

L'ÉTALE DU NORD - STAR OF THE NORTH



Parish of St John

ISSUE 19

December 2009

Despite wintry weather on the exposed heathland and cliffs of St John's coast, Manx Laoghtan sheep are grazing. They were acquired by the National Trust for Jersey. Shepherd, Aaron Le Couteur, talked to ALASDAIR CROSBY

JERSEY, like Little Bo-Peep, had lost its sheep.

At one time the Island was synonymous with sheep, wool and knitting, but with changing times (and fashions), and the effects of the Industrial Revolution and mass-produced garments, the Island's own breed of horned sheep diminished and finally disappeared.

Historically, Jersey's coastal headlands and slopes were grazed by ponies, cattle, and sheep, but changes in the nature of the Island's economy led to the end of traditional farming practices in these marginal areas. Grazing by sheep ceased, causing a gradual loss of these open spaces, with bracken smothering everything.

Until recently, that is, because it looks now as if Jersey, like Bo-Peep, has once again found her sheep.

Last year, as part of an observable renaissance of sheep farming in Jersey, the National Trust imported 20 Manx Laoghtan sheep – a rare breed originating in the Isle of Man. They have since been joined by two rams – from the Isle of Man itself, flown to Jersey in an RAF Hercules.

'These horned sheep must not look too dissimilar

from the original breed of Jersey sheep,' said the shepherd, Aaron Le Couteur, who oversaw their move to their new home on the cliffs of St John and St Mary, grazing on the same land that the Jersey breed once grazed in centuries past.

He said that the principal aims of the scheme were to restore the grassland and heathland, through grazing, and also to bring this marginal land back into agricultural use. There were also many other benefits to the scheme, he added, including historical links with Jersey's agricultural past, creating a more open landscape, appeal to visitors and schools, and the production of a quality meat product for the local market.

The breed is able to thrive on poorer vegetation and in harsher weather conditions.

Good for them – when invited to view the sheep, either on the cliffs near Sorel or at Mr Le Couteur's farm near St Catherine, I went for the second option: a wise decision, as it turned out to be a morning of sleet and gales. Earlier that morning he had visited them on the cliffs.

'It was really bleak out there – but they didn't mind



Photo Courtesy of JEP

In this issue:

***The Oldest Club – Shopping in China – Exotic Weddings
– Overseas Aid in Kenya – Namibia 2010***

at all! The only concession they make to the weather is to lie down with their heads away from the wind, but after a quarter of an hour's snooze, up they get again and wander about – they are quite happy. The lanolin in their coats keeps off the water, and protects their skin from the wet and cold.'

It is this year's lambs – the first Island-born generation of these Manx Laoghtan sheep – that are now skipping about the cliffs of St John with an increasing agility; they seem to have a genetic predisposition towards rough ground, heather, and rocky, steep places.

The sheep and the rams are wintering in St Martin; in the modern euphemism, they are 'getting together'. A second vintage of lambs can be expected in the spring of 2010.

Originally 20 ewes were imported, and in May more than 20 lambs were born, including three 'ram lambs'.

There have been two incidents of dogs not under control attacking the lambs, and in the summer two had to be put down after being attacked by dogs; a ewe was also bitten on the back, but fortunately has now recovered. As time goes by, he hopes such incidents will decrease, as the public become better educated about keeping dogs under control, and the sheep become more familiar with their home, and better able to hide away in the area's nooks and crannies from canine and human nuisance.

The National Trust has run a course for 'lookers' to keep an eye out on the sheep and their welfare as they walk over the sheep area between Devil's Hole and Sorel. Another course may be held next spring; St John residents who walk regularly in this area may care to contact the trust for a place on the next course by phoning the lands manager, Jon Horn, at the

National Trust's headquarters, The Elms.

Mr Le Couteur comes from a traditional Jersey farming background. He took an agricultural degree, but towards the end realised that his interest was more in the ecological aspects of agriculture. He then spent a year in the Australian outback before returning to Jersey and working in habitat conservation, including the lands of the National Trust for Jersey. He was the obvious choice to employ as shepherd for the trust's Manx Laoghtans.

There will be an increasing commercial value to the herd as time goes on: the wool can be used for small-scale craft knitting, and perhaps by 2011 there will be sufficient animals to provide meat (Manx Laoghtan meat is delicious) for the Island's butchers and restaurants.

Despite the two dog incidents, the first year has gone well, and Mr Le Couteur was full of praise for the St John Honorary Police: they were there during the dog attack incidents, and when animals happened to escape from their penned area near Wolf's Caves, they came to the rescue.

'One of them, David Curtis, threw himself in front of a ram to try to catch it – they do have big horns! The Honorary Police from St John did us proud – and I am very grateful for their help.'

To help him in his work, Mr Le Couteur has Roy, a seven-year old collie, who, before retiring to Jersey, used to work 3,000 sheep on hillsides north of Glasgow.

Both master and dog have been learning quickly about looking after sheep in Jersey. As Mr Le Couteur said: 'It is such a steep learning curve that you are lucky if you don't fall off.'

PRIZE PATIO

Local Maison Le Vesconte resident Shirley Caurel has this year won fourth prize in the Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticulture Society Patio Garden Competition.

Shirley has always been interested in growing plants. Her late father allowed her to use part of the greenhouse at the family farm as a youngster. When she moved to Maison Le Vesconte quite some time ago, she started brightening up the area around her cottage which was then on the corner of Rue de L'Étocquet.

Lester Rondel noticed Shirley's green fingers and encouraged her to enter the RJA&HS gardening competition, which she subsequently did. That was in 2006, for which she earned a certificate of merit, as she did the following year.

However she was asked to move a couple of years ago as development of her cottage was imminent. She now has more scope for a bigger display at her new home, and in 2008 came 8th in her class with 73 points, and this year Shirley came 4th with 87 points.

Richard Dupré



Editorial

'Travellers' Tales' would be an appropriate sub-title for this edition which features life in China, a journey from Beijing to Moscow, an Overseas Aid trip to Kenya, preparations for one to Namibia, as well as weddings in Las Vegas, Mexico and Scotland. Are there any more travelling parishioners out there willing to share their experiences?

The greater part of this edition is devoted to clubs, organisations, activities and events within St John, from the British Legion Coffee Morning, to the planning of a Skateboarding facility. Many thanks to the 23 writers – from 16 years old to very much more! – who have shared their interests and activities with us.

Please read the piece on page 41 about FREE insulation and pass on the message to anyone you know who might benefit from this scheme which has the advantages of making people warmer at less cost, and being kinder to our planet.

Thanks

Thanks are due to all who contribute to this publication – advertisers, writers and distributors – not forgetting Garry and Linda at Alpha Print.

At the end of September the editorial team was delighted to entertain our band of distributors who drop Stars into letterboxes throughout the Parish. The Farmhouse restaurant was the venue for a very pleasant evening of good food, chatter and laughter.

Deadline for our April edition is March 8th

Please 'THINK STAR' and let us have your contributions. What aspects of parish life which are missing from Star would you like to see included? Please let us know.

Why not begin your Christmas celebrations by attending the St John's Group of Churches' Candlelit Carol Service at 4 pm on Sunday December 13th.

Members of the Editorial team join me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Angela Le Sueur, Editor

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DEAR PARISHIONERS

Connétable Election

I am pleased to inform you that I was re-elected as your Connétable on the evening of the 11th of November 2009 for another term, albeit this term will be only until the end of 2011.

I would like to thank my proposer Peter Pallot and my seconders: Carl Hinault, Muriel Poisson MBE, Harry Rondel, Michael Cotillard, Valerie Averty, John Henwood, Celia Jeune, Andy Jehan, and Député Phil Rondel.

I now look forward to serving the parishioners of St John in the same way that I have over the last three years.

Parish Hall

The work on the Parish Hall is progressing well despite hitting some very soft ground at the rear of the hall, (called, I understand, cow-belly) almost like black blancmange.

This discovery has caused some delay but not a major expense, albeit if we were using a building contractor to do the work it would have provided an ideal excuse to add charges.

The way we are doing the job is that we are the contractor and as far as parishioners are concerned there is no more economical way of doing the job. I have always planned to have the work completed by the end of April and all fingers are crossed that this will be achieved.

I am hoping to be able to redecorate and re-curtain the main hall to coincide with the main work completion. This hall was last refurbished in about 1982 and has done well to last this long.

Poppy appeal

Due to the lack of facilities at the Parish Hall I am please to tell you that the School gave permission for us to hold the Coffee Morning as well at the Vin d'Honneur after the church Service on Sunday in the School hall.

The coffee morning was extremely well supported by parishioners, but I did note a couple of Island politicians supporting us, as well as residents of neighbouring parishes. It was a fantastic event and raised £1,385.

I would like to convey a sincere thanks to all of the volunteers that helped to set up, man the stalls, make coffee, bake cakes, etc. All in all it was a great community event.

I would like to thank all of the parish businesses for their support with raffle prizes for the event. I also would like to thank my wife Ann for organising all of the poppy collectors and the coffee morning, and Vin d'Honneur.

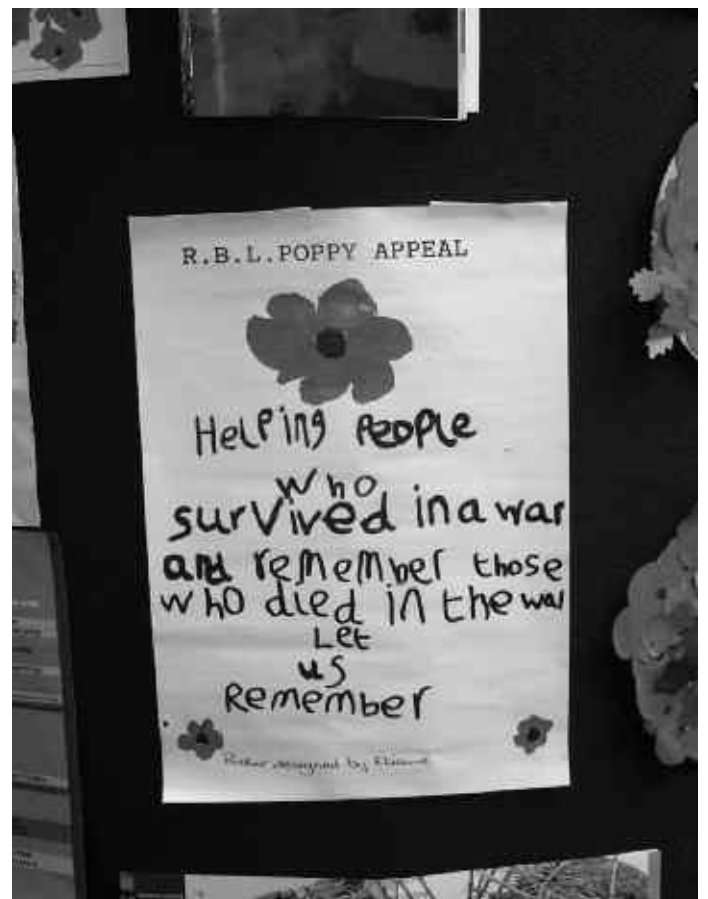
Some of you may have noticed some Xmas cards with a delightful snow scene print of our parish church at the Poppy Appeal coffee morning. They are still available at the Parish Hall. £3 for 5 Cards and envelopes.



The States

I had the opportunity to visit the Palace of Westminster recently, in my role on the Education and Home affairs Scrutiny Panel; we had an extremely interesting day and visited the House of Lords and the House of Commons as well as having various meetings with our English counterparts. Other things that I do within the States include serving on the Planning Applications Panel and the Housing Task Force, looking at affordable housing for our youngsters. Also I was chairman of a working group looking at Island speed limits. It seems that there is very little room in my diary these days.

*Graeme Butcher,
Connétable*



The School supports the poppy appeal – also see the back cover



7th & 8th November – A Special Weekend for Deputy Phil Rondel

The damp November Saturday morning started like any other – up just after 6am, listened to the weather forecast at 6.25 am followed by the news, then over to the office to deal with correspondence, e-mails and check the answer phone for any missed calls. By 10 am I was abreast of happenings within the Parish and Island, with many of the calls and correspondence dealt with.

By 10.15 it was down to St John's School for the Royal British Legion Coffee Morning, where I met many parishioners and friends and chatted over coffee and biscuits. When the Constable started calling the raffle numbers I realised it was after midday so I left my tickets with Wendy and shot off home to return calls I had not been able to make earlier in the day.

Wendy returned around 1.15 pm and after a quick bite to eat we headed off to St Brelade to drop off a card and present to Stephanie, our 17-year-old granddaughter. But with a busy schedule we could only spend a short time with her before heading off to the Opera House where Bethany, our 9-year-old granddaughter, was performing a violin duet in the Eisteddfod. We made it in time and the performance was excellent with a good result given by the judges.

Arriving home before 6 pm I returned to the office for an hour before a bit of R & R with friends at St John's Inn.

On Sunday morning the 6.28am weather forecast was not very promising – winds of force 5-6 with gusts of up to 40 knots plus hail and rain. Then the news followed – it was reported that 93 British service men and women had been killed so far this year in conflicts around the world. I popped over to the office for a few hours before attending church. Traditionally the Deputy reads the First Lesson on Remembrance Sunday; this year it was Romans 12 verses 12-19. The church was full. As usual I stumbled over one or two words – being dyslexic I tend to swap words around. After the church service we moved over to the War Memorial where, on behalf of my aunt and family, I laid the wreath in honour of Colin Clifford, a cousin, who fell in the Northern Ireland conflict. After the service the Constable invited all to the school for refreshments.

The afternoon saw Wendy and myself with six of the grandchildren, taking Bethany, Adam and Amie to Edward and William's 11th birthday party in St Lawrence. With five married children and twelve grandchildren there are always plenty of party invitations!

On Wednesday November the 11th we saw Constable Butcher re-elected for a further term. I congratulate Graeme and Ann, wish them well for the future and thank them both for the work they have done for St John during their first term in office.



By the time you read this it will be close to Christmas. I hope and pray that the number of service men and women lost has not increased. It was 93 when I began to write this, but alas by the time I returned home today the number had already increased to 95. Lest We Forget.

In signing off, both Wendy and I would like to send you Season's Greetings and hope that 2010 will bring all you wish for yourselves and your families.

Phil Rondel

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

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

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St John's School – Thinking, Learning, Caring



Thinking, Learning, Caring . . . these three words appear to be a short, simple statement and yet, they hold great meaning and depth for us as a learning community at St John's School. These carefully chosen words are our Core Professional

Purpose because they get to the very heart of what we are about as a learning community. They create a clear and inspiring statement which is memorable and easily understood from the youngest child in our Nursery, to the oldest pupils in Year 6 – from every member of staff to everyone linked to our school community. Our Core Professional Purpose underpins our learning journey, whatever age we are.

We had two very exciting weeks in school this term. The week of October 5th was Art Week, where every class, under the guidance and direction of the highly talented Mrs Liz Muir and Mrs Jeaninne Godefroy, developed their drawing and painting skills, through the creation of cartoon characters. These classic 'works of art' have been mounted and displayed around our school, especially in our famous 'Piazza Grande' and provide colour and interest to everyone who sees them. Our Core Professional Purpose was evident throughout Art Week as the children have been thinking about different art skills and how to develop their own knowledge, skill and understanding within this curriculum area. Learning has been evident through the different ways the pupils have been encouraged to be confident within themselves and take risks with their learning as they develop their creative skills – often being challenged to work outside their personal comfort zones. Every child has been caring for their work too, making sure that they produced a piece of quality work, which they are proud of and as a result, they have raised their own personal levels of expectation and self belief.

Technology Week followed in mid-October. Gareth Green, our Year 6 teacher and KS2 Manager, visited America in the summer and was 'spellbound' by a technology display at an American University, which celebrated the development of technology throughout the years. He has been inspiring staff with all that he saw in this display and as a result, we have collected a whole range of gadgets and pieces of technology, which seem very familiar to me, but are completely alien to many of our youngsters. The children have been thinking about the different ways these 'artefacts' may or may not have been used, have been learning how they can be operated and have been caring in the manner with which they have displayed their newly acquired gadgets, through exciting and meaningful ways. We have also been considering what technology might look like in the future . . . this has encouraged



Remember these?

lots of creative thinking and lively banter. Please feel free to come and look around both displays and let us know what you think about the creative and active learning that is represented.

Andrew, Janet, Lucy and Rosie Willis have settled well into a very different Chinese culture and their new home and school. They seem to be enjoying lots of exciting adventures and new experiences. As a staff, we receive many regular updates and tales that have us chuckling for a long time. Andrew has been very supportive and e-mailed and phoned me several times, so I can discuss things with him and keep him up to date with events (see page 21).

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed this new and challenging role of Acting Head Teacher at St John's School. Everyone has been incredibly supportive and helpful and I am so privileged to be part of such a talented, hard working and creative team of professionals, who make coming to school each day a wonderful experience. Thank you to everyone else within the St John's vicinity, for your support and encouragement. St John's School is a very special place and I am really proud to be a part of it.

If you would like to know more about our work at St John's School, we would value your thoughts, feelings and insights regarding the life of our school community. Please feel free to pop in for a cup of coffee and a guided tour, so that we can share with you the co-operation, creativity and active learning that makes St John's School the distinctive learning community, we believe it to be. Visit the Art Display which will be up until the end of the Spring Term.

Trudie de la Haye





School Art Week

Get Creative with 'The Mourant Big Draw'

Following its success last year, Mourant du Feu & Jeune is delighted to sponsor the Big Draw Campaign 2009/2010 together with Jersey Heritage. Last year, Jersey Heritage received 1,300 entries and hopes to beat that number this year.

The Big Draw is a national event that encourages people of all ages and walks of life to pick up their choice of creative medium and draw a picture related to a particular theme. The Jersey theme for this year is to design a 'Green' home that depicts any current or new ideas that would make our homes more environmentally friendly.

Blank postcards, on which designs should be submitted, are being delivered to various organisations, schools and clubs. They can also be picked up at many other locations around the Island including the Library, Parish Halls, Garden Centres and Jersey Heritage sites. Participants have until 31st December 2009 to submit their entries.

There will be five age categories for the drawings (detailed below) and the winner from each category will be announced live on Channel 103FM. Winners will receive a prize from the Mourant du Feu & Jeune Property Team and see their drawing take pride of place at the Mourant Big Draw exhibition in the Link Gallery at the Jersey Museum early next year. More information can be found on <http://www.jerseyheritage.org/events/the-mourant-big-draw>.

The categories are as follows:

- Pre-School (up to 5 years)
- Key Stage 1 (5-7 years)
- Key Stage 2 (7-11 years)
- Secondary Key Stages 3 & 4 (11-18 years)
- Adults (over 18)



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LES MATHIONNETTES – 'Northern Lights'

Our Northern Light, Edward Minier, was interviewed by Mary Rouillé

Edward Minier came in to the world in 1922 at Mont Mattieu, St Ouen, weighing just 2lbs. Being so tiny he was wrapped in cotton wool and placed in a shoe-box which was put on the windowsill. His father, who came to Jersey from France at the age of nine, worked as a farm labourer. The family moved to St Peter where his father started a smallholding, keeping a few cows, growing potatoes and cattle feed.



Edward, who was number six in a family of seven children, went to school in St Peter until the age of fourteen. He wanted to be a carpenter but his father said no as there was more money to be made working on a farm. In those days a carpenter earned five shillings a week (25 pence), but a farm labourer brought home thirty six shillings a week (£1.80p). After his mother died at the age of 39 his father was left with the children; the eldest was eighteen and the youngest six months. Two of his sisters who had gone into service as housemaids had to leave their jobs to look after the family. His brothers worked as labourers on nearby farms, but in 1940 Hedley, the eldest son, joined the Free French Army. His father had warned him not to get involved with unsavoury characters whilst over there. Unfortunately his advice was not heeded and Hedley was drowned in a French harbour after being robbed of his money.

During the war years Edward worked on various farms, a job he disliked, and in 1943 contracted

rheumatic fever, spending two months in hospital and four months convalescing at Overdale. After the war he joined Mauger's as a builder's labourer and in 1946 went to work as a painter at the airport. This led to working for Channel Islands Airways as an aircraft maintenance engineer for the next thirty years.

In 1947 he married Louisa and fathered two sons, Graham and Alan. They lived in two rooms at Gombrette in St John for seven years until Les Lauriers, a cottage located on the St John/St Mary border, became available for rent at 30 shillings a week (£1.50p). Wanting to own their own house, Edward and Louisa saved hard and in 1963 bought a plot of land for £800 from his brother-in-law, Stan Morin, to build a bungalow. The land had originally been the site of the Sorel Hotel, a hostelry which burnt down around the 1860s. It took nine months of hard work with a pick and shovel for Edward to clear the land, and he employed a builder to erect the bungalow at a cost of £5,000.

In 1975 he had a heart attack and left the now British Airways to work as a storeman, a less stressful job, based at Redifusion, a TV and radio company, and after ten years' service he retired at 64.

Edward had always been interested in gardening and after building the bungalow he became really keen, planning his garden which turned out exactly as he wanted. This started his involvement in the growing and showing of plants, specialising in standard fuchsias. He won the Jersey Floral competition seven times as well as those organised by



the RJHS where he was judged by the likes of Alan Titchmarsh and Geoffrey Smith. This led him to become a judge for the Jersey Horticultural Society, a job he fulfilled for five years.

Edward now lives at Maison La Corderie in St Helier where they have given him the task of looking after the plants and have recently erected him a lean-to greenhouse.



Bicentenary Choral Concert

On 14th November, the United Reformed Church was completely full for a concert by the Jersey Island Singers. There was a varied programme with a mix of items by composers ranging from Puccini and Bizet to John Rutter. There was something to please everyone and the evening had a social feel to it also, as many friends met and shared refreshments before the concert and in the interval. The URC has splendid acoustics and the Singers and audience felt that it was a real celebration of our 200 years. We wonder what the founders of the building would have felt if they had experienced the event!

There are many people to thank for the occasion. The conductors, Nick Cabot and Hugh Lincé, em-

braced the opportunity to share fully with the audience, and Chris Bacon on the trumpet roused everyone's spirits. Malcolm Whittell accompanied some items from the Jersey Island Singers and also a moving series of items from Paul Curievici who had travelled from England to be part of the concert.

In the URC much of the planning had been done by Michael Sheldrake and Jan, and thanks are due to them and to many others. We look forward to making further links with the Singers in the future.

Although the evening was a celebration we were also glad that £600 was raised for Church funds.

Reverend Patrick McManus

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Scouts give Durrell a 50th Birthday Present



Never ones to pass up an opportunity, the Scouts of the 6th Jersey troop have been rising to the challenge of clearing a pond at Durrell so that wildlife will be encouraged to take up residence in the water feature.

The 6th Manton Scouts, who meet at Trinity Youth Centre on a Wednesday evening, were keen to enter a Scout Association scheme whereby scout groups can submit entries documenting their involvement in an environmental or conservation project locally.

Durrell grasped the opportunity to have a dozen able-bodied young people to clear the pond behind the education block, which over the years has become overgrown and as a result, has not attracted wildlife to the area. Armed with wellies, galoshes and cutting implements, the Scouts hacked their way through the vegetation one damp day in July and the result was a vastly improved habitat fit for a new generation of local species.



**We would like to thank
you for your support
and wish you all a
Happy Christmas and a
prosperous New Year.**



Scout leader, Jason Green, complimented the young people: 'The Scouts really threw themselves into the task in hand. The success of the project lay in the fact that it was an achievable target and that given a relatively short space of time, their efforts would be rewarded with the pond being brought back to life. We did a follow-up visit in September and I think that they should be justifiably proud of their endeavours'.

Then along came the Cubs who carried out a survey on the pond to see what was in it before the work commenced and then went back a few weeks later to see if things had changed now that the pond's aquatic environment had improved.

This is just a taster of some of the activities that the Scouts get involved with. Since the last edition of Star of the North, we have recruited one new uniformed leader for the Manton Cub Pack and a helper with the Trinity Pack but we still need more help so please get in touch if you can offer any assistance by telephoning me on 862663 or email andrew.lewis@imageci.com.

World Jamboree 2010

Our attention will soon be turning to the World Jamboree being held in Sweden in 2011. Youngsters will be invited to express their interest in applying to be selected for this trip of a lifetime. It is anticipated that it will cost each participant around

£1,800 to attend, so fund raising will start to gain momentum once the selection process has been completed.

On a final note, we so often hear negative press about young people, but I think it is important to remember that there are many young people who, through organisations such as Scouts, put an awful lot back into the community and I think we should commend them.

*Andrew Lewis,
Group Scout Leader 6th Jersey*

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.

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The oldest club in the Parish – **ST JOHN'S PARISH RIFLE CLUB**

Not many parishioners will realise that the oldest club within the parish is St John's Parish Rifle Club. Although the exact formation date of the Club is not known the Club's record books go back to September 1892. The records show Mr James Falla as the first president of the Club and it is interesting to note that the Falla family is still very well known within the Parish today.

There are many interesting historical elements contained within those records and what follows are a few of the points about the early years of the Club from 1892 to 1896.

Solid Silver Spoons

In 1892, the Club took 39 subscriptions at five shillings per person, not a meagre sum of money, and this was used to purchase ammunition; prizes which included solid silver spoons; paying markers; as well as organising printed postcards inviting people to meetings and to the shoot. In 1893 the paid-up members had increased to 51 and the Club was placing advertisements in the *Chronique* and the *Nouvelle Chronique*. In the same year the sport was so popular that 28 members attended a practice day. No doubt the Jersey Militia that existed at that time was the focus of the Club membership as can be seen from the 1894 records where the Club received donations from Captain Picot, Captain Le Gresley, Major Falla and many other well-known Jersey names such as Orange, Ferey, Richardson, Bailhache, Lucas, Coutanche and Bisson. There was also a Mr A Le Sueur and by coincidence we now have a Mr Alan Le Sueur, who is one of the top Jersey rifle shooters living within the parish. It is good to see that some things in life do not change.

In 1895, as well as advertising in the two *Chronique* newspapers, an additional advertisement was placed in the *Evening Post*.

The cost of ammunition is another interesting item from the records. The best ammunition was purchased by the Club for £5-12s-3d per thousand rounds. Some obviously lesser quality ammunition, presumably used on practice days, was purchased for £4-5s-0d per thousand rounds. Compare these prices with the average 25 round shoot to-day which costs £16!

In 1896 a name that was to become synonymous with the Club first made its appearance – that of Mr J. J. Renouf. The present Club Treasurer is his great-great-grandson, Mr J. M. Renouf, who has been in this position for 37 years and he was the winner of the 600 yard trophy at this year's shoot.

2009 Shoot

As you have now had a tantalising glimpse of the early years of the Club I thought it might interest you

to know a little bit more about the 2009 shoot which was held at Crabbé rifle range on Sunday, 13 September, 2009 and was supported by 15 members, with new parish resident, Richard Benest, emerging as the overall winner. This was not exactly surprising as Richard represented Jersey at Rifle Shooting in the last Commonwealth Games. In second place was club president Michael Cotillard, with Nick Lane taking third position.

The shoot took place in somewhat blustery conditions which did offer a distinct advantage to the regular outdoor shooters who are somewhat more experienced at handling these conditions.

The shooting commenced at 300 yards and the J. J. Renouf trophy was won by Michael Cotillard with a maximum score. The 500 yard distance proved to be the highlight of the day with a three-way tie shoot between Karen Cotillard, the club secretary, Richard Benest and Peter Quimby, one of the Island's top .22 shooters. To everyone's amazement Karen Cotillard emerged as the winner, proving that this is a sport at which women can compete on an equal basis with men. The final shoot was held at 600 yards and the P. J. Rondel trophy was won by club treasurer, John Renouf, making it a very successful afternoon for the officers of the club – something practically unheard of before.

Trophies

However, despite not winning an individual distance, Richard Benest emerged as the overall top scorer of the day by one point from Michael Cotillard. Karen's fine win enabled her to retain the ladies' trophy and John Lane also fired well and retained the junior trophy. The Cotillard trophy for the highest non-JRA shooter, who had not won any other trophy, was presented to Nick Lane. Graham Huelin, an indoor .22 shooter, finished in a very respectable fourth position with the aforementioned Peter Quimby in 5th and John Renouf in 6th.

In order to ensure the continuance of the Club for many more years, any parishioners who would like to take part, even if they have never shot previously, are asked to please contact me on 863296 and I will ensure that interested parties are contacted prior to next year's shoot. Events like this, across many Parish Rifle Clubs, have been the initial introduction to the sport of many top class shooters, and in addition to equipment being lent to any would-be shooter, first class coaching will be available to all new participants as obviously safety is paramount within the sport.

*Michael Cotillard,
President, St John's Parish Rifle Club*



ST JOHN'S SHOOTING CLUB

The club is maintaining a strong presence on the local shooting scene with three senior teams and one junior team in the JSSA winter small-bore rifle leagues and a team in the airgun league defending its top team title which it won last season. Club members represented Jersey in the inter-insular matches in April and at the British Championships at Bisley this year and all acquitted themselves with very good performances.

The club is open on Monday evenings from 7.30 for small-bore rifle and on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 for airgun shooting with club equipment freely available for all. Normal charges are £2.50 for small-bore and £2 for airgun.

Jersey Team Visit to Alençon Autumn 2009

A team of Jersey shooters from St John's shooting club and the Jersey Pistol club recently went over to Normandy for the Alençon Open which attracts entries from many French clubs as well as some shooters from the UK and this year even a few from the USA.

As usual the Jersey contingent was well placed in all the events and Jersey won the overall team Black Powder Pistol competition with Gerry Weir, David Mills and John Renouf taking the first three individual places. Jersey came second in the small-bore 50 metre rifle event with Hayden Lister maintaining his unbeaten record in the S3 class and with David Mills 6th in S2 and John Renouf 6th in S3. Team Jersey was very strong.

Jersey was also second in the Centre Fire Pistol



Hayden Lister

team event with David Mills 8th in S2, Gerry Weir 2nd, Allain Maurant 3rd and John Renouf 7th in S3 class.

In the 50 metre Free Pistol competition John Renouf came second and he also came second in the 10 metre Air Pistol with Mick Radcliffe 5th and Noel Romano 11th.

Standard Pistol is a demanding event with each shooter required to shoot 4 series of 5 shots in each series in 150 seconds then 4 series of 5 shots in 20 seconds and finally 5 shots in 10 seconds. John Renouf managed to keep his cool to come 3rd, Mick Radcliffe came 4th, David Mills and Gerry Weir managed 6th and Allain Maurant 7th, which gained Jersey another second place overall.

Sport Pistol is shot at 25 metres with 30 shots fired in 6 series of 5 shots in 5 minutes, then 30 shots in 6 series of 5 shots, each shot fired on a turning target which only faces the competitor for 3 seconds, so no time to tie your shoe laces between shots!. John Renouf came 4th in S3 with Allain Maurant 6th and Noel Romano 7th. In the S2 class, Mick Radcliffe shot very well to finish in 5th place on 541 and David Mills was 7th.

Armes de Poing Reglementaires is a military style competition with fixed sights on full-bore pistols. Mick Radcliffe was in fine form and came 3rd overall and Gerry Weir also shot very well to get 5th place overall.

Vitesse Militaire at 25 metres is a similar competition but involves speed shooting as the name implies and is also with fixed sight military type revolvers. Mick Radcliffe was superb and gained 4th place overall and Gerry Weir was 10th.

All the Jersey contingent are looking forward to the spring open which is on the 10th-11th April next year.

*John Renouf,
President, St John's Shooting Club*

JERSEY EVACUEES ASSOCIATION

The Jersey Evacuees Association is hoping to publish a book about the experiences of the evacuees, and would like to hear from parishioners who were evacuated from Jersey in June 1940.

Please get into contact by early January.

Either telephone Mrs Jean McLaughlin on 721171, or Mrs Elizabeth Etienne on 851234; or write to Elizabeth Etienne, La Golondrina, Rue de Samares, St Clement. JE2 6LS



The Bowen Technique

When Bear Grylls was in the SAS, his parachute failed to inflate fully causing him to fracture 3 vertebrae. Despite great help provided by the forces rehabilitation centres, he was still suffering years later and felt unbalanced by his injury. His wife suggested he see a Bowen therapist 'I was skeptical, but wanted to keep an open mind', said Bear.

He was treated by a Bowen therapist in Sussex, Sarah Yearsley, who noted his back was very slightly twisted. For such an active person structural alignment is vital.

The Bowen treatment Bear received involved light rolling moves over muscles and soft tissue. There was no cracking and crunching. The Bowen treatment prompts the body to repair and adjust imbalances itself. Importantly the therapist was not imposing her will and force on Bear's tender back. This may explain why it is so popular in hospital and hospices. Bear Grylls noted that 'with the slightest squiggle of her fingers, it felt like petrol was being put back into my tank and I could feel the stress seeping away'.

An unusual aspect of the treatment is the regular break of two minutes to absorb the moves. A theory is that the time allows the brain to connect to the area treated and for it to assess the tensions in specific muscles and to adjust appropriately. The gluteus muscles can change rapidly so that what was a stiff muscle for the first move become soft and pliable minutes later. The Bowen moves are typically made where the largest loads are carried in the body. For example after Bowen moves in the curve of the lower back there is usually an energetic release which may give a feeling of warmth and a colouring of the skin.

Bowen had a sports injury background in Australia. Over time it was noted that unexpected ailments like asthma, IBS, migraine, digestive conditions, menstrual problems, kidney problems and fertility problems benefited from Bowen treatments. Dogs and horses in Jersey enjoy Bowen which indicates it has a very natural appeal. Bowen is used by large UK sports clubs to keep their players in balance and to reduce injury. However men, women and children of all ages and in a variety of conditions use Bowen for frozen shoulder, tennis elbow, sciatica, back/neck pain, and sports injuries. It is apparent early on whether Bowen is appropriate as a treatment. It is known for rapid relief. There have been trials for back pain, asthma, fibromyalgia and migraine.

When Bear Grylls was preparing for his powered paraglide over Everest the Daily Mail reported that he used Bowen to ensure he was properly balanced. Structural alignment was vital for a paraglider at such an altitude. One cannot imagine an unbalanced bird flying far. Bear succeeded in his attempt which was shown on Channel 4. Bear Grylls describes himself as hooked on Bowen and he continues to have monthly treatments.

Graham Taylor

I spell pain relief **BOWEN**



The Daily Mail recently reported on Bear Grylls' parachute accident and how Bowen helped him.

Do you know Bowen is used for: **back and neck pain; sports injuries; sciatica; arthritis; frozen shoulder; stress; migraine; fibromyalgia; and general pain relief.** Dogs and horses benefit. Used in hospitals.

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St John's Brownies

Girlguiding UK will be celebrating 100 years in October 2010. In Jersey, during the last 12 months our Centenary Committee has been working on planning events for all girls to enjoy. Events have been planned from September 2009 until October 2010. You will get to hear what we are up to later in the year.

We started with our Centenary Launch Party which took place at Howard Davis Park. This birthday celebration included a launch of 100 balloons, party games and challenges. Each girl has been given a Centenary scarf which is now part of their uniform.

In October there was an event for Guides who went to a concert at Wembley Arena. I was lucky to be part of this group which was made up of 24 Guides and 10 Leaders. The girls saw many of their pop idols including JLS, Scouting for Girls, Alexandre Burke and many more. There was an amazing atmosphere at this occasion, which was packed with 11 thousand Guides screaming with delight!

In November we will be planting trees throughout the island, assisted by Jersey Trees for Life, and in December our Island Centenary Carol Service will take place at All Saints Church.



St John's Brownies are working towards their Seasons Badge and we have also been invited to plant bulbs around St John's Church – weather permitting. We will be celebrating St Andrew's Night, and joining us will be Mrs Brenda Gail who will teach us Scottish dancing. To finish off our term this year, girls will be busy with Christmas craft and enjoying a well earned Christmas party.

Donna Tupper, Unit Guider



NAMIBIA 2010: by Thomas Dorey

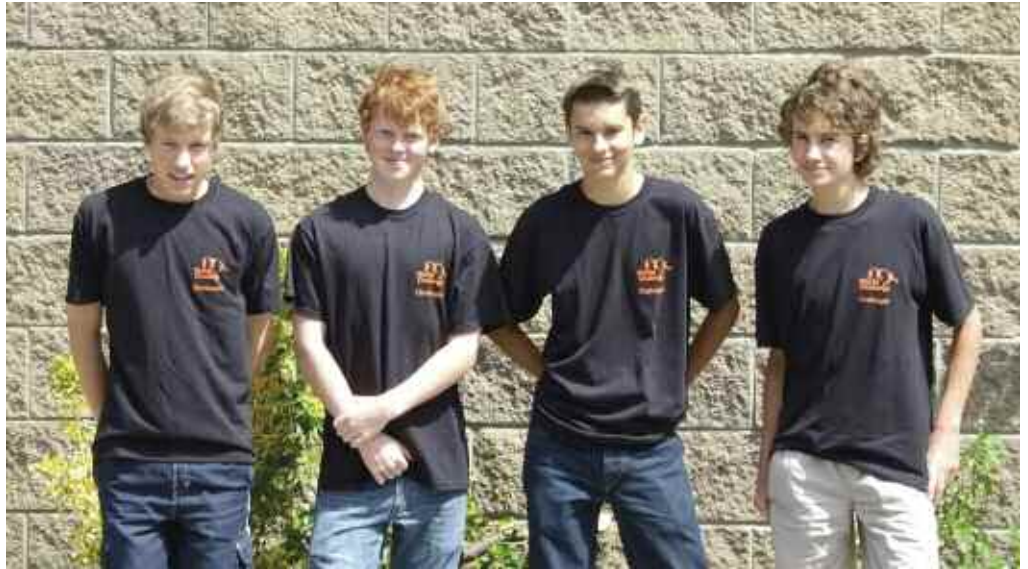


Let me introduce myself
Some of you may
already know me as I
have grown up in St
John and attended St
John's Primary School

Price (See photo below). To fund the expedition, we
each need to raise around £3,600 individually for
ourselves. Over the past nine months I have raised
over £1,700 by cutting hedges, mowing lawns and
working at Marks and Spencer in St John. In addition
we must raise a further £5,000 for our group,

and I also deliver some of the
Star of The North magazines.

In July 2010, eleven of my
classmates and I from year 12,
De La Salle College are taking
part in a World Challenge Ex-
pedition to Namibia in which
we will be helping to build
something for a rural school,
but we'll only know exactly
what we are doing when we
get there. The expedition will
help us to gain new life skills,
and I am told it could change
our view of the world forever.
Four of us who are going live
in St John: Brandon Perrée,
with whom I went to St John's
school, Max Jones and Daniel



From left to right: Brandon Perrée, Daniel Price, Max Jones, Thomas Dorey

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'Namibia 2010', to pay for injections and other group expenses. We have been doing car-washes, organizing tournaments of Guitar Hero and we are currently holding a series of cake sales at De La Salle for pupils during break time and lunchtime every Friday. So far we have been doing very well with our fundraising, both as a group and individually; we have to do all of the fundraising ourselves.

In September we went on a training expedition to Swannage in Dorset. We had a day of trekking and slept in tents. We also had to buy and prepare meals for all of the team, teachers and instructors who were there for the weekend.

We shall have roughly four or five days trekking through some of Namibia's most amazing natural habitats, such as in ancient Damaraland or in the Fish River Canyon. We will then spend 8 to 10 days at a rural school, probably helping out with after-school activities or building a school playground and we will have a bit of time for rest and relaxation, for example going on safari or sand-boarding.

Namibia is a country in the south of Africa which borders Botswana, Zambia, Angola and, obviously,

South Africa (See map below). It has a population of 2.1 million and its capital is Windhoek. Despite English being the official major language of Namibia, it is only spoken by 7% of Namibia's population; 60% speak Afrikaans; 32% speak German. Namibia's main religion is Christianity. The main exports of the country include diamonds, livestock and copper. However, life expectancy is significantly lower than that of the UK: for men it is 52 years and 53 years for women, compared with the UK's average of 79.7 years for men and 77.2 for women.



I have also had help in my fundraising efforts via kind donations towards the expedition from Electrical Testing Ltd, Homebuyer Financial Services Ltd, Troy Developments Ltd and sponsored vaccinations from Health Plus, which are greatly appreciated and will go towards paying for the trip.

For more information on our expedition, other expeditions run by World Challenge and information on World Challenge itself, just look on the World Challenge website: www.world-challenge.co.uk.

For any suggestions for group fundraising or donations, from individuals or companies, please feel free to email me at tdorey65@googlemail.com.

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ST JOHN'S YOUTH PROJECT



Congratulations to Club member Kendal Perrée for designing this logo which will now feature on all our Club correspondence.

Things are continuing to tick over quite nicely at the youth club once more and we are all looking forward to a jam-packed new year.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the end of September but was, regrettably, very poorly attended. During this meeting 'thank you' gifts were presented to retiring committee members and we welcomed new members Mrs Tracy Dibbens and Mr Alex Zomparelli.

Our newly appointed shared Youth Officer, Simon Bell, is now settling in and kindly found time to meet the Management Committee in October. Being appointed to work with the three youth clubs, Simon is, however, presently concentrating on St Ouen but is looking forward to taking a more active roll with us in the New Year. He has recently visited the Recreation Centre in order to acclimatise himself with the layout of the building and is reviewing our draft ideas for the dedicated area.

The 'Workers' are planning three club camps next year: the first in February for the Senior group, the second in March for the Junior Section and the third in September for the Intermediates. These are all on-island camps and I am reliably informed that there could also be plans in place for a possible off-island one during the summer. Nothing definite as yet but, as one says, 'watch this space'.

Whilst mentioning the 'Workers' we are extremely pleased to hear that James Hibbeard, one of our ex-club members and now enthusiastic 'worker' with the Intermediate and Senior sections, is studying for a degree in Youth Work through the Open University. We all wish him well and offer our full support to him in this venture.

Another of our volunteer 'Workers', Kerry Fisher, will be leaving us early in the new year to begin a college course and we, of course, send her our very best wishes. Needless to say we are therefore on the lookout for a replacement female to fill the gap, along with extra adult volunteers to help out in any

capacity. Should you be interested, please feel free to pop along on either of the Club nights and have a chat with our 'Workers'. Whatever time you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

The Christmas break will soon be upon us and once again the dedicated team of 'Workers' is planning various activities and 'treats' for the youngsters and the timetable for these and closure dates are as follows:

Last Senior Club Night: Tuesday 15th December which will take the form of a 'Chill Out' Evening.

Last Junior / Intermediate Club Night: Friday 18th December . . . Party Night

* * *

Re-opening Junior / Intermediate Night: Friday 8th January 2010

Re-opening Senior Night: Tuesday 12th January 2010.

Well, there seems nothing more to add to this report at the present time but to send good wishes to you all for a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Rosemary Dupré



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Christmas Day - CLOSED

Tuesday 29th - CLOSED

Boxing Day
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Sunday 27th December
10am - 5pm

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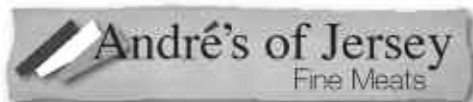
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Hazards of SHOPPING IN CHINA

Andrew Willis and family are spending a year in Suzhou

We have now visited all three local supermarkets – Metro, Tesco, and Carrefour (believe it or not!) The experience is much the same as at home – loads of people, wonky trolleys etc, but that's about it. We don't recognise 99% of the products – in packets or otherwise although this hasn't stopped us buying the motherload of things to try – with interesting results that has left us with a cupboard full of half-eaten puffed rice products and other rejected farinaceous goods. On the first visit I thought I'd found frozen peas in the freezer section and indeed the product was made of peas – but on tipping them into a pan of boiling water they turned out to be pea ice-lollies – and yes they were as bad as they sound. On the flip side, you can buy a whole mini-Vienetta on a stick!

Whilst the dry products may be confusing the meat and fish counters are something else entirely! Everything is alive and still swimming in huge tanks. If it lives underwater it's there: snakes, toads, eels, turtles; every type of fish, crab, prawn, squid, shellfish, etc. The other day we watched a lady, tired of waiting to be served, take a net and catch dinner by hoiking a large fish straight into her trolley where it flapped around as she carried on through the aisles! All your veg has to be weighed in the veg department which would be fine but for the Chinese aversion to any kind of queuing etiquette. Lucy was trying to get her bananas weighed and was brusquely pushed aside. However, she's learning quickly and the Chinese in her came out as she elbowed her way back to the front and got served next.

Across the road from our compound is a fantastic local market. It seems to kick-off at about 4 pm when the Chinese really start to shop but the fruit and veg sellers have been there a long time already and are often slumped over their stalls asleep. People are keen for you to try all the fruit – which is good because half the time you've no idea what it is! The variety and freshness are fantastic – and then there's the hardware stall with padlocks on the shelf next to plungers and potties – brilliant – and the price is always negotiable which is fun, despite starting further up the scale as a westerner.

There are loads of little pavement eating places and street food. Next to the market is a stall where a guy makes noodles by hand in the window, pulling and stretching repeatedly like a skipping rope action before chucking them through the window into a pan of boiling water on the street outside! Delicious if you can ignore the violent hawking-up of fellow diners and passers-by. Another great stall is a lady with a makeshift tandoor oven – on a bike! She rolls naan

type bread with a little spring onion paste and then places them inside on the walls of the oven. Two minutes and 10p later you're munching delicious, hot, fresh bread – even Rosie enjoys it – and that's a tough audience believe you me!!

We've had many experiences in restaurants. When we're with a Chinese speaker it's always fantastically delicious and tasty – like having a personal food shopper! When it's left to us it's sometimes been successful – in part – well a little! Usually we're left wallowing in a morass of shocking phrasebook Chinese that gets nothing but laughs. Defeated we resort to pointing to random items (no picture clues!) and hoping. Occasionally it's edible. However, if we see one more bowl of boiling fish-skin soup covered in chillies and numbing peppercorns . . .

Other restaurant options are available – although always at quadruple the price minimum. For instance leafing through the Expatriates Manual of Suzhou we



Lucie and Rosie

spotted an advert for Wang Steak Restaurant – strapline reads 'One cow for every six customers'!! We can also have home deliveries by 'Sherpas' (they go to the restaurant, get the food and deliver it to you for £1!) On offer at Yang Yang's are: duck tongues, sliced jellyfish, assorted stewed goose, boiled chicken feet, fried rabbit leg, stewed diced pig intestine, boiled diced duck blood, bullfrog, stir-fried tea-tree fungus, sliced pig's ear and my favourite – deep-fried lesser yellow croaker!

As you can see, culinary delights are a major part of our Chinese experience and it is fantastic. Although the odd bag of fish and chips from Gorey chippy would go down well too!

Whatever you're having for your tea, Bon Appetite!

The Willises



KENYA

Ten volunteers from Jersey have just returned from an Overseas Aid trip to the remote village of Pala in Kenya. Dave Ellis, team leader, describes their experience



Laying the foundations

The project first began some three years ago when another Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC) team working nearby came across this village and was appalled at the condition of the village school, much of which was in a state of near collapse. It is not easy for the villagers to do much themselves as few have any kind of paid employment. A presentation was given to JOAC and they kindly agreed to send a community work project to the village.

Our team left Jersey on 2nd October and two days later we had our first view of the village – a memory that will last for ever. We were met just outside the village by hundreds of children and adults who then ran alongside our vehicles shouting 'Welcome! Welcome!' repeatedly until we got to the centre of the village. There we were entertained by local dancers and singers and the village chief gave a speech of welcome. Then we saw our accommodation. We had been expecting mud huts and that's exactly what they were but they had been well constructed and had corrugated iron roofs that kept out nearly all the rain over the next three weeks! Looking inside gave us our next thrill. Instead of the mattress on the floor we were expecting we actually had beds. The evening meal was also a wonderful surprise. It soon became apparent that Raphael had assembled a fantastic team of ladies who cooked superb meals for us throughout the project, did our

washing and generally looked after us extremely well.

The following morning we met the village schoolchildren and looked around the current school buildings before going to the building site. We found that we were to be working on two blocks, each of two classrooms. The outside trenches of the foundations had been dug out. What we had to do on each block was to carry in large oblong stones that had been quarried nearby and would be used for the base of the foundations. Once those had been cemented in place we dug out all the ground in between. Sounds easy but there was a lot of it and it was baked hard! We then carried in tons of rocks that all had to be placed correctly so there were few gaps and then cover that with something like 100 wheelbarrows full of sandy gravel that we dug out of a pit at the bottom end of the

site. The next job was to mix by hand tons and tons of concrete that would form a 6 inch layer over the whole floor area of both blocks. The water for the mix was brought to the site from a borehole about a mile away by a man with four plastic drums strapped to the back of his bike! All the stone and sand had to be barrowed to the mixing site. It took 30 barrow-loads of each for each of the six mixes we made. We finished one block off first so that the bricklayers could start on the first block while we carried on with the foundations of the second block. In between we mixed bricklaying mortar for the bricklayers and this always seemed like a rest for us as it was so much



A classroom in Pala School



lighter than the concrete! By the time we left the walls on the first block were almost up to roof height and they had started bricklaying on the second block. In the final speeches we were promised that both blocks would be in use in time for the new term in January.



The old school

The time came all too soon to say goodbye to the people who had become our friends, worked hard with us and looked after us so well. We handed over presents to all those who had worked with us and looked after us. We also presented a table full of carpentry tools, shoe repair tools and three sewing machines that we had taken over to help equip the Skills Training Centre that the Jersey Charity Help



Laundry service



Dave Ellis – elder of Luo tribe

from the Rock had paid for to help the orphans in the village to learn how to earn their living.

During the ceremony I was made an elder of the Luo tribe and given a traditional headdress, a stool to sit on at important tribal meetings, and a spear and shield which I am obliged to use to defend my people in Jersey as well as in Kenya!

We left Pala feeling a mixture of sadness to be leaving, pride at what we had achieved, and anticipation at the thought of seeing loved ones again. On our way back we had a short, self-financed break. The first night we slept in small tents in the bush just outside a Massai village with three warriors living with us and teaching us about their culture. Then we spent two nights in a tented camp from where we had game drives into the Massai Mara and saw loads of animals ranging from Impala and Elephants to Lions, all looking wonderful in their natural habitat. It was bought home to us, however, that there has been no rain in the area for two years and the Massai cows are starting to die. We were sad for these proud people who rely totally on their cows and goats for everything.

So came to an end a memorable, life-changing experience and we were so grateful to JOAC and all the people of Jersey who supported us for the opportunity to take part.

For our latest Overseas Aid trip see www.joacinkenya.com



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AUTUMN COLOURS

At this season time spent looking around the garden can be rewarding, as Margaret Long records.

The golden, red and brown colours of autumn are in great contrast to the bright greens of spring, and trees and bushes show an amazing range of shades in between. Many plants, too, such as Michaelmas Daisies, Chrysanthemums and Dahlias, are in these warmer colours and this is a good season to spend a little time looking at the insects attracted to them. The exceptional immigration of Painted Lady butterflies earlier this year is still reflected in the numbers being seen in October but Red Admirals, Peacocks and Commas are also attracted to the nectar contained in flowers, particularly those with tubular blooms such as Honeysuckle or plants with daisy-like flowers.

Bumble-bees are also interesting to watch although they will be collecting pollen rather than



Berries of *Leycesteria formosa*, *Himalayan Balsam*

nectar. The two most commonly found in gardens in Jersey are the large, familiar Buff-tailed Humble-bee (white-tailed in the Channel Islands) and the Common Carder Bumble-bee. Smaller bee species, apart from Honey-bees, are more difficult to name without specialist guides but in September and October as soon as the minute flowers of Ivy open they are a magnet for large numbers of ivy bees during the flowers' short season, as can be seen in Richard Perchard's fine photograph. Several species of butterflies as well as flies and other insects are attracted to these strong-smelling flowers.

The berry harvest seems particularly prolific this year and holly trees, whether in the wild or in gardens, are mostly carrying a heavy crop, but the incoming Redwings in November will probably strip these. In gardens where Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and similar shrubs are covered in fruit it will be noticed that those with the reddest berries are usually eaten first and it is interesting to see how many different



An Ivy Bee, *Colletes hederae*

birds feed on them. The small fruits on Amelanchier trees are eagerly taken as soon as they ripen, and the purple-black seeds of *Leycesteria* bushes are very attractive to Blackbirds, Robins and Blackcaps.

Autumn is a good time for plantings, and by selecting flowers and bushes to attract wildlife we shall not only have the pleasure of watching all these creatures but the garden will also benefit from our encouraging them to feed on less welcome insects.

Margaret Long

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News from the Pews

Candlelit Carol Service

This Year the St John's Groups of churches Candlelit Carol service is to be held at Sion Methodist church, at 4.00pm, on Sunday 13th December. Once again, we shall be joined by the Caesarean Hand Bell Ringers and the 26th St John's Brownies.

Christingle Service



Christmas Eve - 5.30pm

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

Please bring along your own Christingle.

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE

- Take an orange and carefully make a hole in the top to take a candle.
- Fasten a red ribbon round the centre of the orange - flame proof crepe paper or red adhesive tape can be used.
- Take a piece of aluminium foil approx 4" square and place this round the base of the candle to act as a shield and reservoir for the wax.
- Place the candle in the hole in the orange deep enough for it to stand upright unsupported.
- Add four cocktail sticks and place fruits (raisins, sultanas etc) and nuts (monkey nuts are easy to handle) on the sticks

Christmas Gifts

We have a variety of Christmas gifts available for purchase:-

- Church mugs - £4
- Ian Rolls prints - £75
- Christmas cards with an ink drawing of the church,
Only £6 for 5 including envelopes.

To place an order contact the Rectory on 861677



Missionary Focus - Bible Society of Nepal

In July, we began a partnership supporting the Bible Society of Nepal which serves 29.5 million people in one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, where life expectancy is only 61 years of age, but where the church is growing at an amazing rate.

It's an exciting time to support the Christian Church in Nepal, for last Christmas was for the first time a public holiday, allowing Christians to invite friends to celebrations and tell them why the birth of Christ is so important. Last year also saw the launch of a locally printed Nepali Bible, using everyday language that the less educated population can understand.



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The Jersey Kart and Motor Club's 2009 season started on a rather wet note . . . *but it was in March and you get what is thrown at you*

Due to the high winds and heavy rain, our first race day was cancelled. Many disappointed drivers and other club members repacked vans and headed home. A big disappointment in view of the fact that most of the drivers, especially the junior ones, look forward to the new season starting almost as soon as the old season comes to a close. The parents who act as pit-crews, mechanics, marshals, time-keepers and, on occasions, counsellors when someone does not get the result he wants, are pleased of the winter break. In most cases it gives them the chance to actually watch a Grand Prix at home instead of on Sky+ after a Sunday's karting, plus also giving time for the overhaul of the karts and engines for the next season.

Second race day was fine and throughout the rest of the season, while we came close, we did not lose any other race days to the weather.

We were able to enjoy a different experience this season and the cadets and juniors in particular enjoyed the occasion. The Kart Club was invited to do demonstration racing at the Spring Motoring Festival which was being held on People's Park, the lower park with a kart track built along St Aubin's Inner Road. This was a great opportunity for the Club to show off the sport of karting to a huge audience. Unfortunately, the

weather in the morning did not co-operate and we had to build the track in pouring rain and high winds along St Aubin's Inner Road. Luckily it dried up later and some excellent demonstration racing took place. We were very pleased to see so many people there and in particular the number of people who came over to the kart track when we were running. The feedback was excellent, with a letter in the JEP from one of the local residents complimenting us on how well behaved the Club's youngsters were and how much they were enjoying their racing.



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Our weekend event was held in July, which also happened to coincide with the Sark to Jersey rowing race. We had spectator scaffolding erected at the Loop Road to try and improve the enjoyment of people who came up to see the racing. The weather was glorious, and in-between the kart racing, people were able to simply turn around and watch all the rowing boats as they went past Sorel on their way to the finish. A good weekend with a double dose of sport for spectators to watch!

A caring sport!

One small moment sticks in my mind from the season. You can imagine at any motor racing circuit the testosterone level is pretty high amongst competitors. The fathers who are the pit-crew/mechanics get high levels of frustration when they can't figure why the kart isn't running well that day. Well, all that came to a complete stop one morning when a small shrew was found to have climbed into one of the holes where the safety fencing went and could not get out. After about ten minutes there were six or seven grown men all trying, very gently, to coax this shrew out of the hole. It was a sight to see, with the shrew eventually climbing up a piece of wood and then being released back into the hedge with a loud round of applause from the crowd of men and spectators. Who says motor sport isn't caring?

The kart club also agreed a partnership with Jersey Karting at The Living Legend during the season. This

enables us to participate in a scheme launched in the UK by ex F1 driver, David Coulthard, called 'Let's Go Karting'. The idea behind the scheme is to get youngsters into karts for £5, to promote the sport of karting as a route into the many aspects of the world-wide motor sport industry. With this partnership with Living Legend, we were able to offer vouchers for £5 for youngsters and adults to go up to the Living Legend track and get into a kart. For further details on this scheme which will also run next year, contact us through our web site.

All in all, 2009 was a good season with some good racing, great competition and an excellent camaraderie amongst the Club members who are always willing to help other racers and learners. I always think it's great when you see all club members and drivers helping another driver to fix a problem to get him back out onto the track and then race against him.

We are proud to say that we are a Parish of St John Club. Our track, although temporary, is in St John; our Club committee meetings are held in St John and our annual trophy/Christmas dinner is being held in St John at the Farmhouse. In view of us being a Parish Club, I hope all parishioners enjoy reading this article.

If you need any further information about our Club, then please contact us at www.jerseykartclub.com, or come up to the Loop Road track and see us in 2010.

Andrew Gibaut

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EXOTIC WEDDINGS

Once upon a time we all got married in our local church or, less frequently, the local registry office, had a buffet reception in the church hall or nearest hostelry and the bride and groom left by teatime. Not so these days. Weddings in castles, on the beach in far flung islands, weddings not paid for, (according to a recent JEP article), occur. In the last few months I have attended three weddings where one of the couple have strong links with St John; two of the grooms and one bride all attended St John's church regularly as children and one groom and one bride attended St John's school until they were eleven years old.

The Grand Canyon, USA

The first wedding was that of Nick and Jo in the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. Quite a strong contingent of family and friends set off from Jersey and arrived in Las Vegas for the October nuptials. The weather was gorgeous – the Mandalay Bay hotel sumptuous and the Jersey crowd out to have a great time. The actual nuptials took place on the banks of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon – the only way of arrival by helicopter! Your correspondent chose to babysit for that part but saw all the wonderful photos and heard the tales of amazing views from the others within an hour of the wedding. The happy couple looked wonderful and Jo even managed to plight her troth on the rocks in 4inch heels. The wedding meal at the Mandalay Bay was memorable and the festivities continued with a breathtaking performance by the Circle Du Soliel at the Bellagio. A wedding with a difference that we will all remember!

Lake Chappala, Mexico

Having cut my teeth on foreign weddings – Italy two years ago and Las Vegas – I was now geared up for a third in Mexico. My late husband's godson, John, met his bride-to-be whilst doing a course in Spanish at Guadalajara university. Nancy and John planned their wedding for this April in Ajiic by Lake Chappala where they have made their home. I arrived via Heathrow and Houston, Texas to be met by the hotelier's son (18) speaking fluent English. The hotel owners are Jordanian but long-term Mexican residents and their boutique hotel was an oasis of calm in the true meaning of the word. Lake Chappala is the largest lake in Mexico and the centre of the largest English speaking area – mainly American and Canadian residents and visitors.

The wedding was timed for 5pm – too hot earlier – and was in the Catholic chapel of Ste Maria de la Rosaria in Ajiic. I arrived early but found myself alone until almost the appointed hour with just the verger. The first people to arrive were the bridegroom, his father and two brothers, soon followed by the bride but so far I was the sole guest! Worse still the priest, a family friend, had not appeared by the appointed hour. 'Mañana' is a Spanish word after all! After hurried consultations the bride was taken for a drive and the guests began to stroll up in twos and threes. The

English contingent arrived all hot and bothered as the ordered cars had simply not turned up in time. A new priest was summoned – a lovely person who took the whole service in a very meaningful manner and even though it was all in Spanish the heartfelt sentiments of his sermon came through. I loved the way he pronounced their names, Juan and Nancy Margarita, many times in the service.

There were some lovely special touches. After the actual marriage the bride and groom were linked together with a very long pearl crucifix round their necks and hands. In Mexico the bride has two bouquets and at the end of the service goes with the groom to lay one of them at the feet of a statue of the Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven. The bridesmaids did not walk behind the bride – she had two small flower girls for that – but were about twelve of her close friends and family all wearing orange – the bride's choice of colour – the dresses were all different but looked wonderful en masse.

At the reception held outside at a lovely hotel by the lake, we were greeted by the Mexican speciality – a Marriachi band. This was spectacular playing by about a dozen chaps mainly on trumpets and drums with some wind instruments. They all wore the same flamboyant style Mexican dress in purple and gold. As the sun set over the lake the newly married couple – John (late of Jersey) and Nancy – his tall, blonde, Mexican beauty – treated us to an exhibition dance of the cha-cha-cha – perfect!

Blair Atholl, Scotland

My third foreign wedding was in Scotland in late June. This was the most special as it was that of my daughter, Philippa, cruelly widowed at 25, so seven years on we were all thrilled that she has found happiness again with Billy, a proud Scot – a MacAndrew of the Anderson clan. In the company of their family and friends they were married in a garden in the Highlands with my three Californian granddaughters as bridesmaids, and a Jersey (Scottish) boy and a Scot as pageboys. They included the hand fasting ceremony – an old Scottish custom – whereby their hands were joined by a ribbon of the Anderson tartan, and all the men wearing weapons (skean dhu) had to lay them on the ground, point outwards. Pip was led to and from the marriage ceremony by a piper and a whole army of kilts was on display. The wedding cake was topped with amazing icing figures of a Highland cow and a Jersey cow and the festivities continued until late into the night with Scottish dancing and a disco.

So our two grooms and a bride, all Jersey born and with strong St John connections, now begin their married lives after the most amazing weddings. More importantly, however, they have shown strong feelings of love for each other that can overcome obstacles of place of birth, language and, in some cases, homes far away from family. God bless them all.

Rosie Bleasby





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The Teenage Years – Focus and Motivation

All parents that either have had teenage children or are experiencing the challenges now will know that the more focus they can be given, the more productive they are and, of course, occasionally, less challenging.

Well one group of teenagers has been channelling all its energies into one particular dream and that is to have facilities for skateboarding in the parish. Self proclaimed ring-leader is Sam Coutanche and his passion for making his vision a reality is quite awe-inspiring. Already he has managed to get a petition of over 100 names in support of skateboarding in the parish.

I first met Sam when I was Parish Deputy and we began talking about how we could make his dream a reality shortly before my term of office ended. At about the same time parishioner Peter Larbalestier, sadly, died leaving a young family who were equally passionate about skateboarding. Peter's widow, Hedi, was very keen to see a lasting legacy to Peter's memory, so came about the formation of the St John Youth and Community Trust, initially established from generous donations made in memory of Peter.



*Standing: Rev Andy Thewlis, Peter Rondel, Aaron Le Herrisier, Andrew Lewis, Sam Coutanche
Front: Callum Leith, and Bandy Gosselin*

The purpose of the Trust is 'to act as a channel for charitable giving for social projects in the parish of St John that are not otherwise provided by the municipality, for the benefit of all parishioners but particularly the young and the elderly. Projects are designed to be tangible and provide a lasting legacy to the benefactors'.

There was no surprise when at the inaugural meeting of the trustees top of the wish-list of possible projects was a skateboard park. However an awful lot of boxes needed to be ticked before progressing such an idea. This takes time and, as many

of us will know, containing the impetuosity of youth – in this case Sam – and his highly motivated friends – has been a challenge. But finally we have the support from the parish, a possible site, and some additional benefactors lined up. Nevertheless there is still a lot of work to do and people to talk to, not least the parishioners of St John, before the project can progress to its final stages. Consequently the Connétable has agreed to hold a parish meeting soon to explain the proposal in more detail. By the time this article goes to press that meeting may well have taken place, so we hope that Sam and his friends will have the full support of residents.

If the proposals get the green light the Trust and the Parish are very keen for the young people of the parish to take ownership of the project and they will be charged with the task of making a realistic contribution to fund-raising efforts. We hope that in turn this will be underpinned by the funds raised by the St John Youth and Community Trust, and assistance from the parish. Unable to contain Sam and his friends any longer, they have already begun fund raising in earnest. Talking to Sam today he said:

'As a group we would like to mix with youngsters of our own age in the parish. We do not wish to cause any trouble or disturbance to others. We just want to be together doing an activity that we enjoy.'

'We are very happy to fund-raise for the skate park but will need the support of parishioners to attend events in the Parish. Recently we held a bingo night at the youth club and ran a raffle at the Farmhouse Bonfire.'

Provision of such facilities will have a positive effect on the behaviour of many of our young people, enabling them to develop into well-rounded, responsible adults. It is therefore important that the young people of the parish are not only actively involved in fund raising but also charged with part of the responsibility for the up keep and successful management of the skate park. But they will need your support. Please invest your faith in these young people. Sam and his friends are already an inspiration to other young people and they deserve your support.

For more information or to make a donation, contact the St John Youth and Community Trust,
The Rectory, La Rue Des Landes, St John JE3 4AF
E-mail info@sjcommunitytrust.org tel 861677 or 862663

*Andrew Lewis
Chairman
St John Youth and Community Trust*



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BEIJING TO MOSCOW

'Dad! You know how you like trains. How about a little trip from Beijing via Mongolia and Siberia, ending up in Moscow?' 'Just a short one then', I thought to myself.

So after a 12-hour flight I met my daughter Stephanie in Beijing, and visited every palace, building, square and garden in the Forbidden City. Another day was spent round the Temple of Heaven Park with the Hall of Prayer for good harvest. Next day we took a bus and ski lift to walk 6 miles along the great Wall and up 1,027 steps to a watch tower. We returned on a metal toboggan run. On the last day we visited the bell tower to hear how the foundry worker's daughter jumped into the molten furnace to ensure it reached the right temperature for casting, thereby saving her father's life.

At 6.30am we left Beijing Station, off to Moscow, a journey of 7,865km, heading past scores of high-rise flats, on into the agricultural region. Then we hit the first mountains, travelling through a long valley of lakes and villages. Through the windows we saw look-out posts and parts of the wall on the border. We passed through Datong, the last great steam depot. Later in the night we reached the border station where the wheel bogies had to be changed to a 3.5 inch wider track. Lunch time the next day we arrived at Ulaanbaatar, met our guide, Nockie, and, together with a man from the Scilly Isles and two American lads, we headed for a lovely soak at the steam baths. Then we all piled into a midi van, heading for the Ger camp out in the desert.

The yurts (tents) are circular, wooden slatted with a cloth covering. A wood and coal stove in the middle gives off tremendous heat. The bright orange painted wooden beds are very comfortable. On the first night, after a mutton dinner, there was a game of Ankle Bone. Each player has four sheep's ankle bones that you throw like dice. The four sides are called sheep, goat, camel, horse. Depending how they fall you move round a semi-circle till the end. Somehow I managed to get all four sides five times, thereby winning.

Next morning the boys and Steph went horse-riding while I watched the world go by. In the afternoon we visited a Nomad family who tend animals. Theirs is a simple yet hard life, as they have to keep moving to find grazing land.

The following day we visited the amazing, enormous polished aluminium statue of Genghis Kahn in the middle of nowhere on our way back to Ulaanbaatar. After checking into our Hotel, Nockie took us for a short tour round the square. You have to look everywhere as manhole covers are missing all over the place! The second day I went down to the Rail station to photograph some old steam trains, then we all visited the Gandan Buddha Monastery, where believers spin drums of sacred text, chanting

the mystical 'Om' and Mantras. They also leave messages to loved ones round the giant Buddha in the temple.

After buying some pot noodles we boarded the next train. Next morning we spent five hours with the Mongolian customs at the border. Still, the female guard was something else – a 6ft 2 goddess who ordered one of the American lads to stand to inspect his passport, keeping him there for over a minute! Then we crossed into Siberia for another five hours of customs! After we set off again all the Russians who had been shopping were running up and down the carriages repossessing what they had previously distributed all through the train so as not have too much of any one item for customs.

On Friday 07:30 we arrived at Listvyanka Village on the shores of Lake Baikal. We walked up through the snow and cedar trees to a lookout point with commanding views of the frozen lake and river. Then down to the Limnological Museum where we saw a video of the creatures that can only live 1.5 miles deep, also various Sturgeon, the Omul, and seals.

We then visited an Izba house which is built around a brick solid-fuel stove, with pipes leading to each room for heat. There are no interior doors. Washing and bathing is in the Banya hut, dry heat – splash water on the coals. No running water, so it's a drop toilet in another hut. The following morning found a very dubious father walking on the frozen lake. It was over a foot thick and we found people fishing and two divers down below. There was also a party going on, with snow mobiles, dog sleds, even motor bikes, all heading out for miles across the frozen lake, trying to miss two or three hovercraft, doing 360's on their way to Port Baikal, the other side of the estuary. Why do ladies wear high heels on ice? Steph dipped her toes in with a scream.

The next day we were back in the town of Irkutsk. Steph and I went to look at Kazansky and Krestovozdvijensky Churches: one has red spires, the other green. Mid-afternoon we were off on the final leg of the trip – only 5,185km to go! Past Meget, more steam trains; Telma, Siberia's first textile mill; Usolye, salt factories; Malta, mammoth bones; Polovina; Tulun, Decembrists' museum. On past more rusting steam engines, open-cast coal mines, nice valleys, and bridges around Krasnoyarsk. Across the great Ob hog-backed bridge; on to Omsk, Siberia's second largest city, industrial but with over 2,500 hectares of parks; Tyumen, where over a million so-called convicts passed through – oil and gas wells now; Yushala, where the battleship Potemkin sailors were shot and buried.

The next stop was at Yekaterinburg. . . It was here that the Romanovs were murdered and Gary Powers was shot down in his U2 spy plane. On up into the Urals with the snow coming down hard, on to the





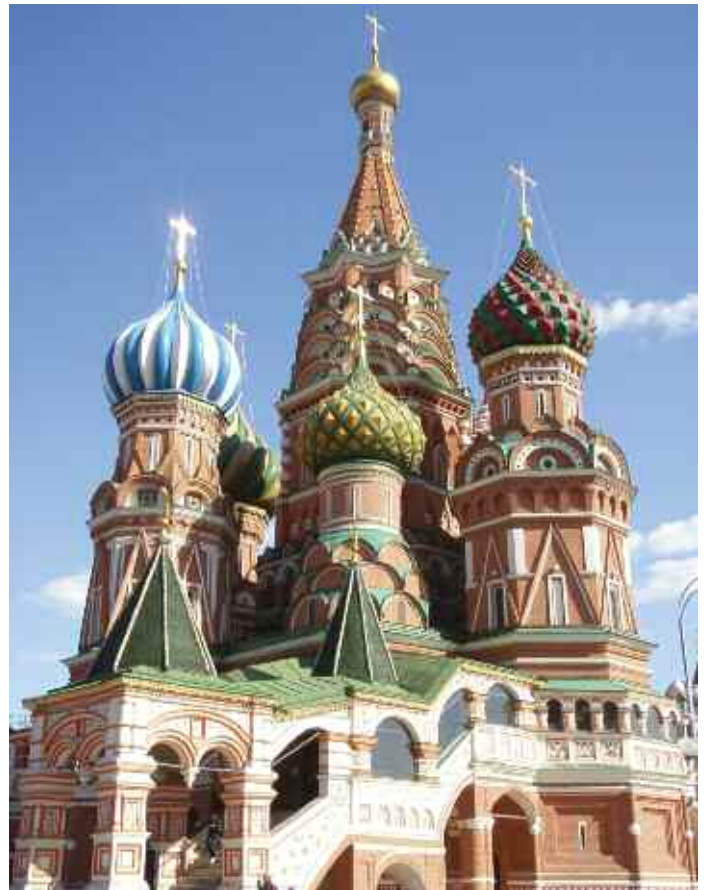
The frozen lake

Kungur ice caves. No time to stop. Perm, where R. L. Jefferson, having cycled from London was met by the 50 members of the Perm cycling club. These enthusiasts in 1907 also greeted Prince Borghese on his way to winning the Peking to Paris motor rally. Finally we reached Moscow in the late afternoon.

The next day was all the time we had to explore. After a high-speed tube ride we walked towards the Kremlin. Unfortunately there was no time to enter the places we saw: Central Exhibition Hall, Bolshoi Theatre (which is sinking), State History, Lenin's Mausoleum, and even the Kremlin closed at 2 pm. Still I found some real hot chocolate! Later we walked through GUM's shopping arcades – opulent – to say the least, then down to St Basil's nine intricately painted domes and stonework. A walk along Moskva River brought us to Pushkin Fine Arts Museum – Impressionist paintings, and Egyptian antiquities. That was all we could fit in.

Steph, of course, wants to do the trip in the opposite way now, in a different season. Me? I'm still recovering.

Phil & Stephanie Claremont



St Basil's domes



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- Sparex Parts and accessories
- MF Merchandise including tractor models, children ride-on tractors, overalls and much more

Go on, give us a call or pop in and see us:

Les Charrieres Nicolle, Le Couvent, St Lawrence, Jersey JE3 1HJ
Tel: (01534) 862938 • Email: robtractorservices@newtelsurf.com



Phil outside the yurt



Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival 2010



After a successful, albeit wet, inaugural event this summer, the organising committee is already busy with preparations for the 2010 event which will be held from 11.00am – 10.30pm on Saturday 26th June.

The day for all the family will build upon the strengths of the first event, but hopefully with more typical summer weather – warm and sunny is certainly the plan. Fuller details will be revealed in the next issue of Star, but in the meantime we'd like your help.

Marshals

To keep costs down, we are once again exploring the possibility of marshalling the festival with volunteer helpers, who will be fully briefed before the event. Would you be prepared to give just a couple of hours, on June 26th, to assist in directing people to the toilets etc, by becoming one of the 60 marshals required to oversee a safe day at the bay? Or are you a member of a parish club, who could provide 10 marshals to steward the whole arena for a two hour period?

Free entry will be offered to the whole event for all volunteers!

Entertainers

If you've missed out on Britain's Got Talent, but believe you have a talent to entertain, then do please be in touch. Pre-event auditions will be held, but if we like your act we do promise you a place on the stage at the festival, hoping you'll remember our support when you become famous!

Stall Holders

Expressions of interest are welcome from all potential stall holders, who will be required to be in the arena for the duration of the event, from the opening ceremony through till the close.

Sponsorship

If your company would like to be associated with this family event, either as a main sponsor or, for a smaller contribution, as a sponsor of the publicity flyers or raffle tickets, then the committee would be delighted to hear from you.

Andy Thewlis

Secretary, Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival
Email athewlis@jerseymail.co.uk
Tel 861677

Electrical Christmas Safety Tips

Electricity in the home nowadays is taken for granted so we can often forget just how potentially deadly it can be! With the Christmas Season advancing, here are some important tips that can help you and your family enjoy the festivities and, most importantly, remain safe to see in the New Year!

Over the past few years there is a growing tendency to use electrical Christmas decorations inside and outside the house, with traditional paper chains hung alongside lights and other electrically illuminated and motorised decorations, such as waving Santas. These electrical items are equally dangerous as any other piece of electrical equipment! In the excitement of Christmas it is easy to forget that electricity can be dangerous.

Christmas items have all the usual potential electrical hazards, for example, faulty equipment or wiring, incorrectly fitted plugs and fuses, extension cables (possibly daisy-chained) and trailing cables. Such faults can easily lead to blackouts, tripping and falling, electrocution and fires!

If you are using electrical decorations, take a few simple precautions to ensure you have a winter wonderland, not a tableau of death!

- Make sure your decoration has a CE mark (Kite mark) for electrical safety.
- Make sure that the plug and the socket in which it will be placed is not cracked.
- Make sure that any extension lead is not a tripping hazard.
- Make sure you are not overloading an electrical point which could lead to a fire!
- Do not change Christmas lights when they are plugged in!
- Preferably use decorations which have a safety transformer.
- Make sure you know what you are doing when changing a fuse.
- Never use any electrical equipment or switches with wet hands.
- Keep decorations out of reach of small children and pets.
- Make sure that you switch off and unplug all decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

Whether it's Christmas or any other time, take care and treat electricity and appliances with respect. Take wise precautions to ensure your Christmas is not a dangerous or ruined one. Call an electrician if you would like any advice on your electrical wiring or your installations, or would like your outdoor decorations checked, installed and taken down safely. Wishing you a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year!

Jonathan Lloyd – Managing Director Excel Electrical Services Limited



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
 Editor (Star of the North) – Angela Le Sueur – 863994
 Football Club – Nigel Perrée – 865113
 Friends of Bonne Nuit – Gary Romeril – 861972
 Golden Age Club – Wendy Rondel – 863667
 Honorary Police – 866560
 Les Frères Mother, Toddler and Baby Group –
 Sharon Day - 725224
 Parish Hall – 861999
 Rector – Rev Andy Thewlis – 861677
 School – 861692
 Shooting Club – John Renouf – 861908
 Sion Methodist Church – Liz Blampied – 853888
 Sion Pre-school Nursery – Liz Blampied - 853888
 St John Youth & Community Trust – Andrew Lewis –
 862663
 Tennis – Tina Spencer-Nairn – 861716
 Twinning Association – Ron Le Herissier – 862010
 Women's Institute – Myrtle Malzard – 862931
 Untied Reformed Church – Rev Patrick McManus –
 861386
 Youth Project – Darren Dupré – 865728

PARISH OF ST JOHN ADMINISTRATION

CONNÉTABLE

Graeme Butcher

PROCUREURS DU BIEN PUBLIC

Michel Larose, Andrew Jehan

RECTOR

Revd Andy Thewlis

CENTENIERS

**David Curtis, Trevor Pointon,
Ian Averty, Jonathan Plunkett**

VINGTENIERS

Hérupe:

Paul Vautier

Nord:

Trevor de la Mothe

Douet:

Ian Averty

CONSTABLE'S OFFICERS

Hérupe:

**John Gallichan,
Manuel Pereira, Timothy Luce**

Nord:

**Claire Farley, Christopher Taylor,
Sharnie Olliver, Maxine Fergusson,
James Elam, James Wilson**

Douet:

**John Hunter, John Renouf,
David Ward**

HONORARY POLICE CONTACT TELEPHONE 866560

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER 07797 71 1553

Jo Carter

DEPUTÉ

Philip Rondel

PARISH SECRETARY, **Carol Falle** 861999

PARISH HALL: Tel: 861999 Fax 864553

Email: c.falle@posj.gov.je

PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
 9.00-1.00 and 2.00-4.00
 CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY

NEW at St John's Recreation Centre

Personal training on your doorstep

Contact Mandy Bonhomme 879657

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

Address

..... Postcode.....

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

Please send to: The Editor, La Porte, La Rue de la Porte, St John JE3 4DE



ST JOHN'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



September came round quickly after the holiday month of August and a walking scavenger hunt was organised by the President in the country lanes of St John, ending with a meal at the new Farmhouse restaurant.

We were grateful to be able to use Ebenezer Hall for our October meeting as St John's Parish Hall is being refurbished. We welcomed Mr Peter Le Rossignol who did an Antiques Roadshow. Members brought many interesting pieces from various parts of the globe so

by the end of the evening we felt we had been around the world!

Our first AGM was held at the November meeting in Ebenezer Church Hall. Mrs Myrtle Malzard was re-elected as President; Mrs Rosemary Bleasby was appointed Vice-President; Mrs Karen Cotillard,

Secretary; Mrs Pat Donne-Davis Treasurer.

Following the business of the evening, member Mrs Muriel Poisson spoke to us in an amusing way about her very special day when she went to Buckingham Palace to receive her MBE in recognition of all the charitable work she does for the community.

Our Christmas party marks the end of the year when we look forward to welcoming the Eden Singers who will entertain us, followed by, I am sure, a delightful supper.

Our first year will soon be over, but this is just the beginning of St John's WI and we hope to continue to grow from strength to strength and be a valuable asset to the local community. Our thanks go to everyone who has helped us to get started and given us lots of encouragement. Anyone wishing to join, do please come along on the second Wednesday of the month, or contact any of the officers and you will be made very welcome.

*Myrtle Malzard,
President
Telephone 862931*

Bonny's Country Garden

Sion, St. John



**CHRISTMAS TREES
from 1st December
Spruce or Nordman
Pot-grown or cut**



**Choose early and we can keep until required - delivery available
Orders taken for wreaths**

**A small selection of
pot plants available
from 2nd week in Dec.**

**We will be closed from 12.30 p.m.
on Christmas Eve. Open again on
Saturday 2nd January 2010.**

**Alan, Veronica and Staff would like to wish you all a very
Happy Christmas - and hope to see you all in the new year.
Telephone 865101**



Do your bit to help the environment with FREE insulation!

There really isn't a catch! If you meet the eligibility criteria for the States of Jersey Energy Efficiency Service then you can get loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught proofing and other energy saving measures – absolutely free.

The Energy Efficiency Service is a States of Jersey initiative with £1m of States funding and a £0.5m seed donation by the Jersey Electricity Company. It was launched in April 2009 and has been set up to assist vulnerable households to help the environment, reduce their energy bills and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The Energy Efficiency Service provides free energy efficiency improvements to Islanders that:

- Are in receipt of the Cold Weather Payment (defined as those on Income Support who are over 65 or have a child under 3 or have a personal care component 2 or 3)

OR

- Are registered on the 65+ Westfield Health Plan

Both owner-occupied and landlord-owned properties are eligible for the scheme, however States Housing properties are not, as they have a scheduled programme of improvement work.

Increasing the energy efficiency of your home through measures such as loft insulation can help reduce your fuel costs and help the environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. UK research suggests that typical households can save 10-15% of their energy consumption by implementing simple, low cost energy efficiency measures.

What does the scheme offer?

- Loft insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- Heating controls
- Low energy lighting
- Draught proofing
- Pipe work insulation

The Social Security Department sent out a letter to eligible households in May and again in September inviting them to apply for assistance. On receipt of an application the Energy Efficiency Service carries out an assessment to identify the specific improvement works suitable for each property. Once the written agreement of the property owner has been received a contractor is then appointed to carry out the improvements at no cost to the applicant.

Every effort is taken to minimise disruption while the work is being carried out and we've had very positive feedback from Islanders who have had work done. For example:



'We found your customer service very efficient. . . all the people concerned were very polite, helpful and efficient. Especially the two young men who did the loft insulation, they were very tidy, clean and very helpful. Thank you.'

'We are already feeling that the house is much warmer. It will be wonderful when the weather gets cold.'

If you, or someone you know, may be eligible for assistance from the Energy Efficiency Service then give us a call and we'd be happy to explain the scheme and confirm your eligibility.

Don't miss out – call the Energy Efficiency Service on 441662.

St. John's Village Café and Take - Away

Open from 7:30am to 7:00pm
Monday to Saturday

for :-

Breakfasts, Sandwiches, Meals,
Snacks, and Hot & Cold Drinks



*Joe, Rita and the Staff of St. John's Café
would like to thank you for your custom
during the year, and wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

Thank You

We will be closing on Tuesday 22nd December and
will re-open again in the new year on th 4th January

TELEPHONE 862948

Shop unit 3, Temple Court, Rue Du Temple, St. John



PARISH DIARY - December 2009 to April 2010

DECEMBER

Tues 8th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo in St John's Hotel
Wed 9th	5.25pm	Visit of Father Christmas to the School Hall
Wed 9th	7.30pm	St John's WI Christmas Party at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Thurs 10th	12.00pm	Parish of St John Senior Citizens lunch at The Farmhouse
Fri 11th	1.15pm	School Reception/ KS1 Christmas Performance with tea for the friends of the school
Sun 13th	4.00pm	St John's Group of Churches Candlelight Carol Service at Sion Methodist Church with Rev Graeme Halls
Thurs 17th	12.30pm	Golden Age Christmas Party at St John's Hotel
Wed 16th		Last day of school term
Sun 20th	10.30am	Service of Lessons and Carols at the United Reformed Church
Thurs 24th	5.30pm	Christingle service at the Parish Church
Thurs 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Fri 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day family service at the United Reformed Church
Fri 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day All-Age Celebration at the Parish Church
Sun 27th	10.30am	Christmas Songs of Praise at the Parish Church
Sun 27th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Sion Methodists at the United Reformed Church

JANUARY

Wed 6th		Back to School
Sun 10th	9.30am	Plough Sunday Service at the Parish Church
Wed 13th	7.30pm	St John's WI meets at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Tues 26th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo in St John's Hotel
Wed 27th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting. The Conservatory, St John's Hotel

FEBRUARY

Wed 10th	7.30pm	St John's WI meets at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Fri 12th		Last day of school half-term
Sun 14th	11.00am	Celebration of Marriage Service at the Parish Church
Wed 17th	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion at the Parish Church
Sat 20th	12.00pm	Lent lunch at Sion Methodist Church Hall
Mon 22nd		Back to School
Tues 23rd	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo in St John's Hotel
Wed 24th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting. The Conservatory, St John's Hotel
Sat 27th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch hosted by Parish Church in the school hall

MARCH

Sat 6th	12.0pm	Lent lunch at the United Reformed Church
Wed 10th	7.30pm	St John's WI meets at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Sat 13th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch at Sion Methodist Church Hall
Sat 20th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch hosted by Parish Church in the school Hall
Sun 21st	10.30am	All-age Mothering Sunday Celebration at the Parish Church
Sat 27th	9.30am	Parish Clean. Meet in the Parish Church
Sat 27th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch at the United Reformed Church
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo in St John's Hotel
Wed 31st	12.00pm	Golden Age Lunch. Meet outside the Parish Hall
Wed 31st		Last day of school term

APRIL

Fri 2nd	10.30am	Good Friday Reflections at the Parish Church
Sun 4th		Easter Day
Wed 14th	7.30pm	St John's WI meets at Ebenezer Methodist Church Hall
Tues 20th		Back to School
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Muriel's bingo in St John's Hotel
Wed 28th	2.30pm	Golden Age meeting. The Conservatory, St John's Hotel

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN ST JOHN

THE PARISH CHURCH

Every Sunday

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

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

SION METHODIST CHURCH

Every Sunday

10.30am	Morning Worship
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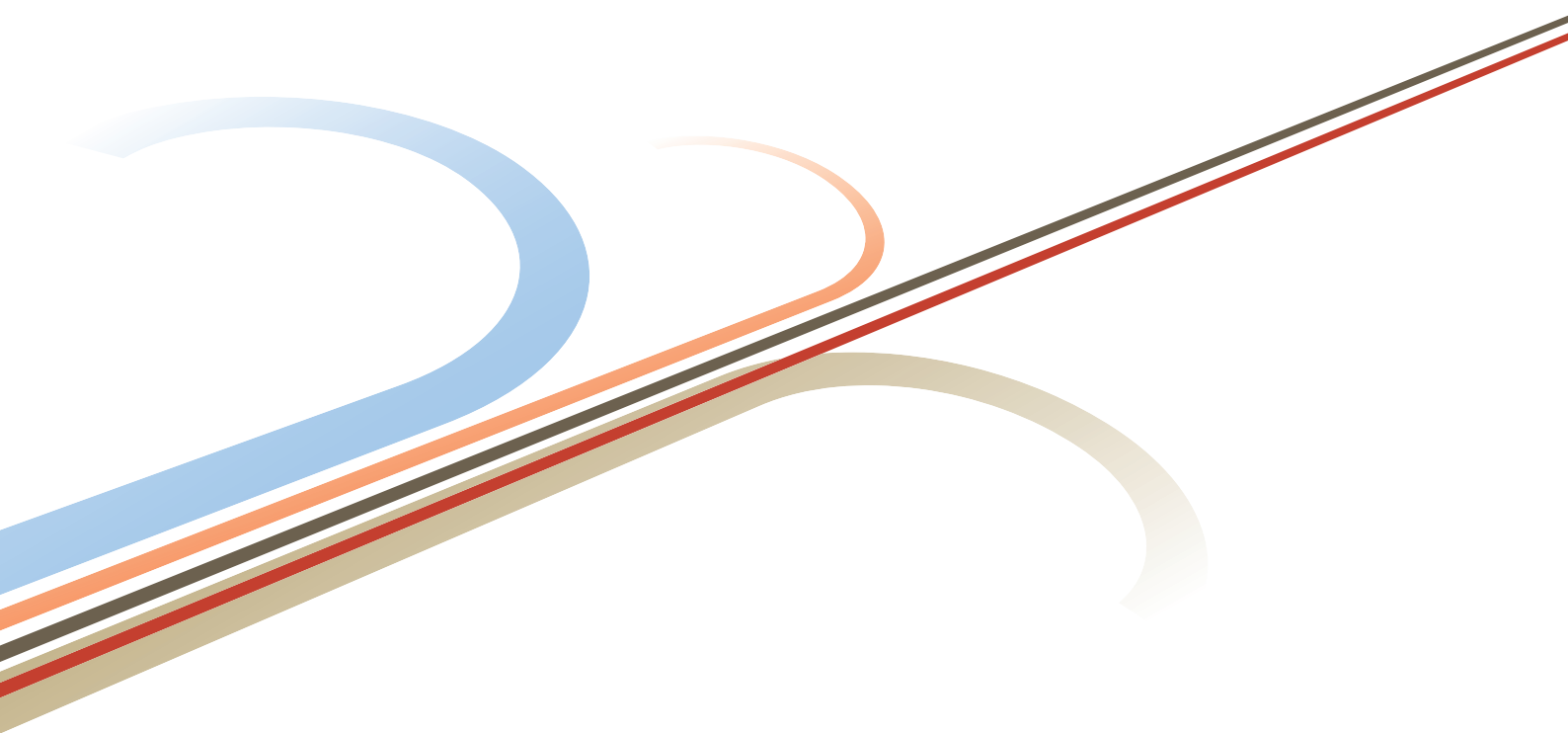
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Every Sunday

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



Strong performance when others lose their way.



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St. John's Village Inn



tel.:- 864690



MEAL TIMES

Lunch 12 noon to 3pm

Dinner 6:00 to 9pm

Tuesday to Saturday

Sunday Lunch 12 to 4pm

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

every last Saturday
of the month with
Trevor (Ethel)
9p.m. until 11p.m.



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

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

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

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

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

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



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Entertainment all night



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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At the British Legion Coffee
Morning (upper);

War Memorial (centre);

Schoolchildren's displays of
remembrance (lower)

