



Donna's News



Another (unusual to say the least) year has nearly slipped by, with a lot of things to deal with over the months since the Covid Virus took hold of the world. Our trip away was of course postponed, with the outlook for another chance in the future not looking too likely for a good few years. I regularly Skype with my brother in London and things are definitely not good there. In Ireland where all Paddy's family are, both places are getting huge cases still, and not looking like slowing at all. Getting stuck over there would have been a disaster; most people couldn't wait to get back to NZ and many envious of our small country and population with a relatively normal life compared to other countries. We all need to still be very aware that the virus is still about and we could just as easily be like other places in the world if we slip into a complacent attitude thinking it won't happen to us. Just remember to sign in when out and about wash hands regularly. If you feel unwell stay at home.

The work on fibre throughout the village is now complete and every villa with a fibre box installed. This will make life easy for people who don't want fibre now to hook up further down the track. Enable took me out for lunch on completion of the job. I thanked the 2 main people from Enable, and Rachel and Tania who were involved in keeping me informed of where everything was at; booking installs with residents, making sure that the process ran smoothly here and that everyone who hooked up to fibre had it up and running and working properly. I also rang the head person from Civtec to thank them, all of the staff that were on site doing the work were very polite, left everything tidy and made sure I was informed if there were any issues and helped sort these issues in a timely manner. I had so many positive comments from everyone at Silverstream that I felt a huge thank you from us all was well deserved.

It's lovely to see the village nearly full again, and a huge welcome to all the new faces around the place. We know you will settle in and enjoy the wonderful place this village is. We have had some great trips over the past few months - more about those in Linda's news, I would have to say the highlight for me was the people that came from the Christchurch sympathy orchestra and played here for us, it was amazing, such clever people and you sure could tell they loved what they did and had fun with it.

Welcome to:
George and Jan Kitchingham,
Don and Jen Alexander
and Barry Edwards, John and
Jilly Prisk (Jan 2021)

Condolences
to Alistair Brown and Family



I will be away for a couple of weeks after Christmas, Paddy and I are going to go to my brothers in the Sounds for the New Year and will spend a couple of days on the way back relaxing at friends in Kaikoura.

I wish you and your families a very happy and safe Christmas and New year.

Kind Regards,

Donna



Sales in the Village

We currently have 1x 2 bedroom villa available at \$525,000. This villa is exceptionally priced, in a small friendly community environment. The villas are all large, very spacious, light and airy with great storage facilities and private courtyards for each individual villa. Each villa has a en-suite bathroom plus an extra toilet and hand basin.

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**



Linda's News

The end of 2020 will come as a relief to most of us – a most unprecedented year, we are now living in a the world that has changed in so many ways.

Steve and I are so grateful that we had our long awaited trip last year, and got back before the world started to shut down with Covid. Many of our friends had planned big overseas trips this year and all cancelled of course, with a low chance of getting all their money refunded or any trips in the next year or two.

Our Japanese friend boarding with us, has had her Visa extended until end of June next year. The only job she can do is seasonal work, which would mean leaving ChCh – so she is planning to stay with us and do more English classes on line to keep herself busy in the next few months. She is pretty chuffed



Who's been digging in the garden - Has this little fella visted you?

SMILING IS INFECTIOUS

*Smiling IS INFECTIOUS
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too
I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin
When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him
I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth
So, if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.*





to be staying on another 7 months, mainly thanks to the Covid crisis. And she just loves NZ and our relaxed lifestyle here so much.

We have been fortunate again to have some great trips out and about for lunch - Five Stags Rangiora and the trip to Glentunnel to the Willows cafe on the golf course proved winners, as both Tuesday and Thursday trips were full. The Long Knight at Halswell was in a new subdivision, found thank goodness by using my GPS as I certainly would have been lost trying to find this place. The trip to Woodend Cafe 79 Impresso was popular, great food, coffee and service. And we noted that the owners were constantly cleaning in their spare time, keeping the place absolutely spotless - highly recommended. Then onto Ten27 at Ferrymead, a cafe that has a beautiful homeware shop attached ; it was a lovely place to browse and purchase a few Xmas pressies after a delicious lunch.

The weather only just held for the Christmas Fete, this year at Amberley House. We all had an enjoyable day doing our own thing and some lovely things were purchased by all who attended.

With Steve starting his new business it's been a steep learning curve for both of us in more ways than one. And super busy trying to get everything up and running. But with Steve's skills which are many and varied, I am sure things will all fall into place; apparently a lot of work can come through word of mouth once he has done a few jobs. Fingers crossed anyway.

We have, like most people, not ventured far from home this year - but Labour weekend we had a short trip to Hanmer camping, with 3 very warm days and left to come home on the day the weather had changed to pouring rain and only 8 degrees. But nice to have a break and spend time with our

other camping friends, biking, walking, soaking in the camps hot tub - along with a visit to the local Saturday market which is always humming and has an interesting array of things for sale.

After having to postpone my trip to Auckland 3 times to visit my family - I finally had a weekend with them in early October. (I found wearing a mask on the plane there and back rather claustrophobic) and spent a lot of time with my wee grandson, who has grown so much and constantly chattering. One day when he was looking a bit tired and was grumpy, he told me he that actually - he was "feeling a bit under the weather!" which had me cracking up hearing it from a 3 year old. He certainly picks up and retains most things he hears from adults around him - so my son said he really has to watch his P,s and Q's! The family will be down in the new year to visit and stay with various grandparents, all of us being in the Christchurch / Canterbury area.

We are all hoping there is no lockdown before Christmas to scuttle plans that people have made to travel internally - but with the way things are and the virus still around, we just don't know what is around the corner. But do hope you can enjoy the festive season with some of your family and/or friends and we all have fingers crossed that 2021 will be a far better year than this one has been. Time to appreciate the small things in life I feel.

Kind Regards

Linda



Gifts to Ponder on after a Difficult 2020

The Gift of Listening

you must really listen, no interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

The Gift of Affection

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and holds. (Within your bubble when necessary!) Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of a Favour

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of Laughter

Clip cartoons, share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say "I love to laugh with you!".

The Gift of Solitude

There are times when we want nothing better than to be alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

The Gift of a Compliment

A simple and sincere "You look great in red" "You did a super job" or "That was a fantastic meal" can absolutely make someone's day.

The Gift of a Written Note

It can be a simple "thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say Hello or Thank you.

Vegetable Crumble

A great way to use up any leftover veges you may have in the fridge

INGREDIENTS

600 gms of any veges you like (ie carrots, courgette, pumpkin, mushrooms, cauli, broccoli etc)

1 large onion

1-2 cloves of garlic crushed

50g butter x 2

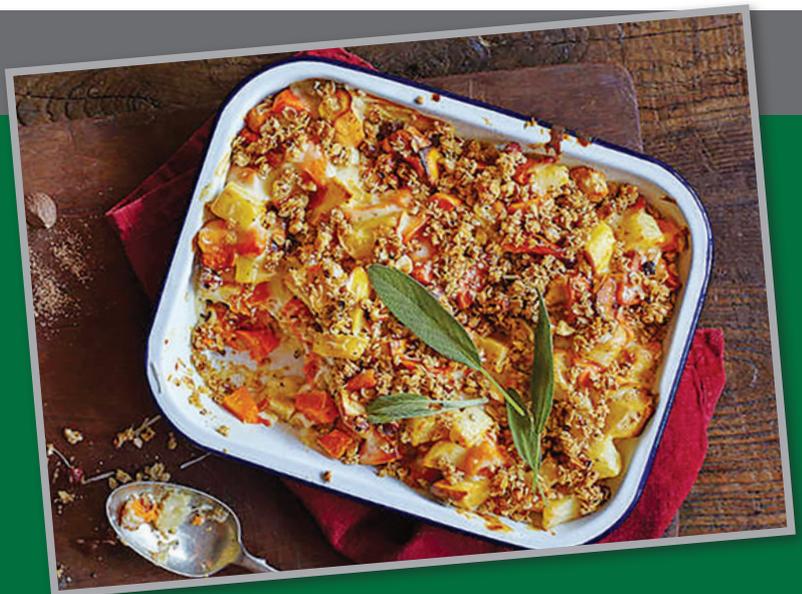
25gms wholemeal flour

1 x tin chopped tomatoes

275mls vegetable stock

150mls milk

Chopped parsley or any herbs you enjoy



PREPARATION

Rub the first 50gms of butter into the flour until mixture resembles fine crumbs, add cheese, nuts, seeds as little or as much as you like. Chop the veges into small cubes, melt the second 50gms of butter in a large saucepan and sauté the onion until transparent. Add prepared veges and cook over a gentle heat for a couple of minutes. Stir in flour and cook a minute, then add the remaining ingredients. Bring to the boil and simmer gently until veges are just tender.

Transfer into an oven proof dish. Spread or press the crumble topping over the veges and bake at 190°C for about half an hour until golden. Lovely with meat and a crisp salad.

Covid Restrictions for Xmas

- No Nativity this year, because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban.
- The shepherds have been made redundant.
- The Inn Keeper has shut under Level 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.
- Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.
- As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test.