

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD ★ STAR OF THE NORTH

Parish of St John

ISSUE 33

August 2014

May Day Opening of the Children's Play Area

The rain held off for the much anticipated opening of the refurbished play area in the heart of St John. Children from St John's School descended on the park to show their delight at the improved facility that was delivered on time and on budget.

Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, individual parishioners, Charitable Trusts including the One Foundation, the Lloyds Foundation, the Jersey Child Care Trust and the Richard Jeune Foundation, the money required to complete the project came to fruition early in the New Year.

Shoppers cannot have failed to notice the new Co-op Locale in the area and the Trustees are extremely grateful to the Co-operative Society, represented by Colin MacLeod at the opening, who made such a generous contribution to the fundraising efforts.



All smiles at the new playground

Photograph courtesy of the Jersey Evening Post

Best Design

A great deal of time and effort went into the design and layout of the area in order to make best use of the space and create an exciting facility, particularly for younger children. With the help of Sean Blake from Romerils, to whom we are most grateful for his enthusiasm and efficiency, the Trustees of the St John Youth & Community Trust feel that they have created a recreational area that will stand the test of time for many years to come. Our thanks also go to the Connétable who has agreed that the Parish will ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the Park.

Under the watchful eye of Trudie de la Haye, Head Teacher of St John's School, youngsters cut the ribbon amid balloons and cheers from those gathered to signal the official opening. Chairman of the Trustees, Andrew Lewis, said that now the second major project co-ordinated by the St John Youth & Community Trust was up and running, the Trustees would be turning their attention to the refurbishment

and improvement of the picnic areas on the north coast. If anyone would like to contribute to this project or find out more please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Lewis on 07797 711042.

Following tea and cakes in the vestry, one youngster commented – "Can we do this every week?" – food for thought maybe?

Andrew Lewis

Chairman, St John Youth and Community Trust

The Rectory, La Rue Des Landes, St John JE3 4AF
info@sjcommunitytrust.org or Andrew@wearebwi.com

www.sjcommunitytrust.org

The St John Youth and Community Trust has been established 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 beneficiaries.

NEW RESIDENTS IN ST JOHN see page 14

EDITORIAL

Rural Life

The 'life-blood' of any community is the children so it is wonderful to see so many of the younger ones hurtling around the newly refurbished Church playground. This August edition of the Star of the North also contains extracts from the St John's school newspaper with a couple of articles that appeared in the 'St John's Star', put together and written by Year-6 students; a very professional addition and hopefully these budding journalists will want to write something for their Parish magazine in the future.

Elisa Cañas, who has been a regular contributor and lively committee member, is leaving the Island in August to pursue her career as a Voice-over Artist in the UK. We are sorry to see her go, but pleased to offer her a big 'thank-you'. All the best, Elisa.

Busy Summer

There has been a huge amount going on in the parish (Flower and Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival etc.) and the Island at this time of year, but I was listening to a couple of people who live and work in town say-



ing that they had been up to Sorel to look for the choughs and how breath-taking the scenery was and I thought how lucky we are to have coast and country on our doorstep; don't forget to take advantage of it!...I hope you have had your fair share of barbecues and strawberries this summer. Until the December issue – Adieu.

Jo Falla, Editor

St John's Golden Age Club



WANTED: St John's Golden Age Club requires occasional help in the kitchen at the parish hall. If you are available to help in the afternoon on some of the last Wednesdays in the month, please contact one of the following:

Wendy Rondeltel: 863667
Daphne Hinault.....tel: 861467
Mary Rouillé.....tel: 862835

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Dear Parishioners...

Hasn't the summer started well! Given that at the time of writing we are in an official drought, the water table is surprisingly high, probably due to the many months of rain earlier in the year, and this must be helping to top up our reservoirs. The warm summer days make such a pleasant change from what we all experienced earlier on in the year.

The good growing conditions have helped the potato crops, as well as all the other produce which flourishes in abundance across the Island. Since I last wrote, the parish allotment holders have planted out their plots and are now reaping the rewards of their labours with signs of a good harvest. I understand there are still several sites available, so if anybody requires a plot, please contact the Parish Hall and complete the application form.

All the fun of Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival

On the 28th June the Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival came around, and was a great success this year, yet again. The only down side for me is that for the 6th year in succession I have been asked to partake in the festive board, in which one is required to eat anything from spiders to worms covered in chocolate, as well as other clownery delights! In past years, I have managed to eat and keep the delights down; with some difficulty and gagging. This year the first two courses were OK but the dessert, (which turned out to be a cup cake of rice crispies mixed with Marmite and topped with something yellow) was the final straw! On taking the first bite, my stomach said "enough is enough" and I could not finish it, but somehow I still got into the final. To add insult to an

injured pride, we three finalists had to eat a fourth course, much to the amusement of the many spectators! So off we went again, and in my case the commis chef produced yet a further Marmite cupcake! The trouble was to come, some 12 hours later in fact. As I write this small article I'm still not feeling well! Enough said... You really love Marmite or hate it!



An abundance of flowers

Once again, thanks to James Bonny for the beautiful job he has done with the flowers around the parish hall. I'm afraid I missed the entry date by three days for the Parish in Bloom competition! It's now in the diary for next year. While on the topic of flowers, may I say "well done" to all the ladies, gents who decorated the church for the flower festival and those who donated them. I saw the Rector one morning watering the blooms. Well done, Andy!

When you get this letter the Parish staff will be busy preparing for a referendum and the elections later in the year. Nominations for all positions close in September, with voting day being the 15th October.

Being aware the magazine is always short of space, I will sign off now, until the autumn.

Wendy and I wish you all a very happy summer break.

*Phil Rondel,
Connétable*

FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE FROM ST JOHN FC LADIES TEAM!

St John FC ladies team won their record-breaking fifth successive Colin Welsh Trophy on 29th April against the Jersey League and Channel Island champions, St Paul's FC, with a 3-0 victory.

Two goals before half time from Rosie Corbett and Jess Vieira, followed by a second-half goal from Jodie Botterill secured a comfortable win, which could have been more after hitting the woodwork on multiple occasions. An excellent team performance, with many players saving their best performances of the season for the final.

Following a difficult first half of the season, the return of key players and the addition of new players, resulted in an excellent second half of the season, culminating in the cup victory.

Team: *Rebecca Single, Nicola Barnes, Kelly Hughes (capt), Fiona MacKinnon, Sylvia Spinola, Shannon O'Neill, Marta Ascensao, Rachel Bowker, Jess Vieira, Jodie Botterill, Lisa Godinho*



Substitutes: *Hope Perry, Rosie Corbett, Rebecca Johnstone, Tracey Da Costa, Ashley Whitfield*

Squad members: *Sophie Dines, Lili Le Brocq, Lia Whitnell*

Team manager: *Andy Fortune*

*Nigel Perrée,
Football Club*



How the outbreak of World War I was reported in the JEP July 29th – August 5th 1914

The days leading up to the outbreak of war with Germany were chronicled very vividly in the pink broadsheet pages of the EP (it became JEP many years later). The chosen dates show how something which seemed so far away, a small quarrel in Eastern Europe, suddenly became much more immediate and much much closer to home. It is interesting to note how much closer the links with France were 100 years ago and it is really how those links were affected, rather than the situation in England, which dominated the issues of the end of July and early August. It is also fascinating to note, with none of the modern technology which newspapers employ today, how up-to-the-minute the news was. There seemed to be a lot of daily shipping between both England and France and presumably they, as well as the telegraph, carried the news.

I have tried to show how the tone of the paper changed in just nine issues; the paper was published every day except Sunday, August 2nd, although the front page on Bank Holiday Monday, August 3rd, was identical to that of Saturday, August 1st:

Wednesday July 29th

- The large photograph on the front page was of the island tennis and croquet teams who were playing in the inter-insular with Guernsey at Springfield.
- Reminder of Trinity Sunday School outing at Trinity Manor on Thursday July 30th.
- Notice about 20 vergées of oats for auction at the Manoir de St Jean, also on Thursday 30th.
- Advertisements for Béghins, Frederick Baker and Voisin & Co.
- Wests Cinema was showing a Keystone Cops film "Between the Showers", starring Charlie Chaplin.
- Report from English House of Commons – main items were debates on boxing and House of Lords reform with just a brief mention of the Austrian declaration of war on Serbia.
- Just one small, slim column of War news.
- Adverts for day trips to France for the Bank Holiday Weekend.

Thursday July 30th

- Report that the German ambassador had a long interview with Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office that morning.
- Signs that trouble had been foreseen as the Garrison Companies of the RJM were ordered to parade at Fort Regent at 2pm and every morning afterwards: West battalion at St Peter; East battalion at Grouville. This was the first time the militia had been mobilised for over a century.

Friday July 31st

- St Mark's Church Boys Brigade had to abandon their camp in Guernsey as the Guernsey militia was mobilised and needed the arsenal and equipment. Boys returned to Jersey that night.
- A letter on the front page bemoans the fact that the annual Dispensary and Infirmary Ball on Thursday was ruined because all the young men had to be on parade at the various arsenals.
- The weekend trips to Dinard and Dinan were cancelled!

Saturday August 1st

- French news – Jean Léon Jaures, French Socialist leader was assassinated in a café in Montmartre.
- The English Antarctic expedition left the south-west India Dock in London to convey Sir Ernest Shackleton on his way to the South Pole.
- Victoria Dairy advised its customers they might have to collect their own goods as 12 of their employees had been called up for militia duty.
- The marriage took place at St Thomas's Church of Mr Arthur Marks of China Quarries and Miss Janet Feuillet of Sion, St John. The honeymoon was ruined as the bridegroom was forbidden to leave the Island by the military authorities.

Monday August 3rd – Bank Holiday

- Reports of many ships leaving the Island filled with French reservists. Hundreds of French nationals living and working in Jersey answered the call; "aux armes citoyens".



- SS *Laura* left with 88 men and other ships left Gorey for Carteret filled with Frenchmen answering the call to arms including several French priests.
- Rev Audumares from Wesley Grove was recalled to the colours leaving a weeping congregation behind.
- Thousands of people went down to the docks to see the ships off on Sunday and Monday. Many pathetic scenes as the men were parted from their wives, children and girlfriends.
- Ships to France badly hit by French mobilisation as all French crew had to leave.
- Hotels badly hit as French tourists rapidly returned home and those coming from France cancelled.
- The editorial took the Island's women to task for displaying panic. The editor said that you would have thought the German fleet was anchored in St Aubin's Bay. He himself had been in London on August 1st and had seen no sign of panic there. Also complained about tradesmen immediately raising their prices – profiteering!
- Detailed news from around the world including German ambassadors being handed back their credentials from countries such as Russia and her allies and sent home.

Tuesday August 4th

- War declared between Britain and Germany.
- Bank holiday extended by three days by order of British Government to prevent a run on the banks.

Wednesday August 5th

- Official proclamation issued by George V on August 4th of the Jersey Militia being recalled to active service.
- The official Declaration of War.
- Drastic measures being taken by the States of Jersey to preserve food and fuel stocks.
- Exports of coal, cattle etc, now prohibited.
- Island Defence Committee given a free hand and stringent powers.

From a front page photo of the island tennis team to photos of war zones, mobilisations and detailed accounts of battles in just nine days: by August 10th the paper was publishing the names of English casualties in battle. Jersey, because of its location and



*The Vicomte, R. R. Lemprière, reading proclamation of war
Société Jersiaise*

close links with France, obviously felt very vulnerable in those few short days. The Jersey people were kept fully informed by the EP and their offices were besieged daily by people wanting the latest news.

The actual newspapers, held in the Jersey Library, are at once very different to look at, but at the same time very familiar in content to what we get in the JEP today. In 1914 that pink newspaper was a must in most island homes as it remains today.

Rosie Bleasby

The Channel Island Family History Society

If you are interested in history, the Channel Island History Society welcomes new members. Monthly meetings take place on the last Monday of the month starting at 8pm, normally in the Members' Room of the Société Jersiaise at 7 Pier Road, St Helier. The Society tries to have a guest speaker at each meeting and the scheduled meeting dates, venues and talks are as follows:

29th September: "350th Anniversary of New Jersey" with Marie-Louise Backhurst

October: at Jersey Archive, Clarence Road, St Helier

November: Jersey Postcards with Graeme Harris

For more information please visit:
www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org





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What do you know about Dyslexia?

Did you know that at least ten percent (10%) of the population is dyslexic? In Jersey, that would be approaching 10,000 people.

The word 'dyslexia' comes from the Greek meaning 'difficulty with words' and is due to a difference in the way the brain processes language. Dyslexia is termed as a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD), but many prefer to use the term 'learning difference'.

Dyslexia often runs in families and is not related to intelligence or to a person's background. Dyslexia varies from person to person; issues and their severity can affect many areas of a dyslexic's life, not just in reading, writing and spelling, but also in processing information, organisational skills and short-term memory. In some cases maths may be an issue rather than literature and for some there may also be associated visual and auditory difficulties.

Dyslexia is a lifetime condition, however, with support; many dyslexic people are able to overcome their difficulties.

Creative thinkers

Along with the difficulties, many dyslexics have real strengths in other aspects of their lives; they tend to think differently, often having great problem solving skills, and enhanced creativity. Dyslexics think 'outside of the box' which is an asset in many situations. Dyslexic people are often highly eloquent and very creative, often excelling in the arts and music, politics and business. They can have remarkable memories as often they have had to memorise huge amounts of detail and facts in order to get through school.

A large proportion of successful millionaire entrepreneurs and inventors are dyslexic – Lord Sugar, Richard Branson, Robert Dyson, Jamie Oliver just to name a few. They have often opted out of the educational or employment systems early in their careers.

Every one of us knows, or works with someone who is dyslexic, even if we don't know it! Unfortunately, for every one who succeeds in overcoming their dyslexia, many will not find a way forward alone. Dyslexia Jersey aims to be there to support these people.

Dyslexia Jersey is a small charity, run by volunteers and without funding support from the States of Jersey. We have a number of projects that we are

working towards for support of adults and children, these new initiatives will make a considerable difference for dyslexic people living in Jersey.

Our campaign, 'Embrace the Difference, Unlock the Potential', calls on the States to lead the way in supporting dyslexics in the workplace and, in doing so, encourage at least 50% of businesses to be following best practice within five years. Constable Phil Rondel of St John and Constable Simon Crowcroft of St Helier have agreed to become political ambassadors for the campaign, which has been endorsed by both the British Dyslexia Association and Dyslexia Scotland.

Dyslexia Jersey has also been working closely with the Education Department to ensure that schools receive new, accredited training in dyslexia, with the British Dyslexia Association, with a view to their becoming 'dyslexia friendly' in the near future. Our first training courses are about to be offered to

schools with a plan to launch in October or November this year. It is our aim to make Jersey the first 'dyslexia friendly country in the world'.

Although there has been a considerable change in Jersey's provision for dyslexia in some schools over the past couple of years, there is not yet a consistent standard of support across the island. There is still a lack of dyslexia awareness in schools and the wider community therefore support for dyslexics can be limited. Many teenagers still leave school each year undiagnosed, disillusioned and frustrated with their lack of success in school.

Dyslexia Jersey wants to catch children early before they become frustrated with education and their 'perceived' inability to learn and support them with the tools to succeed. We also want to ensure that there is support and provision for dyslexic adults, in the work place and in the community, as the vast majority of dyslexics are already past school age and may be struggling to reach their potential due to lack of support in their early years.

If you need help, think that you, or your child might be dyslexic, or if you would like to learn more, or get involved, please check out our website at <http://www.dyslexiajersey.org.je/about-us.aspx> or call us on (01534) 506404.

Symptoms of Dyslexia

- Intelligent but has problems with reading, writing or spelling
- Often confuses the right from the left
- Intelligent but does not test well or has severe anxiety about testing
- Seems to daydream or zone out when in a classroom or meeting scenario
- Learns best by "hands on" training rather than verbal or written instruction
- Sees movement of letters on a page whether reading or writing
- Reads and rereads without much comprehension
- Has difficulty with spelling
- Has challenges putting thoughts into words
- Difficulty with writing or copying
- Tends to hold a pen or pencil differently and very tightly
- Handwriting is hard to read
- Has difficulty with large or fine motor skills
- Has difficulty reading time on a traditional clock
- Has time management problems
- Tends to be a procrastinator
- Tends to be good at math calculations but word problems are very difficult
- Tends to be disorderly or extremely orderly





The Parish of St John now has a butcher's shop again in Temple Court, right behind the church. The shop reopened its doors under new management on March 7th this year, after being closed for some months. The new business is now called A. R. Vitel Family Butchers. André Vitel, the new owner, has been working in various butchers' shops around the island for many years, and prior to opening the new business in St John, André was working at the well known Village Butcher in Gorey Village.

André makes very good quality home-made pork sausages, beef burgers and lamb burgers, and is quite certain that word of mouth in the parish is getting about, as so many customers are coming into the shop and saying they have heard how good the sausages are. But it's not just the sausages and burgers that the customers are enjoying. He also sells Drovers Irish (award-winning) beef, pork from Somerset, and high quality English lamb. André also sells Genuine Jersey lamb from Martin Shipley, when available, and the quality is equally good as any English lamb.

André looks forward to welcoming old and new customers alike.

Shop opening hours:
Tuesday to Saturday from 08:30 to 17:30

A.R. VITEL
FAMILY BUTCHERS

Telephone: 868838

Please note:

**We will be closed for annual holidays
from 26th August to the 2nd September**

In the shop there is also a selection of the Chilli Kitchen products, free-range Jersey eggs when available, vegetables from Three Oaks Vineries, and home-made pork pies and Scotch eggs from Jon Hackett, all of which are Genuine Jersey produce. Looking ahead to the coming months, Christmas in the butchery trade is planned well in advance, and is not something that can be left to the last minute. André has secured a partnership with Peach Croft Farm in the UK to supply fresh award-winning turkeys and geese.

André will be visiting the farm in October to view for himself the quality of the products his customers can enjoy. Come and talk to him to order your turkey or goose in time for Christmas.

Everything else associated with the Christmas dinner: pork joints, gammon, sausage meat etc, will all be available over the counter on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd of December.



André with his popular pork sausages





A bright, fun day down at the Harbour

The sixth annual Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival took place on Saturday 28th June, in beautiful weather and was once again enjoyed by over 1,500 people.

Congratulations are extended to Annabelle Hodson, from St John, who was the 2014 Bonne Nuit Bonnie Baby; to Helen Day, from St Helier the Strongest Lady who held two 3kg sandbags at arms' length for 1min 15sec, and runner up Hannah Gardener; also Adrian O'Conner from Ireland who triumphed as Bonne Nuit's Strongest Man, holding two 5kg sandbags for 1min 59sec. The Fun Food Challenge was the usual enjoyable spectacle, with the Rector struggling with the second course which included a whelk, and the Constable unable to complete the third course of a Rice Krispie cake which had been made with marmite!

Thanks to all

As always thanks are offered to all those who contributed to making the Harbour Festival the huge success that it has become, including; those stewarding the car park; the volunteer minibuses; the honorary police for looking after safety on the roads; the Women's Institute on the gate and the school choir for their songs.



Fun food challenge

Thanks also go to those who supported the event by the purchase of raffle tickets and to Ruaridh Papworth for the manufacture of our own tombola drum. Congratulations to the six winners who have all been notified and have received their prizes. This year's winning numbers were: 1st Prize £1,000 – **471**; 2nd Prize £500 – **1414**; 3rd Prize £250 – **2249**; 4th Prize £125 – **3792**; 5th prize £75 – **4371** and 6th Prize £50 – **2152**.

The planning committee are pleased to recognise and thank our sponsors: Ronez; Centamin plc; Farm Fresh Organics; and Patterned Paving Limited.

Silent Auction lots

Thanks are also due to the donors of the silent auction lots: Jersey Aero Club, for the trial flying lesson; Jane Luce, for one hour home massage; Joyce Berry, for her oil painting; St John's Church Bell Ringers, for a taster session at bell ringing; Chris Thomas, Expression Photography, for the family portrait to the value of £50; Farm Fresh Organics, for a day on the farm with ploughman's lunch; Neil Cotillard, for a Smokey Shed hamper; Jersey Harbours, for a half day with Jersey Coastguard; Elizma Lawrence, for a 60-minute beauty treatment; Ronez, for a tour of the quarry and watch the blast; Ricky Leith, for a visit to his dairy farm; Helen Papworth, for two sessions of personal training; Club Carrefour, for a month's free membership; and Le Mourier Swim School, for two 30-minute swimming lessons.

Please help this family community event grow from strength to strength by forwarding your thoughts, reflections and suggestions for 2015, and offers of help to the secretary, by post to the Rectory, or by phone 861677.

Andy Thewlis
Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival Secretary

School choir



LES MATHIONNETTES – 'Northern Lights'

**Retired stonemason, artist and craftsman with an interest in marine biology,
Frank Gautron talks to Mary Rouillé**

Frank Gautron was born in 1941, the younger of two children, at Alma Villa in St John. Three years later the family moved round the corner to La Cocagne, on Rue de la Ville Guyon. His father, a stone-dresser, had served for two years in France in the First World War, and for a further three years after the war with the occupying forces and as a result he spoke German fluently. During the German occupation of the Second World War his father was arrested for owning a crystal radio set and spent six months in Newgate Prison where his knowledge of German was greatly disliked by the German soldiers who knew he understood everything they said. Fortunately he was imprisoned towards the end of the war and so escaped being sent to France as many others were. He was released after D-Day due to overcrowding in the prison.

In 1945, at the age of four-and-a-half, Frank began his schooling in St John, which he attended until the age of 15. He remembers the day before he left school. The headmaster asked him what sort of job he would like to do. Frank replied that he wanted to be a commercial artist. That was not to be: his first job was as an apprentice carpenter, which involved not only the skill of working with wood but also how to paint and decorate. Ten years later, and with a family of his own to look after, he left and joined a building company for better pay.

Change of direction

After another four years working as a carpenter he took the opportunity to join his brother-in-law Alan, as a stonemason. A partnership was formed, and the company name became Vibert and Gautron. Frank's father and grandfather were both stone-dressers, and as this gift was evidently genetic, Frank had no problem getting to grips with the job. (I found out the difference between a stonemason and stone-dresser. The stone-dresser can only shape and smooth the stone whereas a stonemason can build as well as dress). The company operated originally from a small depot in St John, before eventually buying part of

La Saline quarry. This enabled them to quarry their own stone, rather than having to buy it in.

It was in the late 1950s when Frank was working for a customer in Rozel Bay that he noticed the girls working in the fields. One such girl was Shirley de Gruchy, a farmer's daughter. Frank and Shirley were married in 1963 and set up home in a cottage in Mont Mado. After his parents passed away, the family, which included twin boys and a girl, moved into La Cocagne. Frank tried to buy this property but found the valuation too expensive. After hearing on the grapevine that Ville des Chênes village was being built, he put his name forward for a plot, and in 1971 moved into the house where he still lives today.

Retirement and skilful hobbies

Frank retired at 50 and needed to find an interest, as by nature he is always on the go. After building a granite fireplace and developing his garden he sorted out his garage where he has built a number of fish tanks, filling them with seawater. Always being interested in marine life, it has given him the opportunity to study and monitor unusual fish. In 1996 he had a call from a fisherman who had been fishing in Plémont Deep and had landed a seahorse, which had attached itself to a lobster pot. The seahorse had the bends due to it being brought out of the sea quickly. Frank managed to resuscitate it by holding it in a tank for five to six hours. Word went round and more seahorses were given to Frank to save; 14 in total. Sue Daly, the marine photographer, became involved, and as a result BBC South West TV and the JEP got hold of the story, ending up with a queue of reporters and cameramen outside the house.

Painting pictures from photographs, some of Bonne Nuit, has been another hobby, with many being entered in the Eisteddfod where they have won awards, including gold and platinum. Always enjoying a challenge, he has built a dolls' house which began with making the staircase and then building the house around it. Even with much of the furniture being bought in France, it still took five years to finish and 1,045 hours to make. The house was entered in the Eisteddfod and won Platinum. His latest 'build' is a miniature garden scene which includes a shed with nest box on one side, a wheelbarrow, garden bench, and numerous garden implements which are all in proportion. Frank's talents have evidently been passed on to his children as both sons are stonemasons and his daughter a very good artist.

**Right: Photo collage by Richard Dupré
of Frank and some of his work**

Anyone for Croquet?

The Jersey Croquet Club at Les Quennevais Sports Centre is looking for new members.

Please contact Elizabeth on: Tel: 741879

MOBILE LIBRARY

**At St John's Parish Hall 1.00 – 2.00pm
Every Monday**





A day in the life of... COLIN STANIER

Colin writes about his work, family, entertainment, fitness and dance commitments

I moved to the parish in 1993 with my wife Julie and daughter Jessica who was two at the time. Rebecca was born shortly after and then Verity in 1997, and Todd in 1999. It's the longest period that I have lived in one area. I was born in Liverpool but grew up in Morecambe Bay in Lancashire. Back then Morecambe was famous for its potted shrimps, bathing beauty competitions, open-air swimming pool, West End and Central Piers, Morecambe lights (mini Blackpool style), theatres, fish and chip shops, fairgrounds and, much like the Jersey of yester-year, its summertime tourist trade.

Hang on a minute; I need to answer the phone. Ah, it's daughter No. 1 wanting to know if I can help coordinate a replacement door in the flat she has been renting in town. It seems a hole somehow appeared in it!

St John's School has played a substantial role in family life, providing excellent primary education for each of my children and each of the four head teachers during that time played an important role in the school's development – Jo Davenport, Pam Pitman, Andrew Willis and Trudie de la Haye.

The phone is ringing again – this time it's a Facetime call from daughter No. 2. It seems the landlord of the house she is living in in north London wants to use the deposit to cover the shortfall in rent due from one of the other tenants who decided to move out after an argument with another flatmate!

I joined the Sport, Leisure and Recreation Department in 1999 and spent the next 12 years coordinating the Fort Regent events programme, contracting and presenting everything from comedians to rock bands, fire-walking to motor shows, late night dance events to classical music concerts. The Island's first ice-skating rink, ballet, opera, trade shows, careers fairs, fitness presentations, banquets and conferences; a wide and varied range of events. During that time I was asked to assist with the marketing of the Active Card health and fitness member-



Colin at the Fort

ship programme on a temporary basis, something that lasted far longer than I had anticipated. And, in 2012, I handed over the events programme to fully embrace the marketing and commercial section of the department.

Community involvement

When the Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival was mooted I used my events management experience to assist with the management structure, preparing the event plan and coordinating the licence application to the Bailiff's panel. The drive and enthusiasm of all the members of the committee, the volunteers and supporters was wonderful and despite the atrocious weather conditions of that first festival in 2009, it established the event and prepared the way for future celebrations.

It is my cruise ship training that continually comes in useful. Life on board a ship was never dull, where being dropped into something at the last minute was the norm and learning to be resourceful and not panic despite

pressing circumstances was the key. A new challenge was lurking around each corner including being told at the last minute to take the Jewish Sabbath Service one Friday evening. It really tested my nerve, particularly when I invited the congregation to send forward a volunteer to officiate and no-one responded. I came to an agreement with the assembly that I as I was not wholly familiar with the intricacies of the Jewish Sabbath Service, I would start things off and they would take over as we progressed. I nervously proceeded and was congratulated with many a warming embrace.

Daily life tends to be quite hectic which is not surprising given that we have a big family plus a large black Labrador, Bosley. In addition Julie and I both teach fitness and dance. We met when I auditioned to be in a show on one of Royal Caribbean's Cruise Lines ships in the Caribbean. Previously I had danced with London Festival Ballet, Wayne Sleep and his Dash Company, and was in the West End production of the George Abbot musical 'On Your Toes' which transferred from Broadway to London. Julie had toured with her own dance group as well as choreo-

Continued >>



graphing for Dick Ray at Caesars Palace and for Benny Hill. She was working for an American producer at the time we met and being a tough taskmaster, she put me through my paces in the audition, so much so that I ached for days afterwards. I think I got the job because I could lift her on to my shoulder with ease, which I am sad to say, is no longer the case due to the ravages of time. We had a very exciting time on the ships, travelling to various parts of the world and meeting interesting people. Julie is very proud of her island and invited me to pop over and visit. That was in 1987, and here we are now looking forward to celebrating 25 years of marriage in October.

It's the phone ringing again and as it's the Mrs I'd better answer promptly! "Yes dear I won't forget to collect our son and his clarinet from school. And yes, I will make sure he has something to eat, does his homework, stays away from the games console, and I'll speak to him about growing pains and life!"

Dance

Dance and entertainment have always played a big role in our lives. Julie and I started teaching Zumba a few years ago when it hit Europe, the UK and the Island by storm. Our cruise ship training came in handy as we had learnt merengue and Latin rhythms on the ships prior to taking our fitness qualifications over here. Earlier this year we were asked to teach partner dancing to couples who want to dance when going out to a function or party. We introduced Le Roc (modern French jive) to a small group of friendly but apprehensive couples living in St John who really embraced the social aspect of dance, some of whom can be seen trying out their dance steps in the new allotments!

Text from Jersey Live office. "Fiancé and I want to do a wedding dance. We've never danced together before and the wedding's in six weeks! Can you and Julie help?"

I really look forward to getting out and walking Bosley, particularly as once my working day starts and I'm inside the bowels of Fort Regent I rarely see daylight. Living in St John and walking these rural areas of the parish is wonderful and a great tonic for a sometimes frenetic life!

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Red-billed choughs are now at home on the cliffs at Sorel

Glyn Young and Liz Corry write about the scheme to reintroduce them to Jersey after an absence of over 100 years



Last year some former residents made their home on the National Trust for Jersey's fields at Le Don Paton. These are red-billed choughs, a beautiful relative of the crow that, unlike its relative, feeds on ants and other insects in the soil particularly on grazed coastal land. The all-black choughs can be distinguished by their blood-red, long, down-curved, bill and red legs and feet. They are masters of the air, seeming to enjoy playing on the winds that rush up the cliffs. Choughs are rarely alone and like to be in pairs or small groups calling regularly, their high pitched 'chow' travelling on the wind. It is probably this call that gave them their common name, changed over the years and now pronounced 'chuff'.

Choughs died out in Jersey around the start of the 20th Century through changes in land use, loss of coastal grazing and persecution in times less bird-friendly than now. A widespread, typically mountain bird in Europe, Asia and North Africa, a rare population of these birds occurs in coastal areas only from Brittany to western Ireland and Scotland's Inner Hebrides. Birds of this population are often called sea crows and are the emblem of Cornwall and, long associated with Thomas Beckett, appear on coats of arms of two Oxford University colleges as well as Canterbury in Kent and Canterbury in New South Wales.

Landscape changes

Changes in Jersey over the past 100 years have seen increasing development, agricultural intensification and a move away from mixed farms with a consequent loss of livestock grazing marginal areas of the coastline. This has led to the spread of invasive native and non-native species such as bracken and hottentot fig on our coast, causing a loss of quality habitat.

These changes have exacerbated problems for local wildlife with the consequent loss and decline of many birds like the skylark, yellowhammer and stonechat. Birds On The Edge is a partnership of Durrell, States of Jersey Department of the Environment and National Trust for Jersey to support the active management of Jersey's coastal land to restore populations of birds and bring the project's emblem, the chough, back to the Island.

Reintroduction

A temporary aviary at Le Don Paton was finished early last year and the first choughs arrived in April from Paradise Park in Cornwall. Breeding pairs of choughs, also from Paradise Park, arrived at Durrell in 2010 in order to produce further birds for the project but only successfully bred for the first time this year.



Left: The aviary at Sorel

All the choughs carry individually numbered and coloured rings on their legs so that each one can easily be identified. They are further tracked very closely using radio transmitters attached to their tail feathers. In fact, unexpected moult of the tail feathers meant that the first, and momentous, release of the birds only took place in August 2013. After that the birds spent several weeks at liberty mostly exploring Ronez Quarry before they were brought back into the aviary as winter weather worsened.

This year, with some new recruits from Cornwall in the flock, the birds were again released in early April. Although some have wandered, a flock of six birds now roams the coast between Mourier Valley and Ronez. Although at liberty, mostly they stay near the sheep-grazed fields at Le Don Paton and return to the aviary for extra food and a safe place to roost at night. Please go and look for the choughs as they fly, calling excitedly along the St John coastline and admire these stunning, returning, neighbours. Oh, and don't be surprised to see someone who appears to be carrying a TV aerial nearby, it's one of the tracking team, collecting information on the birds' movements and activities.

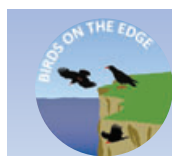


Above: Locating choughs using their individual radio transmitters

Left: Locating choughs at night



Dr Glyn Young is conservation biologist and Durrell's project manager for the Birds On the Edge project. Liz Corry is Chough Reintroduction Field Manager.



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A Fond Farewell.....

Nobody would have thought twice if they'd seen me delivering the 'Star of the North' a few weeks ago. It was a pretty unremarkable sight. For me, however, it was a momentous day because, after many years of delivering the parish magazine, this would be my last time. Doing so made me think of the many 'last times' my family and I will be experiencing over the next few weeks as we prepare to move to another parish after living in St John for eighteen years.

St John has become a part of who we are. My children, Ben and Jacob, have lived here all their lives. My dogs, Otto and Lola, have walked (and dragged me around) the lanes and cliff paths hundreds of times. My parents, on their frequent visits from the UK, have enjoyed the village atmosphere, our local pubs and the unfailing delight of seeing Jersey cows chewing quietly in so many of our fields.

There is so much that makes St John special: the atmosphere, the way it balances calmness and dignity with energy and fun; its rugged beauty and quirky features. It is a parish that often punches above its weight in terms of community involvement. St John has an identifiable political and social conscience. It stands up for itself but is not too set in its ways to listen to others.

Helping at St John's School

Over the years we have delighted in getting to know so many parishioners. I had the pleasure of being a volunteer helper at St John's Primary School a few years ago. The young people and staff there were always welcoming and friendly. Some pupils, now in their mid-teens, still say hello to me when they see me. That always makes me smile. I also enjoyed driving the minibus to Forest School and spending time with the younger children there. My own children have made good use of The Recreation Centre by taking part in gymnastics, kick-boxing, yoga, football and shooting. We have even made friends out dog walking (a big thanks to Dusty for sharing his dog biscuits ungrudgingly). St John is a blanket of familiar faces that has helped keep us cosy over the years.

Life, of course, is a mixture of highs, lows – and the bits in between. We were so fortunate to have 'struck gold' in the house we chose to live in as our neighbours have been wonderful. Leaving them is a wrench as they have become our extended family and an important part of our lives. Obviously, we are only moving a few miles away so will still see them regularly but we will miss our almost daily chats, their slightly eccentric senses of humour and their quiet, unwavering support. They are the best gift St John could have ever given us.

Looking to the future

Although those 'last times' are important, we now need to look to the future. As we move on from the



'last times' we are looking forward to all the 'first times' we will be doing things in our new home and new parish. Leaving anything is always tinged with sadness but we will take with us many

happy memories and lasting friendships.

So, that's all from the Rabet family, formerly of Mont Mado, St John. We've loved living in the parish and enjoyed being part of the community. As we shut the door on our house for the last time we'd like to say: 'Thank you St John. You've been great'.

Amanda, Ben and Jake Rabet

On behalf of the Star of the North Committee we thank Amanda for her regular support in delivering the magazine and wish her and the boys all the very best in their new home and parish.

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

As I write, we have been enjoying several weeks of real summer weather, with the barometer hardly moving. After such a wet winter and spring it has been good to be able to plan ahead in the certain knowledge that when we awake there will be blue skies and sunshine to greet us. But in due course all that will change. As you read these words it may already have done so!

Similarly life has its ups and downs. Everything seems to be going well and then something happens to upset things. All we can really be sure about is the love of God, which never changes. In good times and bad He is always with us, encouraging, strengthening and guiding. As a congregation committed to making known that love, we are very well aware of the prayers of friends around the globe helping us and we would welcome the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with you.

Except for those Sundays when we worship as a Parish, we are always here in Sion for Sunday worship at 10.30 am and you are most welcome to join with us.

On a practical note, we have been much exercised of late in dealing with legal problems concerning our large Manse following the retirement of our last Minister. I am pleased, and relieved, to be able to report that with considerable assistance from our Advocates, Messrs Le Gallais and Luce, and the Law Officers those problems have now been overcome and we can start making plans for the 'proper' use of this lovely old building.

Michael Ruskin, Church Secretary



Dear Parishioners...

I was very honoured to be chosen as your Deputy in October 2011, and subsequently the States gave further heavy responsibility to me when I stood in the States election to become the Minister for Education Sport and Culture and a member of the Council of Ministers. As you can imagine the last three years or so has been a very busy time for me: the introduction of an apprentice scheme (Trackers); a vocational training initiative for 14 to 16-year-olds; expansion of Highlands College for school leavers; extra funding to cover university fee increases and funding for nurseries in schools. In addition a replacement primary school is being built in St Martin; a centre for the Youth Service has been developed in St James; the Crabbé Outdoor centre has additional facilities. A new secondary school will be built at Les Quennevais, an IT strategy for schools has been developed with a budget of £6m, and there is a new sports strategy with funding to include the NatWest Island Games in 2015.

However there is one area of development in our Education system that needs a careful review and potentially a considerable amount of work. Political and public pressure continue to grow around the belief that our secondary school system is not as inclusive as it should be. We must be very sure that opportunities and outcomes for children, whatever their backgrounds, are as equal as possible, but with 43% of children in subsidized fee-paying education and another 6.4% in free but academically selective education from 14 onwards, there is a feeling that, although our aspirations around meritocracy and inclusivity are well developed, our education system may not be as in tune with that as we would all like.

Bearing this in mind I believe that the next election cycle is likely to be a very difficult one for the next Education Minister. A Senator elected into office by the whole Island would be in a stronger position to try to manage the likely emotive arguments and entrenched positions that exist.

I must be honest and say that having enjoyed the job of Minister for Education, wishing to continue in it, and in the knowledge that there is much more work to be done there, if I do stand for election I must stand as a Senator and seek an Island-wide mandate, that would, of course, include my home Parish of St John that will always be special to me. I would just like to thank you all for your support over the last three years.

Probably the last important thing I can do for the Parish before completing my term as your Deputy is to raise the profile of something that potentially I believe has big implications for the future democratic representation in the Parish. I will explain:

October 15th Referendum

On the 14th July this year or soon after, the States

will debate the question to be put to the public in the 15th October referendum on States Reform. The design of the question being proposed has such far reaching importance, particularly for St John, that as your Deputy I cannot let it just slip by under the radar so to speak. That is why I have tabled a major change to its design and exactly what questions are to be asked in the referendum.

This is the question being proposed: The 2018 election should be for 49 members and one class of States member, with all members voted in Parishes in equal proportion to the population in each Parish. There is only **one single all-encompassing** YES/NO answer allowed.

If the result has a majority in favour it will mean: the end of Senators and the Island-wide elections; the end of the Constable's **automatic** right to sit in the States (although he can stand separately in the general election); no further reduction in States members from the 2014 election number of 49.

And finally and crucially for St John: the spread of 49 members ACROSS PARISH BOUNDARIES would mean St John voters would be allocated ONE MEMBER to vote for even though the population in the Parish is close to 3,000 people, whereas each St Helier voter would have the ability to influence the choice of up to SEVEN MEMBERS each, depending on the district of St Helier they live in. This is clearly undemocratic!

Also voters may like part of the question but probably not all, and there will be no knowing afterwards which part they agree or disagree with.

My amendment to this proposal is that three main questions at issue should be asked:

1. Should the Constables lose their **automatic** right to sit in the States.....Yes/No
2. Should the Senators and the Island-wide vote disappear.....Yes/No
3. Should the number of States members be reduced to 44.....Yes/No

Three simple yes/no questions and no need to vote on all three if you don't want to, or are not sure.

After the vote the States can design an assembly around the result and ask an independent boundaries commission to decide how to allocate the public's choice of members with or without Senators and Constables across the Island.

Due to copy deadlines, as I write this article it is not clear whether my amendment will be successful but I can only do my best to try and ensure a fairer deal for the St John voters.

*Yours sincerely,
Patrick Ryan*



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THE UNWELCOME VISITOR AT MAISON LE VESCONTE

Will the unspoilt peace and tranquility of Maison Le Vesconte ever be restored?—or will it become a distant, nostalgic memory?

It all began in early Spring when, unannounced he majestically walked out from the archway of leaves and branches that form the entrance from the 'copse', a woodland area adjoining Maison Le Vesconte, proudly making his way across the lawns. His attire was cheerful and bright, adding glorious colour to the normal daily scene. Then the nightmare began. We weren't sure we had heard right the first few times it happened and comforted ourselves with the thought that his visit would be a short one! He must have come from somewhere and surely someone was missing him? Alas no search party arrived, no report of him missing in the JEP. "Maybe he's lost," says 'Himself,' "I'll catch him and take him to Sorel, I'm sure that's where he is from"

Waiting, waiting...

Many, many moons have passed. Himself watches each dawn present its spectacle of colour. On one such dawn Himself was enjoying a 'ciggy' at the bathroom window when suddenly the scoundrel cautiously stepped out in view. Himself was ready with his small pellet gun – steady, aim, fire – no chance, this chappie wasn't deterred by a few plastic pellets, his coat was shock proof! Nevertheless he scampered back into the shelter and darkness of the copse raising havoc in the process. After a few weeks Himself came up with plan B. "We'll lasso him!" So duly armed, accompanied by two grandchildren an afternoon of lasso making and throwing ensued. I think the scoundrel was secretly watching all this activity and decided to stay put! He's smart, smarter than we gave him credit for.

Dirty tactics

Then some genius came up with a foolproof plan: soak a bowl of food in whisky, then when he's eating or trying to crawl away you'll catch him. With this plan in mind Himself sets to work. I blink and shake my head at the sight before my eyes as Himself pours half a bottle of his once favourite Bells onto a bowl full of food. "That will sort him out," he mutters. Once the food had absorbed the alcohol, Himself sets a trail of food outside and patiently watches as the greedy, raucous soul devours the lot! After which the scoundrel saunters off into the hedgerow to "sleep it off." "Aha," says Himself, "this plan may work!" He happily sets up a box on its side, the lid held open with a suitable stick to which string is attached, this leading to the bathroom window, where Himself will be watching and waiting! He then places a generous

amount of whisky-soaked food in and around the box and places himself behind the window to keep vigil.

After 45 minutes Himself admits defeat; this character really was something else! He'd eaten the surrounding food but wasn't tempted by the contents of the box – he's no fool! Himself decided that maybe the box wasn't big enough, so he acquired a huge dog crate, big enough to house a St Bernard. Once again the same procedure was put in place and for several weeks Himself kept watch. Every species imaginable visited and helped themselves to the tasty morsels on offer but not this scallywag! He continued rampaging from dawn to dusk, taking food and shelter from the neighbours. Something had to be done! Suddenly Himself emerged from his hiding place behind the bathroom window. "I nearly got him! His foot and head were in the cage, then I pulled the string hoping the gate would push him in when it closed, but I was too blooming quick and the blighter ran off leaving some items of attire behind!"... So that's the cage gone. Next plan, "How about an archer?" says Himself, or maybe a net will be next. By now desperation is taking hold and I'll be leading the queue for St Saviour's or wherever. Maybe a petition to the Constable and Trustees would offer a solution! Perhaps not! But when we do catch this pesky rooster we'll stop his crowing once and for all, in the stewpot! Meanwhile Himself is busy working on plans X,Y and Z.

Nanette Vibert

.....

**St John's
Women's Institute:**
in, out and about

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We have enjoyed meetings about the Archive Centre and family history, a report on the annual AGM in Leeds; where the resolution to try and persuade people to become organ donors was overwhelmingly approved, and an all-day outing to St Aubin by bus; Le Petit Train and lunch were a great success.

Plenty going on

The separate social outings have been appreciated by many members and have included a visit to a play at the Arts Centre, a beauty evening at Voisin and Co. and a lovely afternoon tea at the Golden Sands hotel in St Brelade. A trip to 'The Mousetrap' at the Opera House is planned for later in July. August is a holiday and then the programme begins again in September on the second Tuesday of each month at the parish hall.



St John Skate Park Association update

I must start with a great big thank you to the founding members of the Skate Park Association who have done a magnificent job to get such a fantastic park up and running which was no easy feat having to overcome opposition and funding issues. There has now been a change of committee members as listed below and I hope that you will continue to support such a worthwhile and well used community area. The committee is currently looking to re-establish its membership in order to ensure its continued operation, maintenance and, above all, success.

The membership fee is £12 and this will currently give you membership up until December 2015. So what are the benefits of being a member, I hear you ask? Well, it is a well maintained and managed area having weekly maintenance checks and kept clean and tidy. The committee is currently looking to negotiate some form of discount offers from local business for members of the park. We will update you with details of this once confirmed.

The park is also a members only area, whilst this is not policed 24/7, spot checks will be carried out from time to time and the skateboarders who are not members will be given the opportunity to join.

I am sure you will agree that this is a great facility that we are privileged to have the use of and one that you will want to continue. This will only be possible with continued support from the community and the park's members.

Should your children or grandchildren wish to become members, please complete and return the membership form delivered with this edition of the magazine. Additional forms can be found at St John's Parish Hall and if you know of any friends or other family members that may also be interested in using and supporting the park, please pass the word on.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support.

John Fosse

St John Skate Park current committee members and contact details:

John Fosse: Chairperson

ijyscrew@gmail.com 07700 747 694

Jo Carter: Secretary

joanacarter71@yahoo.com

Sandra Genée: Treasurer

sandragenée@hotmail.com

Nicky Brown: Committee Member

nickybrown@youthservice.yc.je

Lloyd Pinel: Committee Member

John Dibbens: Committee Member

johndibbens@hotmail.co.uk

Rev Andy Thewlis: Committee Member

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News from the Pews

Two important strands in the life of a Parish Church are worship and witness, which on Sunday 8th June found expression in a **Pentecost Prayer walk of witness**.



Sixteen members of the Church family, plus one dog, walked from church, past the Millennium Cross to Sorel Point and back, stopping off for prayer along the way, re-enacting the traditional Whit Sunday walks of the past.

The morning concluded with a delicious church family lunch which was enjoyed by all and so it will be repeated in 2015, as we invite others to join us in walking a different section of the Parish Boundary.

Left: Walkers at Millennium Cross

Congratulations to the 22 individuals and groups, including St John's School, who contributed amazing floral creations which enriched our St John's Tide celebrations through the **June Flower Festival**.

The beautiful floral arrangements depicting big bible stories were a delight to the eye and touched hearts and souls of many visitors as they reflected upon the creative interpretation of familiar stories, which contain eternal truths. The £222.45 raised in donations is to go towards the internal refurbishment of the church building.



Sea Sunday Service

On Sunday 6th July 50 or so folk gathered at Bonne Nuit, at 10.30am, for the annual St John's Group of Churches **Sea Sunday Service** during which Assistant Harbourmaster, Ian Lawrence, spoke of his time at sea.

The collection of £216 has been shared equally between the Mission to Seafarers, R.N.L.I. and Channel Islands Air Search.



Floral designs

In addition to the normal rhythm of weekly worship we're planning special services focusing upon different aspects of life, and invite you to consider joining us for the following:

Fun in the Sun, with songs, a story Jesus told about some fishermen he once met on a beach, ending with a sandcastle building competition, at the 10.30am **Beach Service at Bonne Nuit** on Sunday 10th August.

Our traditional **Harvest Celebration**, is at 10.30am, on Sunday 28th September as we join together to give thanks to God for all that is good in life. In recognition of the plenty we enjoy and the struggle of others we invite you to bring along gifts of dried food, tins or toiletries, which will be distributed by the Friends of Ecce Homo Trust to the poor in Romania.



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8.00am – Book of Common Prayer Communion

9.30am – Holy Communion with Traditional Hymns

11.00am – Contemporary Worship





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You Will Never Guess What We Have Been Up To ?

The Big Brownie Birthday was launched in January for Brownies all over the world to celebrate becoming 100 years old. To recognise this huge landmark, Brownies were challenged to do a number of things they had not done before around the themes of World, Community and You.

25th St John's Brownies accepted the challenge with great enthusiasm and the girls came up with loads of exciting ideas. We would like to share some of them with you.



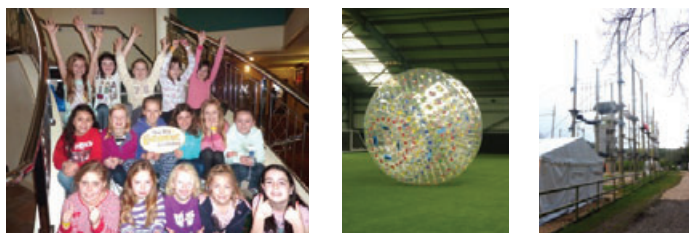
We invited Jepson to join us on an evening when Olivia Hodges made her promise and Ruby Gouldson and Mia Murphy chose to work for their Hostess Badge. In honour of Jepson's visit, both girls decided on a teddy bear theme and provided delicious home-made cakes and cake pops.

The challenge: To appear in a local newspaper explaining why Brownies is so much fun.

On 5th & 6th April lots of Brownies on the Island joined together for a massive 48-hour-long party at the Merton Hotel. Various activities at Creepy Valley, Les Ormes, and Fort Regent were on offer for the girls to enjoy. Not much sleep was had but amazing experiences and huge fun for everyone involved!



The challenge: To go out and about and explore something new.



St John's Brownies still awake

Les Ormes

Creepy Valley

The Mad Hatters' Tea Party at Government House



St John's Brownies suggested having a cup of tea at Government House so we sent their idea to Sonia Machon – our Island Commissioner. We were delighted to receive an invitation to attend a tea party along with other members from Girlguiding Jersey. We all looked splendid wearing our hats which we made for this very special occasion.

The challenge: To have a cup of tea in a very unusual place.

Our challenges continued with:

Bell ringing at St John's Church
Pampering Night with Mums
Games Night with 1st South Rainbows

Visit to Albert Bartlett

Pure Adventure on water

A bus ride to St Catherine

We met La Pouquelaye Brownies on St Aubin's beach and together we took part in Ready Steady Glasgow 2014 Badge

and held our own mini-Commonwealth Games.

And finally, we are meeting St Saviour's Guides and Grève d'Azette Brownies for a campfire.

None of this could have been possible without the dedication of our Leaders & Helpers at St John's Brownies.

A BIG THANK YOU to Louise Read, Wendy Collins, Sue Davis, Eloise Hamon and Ellie Hodges.

If your daughter or you would like to know more about joining please visit

www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Donna Tupper



St. John's Star



The Year 6 pupils at St John's School compiled a school newspaper, detailing some events that took place during a specific week this year. Here are a few paragraphs from our newspaper to produce a snapshot of school life.

A BUSY SCHOOL

By Olivia and Emily Yr6

This year St John's School has been nothing but busy and there is still much more fun to come. We have just had our annual Sports Day, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was a day of sunshine and fun. This year we had two winning teams – Uruguay and England! Congratulations to all the participants and the runners in the individual races!

For Book Week in St John, the school focused on newspapers. Year 6 created a school newspaper that took precious time and effort to make. This took approximately half a term to produce. It was such a relief for us once it was finished as it was surprisingly such hard work to be a journalist. Also there is so much to find out about within the school.

Mr Jones, our school inspector, came in as we were making our school paper. He was really impressed with our school and wrote an amazing report. On top of that, Oscar Puffin and Jepson Bear came in to the younger classes of the school. John Henderson of the BBC, Skyped years 4 and 6. Even though we could only vaguely see parts of his face it was still enjoyable.

As well as all this we were really busy with sports. We had the Swim-arathon, Netball and football matches, cross country running races, chess tournaments and a fencing tournament. Well done to everyone who took part in any of these exciting activities.



We have loads of fun and exciting trips to go on but the best have to be the residential visits like the Scout Hut, Sark, St Aubin's Fort and the legendary French trip to finish off your time at St. John's. As Year 6, who have been on every trip, all we can say is how brilliant they are.

For Mr Le Rossignol there was exciting news on the 21st February as his little junior was born.

SPORTING SUPERSTARS FENCING

By Ella Baudin and Charlotte Bainbridge



Fencing has become a very popular sport throughout the school of St John. It is mostly popular in Year 4 because they have been given lessons by a professional fencer, Gianpaolo Marini. The professional fencer was so impressed with them that he put a few of them in a competition: Jady Dupré, Jamie Raphael-Hall, Oliver Tomlinson, Liam Cosgrove and Daniel Farnden. After they did the competition we interviewed all the pupils that took part.

Jamie Raphael-Hall said that he was feeling happy but nervous when he found out who his opponent was. He got a bit worried because they were a strong team and they were very competitive. He got a well deserved bronze medal and a certificate.

Jady Dupré, another fencer said he

was feeling excited because it was his first time doing it. He got a bronze medal and a certificate. We also interviewed Daniel Farnden who said he was feeling excited but a bit nervous because he had never done it before and was worried if he got the rules wrong. He also got a bronze medal. So let's hope that the next Year 4s get the opportunity to do a fencing competition too.

NETBALL

ST JOHN v ST PETER



On the 10th of March 2014 eight netballers from St John's school went to a netball match at St Peter's Community Centre.

When everyone arrived they realised they had no netball bibs as they had forgotten them so the team ended up playing without any! Also the team had two subs who were Emily Bell and Ella Barette. Emily was swapped on at half-time.

We interviewed Ella Barette from Year 6 as she played in the netball match.

"I thought it was a good netball match because at half time it was 11-1 to them and then we scored 9 goals. I thought I could have done better but I was sub for half of the game so it was hard. I don't really know how I could have done better."

The day after the netball match Emily Bell, from Year 6, said, "It was a very good game because we all tried hard and played our best. I think I could have done better by marking my player better."

The netballers lost the match 19-10 but all of them had fun.

So this is how busy we are as a school. We have so many learning opportunities. We would like to say a big, warm thank-you to all the staff who have made these possible.

Trudie de la Haye, Head Teacher



L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

The magazine is published for the Parish of St John by the Editorial team:
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PARISH HALL

Tel 861999 Fax 864553 E-mail: posj@gov.je
Website: www.parish.gov.je/st_john/

PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS from January 2014

Monday, Tuesday and Friday
9.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Wednesday
9.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 7.00pm
CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY



PARISH DIARY – August to December 2014

AUGUST

Sun 10th	10.30am	Beach Service at Bonne Nuit, organised by the Parish Church
Tues 26th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 27th	2.30pm	Golden Age Club meet at the Parish Hall

SEPTEMBER

Wed 3rd		Back to school
Thurs 4th	2.15pm	Visite du Branchage
Tues 9th	7.30pm	WI in the Parish Hall. Jackie Vautier & Friend
Thurs 11th		Battle of Britain Day. No School
Wed 24th	12.00pm	Golden Age Club lunch departs from the Parish Hall
Sun 28th	10.30am	Harvest Celebration at the Parish Church
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall

OCTOBER

Sat 4th		7.00pm Harvest Supper in the Parish Hall
Tues 14th	7.30pm	WI meal at St John's Inn
Wed 15th	8am–8pm	States Elections and Referendum
Fri 17th		2–4pm Exhibition topic on the Island of Jersey. St John's School
Fri 24th		Last day of half-term
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 29th	2.30pm	Golden Age Club in the Parish Hall

NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd		Back to school
Sun 9th	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday Service at the Parish Church
Tues 11th	7.30pm	WI AGM in the Parish Hall.
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 26th	2.30pm	Golden Age Club AGM in the Parish Hall
Fri 28th		St John's School Deco Day
Sun 30th	6.00pm	Advent Sunday Service of Remembrance at the Parish Church

DECEMBER

Wed 3rd	Afternoon	Reception/KS1 Christmas Production, St John's School
Thurs 4th	Afternoon	Reception/KS1 Christmas Production, St John's School
Fri 5th	Afternoon	Nursery Christmas Production, St John's School
Tues 9th	7.30pm	WI Christmas Party in the Parish Hall, with Park Life Choir.
Wed 10th	1.15pm	KS2 Production of Robin Hood, St John's School
Wed 10th	7.00pm	KS2 Production of Robin Hood, St John's School
Thurs 11th	1.15pm	KS2 Production of Robin Hood, St John's School
Thurs 11th	7.00pm	KS2 Production of Robin Hood, St John's School

Sun 14th	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service at the Parish Church, organised by the St John's Group of Churches
Mon 15th		Christmas Parties at St John's School
Tues 16th		Last day of term
Wed 17th	12.30pm	Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner at The Farmhouse
Thurs 18th	7.30pm	Harmony Men Christmas Concert, in the Parish Church

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.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Sundays at 10.30am	Family Worship Holy Communion, monthly, as advertised
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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
Caesarean Handbell Ringers: Diane Nelson – 481898
Constable: Phil Rondel – 861455
Deputy: Patrick Ryan – 851934
Football Club: Nigel Perrée – 865113
Friends of Bonne Nuit: Gary Romeril – 861972
Golden Age Club: Wendy Rondel – 863667
Honorary Police: 866560
Jersey Gym Club: Jody Whittingham – 721630
Les Frères Mother Toddler and Baby Group: Claire Kybett – 07700 702661

Parish Hall: 861999
Rector: Rev Andy Thewlis – 861677
School: 861692
Shooting Club: John Renouf – 861908
Skateboard Association: John Fosse – 861688
Star of the North (Editor): Jo Falla – 861611
Youth & Community Trust: Andrew Lewis – 862663
Tennis: Tina Spencer-Nairn – 861716
Twining Association: Ron Le Herissier – 862010
Women's Institute: Karen Cotillard – 863296
United Reformed Church: Secretary Michael Ruskin – 482366
Youth Project: Rosemary Dupré – 866880
Youth Worker: Nicky Brown – 07797 844861



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We are closed on Mondays but will be open on bank Holidays

MISS ST JOHN COMPETITION 2014

On Saturday 29th March 2014 St John's Parish Hall was once again the venue for our annual competition. This year we were pleased to have two young ladies come forward (without the usual arm-twisting as in previous years!). 17-year-old Charlotte Emma Terry and 20-year-old Jacqueline O'Hara were interviewed by our three judges (all residing outside the parish) and we are delighted to report that although the decision was a difficult one, Charlotte was crowned our representative for the year.

- Rosemary Dupre and Barbara Collins (organisers)



Left:-
Runner up
Jacqueline O'Hara

Right:-
Miss St John
Emma Terry

