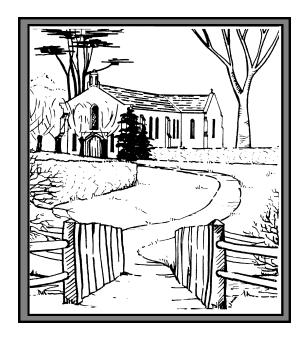
# The Bridge



Worton and Marston Parish Magazine

> January 2021

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## THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins editorofthebridge@gmail.com

# All the very best for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021

#### FIVE LANES WI

New Year greetings to all our members and potential joiners, and hopes and prayers for some return to normality over the coming months. Hope you have all kept safe and well and continue to do so, until we are all safely "vaccinated" and can meet again face to face. It has taught us the value of personal contact with others, friendship, and thankfulness for the lovely area we live in. Remember you can 'phone or e mail any committee members just for a chat or if you need help with anything. Keep strong and stay safe!

Jean Lane 722069



#### JANUARY BOOK SWAP



Happy Christmas to all bookworms – maybe as it is going to be a quiet Christmas we will have time to read any books we find under the tree curled up by the fire, & look forward to meeting again in 2021 as soon as possible.

01380 723136 or judy.shercliff@gmail.com

\*\*\* Please check back page for changes to expected kerbside collection days and dates \*\*\*

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#### SERVICE CALENDAR

ALL SERVICES SUBJECT TO REVISION, DEPENDING ON COVID REGULATIONS APPLICABLE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

#### January 2021

#### Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> EPIPHANY

No Services

#### Sun 10th EPIPHANY 1

No Services

#### Sun 17th EPIPHANY 2

No Services

#### Sun 24th EPIPHANY 3

8.00am CHRIST CHURCH BCP Communion

Marston Chapel No Service

#### January 2021

#### Sun 31st EPIPHANY 4

10.00am CHRIST CHURCH \* Morning Praise

Marston Chapel No Service

#### February 2021

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> February Services to be confirmed

In order to comply with regulations relating to Covid, please advise either of the Churchwardens if you wish to attend any of the Christ Church Services. Also please bring a face mask for use inside the building, and follow instructions for hand sanitising and maintaining social distances.

There were no weddings, baptisms or funerals at Christ Church in November.

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk

#### **Christ Church Team**

Rector: Rev'd Ali Bridewell 01380 739064 07847 952868 alison.bridewell@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Jean Lane 01380 722069

Heather Walker 01380 725785

<sup>\*</sup> This Service live streamed via Zoom.



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#### **Pastoral Letter**

#### The View from my window

Well, it's finally come, 2021 that is. Usually people are a bit ambivalent about the new year but I think this year we are united in our wish. We hope for a better vear and we don't want to see another year like that one. Advent certainly was dark, with stormy weather and mud and puddles everywhere, and fear and foreboding but there was a light and there is a light at the end of the tunnel. During Advent every morning I went for a walk starting out in the dark, and whilst I was out the light came and the day came and the world was transformed in 5 minutes; amazing when you think about it. I have some wonderful photographs of some sunrises taken at the end of my road.

And so it will be when this wretched virus is contained. We have been so confused; can we see our children and grandchildren? Can we meet up for Christmas? Those decisions are now behind us and no doubt we all managed to find a way through. And so Christmas was different. But in the difference I hope that something special has emerged. Simplicity, yes; quieter, yes;

more profound, maybe. But more than anything I think it has been more Christlike and Christ centred. What do I mean by that? Well, the vision of the beautiful holy tiny baby was uncluttered by razmataz. The season has been full of people trying to do their best in whatever way; people helping their neighbours; people responding to charitable collections; thousands of people running climbing or rowing or whatever raising money for the less advantaged, and everyone is saying we musn't go back to how it was before. Climate change is now well and truly on the agenda. We have come to realise that God's precious creation must be looked after and we have a part to play in that.

We have been shaken to the core by a pandemic which has frightened us, and made us stop in our tracks and in the middle of it, scientists with God-given intelligence and determination have kept to their task and come up with the vaccine; why? For the love of humanity. Front line workers in the national health service have worked their socks off, trying to help, using their

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God-given skills and why, for the love of humanity; and teachers and doctors and writers and artists and dentists and care workers and clergy and all the other professions I haven't mentioned, likewise they have worked their socks, off for the God-given love of humanity.

So we dare to take a look into the new year, with our hopes and dreams. What are yours? Take a moment to stop and think? We are all different and we are all unique, and whilst my dreams are different from yours I'm sure we all have something in common. When the virus is tamed and the elderly and then everyone else is vaccinated let us together pledge ourselves to really try to make a better world. If you love someone then you want the best for them. That's how God functions and that's what Jesus came to show us at Christmas. That's what the gift of love looks like. That's what I mean by being Christlike. Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely love divine, love was born at Christmas; star and angel gave the sign.

Have a very holy, happy and safe new year.

Jane Knowles



#### From Christ Church:

Christ Church is again open for services on a limited number of Sundays, and is open every Sunday for private prayer (except when a service is taking place) for those wishing to have some space and quiet time to reflect and pray.

Some of the regular pre-Christmas events were not able to take place: the Village meal, the Toddlers morning in church, Five Lanes School Christmas event, Beer and Carols at the Rose and Crown and the Christmas Eve Carol Service. But this brought opportunities to do things differently: the very wet and windy Harvest service, the Carol trailer around the villages, the online Carol service and the Unity Carol Concert, and many other events around the Benefice.

The Open The Book teams from Potterne and Worton, who would normally go into Five Lanes School for their worship on a Monday, joined forces and filmed 4 stories, including 2 Christmas ones, for them to see via technology.

We thank John and Mandy Fielding for the gift of the Christmas tree. We hope the Toddlers will be back again next year to enjoy making decorations and decorating the tree.

It has been a very challenging year for Revd Ali and all the Ministry team, and Stu Bridewell who is back at the Rectory keeping the zoom services and meetings running smoothly. They have been working tirelessly to bring services and pastoral care to everyone, and are working on the Vision for the future in ever changing times, including a new informal time for families and young people, which is getting under way.

We thank them all so much.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year as we look forward in hope and prayer for ourselves and the world in 2021.

Jean and Heather, Churchwardens

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#### **ECO-CORNER**

#### A New Year's Resolution

The fact that plastics are now a serious concern for the planet is evidenced by the fact that more and more governments are proposing measures to reduce their impact. Environmental pollution is one reason; it can take up to between 500 and 1,000 years for plastics to decompose in landfills and the chemicals that go into plastics during the manufacturing process can potentially leach out into our food, water and bodies. Another reason is that the manufacturing of plastic products affects the environment through carbon emissions and other types of airborne pollution contributing to global warming.

Researchers worry particularly about the effects on children and what continued accumulation means for future generations.

The good news is that it is in our hands to help turn this situation around - as individuals, not to use products containing plastic and substitute sustainable alternatives and, as consumers, to make manufacturers change the way they produce by changing the way we consume.

# Perhaps you could make a personal New Year's Resolution to cut your use of plastic in 2021? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

You might be amazed (if you were not already aware) at some of the everyday things that contain hidden plastic. For example, did you know that there is plastic in our **tea bags**? Apparently a very thin layer of plastic called polypropylene is used to seal them so they don't break open in the box or cup. But that thin layer will likely end up as tiny pieces in the soil, which could then find their way into our rivers and ultimately the sea. Solution: many tea lovers say loose tea tastes richer! Why not get a tea infuser and see why? PG tips developed a plastic free teabag in 2020 but most other companies are not there yet so look carefully at your favourite brand. Or you could buy 100 fill-your-own bags from tea-direct.co.uk.

Around 2.5bn **coffee cups** are thrown away yearly in the UK – or 7 million a day! Although lots appear to be made from cardboard or paper they have a plastic lining inside the cup to make them waterproof. After lasting only minutes in your hand loads end up in landfill. Better option: Most coffee shop brands offer incentives for their customers to bring their own reusable mugs into stores or properly recycle their takeaway cups. Taking your own reusable mug has not been possible during the COVID pandemic but hopefully we will soon be able to get back to better habits.

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What do you do with your **empty laundry detergent plastic bottles** even if you already use eco laundry detergent? Instead of discarding them, you get them refilled where you shop. A bottle can be filled up as many times as you like and containers can be used to store other food. However, if hauling around bottles is a problem or there is no available special store or eco-supermarket that does refills, you might want to try soap nuts (small, dried-fruit shells containing 100% natural soap) which the makers say can be used with all fabrics, at all temperatures from 30-90°C. Just drop a few in a sock, tie it and throw it in with the rest of your dirty laundry!

Wet wipes are used all over the world in homes for cleaning up spills, changing nappies and removing stains. But did you know that most wipes contain plastic – to make them stronger? When flushed down the toilet they clog sewers and form rock-like masses called fatbergs. Water UK estimates that wet wipes make up 93% of the material that forms sewer blockages. Solution: abandon wipes for a wash cloth made from cotton or bamboo!

Manufacturers add microplastic to **decorative cosmetics and personal care products** such as deodorants, shampoos, shower gels, sunscreens, creams for wrinkles, lipstick, eye shadow, and mascara. Microplastic is often used as a component to exfoliate the skin, and it is cheaper than natural components. The danger to the environment is the fact that the packaging can potentially be recycled, while microplastic ingredients cannot and they can get into our bodies. Solution: There are cosmetic and personal care brands that are entirely free of any known plastic ingredients, so look out for them - they may carry the Zero Plastic Inside logo.

There are many, many more household products that contain plastics – cling film, tooth brushes, glitter, disposable cutlery, clothes; the supply of straws, stirrers and stemmed cotton buds containing plastic have now been banned in the government's fight against single use plastic waste. Even sea salt has been found to contain plastic. An analysis of sea salt for microplastics by researchers revealed 90% of the table salt brands sampled across the globe contained microplastics.

However, the market today offers an array of alternative plastic-free products. Never underestimate the power of individual action, even from small changes we can make, to bring about greater change!

Anne Wilson <u>mrsannewilson@gmail.com</u> and Sandra Gamble acanadiangamble@gmail.com

#### **Worton Parish Council**

Our December meeting, besides demonstrating our communal skill in Zooming, gave us an opportunity to focus on an issue that has really come to the fore over the last year as many of us have been out and about exploring our footpaths. I am referring to the problem of what I shall ubiquitously refer to as "Doggy Doo" and its 21st century incarnation in the form of "Doggy doo bags".

Having enjoyed the opportunity to go out with a canine pal (our daughter's new puppy), the reality of the problem struck home. Whilst the amount of untended dog mess is far less than used to be the case in the past when we had little understanding of the health issues involved, the presence of the bagged variety seems ubiquitous. We noticed that there is a lack of bins in which to deposit the bags requiring the article to be carried until a bin is reached. Signs requesting that dog owners deal with their pets' droppings are prominent -bins less so. We do finance the existing bins (emptying them is not done by magic and comes at a cost). Indeed, a new one is in the process of being sited close to where the phone box previously was. We are also considering how we can improve the situation in other locations especially along Back Lane. Any support or suggestions would be most welcome. In the meantime, here is a polite reminder to not just "bag it" but also to remove it!

We also considered a planning application with regard to the removal of the historic cedar tree in the close of the same name. I referred to this in the previous edition of the Bridge. We were united in our sadness about the issue, with a touch of frustration as it was felt that the detailed report that we had received on the state of the tree did not necessarily seal its fate. Whilst the safety of nearby property, and by inference residents, is clearly the most important issue, a careful consideration of exactly how such a threat could be alleviated, by inspecting the position of potentially dangerous limbs, suggested that a focussed removal of a number of them could remove any threat. Whilst the tree would thus lose much of its imposing beauty it would at least enable nature to take its course more slowly - the report indicated that there could be years of life remaining for it. We have made these points to Wiltshire council in support of an objection to the application.

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Unfortunately, (or fortunately bearing in mind potential cost), the tree and the land around it is the responsibility of Wiltshire council and, realistically, the fate of the tree has probably already been determined with its likely removal in the next few months. With this in mind, please get in contact with Liz Starling (clerk@worton.org.uk) if you are interested in having some of the wood from the tree.

So, Happy New Year to you all - surely has to be a better one than 2020?, with a realistic hope that we will soon be "back to normal", if any of us can remember what that is. I've never thought that Bingo down the village hall or Keith's quizzes could bring such a warm glow of anticipation!

All the very best, Barry

#### Witness appeal following attempted dog thefts

We're appealing for information in relation to reports that a group of men are travelling around the eastern part of Wiltshire attempting to steal pet dogs.

On Wednesday 18 November, a green/silver coloured Suzuki 4x4 - possibly a Vitara model - was seen driving around the Shalbourne, Bedwyn, Bagshot and Hungerford area with the occupants attempting to take dogs from kennels, gardens and back yards of addresses.

In some cases a suspect will ring the front door bell while another goes around the back of the property to try and steal the animals.

We are asking people to be vigilant and keep their dogs locked inside the house or ensure their kennels are safe and secure.

Anyone with any information about this vehicle or the occupants should call us on 101 quoting crime reference number 54200115124. Please call 999 if a crime is in progress.

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Wiltshire Police - Friday 20 November 2020



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Pauline (720248) or Jeff (726845) or any other Trustee

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> insight into **Youth Action Wiltshire** summarises the **Project Inspire: Building Bridge programme** which is an alternative learning and support programme for young people aged 16-19 years who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

#### **Project Inspire** provides:

- Access to a dedicated Youth Support Worker who will help each young person to create an achievable action plan.
- Offer informal information, advice and guidance.
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- Access to a wide range of personal and social development activities, accredited training courses and volunteering opportunities.
- Support to secure work experience placements.
- Provide advocacy for young people to access specialist services.

**Project Inspire** aims to support young people to overcome barriers and progress into sustained employment, training, or education placements. Last year 83% of those that accessed Project Inspire secured a place in Education, Employment or Training.

### For more information on **Project Inspire: Building Bridges**

visit <u>www.communityfirst.org.uk/yaw/project-inspire/</u> or give Rachel or Sharon a call on 01380 729813 for an informal chat, or to make a referral.

**Project Inspire: Building Bridges** is free to access and forms part of Youth Action Wiltshire, the youth arm of Community First.

This project is currently funded by **Building Bridges**, which is a partnership of organisations, led by Community First, that has come together to deliver the Building Better Opportunities Programme across Swindon and Wiltshire. The project has received up to £6.4M of funding from the European Social Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England. The Department for Work and Pensions is the Managing Authority for the England European Social Fund programme. Established by the European Union, the European Social Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support skills development, employment and job creation, social inclusion and local community regenerations.

# For more information visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding">https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding</a>

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#### ..... and the moral of the story is ....

A scorpion, which cannot swim, asks a frog to carry it across a river on the frog's back. The frog hesitates, afraid of being stung by the scorpion, but the scorpion argues that if it did that, they would both drown. The frog considers this argument sensible and agrees to transport the scorpion. Midway across the river, the scorpion stings the frog anyway, dooming them both. The dying frog asks the scorpion why it stung despite knowing the consequence, to which the scorpion replies: "I couldn't help it. It's in my nature."



There was once a thief who was sentenced to death by the king, and the thief calls out, 'Sire, don't kill me! I know how much you love horses. Well, I can teach your horse to talk. All I ask is three months, and you'll have the only talking horse in the land.'

The king agrees to spare the thief's life and sends him to the palace stables. A stable hand asks him why he's there, and he explains. 'That's crazy', says the stable hand. 'What are you going to do at the end of the three months?'

'A lot can happen in three months', the thief shrugs. 'The king may die. The law may change. I may be pardoned. And, who knows, I may get the horse to talk'.









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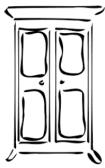
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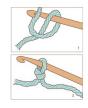
### Are you Crafty

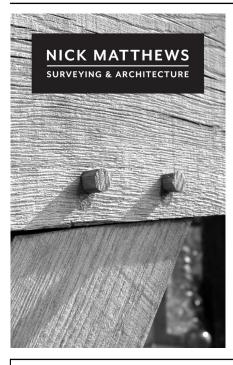
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When Sometime in 2021 please!!

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#### The top 10 cracker jokes

- 1. What is Dominic Cummings' favourite Christmas song? Driving Home for Christmas.
- 2. Did you hear that production was down at Santa's workshop?

Many of his workers have had to Elf isolate!

- Why didn't Mary and Joseph make it to Bethlehem?All Virgin flights were cancelled.
- 4. Why are Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve?

They have herd immunity.

- 5. Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown? Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen.
- 6. Why is it best to think of 2020 like a panto? Because eventually, it's behind you.
- 7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call?

Because there was no Zoom at the inn.

8. Why can't Boris Johnson make his Christmas cake until the last minute?

He doesn't know how many tiers it should have.

- 9. What do the Trumps do for Christmas dinner? They put on a super spread.
- 10. Which Christmas film was 30 years ahead of its time? Home Alone.

### Rose and Crown Worton

01380 724202

Lunch time opening

Lunc	in time opening	Evening opening
Monday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Tuesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Wednesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Thursday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Friday Coffee Morning	10.30 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Saturday	12.00 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm -10.00pm
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### **Worton and Marston Gardening Club**

This last twelve months have probably been the most difficult I can remember. January and February were just very wet. So wet, in fact that even in our sandy soil I was forced to plant my Parsnip seeds in less than ideal conditions. Needless to say only about seven plants resulted. I therefore filled the empty spaces with more seed in an ideal seed bed in April, watered them in and waited. By now we were into the April drought. No seeds germinated, leaving seven parsnips, which have now been eaten. The wet winter and exceptionally dry Spring set the scene for 2020. Difficult. Jane had basically taken over the garden this year, with me as manual labourer. With Covid restrictions in place from March, the warm dry Spring weather was a wonderful tonic and many happy hours were spent in our garden. Jane got lettuce, carrots and beans to grow and thrive in our dry sandy soil. In my opinion a major success. Our flower garden has also thrived, but would have benefited no doubt from the April showers that seem to have been absent this last year or two. Due to Covid I have only managed one outing with my Classic Allard Sports car, and that was a really enjoyable day competing at Prescott Hill Climb on what was probably the wettest weekend of this trying year. With so much time on my hands I don't seem to have accomplished much this year. I just put this down to a year that seems to have had a down on all of us. In particular gardening has been a saviour for many of us, and Jane and I are now trying to prepare our garden for next year, when we shall hopefully be able to resume our monthly get-togethers, and pursue a list of events that Rosemary, Sally, and Helen are, even as I write this, dreaming up for us. Thank you all for joining in with the Round Robin email, the virtual open garden and for all your photos. I hope this has helped us all to stay in touch. I wish I could forecast when normal Garden Club service will be able to resume.

Let us all welcome 2021, and hope for lots of sunshine, adequate rain and good health so that we can all enjoy it.

Best wishes. Dave

We are already planning a quiz for January....although it will take a slightly different format!

Rosemary Rosenfeld rosemaryrosenfeld@yahoo.co.uk Sally Brooks svwood90@hotmail.com

How Thyme flies when you're having fun!



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#### A Message from Richard Gamble

#### Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

Welcome to 2021!

Reaching twenty-one has special significance in many cultures.

In this country, twenty-one was once the age of "majority" when a young person would finally be regarded as an adult. He or she could vote for the first time and could marry without permission. In medieval times, a noble young lad was considered "of age" and would be knighted (although I think it takes a little more to receive that accolade now).

The "age of majority" was changed to 18 in 1969 but many still consider 21 to be a seminal moment worthy, at the very least, of a special party. And we are not alone in celebrating reaching 21.

In the Netherlands, the 21st birthday is typically known as the 'crown year,' because, supposedly, young adults start being treated like kings and queens. Newly crowned Dutch folk typically receive a more grandiose gift than usual, as well as a chair adorned with paper streamers and flowers decorated by their parents for the dining room table. To top it off they will be treated to a stack of delicious pancakes - a meal undoubtedly fit for kings and queens!

In South Africa, a 21-year old receives a symbolic "key" that represents the start of their adulthood life, helping them to 'unlock' their future.

In Australia the giving of a key to the family home to the birthday boy or girl on their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday shows that they are now allowed to come and go as they please.

Am I alone in seeing some symbolism in all this? 21 = Adulthood? Independence? Responsibility? Marry whom you like (or whatever partnership you prefer)? Come and go as you wish? Unlock your future?

I hope you have a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2021!

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to <a href="mailto:richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk">richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> or by phone on 07762 018209



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## Father and Daughter

The father - with map, compass, aids to show
The way that he intended they should go
Over that swell of hills Led the daughter
Up slopes he'd know
Would promise thrills
For youth's hunger.

All went well: the notes of larks - the sun's glint
On may blossom, on broken fields of flint,
Were shaping her past
Beneath her smile:
There was no hint
Such freedoms last
But a short mile.

Near the hill's edge, where land sloped to the floor Of the valley, the father stood, unsure Of the way. The downward Track - a chalk line, An unmapped contour Scribbled on land -Had no named sign.

"It's the best way," she confidently said.
Pushing aside his chart, she downward sped
Into noon's shadow.
"... That path's unknown unspecified.
Lichens grow
On weathered stone ..."

Even as he warned, she was a dark smudge
On the land's whiteness. He left the ridge,
Followed her,
Knowing the years
And time would judge
Her laughter
To be distant tears.

Written by Roy Hinks, father of Ruth Hinks of the High Street

### **Buy with Confidence** Trading Standards Approved

# Does your business have what it takes to be Trading Standards Approved?

**Buy With Confidence** is a national register of 'Trading Standards Approved' businesses. If you run a business and are interested in joining the scheme then please email -

# tradingstandards@wiltshire.gov.uk for further information



# Are you a consumer looking for a business you can trust?

All 'Trading Standards Approved' businesses have been vetted, approved and continue to be monitored by Trading Standards.

To search for a local business near you please visit: www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or contact 0300 456 0100

# Warning of 'Nottingham Knockers' targeting homes across Wiltshire

Nottingham Knockers are doorstep callers who offer a selection of household products for sale. They are often ex-convicts who claim to be part of a rehabilitation scheme which probably doesn't exist.

Police have received multiple reports from residents in Pewsey, Lavington and Potterne about the scammers.

Devizes Police have posted on Facebook: "They will initially appear polite, show you some form of ID and will always carry a very large holdall full of household items, such as dusters, polish and other cleaning items, which they will try to sell to you at an inflated price. However, their story is not correct and the ID they show you is fake".

"They are committing the offence of "Peddling without a licence" and we would ask you to not buy anything from them, politely close the door and call 101 to report them to us, ideally with a direction of travel and registration plate of any vehicles involved".

"The name originates from Nottingham as this is where the early gangs originated from. However, they now tend to come from the Cleveland area and will visit southern counties in groups, staying in nearby accommodation for the week".

"They are known to sell the addresses of vulnerable residents to rogue traders who could then become a repeat victim. If you have any elderly or vulnerable neighbours, please make them aware that they may well receive a knock on their door this week."

A Wiltshire Police spokeswoman added: "We'd urge anyone who receives a visit from these people to politely decline, shut the door and report to us. Please do check on elderly or vulnerable relatives or neighbours and make them aware of this type of crime." You can report all incidents via 101.

Wiltshire Times - December 2020

'I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before and, more importantly, you're doing something.'

Neil Gaiman (British author)



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#### Village Hall News

First of all Village Hall Trustees would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. 2020 has been a strange one but we are now looking forward to a time when we can all get together again as a community to celebrate the end of this period of closure and the restarting of our regular events like the Newcomers Party, Jumble Sale and the Christmas Bazaar. In the meantime, as I reported in October, we have been fortunate enough to receive a grant to cover our running costs whilst we've been unable to raise income either through hirings or fundraising events. This was thanks to our Treasurer Pauline Crisp who applied for it.

In addition, Jeff Stocks, Trustee for maintenance has been making regular inspection visits to the Hall to minimise any deterioration due to the closure and lack of use and we have been working hard to keep up with government regulations to ensure that the Hall is 'Covid Secure' for the times we have been able to open.

We have also been trying to use the time to look forward and have started to explore options for improving the kitchen which many of you requested in our 2017 survey. These are at an initial stage and we will keep you up-to-date as they progress but whatever improvements are decided upon, they will require a lot of fundraising. So please start thinking of ideas for this. Is there anyone out there who would like to run a fund raising event or who has a brilliant idea but would need help in executing it? If so, get in touch with a Trustee and we can start to scope it even if we can't execute it just yet.

And if fundraising is not your cup of tea, how about grass cutting? Jeff is resurrecting the grass cutting rota and looking for volunteers. This usually requires you to cut the grass around the hall once or twice a year (depending on how many volunteers we have). Each cut takes about one and a half hours. If you feel you could do this please get in touch with Jeff on 726845.

And finally, start thinking about the 200 club which finishes for this year in March. Understandably a lot of you last year didn't renew your subscription but we are hoping that you will reconsider this year and join if you can. We hope to be able to pop a renewal form through your door in February/March, so look out for this. For £12 a year you get an entry a month into a draw to win £50. Winners are reported in The Bridge. The winner for November was Peter Hinton; and for December, James Phipps.

Veronica

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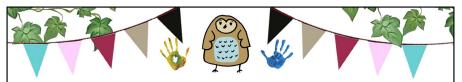
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Worton Toddlers



Happy New Year everyone. We would like you to know that we have not given up. We are still waiting in the wings for the moment when it is safe to re-open. We have had the most fantastic group, and it has been sad not to have our party with Santa and our visit to the church to decorate the Christmas tree and listen to the nativity story. Also we have had to say goodbye to the lovely Ali Pratt who was our treasurer and in charge of crafts. We wish Ali and Steve every happiness in their new home.

2021 brings new hope. Keep checking our Facebook page and Worton notice boards for updates. We will be back.

Hilary, Tina and Ellie xx





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#### December 2020

At the time of writing this we are in the run up to the end of term 2. Christmas is just around the corner and the children are in the throes of Christmas crafting and general festive excitement! This year we sadly won't be having our families join us for the annual Christmas production but each class has made a recording of their Christmas magic to share with their families online.

In Term 2, Hazel Class embarked on their donkey topic. We started by visiting three donkeys in the village and finding out as much information as we could about them. We wrote these up in various ways to show our understanding of non-fiction text. Then we started writing our version of the nativity – told from the donkey's perspective. We used The Fox's Tale and Leah's Star to help us with this. On the penultimate week of term, we were visited by Wally the donkey who stood patiently while we cuddled and stroked him. The next day, the author of Leah's Star visited us virtually. It's been a Donkey-tastic term! The children's writing has been amazing.

Thanks to: Hilary Hams and Bo, Joe and Donk; Helen Brackstone and Wally; Margaret Bateson-Hill for her virtual visit.

#### **Vacancies at Five Lanes**

We have a couple of temporary vacancies at Five Lanes to cover maternity leave for an After School Care Assistant and a Catering Assistant. For more information please visit -

https://www.fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk/vacancies/

Once again we would like to say a huge thank you to the community for their continued support of Five Lanes.

# Five historic status symbols we probably won't be flashing around in 2021.....

Status symbols are intended to be seen. They're not necessarily expensive objects, and they differ throughout the world. Delve into the past and some surprising ways to impress others and show rank or achievement can be found.

Here are just a few examples.....

#### Purple

Wearing purple was once a sign of power and wisdom, and rules were in place over who could wear the shade. One much sought-after source of purple dye came from a sea snail. The shade was unusual because it didn't fade and became more vivid the more it was worn.

In ancient Rome, wearing purple showed you were someone of great status within society. In ancient Greece, the amount of purple you could wear was determined by your status in society. The higher your rank, socially and politically, the more you could wear. It became a colour seen on emperors, priests, kings and judges.

The rules on purple weren't to be taken lightly. The Roman historian Suetonius spoke of an incident where King Ptolemy of Mauretania wore purple when meeting the 1st century Emperor Caligula. The Emperor saw this fashion choice as an aggressive statement against his empire and had the king killed for it.

It wasn't until 1856, when a British chemist found a synthetic version of purple (while trying to find a cure for malaria). It became a shade accessible to all, and purple's association with the elite began to dwindle.

#### **Pineapples**

In the 16th century pineapples began to be imported into the Britain from abroad.

King Charles II being handed a pineapple was considered a big enough moment to capture on canvas and stately homes throughout the country had replicas of the fruit carved into their masonry. It later become possible to grow pineapples in the British climate, and they became an even greater status symbol for those who

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could afford to cultivate them, or have their own gardener do it for them. They became so valuable that they were more for display than for eating. If your income didn't stretch to one, but you still wished to give off an air of success, the fruit could be hired, then left in an easy-to-spot place to look as though it had always been there. It's a lot easier to get one these days - you can pick up a whole pineapple in the supermarket for around a pound.

#### X-rays

Getting your hands on the latest technology (and flaunting it) didn't start with people flashing the latest model of smartphone about. Towards the end of the 19th century, one way to cement your top spot on the social ladder was to have your own x-ray picture hanging in your home.

While exhibitions of x-rays could be seen by practically anyone, owning your own image, one which gave a glimpse of the bones beneath your skin, was something for the rich. It became a status symbol for married women to have their hand x-rayed. Any elaborate beading of their cuffs could still be seen on the finished plate, as could their wedding ring and any other jewellery on their wrist and hand. The popular skeleton-hand x-ray, like a "dressed" portrait photograph, reinforced the social role of the sitter.

But it didn't last. People began complaining about strange burns after using x-ray machinery and the early x-ray photographers often developed cancer or other conditions from being exposed to the radiation involved in the process. While medicine worked on ways to make x-rays safer to use, its position as a status symbol quietly faded.

#### Hermit - in residence

If owning your own estate in the 18th century wasn't posh enough, its owner could make themselves look even posher by installing a hermit to live in the grounds.

The fad had its roots in the days of the Roman emperor Hadrian. His villa had a small building, suitable for one occupant, built as part of its pond that someone could retreat to, possibly for contemplation. This kind of inward-looking behaviour was popular in Georgian times, and it was even trendier to have a permanent hermit - who could display that behaviour for you - in residence.

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Landowners would have a hermitage built in the grounds, then recruit a hermit, which wasn't always easy. Sometimes they were agricultural workers. Once employed, a hermit was expected to dress the part and to be melancholy. By the end of the 18th century, hermits were no longer fashionable. It has been suggested that the idea developed into the lower maintenance garden gnomes we still see today.

#### **Pointy shoes**

In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century wearing very pointy shoes was an obvious way for men who had sufficient wealth to live lives of leisure to show the fact off to the world.

These shoes were designed to extend far beyond the toe, sometimes as far as five inches. The longer the tips, the more expensive the shoe. The impracticality of walking in those with especially long tips also became a form of status symbol. They proved the wearer did not need a job where these overly long toes could get in the way, such as physical labour.

But everything has its limit. In 1463, these shoes had become so excessively long among the nobility in King Edward IV's court that a law was made against them; the tip was restricted to a maximum extension of no more than two inches beyond the toe!.

(abridged version of a BBC article)

#### Worton & Marston Link.....

...... would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas during these restricted times. Those who require help to maintain their distance from others will still be able to use the Link Scheme to pick up prescriptions, help with shopping or other such assistance. Ring 07413 912828 to discuss your requirements, if you require a chat this is something Lyn always enjoys, do not be afraid to try us out.

We would like to wish everyone an early vaccine New Year so that 2021 will be much better that the one we have just experienced.

Alun Newman















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#### Worton & Cheverell FC (Youth) 'The Badgers'

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The season has restarted for a number of our teams since Lockdown 2.0 completed. A number of teams have had matches and some are currently training with view to matches in New Year.

Updates from each team below:

Badger cubs (3-6) - Back and enjoying training indoors at sports hall. Having fun and learning all the time. Training Saturdays 9-10am Lavington School. Please contact Dave Kiddle if your child would like to try for free. First 2 weeks free.

U7s - The team will restart with a training session at Elisha Field on 29th December, starting 1000. New players welcome. Contact Pete Huntley for more information.

U8s - Training in the hall but back outside in new year. Playing lots of friendly matches with good results. League resumes in January. Training Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm at Northbrook

U9s & U10s -Team back in training in Lavington School hall ahead of fixtures resuming in New Year.

Ulls – League restarted with two excellent performances against top teams. Playing really well with all players getting integrated. Awaiting new league fixtures for January and hopefully a league promotion.

U13s – Back in training using the new 3G in Devizes ahead of fixtures resuming in January

U14s – Training going well now on new 3G at Green Lane. Playing friendly matches until league and county cup starts back in January.

U15s – Back in training with lots of happy faces! Well-deserved 7-3 County Cup victory vs Lydiard Millicent before Christmas break with league matches resuming 10<sup>th</sup> January away to Chippenham.

#### Contacts for 2020/2021 Season:

Badger Cubs - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

U7 - Pete Huntley - 07974 756131 U9/10 - Mark Goddard - 01380 813160 U13 - Mark Goddard - 01380 813160

U11 - Neil Black - 07769 261750 U14 – Dave Kiddle – 07843 678781

U8 - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

U15 – Aiden Allmark 07341 819154

Adults - Pete Drew - 07885 527546

Follow us on Facebook – Worton and Cheverell Youth Football Club (No other pages are approved by the club)

### Extracts from The Bridge (December 1990), kindly provided by Tony Walker)

#### NEW YEAR

I suspect we have all known many resolutions that have been forgotten all too quickly. Good wishes to you if you are trying to cut down on chocolates, tobacco or alcohol.

It may be that New Year's Resolutions would prove to be little more successful if they took on a positive aspect. Giving something up is always harder than taking on a little extra, especially it contributes to the life of the community.

It can be rewarding and even enjoyable to use skills and time to benefit others. To a believer in Jesus Christ all time and abilities come from God and should be used. Even making a cup of tea and sitting down to talk with somebody who is lonely is using a gift as much as giving a virtuoso performance on an instrument.

I hope that the 150th Celebration at Christ Church in 1991 will give everyone locally an opportunity to contribute to village life. Being part of any group within the villages helps community life to develop and ultimately benefits everyone.

These small things help to heal the divisions found in many villages throughout Britain between those who have lived in the community all their lives, even for generations, and those who have recently moved in. It is only when we are prepared to give something ourselves that we begin to realise that we have more in common than separates us.

So, please make your New Year's Resolutions. Try to make them positive, then you will be a better person and so will others in the villages. That would make 1991 a memorable year.

Paul Wilkinson.

### Extracts from The Bridge (December 1990), kindly provided by Tony Walker)

### THE NEW YEAR

Welcome to the New Year Ninetsen Ninety One Raise your glasses in a toast Each and every one Make your resolutions One, two or three, Vow to be a better person Than you used to be Live each day, and do your best With joy and laughter and with zest As the old year dies, we'll say farewell To lots of things, we dare not tell We hope the New Year brings to all A better deal than was before And pray that peace will come, not war To everyone both near and far.

I. Hale

### EUROPEAN FESTIVAL

The European Festival on Saturday, 1st December seemed to go with a swing and there were plenty of foods and wines to taste. Thankyou to all who came and supported the evening, to all who helped in any way and to all who provided the delicious selection of European dishes.

The evening raised about £700 and everybody who came seemed to enjoy themselves.

Joyce Jarvis Jennifer Haynes

#### VILLAGE DIARY

#### **Regular Meetings**

In the Village Hall (all currently suspended or on Zoom)

- Gardening Club
   3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug/Dec)
- Pilates classes
   Thursdays 7pm-8pm & 8pm-9pm
- Ladies Group Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- Women's Institute 2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- Worton Toddler Group Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- 1st Worton & Marston Brownies Alternate Tuesdays (term time only)
- Worton Parish Council Meeting
   1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston (currently suspended or on Zoom)

 Marston Parish Council Meeting Last Tuesday (every odd month)

### Various Venues Announced Monthly

 Book Swap 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10.00 - Noon

#### **Mobile Library**

Location: The School, 1.10 - 1.50pm

Next Date: tbc

Call Wiltshire Library Services on **01225 713727** for information

#### **Forthcoming Events**

???

#### **Kerbside Collections**

# Black box and Plastic and card recycling:

Tuesdays 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Household waste:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Garden waste:

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>



# Worton and Marston Link

If you need help with transport for hospital appointments visiting the doctor and dentist or other important journeys.

Call W&M Link on 07413 912828

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton Telephone: 01380 728664

email address: editorofthebridge@gmail.com