

Donna's News

Here we are - Summer already and Christmas on the doorstep!! Hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of another year, with Covid still causing disruption especially to travel. Let's hope this pandemic calms down next year and the world can go back to some sort of normality. Hopefully the borders will open and my brother who lives in London will get home for a long awaited visit to see family.

The village has been busy this year with new people moving in and getting settled. It's lovely to see new people joining in the activities in the village. The Social committees Christmas lunch at Bishop Brothers in Bishopdale was enjoyed by all great food, good company. I'm so lucky being invited to the lunch every year I enjoy catching up with you all on a day that I can sit back and relax and let someone else do all the work!! Linda and I had a busy time getting organised for the Christmas party here on the 16th December.

We were sorry to lose Jan recently from our employ and wish her all the best. We welcome Lee back to do alternate Sundays again and any other hours required. She called in and said how much she has missed everyone, and will enjoy catching up with the older residents and meeting our new ones.

We had an enjoyable afternoon at Happy Hour recently, when Val Joll returned to shout some bubbles and savouries. This was the farewell she had planned to have before she moved, but after her fall and then stint in hospital, it was all put on hold. It was lovely to see her smiling face, and she will be sorely missed at Silverstream, having been here for a few years and known as one of the "village characters". All the best in your new abode Val.

Hours over Christmas. The office will close mid day on the 24th of December and re-open on Wednesday 29th of December, then close mid day on the 31st December and re-open on Wednesday the 5th of January 2022. If you require assistance when the office is closed please phone **Donna on 021 778 755** or **Linda on 027 285 9527**.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kind regards,

Donna



Condolences:
to Rex Clark and family with the loss of Elva.

Welcome to the village:
Susan Harwood, Rodney and Gay, Phil and Margaret, Marie and Ian.

Farewell to:
Val Joll, Heuchan and Julie Parr - we wish you well in your new homes.



Sales in the Village

We currently only have one 2 bedroom villa available. This is the larger layout plan of our 2 bedroom villas, It has lots of storage and a gas fire. Please phone Donna on **021 778 755** if you would like to view.



Silverstream Residents Social Committee:



We have had a fairly busy last few months. Our twice monthly Movie Nights have been mostly well supported. A nice way to sit in comfort watching on the big screen. Thanks to Clare and Jenni. Our monthly Raffles are always popular.

In August Val Quinn and her team of helpers organised a fabulous High Tea - beautiful food with a glass of bubbles, and then we had a very interesting talk by John Quinn, outlining his role as Mental Skills Coach to a number of high profile athletes and teams. A nice way to spend a cold Sunday afternoon.

Our Fish and Chip night in September was a success, followed by the All Blacks game.

In October Bev organised a Singing in the Rain Movie night - pot luck tea followed by watching the movie, with popcorn and lollies, and even icecreams at half-time!!! And later in October we held a Games afternoon which was greatly enjoyed by both participants and spectators. Winners were presented with medals.

Congratulations to George on being the best all-round "athlete" among us. We plan on having another games afternoon in the first part of next

year. Liddy did a wonderful job in organising this, and designing the medals.

November we hosted New Zealand Cup Day, with bubbles, a quiz and pot luck tea. It was lovely to see so many people dressed for the occasion.

By the time you read this we would have had our Christmas dinner at Bishop Brothers in early December. Thanks to Val for organising this.

We farewell Terry who has resigned his position. He has been a valuable member over many years and we will miss his knowledge and attention to detail. His chairing and organising our meetings have been invaluable. Now Terry you and Kay can sit and enjoy our functions instead of organising them! We welcome Jenni Alexander onto the social committee.

Merry Xmas everyone, we look forward to your support next year. Welcome to our new residents, we hope you will come along to our functions.



Linda's News



Once again, we have had some interesting trips to reminisce about, albeit from behind a variety of masks with Level 2 still upon us. The new "traffic light system" will be well underway by the time you read this, so will be interesting to see how that pans out for the country. And our Vaccine Passes will be required at many places before admittance.

Portstone Nursery cafe was our first stop in early August, on a wet, cold day. The shop attached to peruse after lunch was just the ticket to fill in the rest of the afternoon. Lunch at the Hilltop Tavern was a nice trip out into the

countryside. This hotel is definitely starting to look its age and we were informed it was coming up for auction soon. Whoever purchases it will need deep pockets to refurbish this grand old tavern, with views to die for. The food and service was lovely, the staff there were very good to us - and with only another couple of customers,



not too many on the day to wait on. Had a coffee stop at Little River on the way back, and pleased to see that this place was humming and relatively busy with people stopping by.

The trip to Peppers at Clearwater was outstanding, especially with such a beautiful golf course, water views and lovely townhouses around the area to look at while eating lunch. The waiter was a friendly foreign guy who bent over backwards to keep us all happy, proudly showing us photos of his kiwi wife and two boys.



After numerous phone calls (that were not answered) to the Wheatsheaf Hotel Teddington to confirm we were on our way – we took the risk and our arrival had us wondering if there was anyone there to greet us. It was very quiet and apparently is in the throws of being refurbished and new areas planned to be built in the near future – but the ladies made sure we were all fed and watered and chatted to us, filling us in on the details of this old pub's past and future. It is obvious that the lack of overseas tourists have taken a pretty terrible toll on some of these lovely old pubs, who are struggling to keep their doors open for the locals. So sad for them all. We took the long road home across Gebbies Pass and enjoyed the country scenery on the way. Our next trip to Willowbank was in October; a unique experience and a little disappointing, as this is another place that needs serious upgrading, looking very tired and faded. A least there were a few other people with children in the restaurant as it was school holidays, and a tad noisy in the big old building. We made the most of it and ordered our lunch at the counter – no waiting staff at tables here.

Bealey Quarter had a variety of great options on the menu and was enjoyed by all who went – good service too.

The pick of the bunch was the lunch trip to Oxford at Cafe 52 – great food and service, and after a shopping hop to Emma's fabulous shop next door to pick up some unusual gifts – onto Ribblesdale Gardens where Denise was our perfect hostess, filled us in on the history of the place (started by her family and she and her family took over). What a beautiful place this is, many facets to the huge gardens, immaculately kept, and also a new BnB and large new area where we had a delightful Devonshire tea; scones, jam and cream were delicious and very artistically placed on individual plates for us all. So pleasant, that none of us were in a rush to leave, we felt so comfortable. A lovely afternoon, and nice to have some of our newer residents join us on this trip.

My new Ebike has become a fairly important item in my life, with many kilometres biked over the last few

months, including Canterbury and Hanmer trails and my 6 day trip to the West Coast where I biked 160kms with the 7 other women – taking in the most spectacular bush and river scenery, and hearing lots of new information from our extremely well informed German Guide. Food all provided was healthy and delicious, the cut lunches being eaten on the way in some gorgeous areas, unfortunately having to battle the rather large sandflies at the same time. (The insect spray did the trick in the end!) Our kayaking adventure was cancelled due to the day being a typical West Coast heavy rain day - but we had enjoyed an unexpected boat trip into the wetlands one evening, in perfect, warm weather conditions. All in all, a superb trip, and lovely to meet other Kiwi women with similar interests.

I was happy to hear my son, and his family (after 10 years in Auckland) are moving back to Christchurch in the early New Year. Even with a substantial deposit, buying a house Auckland was becoming an impossible dream, so they have purchased in ChCh (sight unseen) and decided to move the business base and themselves back to where all the grandparents are. A nice comforting thought for us all, as future travel anywhere is so uncertain these days and who knows for how much longer.

To hope for a better year for 2022 and the world to get back to some semblance of normality seems futile – but as we have been so fortunate in NZ to be able to be out and about more than most of the world, we can just hope it continues. The only country I would like to visit in the future is Australia, to visit my daughter in Melbourne; otherwise I'm happy making the most of our own beautiful country and riding as many trails as I can, while I still can!

Best wishes for your health and happiness at Christmas and New Year to you all.

Kind Regards

Linda



Quick & Tasty Recipes

Lemon & Ginger Shortbread

Delicious new take on the traditional shortbread.

INGREDIENTS

- 240g butter at room temperature
- ¾ cup icing sugar
- 1½ cups flour
- ½ cup cornflour
- 2 tbsps lemon zest
- Chopped crystallised ginger to garnish

Method

1. Preheat oven to 130°C. Line two oven trays with baking paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy.
3. Sift in the dry ingredients and add the lemon zest. Mix well.
4. Tip onto lightly floured surface and roll into 5mm thick square. Cut into shapes you like with cookie cutters.
5. Remove each with a thin spatula and transfer to the baking trays. Prick with a fork. Add a few pieces of chopped ginger to each, slightly pressing into dough.
6. Bake for 30-40 minutes until shortbread is a lovely golden colour. Let cool a little, then place on a wire rack to cool.

Best Potato Dish Ever

This is my frequent go to potato dish when I have visitors for a meal, and there is never any left to put away for the next day - its so popular! Great with most meats, especially good with BBQed meat.

INGREDIENTS

- 100g butter
- 2kg potatoes peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 medium brown onions thinly sliced
- Dried sage (or fresh if you have it)
- Ground black pepper
- ½ cup cream
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock\2 tbsps wholegrain mustard

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Generously coat a large overproof dish with some of the butter.
2. Layer half the potatoes in the dish and sprinkle over the sliced onions, Sprinkle/ scatter the sage over and season with pepper. Add remaining potatoes and dot with butter.
3. Mix together the cream, stock and mustard well, then pour over. (The liquid level should come about 3/4 of the way up the potatoes in the dish, depending on your dish size).
4. Cover tightly with foil and bake in the preheated oven for 1 hour, until potatoes are tender. Remove foil for remaining 10 minutes of cooking so that the top turns golden. Leave to sit for 10 minutes before serving.

Did You Know?

Celebrating Christmas used to be illegal
From 1659-1681, anyone caught making merry in the colonies would face a fine for celebrating. By the Revolutionary War, the day had so little significance that Congress even held their first session on December 25, 1789. Christmas wasn't even proclaimed a holiday for almost another century, proving that the Grinch's attitude toward the holiday was alive and well long before he was.

Mistletoe's name isn't as sweet
On the other hand, mistletoe's name might not give you quite as many warm feelings. Mistle thrush birds eat the plant's berries, digest the seed, and then help the plant germinate with their droppings. The Germanic word for mistletoe literally means "dung on a twig." Romantic, right?

Ham ranks as the festive favourite
One of the showstoppers of Christmas dinner is carving the roast beast, whatever species it comes from. Google searches for "ham" and "turkey" both spike during the month of December, according to Google Trends data. Spiral-cut ham edges out the bird as the most popular choice for a Christmas table. The jury's still out on whether people prefer ham or turkey sandwiches the day after, though.

Tinsel has a varied history
Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was originally spun from real silver, making it far from the chintzy decoration it is now. The U.S. government also once banned tinsel because it used to contain poisonous lead. But never fear; now it's just plastic. It should still be kept away from young kids and pets though, since they could still choke on it.

Christmas Joke Time



What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws!

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson!

What did Santa do when he went speed dating? He pulled a cracker!

Why was the turkey in the pop group? Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite!

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places!

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer

Why don't you ever see Santa in hospital? Because he has private elf care!

How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger!

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars? Their days are numbered!

How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed!

What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? Cross-mouse cards!

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree? Nice gnawing you!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor? Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!

