

WYGGESTONS NEWSLETTER

#THEHEARTOFTHELOCALCOMMUNITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

 PG. 12

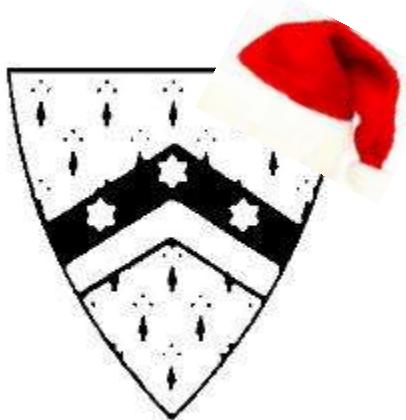
Recipe Corner - Why not have a go at some festive Winter Warmers!

 PG. 14

Christmas Quiz - Get the grey matter going with the monthly quiz!

 PG. 18

Last Posting Dates - Make sure you get your Christmas cards posted off in time!



AN HONEST REVIEW OF 2020.....

2020



Very bad, would not recommend.

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Birthdays / Retirement	4
Cherryleas Development	5
The Mystery of the Old Wing Chair	6 - 9
From The Master	10 - 11
Recipe Corner	12 -13
Christmas Quiz	14
Time Capsule	15
St Ursula's Chapel Services	16
Charity Nominations 2021	17
Last Posting Dates	18
Admin Office Christmas Hours	19
And Finally...	20

It's just been announced that there will be no Nativity this year because the Three Wise Men face a travel ban. All the shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn Keeper has closed under tier 3 regulations and has had a slump in bookings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose he should be self-isolating and taking a test.

Ho, ho, ho!!!



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the last edition of the newsletter for 2020!

There are many superlatives to describe this year But unusual is probably the most appropriate.

It has been a very strange year. Who would have thought when we enjoyed the Annual Cheese and Wine evening in January that we wouldn't have any social gatherings throughout the year and be effectively locked in the two Houses all year long.

I don't need to remind you there have been some times of real anxiety and concern as the waves of infection swept the country but we have been amazed by the stoicism and resilience of everyone.

However the latest news on Vaccines has brought some cheer and we hope that in the coming month life will hopefully get back to normal at Wyggestons.....

So... while we have been "confined to barracks" so to speak, the development of Cherryleas has moved on apace since last month. The roof timbers are on the hub, or I should say Lancaster House, and the Cottages are now water tight with the internal works commencing.

To complete the front of William House after the disruption of the last year we are in the process of replanting large areas of the grounds and will be continuing this throughout next year with other areas around the House and in to the new development.

We have a very full edition this month with a variety of articles for the festive season.

With the good news of the last week or two our minds are now turning to 2021 and starting to gradually return to normality with social events, gatherings and regular services in the last few weeks of the year - look out for the details.

Have a Happy, albeit three household bubbled, Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Chris

Chris and all the staff and Governors.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FINANCE OFFICE WILL
BE OPEN TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS ON
TUESDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2020**



BIRTHDAYS

For those residents who have birthdays December, we would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday!

William House

Freda Tallis 19th December

Agnes House

Patricia Logsdon 10th December

Joyce York 31st December



We would like to wish Linda Widdowson a happy retirement on 28th December! Linda will have been with us for 22 years (to the day!) and we would like to thank her for all her hard work as Catering Assistant and her commitment to Wyggestons. Linda will be very much missed by all of the staff and residents at Agnes House.

Thank you Linda!



To the Governors:-

A resident has asked if we are able to assist with a recommendation from their GP.....

My doctor said now that I'm older
I need to install a bar in the shower



Cherryleas Development

The buildings are progressing nicely and the time capsule has now been buried underneath Lancaster House!



THE MYSTERY OF THE OLD WING CHAIR

Part 2: 29th January 1959 continued

On that fateful foggy night – the night of the missing chair - David tried to think clearly about what he should do. “Telephone the police”, he decided. But he didn’t get much immediate help from them. “There are so many burglaries like yours – and what with this damned fog there’s not much we can do tonight. What time will you be at home tomorrow evening? I’ll send an officer round then - OK?” David recalled the warning on the police station notice board he had seen a number of times that furniture thieves were busy in the locality, and that any suspicious behaviour should be reported to them.

He then decided to go downstairs and ask Reg and Madge if they had heard any intruders during the day. But he couldn’t make them hear. He knew they were there – their big pick-up truck was outside and there was music and talking on the radio or maybe television.

So he went back upstairs thinking he would like to contact Rebecca, but this he couldn’t do as she still hadn’t a phone in her flat. In any case he didn’t fancy turning out again in the ghastly smog. He would go and visit her the next day. He knew that her brother Mark was with her and was happy to let them enjoy their time together without unloading his problems. So he decided to fix his *saint and sinner*, have a look at the February issue of *Management News*, watch Eamonn Andrews present *This is your life* on his new TV before in due course going to bed.



30th January 1959

At the office next morning David told his uncle Peter what had happened. It was a busy morning in the office so they decided to wait until lunchtime to review the situation. And so over sandwiches and coffee from Alf and Dolly’s snack bar they listed possible culprits.

First there were the decorators. They had a good view of the interior. They were capable of removing and replacing a window frame and they had plenty of ladders. No problem for them removing a chair and with ready-made transport for getting it away. But why only the chair? And why not the new TV? Perhaps they were disturbed by someone? The fog would have been a good cover for them, or whoever it was, that had stolen his chair.

David’s uncle was suspicious of the bailiffs. They were a dubious lot. He had read that in one year they had made some thousands of errors and wrongful break-ins. Perhaps Reg and Madge had let them in with the hope of a share in the winnings? “Leave this with me” said Peter, “I have a friend at Rotary who has contacts at the Bailiff’s office: I’ll have a word with him.”

Then there was Reg and Madge - possibly prime suspects? Reg had seen the contents of the flat, and, David recalled, had taken a special interest in the chair. His pick-up truck was outside, and they didn’t



respond to his knock the previous evening, perhaps scared of being rumbled? Even if they didn't take the chair they might be a party to the theft in some way. The only others David had mentioned the chair to were Alf and Dolly at the Coffee Stall. But they were such a lovely couple: no way could they be involved.

It was agreed that David would call in at the Police Station on the way home and share these possibilities with them. "Should give them something to work on", he thought. This he did and was reasonably satisfied with their response. He was able to give them a photo of his chair which they clipped to his report. They would look into the matter and let him know of any developments.

When David arrived home there was a note from Rebecca:

Dear David,

Can you come round for a meal this evening? Mark is here as you know and it would be nice for the three of us to meet up together before he returns home tomorrow. He has his van with him and will come round at about 7 o'clock to pick you up. Do hope this is OK. Do come!

Love, Beccy. xxx

David was delighted to accept and was soon on the doorstep of the old vicarage in Mountfort Crescent, while Mark judiciously hung back and took a little longer than was necessary to park the van. David couldn't help thinking how lucky he was as Rebecca opened the door to greet him. Dressed in a dark red woollen dress she looked really lovely - blushing rather deeply as she was at that particular moment. But there was not much time for David's reflection as she stepped forward and administered quite a long and loving hug.

Inside the house his first reaction was Wow! "Wherever did you find it?" His face was an absolute picture of delight when he saw once again his beloved antique leather wing chair. "How did you get it here?"



"I've a confession to make." said Rebecca, "It's something of a conspiracy. The last time I was with you at 418 before I left I had a quiet word with Madge downstairs. She was really sweet and co-operated willingly when I told her what I had in mind. Yesterday," she continued, "Mark collected me from school and in that horrible thick fog (which helped our rather doubtful doings considerably) drove to your place. Madge let us in the front door. We soon found the key behind the picture. Within minutes we were away again with your chair carefully wrapped in a blanket "

"O David, I do hope you are not cross with me? I was a bit desperate. It was sort of symbolic. I thought of it first as a sort of practical joke, but you might not see it that way? I so want us to get together more permanently and I'm certainly willing to commit myself to you. Come and sit in your chair *here!* Do you realize it's eight years since we first met? Can you find it in your heart to respond?"

He could. And did. Rebecca had made her point. It flashed through his mind that he hadn't been fair, holding on to the relationship for so long without a willingness to make a commitment. He didn't really deserve her. But now he knew he was deeply in love.

"Can you find it in your heart to forgive me?" he responded. The hugs and kisses were not prolonged, as Mark soon appeared in the hallway beaming delightedly when he saw them cuddled together. The conspiracy, which he was anxious about at first, clearly had worked!



David wouldn't mind telling his uncle what had happened, but wasn't sure yet how he would tell the police! But he decided to worry about that later.

And on a table beside his lovely chair was a plate of chocolate marshmallows.

December 1959

In June that year Rebecca and David were married at the parish church by a new young priest serving his curacy there. There were six weddings that Saturday afternoon, and the curate officiated at the final three – including David and Rebecca's.

His Uncle Peter was best man and they persuaded the shy Madge Simpson to be one of the bridesmaids, who loved the opportunity for dressing up for the occasion. After all, she had played rather a key role in the 'burglary', which she saw as being rather fun and romantic. They spent part of their honeymoon at Moreton-in-Marsh, returning to Evenlode and some of the other walks they had enjoyed together there back in 1951.

In December the couple set up a Christmas Party at the Old Vicarage. Brother Mark and his wife came up from Croydon in their van. Uncle Peter was a principal guest. Joseph and Ben from the downstairs flat were invited as were Reg and Madge from 418. Reg brought a bag of 'lovverley' welks and jellied eels. The Curate and his recent bride Margaret smuggled in a supply of chocolate marshmallows, and Alf and Dolly's present was a huge bottle of Camp Coffee - enough to last Beccy and David a year or two at least!

Uncle Peter had a twinkle in his eye and was clearly itching to make a speech:

"Ladies and gentlemen," he began. "We have had a good year down at the factory and as David knows we have been able to give all the work force a good Christmas bonus. It is partly because of David's input, and especially due to the new contract he instigated with GKN, that we achieved this result, and so it has been decided that he is worthy of a little extra reward. The family are also pleased that David spotted a new much cleaner site for the factory, and we hope to move there in due course."

"A few weeks ago therefore," he continued, "Rebecca and I paid a secret return visit to... well I won't say where just yet. But I will say that Joseph and Ben here have been very co-operative, and have invited us to their flat downstairs to continue the party down there.

Downstairs they all went, squeezing into a quite small sitting room. Under a white sheet, which Reg Simpson was delighted to remove with a dramatic flourish, was... David could hardly believe his eyes ... and much the same as the original - *another antique leather wing back chair!* "Now we have one each", laughed Rebecca.

Then, to the delight of the whole company - with drinks provided by Joseph and Ben - David, now much more willing to take the initiative himself, gave Rebecca a rather lingering kiss. Which, I must say, she, and the rest of the party also rather enjoyed.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

The End



Note:

It may be of interest to the reader that much of this tale is based on direct personal experience. I served part of my National Service at RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, and a full year or more nursing at the hospital near Swindon. I was frequently on night duty but, alas, never with a female colleague.

Margaret and I lived in both the flats described in this story, and on one occasion locked ourselves out of the flat in Camden Road. I remember the smog of 29th January 1959 well. I recall assisting trolley-bus drivers to cross the wide open spaces of a major road junction to avoid the booms on the roof loosing contact with the overhead wires.

One task I was given was to make contact with at least some of the 100 or so small factories in the parish. This resulted in quite a number of useful and lasting pastoral opportunities.

One year Margaret was asked to present the prizes at St Thomas' School after I had made a fairly predictable prize-day speech. When we left the parish 'Alf' at the King's Cross coffee stall (also a sidesman at church) did send us a huge bottle of Camp Coffee which lasted for nearly ever. But I must say that I do not much care for chocolate marshmallows...

John Seymour



From The Master

Looking Back - Moving Forward

Every year, in December, it is ‘traditional’ for people and groups to reflect on the past year and look forward to a new one. Although 2020 has not been in any way traditional and you may not want to recall much of it, I did want to take this opportunity to remind you about what I encouraged us to do during this ‘unprecedented’ year.

In April I draw attention to the need to ‘Lament’ and tried to show that it was something that we read about and experience in the Bible. It is healthy and necessary for individuals and communities to express lament and I hope that there will be an appropriate opportunity for us to do so in 2021.

By contrast, in May, I encouraged us all to list what we can be thankful for, and listed a number of things for which I was thankful. Without repeating the list, and at the risk of leaving something out that is important to you, I remain thankful for hard working and creative colleagues, and my fellow Governors, here at Wyggestons, for keeping us safe and well looked after in a difficult year. I am also thankful that while I have been unable to attend choir, cultural or even social events I have had books to read and (recorded) music to listen to.

In June (when we were thinking that lockdown would come to an end...!) I suggested that it would be helpful to ask ourselves and perhaps write down:

1. What things have I had to stop doing that I am really looking forward to re-starting?
2. What things (good or bad) have I stopped doing that I shouldn’t or would prefer not to take up again?
3. What things have I started doing during this time that have been helpful to me or others that I should or would like to continue to do in the future?
4. What things have I done doing this time which are specific to this time of crisis which have been helpful (or perhaps unhelpful) but which I can or should stop doing?

I commend those questions again to you!

If 2020 has felt rather ‘slow’ at times and perhaps we have had to be quite ‘defensive’, as we move into 2021 there is a great deal to look forward to.

Firstly, I am very much looking forward to being vaccinated against Covid-19: I also look forward to residents and staff also being vaccinated. We will then be able to return to having Socials and Chapel Services (which are both so important for our community life).

Secondly, many of us have enjoyed watching the (almost daily) progress on the new buildings (Lancaster House and the bungalows). Soon we won’t be able to notice any more changes, because the external work will have been completed, and work on the interiors of the buildings will continue. Then, as we move into summer, we will be welcoming new residents to join our community (we have had plenty of interest and applications from individuals and couples).

Thirdly, we will get used to having socials and meetings on the ground floor of Lancaster House, and as the offices move, there will be many consequential changes in William House.



And lastly, there will be significant landscaping on the both the ‘new’ and ‘old’ sites which will enhance our experience of living here.

There is so much to look forward to and of course this will involve some changes and adjustments.

As we look back on a difficult year, but look forward to what, I am sure, will be an exciting new year may I finish by again drawing your attention to the Wyggestons Prayer:

**Almighty God,
whose love and care surrounds us,
send your blessing
on the family of Wyggestons
that we may live together
in harmony and peace.
Enable us to build upon the foundation
laid by your faithful servants
William and Agnes Wyggeston,
so that the benefits we now enjoy,
may be enjoyed by future generations.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.**

Tony Leighton



RECIPE CORNER

After the year we've had so far, if there's ever a time to give yourselves a bit of a treat, it's now!

Clotted Cream Rice Pudding

Ingredients (serves 5-6)

- 600ml full fat milk
- 227g carton of clotted cream
- 50g caster sugar
- 100g short-grain pudding rice
- Nutmeg
- 1 litre oven proof dish, buttered

Method

Set the oven to 150°C/275°F/Gas Mark 2. Pour the milk into a pan and add the cream. Bring to the boil, stirring until the cream melts. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the sugar. Tip the rice into the buttered dish and pour over the hot milk

Grate lots of nutmeg over the top. Place the dish on a baking tray in the oven and cook for about 2 hrs, or until the rice is tender. Serve hot or cold



Mulled Wine

Ingredients (serves 6)

- 750ml bottle red wine
- 1 large cinnamon stick, or 2 small ones
- 2 star anise
- 4 cloves
- 2 strips lemon zest, pared using a vegetable peeler
- 4 tbsp caster sugar

Method

Put the red wine, cinnamon, star anise, cloves, lemon zest and sugar in a large pan. Cook on a low heat for 10 mins.

Remove from the heat and cool, leaving to infuse for about 30 mins

To serve, heat without boiling, stir in the sloe gin (if using, see tip below) and pour into mugs or heatproof glasses



Non-Alcoholic Mulled Wine

Ingredients (serves 6)

- 500ml pomegranate juice
- 25g golden caster sugar
- handful of frozen blackberries
- 250ml apple juice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 star anise
- 4 cloves
- 3 black peppercorns
- 1 orange, quartered

Method

Put the pomegranate juice, sugar, blackberries and apple juice in a saucepan. Add the cinnamon, star anise, cloves, peppercorns and orange. Heat gently until simmering. Taste for sweetness, then strain into heatproof glasses.



No-Cook Spiced Apple Chutney

Ingredients

- 2 large Braeburn apples (or similar), peeled, cored and diced
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 125g sultana
- 80ml red wine vinegar
- 40g dark brown soft sugar
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ¼ tsp cumin
- pinch of cayenne



Method

Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Give them a good stir and season generously with salt and pepper.

Pour into a sterilized jar and refrigerate. Leave for 2 – 3 days, shaking once a day, before eating. Keep for up to a week more.

Really Easy Cinnamon Rolls

Ingredients (serves 6)

- 350g can ready-made croissant dough (we used Jus Rol)
- 30g unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 6 tbsp soft light brown sugar



Method

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line a 23cm cake tin with a square of baking parchment so the corners stick up (this will help you to lift the rolls out).

Unroll the croissant dough from the can and lay it out on your work surface. Cut it into three sections along the dotted lines, but don't cut the diagonal line. Spread over a quarter of the butter onto each piece.

Mix the cinnamon and sugar together. Using one square of dough at a time, sprinkle over 2-3 tsp of the sugar and roll up the dough. When you have three rolls, cut each one in half and then each half into three. Arrange the rolls in the tin in two circles – you need to spread them well apart as they will rise and spread. Stick the end bits in among fatter pieces from the centre of the rolls so they cook evenly. Bake for 15 mins or until the rolls are risen and cooked through. Meanwhile, heat the remaining sugar mix with the remaining butter until you have a thick caramel (don't worry if some of the butter separates out, it will soak into the dough). When the rolls are cooked, pour over the caramel. Leave to cool a little, then eat warm.

If you have any recipes that you would like to share then please let the office know





CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in The Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

Answers in the next newsletter!

Answers 1. Archibishop, 2. Car Insurance, 3. Eyes Wide Open, 4. Filly Underwear, 5. High Tea, 6. Kings Cross, 7. On the Open Road, 8. See No Evil, 9. The Price is Right, 10. Top Gun, 11. Wait for Nobody, 12. Wet Behind the Ears, 13. Burn the Candle at both Ends, 14. Down by the Riverside, 15. First in the Queue, 16. High Society, 17. Junction, 18. Underground Train Station



The Wyggestons Time Capsule has now been buried underneath Lancaster House.

Here is a list of everything that was in it:-

- 'A Certain Hospital Forever' book
- 'William Wyggeston & His World' Book
- Old Agnes House and William House Brochures
- Wyggestons Quincentenary Flag from our 500 year anniversary in 2013
- An old Wyggestons uniform badge
- 'Wyggestons Hospital' DVD
- Limited Edition 500 year anniversary trinket box, no. 147 of 200
- An old mobile phone – used by the Wardens for on call emergencies
- The old door key for flat 49
- A covid-19 testing kit and handmade face mask made by a resident, Gabrielle Holden. The facemasks are an essential part of life at the moment, as they have to be worn inside communal areas at all times.
- Dried peas, grown in the home town of William Wyggeston, Wigston Magna since 1865.
- A ½ pint metal mug, which was used by farmer on the Wyggestons estate, to pour milk – dated around 1800's.
- An ink well from Wyggestons School
- 'Quality of Leicester' book
- Wyggestons lanyard and entry fob – the fob was needed to gain access to William House.
- Some shopping receipts from one of our residents a pint of milk is 55p and a loaf of bread is around 90p
- A list of photos of names of our residents at Agnes House and William House as well as the staff and Trustees of Wyggestons.
- Some local newspaper clippings (Leicester Mercury) regarding Wyggestons old and new as well as a complete Leicester Mercury dated 21st October 2020 which has our latest advertising campaign in on pages 26-27!
- A few messages from William House Residents
- 'Leicester's Town Hall' book – donated by the Lord Mayor
- An unopened camera film – regularly used before digital cameras and smart phones were so popular.
- A Nintendo DS and Stylus
- Some information about the Covid-19 pandemic from the Record Office at Leicestershire County Council, including a letter from our Trustee Pam Posnett
- A signed Leicester Tigers rugby shirt, along with a list of signatories
- Samples of Barley, Oats and Wheats as well as 6 vials of seeds. These are from our farms make up the main things that are grown on Wyggestons land in 2020.
- Inside Property magazines which have features on Wyggestons as well as showing current house prices in Leicestershire
- Schedule of Estate land & Property – showing all of the Wyggeston owned estate.
- An outline of the Covid-19 pandemic which has taken place in 2020 Plans and visuals of our newest addition, Lancaster House and the bungalows. These are due to be completed mid-2021 and this time capsule is buried under Lancaster House.
- A photo book created by one of our team, Jared Simpson in 2014 for a school project

We wonder what the residents and staff in 100 years will make of it all!



St Ursula's Chapel Services

Sunday December 6th

10.00am William House Morning Service

Tuesday December 8th

11.00am Agnes House Morning Service

Thursday December 10th

9.30am William House Morning Service

Sunday December 13th

10.00am William House Holy Communion

Tuesday December 15th

11.00am Agnes House Holy Communion

Thursday December 17th

9.30am William House Informal Service

Sunday December 20th

10.00am William House Morning Service

Monday December 21st

4.00pm William House Carol Service

Tuesday December 22nd

11.00am Agnes House Carol Service

4.00pm William House Carol Service (repeat)

Friday December 25th

10.00am Christmas Morning Holy Communion

Sunday December 27th

10.00am William House Morning Service

Sunday January 3rd

10.00am William House Morning Service



Charity Nominations 2021

Around this time we would usually ask residents for their nominated charities for the following year.

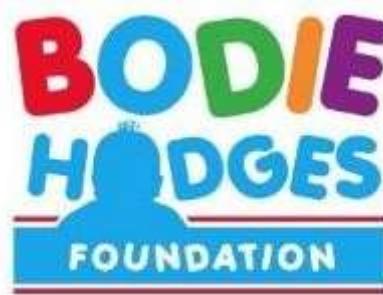
Due to the difficulties we have had fundraising for most of 2020, we have decided to continue with this years nominated charities to ensure that we can raise sufficient money for them both.

If you have any fund raising ideas that we can try once some form of formality resumes, then please let the staff know!

**THANK
YOU!**

In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone for their efforts making masks and baking cakes etc so far this year.

Let's make 2020 a fundraising year to remember!



Last Posting dates for Christmas

2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For:

Friday December 18th



1st Class and 1st Class Signed For and Royal Mail Tracked 48:

Monday December 21st



Special Delivery Guaranteed:

Wednesday December 23rd



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Christmas 2020 and New Year 2021

Opening Times:-

Thursday 24th December closing midday

Friday 25th December CLOSED

Monday 28th December CLOSED

Tuesday 29th December Normal Hours

Wednesday 30th December Normal Hours

Thursday 31st December Normal Hours

2021

Friday 1st January CLOSED



AND Finally...



*from all of the staff at
Agnes House
and
William House*

