

### WHAT A BRILLIANT PANTO WEEKEND! 7TH & 8TH DECEMBER

*Escape from the Chocolate Factory!* written by our own talented playwright, Em, was another resounding success for the Cliddesden Players.

Our combined audiences numbered over 400 so many thanks to our friends, neighbours and families for coming along, supporting us and, in doing so, raising funds for our lovely Hall. We made you laugh, cry and groan, enticed you with Jo's festive mulled wine, hot sausage rolls, fruity mince pies, wine and ales. But, luckily, you still had the energy to sing *The 12 Days of Christmas* with gusto (thanks Ken and Ross) and left the Hall happy and ready for Christmas!

Our programme listed all the people we have to thank without whose efforts the show couldn't go on – all those behind the scenes, front-of-house, bar, refreshments, finance & 1st aid helpers – the list goes on, we really appreciate your support.

Many thanks to our creative set team who rose to the challenge of Darren asking for a marshmallow well, an incinerator shoot, a pop-up office and 6' candy trees! Sue scours the internet for the best deals on costumes and little props and I think Sugar's sequined outfit and wonderful butterfly wings were certainly a wow!



And of course, thanks to our actors who love to entertain and work SO hard. Will we ever know whether they deliberately on purpose forget their lines just to raise an extra laugh?

Sian, Tracey and the Brownies wish to say thank-you to all the hungry children & grown-ups who bought their delicious and oh-so-pretty refreshments at the matinee. Their fund raising made £162.60 which must be a record – well done!

Our charity collection for 'Crisis at Christmas', in exchange for a programme, made £141.38 so thank you for your generosity.

A special mention must go to Sophie Knight who sold wonderful home-made jams to raise funds for the homeless. She sold all her stock and £80 is going to Basingstoke's Night Shelter to help provide hot meals between Christmas and the New Year for their guests. Sophie is going to meet the staff after Christmas and present her donation.

*continued page 2...*

### DIARY DATES

#### January

- 2 Parish Council Meeting VH
- 3 Film Night Village Hall
- 14 Coffee Morning Village Hall
- 17 WI Meeting
- 31 Horticultural Soc Talk VH

#### February

- 7 Film Night Village Hall
- 16 Defibrillator Training VH

### REGULAR EVENTS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

#### Art Classes

- Tuesdays 12pm & 7.30-9.30pm
- Wednesdays 10-12pm & 1-3pm

ATWAS Drama Group  
for 8 to 15-year-olds  
Fridays 4 to 5.30pm  
maz.pennington@gmail.com  
for details

**Brownies** Tuesdays 5 to 6.15pm

**Coffee Morning** 2nd Monday of each month 10.30am to 12pm

**Playgroup** Friday mornings – 11am to 12noon (term time)

**Zumba** Mondays 7.45 to 8.45pm  
Wednesdays – 7.30 to 8.30pm

### NEWSLETTER COPY DATE

20th preceding month

Please send to Editor at  
bootofthedaybeast@gmail.com



### Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 2nd January 7.30pm

Everyone is warmly invited to attend

### Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Electoral review of Basingstoke and Deane

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/electoral-review>

The recommended changes to Ward boundaries continue to mean Upton Grey and the Candovers will be split and Cliddesden will be part of a new 'Basing & Upton Grey' Ward. However the planned implementation has been postponed for a year with all Wards Councillors to stand for election in May 2020.

### Highways – drainage

Gullies in Fairleigh Road were reported as cleared by Highways' Contractor 19th November. Any information / feedback re Highways maintenance appreciated.

## Planning

### Parish Planning Applications

18/03642/GPDE (Validated 13 Dec 2018) 10 Hackwood Lane, Cliddesden. Prior notification for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension.

18/03426/RET (Validated 13 Dec 2018) 5 Hackwood Lane, Cliddesden. Erection of 1.15 metre high front boundary fence and 1.8 metre side boundary fence following removal of hedges (retrospective).

T/00467/18/TCA (**Granted** 18th Dec 2018) The Well House, Farleigh Road, Cliddesden. T1 Aspen: fell. T2 Poplar: reduce to 10m in height.

18/03172/FUL (**Refused** 21st Dec 2018) Land At Langdale, Woods Lane, Cliddesden. Erection of a detached dwelling and new access (between plots 3 and 4 approved under 18/01162/FUL).

18/03178/HSE (**Granted** 13th December) 3 Chapel Walk Cliddesden. Erection of a single storey rear extension.

18/02991/ROC (**Awaiting Decision**, Validated 10 Oct 2018) Land At Langdale, Woods Lane, Cliddesden. Variation of condition 1 of permission 18/01162/FUL to amend the plan numbers (location plan and site plan) to allow redefining of the boundaries for plots 3 and 4.

*To be decided by Development Control Committee – meeting of Wednesday 9th January.*

### M3 J6 Moto Application

17/03487/FUL (**Pending** Validated 2 Nov 2017) Land Adjacent To Junction 6 M3 Basingstoke.

Construction of a new Motorway Service Area to comprise an amenity building, lodge, drive thru coffee unit, associated car, coach, motorcycle, caravan, HGV and abnormal load parking, and a fuel filling station with retail shop, together with alterations to the adjoining roundabout on the M3 and slip roads to form an access point and works to the highway. Provision of landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works. Agreed expiry date 31st January 2019.

### Inwood Copse Application for Seasonal Campsite

17/04222/FUL (**Withdrawn** 27th September 2018) Land At OS Ref 460885 146376 Inwood Copse Farleigh Lane. Change of use of land to a seasonal campsite, etc.



### Cliddesden Neighbourhood Plan Facebook Group

Social media is just one of the ways in which we can engage with you and give out ongoing important information and notices.

Thank you to all those who have joined.. and if you have not yet done so please for 2019 join our Facebook group and share your opinions and ideas.

## cont... **WHAT A BRILLIANT PANTO WEEKEND! 7TH & 8TH DECEMBER**

The expenses at the Hall continue to rise so the money raised by the Players twice a year is invaluable. This year our panto profit was £3,046.50 – AMAZING! That's more than the past two years but not quite a record. So we are delighted and thank you all for buying tickets.

All that's left to say is we hope you have a happy & healthy New Year and go and put SUMMER PLAY 14TH & 15TH JUNE on your new calendar NOW!

**Best wishes**

**From the Cliddesden Players**



# AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) TRAINING

**Saturday 16th February 9.30 - 11am**  
**Cliddesden Village Hall**

This is a most important short course which could save lives!

We have an AED in the phone box at the pond – but would you know how to use it in an emergency?

Do you know how to carry out CPR which has to be performed alongside the equipment?

Debra Murr from 'be first aid ready' will be delivering an hour and a half of training on using the defibrillator with basic life support, that is how to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

- Role of 1st Aider
- Casualty examination
- Basic Life Support
- Using the defibrillator/safety precautions



The cost is £10 per person and places are limited, so please contact me to reserve your place as soon as possible.

Angie Fewster

01256 475848 [angie@fewster.me.uk](mailto:angie@fewster.me.uk)



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

I trust you have all had a good festive break and the Trustees thank everyone for their support in 2018 and wish all the Hall users a Happy New Year.

A brief update on news this month and a look forward to 2019.

The Christmas Panto was a triumph yet again and a tremendous thank you to the Cliddesden Players for all their hard work which supports the Hall financially and the Village socially. Hopefully by the time the newsletter is published we will have some photos on our Facebook page.

As most of you know, last year was very busy with the building of a new external storage facility, funded by grants from BDBC Local Infrastructure Fund, the Veolia Environmental Trust and Hampshire County Council's Community Building Capital Fund.

Progress has been good, with thanks to Colin and his team at CLW, and we are looking forward to opening and using the building sometime soon. Fund raising continues and hopefully more detailed news next month.

More on fundraising... our thanks go to Alison Hood who organised the Craft Fayre at the Hall at the end of last year, for donating £250 of the profit to Hall funds. Also, the personalised tiles put up in the Hall reception have raised about £700 for the new storage building (with thanks again going to Tracey at Pots-to-Doodle-Do for producing these at cost) and we still have space for a few more tiles. If you haven't got one yet but still want to, then contact Jo Capehorn on 07528 856157 or via [thecapehorns@me.com](mailto:thecapehorns@me.com).

A reminder that 100 Club subscriptions will be due at the end of March. This is a great way to raise funds for the Hall with each ticket costing only £1 per month with half the money raised going to the Hall and the remainder paid out monthly in the form of three prizes, so please remember to contact Rose Beevers on 01256 475944 or via [100club@cliddesdenhall.org.uk](mailto:100club@cliddesdenhall.org.uk) to join, renew or increase your holding.

The coming year will hopefully be a bit more 'normal' for the Trustees, with a long-overdue focus on our social media presence with work on our website and logo. Again, more on this in the next *Newsletter*, but if anyone is interested in assisting on this front then please get in touch.

*Remember to visit the Hall's website at [www.cliddesdenhall.org.uk](http://www.cliddesdenhall.org.uk) and Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CliddesdenVillageHall](https://www.facebook.com/CliddesdenVillageHall) for the latest news, photos and events at the Hall.*

Greg Mendelsohn

Village Hall Management Committee  
[chair@cliddesdenhall.org.uk](mailto:chair@cliddesdenhall.org.uk)



# CLIDDESSEN, FARLEIGH WALLOP & ELLISFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



*Horticultural Society News for  
January 2019*

*Hello from Claire! Happy New Year!*

*Hopefully by now you've had time to  
rest and recuperate from Christmas*

Mrs Boland is having a rest this month  
(over indulged on the home-made sloe  
gin) so the RHS is my source of  
inspiration...

## ...TOP 10 JOBS FOR JANUARY

It's now time to prepare your garden for  
the coming season, and, of course, to  
start thinking about the Spring Show,  
April 7th... how time flies!

The RHS list these as your top 10 jobs  
for January... Seems like a lot?? See  
what you can cross off without doing  
anything - I've managed 1/5/6/10.

1. Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
2. Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
3. Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
4. Disperse worm casts in lawns
5. Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out
6. Prune apple and pear trees
7. Start forcing rhubarb
8. Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
9. Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
10. Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl.



Thanks again to Chris Madden

## WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

*Our first meeting of the New Year!*

### **31st January 7.45pm at Cliddesden Millennium Hall THE ROSES OF MOTTISFONT ABBEY - THOMAS STONE**

We can look forward to a fascinating talk from Thomas Stone. Mr Stone was born on Mottisfont Abbey and his father was Head Gardener there. With his wealth of experience I'm sure we will all find something to grab our imagination.

The Abbey isn't too far away, for those who haven't been there, the address is Mottisfont Abbey, Nr Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0LP.

### **28TH March 7.45pm at Cliddesden Millenium Hall CORSICA MOUNTAINS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - MIKE READ**

Our March speaker is freelance nature photographer Mike Read, who comes from Ringwood. He uses his love of photography and nature to bring the places he visits to life. I think we are in for a stunning journey through the Corsican mountains.

*Our meetings are open to guests as well as members, so please  
do come along... See you on the 31st .*

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### **NOVEMBER 29TH AGM - SOCIAL EVENING AND QUIZ**

#### *Society News from the AGM*

The society is financially stable, and continues to find informative and fun speakers for our yearly programme, as well as organising the bi-yearly shows with the necessary judges.

Our thanks go to all members and guests who support us by attending these events throughout the year, without you we couldn't carry on.

Changes to committee membership  
After many years (I won't say just how many!) Julia Ayscough has stood down from the committee.

We can't thank Julia enough for her constant support; setting up for meetings and shows, walking round with judges, hosting committee meetings, as well as invaluable input regarding classes, ideas for garden visits, and speakers.

Please join us in welcoming Seamus Foster to the team.

As you probably already know, Seamus lives in Ellisfield, and with Debbie, his wife, is a regular at meetings and shows. We're looking forward to his input and fresh ideas. Thank-you Seamus for stepping up.

#### *AGM Quiz*

Do you know what a Saintpaulia is more commonly known as? Or tell the difference between layering and pleaching? If you can, then you should have been at the AGM!

After the usual notices and yearly updates, followed by delicious food & drink, we enjoyed a fun multiple-choice quiz, which tested our general knowledge, but not too much.

The general consensus was positive so we're looking forward to the next one already!

*The winners of the 'FIRST  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM  
QUIZ' were ...*

Eddie & Di Rampton  
Congratulations!



## NEWS OF ST LEONARD'S BUILDING WORK

*Work began on Monday 26 November to install drainage and water supply to the exciting project at St Leonard's.*

The first 10 days caused the most visible disruption to church access, so apologies for restricted access but the results will be well worth it. There will be work inside the church, but it will not impact on services.

Within six or seven weeks we will have a kitchenette, a toilet and re-arrangement of some pews. In addition to our AV system, this will greatly enhance the experience for services.

There have been some interesting activities associated with the work...

- Natural England undertook a bat survey, and we probably have some roosting sites in the roof, during the summer. They are in hibernation now, so the work can proceed.
- We have also had an archaeologist to supervise the digging for waste, water and electricity; he took custody of some remains uncovered and these were then reverently re-buried by him in the presence of Rev Stephen Mourant, who committed the remains to the ground.

To raise the necessary £84,000 we have worked hard at grants, fund raising, and have had some extremely generous donations, without which we would not have reached our target. We thank our major donors, All Churches Trust, Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust, Hampshire County Council and Garfield Weston for their generous support.

We will just about manage to pay for the project and then will have nothing left in the St Leonard's fund. We need to replace the vestry roof, which has been found to be in poor condition, and this work is not included in the cost. This means we will continue with our fund raising efforts with some imaginative events in 2019. We thank you for your support so far, and welcome your future support.

*We are keeping a photographic record of the work, and will make that available in due course.*

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

**Sunday 6th Jan 9.45am**  
Holy Communion (Common Worship)

**Sunday 13th Jan 11.15am**  
Family Communion

**Sunday 20th Jan 11.15am**  
Family Service

**Saturday 26th Jan 6pm**  
Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

**Sunday 3rd Feb 9.45am**  
Holy Communion (Common Worship)

## Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11-12 Term Time

We are back for the Autumn Term on September 7<sup>th</sup>

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups!

Join us for an hour of fun activities,  
sensory play, songs and stories.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look  
forward to you joining us.

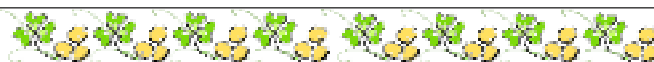
Cost: £2 per family



Contact:

Melanie Previous Pre-school Head (07833-528040)

Claire Qualified Teacher (01256-477197)



## 100 CLUB

Hello members

The draw for December was called at the Coffee Morning at the Village Hall on 10th December 2018. Here are the lucky winners

1st	243	Kathy Snook
2nd	80	Shelagh Trown
3rd	89	Jean Forbes

*Congratulations.*

**The next coffee morning is on  
Monday 14th January 2019.**

Rose Beevers Tel 475 944  
100club@cliddesdenhall.org.uk



CLIDDESSEN WI  
**NEXT MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 17TH JAN**

**'My Travels' – Speaker John Holden**

A new year will begin and anybody interested in the talk please come along you will be made most welcome.

Finally can I remind our members that our subscriptions are due in January please?

Diane Rampton Tel 01256 467533 dianerampton@btinternet.com

On 13th December we travelled over to Dummer Golf Club for our Christmas meal. Pauline, almost single-handedly, organised the event as she is a member there. The food was enjoyed by everybody and there was a lovely atmosphere. Oakley WI were also holding their Christmas meal at Dummer and so we joined together to do a quiz which they won – only just – as we had to have a tie-breaker. They had brought along the prize for the quiz and we donated all the raffle prizes. Christmas cards were also exchanged and I'm sure by the comments that I received everybody enjoyed the evening.

# SOCIAL AND ENTERTAINMENT CLUB

## CLIDDESSEN MILLENNIUM VILLAGE HALL



**Thursday 3 January – 'Ethel and Ernest' (2016) Certificate PG, 93 minutes**

Raymond Briggs' tribute to his parents' life together. A beautiful telling of a touching tale of the marriage of Briggs' parents from their first meeting to the end of their lives.

Directed by Roger Mainwood, Written and illustrated by Raymond Briggs in his unmistakable style. Voiced by Jim Broadbent, Pam Ferris, Luke Treadaway, Brenda Blethyn, Roger Allam, and June Brown. A wonderful little film.



**Thursday 7 February – 'Gran Torino' (2008) Certificate 15, 111 minutes**

Gran Torino is a drama film directed and co-produced by Clint Eastwood, who also starred in the film. This was Eastwood's first starring role since 2004's Million Dollar Baby. Eastwood's eldest son, Kyle, co-produced the score.

Eastwood plays a recently widowed Korean War veteran alienated from his family and angry at the world.

Gran Torino grossed nearly \$270 million worldwide against a budget of \$33M.

A great film, demonstrating Eastwood's breadth of experience and skill in all areas of film-making even to the extent that Malpaso Productions, the company that Eastwood helped to found was involved in the production of the film. This is a long way from the Spaghetti Westerns that launched Clint Eastwood's film career.

You'll be sure of a warm welcome and a great evening at the cinema without adverts, rusting crisp packets, buckets of smelly popcorn, and slurping coke cups.

Screenings take place in Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall. The bar opens at 7.30pm (please don't arrive too early as we need time to set up the equipment), we start at 8pm. There is an intermission half-way through during which ice creams are available and the bar is open.

Subscription is only £2 per person per evening, with no membership fee. Please do remember to pay at the bar.

All our films are suggested by members; please suggest your own favourites or films that you missed and would still like to see. Ted Dowson

## Cliddesden Primary School

We've supported Children in Need, thought about Road Safety, entered sporting tournaments and put on some fantastic musical performances this month...



### Children in Need Coin collection

Children were encouraged to bring in small change to donate to our Children in Need coin collection. The school was able to donate £32.48 to this worthy cause.

### Be Bright Be Seen



On the 23rd November 2018 the children, who were all very excited on the day, dressed up in bright colours for 'Be Bright Be Seen Day', which is all about road safety. Our JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) helped to sell florescent badges, which sold quickly, along with zip tags and clip-on key rings. Their intention was to sell the merchandise to make a profit, which would go towards buying a road sign to tell drivers to drive carefully. The JRSOs held an assembly all about road safety, along with a fun quiz. There was also a fashion parade where all the classes showed off their bright clothes.

During the parade the JRSOs, along with Mr Davies, acted as judges to decide who had the most creative outfit and the brightest outfit. After a tough decision, the winners were Ellis and Harry. It was a very enjoyable day for the school. Everyone looks forward to the day next year.

By Quinn and Alice – JRSOs



### Football Tournament

On Wednesday 21st November our Year 5/6 football team took part in a tournament hosted and organised by Sherfield School. The tournament was well organised and fun. Cliddesden came third in their group and progressed to play Dolphin School and Waverley School. Although we only won one match in the competition, all the games were close and it gave us the opportunity to play against some different opponents and improve our skill and teamwork.

### KS1 Skipping Tournament



On Monday 26th November eight children went to the Costello School to take part in the Annual Basingstoke School's Skipping Competition. The children participated in 3 rounds, being involved in 3 different activities. These were- Long Rope Singles, Individual Skipping and Freestyle- which required a routine of different styles, jumps and tricks. The Final round was a Doubles Long Rope Skip. The children scored points for their team, for every 10 skips they got a point in the individual skip and one point for every 5 skips in the Long Rope.

They did brilliantly, even under the unusual pressure of a competition and skipping in front of judges. They came 4th from 11 schools, many of whom were much bigger schools than Cliddesden. Special mention should go to Alexander who scored 110 skips on the individual skip.





### Year 3/4 Football Tournament

On the 6th December our under 9 football team took part in a 9-a-side football tournament at Sherfield School.

The team played wonderfully showing good skills, resilience and teamwork. They finished the competition, which was a league of six schools, in second place and were undefeated in all their games.

The toughest opponents were Sherborne School who won the league. In our game against Sherborne we were forced to defend throughout, but with all the team working together we held them off for a 0-0 draw. We also drew against Silchester 1-1, Rookwood 0-0 and beat Tadley 2-1, North Waltham 2-0 and Sherfield 3-0.

### Year 1/2 African Drumming Concert



The children in Year 1 and 2 have been learning African drumming in their music lesson this term. It has been noisy, but great fun! They showed off all of their hard work in a brilliant concert and gave the audience a treat playing music from The Lion King as well as some of their own compositions. Keeping a steady beat and playing in time with the group is trickier than you might think, but all of the children worked really hard and did a great job. They enjoyed learning two African songs which they performed beautifully and certainly got the audience tapping their feet! A fantastic end to our drumming lessons.

Mrs Gent, Hampshire Music Service



### Rocksteady Concert

It's always great to watch our very own Rocksteady bands perform and grow in ability and confidence. They put on a great performance enjoyed by family and friends.

To find out more about our school please visit [www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk](http://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk)

Paula Lavender



## THE VICTORIA HISTORY OF HAMPSHIRE: CLIDDESSEN, HATCH AND FARLEIGH WALLOP

by Alison Deveson and Sue Lane

In case you haven't heard – there is a new paperback book on the history of Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop – part of the revised Victoria History of Hampshire series.

Ranging from prehistoric times to the present day (almost) and illustrated with lots of photographs old and new, there is something in it for everyone, whether you're a keen historian or a local resident with an interest in your locality.

Copies, at £14 each, are available at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke and the Pottery Painting Studio, Church Lane, Cliddesden. It can also be obtained by sending a cheque for £16 (to include p & p) made payable to 'Hampshire Archives Trust (VCH project)' to Sue Lane, Applegarth, Wonston Road, Sutton Scotney, Hants SO21 3GX

# BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB



## SEASONAL REPORT

'Contrary to normal practice at this time of year, the sun is not shining in New Zealand. It does manage to break through now and again between the typhoon type blasts of wind and rain. We are even having to wear sweaters indoors in the evenings and have become highly proficient in a range of card and board games...

The attached maunderings are the result. Hope they amuse.

Best Wishes and a Happy New Year.'

Philip Wilson, PRO Basingstoke Lions Club  
[www.basingstokelions.org.uk/](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk/)

**I** was boring the pants off my Peruvian/ Scottish/ New Zealander eldest son by moaning about my total lack of success when trying to recruit you, dear reader, to our Club. His advice (always sound) was to take a leaf out of the standard Sales and Marketing Techniques manual *viz* "Sell them a lie to get them to buy!"

So, as being boringly truthful hasn't worked, let's see how you respond to something a little more imaginative...

'Of course, the real reason we have such a high attendance rate at our business meetings isn't at all to do with enjoying each other's company. It's to do with alternating performances by Eastern Nautch Dancers and Australian Male Strippers. This combination seems to find favour with all persuasions.

'And, of course, the monthly dinner meetings are just another excuse for drunken debauchery. Roman bacchanalia are child's play compared with what our Dinner Secretary manages to dream up – larks' tongues and badgers ear lobes served in a garlic and aspidistra sauce is a firm favourite with real spotted dick to follow and all washed down with a *mead-e-ochre* ale.

'And then, of course, we have our fundraising ventures. Alas, the use of public stocks to punish backsliders is no longer allowed. Our version of it, the Lions' Den, while seemingly innocuous, has on occasion proved fatal when a golf ball hit with excessive force has lodged in the gullet of the miscreant pinned down behind the Lion's mouth. And our musical entertainments are often quite reminiscent of Robert Burns famous 'Tam o Shanter'. You know, the bit where Tam is overcome by lust at the sight of the semi-naked cavortings of the witches coven and calls out 'Weel done, Cutty-sark!' and is then pursued by the coven for his pains.

'Yes, it's a great life in the Lions. But you must demonstrate a real talent for mischief to be accepted!

'Of course, by the time you read this, the season of goodwill to multinational shareholders will be well and truly over and you will have sunk into the prolonged hangover engendered by your Christmas credit card bill. Serves you right! Intelligent people do not continually repeat their mistakes. But, I ask you, what will you be doing in 11 months time?

'Instead, join us and we'll make sure you don't have the time to engage in this 'shopping' nonsense, and your credit card balance will be the best present you've ever had!'

*Note – The foregoing has been written with absolutely no regard whatsoever for the high ethical and moral standards espoused by the Advertising Standards Authority!*

# 75th Edition of Corner Post...

Attached is taken from a resident's old college newsletter...

*'Our Corner Post reaches another milestone. Welcome to this 75th edition. I have mentioned in previous issues how beneficial reading is ... and a book I found recently explained how some of our sayings and idioms derived, many from the 16th Century.*

*Here are a few extracts from the book:*

“Most couples got married in June because they had taken their annual bath in May and still smelled reasonably good in June. However the bride carried flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

“Baths consisted of a big tub filled with clean water. The man of the house had the privilege of using it first followed by any other men and the sons of the household. The women next, then the daughters, followed by any other younger children and finally the babies. By then the water was so dirty it was easy to lose someone in it... thus ‘Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater’.

“Houses had thatched roofs thick with straw piled high, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, rats, bugs etc) lived in or on the roof to keep warm. When it rained the straw became slippery and the animals fell off, hence ‘raining cats and dogs’.

“As there was nothing to stop things falling into the house, this posed a threat in the sleeping area where bugs and droppings would soon mess up a nice clean bed. Therefore a bed with large posts and a sheet hung between them afforded some protection, that’s how canopy beds came into existence.

“Only the wealthy had anything but dirt floors. They had slate floors which became greasy when wet, so threshed straw was laid on the slate. To stop the thresh falling out of the house when the door was opened, a piece of wood was placed in the entrance, hence a ‘threshold’.

“Cooking was done in a big pot over an open fire. This was mostly vegetables which were added to the pot on a daily basis. They would eat the stew for dinner leaving the leftovers in the pot to go cold overnight, next day they would relight the fire and more vegetables would be added. Often the stew was left for a while, hence the rhyme:

*‘Pease porridge hot, Pease porridge cold, Pease porridge in the pot, nine days’ old.’*

“On rare occasions, pork was obtained which made them feel quite special, and when guests arrived the pork or bacon was hung up to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could ‘bring home the bacon’. A little was cut off to share with visitors and they would sit around the fire ‘chewing the fat’.

“Those with money had plates made of pewter, and food with a high acid content would cause the lead to leach out causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes and so for the next 400 years tomatoes were considered poisonous.

“Lead cups were used to drink ale and whiskey and the combination of lead and alcohol would knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. When found they were taken home and laid on the kitchen table to recover, or not. The family gathered around to eat and drink and await the outcome, thus the custom of holding a ‘wake’.

“As more people died, local folk ran out of places to bury the bodies, so they would dig up coffins, take the bones to the boneyard and re-use the coffins and graves. When opening the coffins, many had scratch marks on the inside of the lids indicating they had been burying people still alive. So they would tie a piece of string to the wrist of the corpse and thread it through the coffin to a bell. Someone would sit in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell. Hence someone could be ‘saved by the bell’ and be considered a ‘dead ringer’.”

*‘Although it makes interesting reading, some of the explanations can be doubted as other theories have been put forward as to the origins of the sayings.’*

# VILLAGE GUIDE

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