

Award Winning

Parish Post

The Camp, Miserden, Whiteway
& Surrounding Areas

Winter 2016
Newsletter

National Award for Charlotte

The members of the Kitty Barron Riding for the Disabled group, a charity based at The Camp, were delighted to hear the news that their instructor, Charlotte Court, had been selected to receive the national award of Riding for the Disabled Volunteer of the Year. After receiving a record number of eleven nominations, Charlotte travelled to London's Drapers Hall on 28th September to be presented with the award by the broadcaster Claire Balding at a Gala evening.

Charlotte had worked at Camp Riding Centre for many years, beginning as a weekend helper whilst at school. After training as a chef she returned to the riding centre as full-time groom, training as a specialist Riding for the Disabled Instructor under the tuition of the late Chris Barron. She also became a trustee of the charity. Chris's parents Joe and Sylvia had started the group many years ago to provide an opportunity for the less-abled to ride and, originally, drive a pony and trap. Sadly whilst on maternity leave Charlotte learned of the tragic loss of Chris. Knowing how passionate the Barron family had been about the group and the benefits it provided, the Trustees of the charity, together with a group of hardworking and dedicated volunteers, decided to try and continue the group.



Photo by Nicky Little



The Kitty Barron Riding for the Disabled held its first new session of riding in September 2015, welcoming children from St Roses School in Stroud and Milestones in Gloucester. Providing free therapeutic riding for children and adults, the charity provides a friendly and informal environment, often enabling more severely disabled riders to participate. Fundraising for any charity is always an issue and the group has been overwhelmed by the support it has received at their hugely enjoyable Italian evenings, its Christmas Fair and the very popular quiz nights at The Carpenters Arms, thanks to Kevin and Debbie. With the encouragement and help from many sources including the Trustees, the volunteers and Vicky Barron, the group continues to flourish and has a lengthy waiting list of riders wishing to attend. It is hoped to add more sessions to the itinerary in Spring 2017 and the group would love to hear

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from anyone who feels they could spare some time to help (no need to be 'horsey') Please contact Charlotte on 07917 654554 for more information.

Nicky Little

Church Cleaning

Have you a spare 1-2 hours/week for one month of the year to come on the Church cleaning rota?

We are getting low on volunteers and any additional help would be appreciated. The duties are very light – dusting, vacuuming and general tidying up - whatever you feel like doing, for just one month annually. All cleaning materials are provided. If you would like a friend to share the month, that is fine.

If interested please ring:

**Emma Hardymont 01285 821598 or
Sandra Mogg 01285 821728**

MEDITATION

Spend some time together in silent meditation and contemplation

Whiteway Colony Hall

Tuesday mornings at 11.00 am

All are welcome – come when you can

Please wear comfortable, warm clothing and bring cushions/rugs, as it can be chilly

MISERDEN TEXEL

**free Range Lamb
for Pubs, Restaurants, Catering
and the Freezer.**

Taken to the local abattoir, seven miles away, in our own trailer, with every care taken for their well being. Butchered by Sam Connolly at the **Portway Farm Shop** and may be cut in any way you desire. Regularly on the menu at **The Carpenters Arms**, in Miserden. Do come and try some.

**Contact Sue Andrews on
07808 593359 or
sue@texels.co.uk**

Miserden Village Hall

available for hire for parties, functions, meetings etc

Rates: Within the Parish

£8 per hour or £55 per day.

If the kitchen is required for food catering the rate is

£12 per hour or £70 per day

Outside Parish Rates

£11 per hour or £65 per day

If the kitchen is required for food catering the rate is

£15 per hour or £90 per day

**To Book the Hall ring 01285
821829**



Miserden Parish Community Library

Open Wednesdays 3-7pm

In the Attic of Miserden Village Hall

(Closed tween Xmas & New Year)

Also offering

Starbooks Coffee Shop

Wednesdays 3-5pm

With a list of coffees as long as your arm
and a selection of yummys to eat.

Come and enjoy a read or a chat over cake
and a cup

All proceeds to the Library

We've just raised a goodly sum at the Miserden School Fayre on our bric-s-brac and books stalls. There'll be another fundraiser in the Spring at a coffee morning with raffle or auction or something interesting. All proceeds to the library

If you'd like to **join the library volunteers**
ring Ann on 01285 821511

Collection for Bob

I am sure most readers will be familiar with Bob Grist who has delivered post to our doors for very many years now. He is retiring in May. If you would like to contribute towards the collection for him for a leaving present you can do so care of Laura and John at Miserden village shop. (I'm just hoping that he doesn't read the Parish Post! Ed)

Joy Evans remembers

This article came about because Joy Evans (Whiteway's most senior resident I believe) expressed a wish to relate her memories of Christmas past in Whiteway. Inevitably it led us to a much wider discussion of what life was like before the Second World War.

Joy was born in 1924 and apart from the time she lived away at boarding school and later, trained as a nurse in London, has always lived in Whiteway. Her parents came to live here from a community in Norfolk having been 'recruited' by some visiting Whiteway residents. With the country recovering from the First World War, economic depression had set in, life was very hard and work difficult to find, so with others, to earn a living, they set up a handicrafts movement. They did leather work and bookbinding whilst others made sandals, did spinning, weaving, carpentry and later a bakery started up.

There was no electricity or running water and just an earth closet for a toilet. 'Those who were better organised had two; one for pee and one for the main job', says Joy, laughing. It wasn't just Whiteway though, it was the same in all the other villages too. Water collected from the stream bordering the Colony perimeter on the Wet



Photo by Hugh Shewring

Side was from the overflow of the Eagle House ram pump, which apparently never dried up. Rainwater was also collected, but had to be boiled. A few could afford underground tanks to collect it in, but most had rain butts. Life was hard, but the Whiteway population was, on average, much younger than today; 'There weren't really any old people – fiftyish maybe, but mostly they were younger', Joy recalls. Christmas was a more communal event partly because there were a lot more children living here.

Christmas Day was, as it is now, a family day, but Boxing Day there was a big children's party in the Colony Hall with a Father Christmas, party games and a bring and share tea, a tradition which continued up to the 1990s. Usually there was so much food left over there was enough to feed the adults in the evening when they would have their party. Different dads took turns at playing Father Christmas and one, who was a chimney sweep known as Black Pete, arrived all blacked up and with a huge sack with the presents in. To the delight of the children he kept disappearing inside it to retrieve each present in turn.

Another time sleigh bells were heard coming down the path to the hall, then nothing... till Father Christmas appeared at a window in the roof apex of the end wall. Someone had to fetch a ladder for him to climb down into the hall. A lot of the children's presents, like dolls and toys for the very young, were homemade and some people knitted things, but there was also a collection round the Colony to buy presents too. Joy remembers these as fun times; 'There was something going on most days over the holiday; a whist drive, folk dancing, ball-room dancing and a big fancy dress party New Years Eve'. Numbers on the Colony were swollen by visiting relatives and friends. Some residents even did B&B.

The tradition of bring-and-share meals in the Colony Hall continues, but only occasionally at Christmas time. Most people have busy agendas over the holidays with their own families, which often live far apart and, as there are far fewer children living in Whiteway, there is less impulse to get together. It just shows how important children are in pulling communities together.

Hugh Shewring

Parish Profile - Deborah and Kevin Allin

Better known as Debs and Kev, they have now run The Carpenters Arms in Miserden for several years. Their extrovert personalities, tireless energy and enterprising ways have contributed hugely in making 'the local' as successful as it is today. They first came to The Carpenters in November 2001, persuaded by Johnny and Hilary Johnson who owned several pubs at the time, to take over the management. Prior to the move Debbie and Kevin had run The Sun in Lyddiard Millicent near Swindon for Johnny and Hilary. On first arriving in Miserden, via a mistaken journey to The Carpenters Arms at Westrip they point out, 'Debbie sat on the stairs and cried' Kevin remembers, and Debbie recalls that it was 'like going back in time'. When Johnny and Hilary retired in 2006 Debs and Kevin 'retired' too, moved into Garden Flat in Miserden Park and left the life of being publicans behind. However, eighteen months later when the lease on The Carpenters came up for sale Kevin was browbeaten by his brother Nigel into taking it on. The rest so they say is history!



Photos by Alan Lord

What do you like/dislike most about living in this area?

Debs and Kev love living in Miserden despite it not having been 'love at first sight'. They were first amazed by the 'lack of crime and drugs', things that they had to contend with running a pub in more urbanised areas. Here in Miserden 'you can leave your front door open without worrying'. They both find Miserden 'family friendly' with 'a good sense of community'. All of this together with 'stunning views and lovely countryside' leave them with nothing to dislike about living here.

What has changed most for you over the years in the Parish?

As far as they are both concerned there is still a lot of community spirit in the Parish, albeit that it has inevitably changed as more younger residents have arrived many with young chil-

dren. Kevin particularly likes the fact that 'there is no animosity in this village'. They are both moved by the way that so often villagers rally round to help and support when somebody is struggling and at risk.

What changes would you most like to see in the Parish?

Like so many of us Debbie and Kevin would be delighted to see the local roads repaired to improve both driving conditions and safety hazards. They also feel that more activities could be arranged that set out to embrace fully the various communities of the Parish.

How do you like to relax?

Debbie and Kevin like to watch television, and take a great interest in their garden. Kevin particularly likes horse racing, brewing at home (see picture of him at work) and singing (Miserden's Got Talent!). Debbie is a shopaholic (Kevin's description), loves cooking, despite being at it so much in the pub, and particularly enjoys seeing the family, of which there are plenty. As Debbie says 'seeing the grandchildren is the best bit of the lot'.

What do you like to eat and drink?

Debbie and Kevin enjoy eating at home best of all, and they both enjoy chicken and fish dishes. Thai food is a favourite of Debs, Kevin is partial to Indian cuisine. Debbie drinks plenty of coffee and likes a vodka and tonic; Kevin enjoys his home-brewed cider.

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Where do you like to holiday?

Everywhere apparently; Cyprus, Malta, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Gibraltar, you name it and they have probably been there! Favourite is Malta where as Kevin says ‘amazingly on one trip to Valetta I bumped into a guy with whom I joined up in the RAF in 1979 and had not seen for some thirty-odd years’.

For Kevin running a pub is not a job but a way of life; as Debbie says ‘we go on lots of holidays because it is the only way to drag Kevin out of here’. With six children, their partners and twenty four grandchildren there is never a dull moment for Debs and Kev. And, as a footnote to this profile which seems to sum up so much of what makes them tick, Kevin says touchingly that for them both ‘life outside of The Carpenters Arms is Miserden’.



Alan Lord

December News from your Community/Village Agent

Gill Cannon 07776 245767
gcannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat However this is also the time of the year that temperatures drop and we need to ensure that we and our neighbours are not at risk. So what should we do? –

Stay warm. The NHS advise that your home should be kept at a temperature of a minimum of 18 degrees C. If this is not possible throughout the house at least one room should be kept at this temperature and your bedroom at night. Use a hot water bottle to keep your temperature up. If you use an electric blanket make sure you have it serviced at least every 3 years.

Eat well. Eating good food, keeping warm with soup and eating regularly throughout the day is essential to keep you warm from within.

Keep Active. A high level of exercise is not necessary but keeping moving throughout the day – just 250 steps an hour will help your circulation and well-being.

Wrap up. Wrap up warm, inside and out. Wear lots of thin layers - clothes made from cotton, wool or fleecy fibres are particularly good and help to maintain body heat.

Help each other. If you can, check on older neighbours or relatives to make sure they're safe and well. Make sure they're warm enough, especially at night, and have stocks of food and medicines so they don't need to go out during very cold weather.

Keep safe. Wear shoes with a good grip to prevent slips and falls when walking outside. If possible, stay inside during a cold period if you have heart or respiratory problems.

Get your heating system serviced every year by a qualified engineer to ensure it's running safely and efficiently.

Never block air vents and if you have wood-burning, coal or gas heaters make sure there's adequate ventilation.

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If water pipes freeze they can burst. Make sure you know where the main stopcock is and check that it's easy to turn so you can turn off the water if you need to.

Make sure your smoke alarm is working. You can ask your local fire service to check your home for fire safety. It's free and you may be eligible to get free smoke alarms fitted.

Install an audible carbon monoxide alarm in each room that has a gas appliance.

Make sure you claim all the financial support you can to help with heating bills.

Keep a mixture of salt and sand handy to put on steps or paths in icy weather.

Consider fitting a grab rail if you have steps at your front or back door.

Keep simple cold, flu and sore throat remedies in the house.

Follow up your GP's invitation to have a flu jab.

Order repeat prescriptions in plenty of time, particularly if bad weather is forecast.

Ask your local pharmacy if they offer a prescription pick-up and delivery service.

Keep basic food items in the cupboard or freezer in case it's too cold to go shopping. You could also do your food shopping online and get it delivered to your door.

Keep a torch handy in case you lose power and keep your radio, mobile phone, laptop or tablet fully charged, so you can use the battery power if there's no electricity. If there is a power cut you can call 105 for free.

(See also *Lions Message in a Bottle* p.15. Ed)

You may also be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your home. Grants available include the Winter Fuel Payment and Cold Weather Payment.

A Winter Fuel Payment of between £100 and £300 tax-free is available to help you pay your

heating bills if you were born on or before January 5 1953. (*Out of pure self-interest I checked this out and according to the Government website it says, 'you'll qualify for Winter Fuel Payment if you were born on or before 5 May 1953' - Ed*).

Cold Weather Payment may be available to you if you receive certain benefits. Payments are made when your local temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of 0°C or below over seven consecutive days. You'll get a payment of £25 for each seven-day period of very cold weather between November 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

Remember if you need advice your Community Safety Team is here to help –

Gill Cannon – Village Agent 07776 245767
gcannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Carol Novoth - Neighbourhood Warden –
07970 250343 carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk

Paul Barrett – Fire Service -08001804140

Debbie Campbell – Police Community Support – 01452 753511

Debbie.Campbell@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

The Carpenters Arms



Open 11.30-11.30

Everyday

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All day, every day

OAP concessions Monday to

Friday Lunchtime

Main course £6.50

See Black Board outside pub

for other special nights

Afternoon Cream Teas

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Dogs welcome.

Outside bars available.

Conservation area location in the

village of Miserden

Tel: 01285 821283

**Happy Christmas and a Peaceful
Happy New Year to you all**

Another Good Year for the Texels

This year's lambing was wet and cold. Little grass to turn out on, then the weather turned so bad that ewes and lambs previously turned out were brought in again or moved off the top fields to more sheltered fields. The top fields are far healthier for the lambs as the lower, more sheltered ones have been running pheasants all winter bringing the problems of coxidirosis, but better to keep the lambs more sheltered and treat for the costly disease.

Some came in coated with frozen rain which had driven across the fields. Amazingly they stayed glossy and shining for some time showing that their lanolin and wool had insulated them and body warmth was not escaping to melt the ice.

Our earliest show was Devon County where Aub judged the Blue Texel classes. Still cool and damp in early May, the ring was full of quality sheep and we had a great time. Soon this weather was forgotten and lambs grew on, basking in sunshine. Some were selected for Three Counties Show, always a good place to exhibit our stock and catch up with other breeders and local farmers.

On through the summer with plenty of visitors both English and foreign looking to buy

sheep. All the rams and ewes for sale have now moved to new premises except two rams heading for Germany and three ewes to Belgium. Hopefully they will all go at the beginning of December.

In September the number of shows and sales caused utter confusion and we ran out of time to compete at Newbury Show this year, where we have had such success previously. In balance we had Female champion at the major Builth Wells sheep sale and sold her well to another breeder who has

bought from us before and is very happy with his stock.

With the ewes hopefully all in lamb it has been great to have time to take in our wonderful scenery and Autumn colours. They seem to have been the best for years as the weather has been kind and let nature work at its own pace.



Photos by Sue Andrews



WISHANGER COUNTRY KITCHEN

Now at last we are officially into Winter although it may not seem like that. We have been promised a hard one, so this quarter's recipes reflect just that.

The first recipe is for Scotch Broth – very good, heartwarming and cheap. Then we have Smoked Haddock Rarebit - eat on your knees in front of a roaring fire. Finally German Sweet Pickled Marrow, good to use with Christmas leftovers.

Scotch Broth

Ingredients

Approx 1lb neck of lamb
1 teaspoon of salt
1 quart of cold water
1½ oz pearl barley
2 large carrots sliced ¼ inch
2 leeks sliced ¼ inch
1 small turnip diced
1 stick celery sliced finely
Pepper – a good shake
1 dessert spoon chopped parsley

Serves 6

Method

Chop neck into 1" pieces and place in a large, heavy bottomed saucepan with a close fitting lid. Add water, salt and all veg plus barley and pepper. Bring to boil slowly and stir well.

Simmer on a very low heat for 2 – 3 hours or place in an oven at 120° for at least 3-4 hours. Add chopped parsley just before serving and adjust seasoning to taste.

Serve with plain boiled potatoes

Smoked Haddock Rarebit

Ingredients

1oz butter
8oz smoked haddock – cooked in milk and cooled
Approx 4 fl oz milk
2oz mature cheddar cheese, grated
½ teaspoon of made mustard
A dash of Lea and Perrins (optional)
1 tablespoon of plain flour

Method

Melt butter and make a roux with the flour

Add milk and stir well, this must not be too stiff or too loose. Add mustard, Lea and Perrins and cook for a couple of minutes. A little cream added here makes it beautifully rich.

Add cheese and flaked haddock, off the heat.

Pile onto pieces of toast and place under a hot grill to lightly brown and bubble.

German Sweet Pickled Marrow

Ingredients

4lbs prepared marrow, peeled with the seeds scooped out and the pith. Cut the flesh into 1" cubes

1 pint white vinegar
1½ lbs sugar
¼ stick of cinnamon (or a small teaspoon)
¼ oz of ground cloves

Method

Bring white vinegar to the boil and add sugar and spices, reduce heat and stir till sugar is dissolved.

Add the marrow all at once and cook gently until all the pieces are clear but still firm, stirring occasionally.

Drain over a bowl to cool. Reboil the liquid till it becomes thick and syrupy, adding any liquid that drains from the marrow – should reduce to approximately three-quarters of a pint.

Place marrow pieces into warm dry jars, pour the boiling vinegar over and seal. Leave for about a month before using. This pickle keeps well.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas with family and friends and a very peaceful new year.

J.P.M.S. Wishanger

Reader's Recipes

This salad has proven itself to those who normally turn their noses up at them. It is the only dish that I ever add salt to. Trust me, paired with a little lemon juice, it gives lettuce a lift that just vinaigrette doesn't. It makes a good starter or side for all seasons. It is incredibly healthy and quite filling. It is also suitable for vegans.

You can bulk up any of the ingredients as you fancy.

For 1

1 largish little gem lettuce - leaves torn (or a mixture if you prefer)

Large carrot and/or beetroot

Hummus

Seeds and/or nuts (crush large nuts a bit)

A little salt, lemon juice and a good olive oil.

Place the leaves in a bowl and add a little salt and lemon juice. With your hands gently mix this through the leaves

Grate the carrot/beetroot on top

Add a large dollop of hummus on top of the carrot (I use a half a small pot for 1)

Toast the seeds and nuts in a pan over heat until they are turning a golden colour all over.

Then add them to the top.

Then drizzle enough oil to taste.

Enjoy!

Nicky Akehurst

Next edition; The Perfect Coffee and Walnut Cake!

Winter Gardening Tips

Tempting though it is to stay wrapped up indoors during the bleak winter months, there are jobs in the garden that can be tackled during odd spells of calmer weather. And doing them now means that when spring finally does come, you hit the ground running instead of trying to play catch-up with a backlog of jobs.

December

- Winter is a good time to plant all kinds of deciduous hedging plants, most of which will be available as inexpensive bare-root stock (those without soil around their roots). Since hedges are a permanent feature, it's worth putting the effort into preparing the ground thoroughly. If you can't plant straightaway, store them in bundles in a spare piece of ground until you can deal with them.
- If conditions are still mild, weeds such as bittercress and groundsel, will still be growing. Removing them before they have a chance to set seed will save a lot of work later on.
- Cut back all the foliage from *Helleborus orientalis*. Not only does this help prevent leaf spot disease affecting new foliage, it also shows off their flowers much better.
- Chock up outdoor containers by an inch or so to prevent them becoming waterlogged.
- Turn off water supplies to outdoor taps to prevent frost damage.
- If you are planning to make a Christmas wreath from plants foraged from your own garden, keep a close eye on those with berries and hips, as the birds may beat you to it!

January

- Prune climbing and shrub roses, first cutting out any dead, dying or diseased wood. To maintain the plant's shape and stop it getting too dense and woody, aim to cut out about a quarter of all growth right down to ground level, or to the lowest strong shoot, starting with the oldest branches first. Then trim back all stems to encourage side shoots, which will go on to bear flowers. Mulch well afterwards with well-rotted organic matter.
- Prune wisteria, shortening all lateral growth to two or three buds.
- Cover established rhubarb crowns with a specially designed forcing pot or an upturned dustbin to encourage the growth of bright pink stems about six weeks later.
- Clean and sharpen garden tools and have all garden machinery serviced.
- Keep bird feeders topped up and remember to put out fresh water regularly especially during freezing conditions.

- When the weather's just too unpleasant to venture outside, enjoy the time inside planning the gardening year ahead. Order any flower, fruit and vegetable seed that you need.

February

- Cut back all top growth on late flowering clematis such as *C. viticella* to about 60cm (2ft) from the ground.
- Plant lily bulbs.
- Don't throw away pots of forced hyacinth bulbs once they have flowered, plant them in the garden instead. Be sure to allow the foliage to die down naturally.
- Finish pruning fruit trees and bushes, and follow with a mulch of well-rotted manure.
- Set seed potatoes to 'chit' in a light, cool but frost-free place. Stand them up in a seed tray or egg box with the 'eye' end (where the shoots will grow from) uppermost.
- Clean out garden ponds before frogs and toads start to spawn, carefully removing any dead and decaying leaves using a plastic or bamboo rake. Also scoop out some of the silt at the bottom if it has become too thick. Leave the debris beside the water for a day or so to allow any wildlife to return to the pond.
- Finish cutting back any perennials or ornamental grasses that were left for their winter effect.
- Install nesting boxes in preparation for the coming season.

Seasonal Star Plant

- *Mahonia x media* 'Winter Sun'

With its handsome architectural foliage, its beautiful, lily-of-the-valley scented flowers that appear in the depths of winter followed by blue-black berries, and its ability to thrive in shade, what's not to like about this large evergreen shrub? If it does get too large, it comes back well from hard pruning.

Sue Spielberg



Whiteway Friendly Circle - Friends Remembered



Friendly Circle Outing 2014

From left: Angela Parker, Heather White, Jan Drew, Gail Nash, Betty O'Connell, Sandy Blackburn, Joy Evans. Photo by Penny White

Whiteway Colony's Friendly Circle meetings have taken place monthly since 2002 following a suggestion by a Colonist, Robin Sharp, who lived at Rivendell, now "Freedom," with his wife Cicci. They moved to live in London and sadly Robin became ill. He died in 2014.

Four of us; Margaret Turner, Jeanne Webb, Sandy Blackburn and I, prepared the Colony Hall, made the tea, ran a small library and had a 'bring and buy table'. We also arranged an annual outing, a Christmas shopping spree, a Christmas party, (with Yvonne Browne accompanying our Carol singing on the piano), and an occasional speaker. We thought at first that people might like to play scrabble or cards but those who attended just wanted tea and a chat. We invited adults aged 18 to 100 (and over), and approximately 20 people, mostly retired, attended. Slowly we lost helpers and Colonists. Jeanne Webb moved to Cornwall to be near her son, daughter in law and two grandchildren. When she reached 80, Margaret was not well enough to help. Sandy, who also helped with the Gloucester Organic Gardening Society monthly meetings in the hall, was finding things difficult as she had problems with her knees. Sandy, Margaret and her husband, Bryan, continued to attend and I organised the monthly meetings and had offers of help with the refreshments.

This year we were unable to meet in the hall as it was badly in need of repair. Joy Evans, at 92, kindly offered her home as a meeting venue as we then had only 8 members. We plan to meet again in the hall in September.

I was reminiscing, remembering all the wonderful characters that are no longer with us, and Sally, another Colonist, suggested that others might like to read about them. I have written a short account about their lives at Whiteway. All the ladies mentioned had been widowed for several years before attending the Friendly Circle.

Gina Stone, of "Silverload" at 100 years of age continued to tend her garden before she left Whiteway to live with her daughter. She loved to be visited for a chat and told me that she had moved from the north of England with her husband. She told me that when young she had ridden a Royal Enfield motor bike. She was very proud of her only daughter who was a teacher.

Rosemary Allen of "The Rowans" had moved to Whiteway following her marriage to a widower at the Colony. At one of our Christmas Parties she recited perfectly, word for word, in her northern accent, the story of "Albert and the Lion". At over 90 this was no mean feat. Rosemary travelled weekly on the bus to Cheltenham. She would arrive at the bus stop looking very smart and always wore a hat. When in her late nineties she found it difficult to cope, so she moved into a residential home near her niece.

Hilda Gustin of "Windswept" now renamed "Hilda's Place" was another weekly bus traveller. Hilda was once a great walker. Before she retired she worked at London airport and travelled home at weekends. On Sunday afternoons she would walk from Whiteway to Cheltenham station and the following Friday, if not offered a lift, would walk back again. Well into her nineties she walked from Whiteway to Cranham to deliver a newsletter to an old work colleague. As she aged she lost the strength in her legs and was once found sitting in the hedge between Whiteway and Miserden. Fortunately my husband, Bob, was



walking to Miserden and was able to help her to her feet. On another occasion, in her home, she was unable to get up and was found by her son Michael on her knees.

Jane, Michael's wife, told me that when younger, Hilda had been a supervisor in a typing pool and was always sympathetic towards women who were pregnant, and towards mothers with young children. She made many friends who, years later, kept in touch by letter. She was very generous and once when travelling on the train had a conversation with a young couple who told her that they wanted to buy a shop on a Scottish Island. She lent them £3000, not expecting to be paid back. The young couple were so grateful and Hilda was re-

imbursed in full. When retired she loved to call in to neighbours for a cup of tea and a chat but was unaware of the time spent and often overstayed her welcome. Apparently some people would hide when they saw her approaching. Hilda enjoyed a slice of homemade caraway seed cake and when I visited her she took me down her very overgrown garden to the Holybrook stream. Her garden contained many raspberry canes laden with fruit

Jennifer Benson of "Corner Cottage" was a tall upright lady who walked to Birdlip and down Witcombe hill to catch the bus to Gloucester. She cycled to Miserden and Stroud. She had moved to Whiteway from Sussex after her three children had left home. One of her daughters lived in Australia and visited Jennifer before she died. Jennifer wore knitted coats and long skirts that she had made. She had been a teacher and later suffered with hearing loss. She did not own a television or electric fire and would light her wood fire daily during the winter. She believed that it was important for us to have our photos and memories in the home. She was admitted into hospital with pneumonia and died shortly afterwards.

Elsie Johnson of "Runnymede" had been born in the Forest of Dean. Her father had been a train driver. When first married to her husband Bill, they lived in Liverpool. Elsie told me that she had walked everywhere pushing her two small children in a pram. One day, while with the children in the library, her pram was stolen from outside.

During the Second World War Elsie's husband served on ships as an engineer. When the war was over they moved to their home in Whiteway and had three more children. As a Roman Catholic, with a strong faith, she drove herself to church in Bisley every Sunday. She continued driving into her late eighties and took a test to reassure her family that she was still safe on the roads. Elsie collected used clothing to take to church. The clothes were then sorted and sent abroad to disaster areas. She loved to read sitting in her covered area outside her front door. The children who lived in the "Dacha" opposite her home loved her and were always welcome visitors. She died in Gloucester Hospital after a short illness. She was very loved by all her family and her friends at Whiteway.



Patricia Robinson of "Little Compton" moved to Whiteway from Warwickshire with her husband Stuart. They lived in a caravan on their allotted land while their house was being built. Before retiring Stuart had taught Art at Warwick University and met Pat at the Guild of Craftsmen Exhibition in Painswick. Pat was selling the beautiful silk painted scarves that she had made and Stuart was exhibiting his paintings. Stuart's wife had died and he was caring for his two young daughters. Stuart and Pat later married and the children had a new mother who loved and cared for them. Pat had been born in Stroud where her father worked in the Railway ticket office. After Stuart's death Pat kept herself busy singing with the Stroud Choral Society, country dancing at the Witcombe Folk club, attending

Stroud History Society and the Painswick Friday Club. When she became ill Pat was cared for in a residential home in Lyme Regis. Her step daughter, who lives in Dorset visited her regularly. Bob and I spent an afternoon with her shortly before she died.

Amy Allen of "The Laurels," now "Azafran", moved to Whiteway with her husband from Ross-on-Wye where they had run a smallholding. Amy's husband had been a snow drop grower and the garden during February is covered with the delicate white flowers. Snowdrops also line the lane, known as Jimmy's Lane. One of Amy's daughters lives in Gloucester and visited every week. Amy was another great knitter and, until her sight deteriorated, would be found knitting squares for Oxfam. Besides losing her sight she had difficulty with hearing and agreed to sell her home and move to Resthaven in Pitchcombe. She lived to be over 100 and always recognised us when we visited.

At least five gentlemen have attended our Friendly Circle meetings. One of these was **Carl White**. He lived at "**Leebay**" and died at the age of 79 following an accident whilst out walking. During the Second World War, at the age of eight, he was evacuated to Hampshire. After a short parting his mother took him back to London. He was evacuated again at the age of twelve, this time to Gloucestershire. His father had been interested in the Colony's way of life before Carl's birth and had spent time living between Whiteway and London. The family eventually settled in Whiteway. Carl lived at Whiteway Colony for over 67 years. He married Heather who still lives in the home they shared. Her daughter Theresa and husband have recently joined her.

Margaret and Bryan Turner have now moved away from Whiteway as, due to ill health, they found that the garden was becoming difficult to manage. Bryan had built his home "Winfarthings" and was a willing helpful member of the Colony. He had looked after the Colony Hall fitting a new kitchen and flooring and doing necessary repairs. One of his last jobs was to volunteer to paint the red telephone box, now used as a notice board. It will be difficult to replace him. Margaret and Bryan are happy in their bungalow at Innsworth.

We still have some wonderful elderly people living in Whiteway, the oldest lady being 92 years old and the oldest man 85. The Cotswold air must be a contributing factor to a healthy long life.

Sadly since writing the article we have lost two more members, Sandy Blackburn, and Betty O'Connell (*see first photo - Ed.*).

Sandy Blackburn, of Field View, died unexpectedly while in hospital, following surgery, on October 23rd. Our thoughts are with her husband Dave and their four sons and their families. Sandy had been a willing member of the Whiteway community for over 20 years. She helped with teas at events, at the annual fete and monthly at GOGS, (Gloucester Organic Gardeners Society), who met at Whiteway Colony Hall. She was a great cook and was known for her cheese scones, lemon curd and jams, winning prizes for her produce at local fetes. Following a fall which resulted in a bad break to her leg, Sandy had been housebound for over a year. She suffered with pain and poor circulation but rarely complained. She continued to bake and cook meals from her wheelchair. Her husband Dave has cared for her tirelessly as well as cleaning the house, ironing, shopping, gardening etc. He was always cheerful when I visited, and always ready with a cup of tea. Sandy would be found in their conservatory completing jigsaw puzzles given by friends or purchased from charity shops. During my visits Sandy told me about her life in The Royal Navy where she and Dave had met and her life in Hong Kong looking after three of their four sons. Their youngest son was born when they returned to Gosport. The boys were close in age so Sandy had been a very busy young wife and mother.

Sandy was kind and generous person and often helped look after dogs when their owners were away. She was a very popular member of Whiteway Colony and will be missed by us all.

Betty O'Connell, from the Croft, died in the Sue Ryder Hospice on October 30th. She had been ill for several months and had recently been discharged from hospital. Betty had moved with her husband Bob from London to be near her daughter Carol. The couple had owned horses and had enjoyed riding with horse and carriage in Windsor Great Park.

Following Bob's death Betty joined in most of the activities at Whiteway. She was a member of The Friendly Circle, the library, the reading group and lately the sewing group. She was a great reader, knitter and played the piano well. She was a lovely gentle lady and we will miss her.

Other members have left the group or have moved away but more have joined us and although we have less members we still enjoy a good chat and our occasional outings.

Editor's Comments

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this packed edition of the Parish Post. Apologies to advertisers that have been omitted due to lack of space. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

Hugh Shewring, editor.parishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Open Letter from Whiteway Colony Meeting

Dear Colonists and Neighbours,

A small minority of dog walkers are not taking their responsibilities for their dog(s) seriously. This means that, on the Colony Playing Field, dog mess is not always cleaned up. Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. Some excuses that are not acceptable include:

- Looking the other way and not seeing your dog foul.
- Not having a poop-scoop with you.
- It's not your dog that you're taking for a walk – it's someone else's.
- I don't have a dog - it's not my problem.

It is up to *all* of us to keep the Playing Field and Lanes 'clean'.

Please have a care and ask others to do so, too!

Colony Secretary, on behalf of the Colony Meeting

Lions Message in a Bottle

We help the emergency services

Lions Message in a Bottle is a simple, but effective, way to keep essential personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency – the fridge.



More than 5 million **FREE** Message in a Bottle kits have been distributed by Lions Clubs British Isles & Ireland in recent years to people with conditions such as diabetes, allergies, disabilities and life-threatening illnesses.

The bottles are supplied **FREE** of charge thanks to generous donations from the public and businesses.

Lions clubs supply the bottles to health centres, doctors' surgeries and chemists. They are also available direct from Lions clubs – contact us for more information.

Paramedics, police, fire-fighters and social services support this life-saving initiative and know to look in the fridge when they see the Lions Message in a Bottle stickers.

The Lions Message in a Bottle initiative is praised by hundreds of emergency services personnel. Senior North West Ambulance Service paramedic Steve Nicolls said: "It's of invaluable assistance to us when we have to attend an incident at someone's home". Talking to Nic Knowles on the BBC's Emergency Rescue programme, Andy Capes, South West Ambulance Service said he can rely on the Lions Message in a Bottle: "I use it on average two or three times a week; it saves time and lives."



<http://lionsclubs.co/Public/lions-message-in-a-bottle/>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

These are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend. Participation is at the discretion of the Chairman

Meeting Dates:

Thursday 22 Dec at Miserden Village Hall

Thursday 26 Jan at Miserden Village Hall

Thursday 23 Feb at Miserden Village Hall

Thursday 23 Mar at Miserden Village Hall

Parish Post Contact Details:

email - editor.parishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Tel. - 01285 821872 or 821829

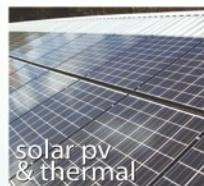
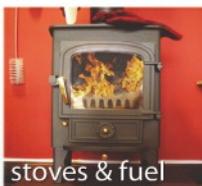
PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Plans of any applications for property in this Parish may be viewed by appointment with the clerk. 01285 821871

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