CENTRE REPORT

We’re sorry the What’s On is a little late this month but lockdown has meant that the Centre has been closed again until 2nd December and so we’ve been unable to print at our normal time. But hopefully it’s “better late than never” and you’ll enjoy reading the various articles we have for you this month.

November was certainly a strange month with no Remembrance Day Parade but the poppies round St Michaels were really beautiful. Well done to all those who contributed.

The Hampshire County Council Library has been decommissioned and we were very sad to say goodbye to Mathilde, who had run the Library here in Lyndhurst for five years. On her last day we surprised her with a small expression of appreciation - some flowers and chocolates to wish her well. We wanted to show our appreciation not just for her work in the Library but the fact that she always went “the extra mile” to help our residents. We understand that she is now working at another local library.
We are now starting a very exciting refurbishment of the library space and are very grateful to all of you who have expressed an interest in volunteering to run some sort of library facility. We will be in touch with all of you in the near future (Covid permitting).

On the plus side, the lockdown has enabled progress to be made with the changes to the space previously occupied by the library. While the Centre has been closed for a month Alana, Mike Weston and Tony Leamon have been very busy with the clearing and planning, and have made huge strides towards refurbishing the space into new facilities which will hopefully bring some much needed income to the community centre.

Life is now very different to what it was at the beginning of the year but with news of vaccines there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We hope that 2021 will prove to be a better year for us all and we look forward to happier times. Thank you to all our friends and volunteers who have helped so much in the community, you’ve all been marvellous.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

As the Government plans to review Covid tier levels regularly, our opening times during Christmas and New Year are unknown. However, phone messages, emails and post will be checked regularly during this period.
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this Christmas

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Another year has rolled by so I would like to start by wishing all our residents a Very Happy Christmas even though it might be a little different this year. I hope that we will all be able to make the best of it and go into next year in the knowledge that a vaccine is round the corner and life can return to some sort of normality before we reach the festive season in 2021. I won’t go into my own feelings on how this year has worked out for all of us but just hope that you all stay safe and well.

November saw the first full Parish Council meeting conducted via Zoom. I think we all embraced the technology very well, although we did end up with a meeting running over by half an hour. However, a lot was accomplished. We were joined by several members of the public, both our District and County Councillors and PCSO Richard Williams.

The Parish Council are asking for views to be added to a village design statement and you will have received a copy of the form with your calendar or can add your views online through our website www.lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk. It is well worth taking this opportunity to tell us what you would like to see for our village and what you already appreciate and don’t just take for granted. It is a great opportunity to have your say.

Another form that we distributed with the calendar asked for nominations for our Annual Parish Awards. There is still time to nominate someone in the village who has played a big part as a volunteer in village life in the past year. Unfortunately, we were unable to host our Annual Parish Meeting and give out the awards this year but we have to remain hopeful that the event can take place in 2021.

I hope you enjoyed your Parish Calendar for 2021. It was delivered free to all households in the parish but I am well aware that a few people may not have received one. If you have been missed please let me know and I will endeavour to get a calendar to you. Extra copies can still be purchased at £5 each. There will be more news regarding the calendar for 2022 in the January issue of What’s On.

There have been quite a few complaints about the condition of Cemetery Road. I first started to write to Forestry England, who have responsibility for maintenance of this road, about our concerns in 2018 and this resulted in some minor patching to the road surface. However it really now needs more drastic action and I have, once again, been in contact with them and have been assured that they do intend to get the work done, hopefully during November, but definitely before year end.
We are starting to make headway on the recreation front relating to the new lease for the football ground in Wellands Road. This has been held up through no fault of our own although our ever patient solicitor now tells me that she has the agreed lease and will be getting on with the necessary work to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion for all concerned, thus ensuring another facility for our community.

The Parish Council have agreed to take over the maintenance of the flower border on the pavement in front of the Fox & Hounds PH as well as the planters at the top of Knightwood Avenue and at the bottom of the High Street.

Progress has also been made in the Recreation Ground regarding the provision of some new children’s play equipment and safety surfacing on two areas. Hopefully the third, and last, area will follow in the next financial year. A much cleaner safety surface will be added when the equipment has been installed.

The addition of a Cemetery toilet is still work in progress and I will be writing more about this subject in the New Year.

Councillor Graham Reeve has managed to source some frosted coverings for the windows of the old Post Office in the High Street. Anyone who has walked past this building will know how much they are needed and Graham has also volunteered to put the coverings onto the windows. This obviously doesn’t solve the problem completely but it will help to make the building look a lot tidier. Councillor Reeve will also be sourcing some identity badges for staff and Councillors.

We are still advertising for another Councillor so if you are interested in joining us please have a look at our website where full joining details and an application form can be found.

Some good news for all you who are Council Tax payers. The Parish Council will not be increasing their portion of the Council Tax this year so you will not see an increase in the Parish Rate. We hope to be able to maintain all our services, although it may result in a reduction in our reserves.

Since writing last month’s Clerk’s Corner we have gone into another lockdown due to COVID-19 restrictions. I am mainly working from home with occasional visits to the office. However, you are welcome to contact me on my home phone whilst restrictions are in place or email me and I will reply as soon as possible.

Margaret Weston, Clerk to Lyndhurst Parish Council, 13 High Street, Lyndhurst SO43 7BB (telephone: 023 8028 4928 or 023 8081 3218/email: clerk@lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk). Visit our website at www.lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk
VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Do you live within the Parish boundaries of Lyndhurst, Emery Down, Bank, Allum Green and Gritnam?

Do you have a strong interest in your local community?

Would you like to shape the area in which you live for the future?

Do you feel you have skills that you could bring to the Council to help to enhance the shape of the community in the future?

Do you have sufficient free time and enthusiasm to be able to devote some of this to making our parish a better place to live?

Would you like to work with a team of 12 Councillors and two Officers?

If the answer is “Yes” you might like to consider applying to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor by completing an application form which can be found on our website at www.lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk.

If you require more information please contact the Clerk at clerk@lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk or telephone 023 8028 4928 or 023 8081 3218.

Applications will close on 31 December 2020

Please note this is a voluntary position
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**Lyndhurst Health Walks**

Join us for some interesting walks around the Lyndhurst area with our friendly group led by qualified leaders. Walks generally last for about an hour. No gym fees - our walks are Free! Meet every Friday at 10:20am at the following locations. Booking essential by 12 noon, the day before the walk by emailing Keith & Christina - cke.walkingforhealth@gmail.com

You will need to provide your first name, surname and a contact number when booking.

Meet every Friday at 10.20am at the following locations. Walks start at 10.30am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th December</td>
<td><strong>Acres Down.</strong> Nearest Post Code SO43 7GE. Map Reference SU 26756 09729. This is near Annie’s Tea Rooms, Minstead. From Lyndhurst, go past The New Forest Inn, Emery Down towards Newtown/Stone Cross. After The New Forest Outdoor Centre, take the 2nd left to Acres Down Farm &amp; Tea Rooms, down a narrow lane, over the ford, past the Tea Rooms to the car park.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th December</td>
<td><strong>Cadman’ Pool Car Park.</strong> Nearest Post Code SO43 7HL. Map Ref SU 2295 1217. From Lyndhurst, take the A337 towards Cadnam. Drive under the motorway towards Brook on the B3078. Turn left towards Fritham &amp; Stone Cross on Forest Road. Drive past the Fritham turn then turn right towards Linwood. The car park is about 1 mile on the right.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th December</td>
<td><strong>Millyford Bridge Car Park.</strong> Nearest Post Code is unreliable. Grid Reference SU 257/4 07877. From Lyndhurst go to Emery Down. Turn left by The New Forest Inn (Post Code SO43 7DY) towards Bolderwood, continue for 1 mile and the car park is on the right. Visit the Portuguese Fireplace during the walk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st January 2021</td>
<td><strong>Ashurst Camp Site.</strong> Nearest Post Code SO40 7AA. Map Reference SU 33148 10106. From Lyndhurst take the A35 to Ashurst. Park in the lay-by outside the camp site, where we will meet, which is just before The New Forest pub [don’t block the gate!], or park by the pub in the public car park which serves the pub &amp; rail station, which is free. If full, there is ample parking just over the railway bridge on the right for the station or on the left in a slip road. Please allow an extra few minutes for parking in case you need to park over the railway bridge. Please bring a face covering to wear in the car park and hand sanitizer. Well behaved dogs on short leads are welcome. All walks are at your own risk. We strongly recommend that you wear walking boots as paths can be muddy after rain.</td>
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We are open!

We would like to reassure all our patients that, in accordance with Government regulations, chiropractic services will remain open during these times of further restrictions.

Please be assured that if you have an appointment already or would like to book one, we are fully operational. We will still be following all our new protocols and the health and safety of our patients and staff remain our highest priority.

If you belong to a high-risk group for COVID please book a Telehealth appointment. Otherwise, please book an In-Clinic appointment. If you are unsure then please call and Matthew will be happy to advise accordingly.

We have made it easier than ever to book your appointment online

www.lyndhurstchiro.co.uk

but if you are unable to go online or cannot find a time that suits, give us a call on 023 8028 4666 and we shall do our best to accommodate you.

Thank you to all our patients for your continuing support.
We also look forward to the restrictions lifting so we can support all the wonderful businesses on our High Street that have been closed during November.

Finally, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas, whatever form it takes this year!

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Traditionally, December is the month of festivities, Christmas carols, bright Christmas lights, Christmas trees, decorations, presents, family gatherings and lots of seasonal cheer. Whilst the Christian message should never be lost, it has always been a season for family. But this year, things will be different for everyone and the entire nation. The coronavirus has taken its toll and most of us will have been affected by it, in one way or another. Nature, on the other hand, has benefitted from our lockdowns and the reduction in human activity has led to lots more different types of animal and bird sightings than ever before. We have even seen examples on national television and in the national press, of goats in Welsh town centres and deer uncommonly moving into suburbia, as there has been far less human activity around.

December also sees our nation’s favourite bird, the robin, plastered all over Christmas cards, wrapping paper and all sorts. So, let us have a quick look at this colourful and small cheery bird. Firstly, both sexes are hugely territorial and can fight to the death or serious injury to protect their patch. Their red chest feathers act as a warning to other robins, rather than an attraction sign for potential mates! Both sexes look the same and in general, they use their colourful chest feathers and beautiful song to warn off intruders. If their vivid red chest was considered their war paint, then their song is considered to be their battle cry. It is estimated that up to ten per cent of robins die in combat. So, not quite so nice? But their endearing quality is their ability to befriend us, whilst we potter around our gardens. This is not usually because they are any tamer than many other birds, it is all about food supply and survival.
If we have established feeding stations in our gardens and sudden cold spells in our weather patterns, then we will see many different bird species appear at this time of year and in some reasonable numbers. The commonest and most expected visitors will be the titmice; with blue tits, great tits and long-tailed tits in abundance, and very often travelling in flocks, for safety and sourcing food items, chattering away to let the flock know that the pickings are good. But several other species have also learnt to adapt around feeding stations and bird tables, and these include; greenfinches, bullfinches, siskins, dunnocks, house sparrows and starlings; many clinging upside-down in a clumsy fashion to feed or get to that final tasty morsel that has been overlooked. Also, in December and with winter progressing further south, we will start to see the arrival of the winter thrushes. These are the redwing and fieldfare, and like our native blackbird, they feed on berries and fruit, with the fieldfare, the larger of these thrushes, also feeding on the ground for worms, insects, and invertebrates.

So, whatever birds or animals you do manage to see in December and over Christmas, in your gardens, in your local parks, or whilst you are just out and about, on behalf of us all at the RSPB, we hope that they prove delightful and spectacular. Currently, like many other organisations, we have had to suspend our programme of events. But we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a much happier New Year. For any further information on anything nature-related within the New Forest and Hampshire, or for more details about joining our local RSPB Members Group, then please do email us at NewForestGroup@rspb.org.uk. Regular updates and news articles are also available for your perusal on the Group’s website at www.rspb.org.uk/groups/newforest

Keith Partridge, RSPB New Forest Group Leader

(Photos courtesy of the writer and Member Chris Robinson)
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Many thanks to all our community for supporting your local village in such strange times! ❤️
A very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to everyone!

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‘Keeping Distance Should Bring Us Together’

I can’t count the number of times I have heard folk in the church and wider community say, “I don’t know what Christmas will be like this year.” Everyone of course hopes that it would be different but no-one is sure just how different it will be. At the time of going to press, we would normally be giving you information about our Christmas Services. Unfortunately, we are unable to give any definite answers to questions about what Christmas Services will be taking place at St Michael’s, Lyndhurst, Christ Church in Emery Down including Bank and Allum Green, and All Saints in Minstead.

We are expecting to be worshipping again in all Parish Churches on 6th December with Sunday Morning services through the Advent and Christmas Seasons. During the first week of December we will be reviewing what services we are permitted to have and what measures will be required to ensure that everyone is safe.

We do have some exciting Christmas options which will be published on the Benefice Website www.newforestparishes.com, on noticeboards in the church yards and via our Church Office - Call 02380 283175 or email communications@newforestparishes.com. Please keep a look out for information about our services and events, remembering that it will be necessary for you to book for any of the services via our website.

In our own community, we can still support those who are isolated and help feed those who struggle to put meals on their tables. In the Benefice, please continue to support the Lyndhurst Food Bank. We have some exciting initiatives planned for the new year which will provide meals for those who would welcome them. More news to follow, so watch this space.

Our prayer is not only that you will have the best Christmas possible and discover the joy that can be shared with those who are strangers in our community but who ought not to be. At a time when we are asked to keep our distance, we pray that we will grow closer together.

At a time when God and those he had made could be no further apart, he sent His Son to reconcile the world to himself, and there is no time like the present to believe that in Christ, we can all be close again.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Grace and peace,

Revd David

The Benefice Office,
St Michael & All Angels Church,
High Street, Lyndhurst SO43 7BD.

www.newforestparishes.com
Open weekdays 9.30-11.30 - 02380 283175
CHRISTMAS PUDDING TRUFFLES

Simple to make but a little messy on the hands.

Prep time: 20 mins.
Cooking time: 10 mins.
Chilling time: 45 mins.
Makes: Approx. 40 - 20g truffles (You can use half ingredients for approx. 20)

INGREDIENTS

750g Christmas pudding (or fruitcake)
100g dark chocolate
30g unsalted butter
2 tbsp brandy (optional)
200g white chocolate, chopped
Red glace cherries, chopped for the berries (I used 2 for my 40)
Green glace cherries, quartered and thinly sliced for the leaves (I used 4 for my 40)
(alternatively, you could substitute the glace cherries with coloured fondant)

METHOD

1. Break up Christmas pudding (I bought local on special offer) and place in the bowl of a food processor. Blitz until it forms coarse crumbs.... If you don't have a food processor you will have to crumble the pudding as finely as you can.

2. Place the chopped dark chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl and place bowl over a saucepan of simmering water... make sure bottom of bowl does not come into contact with the water. Continually stir until the ingredients melt together and the mixture becomes smooth. Remove from heat. Add the Christmas pudding crumbs and the brandy (if used) and stir to combine.

3. Now for the messy part. Roll the mixture into balls in your hands... (I weighed mine into 20g balls but you could make them a tablespoon size) and place on a tray lined with baking parchment. Put tray into a refrigerator to chill for 45 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, place the chopped white chocolate in a heatproof bowl and place bowl over a saucepan of simmering water, again make sure bottom of bowl does not touch the water. Continually stir until the chocolate melts and becomes smooth. Use a teaspoon (or if you prefer a piping bag) to drizzle the melted white chocolate over the chilled truffles, and decorate with slices of cherries. (I used two toothpicks to apply cherries.)

Return to refrigerator until required.

Dorothy Leamon
Hatchet Pond is a special place.....

This small, shallow lake is the most wildlife rich remaining in lowland England, and home to almost 90% of the rarest wetland plants in the UK. Many species found here have long since become extinct from other parts of the country.

Plant-life

Stoneworts are a unique group of complex algae that typically grow in fresh water that is clear and unpolluted. Of the 28 species of these plants 10 can be found in the New Forest and Hatchet Pond is an important area for these plants.

Coral necklace is a rare flowering plant with long trailing red stems and clusters of white flowers resembling beads threaded along a necklace. With the widespread loss of heathlands across the UK it is now only found in a few areas including here in the New Forest.

Pillwort is a small creeping fern with grass-like leaves with tiny round spore cases or ‘pills’ at its base. In decline across Western Europe and lost from nearly half of its known locations in the UK, it is widespread in the New Forest making it one of the most important populations in Europe.

Marsh clubmoss is an endangered plant that has already been lost from much of Europe with the UK now holding a large part of the global population. Its long spikey stems are a distinctive bright, lime green in colour and grow up to 20cms long.
Wildlife

The New Forest is home to 75% of all species of dragonflies and damselflies and Hatchet Pond is one of the most important water bodies for many of these including the extremely rare southern damselfly.

Hatchet Pond is home to great crested newts, the UK’s largest newt species with adults growing up to 17cms long. Known as warty newts or little dinosaurs due to their distinctive crest, they are a protected and priority species across Europe.

The mighty medicinal leech is found in just five water bodies in the New Forest. The largest of all leeches it can grow up to 20cms long. It uses its three jaws and 100 teeth to feed on amphibians and the occasional snack on a New Forest pony.

The Pond also supports a wide range of wildlife who visit it to mate, lay eggs, feed, or source water, especially during the dry summer months. These include reptiles, amphibians, snakes and bats, as well of course visits from the New Forest ponies and other livestock who roam freely across the Forest.
A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1) Who stole Christmas?
2) Name Father Christmas’s reindeer.
3) Which popular Christmas beverage is also called “milk punch?”
4) How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
5) What did my true love send me on the eighth day of Christmas?
6) Who sang about a “Blue Christmas”?
7) In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born in?
8) In the film “Home Alone” where are his parents going when Kevin is left behind?
9) Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in The Polar Express?
10) In Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?
11) What did Frosty The Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?
12) What was eaten later after “Rockin' around the Christmas tree”?
13) Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
14) In the song “Winter Wonderland,” what do we call the snowman?
15) In the movie Elf, what was the first rule of The Code of Elves?
16) How many gifts in total were given in “The Twelve Days of Christmas” song?
17) How do you say “Merry Christmas” in Spanish? In French? In German?
18) What was Frosty the Snowman’s nose made out of?
19) What was the first company that used Santa Claus in advertising?
20) How many reindeer are featured in the poem “Twas the Night Before Christmas”?
21) According to the folklore of Austria and other countries, what horned Figure punishes naughty children at Christmastime?
22) What well-known Christmas carol became the first song ever broadcast from space in 1965?
23) What holiday movie sequel includes a cameo by Donald Trump?
24) What would you be drinking if you had ‘Glühwein’?
25) What dish was served by Mrs. Cratchit in A Christmas Carol? Also mentioned in the song We Wish You a Merry Christmas?
26) The first what was sent in 1843?
27) Who invented the Christmas Cracker?
28) Why is the day after Christmas called Boxing Day?
29) What was ‘Glove Money’?
30) What name is given to the liturgical season leading up to Christmas?
31) Since 1947, which country has given the people of London a Christmas tree every year and why?
32) Who popularised the Christmas tree in England?
33) According to John Lennon’s “Happy Xmas”, what was over?
34) According to Wham, what was given last Christmas?
35) All Mariah Carey wants for Christmas is _?
36) Who was seen kissing Santa?
37) Which two singers organised Band Aid’s “Do they know it’s Christmas”?
38) For which poverty-stricken country did Band Aid raise money?
39) Joseph Mohr wrote the words for “Stille Nacht”. What nationality was he and by what name do we know this carol?
40) Twelfth night is the eve of which Feast?

A Very Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year!

Ian Burnham

Answers on Page 45
Behind the Scene!
By David K Wilson

I heard some worrying news today
So I checked if it was true
I found it was it troubles me
Whatever shall I do?
Santa caught a cold this year
But it wasn’t a cold it was the virus I fear
And it’s left poor Santa in a state
In fact he’s running late!

Making matters even worse
His memory’s slipped a tad
He’s lost his sleigh it’s gone today
It’s really all quite sad
He’s put on too much weight this year
Too many sweet mince pies
And he’s knocking back the sherry
That he brought home, now he’s high!

And Rudolf slipped up on a pie
He broke his reindeer knee
To match his nose he’s got a new peg leg
Bright red it came for free
Santa’s little helpers
They’ve worked all through the year
And with bits and pieces odds and ends
A brand new sleigh’s appeared

It’s bigger and it’s wider
Santa’s seat now twice the size
It’s made to fit New Santa
With his mince pie shaped backside
The cakes the pies and turkey
Really took their toll
But the time draws ever closer
For Santa to rock and roll

This year Santa has a phone
He hates the long cold nights alone
Google maps now point the way
No child will miss out Christmas day
But please just leave out water
Or tea (no sugar please!)
Perhaps a grape or apple slice
He’ll groan but I’ll be pleased

Then if he finds his old sleigh
He’ll fit inside once more
He’s had it years its comfortable
He parks it by the door
I beg of you don’t spoil him
He’ll take it out on me!
And I wont get a Christmas treat
‘Nor will the family!

Not even poor Rudolf!
But I plan to shave his beard off
While he’s fast asleep
Christmas Eve he can glue it back
Mustn’t make the children weep
Designer stubble suits him
A young man he will be
I’ve already purchased his tight red jeans
What a Santa he will be!

I heard some worrying news today
So I checked if it was true
Santa’s knocking back the sherry (hic!)
Whatever shall I do?

Wishing You A Very Happy Christmas
Mrs Claus!

David K Wilson
October 31st 2020
What’s On at the Centre during December

Due to the recent lockdown, events at the Centre have been a bit disrupted. It would be best if you could contact your class organiser direct for up to date information or phone the Centre to see if your class/event is running. Thank you.

Line Dancing—Charlotte Dawson—07932 620758

Centre Art Group – Mo 023 8081 2617

Table Tennis
Malcolm and Lotty—07946 064878

Tai chi— Please contact Brockenhurst College 01590 625555 (classes resuming in January)

Yoga—Linda Dent— 07586 310597 (No classes during December)

Zumba Gold with Zoe —07752 407116

Lyndhurst Healthy Walks—Christina cke.walkingforhealth@gmail.com.
Jan—01425 482773
Our Guest Speaker will be Jeremy Prescott who will talk about the Miracle Flower – the Poppy, tracking its significance in remembrance of the fallen from Capt. John McCrae’s iconic poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ to the poppy display at the Tower of London.

**********

The following meeting will be on 13th January 2021; the speaker will be Colin van Geffen who will talk about the Red Arrows, looking at the introduction and development of formation and display flying then focussing on the selection and training of the pilots.

**********

During these difficult times many of our interest groups are not able to meet but when we are able to we offer


Please note, none of our monthly meetings are being held at Lyndhurst Community Centre. We are having virtual meetings on Zoom. We look forward to being able to welcome new members, hopefully in the near future.
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Happy Houseplants!

Now that we’re all spending more time than ever inside our homes, many of us are missing our gardens. The light fades quickly at this time of year and the rainbow colours of summer are almost a distant memory.

But, now as winter approaches, we can reintroduce a splash of colour or something a little more tropical, with indoor houseplants. They were ‘all the rage’ back in the 1970’s and 80’s but then became a bit unfashionable and neglected. Yet, in an ever changing world, where gardens are shrinking and more of us than ever are working from home, they have once again risen in popularity. The bottle gardens and terrariums are back!

By looking after and nurturing houseplants, we can experience the same sort of enjoyment and wellbeing as outside gardening. Houseplants are often simple to grow and care for, and most are relatively inexpensive. Some even produce ‘baby’ offshoots that can be potted up. Research has shown that they benefit both our physical and mental health. They can improve mood and concentration levels, whilst lowering stress levels and blood pressure. Just by looking at their colour and shapes, houseplants allow our eyes and brains to rest and reset our thoughts. They can also improve the air quality in our home environments by trapping pollutants. During winter, we often stay inside more and ventilate our homes less, so introducing houseplants is definitely worth considering.

Houseplants come in a variety of forms, from the simple foliage of the popular Spider Plant, through to Ferns, Bonsai, Succulents and the exotic Orchids. They range in height, colour and rates of growth, so you can always find one that suits your needs.

It’s always worth checking that the variety you choose is safe for your family and pets, as some can be toxic. Some are hardier than others and some require less maintenance. Most grow in compost suitable for indoor houseplants, but Orchids need a special Orchid medium so they can drain more easily. There is often plenty of advice on houseplant labels, or there is more online to help you make the right choice.
A few simple rules will keep your houseplants thriving year after year:

- Check their light requirements, as these can vary, especially if you’re looking for a plant for a particular room. Rubber Plants for example grow well in dim light conditions. However, some houseplants prefer bright, but often indirect light, as their foliage can scorch.

- Be careful with watering. The general rule of thumb is that you should only water if the top of the soil feels dry. Houseplants such as Succulents and Cacti may only need watering when the soil is completely dry. Some plants may require a gentle ‘mist’ every so often. It’s important not to overwater any indoor houseplant or leave them standing in water. Most do not like water directly on their foliage or flowers.

- You can use water soluble or slow release fertilisers for general maintenance, but it’s important not to overfeed as this can kill houseplants.

- It’s important to consider the indoor temperature needed for your houseplant, as many foliage houseplants are tropical evergreens. Some may also need to be repositioned at different times of the year.

So, with Christmas just around the corner, how about considering giving a houseplant as a present to family or friends this year. One that will bring much joy, health benefits and add a little ‘pop’ of colour or fragrance at winter time. You may prefer the traditional Christmas favourites such as Hyacinths, Paperwhite Narcissus and Cyclamens. But, how about considering something a little different and longer lasting this December. Maybe, a colourful Purpleleaf False Shamrock, an Asplenium ‘Crispy Wave’ Fern, trendy Air Plants or Succulents such as Echeveria, the choice is yours! The local florists, garden centres or online suppliers will be grateful for your support too.

Wishing you and your families a very safe and happy Christmas.
Here’s to a brighter 2021 for one and all!

Bridget—Go Botanical
I HOPE THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU Safe AND WELL? WHAT A STRANGE AND DIFFICULT YEAR 2020 HAS PROVEN TO BE, STILL IS FOR THAT MATTER, NOT LEAST OF ALL FOR FOLS. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO HOLD ANY OF OUR USUAL MEETINGS OR EVENTS WITH “ZOOM” NOT REALLY PROVING A SUITABLE PLATFORM FOR US.

THIS YEAR, ALONG WITH MOST CHARITIES, WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES VERY RESTRICTED, PARTICULARLY IN THE PLANNING AND HOLDING OF OUR TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND CONCERT.

FOR MANY YEARS NOW FOLS HAVE ERECTED A PRAYER AND WISH TREE IN ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS’ CHURCH, FOR THOSE WISHING TO PLACE A PERSONAL MESSAGE OR PRAYER OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

THIS YEAR WE ARE UNABLE TO PROCEED DUE OF COURSE TO COVID 19, BUT WE DO PLAN TO PLACE A SIMILAR TREE IN LYNDHURST HIGH STREET.

OUR THANKS GO TO LYNDHURST WORKMENS’ CLUB, THE VILLAGE LIGHTS COMMITTEE, AND TO FORESTRY ENGLAND FOR THEIR HELP.

WE HOPE YOU TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND ENJOY THE FOLS TREE AND THAT IT PLAYS ITS OWN SMALL PART IN LYNDHURST’S CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DECORATIONS 2020.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DECORATING THE FOLS TREE, SIMPLY WRITE A BRIEF WORD ON ANY COLOURED TAG OF YOUR CHOICE (IN THE BOX PROVIDED) AND HANG ON THE TREE. PERHAPS ALSO SAYING YOUR OWN PRIVATE PRAYER WHILST DOING SO.

OF COURSE WE’D LOVE YOUR HELP THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, AND WITH THIS IN MIND YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TOWARDS FOLS WORK OF SUPPORTING LYNDHURST SURGERY. IF SO, PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATION IN A SEALED ENVELOPE, DROPPING IT INTO LYNDHURST SURGERY AT ANY TIME.

PLEASE MARK CHEQUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF DAVID WILSON, FOLS. (Cheques made payable to Friends of Lyndhurst Surgery)

THANK YOU AND A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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Chair
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Event information for Members only.  
But membership is available to all, so why not join?  
Remember as Club Members you can ask to use the gardens and the Club facilities for your functions, such as anniversaries, parties, wakes, etc.

The President, Officers and Committee wish their Staff and all their Members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

They wish to extend this message to all the Lyndhurst and neighbourhood residents.

To all Members: We will keep you updated with our opening hours during the pandemic via email so anyone that would like to be added to the mailing list please email lyndhurstnondescripts@live.co.uk.
Lyndhurst Neighbourcare

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Due to Covid-19 Lyndhurst Neighbourcare is no longer able to operate because we have no active drivers under the age of 70.

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FOR to us a child is born,  
a son is GIVEN

A long time ago now. One of our early experiences of tiling a bathroom. It was in the days 
when there were no sophisticated cutting tools and wasted tiles covered the floor like bomb 
damage. It tried the patience (of a saint) in the way that technology does today. Screams of 
frustration filled the summer evening air. What did the neighbours think?  
The worst of it was that my hands were plastered in a thick grey cement-like adhesive that I 
simply could not remove. Endless washing had no effect. It took days to wear off and I felt 
highly self-conscious. Most of us (adults) I suggest, like to have clean hands.  

“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in the Holy place? The one who 
has clean hands and a pure heart . . . “ (Psalm 24)  

While our hands are on constant display, we can, of course, hide the state of our hearts from 
the world’s gaze.  
It is December again and Christmas – in some form. I hope that, this year, folk will be more 
open to hear about the real reason for it all. The cards, the decorations, the presents and food 
are all very enjoyable – and we need cheer more than ever – but oh, please don’t miss the 
message: one priceless, precious gift was given - a baby who would be God’s PRESENCE in 
our world. He was already somebody’s son before his birth - GOD gave this gift and it was 
His best gift, His only son.  

It was the beginning of a rescue mission that would end up with a cross but then a resurrection 
– for the child, Jesus, would one day defeat death for us so we don’t have to be defeated by it.  
He rose so we can rise. His hands were clean and His heart was pure and He came to wash us 
because nobody else can take away what is wrong with us, what is dirty about us. It’s a far cry 
from reindeer in the snow and Father Christmas sliding down the chimney.  

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Hebrews 2)  

After the resurrection came the ascension: Jesus went back to where he came from and He is 
there now, speaking on behalf of those who believe in him. The Bible says that one day we 
will have to ‘ascend the mountain’ and ‘stand in the holy place’ to present our hands and heart 
before God for His inspection . His judgement. But Jesus will be there to claim us – if we 
claim him now. We can take nothing in our hands, except the word ‘FORGIVEN’ on our 
palms.
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There’s Still Time to Order the Turkey
Once again, Paul Tanner of Lymington will be our main turkey supplier and he assures me that the quality this year will be as good as ever. Local producer Paul has been supplying the Farm Shop with turkeys and geese for the last ten years; his birds are ethically managed free-range or barn-reared birds. Paul is highly regarded in farming circles, and his produce is of the best possible quality. The turkeys are traditional slow growing strains which take longer to mature; different sizes are available to suit everyone. If you wish to discuss your Christmas order please feel free to pop in or call for a chat – don’t forget, we can organise your veggies for the big day too, (as well as cheese, mince pies, chocolate, and all sorts of other Christmas goodies), so you can have these ready to pick up at your convenience. The turkey order book will stay open until Saturday 12th December 2020.

Great Game
Why not try a venison joint instead of turkey this year? Alternatively, our local butchers have put together some different ideas for the Christmas table such as pheasant, partridge, duck, or even a mix of all three, oven-ready, and easy to cook.

Brilliant for Boxing Day
My favourite meal of the festive season is the Boxing Day lunch with cold meats, pickles, and cheeses. Why not try a delicious gammon joint – smoked or unsmoked, the choice is yours - we’ll have lots of sizes to choose from, and of course, our huge range of locally sourced cheeses, chutneys and pickles will have you spoilt for choice.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
We close at 1pm 24.12.20 and open again on Tuesday 05.01.21

Farm Shop e-newsletter
For a full & extended version of this month’s article, sign up to the e-newsletter on our website.
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HEDGEHOGS NEED OUR HELP

Winter is approaching so I thought it would be helpful if I passed on my own experiences with hedgehogs. Especially in ways you can make your garden more friendly, and in some cases less dangerous, to hedgehogs. After all, these friends of the gardener need all the help they can get as extinction is a very real threat. Their numbers have declined from an estimated 30 million in 1950’s to around a million now. The main causes are road kill, pesticides, and loss of habitat.

At this time of the year hedgehogs should trying to gain weight ready for their winter hibernation. They need all the help they can get as there is such a decline in insect numbers, their main diet. Please put food out for them if you can, but not dairy or wet dog/cat food.

Buy a Feeding Station from hedgehog rescue places - a great way to help their funds, or make it yourself using your imagination as long as there are 2 holes the size of a CD, and either a tunnel leading up to the entrance or a division inside to prevent predation. I was given this as a present because at the beginning of the summer 2019 a hedgehog was feeding regularly from the spillage under our bird feeder, shared with squirrels and deer, consisting of sunflower seeds. But then tragically one night when I went out to walk the dog before bed there was a very strange noise just behind the bird feeder like a loud grunting. It was too dark to see what it was. I rushed inside with the dog to get a torch, but when I came out again it was too late. The noise became piercing screams and whatever it was ran away when I ran towards it. I couldn’t find anything anywhere but a few days later there was the dead hedgehog in the forest near us. I learnt the importance of using a feeding station for their safety.

My husband cleverly made a hedgehog house but there are commercial varieties available. We are on the edge of the forest, so there were plenty of habitats under piles of logs and we had also created piles from sticks and branches that we cut back from our garden. It would be very cosy, safe and dry underneath these places where we hoped a hedgehog or two might like to hibernate during the winter. Remember the importance of checking for hedgehogs under piles of garden waste before you bonfire (if possible don’t have bonfires in the autumn or winter – actually they are very bad for the environment and air pollution).
Last autumn a dear little hedgehog juvenile kept appearing in the evening on our path. It looked too small to last the winter, so we picked it up using gloves and weighed it. It was well under 600gms and would not survive the winter. These are most certainly born to a second litter when food is in short supply. The decision to rescue them has to be weighed against the stress that any wild animal will feel if kept captive. I contacted The British Hedgehog Preservation Society to be directed to someone near me who could take care of her, and she was named after me, an easy way to remember where she came from. There she stayed, fed and weighed, and winterized with 70 other hedgehogs, a record number with so many young ones born too late to gain the right amount of weight.

In May this year I began to prepare for Suzy to come back. Then I heard that she would not be ready to come back for a couple more weeks – she needed a course of antibiotic injections as she had sadly picked up lung worm from a slug. Meanwhile I had bought hedgehog pellets for the feeding station, being dry it doesn’t rot their teeth, has all the goodness they need and also doesn’t attract rats (sunflower seeds are not such a good thing at all as lack goodness). I made another feeding station from old sleepers that happened to be piled together as we had another large hedgehog in the garden. I put water down in a shallow bowl and every other day cleaned it as the birds were also enjoying it. I also dug a small pond remembering to cover the hole at night until it was finished. They can even fall in a small hole as their eyesight is not good.

A pond is great for all wildlife and means there will always be water. I made sure there was a shallow end and steps for the hedgehogs to get out if they fell in.
I had stacked up leaves underneath the hedge to create a safe place for them too. Then I left a wild area, with bug houses so they would have plenty of insects to eat which is their main diet; beetles, spiders and other small insects, preferring these to slugs.
I finally brought her back and was asked to spoil her after all she had been through and all the care. It felt almost as though she would be my pet, I would keep her safe in our hedgehog house in our garden with food and water.

The next day she had scarpered. I was so sad but at least she was free as she should be. It was more than a month before she was seen again in our garden and neighbour’s garden where she was feeding under their bird feeder but unusually during the day, which is not a good sign. She seemed over active. Other neighbours had also seen her. We picked her up and examined her. She had no injury and was breathing ok. I let her go, it was kinder. I learnt that hedgehogs winterized in captivity when young may behave in confused way.

Not long after this I was devastated hearing screams in the night, knowing immediately it was her. Foxes, badgers, or even owls will attack them.

Good news was that in August we had another young hedgehog as well the large one, which we suspected was her hoglet. I began feeding them ready for the winter, determined to do everything I could to help this young one to gain enough weight for the winter. Every evening before dark I put out hedgehog food. Using charcoal on paper, or a damp sand tray to imprint any tracks made is a good way to make sure it is the hedgehog eating the food. Also, a wildlife camera will record not only hedgehogs but other visiting wildlife.

Keep them safe at night if you live in a built up area by driving slowly and watching out for them. The best thing you can do is get your neighbours to agree with you to put hedgehog sized holes in their fences to help them move around off-road, as it were, on their own hedgehog highway.

Keep your garden safe by remembering the perils of netting; they so easily get tangled in it if it lies on the ground. Strimmer injuries are very common, so please be aware where hedgehogs might be. Litter can cause harm too, for example elastic bands that often mistakenly fall from our post. The hedgehogs may become dangerously tangled in them, which can cut into their flesh and put their lives at risk.

How many hedgehogs in the Netley Marsh and Ashurst area and I wonder were seen this summer? Please report to me of any regular sightings or interesting stories you have on 02380292596.

Susie Laan
Christmas Quiz Answers


LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE is in need of an ACCOUNTS EXAMINER

Due to the retirement of our current honorary accounts examiner we are looking for a replacement to provide an examination of our annual accounts for presentation to our AGM in March.

Professional qualifications are not required but experience of accounting would be essential. The position would suit a retired accountant or similar.

If this is of interest please contact the office in the first instance.
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Christmas
Refuse and recycling collection dates

Black and clear sacks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal collection day</th>
<th>Revised collection day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 December 2020</td>
<td>Saturday 2 January 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1 January 2021</td>
<td>Saturday 2 January 2021</td>
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Glass collection box

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal collection day</th>
<th>Revised collection day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 December 2020</td>
<td>Saturday 2 January 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1 January 2021</td>
<td>Saturday 9 January 2021</td>
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</tbody>
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Your collection day remains the same unless listed above
Normal collections resume Monday 4 January 2021

Christmas recycling

**Six in the sack** - plastic bottles, tins, cans, aerosols, paper and cardboard. Greetings cards, sweet and biscuit tins can be recycled too.

**Remember** - gift wrapping paper, ribbons and bows can’t be recycled - if you cannot re-use them put them in your black rubbish sack.

Bad weather
Collection updates will be posted on newforest.gov.uk and 🌐newforestgov 🌐newforestDC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DIRECTORY</strong></th>
<th><strong>useful numbers and other contact details</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Lyndhurst Community Centre** | 023 8028 2267  
admin@lyndhurstcomm.org  
www.lyndhurstcomm.org |
| **Lyndhurst Parish Council** | clerk@lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk  
The council’s website has many useful links to other local organisations.  
www.lyndhurst-pc.gov.uk |
| **Lyndhurst Surgery** | 023 8028 2689  
www.lyndhurstsurgery.org.uk |
| **Midforest Vets** | 023 8028 2358 (inc. out of hours)  
www.midforestvets.co.uk |
| **Neighbourcare** | 0845 0945 818 |
| **Disability Information Service** | 01425 628750 (helpline) |
| **Citizens Advice Bureau** | 0844 411 1306  
www.citizensadvice.org.uk |
| **Churches** |  
Baptist Church | 023 8028 4426 |
| | Our Lady & St Edward (R.C.) | 023 8028 2011 |
| | St Michael & All Angels (CofE) | 023 8028 3175 |
| **Schools** |  
New Forest Small School | 023 8028 4415 |
| | St Michael & All Angels (Infants) | 023 8028 2244 |
| | Lyndhurst Pre-School | 023 8028 2986 |
| | New Forest Centre | 023 8028 3444 (office)  
023 8028 6153 (reference library)  
www.newforestcentre.org.uk |
| **New Forest National Park Authority** | 01590 646600  
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk |
| **New Forest District Council** | 023 8028 5000  
www.newforest.gov.uk |
| **Events listings** |  
Both the District Council and National Park websites have listings of events taking place in the local area.  
Other sites include:  
www.newforestexplorersguide.co.uk |

Lyndhurst Community Centre is run by the Lyndhurst and District Community Association, an independent charitable association. Charity number 301883

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