



Ten years ago we had a great deal of snow in December.
Will we get any this winter?
(Photo by Alan Saunders)

**DECEMBER 2020 JANUARY 2021** 

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## DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021



We hope you are all keeping well and that

you have a very happy Christmas. We hope that 2021 will see life getting back to normal, with us being able to get out and about even if that does mean more traffic on the road. For some this year has been a worrying, lonely time, with many losing their jobs and livelihoods. Let us hope that a vaccine will bring a road to recovery. Meanwhile, look out for the festive window displays round the village during Advent, Christmas wreath making in the Church, baubles to decorate from the shop, etc.

Articles for the February issue of the Ide Times should be sent to Ann Boyce by the 20th January - annboyce@talk21.com

Brenda Spivey (01392 275784)

**USEFUL NUMBERS** 

Community Policeman: 101

The Parish Church - Rev Mike Partridge 01392 491476 and leave a message

or 07751 725306, or email: rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com Congregational Church: Jackie Chadwick jacky.c@talktalk.net M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 melstride.mp@parliament.uk

Community Shop Opening Hours: (Tel. 410035)

Monday – Friday 8am – 12 noon and 3pm – 6.30pm

Saturdays 8am – 1pm Sundays 9am - 12 noon

**Post Office Opening Hours** 

Monday - Friday 9am - 11.45 am & 3pm - 5pm

Saturdays 9am - 12 noon

You will receive Christmas and New Year opening times on a separate leaflet.

**IDE MEMORIAL HALL** - to book the hall for your event please contact Carol Whitehart on 01392 213608.

\*

#### **360 BUS TIMETABLE**

Ide	7.51	10.01	12.39	14.34
Exeter Bus Station	8.13	10.20	12.58	14.53

Exeter Bus Station 8.35 11.15 13.15 16.15 17.55 Ide 8.53 11.33 13.28 16.33 18.13

The bus is still running but you must wear a mask and only a limited number of passengers can travel.



#### **IDE PARISH COUNCIL**

Idevillage.org.uk



#### You have a new parish councillor

We were delighted to co-opt Laura Bell to Ide Parish Council at the November meeting, restoring our full compliment of nine councillors. Much of the Council's work is done outside its main meetings, by its committees and working parties who report to the Council every two months, discuss their work and seek authorisation and funds to carry out their projects. There are five such groups: Planning Committee; Climate and Environment Emergency Working Group; Pynes Community Orchard Working Group; Village Emergency Plan and Covid Working Group; and Weir Meadow & Northern Fields Working Group. If you visit the village website you can see who serves on these groups, and what they do. Most of them are not councillors: we would like to thank them all for the time and work they put in.

**Bulky waste collection service** - Teignbridge District Council (TDC) has withdrawn the annual rural skip service for bulky household items like furniture, beds, fridges or metal scrap because of the cost. However, TDC offers a from-your-door collection service for household bulky items. It is chargeable, and must be booked and paid for in advance: £22 booking fee and £9 per item, max 6 items per collection.

Search online teignbridge.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/special-collections/bulky-waste-collections or email ts@teignbridge.gov.uk

**Community Grants -** Devon County Council has temporarily re-opened their community small grant scheme. This funding supports the efforts of local community voluntary groups to deliver support locally. For further information and to apply please see -

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2aac3ca

#### Wildlife Warden

The Council's Climate and Environment Working Group is going to appoint a parish wildlife warden to help support, protect and increase the village's wildlife; and rewilding the churchyard is one place they will be starting. Would you like to apply? See this link for further information -

actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/2020/08/30/could-you-be-a-parish-wildlifewarden

**Emergency and flood planning** - Because we have an existing Village Emergency Plan, we can apply for funds for equipment. The working group hopes to establish a second store for sandbags at the northern end of the village, possibly in the Huntsman Car Park.

Cemetery - Repairs to steps and handrails in the cemetery have been completed.

**Bus stop shelter -** The bus shelter wood is in need of attention, and is soon to be retreated with preservative.

**Baby and Toddler group -** Jess Paine has secured funding from the Parish Council to re-launch Mother, Baby and Toddler group in the village hall, under Covid rules. Look out for further information.

#### **Planning applications**

**20/01991/ HOU Fordlands, The College, Ide.** single storey rear extension. This application fits well within all planning guidelines: the committee voted unanimously to support it.

**20/01674/HOU 2 Fore Street, Ide.** single storey extension. This amended, smaller layout, has been scaled back, acknowledging the concerns from neighbours re size and loss of privacy. The Environment Agency have raised concerns regarding flood risk and the effects of a building so close to the Fordlands Brook and has asked the applicant to apply for a flood risk activity permit. Permission for a bridge across to adjacent land will also be applied for. The committee are minded to object to this application because of the concerns raised above. They have asked the planning officer to visit the site before deliberation.

**20/01996/CAN 2 Fore Street Ide,**. 1 ash tree to remove, 1 ash tree to reduce and 1 willow tree to remove. The committee voted to defer to TDC's Tree officer assessment.

20/00621/MAJ Pynes Farm, Ide. Conversion of four existing agricultural buildings to two dwellings, demolition of remaining barn buildings and replacement with eight dwellings including associated landscaping, parking and associated access works. We were asked to comment on some amendments recently submitted. The chair has the asked TDC for further clarification on four points: the carbon reduction footprint; Loss of parking spaces on High Street; the controlling of construction site delivery times, to avoid school drop off times; and highway safety issues encountered on entering or leaving the site.

20/00615/FUL Land opposite Chillies, College Lane, Ide. Five dwellings with garages and creation of new access. This application was discussed at an extra ordinary meeting of Ide PC held on Wednesday 9 September 2020 and unanimously voted to object

20/00623/FUL – Stevens Farm, Ide Village Road, Ide. Change of Use to Skip and Plant Park with associated hard standing. Ide Parish Council is opposed to a change of the site's use to a skip and plant park.

**18/01024/MAJ Springwell Nursery, Ide.** Erection of a new Garden Sales Area Building including Café and Restaurant, Storage Warehouse, New Public Car Park Area. Full council objected to this application. **AWAITING A DECISION.** 

**20/00013/FUL 49 High Street, Ide.** Removal of chimney stack, insertion of roof lights and first floor side window, installation of external wall insulation and enlargement of patio doors. The committee voted unanimously to support this application. **PERMISSION GRANTED** 

The next meeting of Ide Parish Council is on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom, unless otherwise advised.

To view planning applications, go to <a href="www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning">www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning</a> and search using the address or reference number.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Website - idevillage.org.uk

Clerk – Mel Liversage 01392 259024 <u>ideparishclerk@gmail.com</u>

Chair - Nick Bradley 01392 420616 <a href="mailto:ncabradley@gmail.com">ncabradley@gmail.com</a>

Cemetery administrator: Sarah Tiley 01392 217142 saraht61@btinternet.com

\*

\*

#### See page 15 for Refuse Collection dates over Christmas and the New Year.



#### **The Mobile Library**

The Mobile Library will be in Ide (near to the Huntsman Inn) from 11.50 to 12.30pm on the **14th December**.

As from January 2021 the Mobile Library time will change - it will arrive at 12.30pm and leave at 12.50pm. It will be in Ide on the **25th January 2021**.

It is now possible to enter the van, one at a time, to choose your books but you need to wear a mask and borrow up to 3 books only.

\*

#### COULD YOU BE A PARISH WILDLIFE WARDEN FOR IDE?



https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/2020/08/30/could-you-be-a-parish-wildlife-warden/

Would you volunteer a few hours a month of your time to help support, protect and increase Ide's wildlife? You don't need specialist knowledge, training will be provided by Action for Climate in Teignbridge.

Please contact Andy Swain: <a href="mailto:andy.swain.council@gmail.com">andy.swain.council@gmail.com</a>

# \* IDE LIVING \* ADVENT WINDOWS

1ST - 24TH DECEMBER

EACH DAY IN DECEMBER, AT 3.30PM, A DIFFERENT IDE HOME WILL LIGHT UP A FESTIVE WINDOW (SOME MAY BE UPSTAIRS!).

1ST 14 FORE ST.

3RD 3 THE COLLEGE 15TH 5 THE COLLEGE

4TH 6 FORE ST.

5TH 3 OLD IDE LANE 17TH 1 STATION RD

**7TH 7 THE HAMS** 

8TH 4 THE COLLEGE 20TH 20 THE HAMS

9TH 9 FORE ST.

11TH 2 OLD IDE LANE 22ND THE HUNTSMAN

13TH 12 THE HAMS

2ND 58 HIGH ST. 14TH 20 FORE ST.

16TH 16 FORE ST.

18TH 6A THE GREEN

19THOLD MILL, HIGH ST.

21ST 4 COBBE HOUSE.

STATION RD.

23RD 14 HIGH ST.





#### **IDE COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE**



First of all, we must say a big thank you that despite the Remembrance Day poppies arriving so late we were still able to send on £100 for the appeal which is still a good figure under the circumstances.

In the shop we are always trying to stock new lines and respond to requests from customers where possible. One of our recent new lines is small individual pots of flavoured yoghurt from the people who supply our large pots of natural yogurt. These yoghurts are made by Nicola and Rebecca Bartlett at Hayne's Farm in Honiton and are delicious and come in four flavours: strawberry, raspberry, cherry and lemon curd. We have also started to stock tortilla chips for those lockdown movie nights.

Our caption competition featuring the chocolate Father Christmas was very popular and we are looking at doing more of this type of competition in the future as it is fun, and everyone could do with more humour under present circumstances. Well done to those who also entered the recipe and word search competitions that we have run lately.

The Post Office has been very busy during November as people get their presents off to countries that have the early posting dates and also a lot have been posted earlier to people in this country as people get organised for Christmas in these uncertain times.

See the shop and Post Office flyer that Alan Saunders has kindly put together for posting dates for Christmas and information on the shop and Post Office opening times over the festive period. There is also a reminder on there that the shop can order local chicken and duck from Creedy Carver, pork products from Kenniford Farm, local fruit and vegetables from Dart Fresh Produce, bread from Ryder's Bakery at Kenn and cheeses and tasty biscuits from Isca Foods at Sowton to meet all your specific festive needs.



We also have a superb range of new different flavoured stuffings, goose fat and Christmas chocolate stocking fillers in the shop – and of course a variety of different mince pies and the ever popular Christmas puddings from Georgie Porgies Puddings at Budleigh Salterton, We have some lovely Christmas cake slices and small Christmas cakes from Foxcombe Bakery at Okehampton if you want a taste of Christmas cake but

do not want to be eating it all through January!

We also of course have all the Christmas staples like Christmas cards, wrapping paper, gift bags and Sellotape and all the Christmas booze you could need from brandy to go on the pudding, wine to go with the meal, port to go with the cheese or Pressco as a nice standby present. Alongside paracetamol and Ibuprofen and indigestion remedies for if you overindulge!





We have a fantastic Christmas initiative running this year for the young and young at heart. If you call into the shop you can collect a clear plastic Christmas bauble to hang on a Christmas tree. We want you to take it away and decorate it or fill it or both in any way you like. Then bring it back to the shop where we will display it on our Christmas tree or, if we run out of space, around the shop to cheer everyone up and really show that it is your community shop displaying our village's handy work. You can collect your decorated bauble again on Christmas Eve if you would like to take it home and hang it on your own Christmas tree for Christmas. There is no charge for the baubles and for everyone brought back there will be a chocolate coin given to the participant for taking part. Your local shop is modelling itself on Father Christmas this year and not Scrooge!

We are really looking forward to seeing your decorated baubles which will brighten up the newly decorated shop – thank you to Rick and Adrian for all your hard work and for all that going up and down ladders to freshen the shop up and give it a new coat of paint. You have been as busy as Father Christmas's elves in the run up to Christmas this year.

January will bring on the inevitable diets and New Year Resolutions – and again don't forget we can get any special order of fruit and vegetables to help that new healthy eating regime and we have the lovely local Luscombe elderflower and lemonade if you want an alcohol break after Christmas.

Also the shop stocks Ryvita to aid that diet along!

Don't forget to post your letters to Father Christmas before the 11th December. He asked us to remind you to put your name and address on the letter

Santa/Father Christmas, Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland, XM4 5HQ



# A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

&

**IDE ANGELS** 

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas from

THE IDE COMMUNITY SHOP

COMMITTEE

&

POST OFFICE STAFF

We couldn't have stayed open during this difficult year without your help!



#### IDE CRICKET CLUB DUCK RACE



Thank you to everyone who has played/supported Ide CC during this difficult year.

Despite some challenges, we managed to fulfil fixtures from mid July, playing in line with government and ECB guidance on CV-19 and recreational cricket.

At the time of writing, the current lockdown is set to be reviewed on 02 December. We don't know what this will mean, but in the highly unlikely event restrictions are lifted to an extent that we can host the Duck Race as normal - we will reconsider doing so at short notice. However, this is extremely unlikely and the default position is that the Ide CC Duck Race, for the first time in over 30 years, will not take place on Boxing Day 2020.

However, this is not a cancellation – just a delay. We are looking to reschedule the event to take place over the Easter Weekend 2021 when hopefully the CV-19 situation will be much different. Please keep an eye on the Ide Times and our Facebook page for updates in the new year.

From all at the Club, we wish you our festive best.

Ide CC



#### **IDE BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

We are delighted the Ide Baby & Toddler Group was able to start up again on 23rd November. Sessions are Mondays 9.30-11am at Ide Memorial Hall. There is a small charge of £1.50 per session. Tea, coffee, biscuits and a snack for little people is included.

Due to current Government guidance the group is limited to 15 adults and will follow social distancing guidelines.

Please look up the Ide Baby & Toddler Facebook page for updates.

Jessica Paine



#### **Ide Congregational Church**

#### What's happening this month

Depending on the Governments decision at the beginning of December, Ide Congregational Church hopes to be open for Sunday services at 11am each Sunday morning. The services only last for 30 minutes to reduce contact time. Social distancing is required by all attending, as is wearing a face mask and applying hand sanitizer on entry and exit.



A screen has been fitted at the front of the church and a deep clean of the building undertaken to make attending church as safe as possible.

You will be required to give your name and contact details on entry to ensure we have a track and trace system in place should any problems arise.



On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December, if allowed, we will be holding a Christmas Day Service from 10.30am to 11am

Come and join us for this popular Christmas Day celebration

KEEP BRITAIN

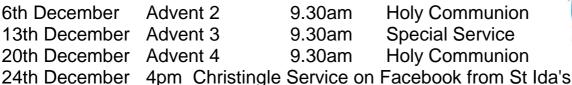
#### **KEEP IDE TIDY**

Join us for two short and leisurely, socially-distanced strolls and litter picks around Ide and the locality on Sunday, 13th December and Sunday, 10th January, meeting at 10am outside the Memorial Hall. Some

litter pickers and Hi-Viz jackets and gloves will be provided but please bring your own if you have them, as well as some kind of bag.

Cassa Tysoe <a href="https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/home">https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/home</a>

#### SAINT IDA'S CHURCH



27th December 11am Service with Alphington on zoom 9.30am Holy Communion 3rd January Morning Praise 9.30am 10th January 17th January 9.30am Holy Communion 24th January Holy Communion 8am

When attending Services you will need to wear a face mask and to sanitise your hands when entering the church. Members of the congregation will, of course, need to social distance from one another. At the Communion Service you will only receive the bread. You may, however, prefer to join with Alphington for the 11am Service via Zoom or the St Michael's Alphington Facebook page. There are daily prayers at 9am on the Alphington Facebook page. If you would like the ID and password so that you can join the Sunday, 11am Service, please contact Mike Partridge on rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com or ring him on 01392 491476.

Christmas Wreath Making. We are hoping, Covid rules permitting, to hold 3 wreath making sessions in the church on Saturday 12th December at 10am, 1pm



and 4pm with 5 people per session. The cost will be £10 to cover all materials, but sadly, due to expected regulations we shall not be able to provide festive refreshments this year. Please register and pay at the shop and collect a ticket. On the same day, in the absence of the usual Festive tea, we hope to have a a stall at the church door selling preserves and other seasonal items.

A Covid-free Christingle Sadly we shall not be able to hold our popular Christingle service in St. Ida's on Christmas Eve this year but we would like to invite you to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us in a different way. Planning is under way for a Christmas trail around the village between 21st and 23rd December at the end of which

you will be able to collect the makings of a Christingle which you can take home to prepare, and then light whilst watching a virtual service from the church at 4pm on the 24th December.

Watch out for further details on Facebook and posters around the village.

Baptisms (Christenings), Weddings & Banns of Marriage - If you wish to make any enquiries about these please email weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org for weddings and banns of marriage at Ide; and christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org for baptisms at Ide; or you can ring 01392 491476.

#### **MOTHERS' UNION**

Sadly we were unable to meet in November, maybe we can get together once before Christmas. We are being asked to "count our blessings" as a fundraiser this Advent. Please do take part, and let me know if you want a written copy to get started.

As we have been unable to raise money with a Summer Fair, or the usual Christmas Tea, I would like to make all that Jam, Jelly, Chutney and Marmalade in my cupboard available to purchase, in aid of Church/ MU...... So:

#### PRESERVES FOR SALE

on Friday December 11th, from 10.0 am-12 noon in my Carport at 15 Fore Street

The usual selection of home made Jam, Jelly and Marmalade. If you prefer, phone me beforehand, or call at the door individually. Tel: 252703

With my usual seasonal good wishes, and blessings to you all.

Sue Campbell



#### THE JUBILEE CLUB

As I write this my thoughts go back to March, little did we imagine then that at Christmas the Covid virus would be still ruling our lives. I would like to think that during this time friendships have been strengthened and appreciation of the caring communities in which we live have been forged. As I speak to club members on the phone, so many express the hopes of when can we get back together. I can well imagine when we do the chatter amongst you all, a sound I always love to hear.

I was interested to read in the October Ide Times of Randall and Winifred Garnsworthy's move to Drake's Farm in 1920. My Great Grandfather, Thomas Richards farmed Drake's for 43 years, he died in November 1926 aged 79. He was also Tony Lethbridge's Great Grandfather. Small world. Stay alert, safe and well, and I look forward to meeting up again.

There are plans afoot to be in touch with members at Christmas , and my goodness when we do meet we will have to make up for lost time and have some shindig!! To the members who are having a difficult time I send my thoughts and best wishes. Any one who would like a chat on the phone is welcome to contact me on 07447622479 and I will ring back. Meanwhile take care stay safe, my best wishes for Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

12.

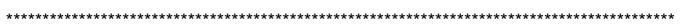


#### Ide Wildlife Conservation Group

As part of the overall commitment of the village and parish to deal with the climate and nature emergency we are looking to set up a Wildlife Conservation Group. The main focus of the group would be to undertake practical habitat management work on community (Parish or Local Council) owned land or, potentially, other areas with landowner's permission. The scope of any works has yet to be decided, but could include managing vegetation (e.g. cutting / clearance / planting), creating new areas of habitat, putting up nestboxes, batboxes etc. and recording and surveying wildlife. Obviously at the moment, there is very limited scope for people to get together to undertake practical works on the ground. However, we hope that in the not too distant future such a group would provide the opportunity to both improve wildlife habitats in the Parish and to get active outside.

If you are interested in having and joining such a group in the village, please email Richard Cottle (cotphot@yahoo.co.uk) who has volunteered to co-ordinate and set it up.

ICEEWG Ide Climate & Environment Emergency Working Group





The Interim Devon Carbon Plan is our roadmap to addressing the climate emergency and creating a net-zero Devon where people and nature thrive. We want to hear the views of businesses, community groups and all individuals on the plan. There will be a public consultation, which opens on Monday 7th December until 15th February. This allows the public to offer their thoughts and feedback on the plan. This is the chance for residents to have their say on Devon's collective response to the global climate emergency and help create a fairer, healthier and stronger Devon.

Please visit <a href="www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk">www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk</a> Or Request a paper copy and consultation questionnaire from St Thomas Library from January 1st or by email from <a href="mailto:environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk">environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk</a> 0345 155 1015

#### **OUR LOCAL KINGFISHER**

I had been going to the Meadow for weeks trying to get a photograph of the kingfisher but to no avail, but then on the morning of the 5th November, on a dog walk with my pocket camera, there it was! A moment I will never forget. A few days later I managed to get some more photos. Clare Wills.









#### TEIGNBRIDGE - CHRISTMAS WASTE & RECYCLING

#### **Normal Collection Day**

Thursday, 24th December Thursday, 31st December

Thursday, 7th January Thursday, 14th January

#### **Revised Collection Day**

As normal

Monday, 4th January Saturday, 9th January Friday, 15th January

If we are unable to collect from you on the dates shown we will get to you as soon as possible.

**Cardboard** - flatten or tear into smaller pieces to fit inside your green box. **Christmas cards & wrapping** - recycle your plain cards and paper-based wrapping with your card in your green box. (Shiny plastic gift wrap must be put in your black bin.)

**Aluminium Foil** - recycle your clean foil mince-pie cases, kitchen foil and foil lids from cream tubs in your black box.

For more information go to teignbridge.gov.uk/christmaswaste

\*

#### RECYCLING

I was asked recently why Teignbridge District Council doesn't accept plastic film in the recycling bins, so I found out. I now have a very detailed report on the current policy from the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste meeting, which I am happy to share with anyone who wants a little light reading for the weekend.

Plastic film is difficult to process because of contamination issues (with food for example) and lack of suitable markets. It makes up less than 9% of the contents of the black bins in Teignbridge. Our current recycling rate is 56.3% but we need to get that to 60% by 2025. This is challenging when last year saw no increase, however there is a way...

Food waste makes up over 22% of the contents of black bins in Teignbridge, a further 12% is garden waste and 11% paper. This should be going into the blue food waste, garden and paper collection. We have the facilities to recycle these, we just need to make sure it goes in the right container. We would easily meet the 60% recycling target, have more compost and, perhaps, less smelly black bins.

Andy Swain

Teignbridge District Councillor for Kenn Valley

Shillingford Wood.

This wood has recently come up for sale. A group called the 'Friends of Shillingford Wood' has recently been formed and they are hoping to buy the wood for the community. They have created a calendar for 2021 with beautiful photos of the wood taken by local people. The cost is £10. If you would like a copy please contact claire.62@live.co.uk





December 9th - January 9th

Join Exeter's favourite funny men Le Navet Bete for a swashbuckling family comedy this Christmas!

Book on the wonderful new website www.exeternorthcott.co.uk
Box Office: 01392 726363
See all Covid -19 secure arrangements
<a href="https://www.exeternorthcott.co.uk/your-visit/covid-measures/">https://www.exeternorthcott.co.uk/your-visit/covid-measures/</a>

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY IDE TIMES.



45 years ago on December 1st 1975 the first copy of the magazine arrived through every door in the village free of charge as it still is today. The first month or two were rather messy using what was then the norm for printing,

"Roneo". How it has improved. My tenure as Editor ended after twelve and a half years. The business was getting too busy. Thanks must be given that over the years people have dedicated themselves to supplying you with a copy every month. Just to mention a few who are still helping today. Sue Campbell, Carol Whitehart, Brenda Spivey who stepped as Editor when David Partridge came to a stop somewhere about 1995.

The magazine has improved tremendously with the advent of computers and colour. Still the same size. Roughly the same layout. It is still a village magazine. In the early days people were a bit afraid of writing now it is different. The magazine is there to be used by all. Mobile phones have become the main means of communication but it is not like the written word on paper and one must not forget there are still a lot of people who rely on news sheets etc for news of the village. Perhaps some of Ide Live might be published.

SO THANK YOU to our two gallant present day editors for keeping the pot boiling especially Brenda's long spell. Let us hope that 50 years can be achieved.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

David Garnsworthy.

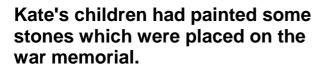
#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

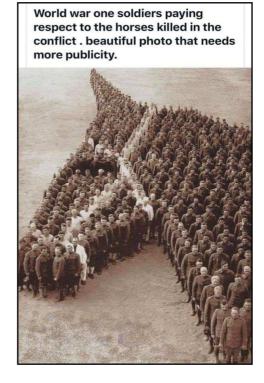
On Sunday, 8th November, approximately 50 people gathered at the War Memorial, socially distanced and wearing masks, for a short service, which included the reading of the names on the memorial, the laying of wreaths, the 2 minutes silence, and finishing with the singing of the National Anthem. There were two ladies on horseback present which made us remember the horses used during the First World War. Charlie Beer was probably the oldest person present he had served in the Second World War. Our thanks to Clare Wills for the photos.











#### **Seasonal recipe - December**

Fruit and vegetables in season this month include: Apples, Beetroot, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Celeriac, Celery, Chestnuts, Chicory, Cranberries, Jerusalem Artichokes, Kale, Leeks, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Potatoes, Pumpkin, Red Cabbage, Spring Greens, Swede, Swiss Chard, Turnips, Watercress, Winter Squash.



My recipe for this month is a Thai curry with swede and greens. The key to seasonal eating is to use whatever veg you have available, for whatever dishes you normally cook. Most people think of Thai curries being made with vegetables like peppers, aubergines and mangetout but these will all be imported at this time of year. However root vegetables like swede, potato and carrots also work really well, along with squash and kale, chard or greens. This recipe uses a ready made yellow curry paste to make it simpler (I get one in an oriental supermarket called Mae Ploy) but you can also make your own.

#### Thai yellow curry with swede and greens

#### Ingredients

#### Serves 4

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 shallots finely sliced
- 4 tbsp Thai yellow curry paste
- 1 red chilli deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 swede- peeled and cut into 1.5cm cubes
- 400g can coconut milk
- 4 kaffir lime leaves
- 1 bunch spring greens, slice
- 1 small bunch coriander roughly chopped

#### Method

- 1. Heat the oil in a saucepan. Add the shallots with a generous pinch of salt and fry for 5 mins over a medium heat.
- 2. Add the curry paste and chilli and fry for 2 mins.
- 3. Add in the chopped swede then stir in the coconut milk along with 200ml water.
- 4. Add the lime leaves, cover and cook for 15-20 mins or until the swede is tender.
- 5. Then add the chopped greens and heat for a further 5 mins or until the greens are just cooked.
- 6. Serve with rice and coriander sprinkled on top.

#### **Walking Our Lanes in Autumn**

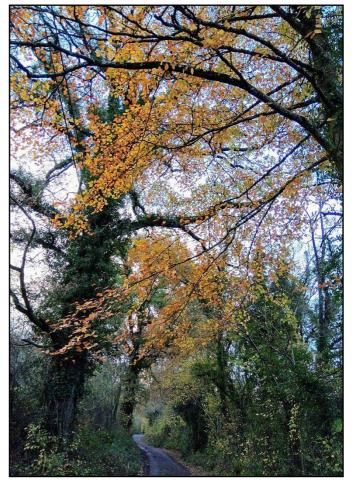
The textures underfoot - smooth tarmac, water worn surfaces, earth sticky

patches, squidges of mud, leaves, stalk and twig washed into zigzagged clumps by the lane/stream. Other textures: those of intertwined, lane bank leaves – smooth, glossy and pointed, serrated edges, and soft, fuzzy furls.

The smells - damp soil, pigs, horses, fungi, and the decay of once air fluttered leaves flattened into brown/green sludge by passing feet and tyres.

The bed of the brook revealed by the changing sounds of its running waters. The distinctive sounds of well known birds, the buzzard, the robin; and the cries, calls and song of those unknown to my untrained ear.

Across the valley, the lovely scrubby, tufty hillside providing food, home and hideaway; and where my eyes search for camouflaged deer. And then, the steepening fields, gradually closing in and enfolding the yellow/gold and russet, tree cloaked stream and lane.



Little visual gems – limpid green, crinkled, lichen on grey, rotting, wooden railing; and red berries, startlingly vibrant against emerald green, water brushed sedges. And grander visual splendours - the breadth and depth of distant hills and the aerial perspective of sharp green clarity fading to smudgy, purply, green- grey; and the accompanying fresh, hilltop breeze.

The physicality of my walk; the parts of my body responding, in their varied ways, to the gentle rise and fall of my route, to the steep hill and the long downward slope. My legs know where they are; eyes are not needed to tell me. These are the varied joys of my autumn walk.

There are occasional notes that jar, moments to spoil my contentment: the sound of a siren drifting over the hill from the city, the carelessly tossed away bottle or packet, alien in its surroundings; and the sudden shock of meeting the brutality of machine shorn hedges with their raw, snapped twigs devoid of leaves, seed heads and berries – the autumn and winter food and shelter for birds and small creatures. Does it have to be done that way? But mostly I experience great pleasure and am grateful for this walk from my doorstep.

#### WEST TOWN FARM NEWS

This year is not what any of us expected and I think I can speak for everyone when I say I am looking forward to seeing the back of 2020! Looking back over the year I still can't quite believe what we have all been through. I have to say, it was amazing seeing the community come together. We're all still in the thick of it, but I truly hope we can get back to celebrations, family gatherings and not having to wear a face mask ever again.

We welcomed 3 more pigs onto the farm in November. They've been given the run of a whole orchard. It's huge and they seem incredibly happy. As they run towards you, you can just see their big floppy ears bouncing around.

During lockdown 2.0 we have still been allowed to run educational visits. It's been great keeping some normal routine and seeing the kids out appreciating the farm. Our shepherds hut had to close early for the season but we have been so grateful to open it at all.

We'll have fresh meat on the **23rd-24th Dec** - Beef, pork and lamb. If you would like to pre-order a roasting joint/gammon/meat box you can do this via our website (head to the Christmas meat section) or feel free to give the office a call. Otherwise there will be all the usual Christmas trimmings available in the farm fridge for those 2 days.

As of next month I will be handing over the role to Holly as I will be off on maternity leave. I really hope she enjoys the role as much as I do and can welcome people onto the farm a bit more normally next year. Hopefully her grammar and sentence structure will be a vast improvement on mine also. I have really enjoyed the last 4 years on the farm. It's been amazing watching it grow.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and New Year. Let's hope we can get together with our families and friends in some shape or form.

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