

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD ★ STAR OF THE NORTH



Parish of St John

Issue 44

August 2018

ST JOHN'S
FIRST PARISH
AMBASSADOR

18-year-old

Alice
Mitchell



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Dear Parishioners...

July already, and some pessimist told me the days are already getting shorter! That aside we are at last enjoying a wonderful summer and about time too. The house martins in the Parish Hall porch have fledged their first hatchling and are busy sitting on eggs for the next.

I am sure, like me, you are all delighted that our former Deputy, Tracey Vallois, topped the poll in the recent senatorial elections. Whilst very sad she has left as our Deputy, I am sure we all wish her well in her new role. Of course Tracey is still a parishioner and I know she will always be a great supporter of our parish.

In her place I am delighted to welcome Trevor Pointon, a former Centenier and long-standing stalwart of our Parish. Trevor has served over 12 years as a Centenier and was last year awarded the Long Service and Meritorious Award medal from the Lieutenant-Governor. I look forward to working with Trevor, and would like to remind Parishioners we will be continuing the monthly surgeries at the Parish Hall on the first Wednesday of the month between 5pm and 7pm.

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War. The Parish will be celebrating this historic event on the 11th November, and I believe it should be very special. There will be the traditional Church Service followed by a Vin D'Honneur in the Parish Hall. However I am very keen, and I believe it is important, to involve the youngsters of the Parish in celebrating this event. To this end we are working to have a special party for the young parishioners at the Recreation Centre.

Once again I repeat my appeal for anyone wishing to help the Parish, especially in the Honorary Police, to come forward. Even if it is only to find out more, please pop in to the Parish Hall and have a chat. Perhaps you know someone else who you would recommend, but please make that initial contact.

I am pleased to say the Rates (subject to the Parish Assembly's agreement) will not be going up this year. Last year's accounts showed a healthy surplus of 5%. I must thank and congratulate Sue, our Parish Secretary, and all the parish staff who have helped to keep our costs under control. Sue in particular is most hard working and conscientious and won't go home until every penny is accounted for.

Finally may I wish everyone a happy summer and hope you are enjoying the good weather.

Left:

*Connétable Chris Taylor
outside the Parish Hall with
the garden in full bloom*



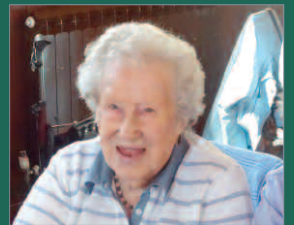
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Our first St John Ambassador

An afternoon Tea Party was recently held in the Parish Hall and although no 'White Rabbit' or 'Mad Hatter' made an appearance we did have our own ALICE! as during the event Constable Chris Taylor proudly announced to the audience that 18-year-old Miss Alice Mitchell, our 2017 Miss St John, had agreed to continue in the position for another year's term as our very First Ambassador.

I recently met Alice to review her 'comings and goings' over her 2017 term in office and to get an insight into her aspirations for the future.

Alice confirms that she has thoroughly enjoyed her reign. During the year she has ably represented the Parish by attending the Parish in Bloom Competition, taking part in the Battle of Flowers parades and helping out at the Remembrance Day Coffee Morning by selling and drawing out the numbers for the raffle.

Having recently completed her A-Level Exams in geography, photography and business studies, Alice says that although she has been quite stressed during the period leading up to them she is now beginning to chill-out and unwind. She will be starting to work for a degree this coming October, attending the Jersey International Business School (JIBS) (Hons) and International Services and will shortly have to experience the rigours of attending interviews in order to secure work placements to complement the degree course.

A family camping holiday weekend in the UK in July will see her meeting up with her English cousins and the time will be even more memorable as her brother Philip, who is currently working in China, is also scheduled to be there.

“ During the year she has ably represented the Parish by attending the Parish in Bloom Competition, taking part in the Battle of Flowers parades and helping out at the Remembrance Day Coffee Morning by selling and drawing out the numbers for the raffle. ”



Under the heading of 'Leisure Activities' Alice is still enjoying yoga for relaxation, photography and walking her 15-year-old dog, Molly. However she also tells me that her cat, Tilley, is quite a character and can be seen accompanying them on their walks along the lanes – lending a somewhat new meaning to 'The Cat Walk'. Her other cat, Scampi (no chips!) is, however, more sedate and prefers the leisurely comforts of home life, watching the world go by from the confines of the conservatory. Reading is another of Alice's enjoyments and getting 'hands on' with Adrian & Friends' Battle Float.

In bringing the interview to a close, Alice states that she is delighted that the competition title has now been changed as in her view it is more inclusive to both genders, allowing anyone in the Parish to enter. She emphatically urges others to come forward in the future as the job is not as time consuming as one would envisage.

Alice is looking forward to her Graduation Day from Beaulieu Convent when, during a meal out with the tutors, she will be presented with a scroll and a commemorative candle to mark the occasion.

I am sure that Alice will continue to be an excellent Ambassador for our Parish and I am sure you will join me in wishing her 'All the Best!' for her exam results, degree studies and placements.

Rosemary Dupré

St John has a new Parish Deputy



St John's was 'buzzing' in May with a contested election for Deputy, our previous Deputy having decided to stand for Senator, a decision which the resulting vote totally justified. We offer our congratulations to Tracey Vallois on topping the Senatorial poll, and thank her for serving us so well as Parish Deputy.

Left: Trevor with his wife Jane

The contest between Trevor Pointon and Nigel Philpott saw the Parish well stocked with placards for both candidates. A worthwhile turnout of voters resulted in former Centenier Trevor Pointon being successful after a close-run but good-natured election.

We offer Trevor our best wishes in his new role, and are confident that he will represent the best interests, not just of the Parishioners of St John, but of all Islanders. We hope to have an interview with Trevor in the next edition of 'Star of the North' when he can give us his impressions after six months in office.

The 'Rec' Café

Recently refurbished and located in the beautiful rural area, upstairs at St John's Recreation Centre. We pride ourselves on great food using fresh produce. Our friendly & welcoming staff are always happy to help. We are a dog friendly café, have plenty of parking and beautiful outdoor area for you to relax.

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Welcome to this edition's update from St John Youth Project. We have had a busy summer term. Here are a few of the best bits!

Our Resident Artist and Youth Worker, Tina, has been working with members to celebrate World Ocean Day back in June, encouraging them to think about what the Ocean means to them and make art to reflect those feelings.

Celebrating International Surf Day



I want to make a special mention to thank all the volunteers who give up their time every week to make sure the sessions can run and young people have the best possible space to enjoy. In particular the **YOUNG WORKERS** who are always here and are an essential part of our youth work philosophy. **THANK YOU!**

St John Youth club opening times @The Rec

FROM 11th SEPTEMBER 2018

Tuesday	Years 7, 8 & 9	7pm – 9pm
Wednesday	Year 9+	7pm – 9pm
Friday	Years 5 & 6	6.30 pm – 8.30pm

Year 6 sponsored stay-awake!

We stayed the night at club, did fun games, made pizza and watched movies ALL NIGHT!
We raised £360 for our residential at St Aubin Fort!



Other activities this term

- Year 7&8 Residential at Crabbé
- £180 raised at M&S Bag Pack
- Sark camping trip
- St Aubin Fort Residential trip



We need help!

St John Youth Project relies on its committed volunteers to keep the project running. If you can help out you will be provided with training and a DBS check, not to mention a huge sense of reward! We also need people to sit on the project committee. If you would like to find out more please give **Bill Moore** a call at the project on **07797819958** or email on **billmoore@jys.je**



André and Declan will be preparing in store, our handmade burgers, sausages, chops and steaks etc. for the forthcoming summer BBQ season

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Above
Andre Vitel and his son, Declan

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Winnie White 100 Years Young

Winnie White celebrated her 100th birthday on 25th April at the Golden Age Club in the Parish Hall.

Winnie was not born in St John, and lived most of her life at Millbrook. When her husband died over 20 years ago, she came to live with her daughter and son-in-law in La Rue de l'Étocquet, with certain reservations as it seemed to her as though she was coming to 'the other side of the world'! She only knew one other person from the Parish.

Nevertheless, after a settling-in period she joined various groups – the Golden Age Club, the then St John's Ladies Group and also a group playing indoor bowls at the St John's Rec. At these gatherings she made many friends and

was warmly welcomed into the community. Sadly most of these people are no longer with us, but probably her best friends now are the ones she regularly keeps in touch with from Golden Age. So when her birthday fell on the day of the usual monthly gathering, it seemed the ideal way to celebrate her birthday. Jack Vibert played the accordion, the Constable presented flowers, her daughter and granddaughter provided a cake and afternoon tea and the rest of the family joined her.

Winnie is pleased to thank the Constable and staff at the Parish Hall who helped to make the afternoon so memorable, and also the many people who so kindly sent cards and flowers, including the Golden Age Club. She looks forward to joining them at the lunch to be held next month.

Jenny Crowell



Left:

The cake with the card from the Queen

Above:

Winnie (centre) with friends Beryl Richard and Kath Machon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Garden History Section of the Société Jersiaise is currently researching Jersey nurserymen and plant nurseries from about 1840 to the present day and we'd very much like to hear from anyone who might remember nurseries which no longer exist. Of particular interest are any old plant catalogues or lists of plants supplied and where they might have come from.

We are also interested in making a record of allotments - both private and otherwise, which are currently being used. Later we'd like to make a photographic record for our archive.

Any information would be much appreciated. If you can help, please email Pat J at: mangrove460@gmail.com or please drop a note to the Société Jersiaise, 7 Pier Rd, St Helier. JE2 4XW

Thank you

(Mrs) Pat Jackson

Garden History Section, Société Jersiaise



Nick Le Cocq My Cycling Life – Part 2

The day I've worked so hard towards...



It is 0500, it's dark, it's 23 degrees, I am in Hualien, Taiwan. It's all very surreal. I arrived 24 hours ago after 43 hours of non-stop travelling, and I'm now standing on the start line of the Taiwan KOM (King of the Mountain) Challenge, next to professionals. I've watched them race on television over the years: one of them won the Tour de France, another has won the Giro d'Italia and all have competed on many other world tour stages. Today I'm racing against them! Today I get to measure myself against them - some of the world's best cyclists; today is the day I have worked so hard towards...

How did I get here? During the 1980s, the decade of big hair, big phones, Cabbage Patch Kids, Rubik's cubes, shoulder pads and Pac-man! I was a pupil at St John's Primary School - loved it. I like to think my time there set me up for my life ahead; it was certainly a very enjoyable period in my life, even if it was school! I wasn't hugely academic, in fact I was probably pretty average at most things, even getting into trouble though my mum might disagree and say I excelled at this! There is no ignoring my school reports however. The phrase 'could try harder' I'm sure appeared more than once, in particular in maths. Sports, however, now they were kind of interesting to me. That was as long as I didn't have to run far!

This is the Taiwan KOM Challenge; a 105 km race and nearly 3,215 m up into the heart of Taiwan. From sea level to the top of the world in one go. A brutal climb, that builds over 90 kms to a climax in the

final ten, where pitches at over 20% stretch on forever, hitting 27% and no gear feels quite low enough. It is one of the most spectacular rides in the world - of the hardest, too. One of the best.

As one rider put it, "The persistence of the effort is what gets to you. The repetition, too. Pedal strokes on pedal strokes, metre after metre, without a moment to let off. The pressure in your legs inflates like a balloon. Just wait for the burst."

Below:

Nick with his medal & certificate of completion



Race Report Taiwan KOM...written, while full of adrenaline, I sat in a van for three hours after the event being driven off this monster of a mountain!

Brutal and relentless. It's hard to imagine a harder one-day race, and a race it is! And I survived it. Yes, my plan went straight out the window as we passed through the start proper...boom, attacks plenty! No not by me but sadly I couldn't keep my chimp in check so off I went at a ridiculous pace following wheels. The main split happened and I was in it, a big group of all your contenders, elite riders and me! Yup I was next to Nibali and Cadell! I had put on my pro look and snuck into the elite pen with my new elite buddies... in hindsight perhaps not a great idea! I let them drag me to the 46 km point, first feed station and then had a very serious talk with myself, re-evaluating my actual ability! To hang on would've probably seen me blow big time in a short time and not finish! So there I was alone again in between groups doing my thing. Plenty of media photos being taken of me in my colourful CASP kit enjoying my day out (kinda!) It soon became clear I may have gone a little too deep too early! Occasionally riders would pass, I would try to sit on for a bit but things were starting to feel hard and still another 30 km before the dreaded last 10k m!

So the last 10km and at 3,000m+ and a terrible battle plan to this point and things got seriously worse! It really did almost break me - 20% then 27% then 10% then whatever % just not down...horrific kickers with my front wheel wanting to start to float. Even worse, nice big yellow KM signs counting down slowly...are you kidding me! I was now really thinking of walking. It was insane but I tacked back and forth across the road (adding some distance for a laugh!) Big dizzy spell at 3,125 m, all sorts of not good feelings. This needed to finish soon and just then two pro ladies appeared and kicked my ass into gear as they not so gracefully passed me! And then there it was, the finish line!

4h 28 mins job done. 600 starters, only 429 finished, I came 83rd overall and 13th in my age group. Not bad, old man, not bad! Who won? Professional rider, Nibali in a crazy 3h 19! Yup a new record by about 7 mins! He congratulated me on my 'finish'. I said he did OK himself so he asked me for a selfie.

Now, time to pack bikes and go eat something big and unhealthy! 4hr van transfer to the airport at 0900!! I am nothing special - a middle-aged man, a husband, with an amazing wife who is hugely supportive and patient. I have a desk job. I recently became a parent to a puppy named Bones. I have a passion for cycling.

The only question now is - what next?

It's all action at the Recreation Centre

During the winter the management of the Centre carried out a survey of all 25 user groups active at the Centre to assess their level of activity and the extent to which they were delivering the management objective of 'sport and recreation for all age groups for parishioners and others'.

The results of the survey showed that all the users were happy with the quality of the facilities and the opportunity that the Centre provides for their activities. The quality of these activities can be judged by the number of qualified coaches and trainers helping run all the activities (83). We are grateful for the time and the dedication given by these coaches as without them most of the activities just could not operate.

Overall, the survey indicated that about 60,000 persons attended activities at the Centre in 2017, and that is not counting parents delivering and collecting children, or spectators watching football matches. This number can be broken down by age group showing that 48% were in the under 18 age group, 42% in the 18 to 60 age group and 10% in the over 60 age group. It is estimated by our user groups that 41% of the users come from the Parish with 59% coming from the rest of the Island.

The management are very pleased with these statistics, as not only do the total numbers indicate that the Centre is being well used, but also that it is delivering a valuable service in delivering sport and recreation activities for our youth. It is also pleasing to see that it is being so well supported by people living elsewhere in the Island, as we need their support to deliver such a range of facilities for the enjoyment of our Parishioners.

If you have not visited the Centre recently, why not pop up and view the action? Maybe there is something that you might enjoy taking part in!

Angus Spencer-Nairn

“ It is estimated by our user groups that 41% of the users come from the Parish with 59% coming from the rest of the Island. ”



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Our Northern Star John Woodward

I first came across John (although I didn't know it at the time), when flying from Jersey to Guernsey in the late 90's. It was a foggy, and generally murky day. The pilot asked us passengers whether we could see anything down below. Receiving a resounding 'No!' he replied, 'Neither can I'. From then on until we landed it was extremely quiet.

Right
John Woodward



Born in Kidderminster in the Midlands in 1947, John's father was a carpet manufacturer, but John's ambition was to go into farming. Immediately after leaving school he travelled to New Zealand and Australia, even though he was afraid of flying. He worked on different types of farms, then returned to the UK when he was 17. His next employment was at a dairy farm, where he found himself solely in charge of the 47 'milkers' - the cowman had left! After this work experience that he applied to an agricultural college in Cirencester, which he attended for only a year, as he was reprimanded for not taking the farm buildings exam. Then he got a job in the south of England as a temporary farm manager, but wanting to know about sheep farming he left, and headed to Northumberland. There in Hexham he worked on a sheep farm, learning the ropes as he went along.

From farming to flying

While in the north he saw an advert for cheap flying lessons at the Newcastle Aero Club. He took up the offer, got over his phobia of flying, and ended up with his pilot's licence. John's next ambition was to buy a farm in Dumfries using money from a family trust. This was turned down by the trust as it was deemed not to be educational, but they did offer to pay for a commercial flying course instead. John took up the offer and passed to become a First Officer. His first job was flying the corporate plane for Distillers & Co., based in Coventry. After three years, he was advised to go elsewhere and get command experience to be a captain. Subsequently, his next job was as Captain, flying a taxi service for Southern Air Services based in Southampton. At the same time he was picking up new Beech Aircraft which were manufactured in Wichita (USA), and delivering them to Bombay for the agent,

the TATA Steel Company. As these aircraft were small 10-seater-planes the route for refuelling was Wichita - Ohio - Canada - Greenland - Iceland - London - Italy - Corfu - Cyprus - Oman and finally Bombay! He flew this route for three years until 1977 when he began a job as Captain flying business aircraft for B.P. Soon after B.P. changed their operations, forcing John to change jobs, and so for the next 18 months he worked as a contractor for Shell, based in Brunei. Then, back in the UK, he joined a charter company called Eagle, and for the next year ferried company personnel and sometimes minor royals.

Later he flew as chief pilot for the Sabah government in British North Borneo. After around a year this job ceased due to political problems. It was now the mid 80s and John went to Ireland, flying for an Irish commuter airline based in Dublin. These were scheduled flights covering the UK and Ireland, but the airline became insolvent, forcing John out of work for a short time. The next job was with Shannon Executive Airline, flying a jet for Tony Ryan (Ryan Air), who at the time owned a large leasing company. John also remembers flying Vincent O'Brien's horses to various race meetings. In 1986 he flew for a company which was contracted by the Angolan government who were supporting the diamond mines during their civil war. The money was good but the planes were shot at rather a lot, with some pilots being captured by the opposing side and marched to neighbouring Namibia where they were handed over to the Red Cross. John recalls that all the pilots wore walking boots in case of capture.

To Guernsey – then Jersey

In the late 80s John saw found a job with Aurigny whose base was in Guernsey, and worked for them for two years until the lease on his accommodation ended. In 1989 a job came up flying a Trilander to Gibraltar for Gibraltar Airways, and for the next year he flew between Gibraltar and Tangiers. In 1990 he became ill and went back to the UK where he underwent an operation. Due to his illness the authorities took away his single pilot's licence, but he carried on flying for Gibraltar Airways with another pilot who had reached the age of 60, the age at which a pilot cannot fly commercially,

single crew. As a result John and his fellow pilot were known as Keren Riley and Raphael 'the Sick and the Old'. Gibraltar Airways eventually wound up the company, and John, along with another crew member, brought the Trilander back to Guernsey where Aurigny painted it yellow, to become part of the Aurigny fleet. That same year John ceased to fly and went to live for 3 years in a 'floating caravan' on the Midlands canals. In 1993 his single pilot's licence was restored and for the next few months he flew a Trilander for a freight company, until he was able to apply for a position with Aurigny. Initially based in Alderney he was offered a permanent job based in Guernsey, But John declined the offer, wanting to move to Jersey. The company eventually relented and John moved to Jersey.

Whilst based in Alderney John met Gail, whom he had known since they were teenagers, when both families lived in the New Forest. John, now living in Jersey, used to regularly visit Gail and her father in St John. In 2006 John developed an irregular heartbeat, resulting in a pacemaker being fitted. He then had no option but to retire from flying.

To keep himself busy he did a little bit of gardening and driving for L'Hermitage residential home, but eventually he found a post in the operations department of Blue Island. At the age of 63 he totally retired, and was quite happy doing nothing, when in 2015 Chris Taylor, St John's Connétable, approached him regarding the position of Centenier. John wasn't keen, but Chris persisted, as the Parish was finding it difficult to fill the post. A compromise was found, with John agreeing to take the job if no one else came forward. John has now completed three years as a Centenier and has signed up for another three, after which he says he will be too old.

When not working for the honorary police he takes himself off travelling in his camper van. He has one son who is also a pilot, and two grandchildren who live in Newquay, where John will soon be visiting to see his latest grandchild.

Mary Rouillé





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ROGER LONG took a spur-of-the-moment decision to indulge a long-held ambition to travel on the Trans-Siberian Railway. His journey began in Beijing, China, and he shares with readers its novelty and surprises, from there to Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia, in part one of his holiday.

Trans-Siberian journey

Below: *Ours were boring modern Czechoslovak diesels*

Top centre: *Enormous seated statue of Genghis Khan in the centre of Ulaan Bataar*

Top right: *The Tsar's Gold Train*

Our party of thirteen impatient travellers clambered thankfully up from a dusty, bare patch of Mongolian desert, imaginatively called a railway station, into a decidedly luxurious-looking and welcoming railway carriage.

At last! After three days and two nights of guided tours around the tourist hotspots of Beijing – the

Forbidden City, the Imperial Tombs, and The Great Wall – which we had not actually gone all that way to see – we were finally boarding our accommodation for the next twelve days, Zarengold, the Tsar's Gold Private Train, for the Trans-Siberian Railway journey to Moscow.

While not exactly calling myself a train buff, I had always had an attraction to rail travel – unsatisfied by sixty years' residence in





Jersey – and, on impulse, made an on-line booking for this adventure holiday. Within an hour I had paid a deposit and obtained travel insurance – not easy at my age, and eye-wateringly expensive. Had I been rash and let myself in for more than I could handle? I was about to find out.

Of course, it was interesting and instructive for me to see, for the first time, sites that attract millions of tourists to China, but we had come for the train ride. Our hotel was suitably luxurious and comfortable, and its food was top-class, but the meals offered on our tours around Beiling were quite pleasant but often rather mysterious. A quick overnight sleeper train from Beijing to the border with Mongolia, and two sets of Byzantine passport procedures at two stations a 10-kilometre coach-ride apart, to get us out of one country and into the other, were uneventful, despite the tour manager's anxiety.

After the Russian Revolution the Bolshevik commissars quite soon commandeered the Tsars' luxurious travel arrangements for their own use initially. Top Russian officials now have modern new trains and the delightful older ones have been beautifully refurbished and fitted with perfectly adequate facilities for long, leisurely journeys solely for tourists, like me and the others in our party. My single-occupancy compartment had room for two adults and two children, an ample double bed, and its own shower and toilet.

We were off! A first day's travel largely traversing the Gobi desert was far more interesting than it might sound. It is a sparsely-vegetated, undulating, scrubby desert with little sand or dunes. Isolated small buildings, the occasional church, or small building, up to five or more miles from the railway, and scattered cattle, with not a road in sight, aroused wonder at how life is led there. Sitting watching the strange landscape with occasional hints of habitation drift by was a novelty for me. I wondered if it would pall, but the relaxation I was now enjoying was welcome after the hassle of getting from Jersey to Beijing and hectic speeding around since then.

After that easy afternoon we began a well-organised schedule of mostly long, night-time runs and mid-morning stops in large cities for a tour, lunch and a special visit, or an afternoon halt for a look around the city and a night in a five-star hotel. I suspect the tour organiser thought passengers would welcome a proper hotel shower at leisure, rather than in one that tended to rock from side to side – most of my fellow travellers were having to share facilities at the ends of their carriages, in contrast to the exclusive

“After the Russian Revolution the Bolshevik commissars quite soon commandeered the Tsars' luxurious travel arrangements for their own use initially. Top Russian officials now have modern new trains and the delightful older ones have been beautifully refurbished and fitted with perfectly adequate facilities for long, leisurely journeys solely for tourists”

provisions which, I was relieved to find in mine. The hotels at which we stayed on three separate occasions provided welcome familiar menus in contrast to the 'interesting' and 'unusual' food on the train, which was adequate and often very good, but it was certainly different – all part of life's rich pageant!

The first three days out of China were mostly spent in Mongolia, with one night in the Hotel Ramada in the modern capital city of Ulaan Bataar, a holiday destination I never dreamed I would experience. A lengthy trip into the surrounding steppes and mountain foothills provided brief glimpses of local people eager to show us their distinctive traditional activities and ways of life, including being invited into her genuine yurt by a charming lady, for tea and biscuits. Our guide interpreted our questions, and

Continued p20

we discovered that this circular, canvas, semi-rigid home had just been brought down from its summer site, miles away up in the hills, for the owner to endure the bitter central-Asian winter among a group of similar abodes much nearer to the capital. Mongolian winters have very little rain or snow but the average temperature for four months is about minus 20 degrees centigrade!

“The frequent contrasts we saw between old and traditional, and modern and western, were constantly astonishing”

A tour into the open plains and foothills was, as usual, accompanied by entertainments from local talent comprising displays of wrestling, archery, horsemanship etc, and the extraordinary, ineffable sound of throat-singing (Google Traditional Mongolian Music and Tuvan throat-singing – but that is nothing like hearing it live); and Cossack dancing is also astounding when performed almost in your lap. At one programme I was a little perturbed by seeing ‘Contortionists’ on the bill, but was absolutely enthralled by an incredible display of lithe athleticism by two young, slim, smiling women which defies description. At its conclusion I would have liked an

encore, to confirm that I was not imagining what I’d just seen!

The frequent contrasts we saw between old and traditional, and modern and western, were constantly astonishing, and I could not avoid smiling on seeing the ‘Genghiz Khan Golf Club’. The capital, at least the parts we were shown, is large, spacious, modern, clean and very pleasant.

The whole country revolves around Genghiz Khan, of whom a massive seated statue, and a fine equestrian one embellish the great traffic-free central square. Under a bright blue sky we saw large family wedding parties, charmingly dressed in a mixture of western white and traditional leather and embroidered attire, coming to pay respect to, or perhaps seek blessing from, the giant figure.

Mongolia’s main export is the original kashmir woollen garments made from the enormous loads of goat’s fleece brought in by native herdsmen to the city. In a very substantial factory it undergoes the complete process from carding out the beautiful, fine, short wool to production of a wide range of clothes displayed in an irresistibly tempting show-room. It was satisfying to see labels of the best London, Paris and New York department stores being attached, and to know that the considerable price I was paying, was very much less than the Jersey price and only about half its London price – and my woolly is so wonderfully warm!

After the day in Ulaan Bataar that night was spent on the train, and in the small hours a uniformed figure came quietly into our unlocked compartments, removed the passports we had laid out – we had been warned, with urgent warnings to not say or do anything – and hours later silently replaced them – we were now in Russia!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Below: Not the engine on our train! This one was in a ‘museum’ of the former engines



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Pulling out the stops

“Music has always been an important part of my life, but I felt I would never be good enough to be a professional musician and I knew I didn't have the patience or temperament to teach”

Paul Matthams moved with his Jersey-born partner Sue to St John a couple of years ago, to a house which had previously been in the same well known St John family since it was built in 1738. He now plays the organ at the Parish Church on special occasions, having also played at the Parish Churches of St Brelade, Grouville and St Clement, which he still regards as his 'home church', having previously lived in the parish for nearly 30 years. He looks back over a busy life and contemplates what the future will bring.

Born in Essex nearly sixty years ago, Paul joined the choir of Chelmsford Cathedral at the age of eight as a junior chorister, and began lessons firstly on the piano and then also the organ. He comes from a musical family, and his uncle was an organist at the local Methodist church in Wembley, where his mother and her siblings grew up. When he was 10, his family moved to Dorset, but he continued his musical activities, being appointed as the organist of St Ann's Church in Weymouth at the age of 16. Studying law at St Catharine's College in Cambridge he not only became a member of the college choir but also stood in on numerous occasions for the college's Organ Scholar, as well as being part-time organist at the medieval Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the famous 'Round Church' in Cambridge. The college choir toured frequently and he recalls in particular a wonderful trip to northern Italy in 1981.

Leaving Cambridge, Paul took up law, and qualified as a barrister, being called to the English Bar in 1981. Having qualified he worked as an

Right: Paul at the keyboard of St John's church organ

Below: Paul with his 1934 Austin 10



in-house lawyer with the company then known as Hambro Life in Swindon and in 1986 marriage brought him to Jersey. He has now lived for over half his life in the Island, principally in St Clement where he was a Roads Inspector for a number of years.

"Church and music have always been a huge part of my life and to a degree my escapes from the pressures of a busy legal practice", he commented, and as an example of this he is also member of the local Deanery Synod, where his interest in local government and his legal skills should help in reviewing the Canon Law of the Island. He went on to say "The music scene in Jersey is very good for a small Island, and it is easy to become involved at a competent amateur level"

Paul has also been quite active on the local music scene, and sang for a number of years with the Amity Singers. However an increasingly busy professional life meant juggling with the various pressures of law, music, sailing and travel. Starting in Jersey in the practice of former English law firm Gouldens as a trust and tax lawyer, a meeting with Advocate Anthony Olsen, with whom he shared a love of both music and sailing, led him into the local legal practice in 1999 where he remained until June of this year. This required him to re-qualify as a local lawyer in 2001 before becoming a partner in 2002, working principally in the fields of non-contentious trusts, pensions and wills and probate. He has also been a Notary Public since 2001.

An international client base enables him to retain his language skills, enhanced by regular visits to his apartment in the South of France.

As he approaches the age of 60 Paul feels ready for a new venture, and is returning to the area of company and trust services, primarily in providing trustee services to clients of his new employer. He does not consider himself as a particularly practical man, despite his father having been an engineer, but enjoys working on and

driving his 1934 Austin 10 when time permits. He hopes that he may also have more time to continue his interest in more relaxing pursuits such as sailing (he has a 26-foot sailing boat), in between regular trips back to his mother and family in Dorset.

Paul is pleased to be now living in St John with his partner, having spent a couple of years altering the house to suit their needs. We hope that we will see even more of him around the Parish in the years ahead.

Terry Le Sueur

“As he approaches the age of 60 Paul feels ready for a new venture, and is returning to the area of company and trust services, primarily in providing trustee services to clients of his new employer.”



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Connétable attends a National Prayer Breakfast, Washington DC

I have just returned from a most amazing trip to have Breakfast with the President of the United States of America. Sounds great and it was, but in reality I was given the opportunity to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington along with three and a half thousand other people. I sat on a table of ten about as far away from the President as possible, but the experience and friendship I received was exceptional. So what is the National Prayer Breakfast and how did it come about?

In 1935 nineteen businessmen in Seattle met over breakfast, as Jesus did with his disciples, because the City and the businessmen were facing a critical situation. By doing this they were able to put aside their own interests and work for the good of the City. Such was the success that more Prayer Breakfasts were started, which eventually reached Washington DC and both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives have their own Prayer Breakfasts, which take place every week. In 1953 President Eisenhower complained that the White House was the loneliest place he had ever lived in, and so he was invited to the Senate Prayer Breakfast in the Mayflower Hotel. This was the first Presidential National Prayer Breakfast and now, 66 years later, this event is bigger, stronger and still growing. Indeed there are only two events which the President of the United States has attended every single year for the last 66 years, the first is the "State of the Union Address" and the second is the National Prayer Breakfast.

Since I joined the Jersey States I have attended the States Prayer Breakfasts which take place about once a month before the sittings on Tuesday. Last September Jean Le Maistre, former Senator and Deputy, emailed me and asked if I would like to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. I confess at the time I was not too bothered but filled in the form believing it wouldn't go any further. Then I received an acceptance and that was when doubts started to creep in.

At first I was a little apprehensive and worried that I would meet a whole lot of 'bible bashers' singing 'Alleluia' at every opportunity, but I was very quickly made comfortable by the warmth and friendship of the UK contingent, most of whom know Jean Le Maistre, and met John Le Fondré last year and so I was with friends. This friendship has been encouraging and very quickly we were talking openly and frankly about our roles and our lives.



I arrived in Washington late Saturday evening on the 3rd February and on Sunday set off to view the city as this was my only free day. I wandered down to the Lincoln Memorial and then started to walk to Capitol Hill. It was at this point the snow and sleet started so I headed for the Museums! On Monday the event began. Around lunchtime I registered at the Washington Hilton, a massive hotel built by Robert Hilton specifically for the annual Prayer Breakfast. I spent the rest of the day meeting people from all over the world and ironically ended up helping others to register!

Tuesday we had a tour of Capitol Hill, or the United States Parliament Building. It is simply massive and the tour took virtually all day. My greatest memory is standing almost directly under the Dome and looking up at the amazing architecture and artistry. It is not possible to stand in the middle as the space was reserved for George Washington's burial, but as he was buried in his home state the space is still cordoned off waiting for someone else! I also took great care to visit the Senator for New Jersey with whom I had a brief but enjoyable chat.

Wednesday was spent going from conference to conference and it wasn't until the evening when one of the UK contingent said, "You certainly told everyone how fantastic Jersey is!" This probably explains why I remember so little yet



Left: President Dwight Eisenhower at the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington on Feb. 2, 1956

Above: President Dwight D. Eisenhower in a personal chat with Rev. Dr. Billy Graham

Top right:

President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan greet Billy Graham at the National Prayer Breakfast held at the Washington Hilton, 1981

Right: President John F. Kennedy addresses the Prayer Breakfast in 1961

Bottom right: President Barack Obama speaks at the National Prayer Breakfast in February 2009

was very exhausted, because I did all the talking.

Thursday was the 'big' day. I had to go through three stages of security and was assigned a table right at the back of the Hall. The atmosphere was unbelievable. There were people from just about every country and from every religion. The President was twenty minutes late which simply added to the tension and then finally he rose to speak. I couldn't help but feel "when is he going to put his foot in it?" or what controversy was he going to start. Thankfully in the end he made a good speech and justly deserved the standing ovation. The speeches were all based on the saying "Love your neighbour as yourself" and following the President was a speech by Anette Kigali, the wife of the President of Rwanda which was simply amazing. Oh, and the breakfast wasn't bad either!

The saying "Love your neighbour as yourself", the basis for Christian teaching, is also the basis for any society whether Christian or not, as it simply means "treat others as you wish them to treat you". There should be no argument against this principle regardless of your religious belief or social standing. It is this that is driving me as a person, but also as Constable.



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ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH NEWS

St John's Parish Church continues to thrive. A fantastic team of helpers hosted three Lent lunches in the Parish Hall where people enjoyed a delicious lunch of soup, bread, cheese and crackers. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated and I am delighted to say we raised over £1,000 for the Christian Aid Island-to-Island appeal supporting the Philippines!

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services were a time of reflection. Easter Day Holy Communion services were joyful and several children enjoyed Little Oaks Sunday Club and hunting for Easter eggs in the churchyard after the service!

Liberation Sunday on 6th May commemorated and celebrated the Liberation of Jersey, followed by a Vin d'Honneur in the Parish Hall. The church was beautifully decorated, thanks to the Flower Team.

St John's Group of Churches' Sea Sunday service at Bonne Nuit Harbour on 17th June was a joyful, sunny opportunity to thank God for the beauty of the bay and to pray for God's blessing on the boats and all who work at sea and enjoy the sea.

We have welcomed speakers from the Mission Agencies we support, including Cathy Morling from the Bible Society, 'bringing the bible to life' with passion and great stories. We are looking forward to The Dean of Jersey, the Very Rev. Mike Keirle visiting on 1st July and the Beach Service on 5th August at Bonne Nuit Harbour!

Our regular services are Traditional Said Holy Communion at 8am and Contemporary Communion at 9.30am with hymns, songs, a bible reading and talk. On the first Sunday of the month Little Oaks Sunday Club, for children aged 3-11 years old, starts in church at 9.30am with a song and then moves to the Vestry for bible stories, crafts and activities. Our Thursday morning prayer meetings continue at 11am in the Vestry.

Congratulations to the St John's bell-ringers who recently won the Channel Island eight-bell striking competition! New recruits are welcome to bell-ringing practice on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

Our Churchwardens and Almoners have been sworn-in and I'm grateful to Nicholas Crocker, Rosie Bleasby, Bruno Rioda and Beryl Vautier for serving the church in this way.

I'm grateful to the municipality for all their support. This year we will have a building Inspection



and Jersey Heritage will list the church. Encouraging comments in the visitors' book show people appreciate the beautiful windows and architecture and the peace of the church as a house of God.

We have recently launched community-building ministries. We've had a good turnout of folk coming along to 'Coffee & Croissants' on the third Tuesday of the month. Do join us for coffee, croissants and a chat on Tuesday 21st August. Dee Shives has started a Knit and Natter group from 10.30 am on the first Saturday of every month in the Vestry. This is a great opportunity to pop in for a cuppa and cake and learn a new craft.

To find out more and explore the Christian faith, please connect with us on social media @stjohnschurchje or contact Rev. Beverley Sproats on 861677 or beverleysproats@gmail.com

Rev. Beverley Sproats, Rector

Top: The very successful Lent Lunches in the Parish Hall

Above: One of the monthly coffee and croissant mornings

Below: Beverley goes off to bless the boats on Sea Sunday



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Jersey Alzheimer's Association



Jersey Alzheimer's Association is an independent local charity dedicated to raising awareness and to improve understanding of dementia throughout Jersey.

Our Educator, Michala Graham, teaches a wide range of organisations and individuals about dementia. The charity also provides a range of regular activities for people affected by dementia, including carers. These services include music, art and swimming groups and a carers' group. Dr Sian Wareing-Jones works for JAA as a Counsellor and Family Support Co-ordinator. Our Drop-in/Office is based in Hilgrove Street in St Helier.

We've recently published an Infographic which shows the increase in demand for our services over the past three years: 2015 to 2017 inclusive, as more people come forward and ask for help and support. Since we moved to Hilgrove Street in January 2015 there has been a 78% increase in demand overall. We have analysed every way in which people have had contact with JAA - from clicking on our website to attending one of our services.

If you would like to see the full Infographic and learn more about the practical help we can offer please look at our website:

www.jerseyalzheimers.com, ring our Drop-in/Office on **01534 723519**, or pop in - we are open from 10am to 2pm Monday to Thursday inclusive, and at other times by prior appointment.

Thank you for reading this article.

Sean Pontin, JAA Manager

Email. Sean@jerseyalzheimers.com

Tel. 01534 723519

For more information visit

www.jerseyalzheimers.com

Over the last 3 years, the demand for our service overall has **increased by 78%**. Our vision is to make Jersey a dementia friendly community.



The numbers accessing our services...

		2015	2017
JAA SERVICES	Musical Memories , a music therapy programme, specifically designed for people with dementia.	NO. OF VISITS: 688	NO. OF VISITS: 1315
	Counsellor/Family Support Co-ordinator , Dr Sian Wareing-Jones, provides a listening ear and support for those with dementia and carers.	272* *APPOINTMENTS	435* *APPOINTMENTS
	Our Drop-in Centre in Hilgrove Street, St Helier.	238	461

To view the full infographic visit www.jerseyalzheimers.com



(L) Musical Memories, one of our weekly activities for people living with dementia, and (R), our Drop-in Centre in Hilgrove Street.



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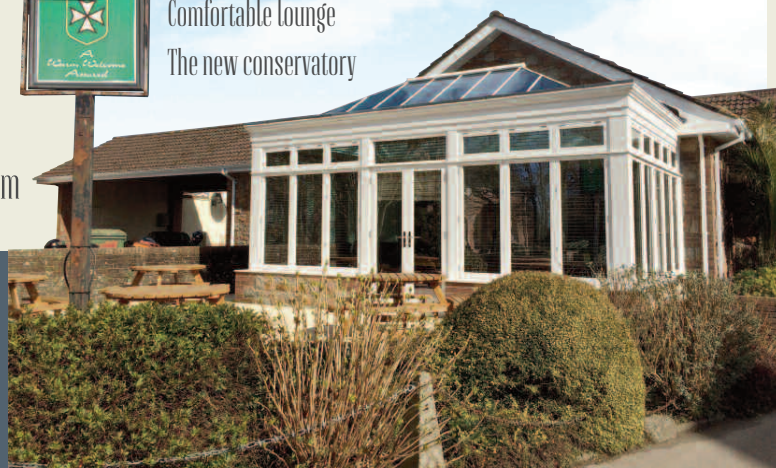
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c) Would like to become part of our regular Flower Team, or do you know of anyone who would? If so, we request an arrangement or bouquet of flowers supplied five times a year and you would be allotted your own special place in Church.

If anyone would like to learn how to arrange flowers, some of the Flower Team would be pleased to help, and I have beginners' books that I am willing to lend.

It would be wonderful if you could help!

Thanks ever so.

Dee

Mrs Denise Shrives St John's Parish Church Flower Co-ordinator

Les Carillons 5 Prés de l'Église, St John H. **863839**. M. **07797 713015**.



St John's Parish Magazine



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Anyone wishing to join the team will be most welcome. Have you ever considered writing an article, we need more contributors, come and give it a try! contact the Editorial co-ordinator at: editor@starofthenorth.org.je

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PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00am - 1:00 & 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-1:00 & 2:00pm-7:00pm

Closed all day on Thursday

ST JOHN PARISH CONTACTS



Archery: Martin Pomroy – 855479
Bell Ringing: Justin Read – 888484
Bingo: Muriel Poisson – 863184
Bonne Nuit Boat Owners: Linda Carter – 864828
Brownies: Donna Tupper – 865728
Caesarean Bell Ringers: – Diane Nelson – 481898
Connétable: Chris Taylor – 864274
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Football Club: Nigel Perrée – 865113
Friends of Bonne Nuit: Gary Romeril – 861972
Golden Age Club: Wendy Rondel – 863667
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Honorary Police: Duty Centenier – 866560
Kickboxing: Tom Pieprozowski – 07797969522
Les Frères Mother, Toddler & Baby Group:
 Sarah Stewart – 07700816776
Model Aero Club: Darren Dupré – 07797719897
Model Car Club: Mark Jordan - 07797850112
Parish Hall: - 861999
Rector: Revd Beverley Sproats – 861677
School: - 861692
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Skateboard Association: John Fosse – 861688
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 franck.matthews@gmail.com 07700883155
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United Reformed Church: Mike Ruskin – 482366
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Youth Worker: Bill Moore – 07797819958

PARISH DIARY August–November



August

19th JMC&LCC Motor-X at Sorel 10am 5pm
28th Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall
29th Golden Age Club 2:30 – Parish Hall

September

9th JMC&LCC Motor-X at Sorel 10am 5pm
11th St John's WI – Parish Hall 7:30 -
 -talk by Claire Follain Jersey's Registrar
16th JMC&LCC Motor-X at Sorel 10am 5pm
20th The 2nd Visite du Branchage of the year
25th Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall
26th Golden Age Club 12:00 Lunch outing

October

6th/7th JMC&LCC Motor-X at Sorel 10am 5pm
9th St John's WI – Parish Hall 7:30 -
 Scottish Dancing
15th Copy Deadline – Dec. Parish Magazine
30th Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall
31st Golden Age Club 2:30 – Parish Hall

November

13th St John's WI – Parish Hall 7:30 -
 Catherine Kirby talking about Alan Wicker
28th Golden Age Club 2:00 – AGM Parish Hall
27th Muriel's Special Christmas Bingo

JMC&LCC – Moto-X at Sorel Point
 Admission is free and there is catering and toilets on site. Further information and any other JMC & LCC event can be obtained from the General Secretary,; secretary@jerseymotorsport.com or on the website www.jerseymotorsport.com
 See dates of meetings in diary above

Other activities at the Recreation Centre

Block Headz Pop Up Lego Club: Emma O'Prey 07797766580 blockheadzjersey@gmail.com
Cloud Nine Kids Club: Natalie Quenault – 07700353126 natalie@cloudninejersey.com
Hot Yoga: Zelia Leca – 07700870777 zelialeca81@gmail.com Sun 9:30am, Mon 6:30pm – offers available
Mind Body Therapeutics - trapeze yoga and hot yoga: Lorna Kearney – 07797772593 or mbtherapeutics@gmail.com
Sign Time: (signing lessons) Lisa Herivel Sat 9:30 07700795405 lisapalmer@hotmail.com
Yoga4u: Emma Colston-Weeks – 07797761571 Emma@yoga4u.org.uk Teacher of yoga for all ages
I-Move-Freely (Bonhealth): Mandy Bonhomme mandy@bonhealth.co.uk 07797 840976
Art for Young People Julia Renault a local artist & teacher is seeking more 7 to 16 year olds on Wednesdays 5-6:30pm – please book with Julia www.juliarenault.com or call 07797 766302 to discuss

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