclose £5 cash/cheque made out to "Star of the North".

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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.**



MISS ST JOHN OPENS FLOWER SHOW

***Miss St John, Jess Stanier, pictured at
St John's School where, with Deputy James
Reed, she helped to open the school's
Chelsea Flower Show***

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.

