



FALL 2014

FIGHTING SAINTS LEADER

FIGHTING SAINTS BATTALION

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY—COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT—ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Fighting Saints Make History Yet Again

By Cadet Colin Charpentier

Washington, D.C. - The Fighting Saints Battalion was once again fortunate enough to send three teams and a number of individual runners to the 30th Annual Army Ten-Miler on October 12th, 2014. The elite team consisted of Cadets Erickson, Charpentier, Johnson, Metzler, McGraw, Zilka, Eich, and Zimmerman. Cadets Cameron, Friedrich, Ballmann, SPC Syvertson, 2LT Petersen, and Kassie Vaness were members of the Vessey Women's Team who placed 3rd in the Open Women Division. Cadets Gosswiller, Bode, McDonough, and Schumacher comprised the 2nd ROTC Team., and Cadets Roberts and Marschall ran as individuals. When the Cadets arrived in Washington D.C., they were struck by the beauty of the city and its monuments, the patriotism of the people around them, and, of course, the highest ranking officials in the Army walking amongst them.

For many of the Cadets, it was the first time they had seen a Colonel, and still rarer, a General walking towards them. On October 12th the Cadets awoke at 4:30am in order to prepare for the race. They knew they were going to be competitive because their time trials were all in the 58-65 minute time-area. As they walked to the Pentagon where the race started, they saw many other teams assembling, and not just teams from the Army. Finally, at 8:00am, the race started with a cannon fire. Looking back at the people behind, the Cadets were amazed because, with over 25,000 people participating, there was no end to the runners in sight. The race ran all through DC's monuments and past the Capitol.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Fighting Saints Battalion was the overall **first place** team in the ROTC division with a total time of 3 hours 59 minutes and 15 seconds. Cadet Erickson came in first for the Fighting Saints Battalion team with a time of 57 minutes 59 seconds. The FSB brought home a trophy for winning their division and earned the Cadet Command Commanding General and Sergeant Major coins for their hard work. The next day the teams went to the AUSA Annual Meeting and saw all the new technology that the Army is developing as well as listen to speeches given by the Secretary of the Army and the TRADOC commanding general. On Tuesday the teams headed back to Minnesota to relax for a few weeks and prepare for the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon.



Cadets Erickson, Charpentier, Johnson, Metzler, Brigadier General Combs, Cadets McGraw, Zilka, Eich & Zimmerman during the 30th Annual Army Ten-Miler

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Cadet Commander's Corner

By Cadet David Marschall



The Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) has had yet another successful semester. Most notable, are the repeat victories for both the Army Ten Miler team and Ranger Challenge team. In addition to this, every single FSB Cadet worked fervently to develop their professional skills and managed to enjoy doing so. The work ethic that is instilled upon FSB Cadets lays the foundation for the Battalion's success. This same work ethic needs to be applied again as the spring semester approaches. By maintaining focus and dedication to our goals, we can have another semester as successful as this fall and be a step closer to commissioning. I would like to congratulate the Fighting Saints Battalion and everyone associated with it for a very successful semester!

From the Professor of Military Science

LTC Darrell Bascom



What a great semester for the Fighting Saints Battalion. Once again your Cadets have performed admirably and their success level is beyond anyone's expectations. In recognition of our recent accomplishments, we were selected as one of the top programs in the Mid-West and are currently ranked #2 nationally by Washington Monthly. Never one to rest on past achievements, our Cadets have remained extremely engaged and have again achieved national recognition for their physical ability and technical knowledge. Our Cadets won the Army Ten-Miler in Washington D.C., for the fourth straight year. No other program in history has won this race four times, and for us it has been consecutive victories. While they were in Washington DC they toured the White House and the National Mall; and attended the Annual Association of the United States Army (AUSA) National convention. Our AUSA Vessey sub-chapter also received national recognition for having the largest and most active AUSA ROTC

Sub-chapter for the fourth straight year. Our Ranger Challenge (RC) teams also performed exceptionally well this year. We had over 50 Cadets participating in RC this year. In competition one of our 9-man teams and our All-Female team took 1st Place at both the Task Force and the Brigade level making them the best teams in the Mid-West and have been selected to represent the Army for the second year in a row at the prestigious Sandhurst competition. The competitions were absolutely grueling, but our Cadets pushed themselves beyond normal human limits and dominated. This means that with the two victories above and our expectation to defend our national title at the Bataan Marathon again this year, the Fighting Saints Battalion will not only be the only program in history to have won all three of the major competitions for ROTC, but they will have done this for two consecutive years. Additionally, Cadets ran our 5th Annual 5K Run, conducted numerous color guards at SJU, CSB, and SCSU sporting events and participated in the St. Cloud 9-11 Remembrance Cere-

mony and Veterans Day Parade. Our Cadets once again raised money for Toys for Military Kids and sponsored Christmas parties for the children of the 367th Engineer Battalion (USAR). Most importantly, over this last semester we have trained hard preparing our young Cadets to become officers, while still keeping them focused on their studies and being safe. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of both Cadets and Cadre as we recruit, train, and prepare to commission your sons and daughters. Our Cadre Team remains extremely strong. Sadly we say farewell to CPT Erickson, but wish him the very best as he transitions into the National Guard. But all things change, and we are excited to welcome CPT Riverman to the unit when he arrives in February. Our program remains strong with 125 Cadets participating in the program and 29 commissions projected this year. Their ability to not only excel but achieve top level recognitions year after year demonstrates that their character, desire, and will to succeed are without peer. I'm extremely proud to be part of such a fine unit.

From the Senior Military Instructor

MSG Donald Hansen



Wow! Where did the semester go? Time in the Fighting Saints Battalion seems to fly. We must be having a lot of fun! So far, I think we can all agree, the winter has proven unpredictable and harsh. The Cadets are clearly focused on finals, and with the holidays quickly approaching; they are feeling a lot of stress. This being a time of great change in Cadet Command, more is being expected of every Cadet and, from my perspective, the Cadets are performing admirably. The MSIVs and MSIIIs will share in the responsibility of development of themselves and their fellow MSII and MSI through their mentorship and counseling. This display of commitment is what truly makes this program special and serves as a gravitational point of excellence amongst all three campuses. As always, the MSIV Cadets of the Fighting Saints should be proud of all they have accomplished this semester. Effective teamwork during "zero week" has paid high dividends in the development of their

subordinate Cadets. Working hand-in-hand with the cadre, MSIVs jumped into the academic year full force and greatly assisted cadre in development and refinement of the training that will produce excellence within the organization. This year, we welcomed in our newest contracted Cadets differently than in the past. We conducted the welcome event at the bowling center on SCSU, enabling us to recognize their commitment and our gratitude towards their service. This event kicked off our year on a positive note and shot us into a very productive and fast paced semester. Our competition teams began their training, demonstrating a level of commitment that is rarely seen in ROTC. Mr. DeJesus lead the Army Ten-Miler team to a first place finish for the fourth year straight, SFC Stonebarger developed an unstoppable Ranger Challenge team, taking first place at Task Force and brigade level competition in both the 9-man and 5-female teams, resulting in the Fighting Saints Ranger Challenge team being selected to compete at the Sandhurst

competition at West Point in the Spring. Well done Saints! Cadet Summer Training is coming up quick and will encompass more of the Cadets from the battalion. The battalion has trained hard throughout the semester and the resulting evaluations look promising. The Fall FTX turned out to be an excellent training event that provided focus to the core of Cadets. As the subsequent labs and STX training was conducted, it was amazing to see the amount of growth and development displayed by our Cadets. All I have to say is "Look out Fort Knox, the Fighting Saints are coming and excellence follows in our wake!" As the semester winds down, we say goodbye to a valuable member of our team. CPT Erickson, the Cadre and Cadets of the Fighting Saints have appreciated everything you brought to the fight and you and your family will be missed. We will welcome CPT Riverman to the team this February, after completion of his duties at Fort Sill, OK. There are more great things to come for the Fighting Saints in the near future. I am excited to see what's next!

4th Annual FSB5K

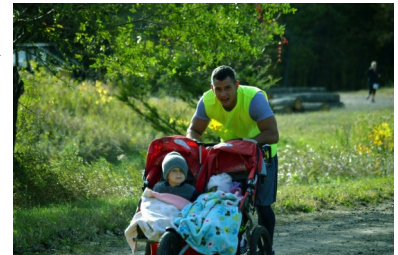
By Cadet Colin Charpentier



Collegetown, MN - On October 4th, 2014 the Fighting Saints Battalion hosted the 5th Annual FSB5K Run/Walk in the beautiful St. John's Arboretum Trail System. "The Arboretum is the perfect place to go for a run! The 5K had such a positive atmosphere as the runners and walkers were getting ready to set off!" reports Cadet Teddy Erickson, an ROTC participant and winner of the overall male category. The 5K run provided a great leadership opportunity for Cadets, as well as a

way for the community to become more actively involved in an Army ROTC event. Many participants were friends and family members of Cadets participating in the ROTC program. Race day began with upbeat music, snacks, beverages and a lively crowd of participants. Following the singing of our National Anthem, over 180 runners/walkers took off into the course. Age groups ranged from 12 and below, to 60+! All participants received a race bag and a FSB 5K t-shirt. Additionally, first and second place win-

ners in various age groups received metals. The winners of overall male and female categories won both a trophy and a gift certificate. Theodore Erickson from Annadale, MN took the overall male title with a time of 18:03 and Kassie Vanness from Oxford, WI placed first in the women category with a time of 22:30. A lot of hard work and preparation went into the organization of the event. Thank you to all our supporters, sponsors and participants that contributed its success!



2014 3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge

By Cadet Joseph Gresback



Fort McCoy, Wisconsin - After successfully completing the Task Force Ripley Ranger Challenge, the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) sent two teams to the 3rd ROTC Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The FSB 9-Man team consisted of Cadets Schwanz, Oestreich, Gresback, Christian, Brakner, Dimmick, Witt, Knaak and team captain Francour. The All-Female team consisted of Cadets Shaw, Shaft, Westendorf, Dykhoff and team captain Spitzer. FSB Cadets were competing against teams from Marquette University, Iowa State, Wheaton College, Missouri State and Pittsburgh State. The teams competed against each other to earn streamers in a variety of events that tested their physical abilities and their knowledge of infantry tactics. Some of the events included land navigation, Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM), a ruck march, an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), medical lanes and a mystery event. Both Fighting Saints teams took first place in their division, and the 9-Man Male team took first place for the second consecutive year.



A Day To Remember

By Cadet Hannah Warner

Saint Cloud, MN - On September 11th, 2014, Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion paid tribute to the fallen heroes of the September 11th, 2001 attacks. Cadets attended the remembrance ceremony held by the Saint Cloud State University Veteran's Association in the morning and posted the colors at the City of Saint Cloud's remembrance ceremony. The four attacks on September 11th were coordinated terrorist attacks against the United States. We as a nation lost many heroes that day. The Fighting Saints Battalion will forever solemnly remember their fellow fallen Soldiers, Policemen, Firefighters, EMTs, and Civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice that day.



Veterans Day Parade

By Cadet Stephen Nelson-Juneau

St. Cloud, MN – On the 8th of November 2014, the St. Cloud community once again gathered at the VA Hospital for the annual St. Cloud Veteran's Day parade to recognize, remember, and honor our country's military Veterans as the true heroes that they are. People of all ages came out on the crisp fall afternoon to enjoy the parade, which included veterans, color guards, community organizations, and Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) ROTC program of St. John's University, the College of St. Benedict, and St. Cloud State University. Every year, Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion look forward to the opportunity to say thank you to the heroes that paved the way for the next generation of Soldiers, Marines, Seamen, and Airmen. This year, over 40 Cadets marched towards the rear of the parade's procession as several MSIII (Junior) Cadets took turns calling cadence, motivating the Cadets and the spectators alike. As any Cadet that has participated in past parades at the VA, this experience is quite remarkable for the young men and women aspiring to serve their country with pride. Not only is the Veteran's Day Parade an opportunity for the Fighting Saints to show our support, but it also serves as a tremendous opportunity to meet Veterans and other members of the community and to share this special day with those who call the greater St. Cloud area home. The post-parade gathering in the cafeteria of Apollo High School allows Cadets to do just that. This year, a short presentation to recognize those who have served in combat was included in the gathering at Apollo. One of the Veterans recognized was our very own Master Sergeant (MSG) Donald Hansen, who is the Senior Military Instructor of the Fighting Saints Battalion. MSG Hansen has served for 27 years and will be retiring in June of 2015. The support and gratitude that the people of the greater St. Cloud area have for our country's Veterans continues to humble FSB Cadets. Year after year, the St. Cloud Veteran's Day Parade provides a boost of pride for the young men and women who will take the oath to serve as U.S. Army officers in the coming years. This event once again proved to be one of the most significant team building events of the fall semester. This is the seventh year in a row that the Fighting Saints Battalion has participated in the St. Cloud Veteran's Day Parade, and the Cadets look forward to taking part in the parade for many more years to come.



Toys For Military Kids

By Cadet James Roberts



St. Joseph, MN—Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion partook in the annual Toys4MilKids once again this holiday season! Every year the Fighting Saints Battalion aids the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) sub-chapter by collecting donations for the Toys for Military Kids Program. The contributions support the purchase of clothing and toys for children of deployed and non-deployed Soldiers who might not be able to afford toys or clothing on their own. Cadets handed out over \$1000 worth of toys to the children of service members assigned to the 367th Engineer Battalion (USAR), located in St. Joseph, for their annual holiday party meant for the Soldier's families to celebrate the season. Also for the years of continuous support of the 367th, the Fighting Saints AUSA Vessey Sub-Chapter received a certificate of appreciation from the unit commander for their yearly involvement and support of the soldiers assigned to the 367th EN BN during the holiday season.



Leaving a Legacy

By Mr. Alberto DeJesus

With the completion of the 30th Annual Army Ten-Miler on October 12, 2014 and the taking home of the first place trophy in the ROTC division for the fourth consecutive year in the row, it is safe to say that the Fighting Saints Battalion is a force to be reckoned with at the event. An integral member of this winning team is this year's Captain, Cadet Colin Charpentier of Saint John's University, Minnesota. He has been a member of the Fighting Saints Battalion running team for the entirety of his four years in the ROTC program at St. John's University, and now that he is a senior, he stands alone on a tier of his own as the only Cadet to win the Army Ten-Miler for four consecutive years with his



team. In the history of the Army Ten-Miler, no other program has won the ROTC division for four consecutive years. Cadet Charpentier was a member of all four championship teams, a feat in the history of the Army Ten-Miler never achieved by any other Cadet. Coming off a recently sprained ankle and more than 6 weeks of absolutely no running or training for the event, Cadet Charpentier was able to not only run, but pull-off the fourth fastest qualifying time for the Fighting Saints Battalion that placed the team on-top of their division for a fourth consecutive year. When asked about this outstanding accomplishment, Cadet Charpentier simply replied, "The four eagles [trophies given to the first-place ROTC division team] aren't just mine, they are the team's – that's who I did it for." It is with this team spirit that Cadet Charpentier encourages those who will be continuing on the team next year to strive for excellence and with which he himself runs his fourth and final Army Ten-Miler as a Fighting Saint.

Seniors Staff Ride

By Cadet Andrew Blasczyk



Lower Sioux Agency - On 13 September 2014, the Senior class of the Fighting Saints Battalion Army ROTC ventured to the New Ulm Area of Minnesota to conduct a Battle Analysis of the Dakota War of 1862, also known as the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Due to many factors, including unfair treaties, starvation, late annuity payments for land, prejudice and crooked traders, about one third of the Dakota tribes along the Minnesota River Valley engaged in a war against the Minnesota settlers in 1862. The Senior Class toured some of the war's battle sites including The Lower Sioux Agency, New Ulm, Fort Ridgley, and the battle field of Birch Coulee. The Senior class of the Fighting Saints was introduced to both sides of this conflict and facts that may go unknown to most. Some of these include the Native people feeling forced to either fight or starve to death, some Natives fighting on the side of the settlers, settlers from Europe and other countries thinking they were buying land legitimately not knowing about the unfair treaties, and learning about the different fighting strategies and decision making that decided the outcomes of the different battles. This experience was very beneficial for these students whom study warfare; the lessons learned will be carried throughout their careers as Officers in the United States Army.

If you would like to donate to our annual Staff Ride, please make your checks out to "Cadet Battalion Fund" and mail to: Department of Military Science, ATTN: LTC Darrell Bascom, 7099 Guild Hall, Collegetown, MN 56321, or call LTC Bascom at (320) 363-2715.

Alum Notes & the Military Ball



We would like to invite you to our 63rd Annual Military Ball on May 2nd, 2015. Please look for information about the Military Ball in the Spring.

It would be great if you could join us. Keep checking our website for updates from your Fighting Saints brothers and sisters. <http://www.csbsju.edu/army-rotc.htm>

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Alberto DeJesus at adejesus@csbsju.edu or 320-308-3930. We wish you and your family many blessings and a safe and joyful New Year.

Other notes: Officers enroute to their Captains Career Course can serve as Hometown Recruiters for a week or so; email us if you are interested. If you would like to come speak to Cadets or at the monthly AUSA meeting at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club, contact LTC Bascom or Mr. DeJesus at (320) 308-3930.

Please consider joining our AUSA Sub-chapter. Tell your soldiers about Green-to-Gold at SCSU, CSB, or SJU.

Toys for Anna Marie's Shelter

By Cadet James Roberts

St. Cloud, MN—Cadets of the Fighting Saints ROTC AUSA sub chapter went out of their way again this year for the winter holiday season. This year the Cadets wanted to go out and show support to local organizations around the St. Cloud and St. Joseph community. Cadets showed support by buying more than \$500 worth of toys and donated them to a local Women's shelter in the St. Cloud area. The women's shelter that received the donated toys was the Anna Marie's Shelter for Battered and Abused Women. The Anna Marie's Shelter is a place for women and their children can go who have been domestically abused. The children and volunteers of the shelter showed great appreciation for the time and consideration to their organization. This was a great cause that the Cadets wanted to support.



2014 Fall Commissioning

By Cadet Miya Stewart



St. Cloud, MN - December 2014 was a pivotal month for three Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion. It marked the end of their college educations, their pursuits of obtaining a Bachelor's Degree, and the beginning of an Army career for Cadets Andrew Blasczyk, Katherine Blonigen, and David Marschall.

This was an important period for these Cadets in their military career as they transitioned from Cadet to Second Lieutenants, by commissioning into the United States Army. These three future Lieutenants spent the last four and a half years completing demanding training and excelling in school while balancing this with a personal life. Cadet Blasczyk, a husband and father of two, will attend the Military Police Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on January 5th, 2015. Upon completion of training, Cadet Blasczyk will learn which unit he will be placed with as an active duty officer. Cadet Blonigen, married to Scott Blonigen, will be attending the Nurse Corps Officer Basic Course at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Upon passing the NCLEX exam and obtaining her RN License, she will be placed on an Active Duty military base. Cadet Blonigen's future plans to get her Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist license. Cadet Marschall will attend the Infantry Officer Basic Course in Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion of training, Cadet Marschall will find out his first duty station as an active duty infantryman. This special commissioning ceremony was attended by family, friends, fellow Cadets, and Cadre. We wish these newly commissioned Lieutenants the best of luck in their careers as Army officers. On behalf of the Fighting Saints Battalion, we congratulate Second Lieutenants David Marschall, Katherine Blonigen, and Andrew Blasczyk!



AUSA Best ROTC Program

By Cadet Tabitha Bode



Washington, D.C. - The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) ROTC Best Company Awards for the 2013-2014 academic year were presented at the 2014 ROTC Luncheon hosted by Major General Jefforey A. Smith during the AUSA Annual Meeting, which was held in Washington, D.C., October 13, 2014. For the fourth consecutive year, the Best ROTC Company Award was presented to the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) for their outstanding performance in two out of the three award categories. The FSB was the recipient of the *Most Active Company Award*, this recognition based on all types of ROTC program-sponsored activities, including: meetings; public service programs; military instruction meetings and exercises; and membership recruiting efforts. The FSB also received the *Largest ROTC Sub-chapter Award*, based on the total membership as of 31 May of the operational

year. This was possible through the diligent leadership of the Sub-chapter president, Cadet Tabitha Bode and her staff of Cadets: Westendorf, McDonough and Cameron. They were able to harness the energy and support of the 203 Sub-chapter members and gain the generous financial support from the General Vessey AUSA Chapter to participate in several extra-curricular activities. Over this past year the Sub-chapter conducted the 5th Annual FSB5K Run and as a result donated over \$2,600 to the Cadet Battalion Fund. The members also raised nearly \$1,000 for the Toys for Military Kids Program in addition to assisting in sponsoring 16 participants in the 25th Annual Bataan Memorial March, 16 Cadets running the Army Ten-Miler and touring the National Mall, as well as volunteered to participate in Spring Clean-Up of the local Veteran Affairs A Home and many other events in the community.



Sights from Fall 2014



Fighting Saints Color Guard during a St. John's University football game.



Cadets working as a team on confidence course during the Fall FTX.



FSB All-Female Ranger Challenge Team during the Task Force Ripley Competition.



FSB Cadets during an Engagement Skills Training Exercise at Camp Ripley, MN.



CDT Cameron greets the Army Leadership during the 2014 AUSA Annual Meeting.



FSB Ranger Challenge Team during the Task Force Ripley Medical Event.

Sights from Fall 2014



Brigadier General (Ret) Kelly with Cadet Scherek during a SJU football game.



Cadet Juneau during the 911 Commemorative Ceremony in St. Cloud, MN.



MAJ Nelson & Cadet Erickson during the 5th Annual FSB5K Run/Walk.



FSB Ranger Challenge Team on a medical lane during the Task Force Competition.



Cadet Eich during the 30th Annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C.



Cadets McDonough & Zilka at the Graniteman Half Marathon in St. Cloud MN.

Spring 2015 Calendar

Presidents' Day	16 Feb 15	Bataan Death March	19-23 Mar 15	Military Ball	2 May 15
CWST	20 Feb 15	CFTX	24-26 Apr 15	SCSU Commencement	9 May 15
CSB/SJU Spring Break	2-6 Mar 15	GAFPB	TBD	Commissioning Ceremony	9 May 15
SCSU Spring Break	9-13 Mar 15	KU Ranger Challenge	17-19 Apr 15	CSB-SJU-SCSU Commencement	9 May 15



If you are interested in making a donation please contact (320) 363-2715 or send to Military Science Department, Attn: Cadet Battalion Fund, P.O. Box 7099, Collegeville, MN 56321.

6th Annual FSB5k Run Walk

A Team Building Event For All Ages

This event is brought to you by the Cadets of
Fighting Saints Battalion – Army ROTC
& Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

Saint John's Abbey Arboretum Trails

St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321

Saturday – October 4th, 2015

7:30am - 8:45am – Late Registration/Check

In & Race Packet Pick-up

9:00A.M. – 5K Run/Walk Start

11:00am - 11:30am – Award Ceremony

If you know a young person who has the potential



Do you know a future Cadet?

to be an **Army Officer**, tell them about us!

They don't have to be from Minnesota!

We have great opportunities for **Green-to-Gold; two/three/or four year scholarships**

(CSB/SJU/SCSU even pay for room & board);

and the **Simultaneous Membership Program**.

Call **(320) 363-2717** for more information.



Fighting Saints Battalion :
St. John's University, College of St.
Benedict, & St. Cloud State University



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<http://armyrotc.com/edu/mnstjohns>
E-mail: rotc@csbsju.edu

If you are interested in ROTC or have any questions please feel free to visit our offices at either St. John's University or St. Cloud State University campuses. At SCSU we are located downstairs Stewart Hall room 10 and at St. John's we are located downstairs Guild Hall room 20.

This issue was compiled by:

Cadet Hannah Warner