

AUGUST 2020 ISSUE

Donna's News

Well here we are into August already!!

Mind you not surprising after the weeks of lockdown just how quickly the year has raced by. Thank you all for the time during lockdown; I know it was a very trying time for all, not being able to socialise and go out and about, as we are very social creatures needing that contact with others. We did however, have a lot of fun in the village throughout the lockdown from driveway drinks to weekly newsletters with quizzes, colouring competitions, recipes and all sorts of tit bits.

The highlight would have been Alistair doing his laps to the gate every day without fail and a few of you there every day to cheer him on, some not missing a day. The race at the end with Maureen and Alistair squaring off had my heart in my boots with the speed Alistair was going. He raised a lot of money for the social committee with people in and out of the village sponsoring him for the laps he walked. (We might have to get him on the Queen's honours list). Even though the centre was closed throughout lockdown we were kept extremely busy; keeping in touch with everyone, shopping (much easier just pushing one trolley now) spring cleaning and keeping all the spirits up. I'm pleased to say that the huge effort by all has paid off for the whole of New Zealand. It was lovely to catch up for drinks and nibbles after the lockdown. The first get together in the centre with the social committee and management combined, with savouries and nibbles for happy hour night - it was a great turn out.

Roll on spring!!

The days through July have been very grey and bleak. I think it's been harder hearing from my brother when skyping with him what lovely weather he is having in London, especially since Paddy and I should have been there enjoying the sunshine with him. I really can't see us getting there next year either with the world still battling to get the Covid under control. Paddy and I decided since we couldn't do our trip away we would go places in NZ that Paddy's never been to. We have just been to Wellington and enjoyed 5 days wandering the city and enjoying all the fabulous things to see and do there, with lots of eating, drinking and shopping in the mix.



**BUY A VILLA
GET A FREE
BRAND NEW
MG3 CORE CAR***



*Colour may vary



The work on the fibre throughout the village has been going well after the initial start, with lots of rain limiting the workers to what they could get done. Hopefully by the time you read this we should be if not up and running, not too far off it. For those of you who use the internet a lot and watch movies, this will be a fantastic improvement to the old broadband.

Linda has been busy getting the programmes back up and running. It's great to see the bus full for the outings and all the lovely photos from the trips. Housie was a great hit as usual, we had lots of laughter and heaps of fun. The social committee had their fish 'n' chip / rugby night, which was a huge success. The end of July they had a mid winter celebration party, fantastic food, entertainment and a jolly good night was had by all. Watch out for up and coming events.

Keep warm and stay safe.

Donna

Sales in the Village

We currently have 2 and 3 bedroom villas available priced from \$520,000 These are exceptionally priced villas in a small friendly community environment. The villas are all large, very spacious, light and airy with great storage facility's and private courtyards for each individual villa. Each villa has a en-suite bathroom plus an extra toilet and hand basin.

We are doing a **Springtime car giveaway special**, own a free new MG3 Core car worth \$18,000 when you purchase a villa (T&G's apply). So if you've been to view previously, or heard about us from a friend, it's worth calling in to view.

We are open to view

Tuesday to Friday (except public holidays) 10am to 4pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm

if preferred call Donna to make an appointment on **021778755 or 3525488**.



Best Before

After a man spent a year eating foods past their expiration dates – including mouldy butter, to prove that those dates are arbitrary, people were asked to think of titles for an outdated-foods cookbook. Here are the most appetising:

Green Eggs and Ham and Cheese and Salami

Eat, Pray, Live

Pasta its Prima

Gone Appetit

Mouldies but Goodies

Baking Bad

Better Ate than Never

The Stale-eo Diet

Linda's News

Without pointing out the obvious, we have had a very trying time so far in 2020. Having so many weeks in lockdown and with staff away from work, it gave many of us time to reflect on our lives in general, and what is really important to us. I certainly missed going into Silverstream and did give the odd one of you a call at times just to see how it was all going. While I was at home, Donna was kept very busy it seems. Its tough when you can't enjoy the company of your friends and families – and those who did venture out were very aware of the fact that we could be one of the unlucky ones who pick up this dreadful virus. Fortunately, we came out unscathed. The world is a very different and unsettled place from this time last year.

After a month back at Air NZ, my partner Steve lost his job in June, along with hundreds of others in the airline industry. It is very strange to have him around during the day, and although he has a large workshop at home and is very capable of doing a lot of things from repairs to making things – mid winter has made it all the more trying to be home during the day and out in the cold. It certainly doesn't inspire him to leap out of bed on a cold morning, just as he had to do at 4.30am for 30+ years. He is beginning to put a plan together for his own business, but this will not be feasible until the weather warms and spring is in the air. So fingers crossed the start of a new venture will have him up and running once it is underway, and that this time next year we hope to look back and say "it was the best thing that ever happened"!

I was pretty pleased to get the program and trips underway for June after totally missing April – and our first trip out after lockdown to Flax in the Prestons Estate went well; although a beautiful place with a high ceiling, and very warm – the acoustics left something to be desired. First trip to Pukeko Junction on the Tuesday was a beautiful day, followed by the trip Thursday which was grey and dismal. But with the shop attached and time to peruse the interesting goods available, all seemed to have had an enjoyable visit.

Housie once again attracted a hardy 15 who enjoyed the fun, with a cuppa and chat afterwards to complete the afternoon. Urban Revival at Silverstream Kaiapoi turned out to be a beautiful cafe, with excellent service and something on the menu for everyone. My friend who lives in this lovely subdivision joined us to have a catch-up with me and enjoyed meeting some of the residents. Untouched World, a place I always thought was rather expensive and previously avoided, has a lovely and now affordable menu and it's a warm friendly place to visit. Good service and one of the best roast salads I have ever had. The beautiful expensive clothing is still available to view and purchase, for those who can afford it! (I had my eye on a eye catching orange sweater with the price tag of \$499 so that stayed at the shop).

My planned trip to Auckland at the end of May to visit my family whom I haven't seen since

December last year was postponed, as Steve's mother passed away and



with a few things to organise and sort to help him out, my trip will now happen in early September. Ted is now 3 and a real little boy who has the conversational skills of a 6 year old, and nothing much gets past him, so I hear. So looking forward to having chats with him in person. I think I will learn a lot!

Our Japanese student was very pleased to be in NZ when in lockdown, as she continued her English studies on-line - and said it was a very nice safe place to be stranded, so much so, that she hopes to increase her stay in NZ by a further 9 months.

Steve and I plan to do more travelling around NZ in the next few years with our caravan. We want to see what all those overseas tourists rave about when they visit our country.

Stay safe and warm

Linda

Random Thoughts for Contemplate

They had to shut all the circus's in the U.S... All the clowns went to Washington.

Time to start training for my favourite winter sport - extreme hibernating.

Fast food restaurants should have 3 windows - one to pay, one to pickup and one to fix up your order.

I'm not grouchy by nature - it takes constant effort.

Be nice to teachers - they are the reason you can read this.

Sure I live in the past - have you seen the present lately?

I don't know how to act my age - I've never been this age before

Don't get all weird about getting older! Our age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying us.

The trouble with going out in the cold at my age, by the time I get all bundled up I've forgotten where I was going.

I do not have gray hair - I have wisdom highlights.

Apple Berry Cobbler – a comforting winter pudding

I made this recently and it was absolutely delicious. Voted 10/10 by my two at home. And enough for seconds the next night!

Either cook up 6 peeled and chopped apples with a sprinkle of sugar (I use very little) and cinnamon - or use two large cans of apple pie filling.

Put into an ovenproof dish and sprinkle on top frozen berries of your choice - I used raspberries.



PASTRY

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of self raising flour
2 tbsps castor sugar
1 tbsp custard powder
100gms cold butter chopped (unsalted if you have it)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sour cream

Preparation

Process flour, sugar, custard powder and butter to form course breadcrumbs (easier if you have a food processor) then add sour cream until the mixture becomes a sticky dough. Pinch off pieces of dough and arrange on the top of fruit. Sprinkle with raw sugar. Cook in medium oven for about 30 minutes until pastry is golden. Serve with custard and/or icecream.