

# The Covid Newsletters

sent weekly to Headley Theatre Club members by Dil Williamson-Smith (chairman)  
20 March 2020 – 19 July 2021

## Friday 20 March 2020 – Newsletter 1

Hi everyone, here is the first of the promised weekly newsletters. We are sending this by email rather than on Facebook as some of you don't subscribe to social media (my Jo being one 😊)

We have postponed the Spring production "The Wedding Reception" which was being directed by Rachel until the autumn slot when we hope things will be more back to normal.

For the moment, Jo and I are still working on the Summer show as it is easier to do in bits and really doesn't need to go into rehearsal before the end of June. There will be more information on that as time goes by.

We are not entirely sure how many members who live locally are "Socially Isolating" or "Socially distancing" but we do know that there are a few. There are also those who are still going to work and who are out and about in the community, so if anyone has difficulties getting supplies or medications let us know and we will try and put you in touch with someone who can help. If you would like us to pass on your phone number/email address please let me know, as due to the restrictions of data protection we are not allowed to use our contact list for this purpose unless you give your specific permission; if you are happy for us to pass them on, email me and I will be happy to do so – or if there is anyone in particular you would like me to give them to, rather than to the whole group, I am happy to do that too.

Jill asked me to pass on her phone number as she is not going out and would be happy to speak to anyone who would like to call her for a chat (I think she's getting bored 😊) her number is **01420 475569** – she is on email but would prefer people to call her.

Mel and Steve and Xander and Zak have been in isolation or a week and we have been keeping them supplied with food and jigsaws; Mel sent me this link which she thought people might like to look at

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/list-of-online-resources-for-anyone-who-is-isolated-at-home>

it looks like a lot of fun – there is a lot there to interest many different tastes.

I'm sure lots of people can recommend films/tv box sets/books, etc, and I am happy to pass on such recommendations each week. Jo will also put this on the Headley Theatre Club web page.

I hope that we can meet again soon – Dil

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Newsletter 2

Hi Everyone, I know I'm a day late but last night I forgot about it – sorry !

I hope everyone is keeping well and coping with the situation. Jo and I are well so far; I know Nick and Erika have been ill, and Steve and Mel and Xander and Zak have all been in self isolation, keeping themselves busy with jigsaws and books. I have heard from several others who seem to be coping with the crisis as best they can practicing social distancing and on the whole seeming to be very stoic about the situation. Deb is still hoping to get home from the other side of the world some time soon.

Yesterday I did, what should have been, my last shift at the surgery for a few weeks as I had hoped to be away on holiday for a few weeks in April – Ha! I had a pile of sewing lined up, a few good books and an exercise regime planned out (we know what would have happened to that 😊) and some vague idea that I would organise my sewing shed at the bottom of the garden which doesn't tend to get used in winter. Some of you might have seen my recent post on Facebook about the 'scrubs' for the surgery; it is no joke. Over the next week or so Helen Sherrell and I are going to be making 'scrubs' and protective gear for the staff at the surgeries. These things are in very short

supply so it's going to be a "Sound of Music" moment when the staff appear dressed in 'scrubs' made from Helen's stock of spare curtain material 😊 As I said in my post, I can't wait to see which doctor gets to wear the pink flowery ones 😊.

Just off to work now to start "scrubbing" – will finish this when I get back.....

Just collected the material for scrubs – now to make them. (might post some photos)

There are loads of things on line and on tv and YouTube to keep us occupied but I have been given 2 particular recommendations .

One from Mel – Zooniverse.org – and one I got from one of the nurses at work: it's called "it's quiz night" takes place on a Thursday evening on YouTube, starts at 8pm and is a virtual pub quiz – See you there next Thursday 😊

Let me know how you are and if you want me to pass anything on the rest of the group – or if you need books or jigsaws or phone calls or shopping –

Take care, Dil x

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 – Newsletter 3**

Hi Everyone, hope you are all keeping well and not finding the social isolation too taxing. Nick and Erika Have both been ill but are now well and "out"; similarly Mel and Steve and Xander and Zak are now out of quarantine. Sarah and Dave have been affected in Kent as one of their son's became ill and was staying with them.

Shopping hasn't been too bad locally, most things seem to be available (Cat food and red wine have been ok 😊) but I did notice a lack of toilet rolls today, luckily we still have some.

I have been busy making scrubs for the local surgery and delivered another lot today and thanks to Ellie I have more material to make a few more next week.

Did you take part in the YouTube pub quiz last night? Jo and I did – we got 23 out of 50, without cheating. Apparently there were over 10,000 people doing the quiz worldwide. Hopefully it will be on again next Thursday (YouTube at 8pm) and we shall try again.

Good news from John McGregor who's safely moved into his new abode in Taunton. He's more than happy for you to contact him: Tel 01823 973669. His email address remains the same. He also extended an invitation to visit him if you happen to be in the area. Hopefully holidays will be possible again later in the year. We were due to take a Canal boat around the potteries next week, obviously we won't be going but hope to do in September instead.

Thanks to Lesley Wightman who has sent us old HTC programmes and reports from the early 1970s – Jo has added them to the website with links from the History section – see

[www.johnowensmith.co.uk/htc/history.htm#pastperf](http://www.johnowensmith.co.uk/htc/history.htm#pastperf) to reminisce on the past performances of the Club. If you have anything to offer that's not already on the list, do let Jo have it.

Let us know how you are doing – I have asked Janet (as Village Hall boking secretary) to book the first Saturday Evening after "lockdown" for an impromptu Theatre Club Party – hope to see many of you there. 😊

Take care, Dil x

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Newsletter.**

Hi Everyone, hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the good weather as best you can; Our garden is getting a lot of attention, from Jo, not so much from me but I have been trying to re-organise the Utility room! – We have found that it does have a floor and that it works much better if things are organised on shelves and in racks rather than just dumped in randomly. So that's one job that probably I wouldn't have got round to doing normally.

Apart from that we are managing to find things to fill the days. I am still making scrubs for the surgery and I really am down to the flowery curtain material now. I will probably manage another five or six sets then I will be out of material. Still, that will make over 20 sets altogether in around 2 weeks. I might then get round to doing a bit of sewing for myself 😊 We both try and do a couple of sessions of exercise a day, usually a short walk and a session on the exercise bike. I have signed up for 2 sessions a week with “Silver Swans” on Zoom and Jo does his weekly Pilates session by zoom instead of at the village hall.

We have heard from several people this week telling us how they were doing; Penny & Angus; David and Carol Burnham; Martin and Shirley and Jonathan & Shirley, Nick and Erika, Jo and Martin and Pru. Barbara has also been in touch from Oz! All seem to be ok at the moment and Deb is home safe and well. We have also heard that the twinning visit planned for the end of May will not be taking place so we won't be seeing our friends from Corné this year.

Jo and I did the pub quiz again on Thursday but it took us half an hour to realise that we were in fact tuned in to the wrong one; we thought the guy doing it was rather serious and not so much fun as the one the previous week! We eventually found the right one about half-way through, so can't compare our score this week with last week but I suspect it would not have been as good as we were particularly bad at the music round (2 out of 10)!

Jo has devised a crossword for the May Parish Mag which he will be putting together next week – we will include it in instead of our usual HTC entry: We thought it might amuse you to have a go at it, so we have attached it (I hope) to this newsletter.

As the weather is not going to be so good next week so we plan to put a bit of work in on “Retrospective” It is coming along and there may be a bit more news to share on that soon.

Keep well and keep in touch – hopefully it won't be too long until we can start to plan the “breakout” party.

#### **Friday 17th April 2020 – Newsletter 4**

Hi everyone – here we are in week 4 of lockdown; we hope you are all fit and well and not too frustrated with having to stay in most of the time. This week I have still been making scrubs, but not so many as I am now out of material and so I have resorted to making scrub-bags which take up less material and can be made out of fabric not suitable for scrubs but ok for bags. I have also managed to start sewing some of the items I have had cut out for a few weeks but had put on hold whilst making scrubs.

Jo has finished another couple of jigsaws, including the 2,000-piece map of the world; he is now very knowledgeable about the countries of the African continent which was one of the objects of the exercise. He is now thinking he might get one of Ireland – in order to learn the Irish counties (?) – each to their own 😊.

We still try to keep up our exercise regime; A short walk each day also some Pilates. Jo cycles to pop songs at 2pm each day (just going upstairs to the front bedroom now); we have an “echo show” which means that he can ask “Alexa” to play, for instance, “the Beatles” and cycle along to the music and see the words to the song on the display screen – he is learning the proper words to songs he always thought he knew!. I, on the other hand, ask “Alexa” to play “Downton Abbey” (I never did see the original series on the TV) each episode allows me to do 30 minutes cycling – I break it down in to 10 mins, followed by a short break, followed by 4 x 5 minutes with a short break in between – this gives me 30 minutes which is 300+ calories, 8 kilometres in distance, which apparently equates to 10,000 steps. I am now up to episode 5 in series 3. That along with reading, gardening and cooking and a bit of tv fills the days.

We hear from various people throughout the week I have just had a long chat with Janet who is keeping well and have also spoken to Nick and Erika and Pru this week. Our friends from Cherbourg have been in touch and the restrictions there seem to be somewhat tighter than here; they are

allowed to go for a walk, with a piece of paper saying where they are going, but have to be home within the hour; all small shops are closed and only the supermarkets open and they have to have a bit of paper saying which shop they are going to. Michel and Christine, in Auderville, are allowed to go to the nearest supermarket only which is in the nearest small town Beaumont.

Deb is now working from home and we tend to have an early morning chat when she goes out for her morning walk and last night we had a Zoom meeting when we “met up” at 8pm and watched “Mama Mia” – the only slight problem was that Deb was watching it on Netflix and we had it on DVD so it was ever so slightly out of sync; but we had a nice couple of hours, chatting, drinking and watching a film – we shall try again next week.

Hopefully we will find time this week to work on “Retrospective” so we will let you know how it is progressing.

Take care and keep in touch, Dil x

### **Friday 24th April 2020 – Newsletter 5**

Hi everyone – week 5; how time flies when you’re having fun. Hope everyone is fit and well and at least enjoying the nice weather. We are fine and keeping our selves busy with various tasks, hobbies and exercise regimes. My “Silver Swans” ballet class from Royal Academy of Dance ballet school which I usually attend in Alton restarted this week on Zoom and seemed to go ok. Using the kitchen work tops as a bar (not the alcohol type) seems to work quite well; but you do have to tidy the kitchen!!

We have heard from various people this week either by phone, email or face book – including Pru who is kindly shopping for some of our members who are unable to get out and about (she heard that I was having difficulty finding jam doughnuts – I suspect from my daughter – and kindly left a pack in my porch 😊); – Nick and Erika who are battling on with their extension, Erika is also back at work at the hospice (they also bought me doughnuts 😊) – Janet and Neil who are making great progress in their garden; Allison who has kindly been helping me make scrubs for the surgery; Rachel, Sam and Nigel, Ellie, Carol & David Burnham, Maggie, Sarah and Dave and Shirley and Jonathan, all of whom seem to be weathering the storm and keeping themselves busy.

Angela sent me a poem which she thought might amuse us, I will attach it to the email. Steve White found himself having to travel up to London for work last week and his account of his journey was interesting. I suggested that he write down his experiences and I’ll send it out with this newsletter.

Rachel and Mark took part in a play reading this week, organised by Winton Players (by Skype) and Rachel wondered if we, as a group, would be interested in doing one ourselves. If there is enough interest she would be willing to organise it. I think it’s a great idea and it would give us all a chance to meet up, if only virtually. If you would like to take part let Rachel know by email or contact me and I will forward it on to Rachel. If there is enough interest we can take it further. I know not everyone is set up for skype but I have a Zoom account which we could use – it does have limitations as we can only use it for 40 minutes at a time for group meetings,( but there is no limit on how many times you log on in a 24 hour period so we could just have an interval 😊) Another alternative is to set up an HTC Pro account without such time restrictions for a relatively small cost – I will do some research and take it to the committee next week.

On a similar subject, several of us, who go to the folk group, are attending the “Quiet Knight Inn” tonight. This is a virtual folk session set up by Dave and Sarah Horne and we are doing it on Zoom on a “Pro” account so we will be able to see how it works and how successful it is. I will let you know next week 😊 –

Do keep in touch and let us know how you are doing. Hope to hear from you soon and to have more news about the feasibility of future events later in the year to update you on later in the month.

Dil x

**From Steve:**

***Quiet London***

I'm part of a rota of "Essential Workers" that need to go to work to keep minimum things ticking over in the giant London office where I work.

I was quite apprehensive about going in because I'd been at home for five weeks, the first two being self-isolating, the latter socially distancing. Should I ride a motorbike to work and risk the 27 times greater likelihood of involvement with a road traffic collision? Should I take a car, and then wonder where to park it (as it happens, the NCP car parks around Westminster are all free, but I had no insight into whether I could get a place) so I opted to take the train.

Since the railway tracks at Guildford were being worked on, I chose Farnham. The car journey starting 05:55 on the Tuesday morning after Easter Monday (for what difference Easter made this year) was an indication of just how effectively people are staying at home, as I passed only one vehicle between Headley Down and Farnham, a bus.

The train station had 6 cars in it, train arrived at Farnham with 4 people aboard, three boarded, and when we arrived at 07:20, the 8-coach train delivered just 27 people to an empty Waterloo.

I had a gut-wrenching moment on the walk to work. I cross Westminster Bridge each day, and walking towards me were two nurses going on-shift at St Thomas' who both looked exhausted and hollowed out. I came literally face to face with one of the human effects of the epidemic, the division of labour is not equal at all, and my heart reached out.

London is quiet, and empty of people. Busses ran across Westminster Bridge with no passengers at all, even at peak commuting times.

The other three days were similar on the commute - on both Thursday and Friday I had a carriage to myself for the journey home, and it seemed that the seven other people on the train had simply walked along the train until they found a carriage to themselves. At 18:00 the station carpark had about 21 cars in it.

It seems unlikely that I need to go to the office for certainly a couple of weeks, it might be up to 4 weeks rotated out with the instruction from my employer to keep healthy to allow staff coverage when rotated back into the office.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – Newsletter 6**

Hi again – week 6 – nothing too different here this week; making more scrubs and face masks, more exercise, more shopping. The garden looks lovely, just need a bit of good weather to get out there and enjoy it. My shed is almost back in action, but as I will be working at the surgery next week I suspect that it will be another week before I can get in and work down there instead of disrupting the house.

This week I have heard from Jill and Louis, Penny (I have attached their emails at the end of this newsletter). Nick and Erika, Mel and Steve, Pru, Jo and Martin, Janet and Neil, all are doing well and keeping cheerful despite the lockdowns. For those of you who know them I heard from Barbara and David to say that they will be finally leaving Australia on Sunday so will be back in the UK early next week.

Last Saturday night we had a "visit" to the 'Quiet Night Inn' a virtual folk club set up by Dave and Sarah Horne. Seven households took part including us, Mel and Steve, Carol and David, Nick and Erika and Deb, and of course Dave, Sarah and Tim. It went surprisingly well, (at least it did once some of us realised you had to "mute" if you wanted to sing along when someone was performing!) – We all had a drink (or two) and some of us had some nibbles as well; we will repeat the experiment this weekend and I believe that Sam and Nigel will be joining us too!

Encouraged by the success of the evening, (we used Deb's work Zoom which allows up to 100 people and has no time limit rather than a personal account which is more limited to time and numbers). I

have set up a pro Zoom account for HTC, linked to my personal account, and we are going to try and use this for Rachel's play readings. We hope to start this Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, so look out for more details from Rachel as to time and details of the play. I will set up the meeting and send the link to Rachel who will then forward it on to those who wish to take part. It is fairly easy – you just need to click on the link in the email and put in the password – usually 6 digits – which will also be in the email; you do not have to dial in to any of the phone numbers.

My first attempt to use the new account went a bit awry – I set up a virtual committee meeting to try the system out for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 8.30pm, not realising that it was set to US Pacific time – which would have been 4.30am here 😊. Luckily Janet noticed and I was able to reschedule it for GMT +1 (London time) so hopefully all will be well.

Look forward to seeing those of you who join the play reading.

Meanwhile Jo has been trawling through old HTC photos of shows on the computer and updating the website at <http://www.johnowensmith.co.uk/htc/history.htm#pastperf> – he asks you to have a look and tell him if you are sitting on any missing pieces which could be put up there.

Let me know how you are doing and hopefully it won't be too long until we can all meet face to face – keeping a suitable distance of course. – Dil

**From Jill:**

I have spent quite a lot of time in the garden, Louis goes for his walks but I have to stay in am getting a bit stir crazy. Pru has been an absolute star shopping for us ,as have our next door neighbours. Richard comes and keeps his distance as he now working in Bordon part time, so watch your speeding!! He only stays for a few minutes. Such lovely weather so will probably power wash the patio tomorrow or could leave it for another 9 weeks. Motivation is a bit difficult at times, then when all this is over will wonder why I didn't do all the things I should have done. Haven't murdered Louis yet but there is a big hole dug under the camelia (only joking). If anybody wants to phone for a natter please give them my number (its 01420 475569. Well, back to the gardening – stay safe Love Jill and Louis xx

**From Penny:**

Hi Dil

My thoughts turn to wishing that one of our daughters is a hairdresser. Mine was due a cut in December. I rang in January to find that my usual lady had broken her wrist in a fall (the right one, of course) and would not be able to do mine until March. We all know what happened then.

I don't recognise myself. The garden is looking a lot better than me.

The front door has been painted a bilious colour as we cannot source the top-coat we need but the brass looks good. A has been very busy. Gate needs attention and top oven has ceased to work. Hey ho.

Older daughter at home, furloughed, younger back at work after a fortnight isolation due to a colleague showing symptoms. All well.

All the best to everyone. Will be glad to get back to normal in due course, Penny

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Newsletter 7**

Week 7 and still going strong – I was back in work at the surgery this week and they are as busy as ever – bit of a problem on Thursday when we had no phones but that just gave us time to catch up with the backlog of paper which had built up as we were frantically dealing with phone calls earlier in the week. I am off now for a couple of weeks so hopefully by the time I'm in again it will have settled down.

Quite a busy week on the Zoom front this week. Those of us who belong to "The Quiet Knight Inn"



had another successful meet up on Saturday night and a further one is planned for this Saturday. On Monday we held our first Zoom committee meeting for HTC – it seemed to go fairly well and we got through the business in record time – shows just how much time we usually spend socialising and nibbling. Hopefully you will have received the newsletter which we usually send out after our meetings and the request from Janet for your membership details and updates on your phone and email details

On Wednesday, Rachel held the first play-reading session which, on the whole, was very successful and we plan to hold another one this coming THURSDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm. Let Rachel know if you are interested in joining us and she will send you the link to the meeting. Just click on the link in the email – you don't need to ring any of the numbers – and click on “enter meeting” pop up which will hopefully appear in the middle of your device. You may be asked in the top right hand corner of this pop up to choose to enter with “video” or “audio” these two options are in very small print so they are easy to miss!!!! Choose “video”. Rachel will let you know what we will be reading and attach any scripts to the email.

We have heard from quite a few members this week apart from those we saw at the various Zoom meetings, and on Friday even saw a few in person! We had a “socially distancing” Street Party – lots of cakes were made, quite a few beverages consumed, and in the end we stayed out from about 4pm until around 7.30pm. We saw Mel and Steve and Xander and Zak; met a couple of new (they've only been living here 4 years!) neighbours and we had a very pleasant afternoon. We all agreed to do it again when lock down finishes and we have something else to celebrate.

Jo(S) saw Jo(L) and Martin earlier in the week (to swap their broadband server) and they are well. I spoke to Pru and Janet and Neil all of whom seem to be well and keeping busy.

A small request if you happen to be out and about in the generally vicinity – we have been having some problems at the village hall over the last couple of weeks with youngsters climbing on the roof and throwing tiles off – if you are nearby, a circuit of the car park might make it look as though there are more people around and discourage them from doing it!

Message from Jo: last time he gave you a link to access HTC history which involved using the Headley village website. It turns out (for reasons which are complex & technical, but are hopefully being fixed soon) that if you go in that way the links don't work – so please use [www.johnowensmith.co.uk/htc](http://www.johnowensmith.co.uk/htc) instead and check out our history.

I think that's all for now, keep in touch and hope to see you all soon – or, as we sang lustily in the street at 9pm last night: “We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when... (etc, etc)”

### **Friday 15th May 2020 – Newsletter 8**

Week 8 – fairly quiet week this week; the slight easing of lockdown hasn't changed much for us, but I did notice when we popped into Grayshott mid-week that there was considerably more traffic around than there was the week before. We had a nice walk on Ludshott Common on our way home and it reminded me what a pleasant place it is to walk.

Our Saturday night zoom meeting with the folk fraternity went well and we have another one planned for this week. Rachel hosted another script-reading group on Thursday evening and once again it seemed to work. Jo and I are hosting this week's one (8pm, 21<sup>st</sup> May) and have decided that to make life easier we will use a couple of scripts that we already have on the computer which we will send out as attachments that can be printed in advance, if people wish, to make it easier on the evening – we will also put each week's selections on the HTC website (click on 'scripts') for you to download as a PDF in advance if you wish. Jo also suggested that some people may not be using zoom as much as we are and it can seem a little daunting at first trying to log in – we benefited from the fact that Deb has used it for work and was able to talk us through our first encounter! – so we thought we would set up a “meeting” solely for the purpose of getting logged in. We are no experts but have used it for a few weeks now and would be happy to help (phone in hand) and we would

then have the pleasure of seeing more of you face to face, so to speak! Let us know if you think that this would be helpful and we will arrange a time. For this, or to get scripts for the next attempt at play reading, get in touch with one of us.

I had a long chat with Jill this week, she and Louis are well and their garden will be immaculate when we get a chance to see it! Tina kindly dropped off some scripts for us and we will try and scan some of them to use in future play readings. Janet and Neil seem to be doing fine and Janet has spent time helping Jo to fill in some of the gaps in the archive of HTC programmes he has on the webpage. Pru is doing a sterling job helping those who are unable to go out with their shopping. Don't forget to let us know if you need some help – I tend to do a run to the surgery to pick up prescriptions for people at some point during the week and would be happy to do the same for anyone who needs them.

### **Friday 22nd May 2020 – Newsletter 9**

Week 9 – just realised I misnumbered last week's newsletter – just shows you should check your cut and paste.

This week has mainly been devoted to reorganising my shed – still – it seems a never ending task but needs to progress because the new shelving I ordered which was due to arrive between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June arrived today, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May!! It seems that many things ordered online are being delivered fairly randomly. There were a few other items I was expecting next week which arrived early, including one I was told would be available around 1<sup>st</sup> July (? a silly gift for Jo) and, on the other hand, some elastic I ordered back in March only made it today as well. Still, it keeps you on your toes! Getting back to shed clearing, I have quite a bit of wool which I don't want/need – it ranges from very thin Shetland to chunky, in various quantities – if anyone would like some let me know, otherwise I will send it to a charity shop when they are taking donations again 😊

We had another play reading via zoom on Thursday night and it was again an enjoyable evening. We underestimated how much material we might need for a two hour slot, so next week when Mel and Steve are hosting they may be slightly better prepared – although issuing the scripts in advance so that people could print them out if they wished seemed to work well. It did strike us that if people were having difficulty viewing the scripts and joining the meeting by video at the same time – i.e. on the same device – and didn't have access to a printer we could print out copies of the script and get it to them physically. Penny and Angus managed to join us this week, not having been able to access the meeting in previous weeks. Jo and I set up a practice meeting and talked them through the procedure. If anyone else is having similar problems and would like some help, let us know. Our weekly visit to the "Quiet Knight Inn" is a pleasant way to spend Saturday evening and I gather from conversations I have had with several members of the club that many of you are joining in quizzes and family group zoom/WhatsApp/Skype activities.

I was looking forward to a few weeks during which I didn't have to go to work and could concentrate (if I had to) on finishing off the shed – I find I can nearly always find something else I need to do instead; this week sorting out the Tupperware became an essential activity! However it seems that several staff at the surgery had put in for holiday over the next few months, and had it approved. The problem was that no-one had organised cover! The person who used to do so left the practice in March and her tasks had been shared out among the remaining staff – except arranging holiday cover. On Thursday afternoon I received a phone call asking if I was covering on Friday morning (7.45am) as someone had looked at the new, very spraucy, holiday rota and realised that there were no names against any of the holidays booked in the next 3 months! My dairy is now very full until the middle of September! I must prioritise the shed next week!

Everyone I have spoken to this week seems to be doing well and I am sure we are all hopeful of being able to get out and about a little more over the coming weeks.

Jo says that the answers to the crossword are now up on the website and he has included for your



interest and amusement a newsletter from 1979 – some things never change!  
Take care, let us know how you are and if you need any help. Dil.

### **Friday 29th May 2020 – Newsletter 10**

So lock-down is easing slightly. It will be very nice to be able to have a bit more freedom to see people and have a bit of a social life but I can't help thinking that the infection rate is still higher here than it is in some other countries and that we might be leaving ourselves open to re-infection. But I suppose we do have to ease things at some stage and we can only do our best to stay safe and be sensible.

Steve White was back in London for a couple of days this week, Thursday and Friday, and he was telling me that he took the first train up from Haslemere each morning and on a 9 coach train he was the only person in the carriage on both mornings and in the afternoon, coming home, it was the same on Thursday and on Friday there was one other person in the carriage. Not exactly packed trains then.

We have finally finished the shed! When I say finished I mean that the new shelving is in place and the various bags and boxes have all been sorted. A few minor bits still to do, but I should be able to move back in and use it as a sewing room again next week. – It's only been about a year since I was last able to do that!

Last Saturday we had another successful music evening by Zoom and are scheduled to do another session this coming tomorrow – we have been sent some homework by Sarah and Dave which consists of recording harmonies or lines of a song and sending them electronically to them for a version to be put together and played to all – we shall see!

We had another play reading on Thursday and it seemed to go well again; this week we had Penny, Rod, Tina, Mel and Steve, Kathryn, Maggie was there for a while, Nick, Chris Millard and Jo and me. We have another one scheduled for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Nick will be the host of this one and the details of the meeting and the scripts chosen will be sent round later in the week. At the moment we're using Janet's master list of emails to do this (as we do for the distribution of the newsletter) – if you would prefer not to be included in either let Janet know and she will make sure that you are not copied in. Also if you need any help with logging in to the meetings, let us know. Scripts chosen will be on the HTC website for you to read or download.

This week we dropped off some wool on Jill and Louis and admired their garden. We also did a click-and-collect trip to Waitrose which was much easier than I thought it might be, the only major problem was that the council had decided to resurface the car park and finding a way in was a challenge – also walking over wet sticky tarmac added to the experience! We also spoke to Pru who is well; Jo and Martin Levy who are in good spirits and able to get out for short trips; Janet and Neil are well and enjoying the sunshine. We had socially-distancing coffee with some of our neighbours in the street on Thursday and a very nice picnic on Ludshott Common on Friday – very quiet up there, and no one about, but you could hear the traffic on the A3 quite clearly; we didn't stay too long as it was very hot in the open with no shade!

Hope you all continue to keep well and occupied – let us know how you are and if you need anything. Dil

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Newsletter 11**

Nearly 3 months! – just looked at the photo I took of the garden and common during the first week of lockdown – how different it all looks now with all the flowers out in the garden and the trees in full leaf; I have taken another one for comparison!!

Nothing much has changed for us socially. We had a distanced chat with Mel and Steve in our garden on Sunday and on Monday night we had a zoom committee meeting. Most of the committee

were on video but Maggie and Mel and Jo and I sat round the fire pit in our garden with the computer on one of the small tables – it seemed to work, although because we were socially distancing you could only see Maggie, the rest of us made occasional appearances but were more often heard than seen!

Thursday bought another play reading by zoom, this time hosted by Nick. Again it was well attended and we had fun reading from some Black Adder scripts. Another session is planned for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June and we will put up the scripts we think we might do on the website – Black Skull (which is a short sketch suggested by Mel and Steve); Farndale Macbeth; Canterbury Tales and Bleeding Moody – we obviously won't have time to do them all but it will give us a few options. Once again if you have any problems logging in or would like the scripts in paper form let us know.

I have been back at the surgery this week – it is surprisingly busy given that we have fewer patients coming into the building. Most of the consultations with the doctors are initially by phone and one doctor and one nurse is on “face to face” each day. Blood tests are done in the tent at the side of the building. I found myself on the front desk this week with 2 phones, the normal one and a mobile on which people ring to say that they have arrived, and a “walkie-talkie” to communicate with the tent. Quite often all three will ring at once and also there will be a patient knocking on the front door to be let in. The door is kept locked so I had to go and admit any patients – usually for the nurses and midwives – and I was surprised to see that at the end of my first shift that I had logged a lot of steps on my fitness tracker – when I checked on the website to see what the number of steps equated to it was just short of 2 miles. Each day was more or less the same, so at the end of the week I had walked almost 10 miles just letting people in, collecting prescription requests and parcels and post! Next week I'm in the back office!

I don't think I have much else to add – I need to go and make some more face masks and practice for tomorrow night's virtual folk session. And I went into the deli just as they got some fresh scones out of the oven so I succumbed (they also had clotted cream) yum!!

Jo's daughter Sarah, who most of you know is a musician, sent us this link to her playing “Over the Rainbow” it's very nice <https://youtu.be/WT7JOWVOeiw> and Jo has been playing along on his sax!!

Take care, Dil x

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Newsletter 12**

Well lockdown has eased a bit more, and some of us have more freedom to get out and to meet up with a few family members, although I'm not sure it will make much difference to us personally. I have a daily chat with Deb when she goes on her morning walk; we see Mel and Steve from time to time for a chat in the garden and also saw Nick and Erika last Sunday for the first time in ages 😊

I have had a chat with Janet and she is well and at the moment not having to do a weekly trip to Basingstoke or Winchester which I sure she is pleased about. We also heard from Anne Flanagan and she and George are doing well too.

We had another happy hour or two on Zoom with the folk lot last Saturday and are planning another one this week, so I need to practice my squeeze box! Thursday's play reading went well; slightly fewer participants than the last few sessions but it was nice that Sarah Horne joined us from Kent. We managed to read all the plays we had earmarked. This coming Thursday, Mel will be hosting the session and the scripts will be up on the website later in the week.

As sometime happens, an inadvertently funny phrase was uttered in the Smith household this week – “you put your clothes on, I'm going into the loft” – we wondered how this could be fitted into a short sketch or monologue?! Your answers please ... perhaps for use in one of our play-reading sessions.

This week I've not had to go into work, so I occupied myself with clearing the backlog of ironing; mainly summer clothes I'd taken down from the loft – most of which I am sure I won't wear this year, but at least it will give me the opportunity to sort through them and get rid of some, when the

charity shops re-open. On that subject, I am in two minds about the re-opening of shops generally – I think it is a very good idea from a business point of view, but I’m not sure how much of a rush I’ll be in to start shopping again myself. I’ll have to see how desperate I become!

I’ve been getting material from “Pins and Needles” in Grayshott either by post or by “click and collect” which they’ve been operating for a couple of weeks and which seems to be working well. At least I’ll be able to do some sewing over the next couple of weeks before I’m back to work for the whole of July; unless we get our trip to France. We heard from our friends there who are now able to go wherever they like, meet in groups of up to 10 people, shop, dine in restaurants, although some of them only outside, and the wearing of face coverings are advisory most places (shops) and mandatory others (public transport). They are off in their camper van to the Loire for a couple of weeks this weekend and, depending on what the two governments decide, we still have some hope of getting to see them in Normandy next month!

We had a social-distancing street “party” in our road on VE day, and are hoping to hold a midsummer picnic next weekend, weather permitting, on the green bit at the end of the street to enable us all to see a few more people and have a nice social gathering. Hopefully it won’t be long before we can do something similar for HTC.

I think that’s all for now apart from to say, on a sad note, that Erika’s mum died this week. Whilst it was not totally unexpected, it’s still very hard when it happens. I’m sure we all send Erika and her family our love and best wishes.

Take care – Dil x

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Newsletter 13**

Life seems to be edging towards the new normal – there’s a lot more traffic about and I even had to wait outside the co-op in Grayshott this morning at 8am! Seems that many people had the same idea as me – to get the shopping over with. I say shopping, it was a “top up” really as our main shop had been done by “click and Collect” at Waitrose – we drove to Petersfield on Wednesday afternoon to pick it up and while Jo waited to “collect” I did a quick run round the shop for fresh items; altogether a very pleasant experience; Jo also went to WH Smith for a new diary and that too was uneventful. However, we got home at around 4.30 to discover that I had left my phone in the shopping trolley! Luckily for me someone had handed it in to the store and they phoned me to say that they had it – so, back in the car for another round trip of almost an hour!

We saw Mel and Steve and Zak and Zander last Sunday, to celebrate Zak’s birthday – where has that 20 years gone? We also saw Nick and Erika and heard from Penny and Janet and Neil.

On Saturday we had our “Quiet Knight Inn” folk session, and it did strike me that some of you might like the songs that Dave and Sarah Horne have put up on YouTube – if you look for “The Quiet Knights” you should find them. On Thursday we held another zoom play reading which we all enjoyed, this week reading from “Potato” and “Farndale Macbeth”. There will be another session this coming Thursday and the scripts are up on the website.

I am hoping the weather will improve as we have a couple of out door events pencilled in for this weekend, one of which is a socially distanced midsummer picnic tomorrow with the other residents of Kay Crescent which we will hold on the green patch at the end of the street, weather permitting.

I don’t seem to have achieved much this week, but I have spent all week doing it! I think Jo is right when he says that there are a lot of things we say we would do if we only had the time; now that we have the time we still don’t do them. The daily half hour bike rides and, in Jo’s case the daily music practice sessions do still happen, also weekly Pilates (Jo) and ballet (me) and short walks, some days; hopefully we won’t be too unfit when life gets back to normal.

We heard from “Action Hampshire” this week that village halls may be able to re-open from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, with suitable safety provisions in place. We wondered what you all think about starting to meet in the hall again? I have also attached an extract from “Sardines” magazine which deals with

the re-opening of theatres, both professional and amateur.

I also received this from Pete Stephens this week:

“– just to say Hello officially, as I've become Holybourne Theatre Comm. Secretary, could you pass this on to the newsletter friends. Maybe, when the ‘virus dust settles’ and Theatres get back to the ‘new normal’ there maybe twinning opportunities.... hope all of your members are well. 🍷🍷

Thanks for the weekly newsletter... Pete”

Take care, and hope to see you all soon – Dil

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Newsletter 14**

Lot of rain this week 😊 still I suppose we needed it and much as I like sunny weather we have had it rather too hot on a couple of days; we spent a lot of time sitting in the garden doing very little except reading and then spent the evenings with all the doors and windows open trying to keep the house cool – we are never happy are we? Still it looks as though we are in for a few cooler days then by next weekend back to the nice mid-twenties next week.

Jo & I have seen quite a few people this week; Deb, Mel, Steve and Zak and Xander, and Nick and Erika. Jill and Louis came to lunch in the garden on Tuesday which was very nice. We heard from Janet and Neil, who are both well, and poor Penny who had a fall and was quite sore but I understand is on the mend now; our friends from Mansfield and Sarah and Dave in Herne Bay. We had our weekly Folk gathering on Saturday and a zoom play reading on Thursday when we read “Twelve Minute Night”, the second act of “Up Pompei” and “Not fit to live in England” which is the radio play about the riots in Selborne and Headley. There were not so many of us this week but we hope to be back up in numbers next Thursday, so join us at 8pm if you can. The scripts will be up on the website next week.

I was back at work on Thursday and Friday after a break of almost 3 weeks and I was surprised how different it all seemed after that relatively short period of time. Two weeks ago most people were very aware of the difficulties and went out of their way to be helpful and understanding of the restraints under which the surgeries were operating; this week it was much, much busier and patients were much more demanding and much less patient! – maybe it was the weather. I have a week off before I’m back in again for most of July; hopefully it won’t be quiet so hectic then.

We finally got the news that we would be allowed go to France for a few days next month (without quarantine) and then we had to cancel for other reasons! We will try again for September, which is the next opportunity, and we hope that things will be more settled by then.

Jo and I watched a very interesting Production of “Midsummer Night’s Dream” – it was live streamed on Thursday when we were busy “play reading” so we took the opportunity to catch up with it last night. It was from The National Theatre by The Bridge Theatre. Well worth a look at; I think it’s available for the next week or so, and makes very enjoyable watching – it’s a very different take on the play compared to productions we have seen in the past.

There is a Theatre Club Committee meeting coming up on 7<sup>th</sup> July, probably by zoom again, and hopefully we will be able to look at how we can all meet up in the not too distant future.

Jo has been doing some more work on the Theatre Club archives and we were intrigued to find a gap in the records that we are unable to fill. We have some photos from a play called “Seven Deadly Sins” which we think was part of an evening of one-act plays and was probably some time in the late 1980s, early 1990s – Jill remembers it as the play where the wall paper kept falling down but we can’t pin it down to a date, and even more interesting is the fact that there doesn’t seem to be a gap in the records where it should fit! I have attached a couple of photos from it in case anyone has a programme of any ideas. Also a page of puzzles from Penny.

Hope you are all keeping well, and we hope to see you soon. – Dil

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 – Newsletter 15**

I've been trying to remember what we have been up to this week – we seem to have been very busy but with nothing very much to show for it. However, we have had a lot of Zoom activity!

Saturday night we had our weekly folk meeting which went very well then on Tuesday we had a Village Hall Committee meeting by zoom; which wasn't quite so successful as some of the participants had trouble logging in; on Thursday we had a play reading again, this week we read "Breeze Block Park" which seemed to work. We have decided that next week we will tackle "Plaza Suite" so if you want to be involved let us know.

I was going to say that we have seen fewer people in general this week; but that wouldn't be true. On Wednesday we attended Erika's mum's funeral at Basingstoke; it all seemed to go off as well as such things can in these strange times and both Jamie and Simon paid moving tributes to their gran. Thursday and Friday I was unexpectedly back at the surgery, so I at least had many different people to contend with. Today Deb arrived for the weekend and we did a round of local shopping and tomorrow we will be round to folk group again – so quite a number of people in all.

Thursday was a day of note: we went into the garden around 10am to find that we had visitors during the night! – Jo had left the gate to the woods slightly open on Wednesday night and we noticed that some of our plants had been nibbled. In fact, all the geraniums, of which we had many in bloom, had disappeared overnight! We had commented last week when neighbours told us that they had been visited by deer, that we had never had any in our garden – now we have – lesson: make sure the gate is closed!

I was reading about food banks in the news this week and it reminded me that I had meant to try and remember to donate something each time I go shopping, but having only made the odd trip to Grayshott over the last few weeks. I decided to ask Penny about the local ones to see what might be most helpful, as I knew she used to be involved with them. She kindly made enquiries and it seems that whilst they are ok for help (they cannot at present take any more volunteers due to social distancing), they would be very happy to take donations – apparently there is a need for "pudding" type items such as tinned custard, tinned puddings, tinned fruit, etc – also toiletries, shampoos, etc. If anyone would like to help, Penny and I are happy to accept items and Penny will take it to the foodbank in Bordon.

Having heard that the pubs are opening tomorrow, I decided to book a table at the Crown for a lunch time drink/nibble next Sunday (12<sup>th</sup>), in the garden – it was quite an exercise – one email and two phone calls – how many people? How many households is that? We need a name and telephone number for each household, etc, etc. I will let you know how it goes.

I have attached some photos of casts that Jo is interested in identifying if anyone has an idea what they relate to. He thinks that at least one of them, maybe two, were taken to show who were members around the millennium – but there are no dates on them – and note the change in curtain colour.

Take care – Dil

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Newsletter 17**

The nice sunny weather seems to be back with us for a couple of weeks at least. I have been at work all week so haven't really suffered from the lack of sunshine, but it does seem to make things easier when the weather is good. Another mixed week at the surgery – still quite busy and patients and staff struggling with the ever-changing rules and requirements!

I am not too keen on mask-wearing generally; I can see the benefits of wearing face covering if you are in an enclosed space for a long period of time with lots of other people (public transport) and I do wear one at work as required but I find them very claustrophobic, and I won't be doing any unnecessary shopping or visiting non-food shops in the near future as I don't see any pleasure in wandering randomly around already restricted shops or going to galleries or exhibitions wearing face

coverings. I think, for the time being I shall continue to shop on-line and only make short dashes to local shops if I need to.

We have had the usual social zoom meetings this week; last Saturday we strayed a little from the norm and our "household" (including Deb who was visiting) joined the Whites' "household" for the Saturday folk zoom. It was nice to join in singing live with an, albeit small, group of people.

Play readings this week included "Plaza Suite" (we only read the first act in the end as it was very long and didn't have very many characters) and the 4<sup>th</sup> episode of "Jobsworth"; the one about Twinning with the 'French Dragon'. Next week Mel is doing the organising and scripts will be up on the web soon.

On Monday we had our monthly HTC committee meeting, again by zoom, and I hope you have received your newsletter with the suggestions from the committee about the ideas for the next few months. Remember if you want to come to the Picnic at Pru's on Bank Holiday weekend you will need to let us know as there might still be restrictions on numbers.

Jo and I have seen, or heard, from various people over the last 7 days. On Sunday we met up with the Whites and Webbs in our garden for light lunch which was very enjoyable. We saw Jo and Martin, who are keeping well and managing to get out most days; I saw Anne Flanagan and I spoke to Jill and Louis on the phone, and also Pru. Several of our members are finally getting away on holiday over the next few weeks, which is nice to hear and I hope that more of us will find ourselves able to take a break away before very long. On Sunday we are venturing down to The Crown for lunch – I will report next week.

We had a response on one of our mystery HTC photographs – thank you Rod (and family) for identifying the group of Juniors from Sleeping Beauty 1993. It is now up on the 'History' part of our website in its correct location. Jo has just about finished going through Penny & Angus's copious photos of past shows. He says send him more please (thanks Cavan for yours), particularly if you are sitting on any old programmes not shown on the website.

Stay safe. Dil.

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Newsletter 18**

I must confess that it is actually Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – 8am to be precise, just haven't had a moment to get round to doing this newsletter before.

A very busy week at work followed by a visit from the Corsham Williamsons on Friday. We haven't seen them since February and in that time they have had 3 birthdays and a wedding anniversary! They arrived (and Mars and Smartie left home!) on Friday night (late as usual) – by the time we had supper and followed this by an impromptu music session with Stevie and Jo on guitars and Leeky and Tallulah on ukuleles and vocals it was nearly 11pm – up on Saturday (early 6.30!!) breakfast, a sewing session with Tallulah in my sewing shed, out to the shops, game of Mölke in the garden, lunch ... they left at around 3.30 to go to Phil & Sue in Petersfield. Jo and I collapsed on the sofa until it was time for the "Quiet Knight" folk session. Lovely to see them but rather full on – you forget how energetic 8-year olds are!!!! (Mars and Smartie finally home at 7pm)

This week at the play reading session on zoom on Thursday we read "Ladies in Waiting" and "Husbands Supplied" which we had performed on stage in the 1980s & 90s. This coming Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Rachel is hosting a murder mystery so don't forget to let her know if you want to take part (in fact today (19<sup>th</sup>) is the deadline date for parts) – you will be very welcome to come along as audience anyway and the details will be sent out later in the week.

Last Sunday Jo and I and Nick and Erika and Mel and Steve went to "The Crown" for lunch in the garden and enjoyed it very much – everything was very well handled and I am thinking of booking again for next Sunday when Deb will be down and fancies a drink in a pub garden!

Jo and I along with Dave and Sarah Horne should have been going to France on Monday for a few days with our French friends but this has now been moved on to September. So I have a week off



work and we have decided to make the most of getting out and about more locally – so far it's Selborne tomorrow with a picnic, and on Wednesday and Thursday we are going to sample 2 of three possible pubs for lunch; "Three Horseshoes" at Elsted, "The White Horse" (aka the pub with no name) near Petersfield and the "Onslow Arms" at Loxwood; perhaps we will do the third on Friday. We are also fancying a picnic above Butser Hill; Let's hope the weather is kind! If anyone fancies joining us get in touch – days may involve some walking, but not too much.

Jo has just about got to the end of his lollipop with HTC records – ie. he's added everything that's been given to him so far – but we're sure there's more out there – especially old programmes – so keep looking and keep sending.

Take care and stay well – Dil

PS don't forget to let us know if you are coming to the picnic at Pru's on August Bank Holiday Sunday.

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Newsletter 19**

We should be on our way back from France but as our visit has been postponed until September we decided to holiday at home.

On Monday we went over to Selborne and then meandered round some very narrow lanes (got lost a couple of times) and took a picnic up to Butser Hill; but as we didn't feel inclined to pay for the car park we ate it in the green verge at the side of the lane leading up to it. Very nice view right out to the sea; Jo said we could see the Isle of Wight! Meandered home again round more narrow lanes.

Tuesday we headed for The Three Horseshoes at Elsted and had a very good meal in their garden – they have 35 outside tables – the view of the South Downs was nice and the weather warm. We took the slow road home again visited the Shepherd's Church at Didling.

Wednesday we went to Loxwood for a walk along the canal followed by lunch at the Onslow Arms. Some confusion over the walk – I had seen a short walk, about a mile in all, to the new lock and back to the pub; a nice stroll before lunch; Jo on the other hand had seen a longer one, 3½ miles to Baldwin's Knob and Drungewick Aqueduct. So instead of the "nice stroll" of about ½ an hour we did an hour and a half walk in the hot sun just getting back to the pub in time for our lunch slot at 2.30; I had wondered why Jo wanted to leave home so early– still I am sure it did me good.

Thursday and Friday we mostly spent in the Garden, yet more geraniums!

The scheduled zoom meetings happened as planned with Thursday's being the Murder Mystery arranged by Rachel. Lots of the participants dressed up for the occasion and all entered into the spirit of the thing. I turned out to be the murderer– although I didn't guess it! I almost opted for my character but decided that I was the too obvious choice. Next Thursday Jo and I will be organising the play-reading; no decision yet about the scripts, although there are some on the website to choose from – if you have any favourites which aren't there, let us know.

The Saturday night Quiet Knight Inn music session is tomorrow, so tonight we are going the Whites to practice a couple of songs.

We have spoken to Jill and Louis this week, they are in good form, and Jo also visited Jo and Martin this afternoon and spent some time in their garden.

I am back at work next week so no more gadding about for a couple of weeks!

Jo is still on the look out for old programmes or photographs if you have any.

Take Care and keep well – Dil

### **Friday 31st July 2020 – Newsletter 20**

31<sup>st</sup> July !! where has this year gone – it seems no time at all since we were planning for our spring production which of course sadly never happened due to covid. Now it looks like it will be spring

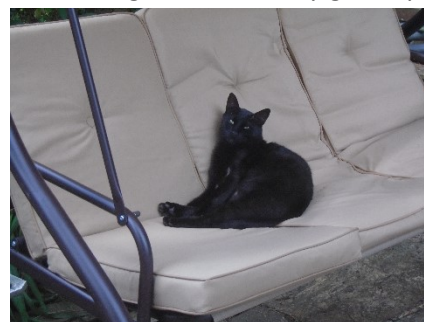
next year before we manage to put on a show, if we are lucky that is! For now we are going ahead with plans for a green room in the autumn, again circumstances permitting, and possibly a Christmas show of some sort during the week before Christmas – we will keep you informed.

Back at work again this week, still no change, most appointments are telephone consultations but there are some things coming back into the surgery like chiropody and physio appointments and some outpatient clinics from Royal Surrey and Basingstoke which use rooms at the surgery have resumed so small steps towards normality.

Not such a busy week socially. We did a play reading on Thursday which we decided would be the last one until, probably, the beginning of September as a lot of the regular participants are hopefully getting away on holiday over the next few weeks. The weekly folk session happened last Saturday night and is planned to go ahead this coming Saturday but we will probably have a similar situation to the Thursday night play sessions as some of the same people are involved. I will keep you informed.

Jo and I have seen a few people “live” this week: on Sunday we went to The Crown for lunch with Mel and Steve, we popped in on Jill and Louis, saw Pru and yesterday Jo took Martin and Jo Levy to Headley Grange (the old workhouse) to see the “stairway to heaven”. We had a socially-distanced birthday party in the street on Tuesday for one of the residents who had a ‘big’ birthday, and tonight Jo and I went to Mel and Steve’s to practice for tomorrow’s Folk session (still more rehearsing needed!).

Our swing seat, which Theatre Club members kindly gave us for our wedding in 2006, finally gave up the ghost this week so we ordered another one, which was due to arrive tomorrow – but it arrived on Monday, so Jo and I spent the afternoon dismantling the old one and building the new one – all in place now with the old one cut up into car boot-sized pieces (courtesy of Steve) and it’s on its way to the dump next week. I don’t think the new one is as robust as the old one (but it is more comfortable) - Smartie seemed to approve and took possession as soon as it was finished and as far as we know didn’t move until the next morning.



Right time to go and rehearse some more – at least I can ignore the ironing basket for a little longer. Take care and keep well - Dil

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Newsletter 21**

It is actually Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>! Just realised I hadn’t done this newsletter, probably because we did a monthly one after the committee meeting last Monday.

This week has been a work week again, including a very long work session on Friday which is probably also why I forgot the newsletter.

Most of my week, apart from work, has been taken up by trying to help some of the Village Hall Trustees to get on to zoom so that we can have zoom committee meetings. Not the easiest of tasks particularly for the member who is trying to do it on a Kindle Fire but I think I’ve worked it out now – finally !! We are coming up to the time when we shall have to think about opening up the Village Hall again – most of the measures advised by the government and various other interested parties are in place – the committee now just have to take the plunge. I don’t think rehearsals will be allowed for a while – too complicated to meet the distancing requirements but hopefully that will change over time.

We are also coming up to the time when we need to know numbers for the picnic in Pru’s garden on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – more details of the format next week – but could I ask that you let me know if you are intending to come as we will have to try and comply with the Covid guidelines at the time.

At the moment it is still 30 people in socially-distanced groups. I know some people have indicated that they would like to come and I think that, at present, I know of around 15 (almost) definite attendees; but I would be grateful if you could let me know by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> (even if you have already told me 'cause I might have forgotten 😊)

This week we have seen the Whites, the Webbs, the Hardinges, the Farnluchers, Pru, Jill and Louis, the Levys, & Deb. We also had an exciting trip to the tip to dispose of the old swing seat and have another slot planned for this week – much deadheading and trimming of shrubs! Jo did a drive-through pacemaker check in the Royal Surrey car park. He would prefer that they kept it that way, no parking, no waiting, (to be fair he only goes once a year) but I don't think the technicians were that keen!! He has also been walking the footpaths of Headley to update the old map book – about halfway through now.

The weekly play readings are on hold until the end of the month but we had an enjoyable Quiet Knight folk session last night though they will now be on hold for a couple of weeks due to the August holiday exodus. So far we don't think anyone has ventured away from these shores (I don't count the Isle of Wight) and it looks as though we may have to cancel our September trip to France, but that is still 5 weeks away so we live in hope. Canal boat to the Midlands first (we hope). Deb has a theory that they will make us lock down again for November for a month so they can let us out for Christmas!

Well, back to zoom practice/set up and also setting Jo up with an iPhone – luckily we are out to lunch with Jill and Louis and Deb later, so something of a reward for techy trauma!!

Take care and stay safe – Dil

## **2August 14th 2020 – Newsletter 21**

Quite a lot has changed during the last week, not least the weather! But it is nice not to have to water the garden every evening and the drop in temperature has made sleeping easier and general activity less exhausting.

On Tuesday we had a zoom committee meeting of the Village Hall Trustees and it was agreed to take steps necessary to enable us to re-open the hall for some groups within the government guidelines. At the time it was still unclear when we would be able to resume activities such as theatrical performances, however in the last few days it has been announced that these can now resume – hopefully this means that the “Green Room” pencilled in for the 9th October can now go ahead. Jo and I are happy to organise this so we look forward to hearing from you what you would like to offer as an item for the programme. We will work out the logistics as we get nearer to the event and will probably arrange to use Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th October to setup/walk through. Similarly I have taken the opportunity to book two dates in December for some sort of Christmas Show, 12th and 19th – more about that later. It was suggested, at the Theatre Club committee meeting at the beginning of August, that we might also like to arrange a social/fund raising event and a quiz evening was one of the options – this could take place in November and would be a way of getting us all together again without too much stress – let me know what you think and I will book a date. Hopefully we will be able to start rehearsing for the Spring Show, the delayed murder mystery, in the New Year always assuming that things don't get locked down again! – small steps.

Socially it has been a fairly quiet week. Sunday saw us at “The Royal Exchange” for lunch with Jill and Louis and Deb; it was very nice but very hot (we were outside). On Thursday we had booked again for lunch with Jo and Martin but unfortunately, due to the unpredictable weather Jo and Martin had to pull out – but we went, and got rained on ! (fortunately the terrace covering we were under was sufficient to protect us in the most part but the walk back to the car was rather wet). We will attempt to go again with the Levys soon. The set menu that they are doing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the moment looks very good and very good value too, so we may try that next time!

Quite a few people have managed to get away on holiday this week so we won't be doing a folk evening tomorrow but hopefully we will be back next week when it is "request" night. It looks as though we are still on course for our canal trip in 3 weeks time but unfortunately, due to the latest news on quarantine, I am going to have to cancel our trip to France. 😞

The date for the picnic at Pru's gets closer and we do need to know who is coming; this far out the weather doesn't look too bad, not hot but at least probably dry – but that of course can change and it is bank holiday! – still fingers crossed that we will be able to go ahead – gazebos and awnings might be needed! We have managed many Sunday afternoon small, socially distanced, gatherings earlier in the summer with the help of a large garden umbrella and/or a fire pit!

That's all for now, stay safe and keep in touch – Dil

### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 – Newsletter 22**

It seems very "English" to talk about the weather but our activities this week have been more weather dependant than we have been used to over the last couple of months. We had a fairly quiet weekend, no zoom folk club and no social Sunday afternoon, just Jo working on the Parish magazine and Dil pottering about doing very little!

The beginning of the week found us with a sudden flurry of activity. Jo and I went to the Village Hall and installed all the signage, distance tapes, hand gel sanitizers and the other physical items that were needed in the Hall to enable the Trustees to allow some of the groups to restart their activities by the beginning of September. On the whole, considering the number of items/notices/PPE etc that we are required to have in there, it doesn't look too bad; much better than we had originally feared, and so we can look forward to seeing some users back in the Hall very soon.

On two days this week we walked a few more of the footpaths in the parish to help with the re-writing of the old Parish Council booklet. The weather was fairly kind and we didn't get too wet on either occasion, but two 2-hour-plus walking sessions reminded me that I really do need to get fitter!

Thursday night was very windy and at one point I got up during the night to close a couple of doors which were banging. Friday we left early for a trip to Woodstock for lunch – rather a long way to go but very enjoyable – we arrived home around 6ish to find that I had shut Mars in one of the bedrooms – he was not impressed.

Things are getting busier again this weekend and Saturday should see the resumption of the Quiet Knight Inn folk zoom session. It is "requests night" and I have spent quite a bit of time over the past week compiling a request list from the various members and hopefully some people will have had some time to do a bit of rehearsing! (I haven't done much!) Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August sees the return of our zoom play readings and the scripts will be up on the website later in the week. We will start at 8pm as usual and I will send out the invites on Tuesday. Please join us if you can.

We finally got confirmation this week that the Haslemere Walking Festival, due to take place in September, has been cancelled. As you may remember, we had been asked to do our dramatised walk on Hindhead as part of the festival but this will not now happen, so those of you involved don't have to learn your words – and Jo doesn't have to grow a beard 😊.

Next Sunday is the "break-out" picnic at Pru's; we hope to start around 2.30pm. Please bring your own food, drink, glasses, utensils, something to sit on, etc, and be prepared to clear up after yourselves to help us keep it as safe/socially distanced as possible. There will be some quiches and some cakes to share but we felt it was safer not to try and provide too much. Please ring Dil or Pru to confirm numbers or if you are not sure of what to do. 😊

Enjoy the last week of summer – at least the forecast isn't too bad and we should get a few more nice days (in between storms) before autumn sets in. We will of course keep you informed as to the possibilities of staging our, modest, proposed autumn schedule when the committee has had time to discuss it further and we see how the village hall opening goes.

Take care and stay well – Dil

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Newsletter 23**

I have to confess that it is actually Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. I've been away since Friday and this is the first opportunity I've had to settle down to write the newsletter.

The weather has felt really autumnal for the last week, lots of rain and quite windy. Time to start to think about lighting the fire! We did however manage to walk a few more footpaths and Jo is now about halfway through writing them up for the new booklet.

Saturday last week saw another "Quiet Knight Inn". It was request night and seemed to go well; the numbers were slightly down, some people still away on holiday but we had a good session nevertheless.

Monday and Tuesday were rather wet and windy – on Tuesday our new swing seat blew over, fortunately undamaged! We spent both days on "inside work"; mostly me sewing in my shed and Jo working on the parish footpaths, sending out invites for the Christmas Fair (which we hope will be able to go ahead in some form at the end of November), and also transcribing some of the early Parish Council records.

Wednesday was drier and we manage to walk yet another footpath. Thursday was meant to see the renewal of the play readings by zoom, but unfortunately, mainly due to some of the usual participants being unexpectedly unable to log in at the last minute, we abandoned the session and spent the evening chatting (and having a drink) with Mel and Steve who were back from their camping/sailing holiday in Cornwall. We hope to do better this coming Thursday when we will read "Third Week in August". Tina will be heading this one and the script will be up on the website later in the week.

Friday saw Jo and me heading for Corsham to see Steve, Leeks and Tallulah – a very busy weekend. On Saturday some of us went to Bath, shopping, then we took a rowing boat with an electric engine down the river Avon (I caused much amusement as I didn't like getting in or out as it wobbled – I crawled out!). In the evening we went for a meal in the Italian restaurant in Corsham – we sat outside and it rained! (it was also rather cold) then back to the house to log on to the "Quiet Knight Inn" folk session, with 8-year-old Tallulah taking the first two sets on her ukulele; Sunday breakfast and then home in time for the "break out" picnic at Pru's.

Sixteen people turned up: Maggie, Karina and Annaliese, Mel and Steve, Jo and I, Nick and Erika, Mary and Simon, Shirley and Jonathan, Alun and his aunt Sue, and Tina popped in for a short while. It was lovely to see everyone after so long and although it got a little cold towards the end it didn't rain on us! We left at around 7pm, just as it was beginning to get dark. Everyone seemed to be well and generally in good spirits. I hope that we'll see more of everyone over the coming weeks. Unfortunately, some people who had intended to be there could not come at the last minute, but it was a start! – and thank you, Pru.

Take care – we hope to see lots of you on Thursday for the play reading; stay well – Dil.

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020!! – Newsletters 24 and 25**

Two weeks in one. Sorry! My excuse is that we've been on a canal boat for the last week and I didn't get time to do a newsletter for the 4<sup>th</sup> September before we left.

Things change yet again – the rule of six is looming!!

Not much activity in the week from the August Bank Holiday, following our very successful meeting in Pru's garden which, as we said last time, was really enjoyable.

During the following week Jo and I walked a few more footpaths and planned our canal trip. Nothing more of note!

Deb joined us on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September and we set off for 'the Midlands' early on 5<sup>th</sup> – we decided to

travel up the Shropshire Union canal from Wolverhampton and spent a happy week meandering up through the rural countryside with very few locks or impediments (or pubs) on the way. Many beers/glasses of wine were drunk on board and many nice meals consumed; we played a few rounds of “Outburst” and “Ticket to Ride” and “Scrabble” (but why bother with the latter when Jo always wins? – you’d think we would learn after all these years!).

On the Thursday night we managed to connect to the boat’s wi-fi and log into the play-reading Zoom session – but only two others had joined so Tina decided to postpone it. Pity.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> we left the boat and, back in the car, headed for Stoke, where I grew up. We found ourselves on dry land but Deb and I both suffered from a feeling of still being on the boat for a good few hours! After a random visit to all the places I had lived as a child in the 50s to 70s (but not in chronological order, which troubled Deb) we met up with my two brothers and my sister-in-law in a pub in Hanley almost opposite the offices of the “Staffordshire Sentinel” where I worked in the 1960s, and had a nice meal and a good catch-up – we worked out that it was 17 years since I had seen my elder brother and his wife!

On Saturday afternoon we motored home in time to join the Saturday night “Quiet Night Inn” on the Zoom Meeting” – some of us were not much use as Deb and I were still “on the boat” I resorted to sitting on the floor as it was more stable! 😊 Never had this before even though I’ve been on canals many times and larger/longer cruises. Very strange!

Steve White had done a lot of very strenuous sailing over the weekend and fell asleep very soon after joining the meeting – I was very envious as I felt like doing the same – Deb retired to bed early. So our adventure on the canal was very relaxing 😊 😊!!

Today – Sunday – we had an afternoon meeting in the garden with Mel and Steve and Nick and Erika (and we admired her new car). The weather was kind and according to the forecast it should be good for the next few days, so maybe we’re in for an Indian Summer.

Two members had birthdays this week – Maggie and Jill – so we hope they had good days. On a not so happy note, Shirley is not too well and has been in Hospital – we hope for better news soon.

Take care and stay well – Dil x

## **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Newsletter 26**

Newsletter 26! That’s ½ a year’s worth! – so it really is 6 months since this all began. Now it looks as though we may be heading for a further lockdown in the weeks to come unless things improve rapidly. Trying not to be too depressed about it. We should have been off to France on Sunday, but ... – c’est la vie – maybe next year.

Nothing much of note to report this week. I worked the first couple of days at the surgery, the usual annual winter pre-occupations with flu clinics, more phone calls about how to get a covid test and the difference between symptoms of a cold and ..... But on the whole everything seems to be running fairly smoothly – it will be interesting to see how the new flu clinics work with the larger numbers, social distancing, facemasks and the new cleaning regimes between patients: the first one kicks off next Saturday.

Jo has walked a few more footpaths this week and he has almost finished them; he is hoping to get the last few under his belt (boots) this week. He also had the Parish Mag to get to the publishers, which he did, so the copies should arrive on our doorstep any time now for distribution. Then I am sure he will be on to the next project.

This week we enjoyed the weekly “Quiet Night Inn” zoom folk club on Saturday and drinks in the garden with the Whites and the Webbs on Sunday. On Monday we had a zoom committee meeting, the outcome of which we reported in the monthly committee newsletter (can get confusing all these newsletters 😊). We still plan to run the play reading session on this coming Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September and I will re-send the invite as I know a couple of people who have not been on the calls



recently have expressed a desire to re-join. All are welcome. Let me know if you want an invitation but don't get it.

We have spoken to Jill and Louis during the week (they are reasonably well although Louis had tripped up and given himself a black eye, but he seems to be on the mend.); to Pru who is as busy as ever making cakes for the Deli and helping out at High Hurlands. Jo visited the Levys on Friday and they are well. I spoke to Angela and she is one of the ones interested in the play readings again and I had an email from Kathryn who is also interested. We had a phone call from Jean, Jo's friend in Cherbourg, who filled us in on the situation in France – I must admit that after exchanging a few words of greeting with him in French I quickly passed the phone to Jo! 😊. I heard from Jonathan that Shirley is still in hospital at the moment and I have arranged for a card and a small gift for her from us all which we will drop round to Jonathan when it arrives (hopefully today).

As the situation is not really getting any clearer and the regulations seem to change quite often and quickly we have, as you will have seen from the newsletter, put the idea of the green room on the "back burner" for the moment; as Rachel says, it is ironic that we can put on a performance for an audience but can't rehearse it! We still hope that we may be able to do something, however modest, for Christmas.

Plans for this week include the Saturday zoom folk call, possible garden drinks on Sunday and a lunchtime outing with Jill and Louis on Wednesday, all of which we look forward to, (getting stuff in before further restrictions) and the Thursday play reading of course.

Now I shall go down to the bottom of the garden to my now fully-operational sewing room, turn on the red light and do something useful. At the moment I am making some more quilts. In the past several people have asked if I would do some memory quilts for them and I always felt I didn't have the time – but now I am doing a few experiments to see if it could work.

Have a good week and we hope to see many of you on the call on Thursday – Take care, Dil.

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Newsletter 27**

Another week has gone by in a trice – really into autumn now, and unfortunately the restrictions seem to be getting tighter – so we have decided to see people while we can and hope that things might be a little more relaxed approaching Christmas. One good thing; Deb me informed that the Christmas Channel is now back online 😊 I shall look forward to watching some cheesy movies while I am busy sewing.

It has turned out to be a surprisingly busy week (we should have been in France with the Hornes, but that was cancelled for the second time this year – maybe next year?) Saturday evening we had a successful folk zoom meeting and before that we had a socially-distanced drink in the garden with one of our neighbours to discuss doing a few things in the road to brighten up a possibly socially-restricted Christmas. We have had several successful socially-distanced "coffee mornings" and "picnics" with some of our sheltering neighbours during the summer, and are hoping to come up with a few ideas to brighten the winter months.

Sunday saw us delivering a card and gift to Jonathan for him to pass on to Shirley on behalf of the club. He seemed to be fairly hopeful of hearing better news soon and was planning for her to be able to come home in a couple of weeks if she is allowed. In the afternoon we met the Whites and the Webbs in the garden for an afternoon "soiree".

Jo had an early birthday present – a new, small, camera to fit in his pocket when walking, and on Monday he did the penultimate walk in his Headley Footpaths project – and on Tuesday he did the last one while Erika, Jill and I met Pru in her garden for coffee and cake – most enjoyable and we will try and get a couple more such coffee mornings in before the weather finally turns too cold (or restrictions don't allow it).

Wednesday saw us at The Hanger in Oakhanger for lunch with Jill and Louis; very nice food and a well set up dining room; we hope to go again.

On Thursday our new chest freezer arrived – we decided to put it in the shed at the side of the house, not in Jo's shed at the bottom of the garden which was the original idea, so Jo borrowed some proper equipment from Steve White and drilled a hole in the lounge wall to enable us to connect it to power. We are now a two-freezer household. I spent a few "happy" (and cold) hours re-arranging the contents of both. And in the evening we had a play reading when we read "The Third Thursday in August" at the third attempt! Just enough people for the parts, but I must confess that there was a bit of an issue with the zoom "invites" this week, which I hope I have now resolved; so maybe more will be able to get on next week when we hope to read "Clara on the Curtains". Join us if you can – the new "invite" will be up on Tuesday.

Friday saw us fitting a carpet into the study, and then we looked at the new stair carpet which had just arrived but decided that we were all "fitted out" and it could wait until the weekend (or next week 😊)

Apart from those already mentioned, we have seen Jo and Martin who are in good spirits; spoken to Neil and Janet who are well and busy with the village hall machinations. Tina and Kathryn were on the play reading call and we have spoken to Deb a couple of times; and I see from Facebook that Martin and Shirley have welcomed a new grandson, we hope they are all well.

Take care and stay well – Dil.

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Newsletters 28 & 29**

Two weeks in one again as Jo and I were on the Isle of Wight last week for his birthday treat. We were 2 miles down a cart track with locked gates in a hut with a compost loo (which turned out to be just a bucket)! We knew all this before of course and I am sure that in the summer "The Shack" is very nice as it sits just above the beach with a nice garden and comfortable beds BUT when the weather is inclement (blowing a gale and raining) and the coastal path is virtually impassable either way, it is not so inviting. We left early due to the weather and a couple of other issues. Never mind, we continued to "holiday" at home for the next couple of days in comfort and dryer conditions.

Play reading zoom sessions have continued over the last couple of weeks but we have decided to take a break this coming week as some of us are hoping to go to the quiz night at the Royal Exchange. We have read most of the plays that people have put forward and I did wonder if it might be time for a short break – but as it is nice to keep in touch with people from HTC on a Thursday night I propose that we try a zoom quiz evening. Deb does it with some of her friends, and they each "set" a round – can be anything; Deb has in the past done, "TV detectives"; "this day in...." (random facts from a given day in past years); "Christmas Hits"; "American Cities" etc; so in fact, anything you like. You obviously (or your team 😊) don't take part in the round you set but do in all the others. Deb's group have been doing it for several weeks (months?) including a participant from Finland!! Might be worth a go, so if you are interested in setting a round let me know. I have 3 offers so far and propose we do it on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 😊 and if it is successful we can think about future dates.

We have another committee meeting coming up next week and we will discuss the current situation: I can't see us doing much in the next couple of months because the covid rules still make it difficult for us to meet up and rehearse. I have checked and we do come under the "rule of six" and who knows for how long even that will apply. It is looking less and less likely that we will have a "live" Christmas event; even if we could stage one it would be difficult to manage an audience under the present rules and we can not do it as a "Green Room" because this would be considered a social event and would break the rules! Maybe we will have to do our own Zoom Christmas event; stories, poems, carols, sketches if you have enough people in your family. I will be practicing carols on my squeeze box! Let me know if you have any ideas.

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen the Webbs and the Whites; Jill and Louis, and Pru, and Jo has visited Martin and Jo Levy. We have seen Sarah and Dave and David and Carol on the

Saturday zoom folk call, and on the whole everyone seems to be fairly well and coping with the ever-changing situation.

Jo & I are expecting a couple of family visits, Sarah and Rick this weekend and Steve, Leeks and Tallulah next weekend, trying to make sure we can see each other before the rules change again.

I think I will spend the next couple of weeks tackling some of those jobs that I kept saying I would do when I had time and haven't yet got round to. Maybe decorating the conservatory which hasn't been done since we had it built – 1999! – probably time 😊

Take care and stay well – keep in touch and let me know if you want anything “reported” 😊 – Dil

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Newsletter 30!**

This has been a surprisingly busy week!

Last Saturday Jo's daughter Sarah and her husband Rick came over from West Sussex for lunch – we realised that we hadn't in fact seen them since last Christmas and it looks as though we just got a visit in in time to escape the possible tighter lockdowns. Sarah works as a peripatetic music teacher and travels to schools all over her local area and she was telling us how different each school is in how they interpret and apply the various covid regulations; Mel tells a similar story of the schools round here too. Saturday night saw us once again at “The Quiet Night Inn”.

Monday and Tuesday were taken up with zoom committee meetings; Wednesday we had a very nice lunch at Pru's along with Jill and Louis; Thursday we went to quiz night at The Royal Exchange, except it wasn't Quiz night, I'd got the date wrong! – still, 5 of us had a very nice meal there and might try again next month – if the rules allow; Friday was slightly less busy but we did have a delivery of wood from Luffs so that will mean Jo has a more active weekend, moving it to the log store – hopefully with Zak's help.

We have seen, the Whites, and the Webbs, and Jill and Louis and Pru; Jo also visited Martin and Jo Levy this week and I heard from the Sutcliffes and had an update on Shirley from Jonathan, she is making progress, albeit slowly, he is still hoping that she may be home for Christmas. We were looking forward to seeing Steve, Leeks and Tallulah over this coming weekend, and also Deb, but the Corsham Williamsons had to cry off as Steve is having to work over the weekend and Deb now finds that she is in a Level 2 area and, although theoretically she could still come, travel is discouraged! Hey ho – we will all probably be in the same boat before too long so hopefully we can make the most of seeing people over the next few days. 😊

At the committee meeting on Monday we discussed the possibilities of doing some sort of show in the not-too-distant future, and have been working on a proposal for a Christmas event, although we still have to persuade the Village Hall Trustees that we can do it within the regulations, whatever they maybe at the time. We think we have a proposal that should meet with their approval and hopefully we can go ahead and come up with a detailed plan very soon. We hope that we can persuade members of the club to take part; most of the rehearsal would be off line so to speak, or on-line, with just a few allowable socially-distanced and covid compliant rehearsals. But more of that next week if it seems viable. Nick has agreed to do a play in the early spring with a small cast which we hope will be allowed (we are assuming that the rule of six is likely to be in place for some time – assuming that any tighter restrictions are short lived). This too we will put to the Village Hall Trustees for approval.

I await your ideas/act/requests for carols for the Christmas Zoom Green Room which we have planned for **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Sarah Horne has said she will practice some carols for us all to join in with and we will arrange a carol Sheet. If you let me have your ideas we can organise some sort of programme and hopefully have a jolly – if socially distanced – evening.

Before that, however, is the Zoom Quiz Evening arranged for this coming **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 8pm** – there will be 8 rounds of questions set by different people. So far we have offers of

Geography, Local History, Music, Natural History and more to come. I have enough offers of setters for this time, but if you would like to set a round we can always use it at another date. Obviously you won't be able to take part in the round that you set, but we have a round set by a non-participant which we will use as a catch up round if necessary. I will send the invites out on Tuesday and we will go through the "rules" on the night.

Look forward to seeing many of you, at least on line, soon. Take care and keep safe – Dil

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 – Newsletter 31**

Well at least we are still able to see people, and looking at the infection rate here we seem to be going down rather than up which hopefully is a good thing and will keep us out of a higher "tier" for a while longer.

This has been a bitty week. We had our usual folk zoom meeting on Saturday and it went well on the whole, although I don't think the duet with me on the squeeze box and Jo on the saxophone was a total triumph but at least it was different! I think I will stick to solos in the future.

Sunday saw quite a bit of activity with Jo stacking the logs in the log store, with Zak's help, and me organising the fruit for the Christmas cakes (decided to soak this lot in sherry – I will do a rum soaked one as well as I found a new recipe but that will be next week). A late afternoon visit from the Whites and the Webbs rounded off the day nicely.

On Monday we walked the last of the village footpaths for Jo's parish project; we both did the first one and Jo later did the second while I attacked the Christmas cakes – by the end of the day there were four cakes tucked away to be "fed" with more booze over the next few weeks.

Tuesday more cooking! – mince pies for the freezer this time – Pru popped round for coffee and then we decided that it really was time to tackle the conservatory! – we finished it on Friday, so now we are good to go for building the doll's house which will be Tallulah's Christmas present; it arrived in kit form this week and is a three storey classic town house! Maybe we have bitten off more than we can chew??!

Thursday night saw us hosting the HTC zoom Quiz. On the whole a very successful event with 12 households taking part and 17 people. We have decided to do another one on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, so I need some volunteers to set a round – we had 8 this time and it was just about right. I already have an offer from Anne and George, and Jo and I are willing to do another each – so any other takers?

We tend to go for Thursday because this is a "HTC" night but if Tuesday or any another day would be better we can consider that – we could always do two 😊 but if the same quiz was used – no cheating!

This coming Thursday we thought we'd have a zoom chat about what we hope we may be able to do for a Christmas **Zoom Green Room** and, looking ahead, to what we might be able to do in the early part of next year– always assuming that the situation will be clearer as to what is practical and allowable; given the constraints on our usual venue given the difficulty of operating under the current restrictions – some thoughts have gone into working up to doing an open air show on the village green but that would need the approval of the Parish council! I'll send the invite out on Tuesday, for this discussion group so please do log in and let us have your input. We'd also like your thoughts and ideas for the programme for the **Zoom Green Room**, planned for 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Apart from those already mentioned, we have seen, on zoom, Cavan and Loretta, Deb, Alison, Rod, Tina, Rachel and Mark, all of whom seemed well. Jo saw Jo and Martin on Friday and they too are in good form – long may it continue.

On a totally random note it occurred to me that usually in the weeks running up to Christmas we "deliver" our Christmas Cards to the Village Hall rehearsals for people to collect or distribute. Usually if there are any left after the last meeting before Christmas Jo and I collect them up and make sure that they get to the families that they were intended for. I don't know how other people

feel but I think that Christmas Cards will be of more importance this year than in “normal” years so I would like to propose that we set up “posting boxes” in various locations which could be used for “dropping off” cards – maybe someone who lives in Liphook, Bordon or Lindford could volunteer to be a “drop off” address that would be most helpful and we can pass it on in the next HTC monthly newsletter in November – Jo and I will be happy to accept, cards locally and if anyone else wants to be a Headley “drop off point” let me know. Jo and I will collect from “drop offs” and deliver to the relevant addresses 😊.

There is no escape, we have run out of excuses - this coming week I can see we will be busy with the doll’s house – we have to start some time – eek!. Wish us luck and take care – Dil.

### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Newsletter 32**

I am actually writing this on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, Halloween, and the news is not good. It looks as though we will be going into lockdown once again. I do wish they had done it when the schools were on half term and there was a chance that we might have got away with a short “circuit breaker” but now it looks as though it will be longer. So Deb was, unfortunately, right in her prediction that we would be in lockdown again in November. As her intended few days visit for her birthday later in the month is now unlikely to happen we are hoping for a flying visit tomorrow 😊 before things get more difficult.

Last Saturday we had a successful and enjoyable zoom meeting of the “Quiet Knight Inn” and will hopefully repeat it tonight – it was suggested that we had a themed evening this week so it should be interesting to see what Halloween songs people come up with! And if anyone bothers with costumes – I might wear one of my cat masks, just to enter into the spirit of things and maybe the cats will join in – they are not too keen on this weather.

This week saw us starting to construct the doll’s house – all well so far. We did a “dry” run (putting it together without gluing it) just to see where everything went! It is now all primed and painted – well the inside is – and awaiting its floors before we start the proper construction. I think that will be Monday.

Jo has been transcribing some more early Parish Council meeting minutes and is finding a lot of interesting information as to what was originally planned for Arford Common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It seems they intended to put a football pitch, a cricket pitch, a tennis court and bowling green on the land together with seats, which as far as we can understand would have been somewhere outside our back gate, for people to sit and admire the views!? – obviously the trees weren’t there then!

We have spoken to, or seen, the Webbs, the Whites, Pru, Jill and Louis, Penny and Angus, Neil and Janet and Jonathan. All seem to be well and getting on with life. Jonathan was able to update us on Shirley who unfortunately is still in hospital and awaiting transfer to St George’s for more treatment. Jonathan remains up-beat and will keep us informed of her progress.

On Thursday we had a quick catch up about future plans – not many people were able to log in but we had had correspondence from a few members indicating what they would like. So we think that we might do a monthly quiz – the next one being this coming Thursday – and maybe a monthly play reading. But more of this in the committee newsletter after the next meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. I have enough question setters for this week’s quiz (5<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm) but please let me know if you would like to set questions for the next one.

Those of you who are registered at Badgerswood Surgery will be interested to know that Chris has retired after 25 years, so next time you go there it will be a new face on reception. End of an era.

Look forward to seeing as many as can make it on Thursday – invite will go out soon. Thanks for the offers of “posting boxes” for dropping off cards. We will let people know more about this after the committee meeting.

Take care, keep safe and positive. We hope to be able to see some of you soon – Dil.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Newsletter 33**

We are back in lockdown once again and the small freedoms we have enjoyed over the last couple of months are once more forbidden and we face a few weeks of comparative isolation in the hope that better times will come again.

I was not looking forward to the next month but it all paled into insignificance when I heard the sad news last evening that Shirley had died. She had been in hospital for several weeks but Jonathan had remained hopeful that she would in time recover enough to at least come home.

The last time we saw Shirley was at the picnic in Pru's garden at the end of August when she was in good form. Shirley never let age define her and was, as always, stylish and glamorous and full of interesting, and sometimes slightly risqué stories. She joined in the party with her usual wit and interest and we hope she enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did.

Shirley always participated in the various Theatre Club productions she was involved in with great enthusiasm and those members of the club who were with her and Jonathan on the last twinning trip to Corné have fond memories of their participation in the various, sometimes unexpected, events we found ourselves taking part in.

Shirley will be missed and our love and thoughts are with Jonathan at this very difficult and sad time.

I think that I will leave it at that for this week. On Thursday we will have a zoom get together at 8pm, and maybe raise a glass in her memory. – Dil

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Newsletter 34**

Well one week gone – 3 more to go! Can't say it's been the most exciting week; Lockdown this time seems more boring somehow than it was in the summer. Perhaps it's because the weather is not so kind. Everything seemed a bit brighter when it was sunny and being outside seemed more appealing.

We have done a bit a walking this week, not very far, but made the effort to get out before the weather closed in on us. On Sunday last we walked round Arford Common, from our back gate and met 3 different lots of people we knew within half an hour. It was also interesting trying to work out where the various proposed sports facilities I mentioned in a previous newsletter were going to be back in the 1920s. We also did a short walk around part of Ludshott Common later in the week – the particular route we favour is always very quiet and we rarely see anyone else – even though the carpark is usually full!

I have spent much of the week cooking and sewing. I thought I would get ahead with Christmas stuff for the freezer – so far so good; I have made mince pies and quiches and I will tackle some "cookie dough" to put in the freezer as I had promised Tallulah that we would make Christmas biscuits when she came to see us – which was supposed to be this weekend! – it will be ready for next time.

We saw the usual crowd on the Quiet Knight Inn zoom call on Saturday evening and on Thursday we had a "social" zoom call for Theatre Club Members – around a dozen popped in including Jonathan, the Whites, the Webbs, Neil and Janet, Rufus and Katherine, Cavan and Loretta and Deb. We dressed up and raised a glass in memory of Shirley and had a general chat for a couple of hours. This coming Thursday we intend to do another quiz, so log on if you are free; we will start at 8pm as usual with the quiz itself kicking off at around 8.15pm. I will send the invites round on Tuesday. Pru dropped off a couple of things for us on Thursday and she seemed well; she had also seen Jo and Martin Levy.

We had several things planned for the coming week which have had to be postponed due to lockdown: the visit from the Corsham Williamsons; Deb's birthday visit, she was coming down for a few days for her birthday; and Christmas Tea at the Ritz next Sunday which I booked last year to celebrate Deb's and Erika's birthday – we had been originally going last November but had to put it off – I will book again for next year, maybe third time lucky!



Deb sent me a jigsaw this week, as I had been complaining that I was a bit bored, and it set me thinking that between us we probably have quite a few jigsaws and books, games, etc that we wouldn't mind swapping/getting rid of, and with the charity shops being closed at the moment I was wondering if there was a way in early December, after lockdown, we could somehow arrange to do this. If anyone has any ideas let me know. I had originally thought of the village hall with some sort of socially distanced and number restricted event, but Jo pointed out that it might be easier to do it outside with maybe a couple of tables and a gazebo or tent!

Over the next couple of weeks I aim to get the house "Christmas ready" – some people have already put up their Christmas trees but I think I shall save that for 1<sup>st</sup> December. But in the meantime I will sort out the lights and decorations and other festive stuff that's in the loft and maybe write my Christmas Cards! – but right now I think it's time to get back to my sewing.

– take care and stay safe. – Dil

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Newsletter 35**

This week has gone surprisingly quickly, the last week in November beckons and hopefully we are not too far away some relaxation of lockdown. Soon it will be time to investigate the loft and break out the Christmas decorations; maybe this will be the year when I get rid of all the ones that, year after year, get "rejected" but put back in the loft "just in case" – do I really need to keep so many artificial wreaths that I never use? My aim is to have put up the Christmas Tree on 1<sup>st</sup> December and to add festive cheer to the house and garden as advent progresses.

Last Saturday night was "Quiet Night Inn" as usual and many plans were discussed for recordings of Christmas Carols. The master tracks have arrived and we are all working on laying down our own tracks to be added. Jo is diligently working on sax and bass tracks and I am practicing some squeeze box (much to Smartie's disgust – he has taken to come up and mewing at me when I start playing!) and song tracks which I hope will get done over the next few days; the building of a doll's house is my current excuse, but I will put some more effort into the music in coming week as the house is progressing nicely but there are lots of gaps whilst we wait for things to dry/arrive/be built so I really have less and less excuse for not getting on with other things !

I have done a lot of Christmas cooking this week and the new freezer is almost full – I only hope there will be people around to eat the stuff! We are hoping that at least Deb will be able to get here for a few days if the promised Christmas break out is allowed, and maybe the Corsham Williamsons too!

On Thursday this week Jo presented a webinar on self-publishing to "The Society of Woman Journalists and Writers" over zoom – it seemed to go quite well and he is now more au-fait with how these things work. The session was recorded and is up on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Rfbkz4K3Y5k> if anyone wants to see it.

We had another HTC zoom quiz on Thursday evening with 8 different people setting rounds of questions and it was again very successful, and it is always nice to have an excuse to chat and keep in touch with everyone – although in one round I got the grand total of ½ point! I am not very knowledgeable about explorers obviously!! Next week we will log in for a "social" zoom meeting at 8pm, and on the following Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, is our proposed rehearsed presentation of "Flint Street Nativity". The script is up on the website. We have 6 parts cast so far and around another 5 up for grabs, although it is possible to "double" up. Jo and I watched the recording of the 2012 version last night and it was very funny – so do either opt for a part or log in as audience and join in the fun. It should be interesting doing some of the singing!! – and Just a reminder that Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December is the zoom "**Green Room**". We have around 10 "acts" so far but room for more. I will be chasing people up for details at the beginning of December.

Thank you to everyone who has already offered to be a "post box" for Christmas Cards, and I will give details in next week's newsletter.

Take care and stay safe – keep working on your “Green Room” acts 😊 – Dil

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Newsletter 36

Well it doesn't look as though we'll have a lot of good news over the coming week – not sure that “tier 2” seems much better than full lockdown. We are due to go “The Royal Exchange” on 9<sup>th</sup> December – it will be interesting to see how their proposed “Winter Alfresco area” works as it's the only way we can dine with anyone outside our family or “support bubble”. I think that the firepit/chimenea and the gazebo are going to have to figure somewhere in our festive plans too!!!

This week at number 19 has mainly been occupied by the Doll's House. Now nearly finished – all the insides are done and the main part is painted and roofed. It was rather challenging to get the staircases in but a valiant effort by Mr Smith with a work bench and some sandpaper eventually triumphed! Now all we have to do is attach the doors and windows and put the fronts on; oh and touch up the paintwork damaged in construction! – Hopefully by Sunday I can do some of the ‘Quiet Knight Inn’ music I have been promising for the last month!!! Jo has completed most of his, so I am far behind.

Talking of which, last Saturday saw the latest meeting of the ‘Quite Night Inn’ group and it was nice to see a good turn out. I played “Happy Birthday” on the squeeze box for Deb, as it was her birthday, and we finally logged off at around 11.15 having decided that this coming Saturday would be French themed! I wonder how many will remember – I only did because Jo put it in the dairy.

On Thursday we had an HTC zoom chat with Nick, Tina, Mel and Steve & Penny, and Xander joined us from Portsmouth for a while. It was a very pleasant couple of hours and we discussed this weeks “production” of “The Flint Street Nativity” – it is now fully cast and I think we have, sort of, worked out how to do the songs! We shall see what happens.

Apart from those who we saw on the various zoom calls, I have spoken to Pru and to Jill and Louis who are all well. And Jamie came to attempt to mend our back door which is now totally stuck – luckily we can still go outside at the back via the conservatory. He is going to have to come back with a special tool!

I have had a fair number of offerings for the “Green Room” so I'll get in touch with people at the end of the week to give some sort of programme. If you haven't already sent me something there is still room; and if you have said you would like to join in and you don't hear from me by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> please let me know because I might have missed you off my list – and that would never do!

Right – Christmas card “post boxes” – if you want to drop of your cards for HTC members (or even others who live in Headley) the following people have said they would be happy to act as a “post box” and Jo and I will undertake to ensure that they get to the correct destination before 24<sup>th</sup> December:—

#### Lindford

Nick & Erika Webb	1 Imadene Close, Lindford GU35 0PJ
Ellie Pope	123 Peartree Close, Lindford GU35 0SR

#### Bordon

Jill & Louis	9 Atholl Road, Whitehill GU35 9QX
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#### Liphook

Rod	37 Stonehouse Road GU307DD
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#### Headley

Dil & Jo	19 Kay Crescent, Headley Down GU35 8AH
Penny & Angus	Woodside, Beech Hill, Headley GU35 8BD
Tina	20 Hilland Rise, Headley GU35 8LX

Take care keep safe – see you soon – Dil x

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Newsletter 37

Well here we are in December and in tier 2 – doesn't seem much different to lockdown, but at least some more shops are open so I have finished the Christmas shopping and managed to get my hair cut. Not sure I look a lot better but it is less of a "bush".

On Saturday evening we had our "French Themed" Quiet Knight Inn zoom meeting – Jo and I did part of the opening scene from "Allo, Allo" suitably dressed of course, including the brioche rolls is my hair; it was surprising to see how well we remembered our parts and I even managed to just about play a snatch of the opening theme tune on the squeeze box. We decided that this week we will major on the lesser-known carols and other Christmas music. Should be interesting to see what people come up with! I shall attempt Silent Night on the Squeeze box and probably do a ditty from the "Liberty Christmas Book"; Jo has dusted off some of his Christmas poems and parodies.

I managed to get the Christmas lights up in the garden and in the windows; I was hoping to get the Christmas tree up in the conservatory but it was still occupied by the dolls house – but this is finally finished (hooray!) and has moved from the conservatory to the kitchen table where it sits this evening lit up by Christmas lights inside and adorned at the front by a rather splendid silver Christmas tree. The real one can go into the conservatory now; the down side is that it means getting into the loft to get it down, and all the decorations, and cleaning the rooms before we put the decorations up! But at least I have finished writing my Christmas Cards (Jo still has his to do, as usual) and remembered to post the parcels to France before the last posting day.

Jo has started to do zoom sax lessons with Sarah – the cats seem to last for the first couple of tunes but then complain and leave by the cat flap. On the other hand, Smartie is quite fond of the squeeze box – I'm not sure if that's a good thing or maybe he thinks it is similar to cat-a-wailing, at least when I'm playing it!

Thursday evening saw a much-heralded event – the zoom production of "Flint Street Nativity"; it was very successful and great fun – even the difficult singing bits were OK and the script elicited much laughter. It was as enjoyable as we all remembered it being. I must say that my favourite character was the Ass as played by an eminent professor who had been persuaded to take part. It is a pity that I didn't think to record it, but Jo took a screen shot so we have a record of the "costumes" up on the HTC website: mostly tea towels, paper crowns, stars and the odd prop or two! We still hope to do it for "real" some time.

Don't forget that Next Friday is the "Zoom **Green Room**"; I have a list of those who have volunteered their services and will ring them or email them on Monday or Tuesday to get an update on their offerings so that I can do a running order! If you have offered and don't hear from me please ring on 01428 712892 so that I can make sure I don't miss anyone 😊. There is no official zoom meeting next Thursday but Jo and I will log in just in case anyone wants a chat. I will send the invites for this and the **Green Room** out on Wednesday.

Take care and stay safe, and don't forget to get your Christmas cards to the drop offs – Dil x

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Newsletter 38

Christmas creeps nearer and the decorations are starting to go up in the house; the tree is up in the conservatory the lights are in the garden, the wreath is next to the door and the creche is up in the hall; just a few more small items to do and it will be finished. Not quite as much "santa's grotto" as it often is but fairly festive none-the-less. Can't seem to get overly enthusiastic this year given the circumstances but maybe I will as time goes on.

Not a lot of outside activity this week – a couple of trips to the shops and a bit more Christmas shopping. I did also manage to get most of the recording done to send of to Kent to be included in the Christmas recordings we're doing as part of our "Quiet Knight Inn" project. We had a good session last Saturday night when participants tried to "offer" some of the more unusual festive songs and carols. Nick and Erika joined in from their hotel room in Devon.

On Sunday, Jo did the monthly “long” walk from the village hall and in the afternoon we had the first socially-distanced meeting with Mel and Steve and Zak and Xander for over a month; even if it was wrapped up in blankets in their back garden round a fire pit and under a gazebo. At least we were meeting people face to face again.

Monday saw the HTC committee meeting; nothing much to report, just a re-assertion of our intent to put on some sort of performance again as soon as we are able. We will keep members informed of our plans as they progress.

On Wednesday we went for supper at “The Royal Exchange” and sat in their outside area (there were 5 of us from 3 households) it seemed to work very well and we had taken the precaution of going dressed in our thermals and robust outerwear!

Friday saw the zoom event of the **Green Room** – very successful it was too. Many acts taking part and a very enjoyable evening with some surprises. I think everyone who joined enjoyed it and it made up somewhat for missing the Christmas Concerts we usually do at this time of year.

As most of the “Quiet Knighters” were taking part in the “Green Room” we have decided to take a break from the session this Saturday – but we will be back next week with our Christmas session when hopefully we will hear some of the fruits of our labours – all the recording we have been doing. We heard the mix of “Winters Carol” featuring Sarah, Mel and Deb in the Green Room session, and very good it was too.

Don’t forget the quiz on Sunday night. It starts at 7.30 but we will be “open” from 7.00 so that people have time to get logged in.

Several people have dropped HTC Christmas cards here for us to distribute to members and I will check around towards the end of next week so that we can collect any others that have been delivered to the address members volunteered as “post boxes” and distribute them next weekend. So if we could have a deadline of **18<sup>th</sup> December** then Deb and I (she has volunteered to help) can get them to where they are meant to be going before Christmas 😊.

Take care and stay safe – hope to see some of you Sunday evening – Dil

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – Newsletter 39**

A couple of days late with this week’s newsletter due to a very hectic weekend thanks to the re-vamped Christmas Plans!!

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December saw Jo and me going to Loxwood for lunch at the Loxwood Arms in their leaky tent by the canal to exchange gifts with Jo’s daughter Sarah and her family together with gifts for her to pass on to his other daughter Emma who lives in Kent but who they had hoped would be able to visit them before Christmas – probably a car park present swap now!. Round one of the Christmas deliveries!

Sunday we went to Selborne with Nick and Erika and Mel and Xander to the Christmas fair at Gilbert White’s house. Rather a wet visit but surprisingly their microbrewery had made a Christmas Ale that I liked (very rare as I really don’t like beer at all). A socially distanced, “outside” lunch followed at Nick and Erika’s and in the evening Jo ran an HTC Christmas quiz at 7pm – it was well attended, and we plan another one very soon; so, we will keep you informed.

Monday was mostly spent wrapping Christmas presents although I did have a long chat with Jill, and Jo carried on working on Zoom presentations he wants to deliver in the New Year.

Tuesday saw many parcels going to the post to, hopefully, get to various parts of the country in time for Christmas – Round two of Christmas deliveries!!

Wednesday morning Jo did the last zoom Pilates class before Christmas with a Santa hat and a glass of sherry; and I started to collate the Christmas card delivery list for the cards for theatre club members which had started to accumulate. More present wrapping.

Thursday up early for the Waitrose delivery and more Christmas card triaging. A fairly quiet day finishing off the wrapping and starting to put the house back in order. We put a new “winter” cover

on the swing seat and Jo did a few outside jobs that had been waiting in the usual way for one of us to get “aroundtuit”.

Friday Penny popped in to drop off some cards and kindly offered to deliver some to Bordon as she was going that way and then we started on the rounds to deliver HTC Christmas cards. Jo had worked out a route which started in Headley and meandered around through Grayshott, Haslemere, Hammer, Liphook, Whitehill, Bordon, and returning via Lindford and the other side of Headley! In all we were out 3½ hours (but this did include a quick, (about ½ hour) visit to M & S in Wey Hill!!) almost all cards delivered; in the end, we had to post two lots as we either could not find the property or could not park near enough to deliver in the rain 😊. Round three of Christmas deliveries!

Saturday we were up early only to find that the swing seat had moved itself from the patio at the side of the house on to the lawn outside the conservatory; we assume that the new cover had acted as a kind of “sail” in a strong gust of wind – luckily, no damage done, and Jo had intended to move it to the lawn for our “socially distanced outside under the gazebo, round the fire pit” Sunday jolly. We loaded the car with, among other things, the doll’s house to take to Devizes to meet up with the Corsham Williamsons to exchange presents and have lunch as we were beginning to suspect that the presents wouldn’t get there with Deb on Christmas Day which had been the original plan. Home around 5pm when we found, like the rest of the country, that Christmas plans had indeed changed. At least we had managed to get all our distanced presents distributed but more by luck than judgement! Round four of Christmas deliveries. Saturday evening saw another good evening at “The Quiet Knight Inn” and we decided to meet again on Boxing Day as we will not now be doing anything else 😊!!

Sunday, Jo delivered the last of the HTC Christmas cards locally and in the afternoon we set up the gazebo and the fire pit and had a festive meet in the garden with Nick and Erika and Mel and Steve until it was dark! And some people left with Christmas presents to distribute. Round five of Christmas deliveries!!

We have seen or spoken to quite a few members over the last week. The Hornes, the Whites, the Webbs, Jill and Louis, Pru, and Penny, Jo and Martin; all those who took part in the quiz, including Angela, Anne, Cavan and Loretta, Deb, Rachel, and Alison and Mike; the “Quiet Knights” Ruth, Carol and David, Sam and Nigel and Barbara. All seem to be keeping well and are fairly stoical about the Christmas changes – I think!

Have the best Christmas you possibly can and if you want a chat give us a ring. Take care and love to you all

Dil x

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Newsletter 40**

Well here we are the other side of Christmas – and still with a house full of food!!

Monday and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December proved to be fairly uneventful. Deb had made it down for the holidays and was working from home in the conservatory and I did a bit of sewing and present-wrapping and cooking. Jo did a bit of gardening while the weather held and also worked on another quiz which we can hopefully do in the new year; so for once a not too hectic approach to the “big Day”.

Wednesday saw me and Deb at M&S in Haslemere at 8am to pick up the Christmas order, and then Deb got back to work and Jo and I visited the pottery in Grayshott for a couple of last-minute things and to restock books, and then did yet another Christmas card round of the village and picked up a copy of the Quiet Knights’ Christmas songs on CD from Neil (thanks, Neil).

Christmas Eve, Jo and I went up to the Whites for a supper of soup and nibbles and mulled wine in their garden round the fire pit, and Deb entertained Maggie, Karina and Annaliese in our garden with much the same format. We watched ‘Elf’ in the later evening and then Deb and I filled stockings and

retired to bed. [I always thought Santa did it! 😞 Jo]

Christmas Day, up around 9am, just in time for a phone call from our friends in Mansfield and then after speaking to the Corsham Williamsons (the dolls house was a big hit 😊) we lit a fire and opened presents and whiled away the morning listening to music and reading. Mel, Steve, Zak and Xander came round about 3pm and games were played until supper at 7 and then even noisier games after supper until they left at 11.45pm – fifteen minutes before lockdown. 😞

Boxing day saw some of us (no names, no pack drill!) on a walk from Superior Camp up to the denuded Cathedral Pines on Ludshott Common, and very muddy it was too! Then the afternoon was spent reading, chatting, dozing, and watching Christmas films. In the evening we joined some of the “Quiet Knights” for a chat and played a quiz on the knitted post box covers which are a feature of Herne Bay this time of year, set by the Hornes. Very stormy night but no damage here luckily.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> up fairly late and had a chat with the Corsham Williamsons over breakfast and then went for a walk round Arford Common whilst it was still sunny.

I think the rest of the week will be equally quiet and low key – but do remember that we intend to have a New Year’s Eve Jolly by Zoom to which everyone is invited!! There will be some music I am sure; we intend to log on at around 8.30pm and stay on until 2021!! Please, if you want to join us send me an email & I will send you the link as we are using Deb’s zoom meeting room and we are happy to “invite” anyone who wishes to join us – we are hoping for participants from Chicago – it’s the nearest we can get to a New Year’s Eve party this year, so don your sparkly festive gear, have your favourite tipple and nibbles to hand and join in the fun.

Hoping that you all had a Happy Christmas, are enjoying a peaceful Twixmas and if we don’t see you on New Year’s Eve, wishing you a very happy and healthy New Year and a better 2021. – Dil xx

#### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – Newsletter 41**

Happy New Year to you all – hopefully we will get to see some of you before too long; but at the moment it’s family only and after tomorrow it will be just me and Jo as Deb will have returned to London.

After my last newsletter, on 27<sup>th</sup> we were settled in for the next few days, not many plans but maybe some top up, necessary, shopping locally and a few low key walks but – at 11.45 on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> Deb received an alert on her phone to say that she had been in contact with someone on 23<sup>rd</sup> December who had since tested positive for Covid 19 and she had to quarantine until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. We were quite surprised as we hadn’t been anywhere except to M&S at 8am on 23<sup>rd</sup> to pick up a food order; but as we were aware when we were going in and out of the store that it was “pinging” every one’s app we assumed that that must be the occasion. (I had my phone with me but as my covid app was switched off I didn’t get alerted). Our suspicions were reinforced when a friend of Deb’s, who went to M&S on 24<sup>th</sup> also received an alert to quarantine until 3<sup>rd</sup> of January – like us it was the only place he had been!! So it has been an even quieter week than we had anticipated 😊.

The 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of December passed uneventfully – no walks for us – we passed the time doing jigsaws and reading and watching TV. Louis called on us to drop of a present for me; he has had his first “jab” and is due for his second next week. He and Jill had a quiet Christmas and are both well if a little bored!! On Wednesday I succumbed to playing board games, most of you will know I am not keen! We tried to understand “Exploding Kittens” and then played Jo’s new game of “Duplicate Scrabble” which is ok but not, we think, an improvement on the original. But at least Deb beat Jo, which doesn’t often happen!! A lot of quizzes were watched on the TV that night but Jo escaped to watch the “Purple Zeppelin” concert on YouTube, thanks to Nigel.

New Year’s Eve saw us preparing for our virtual New Year’s Eve Party. Both Nick and Pru popped round to drop off presents for me, which was lovely. I also received a lot of cards, both by hand, post and electronic ones on-line also quite a few phone calls; all of which were much appreciated and cheered me up. Deb and I indulged ourselves during the afternoon and binged-watched the BBC



adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" – for 6 hours!! We logged on the "Quiet Knight Inn" New Year's Eve bash at 8.30 and a good evening was had by all; I don't know how many people came and went during the evening but at one time we had at least 12 households on the screen and had participants from Chicago, Kent, East Sussex, Hastings, Corsham and all over the place locally; it turned out to be one of the best New Year's Eves for some time despite the restrictions, and we finally left at around 1.15am on New Year's Day having stayed on to chat to Nick and Erika. Thanks everyone for your company and entertainment.

New Year's Day was quiet and we spent it watching films and TV and chatting to friends who rang to wish us well.

Hopefully we will see some of you on the Thursday's Headley Society Talk which will be given by Jo on Zoom and is about Headley's History – it starts at 7.30 for 8pm. I will send the link round on Tuesday.

The week after that, on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>, we have the HTC Committee Meeting and I will set up a "chat" evening for the rest of the club on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> so we can talk about what we might like to do over the next few weeks.

Take care and stay safe Dil.

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – newsletter 42**

The first full week of the New Year started fairly quietly; on Saturday we spent the day doing quiet "householdy" things like listing what was in the freezers and other exciting tasks; and in the evening, instead of our regular zoom "Quiet Knight Inn" we met up with some of the regulars for a Games Evening, which went rather well and we might like to repeat it sometime in the near future. We finally logged off at around 1.15am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> after staying on line to chat with Nick and Erika.

Sunday saw Deb departing for Surbiton having had to stay for a few days longer than planned, and the great after-Christmas tidy up began in earnest. I was determined to get everything packed up and in the loft by 12<sup>th</sup> Night – I am usually a bit behind and still putting boxes back well into the second week. However, this year everything was back in place by the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>. All looks a bit bare now but we will get used to it.

We spent the first few days doing "essential" shopping trips and generally assembling things to do in the next few weeks, which I am sure are going to prove rather testing as this time it seems a lot harder to feel enthusiastic for jigsaws and binge box set viewing! At least that's how I feel. Maybe I should look at the OU short, free courses, to keep me occupied.

One thing we have been working on was setting some of Jo's talks up to deliver on the zoom platform. The first one was scheduled for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and having duly prepped and tested it we launched the meeting at 7.15pm on Thursday with the object of giving people plenty of time to log in before the talk began at 8pm (we started the talk 5 minutes late due to the newly resurrected clap for carers/heroes) – The talk was for The Headley Society although they had opened it up to other interested parties, and in the end we had 55 screens logged in which I estimated meant that we had over 80 viewers. It was very successful and proved that it is certainly worth doing more in the future. The only problem was that as I was so busy acting "admin" and letting people in I forgot to press the button to record when we started, and as Jo had said to several people who could not attend on Thursday that he would record it – he had to do it all again to himself the next day!!

I have watched many of the official broadcasts this week and have had to try very hard not to get too depressed by the dire situation we find ourselves in, and to keep optimistic and hope that the current lockdown will help the situation and the vaccinations will provide a "way out". I am only sorry that we seem to be asking perfectly willing and well-qualified retired practitioners to undertake some on line training modules which don't seem appropriate in a time of crisis – Still, I am sure that they will sort it out.

Some of our members have already had their first vaccination, so that is good news, and hopefully

more will follow so, at least here, it is beginning to trickle through.

Monday will see the first HTC Committee meeting of the year, so if there is anything you would like us to look at or talk about let me know and I will put it on the agenda. We will send out a newsletter after the meeting with, hopefully, some of the things we think we can do over the next few weeks. We have found ways of “streaming” stuff via zoom and so if nothing else we hope to show some of our recordings of past performances.

I was thinking this morning that today would have been the day when, last year, we would have been doing the first night of the Pantomime – That was the last show we did! Hopefully we will have better news before too long and we can look forward to putting on shows and meeting up in person and doing all the social/dramatic things we liked so much.

Until then take care and stay well – Dil

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Newsletter 43**

Another fairly quiet and uneventful week – although almost every day has brought a “zoom meeting” of some description! I struggled somewhat with technology as I tried to come to terms with the new firestick we’d installed, confused by the different ways it has of accessing “Netflix” and “iPlayer” etc; I’d only just got used to the old one – still I’m assured that it will be better when I’ve managed to understand it!

Saturday night saw the regular “Quiet Knight Inn” gathering. It was a nice beginning to the new year sessions, and we look forward to more entertaining evenings with our friends from around the country over the next few weeks, – at least it makes us practice a bit – even if, in my case, it tends to be on Saturday afternoon; in a bit of a panic!

Sunday was a lazy day – very little accomplished except for a fair amount of TV viewing and reading.

Monday night saw the first HTC committee meeting of the year and we discussed what we could do during this current lockdown and our sketchy ambitions for 2021. I hope you’ve all seen the email from the committee and will let us know what you think. During the next couple of weeks Jo and I will work with Janet and Neil to get a few things ready to “broadcast” to members and supporters over the winter/spring period. Probably a past pantomime and one of our comedy shows from recent years.

The rest of the week passed in much the same way with occasional “trips” out – nothing very exciting – Jo to the dentist and to drop of a couple of his books ordered locally; I did a couple of pharmacy collection runs for different people. We had a load of wood delivered on Wednesday which we stacked on Thursday, or rather Jo did with Zak’s help – thank you Zak, it saved me from getting cold and wet 😊. We also spoke to Jill and Louis and Nick and Erika and Pru, that is apart from all you we saw on our various “zoom” meetings. I heard from Jill that Wendy and Dave had moved to Aldershot, last Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, and so I arranged for a gift to be sent to them on behalf of members of the club and I heard today (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>) that it had indeed arrived and they send their thanks to all members; we wish them happiness in their new home and hope to hear from them from time to time. I also sent a card to Michaela on our behalf to congratulate her (somewhat belatedly) on the birth of her baby – so some nice things in this trying time.

Last Thursday saw Jo do another HTC Quiz and we intend to do another one in a couple of weeks’ time, this one set by Chris Millard. This Thursday (21<sup>st</sup> February) we plan to do a trial run of showing a CD of a past performance – not sure yet which one, but we have several to choose from and will try and pick one of “better” recording quality. At a later date, with enough notice for us to make an “evening” of it with self-supplied refreshments, we will show one of our pantomime productions; probably on a Friday Evening (probably/possibly 9<sup>th</sup> February) and invite an outside audience to join us. But more of this when we are surer of the technology – a few more trial runs are called for.

Just as a random comment – I ordered some stuff from “The Royal Exchange” online shop (mainly because I like their Merlot 😊) – I ordered a few random items including some fresh veg and very

good they are too! Among other things, some beef burgers and they are HUGE – Jo’s comment was that they were “considerably bigger than the buns” (brioche buns also ordered) – highly recommended. Also some Red Mist bitter for Jo. 😊

Take care and stay safe – Dil

#### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 – Newsletter 44**

It is actually Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January (forgot to do the newsletter yesterday; it is one of my regular Saturday tasks, of which there aren’t many these days – when I was a teenager my Saturday morning “job” (before I got a proper one at 14) was cleaning the stairs! – don’t even have to do that now as Jo usually does 😊) – And today it is snowing – I know that it is probably not something everyone gets excited about but it always cheers me up. – Pity it’s about a month too late!

Not a particularly exciting week although it seems to have passed in a flash. I have managed to complete a quilt and to make a couple of cushions. I spent a couple of days writing out all the words to all of the songs I used to sing at various folk clubs over the years; I think I went to my first one at “The Red Lion” in Stoke when I was 17. The words were either in my head, on scraps of paper or in several half-used notebooks on various book shelves in the house; they are now in a nice new book which was one of last year’s (2019) Christmas presents from Sarah. If I ever want them again I shall now know where to look – always assuming I put the book on the right bookshelf!

One day merged into another with the occasional walk and a few phone calls – we saw the usual suspects on the Saturday night zoom call and delivered a few birthday cards around the village to various members – December and January seem to be popular months for HTC birthdays there are three more next week!! – so that will be an excuse for another outing or two!

Jo spent a lot of time trying to work out how best to broadcast one of our former shows on Zoom and on Thursday we made an attempt to watch “Are you Being Served” – it sort of worked but the sound quality was so degraded that some households found it impossible to watch/listen to; so obviously more work is needed to enhance the audio experience. We shall keep trying.

This coming Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, we will do another quiz night, this time probably hosted by Chris Millard who volunteered to set a quiz for us. If anyone else wants to offer it would be welcome as it’s always good to get a different “take” on things; or maybe you might like to arrange another games evening? Just let me know and I will schedule it in as it doesn’t seem as though we will be meeting any other way anytime soon ... but vaccines are getting closer – Jo goes for his first one this Wednesday!

Last night we had our “Quiet Night Inn” and during discussion periods we got to talking about, as Sarah put it, “Films we wished we hadn’t already seen so we could have the joy of seeing them again for the first time” – Sarah and I both opted for “Lost in Austen”, Jo for the first “Star Wars”, Dave for the radio version of “Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy”; David Burnham went for “Still Crazy” (which I hadn’t heard of but as it’s got Bill Nighy in it and sounds fun I ordered today from Amazon 😊) and Barbara for “A Boy Called Sailboat” – anyone else got any recommendations?

On sort of the same theme I’ve been sorting out some books which I know will not get read again as our shelves are overflowing and although I read a lot on Kindle I still like “proper” books and we got about a dozen for Christmas which we need to find room for – so if anyone would like some books to read and then pass on afterwards let me know. I can offer chic lit; thrillers, detective novels a whole set of Elizabeth George I will not read again, etc. I’m also going to go through the DVDs and will list these next week – we are happy to deliver as an “outing”.

We are just going out to play in the snow – take care, keep well – Dil

#### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Newsletter 45**

Another fairly uneventful week in the Smith household. Nothing much of note achieved this week.

We haven't even really been out; apart from a couple of visits to the Pharmacy to pick up medication for friends and a visit to the Headley Deli to buy some bread we have been pretty much confined to the house – too cold/miserable/slippy to venture too far and not inspiring walking weather.

Jo has spent his days reading and inventing crosswords; also a lot of time trying to get his head round the best way to “broadcast” our old shows; progress is being made so maybe we will have something to show next week! I have spent the week sewing, reading and knitting – all help to pass the time but I'm not sure how productive they are. I have also started doing a music course on the OU free courses site which is about 16 hours' worth of study so maybe that will keep me occupied for the next week. We both try and get some indoor exercise daily (Jo is better motivated than I) on the static bike and I have taken to using the bottom step of the stairs as a “step” and trying to do 100 each day – make it most days. I am trying to follow the “little and often” as recommended by various “coaches” in magazines and in the media generally and trying to come up with some not too strenuous routines! Jo also continues to do his daily music practice – I try and convince myself that I would too, if I could play anything!

Jo went for his first covid jab on Wednesday, at Bordon, and so did Jill; very well organised and no problems at all. Then on Thursday he got an invitation from NHS to book his covid jab! – could be confusing. I am still awaiting the call but I think several other HTC member have already been “done” so we move towards – not sure where exactly – but hopefully some greater freedom of movement when things are safer generally. I look forward to booking an HTC picnic/BBQ here in the, fairly distant, but hopefully not unforeseeable, future!

We have heard from several members this week and seen a few of them on the Saturday and Thursday zoom meetings. Thursday was a quiz organised for us by Chris Millard – very good it was too! And everyone seems to be fit and well and keeping themselves occupied.

Not having very much to watch on the tv at the moment, we have taken to watching either old shows from HTC or other DVDs in our collection. The copy of “Still Crazy” recommended by Dave Burnham arrived and we watched it on Wednesday evening and really did enjoy it – but I had also purchased a DVD called “A Mighty Wind” which was a spoof on the American folk scene with a similar premise of a group re-uniting after 20 or so years – the write ups I had read were fairly good but it was seriously weird!! I think I am going to watch the “Murdoch Mysteries” which Deb sent me this week and then I will start on the Harry Potter films again! – or maybe “Lost in Austen”! I also need to make some Jam and Marmalade .

This Thursday (8pm) we are “lending” our zoom room to Headley Society again (for a fee) and this time the talk is about “Guildford's wartime defences” (not by Jo) and if anyone wants to join the session please let me know and I will send you the link.

So, stay well, let me know if you have any news or just want a chat or need anything, and let's see what February has to offer! – Dil

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Newsletter 46**

It's really Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> but for most of this week, in fact until Saturday, I was wondering if there would be anything to write about in this newsletter – not much has happened and we hadn't really spoken to anyone except Deb or been anywhere except the pharmacy and the deli since last weekend. Jo had spent a lot of time working on the possible transmission of our old HTC DVD productions and with a lot of liaison with Janet and several practice runs we have managed to get a couple of shows up on YouTube (private settings) in a format which seems to work we will send out details later on how to view them; we thought we'd try this Thursday with “Bah Humbug” as a test run – one success for the week.

I had decided that I would make a few 'phone calls on Wednesday and started with Jill, no reply at 12 noon – maybe they'd gone out shopping having now both had the first round of their vaccinations; try later no reply – strange! By the time it got round to lunch time on Thursday I was a

little worried and sent a text – their phone line was down and Jill was not happy! Luckily it was fixed by Friday but by then their broadband had gone down and that won't be fixed until next week; so a rather trying week for Jill and Louis, but at least they are both well.

Janet and Neil are also fine – I had a long chat with Janet on Saturday and was pleased to hear that they had been for their first COVID-19 vac. I also have one booked in for next Saturday at Midhurst. I got a letter from NHS and thought I would book online rather than wait for a phone call from the surgery so I tried the website, which was down, and then rang 119 which was the alternative and got through straight away and booked both my jabs; the second one will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Almost as soon as I put the phone down, certainly within an hour, I got a call from the surgery offering me a slot on Friday! – as there was not much difference in the time I decided to keep the Midhurst one and leave the more local slots for those who might not find travelling so easy. Anyway, as Jo said, it will be an “outing” and within the rules – I just hope the weather doesn't scupper it!

I have also spoken to Pru this week, she is as busy as ever baking cakes and working at High Hurlands and is keeping well. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Tina and Jonathan both of whom have had accidents, Tina has broken her ankle and Jonathan has, I think, a stress fracture in his foot! Poor Tina slipped on some mud while walking a dog and spent some time in A & E – now she is home and waiting to see if any further treatment is necessary, but she will not be able to bear weight for some time. I don't have many details about Jonathan's injury but hopefully he will be on the mend soon and I will send him our collective good wishes!

Last night was the usual “Quiet Knight” zoom meeting and everyone seemed well. There was much talk of snow and the forecast of the “Beast from the East”, but no-one had seen very much except Ruth who seems to have had nothing but snow for a good few weeks; texts and email this morning from various locations still haven't revealed too much activity on the snow front. None in Kent or London so we shall just have to see what happens; it was forecast here for 2pm – it's now 19 minutes past and still nothing! Casual, drop-in QKI attendees please note that there will not be a session on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> as the regulars are attending a virtual folk concert! But we will be back on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Tomorrow it is the HTC monthly committee meeting so there will be a monthly newsletter to keep you all updated, and on Tuesday I will send round details of how to access Thursday's zoom/YouTube meeting.

And one other bit of good news – lookout for Jamie's new venture “Sticks”, a sandwich and coffee outlet which opens on Monday in Shottermill – good luck Jamie.

I have made the decision that I will at least try to get to newsletter 52 – by which time (19<sup>th</sup> March!) I hope we will be able to meet up in more ‘personal’ and physical ways. –

Take care and stay safe – Dil

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Newsletter 47**

Once again I am late in sending out this newsletter – my only excuse is that I waited to pass on the news of the current vaccination status. This week has seen Pru getting her vac, Nick and Erika getting theirs and, on Saturday, I had mine at Midhurst. I was disappointed not to meet Hugh Bonneville as he has been one of the meet-and-greeters there over the last couple of weeks; it must have been his day off! It was all very well organised and I was in and out in around 10 minutes. I felt very sorry for the people on duty marshalling as it was bitterly cold. However, it was a bit of a trip out for us as we hadn't been anywhere for the last couple of weeks, and on the way back we had a visit to M&S. The queue was enormous – something to do with Valentine's day.

Last week we didn't have too much going on in our house – it was mainly taken up with zoom calls for both Jo and me. Monday was the HTC committee meeting, I hope you have all seen the weekly newsletter. Tuesday, we both had the Village Hall Trustees. Wednesday was Jo's weekly Zoom Pilates and he had a Headley Society meeting in the afternoon; Thursday we logged on to watch the

showing of “Bah Humbug” on YouTube; that seemed to work but we may tweek the instructions a bit before the showing of “War to War” on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> (the instructions for logging in are upon the HTC website). Friday Jo logged briefly into a live stream by his daughter Sarah’s church music session, and on Saturday we watched a live stream folk session and then logged in to “Quiet Knight Inn” chat afterwards – phuff!

Apart from those already mentioned and the regular Saturday night crowd, I have spoken to Jill and Louis this week and they are still doing well and have both had their jabs (Louis had two), so progress is being made. Tina still has to have some treatment to her ankle and we wish her well for the coming week.

Looking at the “Road Map” for the relaxing of lockdown I wonder if we can tentatively think of an outdoor event at the end of May, maybe around bank holiday time? – well we can always hope!

We had a delivery from the Royal Exchange again this week and once again I can’t fault the quality – and Jo enjoyed the beer. Also had some bread and pastries from “Stick’s” absolutely lovely – even if Jamie did have to deliver them because I got the closing time wrong – sorry!!

I don’t think there is much else to say and so I will have to go and deal with the freezer which packed up today. And then maybe I will get on with some sewing.

Just noticed that in the dairy Jo says that Perseverance is due to land on Mars on Thursday – maybe that should be the watchword for the next couple of weeks

Take care and stay safe – Dil

#### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Newsletter 48**

A fairly uneventful week in the Smith household; that is as far as “outings” or “appointments” or “shopping”. Jo put together the March Parish Magazine and I chatted to Janet and Neil about the Village Hall AGM and the possibility of the Hall being used for the proposed local elections on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May and the implications that has on the use of the hall; – but apart from that nothing much happened – except the saga of the freezer!

I ended last week’s, similarly uneventful, newsletter with a comment about the freezer packing up; when I went to investigate further I found that the bottom drawer in the American fridge freezer which we had in our kitchen was full of melted ice creams; strange as the temperature gauge for the freezer read “-25” and the fridge was at “7” which would indicate all was well. Obviously not!

We begged some freezer space from the Whites for the items which were still fully frozen and come to the conclusion that we needed a new appliance. Investigated and ordered a new fridge freezer online to be delivered on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February (free delivery but charge to take away old items). I checked what we had to do and it all seemed very straightforward – disconnect old appliance and they would take it away along with any packaging from the new one. We didn’t pay for installation as plugging in a new fridge freezer did not seem too complicated. – All was well.

However, we also learnt that the problem we were having with our back-door – lock not working – was not repairable and would require a new door; ok check insurance, not claimable as they considered it “wear and tear” not “damage”; fair enough, and we could exit via the conservatory so a nuisance but not a danger– except...

When the delivery of the new freezer happened the men decided that in order to get the old one out, as they couldn’t get it out of the back door, they would have to get down the passage way to the front door, but the door handles on the appliance made it 10cm too wide – they couldn’t remove the doors or the handles because we hadn’t paid for that!! – to misquote a famous quote “they hadn’t told us to remove the bxxxxxy doors” – quite the contrary, they specifically say not to damage it in any way in case noxious liquids or gasses escape!! – Ok ring the tip – helpful man says yes we can arrange a collection from EHDC who will arrange “kerbside collections” for £40.00 – but they are not open at the weekend to book, and, oh, at the moment there is about 3 weeks turn around – you could bring it to the tip” – umm, won’t fit in the car! – so on Monday we will ring EHDC

and book a collection. Until then we have two large fridge/freezers in the kitchen and a couple of rather confused cats!! – It should have been so simple!!

Friday saw the YouTube showing of “War to War” which seemed fairly successful and this coming Thursday (25<sup>th</sup>) I will arrange another zoom meeting; which maybe just a chat or given a following wind we could manage another quiz – I will let you know.

We heard from Rod that he and Clare had been vaccinated and on the Saturday “Quiet Knight Inn” call we added Mel to the list and Dave Horne’s is imminent! – so we progress.

Hope everyone is fit and well and looking forward to a better spring.

Take care and stay safe – Dil

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Newsletter 49**

Well at last we have some indication as to when, all being well and given a following wind, we might have some chance of meeting up. Nothing very useful until the end of May when up to 30 people can meet outside so we could go for an outside garden party on the bank holiday weekend at the end of the month or we could wait until the last weekend in June when all restrictions will have been lifted and we would be able to retreat inside if the weather is inclement. Either way, I’m happy to host a garden party here on either weekend. We’ll discuss it at the next committee meeting on the 8th March and see what emerges.

Jo and I have had a sort of eventful week with small “outings” most days; nothing too exciting but almost every day has involved us having to get out and about for an hour or so, including a visit to Jamie’s coffee shop on Friday when Jo went to collect his saxophone from the repairers in Wey Hill.

We finally got rid of the old fridge/freezer; Chris Millard read last week’s newsletter and very kindly offered to take it to the tip for us in his big car – we were surprised to find that it fitted in – thank you Chris. Jo and I had fun getting it out of the house and very nearly got stuck in the doorway – a bit of crafty coddling was successful, and we managed to roll it onto the drive without too much damage either to it or the house. There is now a lot more room in the kitchen!!

I had a chat with Jill at the beginning of the week and she similarly had been having trouble with “white goods” having had to replace her washing machine and was also waiting for someone to come and repair her fridge, but apart from that both she and Louis are well. Janet and Neil seem to be in fine form and Janet is managing to get out a bit now, which is good to hear. I also had a phone call from Martin Wellen who told me that he and Shirley had both had their jabs recently but also that they had both contracted Covid over the new year period and that Shirley had been in hospitalised for 5 days but was now fully recovered and back at work. Dave Horne had his jab this week – strangely he had a problem with his arm the following day, but it wasn’t the arm that he’d been vaccinated in! Sarah has had the call and is due for hers soon too.

Jo has spent a good part of the week learning to play the dulcimer – we’ve had it for years but neither of us had got round to doing anything with it. Strange instrument, with 4 strings usually tuned to “D” – it’s rather limited in its range. I did however find a book of Beatles songs arranged for the dulcimer and so he attempted one at this week’s “Quiet Knight Inn” meeting. It was fairly successful but given the instrument’s limitations I think it might return to its shelf in the back bedroom.

We have seen Steve and Mel this week, in the flesh as well as on Zoom, and they told us that Xander had returned to Portsmouth University as they were fairly confident that the course would restart on 8<sup>th</sup> March. So, things are moving towards a more normal existence. I know we feel the restrictions here, but we had a long letter from Jo’s friend Jean who lives in Cherbourg and they are similarly restricted to us with the addition of a 6pm curfew. He lives in a penthouse apartment overlooking the port and he was saying that the “traffic” between Cherbourg and Ireland had quadrupled since Brexit. We were hoping to get to Cherbourg to see them at Easter, having moved our visit on from last July but that is now not going to happen – we shall try again for this July! Also,



our Mediterranean cruise which was scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> May is cancelled – we are still hoping for August in the Fjords ... both trips have moved several times, but we won't be booking anything else for a while – it's too time-consuming re-arranging!

Last Thursday we had a Zoom quiz, and this week we shall be logging into Headley Society for another talk by Jo, this time about Headley's dramatic past. We'll send the link round for those of you who would like to join us. The following Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, Dave and Sarah Horne have offered to do a quiz for us; more on that next week.

Hoping things continue to move in the right direction; take care and stay safe – Dil.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Newsletter 50**

The big 50 – two more and I will have been writing these for a whole year!

First slight loosening of lockdown from Monday – Schools back and we will be able to meet one non-family member outside – even for a picnic! It's still rather cold but Jo and I just might go up to Ludshott for a walk and sit on a bench and have a sandwich and a coffee!!

The last week has been quite uneventful:– Jo needed to photograph a couple of gravestones in the churchyard in Headley and we discovered that they were rather overgrown, so on Sunday we revisited with secateurs, etc and after a lot of effort and a considerable number of scratches from briars we un-covered them enough for Jo to take a couple of shots – however the light was in the wrong direction, so we had to go back again the next day. On Wednesday I discovered two large, inflamed scratches on my chest and blamed the cats – on reflection it was probably the briars – sorry cats!

Thursday was our wedding anniversary and Jo, who usually brings me coffee in bed every morning, appeared with two glasses and a card – he hadn't been able to find any fizz (there was some, but I had obviously hidden it too well ) so at 7am I was treated to a Gin and Tonic – I am pretty sure that that was a first, but it was nice if rather unexpected!

Jo spent a large part of the week either deciphering more of Mr Laverty's notes or putting up more mp4s on YouTube. The locksmith on Monday came and managed to repair the back door, so now we can get out into the garden without having to circumnavigate the whole house and we have (or rather Jo has) started to tidy the garden up a little in the anticipation of being able to sit in it in the not-too-distant future. – Jo gave the lawn its first mowing and we planted some primroses in the pots and planters in the front garden.

As I anticipated our cruise in August to the fjords was cancelled by P&O so now we are trying for October – which will be nice if it comes off as it will be Jo's birthday. We did a Baltic cruise a couple of years ago around the same time and enjoyed it very much. In the meantime, a few days in the Lake District in June will give us a change of scenery. We are heading for Boot where we spent some time in 2005, to the same hotel and I think even the same room. Let's hope the room above doesn't flood it this time!

On Thursday Jo gave another talk for Headley Society which I think several of you logged on to, and this coming Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup>, Sarah and Dave are doing a quiz for us and I will send the link round for this on Tuesday. We will also have a zoom committee meeting on Monday so we will send the regular monthly committee newsletter later in the week too telling you of any exciting developments.

I have spoken to various club members during the week; Jo and Martin Levy are doing well we have chatted to Janet and Neil and on Saturday we saw the regulars on the "Quiet Knight Inn" zoom call most of whom were fine – unfortunately poor Mel had a fall on Tuesday and broke her left wrist quite badly – she went off to Guildford in an ambulance and has to return there this coming week for them to assess the damage and decide if further treatment is needed, but she will be incapacitated for around 6 weeks. I think that is our trio of broken bones now thank you! I also heard that Jonathan is now out of his boot and that Tina is on the road to recovery.

Well, here's hoping that we will be able to get out and do a bit more walking and tidying up in the garden over the next couple of weeks – the weather forecast is not too bad – riding the static bike every day is ok, but it is nice to be outside and now we are allowed to spend some time sitting and admiring the view rather than just exercising it all seems more appealing somehow.

Take care and stay safe – Dil

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Newsletter 51

After a couple of quiet weeks this last week seems to have been full of “things to do” – not the same as it is in normal times but certainly enough to occupy our days.

On Sunday Jo did his monthly long walk, on his own due to lockdown rules, and went from the village hall up to “Cathedral Pines” on Ludshott Commons to see what the National Trust have been doing there (felling trees). Hopefully next month he will be able to have a little more company. He also had a sax lesson over zoom with daughter Sarah and it was decided that his saxophone needed to return to Chamberlains for further repair work – now it's back and seems to be working well & he has promised a performance next Saturday on our “Quiet Knight Inn” zoom call.

During the week we've tried to fit in a few more walks, and I think managed it most days when the weather was in our favour. Apart from that we've been doing the usual things that have kept us occupied for most of the last year!

On Monday we held the HTC committee meeting by zoom, and I hope you have all seen the committee newsletter with suggestions for possible future events. Hopefully we will be able to put on some sort of production in July; it is at the moment a work-in-progress under the title of “Here We Are Again”, possibly using songs and sketches we have done successfully in the past. So, if you have any ideas of items you would like to see included or perform please let us know. We will hope to get some more concrete ideas of content and maybe some real rehearsal time later in the year – here's hoping! We've also asked Janet to put some “holding dates” in the village hall diary so that we won't lose our usual slots and will be able to put on productions when we're allowed.

It looks as though it will be June before we can safely get together. Pru has kindly offered her garden for a picnic once again, and we will set up a date as soon as we can.

Tina seems to be coping well with her broken ankle and is looking forward to being able to become a bit more mobile over the next few weeks. Mel is still having to visit the hospital for further treatment/observation of her broken wrist but knows that it is likely to be 6 weeks before she is driving again. Most other members seem to be coping well; Louis is due to have his 2<sup>nd</sup> covid jab this week and more members are going to be receiving their first, so the list grows. Jo and I bumped into Kathryn this week and she told us that she and Rufus and their families are coping well, happy that the kids are back at school now as I'm sure many other members are.

Thursday saw us logging on to a quiz organised by Dave and Sarah Horne. It was very successful, and we look forward to the next one which will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, this time set by Nick, so “tune in” for that.

On this coming Thursday (18<sup>th</sup> March) we'll be showing of one of our old productions that Jo has put up on our private YouTube channel. I'll send details round on Tuesday with the links. **Meanwhile, look at the 'Logon' page on our website to see what is up there, and let us know your 'top three' for viewing** – we'll show whichever one most people vote for.

Some time ago I thought I would have a go at compiling a couple more “Vista” books, rather like the one I did for our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. I thought it might be a nice way of recording our shows and events each year. So far I have almost finished 2018 and will start on 2019 soon; I'm not sure how I will deal with 2020 – could be challenging. After that I'll probably start working backwards hoping to get as far back as the year 2000, and perhaps further. Meanwhile, at Nick's suggestion, Jo is compiling a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Club – watch this space for news on both these projects.

Hope everyone continues to keep well and that it will not be too long before we can see more of you in person.

Take care – Dil.

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Newsletter 52**

One year on, and the first of these newsletters dated Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 is attached. It is strange to reflect on the paradox that so much has happened since then and on the other hand so little!

We are still hoping to produce “The Wedding Reception” in the autumn, and talking about presenting a Summer Show which will not need to get into rehearsal until much nearer the proposed date of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> July – (and yes we are still looking ideas and suggestions) – and hoping that we will all be able to meet again in person soon.

This week started, and ended, with a house full of flowers sent to me by my children, very much appreciated and a cheered me up no end. Spring is indeed on its way and we even got out into the garden for a couple of hours to get ready for the influx of visitors we hope to be able to invite after next weekend 😊. Please feel free to invite yourselves for tea in the garden as the weather improves – but only in compliance with rules of the day of course. I have been re-organising my freezer and discovered several cakes that need eating up!

Jo has spent many, many hours this week up-loading shows to YouTube; we think that we have up-loaded most of the ones that we can put up, either because of the quality (we never recorded them with the view showing them publicly, only for our own record and reference) or because of intellectual property rules. He is now working on his presentation of HTC history. There is a lot of information so he thinks it will be in two parts, the first one covering the first 50 years. In fact, he has offered this as an option for one of our Thursday night zoom events in a couple of weeks’ time or so. Last Thursday we watched the 2009 production of “Dick Whittington” which made an enjoyable evening – it was nice to see several “old” members who are no-longer with us for one reason or another and was an example of what a difference an enthusiastic chorus makes to a production! This coming Thursday, 25th March, will be “Quiz Night” – this time the quiz will be set by Nick – inside information says that it will be hard! I will send round the link later in the week and look forward to seeing some of you there.

This week we have seen, or more likely spoken to: Mel, who we took to RSCH for her fracture clinic appointment (all is going well, and she does not need any further intervention on her wrist); Tina who is still confined to her sofa and will not be weightbearing for a few weeks yet but seems in good spirits; the usual “Quiet Knight Inn” crowd on Saturday who all seem well and are looking forward to getting out and about a bit more; Janet and Neil who are well; and Pru who suggested that when we are able to meet up for our “break out” picnic we should celebrate all the birthdays that we have missed over the last year. So that’s an inspiration for your picnic hampers – I’ll get some fizz!!

I am sure that many of you will have known Malcolm Roffe who was one of the Parish Councillors and he and his wife were supporters of HTC for many years. Malcolm had been ill for several years and died last week. I will send a card to Anne on behalf of the club.

Well, I think that’s all for this anniversary newsletter. Stay safe and hope to see you soon – Dil

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Newsletter 53**

The clocks went forward today (confusing the cats), and the first easing of the “lockdown” restraints is due tomorrow, so maybe there are a few things to look forward to as spring arrives!

We’ve had a busy week this week, according to the diary. Our new kitchen locker arrived on Monday and this enabled me to finally put away all the Christmas crockery which has been in the conservatory since 1<sup>st</sup> December last year. And the better weather at the beginning of the week

tempted us out into the garden to start a much-needed tidy up; Jo has sorted out the garden ponds and we have emptied all the pots which we'll fill in preparation for planting up a bit later on – Alan T says not to plant things out yet but to wait a couple of weeks to be sure that there are no late frosts, so we are doing as we are told! But that won't stop us visiting some garden centres soon. I've been trimming the honeysuckle, and in the process managed to trim one set of garden lights too; I also managed to get covered in bits of twig and dead leaves – however it's beginning to look a lot better for a haircut (wish the same could be said of me and Jo; but at least Jo's hair is almost recovered from the "accident" I had with the clippers when I attempted to give him a trim a couple of weeks ago; time for another attempt!) The garden sheds have had a coat of paint and also the wooden lounge and the wooden garden chair; I just need to tackle the cushions for the various chairs and seats and we'll be ready for the influx of visitors that we're expecting in the next few weeks 😊 The first lot are due tomorrow for evening drinks and nibbles! We hope it will be the first of many to look forward to, and that the weather will be kind until we are able to meet indoors, either here or in the local pubs and restaurants and eventually at the Village Hall.

This week we have spoken to Pru and to Jill and Louis – all are well. On Saturday we saw the "Quiet Knights". On Thursday we logged in for Nick's quiz on zoom; as was promised, it was a difficult one – the anagrams were really hard and most of us did very badly indeed despite the fact that we knew they all related in some way to food, and they were really obvious when we saw the answers. Maybe I just jinx myself because I always know I'm not going to get the answers because I am SO BAD at anagrams! Overall, we didn't do too badly, mainly because Jo is good at science, but Simon and Mary Coyte who had logged in for the first time won! This coming Thursday there is no zoom meeting for HTC, but Alistair Young is doing a presentation for Headley Society on The River Wey; we shall log in to that and I'll send round the link later in the week for HTC members who might be interested in joining us. At the moment there is nothing planned for the following week, so if you have any ideas, let us know. On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April, Jo has offered to do the first part of his HTC history presentation.

One of the things Jo and I have been thinking of doing for some time is having a look in the HTC storage sheds down at the village hall to see if the contents have suffered any damage over the last year. As we can now meet up in groups of 6 outdoors it might be an opportunity for some of us to pick a date and go through a few things and maybe organise trip to the dump to dispose of any unwanted items (such excitement) while we are still unable to meet to rehearse. Just a thought.

Next Sunday is Easter Sunday – it is also the first Sunday of the month when Jo organises a walk from the Village Hall. Could be the "Bluebell" walk, but maybe it's a bit early for that and May might be better. So much to look forward to.

Here's hoping we can see as many of you as possible over the next few weeks so take care and stay safe. – Dil

#### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 – Newsletter 54**

This week has been an odd week as far as the weather has been concerned from bright, warm sunshine to wanting to light the fire again in the evening – next week seems similar with snow forecast for Monday!! Luckily we still have some logs left from our last delivery and it's fortunate that I have not, as I often do for Easter, cleared out the fire place and set it for summer with artificial flowers and lights – that can wait a couple of weeks. This Sunday will be one of Jo's long monthly walks from the village hall and the April walk is often the Bluebell walk, but not this year – it's too early for Bluebells so that may well be the May one.

Last Monday saw us out in the garden round the fire pit with Nick and Erika and, initially Mel and Zak, (Steve joined us later, changing venues with Zak) first time since Christmas Eve! It got rather chilly as the evening wore on, but it was nice to see people in the flesh rather than just on zoom.

On Wednesday we had afternoon tea in the garden with Jill and Louis and Jo and Martin Levy. It was

not as warm as had been promised and we did get a spot of rain, but on the whole it was a pleasant few hours and it was nice to catch up in person. Everyone seemed well and in good spirits; Martin was in good form and was sporting a very fetching beard.

We haven't progressed much with the garden this week, either occupied preparing for visitors or deciding it was still a bit on the cold side for planting out the pots. Jo spent much of the week working on various projects on the computer and I did a lot of sewing – Tallulah has commissioned a costume for her upcoming school production: she is to be Tinkerbell in "Peter Pan" and is very, very specific about what her costume should look like; none of the ready-available costumes meet her requirements and most importantly the tutu skirt has to light up (but probably not mains powered as Steve White suggested) – that's next week sorted then!

Jo has also been amusing himself investigating "what three words" have been allocated to various locations; the ones for our house, among others, are "minivans.sunshine.coolest" and "pranced.bulbs.pumkin". He also did a "Coronavirus Year log" taking items of note from his daily log to cover the year.

There was no HTC zoom meeting on Thursday but some of us logged in to the talk on the River Wey trust by Alistair Young on the Headley Society platform. As no one has offered anything for this coming Thursday, Jo will do a quiz again as he has one ready to go – and the following Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, Jo will present the first 50 years of Headley Theatre Club. On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Rachel is planning to do a murder mystery (a scripted one) and is asking for actors. Janet has sent round the email from Rachel with details and if you are interested please get in touch with her direct. We shall still need audience too if you would rather just come and watch!

This week apart from those already mentioned, we have spoken to Pru and Janet and Neil and on Saturday night celebrated Nick's birthday on our weekly "Quiet Knight Inn" meeting – except for Deb who having finished work on Thursday for a 10-day break was so laid back she forgot it was Saturday and missed the call, despite having practised a couple of songs in honour of Nick – so she's now ahead of us for coming weeks. And I can now play "happy birthday" on the squeeze box so be warned!

Today is Easter Sunday and the sun is shining. I know some of you have family visits and easter egg hunts planned so you will be able to enjoy them in nice conditions. Jo is sitting in the garden, having just returned from his long monthly walk, with a glass of cider so I shall go and join him. Happy Easter and take care – Dil.

### **Friday 9 April 2021 – Newsletter 55**

We had hoped to spend some of the bank holiday weekend with friends in the garden enjoying their company but the weather had other ideas; so no tea in the garden this week – I hope the it warms up a bit soon!! One other consequence of the cold spell is that not much gardening has happened this week, at least in this house but I am sure there are hardier creatures about – Jo made the odd foray outside in the cold but I resisted.

Monday night we had the monthly HTC Committee meeting, so I hope you've all read your monthly newsletter. – we had Jo's 4<sup>th</sup> quiz on Thursday and had a nice number of people logged on. This coming Thursday we'll be logging in to the first 50 years of HTC, and on 22<sup>nd</sup> it will be Rachel's Murder Mystery. On 29<sup>th</sup> we have decided that we will do a quiz with rounds set by different people – I have 6 volunteers so far and would like to hear from anyone else who is willing to set a round (ideally we need 10 rounds).

I have been doing a fair amount of sewing this week. Tallulah's costume is progressing and I am glad that the shops will be open again on Monday as I need to get a few items to finish it.

I spent most of Tuesday and Wednesday sorting out the paperwork for the Village Hall Trustee's AGM which was done by Zoom on Friday – it's amazing how long it takes to get the minutes and agendas together, particularly when you are really dealing with 2 years in one.

Jo has continued to put things up to YouTube and has almost finished the back catalogue, so have a look and see what you fancy watching again. We have had one or two thoughts about the summer show and I think I'll look back on past performances and see if I can "offer" some suggestions for sketches that have worked well in the past and that we may like to try and re-create for this show. I would still like to hear if there is anything you would like to suggest so that we can start to assemble some sort of programme.

The "Quiet Knight Inn" zoom folk club call this week was a bit of a challenge as we developed a strong echo and no matter how many steps we took to try and correct it we were unsuccessful. We soldiered on but I hope that by next week the problem, whatever it was, has disappeared!

I am not much of a follower of the Royal Family apart from always being glad that we have the Queen as head of state not some, sometimes dubious, president but I did find myself in tears on Friday when I heard of the death of Prince Philip – I suppose that it was because it seems just another blow after the terrible year we have had – So sad that he didn't make it to his hundredth birthday and very sad for the Queen to lose her companion of so many years; they were married before I was born and he served this country well in his own unique way. I have met two people who have spoken to him at private events and both said that he lightened the proceedings and went out of his way to make people feel at ease, even if his comments were sometimes less than politically correct! He will be missed.

Well that's all for now – an even less than eventful week than usual – I hope we all get a bit more "excitement" in the coming weeks; and some warmer weather! – Take care – Dil

#### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Newsletter 56**

Well the weather has finally warmed up a bit – I must admit that as I write this it is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – a busy weekend meant that this is really the first opportunity I have had to catch up.

Last week was rather occupied with trips to the garden centre and Jo's 2<sup>nd</sup> covid jab among other things!

Monday was fairly uneventful with both Jo and I just getting on with various projects, Jo on the computer continuing to update books, scan photos and theatre club records and upload yet more DVDs of old shows, and me with some sewing and a couple of telephone calls.

Tuesday we were just about to leave the house for a walk on Ludshott common when we noticed a couple of wet patches on the kitchen floor, and on looking up a couple of damp patches on the ceiling! – luckily Jamie was around and managed to sort it out for us – we must have had a leak in the bathroom for some time and were lucky not to have had more damage. Just a ceiling to repaint!

Wednesday we did get our short walk in round Ludshott Common together with a trip to Grayshott before we got stuck into more computer work (Jo) and more sewing (me).

Thursday Jo went for his 2<sup>nd</sup> Jab and we called in on Jill and Louis for coffee on the way back, and in the evening logged in to the HTC zoom session and Jo gave his talk on the first 50 years of Headley Theatre Club; we recorded it and it is up on the website if anyone missed it or wants to view it again. This coming Thursday we will be logging in for the Murder Mystery organised by Rachel – looking forward to that – I will send the link out later in the week.

Friday it was back to sewing for me and the Parish Mag for Jo; the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month seems to come round very quickly. We did a garden survey to see how many plants we needed to fill up our pots and estimated that around 20 geranium plants, a couple of larger specimens for the bigger pots and some lobelia and a few herbs and small plants for the "pot garden" should suffice.

Saturday we went to Luffs to buy the plants – Jo planted them in the afternoon to find that we had grossly underestimated and needed at least the same amount again – and we'd forgotten the hanging baskets!

On Saturday night we had our usual "Quiet Knight Inn" – for various reasons there were at least 4

“households” fewer than normal and in the end we each had to produce a lot more input than normal. Next week we will have been meeting up of a year and are hoping for a good turnout.

On Sunday we took a trip to the Fox and Pelican in Grayshott for lunch with Nick and Erika and Pru before returning here for pudding and coffee. Very nice it was too, huge portions of pork, and on the whole the pub coped very well – even if service was a little slow and erratic at times.

So, a busy week by current standards. Apart from those already mentioned, we have spoken to Neil and Janet, Mel and Steve and had a few emails from other members including one from Penny who is asking if anyone wants a 6ft snooker table with cues and balls. If you do please either email or phone Penny direct or let me know and I will pass it on.

Jo and I have decided that this week we will take advantage of the good weather and finish planting up the pots (today 12 more geraniums; 2 foxgloves, lupins, more herbs, a tray of trailing fuchsias, some other biggish plants (can’t remember what they are called) – hopefully that will do! Tomorrow we are taking a picnic and going to Southsea for a day at the seaside, and maybe, as the lady in the Deli suggested, some fish and chips on the way home.

Hope to see some of you on Thursday; take care and stay safe – Dil

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 – Newsletter 57**

It’s almost May and I for one am looking forward to further easing of the current restrictions but we have decided to take advantage of the things we are allowed to do at the moment and get out and about more now that the weather is more conducive to outdoor activities.

On Monday we paid yet another visit to Luffs for more plants and then Jo spent most of the day in the garden potting them up. We found that we still needed more – this time I will make a list. In the evening we spent a couple of hours chatting to Mel and Steve with a few drinks; the only downside of the day was that Mars (the cat) had not been seen since Sunday evening, so I spent a restless night wondering where he had got to.

Tuesday morning up early, still no Mars but then around breakfast time he strolled in calm as you like!! We had decided to go to Southsea for fish and chips – as you do – Mel came too as she is still unable to drive far due to her wrist injury and we all met up with Xander at the hoverport on the sea front. We had our fish and chips on the beach and after a bit of a walk followed them up with an ice cream. The weather was good and the beach and seafront not too crowded, so it was a very pleasant afternoon. Took us ages to get home as there had been an accident closing the A3 just outside Portsmouth, so a detour was required.

Wednesday, Jo decided to go for a walk around Whitmore Vale on tracks that were new to him and I had a long chat with Janet and Neil; after lunch we did a bit more potting in the garden but as the air was rather chilly we didn’t stay out there for long. I have bought some Nordic walking poles in preparation for our visit to the lake district in May as I remembered that last time yomping downhill certainly needed at least one pole – so as that was all of 15 years ago I have decided to opt for two – just have to practise now!

On Thursday, after a visit to the opticians, we went to Singleton and sat on the hill overlooking Chichester for a picnic. The air was still quite cool so after eating we retreated to the car and admired the view from behind glass. In the evening we logged in for the Zoom Murder Mystery, which was great fun, if sometimes a little confusing! Most participants dressed the part (at least on the top half) and there were several “foreign” accents that wandered in and out of the script. Sarah’s Madame Bogov seemed to consume and awful lot of vodka! I can’t remember if anyone actually managed to “uncover” the murder; I didn’t and I have actually been in that particular mystery before! Here’s to the next time. Participants were: Rachel and Mark and Toby (who was brilliant), Chris Millard, Sarah Horne, Mel, Dil and Jo, Allison and Mike, and Cavan and Loretta who were audience – although Sarah (or rather Madame Bogov) was very suspicious and was convinced that they were secret agents!



Friday, Jo delivered the parish magazine and we had a short trip up to Grayshott Pottery – the first time since December. We also made yet another list of plants to get from Luffs.

Next Thursday we are planning another quiz evening, this time with rounds set by various club members and friends. If you have set a round and have not yet let me know, I don't need to know the questions or answers (I would like to take part) just the topics in order to avoid any duplicates. I will get someone to set a round that is for "setters" only to even things up. So far I have had rounds from Jo, Dave and Sarah, Linda, Nick and Erika, Allison & Mike, Deb, Cavan and Loretta and think I am waiting for Tina, Rachel, and Anne (forgive me if I missed your email) – each round should be of 5 questions please.

Well, I think that's all for now. We are still looking for suggestions for the proposed summer show – take care and enjoy the newfound freedoms – Dil.

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Newsletter 58**

It seems rather sad that the minute it's May and we're looking forward to a bank holiday, the weather starts to cool down!

We had a good weekend last week. On Saturday night we had the anniversary Quiet Knight Inn zoom call; we've met almost every Saturday for a whole year, and so it was marked as a request evening and most of the participants played or sang a song or two requested by fellow members. In fact there were so many requests that we'll carry on for the next few weeks not having to learn anything new!

Sunday evening, we spent a pleasant couple of hours in the White's garden having drinks and nibbles with Mel, Steve and Nick and Erika. We also had a look at Nick's newly converted VW camper van – "Vincent" – which was due its first outing to Torquay the following weekend. A very good job he's made of it too.

Monday was a quiet day just pottering about in the house and garden and Jo finished clearing the last of the ponds. We also found a new badger's sett in the woods just outside our gate!!

On Tuesday we went to Chawton Park Woods for a walk and to allow me to try out my new poles in preparation for our visit to the Lake District; I discovered that they were "trekking poles" not Nordic Walking poles which I had originally thought. They are great but do take a bit of practice! On the way back we thought we might call at a pub for a drink but didn't manage to find anywhere open – so lunch in the garden at home instead.

Wednesday was a day of dealing with admin for the village hall on various fronts, and Jo did some work on one of his books.

Thursday was a busy day with a quick visit from Stevie on his way from Corsham to a funeral in Headley Down, and then we were off to Petersfield to meet with Jill and Louis for lunch at the George in the square and do a bit of shopping. We had intended to fit in another practice "trek" around the Lake but ran out of time. On the way home we paid a visit to Rake Garden centre and got yet more plants!! In the evening it was the HTC quiz with questions set by a variety of people. Great fun – even if I did rather badly. Next week there will be a Headley Society presentation on "The Atlantic Railway: Brunel's vision" which some of you might want to join; Jo will send the link round later in the week.

Friday was not a very exciting day but as Deb is coming for the weekend, the first visit since Christmas, a bit of housework and bed sorting was necessary – still, it has to be done sometime.

Apart from those already mentioned we spoke to Janet and Neil during the week, saw Angela on a car park in the village and organised our trip to Rye which is coming up next week.

One of the things we have been working on, with a bit of help from Deb among others, is the skeleton for the summer show. We'll send out a copy in the next few days in the form of a work sheet, the result of some "brain storming" sessions, which will outline the shape of the show with

some suggestions for the type of sketches, readings, one-liners, solos, duets, and group numbers which we think would fit in. Please feel free to let us know if the things we have suggested appeal to you or remind you of something else that you would like to see in the show or would like to perform. That will then give us a basis on which to build the show. Most of the rehearsing we envisage being done “off line” or on Zoom so that we’ll only need 2 or 3 actual rehearsals to fit it all together. If possible we would like to have the “script” finalised by the end of May.

Take care and stay safe – not long before we can meet up again in person. Look out for the monthly newsletter from the committee which should wend you way to you on Wednesday after the committee meeting on Tuesday. – Dil.

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Newsletter 58**

A very mixed week weather-wise. I seem to remember that this time last year the weather was glorious and lifted our spirits a bit during the first lockdown.

On Saturday Deb arrived for a few days; her first visit since Christmas! We logged into the “Quiet Knight Inn” huddled round the fire; not often we need to light the fire in May. It’s a good job I’d decided not to clear it away for the summer and fill the fireplace with artificial flowers and candles which I usually do in April.

On Sunday, Jo led the monthly walk from the Village Hall – it was the “Bluebell walk”; sometimes it’s in May and sometimes it’s in April – just depends on the weather. I walked down to “The Crown” to join Jo and Deb and Mel for lunch in the pub garden – very good it was too. I had enquired about the menu and the chef very kindly did a vegetarian dish especially for Deb – certainly earned some brownie points from us.

On Bank Holiday Monday the weather wasn’t brilliant. Jo did a bit of tidying in the garden and Deb and I spent a fair amount of time working on ideas for the summer show, which we hope you all received a copy of with the monthly newsletter sent out after the committee meeting which took place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Ellie has decided to stand down from the committee at the AGM later in the month and we’d like to thank her for all the work she has put in as Treasurer since she took over from John. Mel has bravely volunteered to step into the breach, which is good news. It was also nice to hear that Jo Levy is happy to take on the music for the summer show and will be expecting to hear from some of you soon. I did have an email from Karina offering her ideas for the show, and look forward to hearing from more of you over the next couple of weeks.

Wednesday and Thursday were both quite sunny but chilly, and we didn’t venture out much apart from to go and vote in the local elections. I had wondered whether to bother this time, but my conscience wouldn’t allow me not to exercise my hard-won rights.

On Friday, I had to go to Midhurst for my second jab and on the way there we met up with Nick and Erika for lunch in “The Links” at Liphook. The food was good, if rather expensive. The vaccination centre at Midhurst was very well organised, as it was in February, and I was through almost before my due time for my jab. An altogether better day weatherwise – at least it is warmer than it has been over the last few days and I hope it stays that way next week.

This coming Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Rachel is organising a zoom game of “Scattergories”. She has sent round an email outlining the “rules” and I will send out a link to the evening at the weekend. Jo and I hope to be able to log on from our B&B in Rye if the Wi-Fi connection is good enough! I am not really that fond of board games, but I do quite like “Scattergories” – all you need is a sheet of paper and a pencil and you don’t have to move too far, and it doesn’t go on FOR EVER like some games I could name.

Only just over a week now until we’re allowed to meet a few people indoors!! Jo will be pleased that he won’t have to put on his long johns every time we go to sit with people outside.

Don’t forget to let me know about your preferences for the summer show.

Take care and stay safe – Dil

## **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Newsletter 59**

Jo and I spent most of last week in Rye Foreign in East Sussex. We stayed in a B&B called the Hare and Hounds which, if you ever find yourself in that direction, is very good indeed. Lovely big room and bathroom with access to a private garden with tables and chairs which you can use to eat your breakfast or picnic at other times of day – at the moment breakfasts are delivered to the rooms (or garden). There is also a good pub, The Oak, about 300 yards away with ample outside seating in a marquee with heating!

We travelled there on Monday and paid a visit to the beach at Winchelsea, and sat on the pebbles to eat a late picnic lunch. On Tuesday we paid a visit to the National Trust property at Sissinghurst – only the gardens open but well worth a visit. We picnicked in “our garden” in the afternoon and went to The Oak for supper in the evening. Wednesday we went to Scotney Castle; again National Trust, but very different from Sissinghurst. We didn’t find anywhere to picnic on the way back and decided to try Camber Sands – big mistake! We then drove along a very strange military road to Lydd and then back to Rye Foreign; picnic in the garden once again. On Thursday we went to Winchelsea to meet up with the Hornes from Herne Bay and Jo’s daughter Emma and her friend Stevie from Hastings. We all had lunch in the garden of the New Inn and then went to visit the grave of Spike Milligan in the churchyard, and also had a quick look inside the church, which I declared had a very big organ to everyone’s amusement! Back to base for a light supper in our room and then logged into Rachel’s “Scattergories” on zoom at 8pm. Great Fun.

This coming Thursday it will be the HTC AGM, again on Zoom, at 7.30 followed by a quiz – with questions set by various people. Please join us. I will send out the link and the agenda for the meeting on Tuesday.

I am keeping this newsletter relatively short as I have to pass on the sad news that Janet’s health has taken a turn for the worse and she is now in Hospital awaiting transfer to a hospice for palliative care. Neil is able to go and see her and will keep us up to date with any news. Our love and best wishes go out to both of them.

That’s all for now – take care enjoy the new freedoms and appreciate each other – Dil

## **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Newsletters 60 & 61**

It’s been a hectic 2 weeks – I didn’t get round to doing a newsletter last week and did wonder if I would do any more; however I think I’ll carry on until we see if we finally do come out of lockdown fully on 21<sup>st</sup> June!

I noticed that the last Newsletter was dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, which was a Monday not a Friday, so I’ll pick up from there.

I spent most of that week trying to come to terms with the Village Hall Booking system which I had taken over from Janet during the last couple of weeks of her illness. As you all know by now Janet died on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May in Southampton Hospital, and although we knew that she was nearing the end it was still a bit of a shock that it came so soon. Neil seems to be bearing up well and will let us know about the funeral arrangements when they are finalised.

Jo and I took a trip over to Corsham at the weekend to see Stevie and Leeks and Tallulah, and had an enjoyable weekend with them and Deb. I finally finished Tallulah’s Tinkerbelle costume to her satisfaction. I enjoyed making it as I hadn’t done any costumes since the last pantomime in 2019 – I must admit that when I’d finished it I was rather glad I didn’t have to do any more as I’m out of practice and I’ll need to up my game before the next show that needs any number of costumes. But it was fun!

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> we had an early start as Jo had a routine appointment at the eye clinic in Guildford; we made it by the skin of our teeth due to traffic problems on the A3 and had to park in the hospital car park which has started charging again for parking – £5.00 for 2 hours. We’re glad we don’t have to go too often.

In the afternoon we visited Jo and Martin Levy, who were both in good form, and did some music planning for “Here We Are Again” which we are still hoping to do in July – the “script” is coming together and hopefully by next week we’ll have a clearer idea of its final format. I also had a chat with Jill and Louis and Anne Flanagan.

I started a new yoga class this week and found it was just what I had been looking for; so Wednesdays will find me trying to get back to some sort of fitness before we go to the Lake District next month!

Thursday we logged on to the HTC Thursday zoom meeting, this time another of Jo’s quizzes; I didn’t do too well despite the fact that I’d already done a trial run of the questions when Jo was checking it for errors!! This coming Thursday, 3rd June, we’ll be logging into the Headley Society zoom which is a talk on Ernest Shackleton; I’ll forward the link for any of you who want to join us. The following Thursday, June 10th, it will be a quiz set by Sarah and Dave Horne.

Hopefully not too long before we see you all, perhaps even at a rehearsal – take care and enjoy the good weather. Dil.

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Newsletter 62**

We creep ever closer to Freedom Day – ?will we won’t we? – still too soon to tell. But we press on with plans for our breakout sessions. The first will be the picnic at Pru’s – even if we don’t get anymore freedoms we can still meet in the garden up to 30 people. Hopefully by the time we get to 11<sup>th</sup> July we will have no/fewer restrictions on numbers so we won’t have the embarrassment of asking people to “book”! We are also still hoping that we can put on the Summer Show on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July – that is more dependant on the government regulations, but as long as things are not too delayed, current thinking seems to be if the 21<sup>st</sup> June is not the date it will be around 28<sup>th</sup> June or 5<sup>th</sup> July, so we are still hopeful that we can go ahead with “Here we are Again” on the dates planned. There is a plan B, but more on that if we need to use it.

So, what has been happening this week? Not a lot! We had a good session at the “Quiet Knight Inn”. on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May – the theme of the evening was ‘hats’ as Barbara had a family wedding that week and was keen to have an opportunity to wear her ‘Mother of the Groom’ Hat again – very posh it was too. The rest of us turned up in various headgear from bath caps to fur creations – I wore my wedding hat (well fascinator really) – and managed to break it!

The rest of the bank holiday weekend went off well. On Sunday we had a flying visit from Deb who passed by on her way to visit friends fairly locally in order to drop off 11 bags of books she had liberated while clearing her flat! Ours was the job of finding some charity shop/tip to off-load them on. To be fair they were all in great condition and covered a range of subjects. Having taken about 2 bagsful ourselves we managed to find good homes for the rest them.

On Sunday evening we went to the quiz evening at the Royal Exchange with Nick and Erika (we didn’t win). On Monday we needed a quiet day to recover.

The rest of the week has been spent trying to chase people up for the aforementioned Summer Show. We have lots of enthusiasm from club members and from prospective audience so we are happy with progress so far.

Jo has done Pilates by Zoom this week and managed a daily session on the static bike; Erika and I went to Yoga on Thursday, and much gardening, reading and sitting in the sun seems to have been the order of the day apart from that – although we did have a Kay Crescent outdoor socially-distanced coffee morning on Wednesday.

Thursday we did not have an HTC zoom call, but some members logged into the Headley Society talk on Ernest Shackleton.

This coming Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, we will be logging in for a games evening hosted by Sarah and Dave Horne from Herne Bay; I will send round the link tomorrow.

Friday night we had a Village Hall Trustees committee meeting. Nothing much has changed as far as we are concerned; hopefully we will be able to get back to rehearsals before too long, but we won't know until after 21<sup>st</sup> – or possibly later!

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> is the next Theatre Club Committee meeting, so look out for the monthly newsletter after that with any news you need to know.

Take care and keep your fingers crossed that we can meet up soon. – Dil x

### **Tuesday 15th June 2021: Newsletter 63**

“Those of you who have been paying attention.....” (to quote René) will have noticed that I am late in writing this week's newsletter; that's because I waited until we'd heard the latest news about lockdown last night. The extension of 4 weeks means that we will not be able to put on our planned show in July! So to plan B – we will now do “the summer show” ‘Here We Are Again’ on 24th and 25th September – and we have 101 days to rehearse!!

So, what else has been happening in the last 10 days? We've enjoyed the sun, sat in the garden most days; done a bit of gardening and I did a bit of sewing; we had several nice suppers and lunches in various gardens locally with Nick and Erika, and Jill and Louis, and Mel and Steve. Did quite a bit of work on the show (ironically!); took some more “stuff” to the charity shop and generally potted about.

We also decided that this coming Saturday, 19th June, will be the “End of Term” for ‘The Quiet Night Inn’ which has met on zoom almost every Saturday for the last year and more! We will resume again in September. Some of you have occasionally joined the ‘regulars’ on the call – if anyone wants to join us this Saturday let me know and I'll forward the link. We are hoping that the more distant Quiet Knights who were planning to take part in the show will still come down on the weekend of 18/19/20 July and we'll have a get-together anyway, probably outside.

Talking of gets-together; The picnic in Pru's garden will still go ahead but as the date, 11th July at 2.30, is now 8 days before the next proposed “freedom day” we'll need to be aware that numbers will be limited to 30 people outside; hopefully this won't be a problem – when we did it in August last year there were 22 people, so apart from remembering that parking is limited and we have to be a bit creative, there shouldn't be too much of an issue. But let us know if you hope to come.

On Thursday last week we logged on to a games evening presented by Dave and Sarah Horne – we had a round of ‘Balderdash’ followed by a round of ‘Linkee’; good fun, but I wish I was better at games! This coming Thursday, Jo will do another session on Theatre Club History, this time going from 2002 to 2011. I'll send round the link tomorrow. As we will have a few more weeks of not meeting in person, does anyone have anything to offer on zoom after that? We'll get a rough rehearsal schedule out for those taking part in the show in the next couple of weeks, but there is no great hurry now!

On Sunday we did some stage work in the hall – reassembling the toblerones – and will probably do a bit more later in the month so that we're ready to go in September. But we couldn't find the skycloth anywhere – can anyone remember where we put it?

Just a reminder that we are planning to meet on Headley Village Green this coming Friday at 12.30ish to see Janet's funeral cortege pass on its way to Guildford.

As I write this, I'm sitting on the sofa with a tray on my knee and typing on the laptop – no mean feat as it keeps wobbling. I've had a bit of a knee problem for a couple of weeks and thought it was beginning to get a little better, but yesterday, at the ‘Fox and Pelican’ with Jo and Martin and Nick and Erika, I lunged forward to save my glass of red wine going all over the table and managed to twist my knee – now I can't walk at all! It was rather dramatic – I almost had to borrow Martin's wheelchair to get to the car! I still can't walk today, so off to the docs this afternoon!!

Just for info – there is an outdoor production of “As You Like it” at the ‘Fox and Pelican’ on Sunday 15th August; Jo and I are hoping to go – if anyone else wants to join us that would be great, but

probably best if you book yourselves as current restrictions could make group bookings difficult. We are still planning to do the Hindhead Walk on Sunday September 12th; Jo will be in touch with the 'cast' nearer the time. Take care – hope to see you soon, but not quite as soon as we hoped! – Dil

#### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021: - Newsletter 64**

It's only a few days since my last week's, delayed, newsletter, but as we are going to be away when the next one is due I thought I'd catch up, as my next one will be in July.

So, picking up from last Tuesday ... I have damaged one of the Gastrocnemius muscles at the back of my knee – also known as 'red belly'? – not sure why but on all diagrams it's the red one and the other one is green! – that could be it? There is nothing really to do but wait for it to get better – ice, volterol gel and the occasional ibuprofen! About a month, I'm told. So much for ideas of walking in the lake district next week! We've decided that we'll find some picturesque picnic spots and I'll sit and sketch while Jo does some local walks – that should be fun in the rain! But to be fair the forecast is not at all bad.

On Wednesday, Jo finished typesetting the parish magazine and I sat on the sofa reading and getting a bit bored, not being able to move much!

Thursday my leg was a bit better, so I did manage to get upstairs, having slept downstairs for the previous two nights. In the evening we logged on to the HTC zoom meeting and Jo gave the second part of his "History of HTC" from 2002 to 2011. If you missed it, look on the website for the link and you can pick it up on our YouTube channel.

On a sad note, we also learnt that Steve Baker, who some of you will remember playing 'Bishie' in 'Lark Rise' and 'Bob Cratchit' in 'Bah Humbug', died from cancer on Tuesday – so young; he'd been suffering for a couple of years and had fought very hard.

Friday saw around 20 of us on the village green, in the rain, to watch Janet's funeral cortege pass by on its way to Guildford. Afterwards Jo and I tried to get to the crematorium in time for the service, but the weather and traffic were against us, and we arrived just too late. We will be sending a donation from Theatre Club on Janet's behalf to her chosen charities if anyone wants to add to the sum. I'll get Ellie to do it next week.

Saturday is a grey, wet, inside day and we logged on in the evening to the end of term "Quiet Knight Inn" – our last until September; but we hope to see some of the regulars in person for the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> July, which would have been the summer show.

This coming Thursday we'll log in as usual at 7.30pm for another of Jo's quizzes at 8pm. Does anyone have any ideas for the next few Thursdays after that? It doesn't seem necessary to meet for rehearsals until the beginning of August, at the earliest, now that restrictions have been extended and the show moved to the end of September, but it would be nice to keep in touch. So many of you have been to interesting places that most of us will never visit and it struck me that it might be nice to hear about them and/or see pictures if anyone feels like giving it a go? Anyway, think about it and let me know. I'll send round the link for this week's zoom on Tuesday.

Just another reminder about the **picnic at Pru's on 11<sup>th</sup> July** – bring your own picnic and let us know you are coming. – take care, see you soon – Dil.

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021:- Newsletters 65 & 66**

My last newsletter was on 19<sup>th</sup> June – so this one covers two weeks.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June we spent a nice afternoon at Zak's birthday BBQ and for once the weather was kind. Monday wasn't so good – the weather was dreadful, and it just confirmed our suspicions that Mid Summer's Day is always awful, not much progress made with anything by either of us – as usual I was dreading having to pack for our holiday later in the week. Tuesday things weren't much better

and just to add to the gloom P&O informed us that our cruise booked for September, up the fjords had been cancelled. At least England won. Wednesday was sunny and we began to hope that the weather for our holiday might not be too bad after all. On Wednesday evening we met Nick and Erika in The Crown for supper – nice meal, if rather expensive but the “entertainment” was probably worth the money – ask us sometime!! Thursday was another lovely day, but I had no excuses left and had to tackle the packing as we were due to depart early on Friday morning. We logged in to the HTC quiz evening, which was well attended, and all was going well until I got a phone call from the hotel we were staying at on Friday and Saturday to tell me that one of the kitchen staff was awaiting the result of a covid test so the restaurant would not be open on Friday evening and they were not sure if they could do our Afternoon Tea which I had booked for Saturday afternoon for my elder brother’s 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday!!

In the event all was well even though we had to go to a local pub for supper on Friday (Plume of Feathers, Barlaston if you are ever up that way) and very good it was and a darn sight cheaper than south of Watford Gap (that’s where the south starts if you live in Stoke); and we did get our Afternoon Tea; the hotel itself was lovely with really delightful grounds.

Sunday saw us heading “up north” stopping off at Carnforth for lunch by the canal (having nearly, inadvertently, joined the queue for the Isle of Man Ferry when we took a detour round Heysham and Morcombe) The only direct way to get to the part of the lake district we were visiting (Western Lakes) is via the Wrynose and Hardknott passes; we had done it before but the road had deteriorated considerably since then (I say road – it’s a track with bits of ground that serve as passing places, often hanging over the edge) and it was Sunday and the whole world had decided to do the road just for the fun of it!! We arrived eventually at ‘The Boot Inn’ in Boot; I was a little disappointed that the room we had was not as nice as the one we had the last time we stayed there – it wouldn’t be, it wasn’t the same Inn; last time we stayed at ‘The Brook House Inn’ which was 50 yards down the road BUT my guardian angel must have known something because that Inn had had to close earlier in the week because 3 of its staff had covid and they didn’t have enough people left to run the hotel, – good job I booked the wrong place then!

As my knee is still not completely better, although it is, hopefully, on the mend, I could not do any significant walking so .... Monday, hot and sunny; we visited St Bees, Cockermouth, Buttermere (crowded we didn’t stop), bypassed Keswick, through Ambleside (crowded, we didn’t stop ) back to Boot via Coniston, Broughton, Ulpha and Birker Fell! Day 2 Tuesday, hot and sunny; We drove up Wastwater to the little church at the end, at the foot of Great Gable, had a shandy at the pub, then drove back to Eskdale, Jo walked up to the Japanese garden which is being restored so not really much to see. Back to Boot and Jo went for a walk to the steppingstones. Wednesday another hot sunny day – drove to Coniston Water and spent a couple of hours by the lake having a picnic and watching the steam yacht then back via the coast and through Barrow in Furness, just because we could. Thursday, hot and sunny; I stayed in the Boot Inn Garden doing a bit of sketching and reading while Jo walked to Stanley Ghyll Waterfall and Stanley Ghyll House and back along the old railway line. A quick trip up to the bottom of the Hardknott pass and an hour sitting with a friendly sheep and taking photos and listening to the set up for Eskfest which was in the dale that weekend. Friday we set off for Mansfield and got very lost round Worksop; Saturday we went to The Dukeries and then watched the football; Sunday we visited Clumber Park. Monday, many, many miles since we set out 10 days ago, we headed for home!

Committee meeting Monday night – the Newsletter relating to that is attached with this one, just to confuse you. Thursday we have another quiz evening with rounds set by various people; if you are setting a round can you let me know so we don’t miss anyone. Also – even if you think you’ve already told me or Pru or another member of the committee – **can you email me if you are coming to Pru’s on Sunday** to the (almost) break out picnic as numbers are getting very near the 30 limit I think, and we may need to do a bit of re-jigging! Speaking of the picnic you will see from the Committee Newsletter that we will be doing a raffle so bring your £1 coins. – See you soon – Dil.



## **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Newsletter 67**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July was a very busy day in the Smith household with both Jo and I trying to catch up with all the traffic that had come in to us from various platforms since we left for our holiday on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July! We did a big shop to re-stock provisions; called in on Neil to return his cool-box; put posters up in the various notice boards round the village; went to the surgery; quick visit to Nick and Erika and back home for supper and to watch the football match! (the washing machine was busy all day)

Wednesday more washing; Jo lead a walk round Superior Camp and I carried on watching tennis and doing chores and then more football in the evening.

Thursday, I did a lot of work on Village Hall bookings – now that we are approaching yet another “freedom day” we have to prepare to let more users back in the hall!! In the evening we did another quiz on zoom and spent some time after that had finished chatting to various people who took part.

Friday was gardening and ironing: and yet another P&O cruise booking moved on – I keep hoping we will get to the Fjords sometime! And I also booked a road trip to Orkney and Shetland in the autumn; still trying to see the Northern Lights, and as our trip to the Fjords is now booked for June, so not much hope then, we thought we’d try going North as far as we could by road – the song says “the Northern Lights of old Aberdeen” so we’re hopeful!

Saturday was spent getting ready for the break-out party at Pru’s; and Nick, Erika, Jo, Mel & Steve spent part of the afternoon erecting a large marquee as a precaution against the weather on Sunday as the forecast wasn’t too good. We spent the evening with the Whites.

Sunday – HTC breakout day – the weather was kind for the most part and we assembled in Pru’s garden for a picnic. Not as many people came as we had originally hoped, I think some were put off by the weather forecast. In fact it stayed dry until almost 5.30pm. We had Pru, Neil, Nick and Erika, Mel and Xander, Kathryn (Rufus came later) Jo and me, Jill & Louis, Rachel, Mark, Toby and Jess; Maggie, Karina, Annaliese and Sharon (20 in all). Pru had made cookies for everyone which went down very well. We did organise a raffle, as we had threatened to, and that raised a nice little sum for the HTC coffers, certainly enough to fund a couple of rehearsals when we are back. After the picnic we came home and watched the football – it wasn’t my fault honest, I spent most of the game in the study doing other things; anyway, Jo says it was just a practice for the World Cup next year!

There is nothing booked for Thursday evening this week, but the following Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July we have marked down a “stage work session” in Headley Village Hall from 8pm. We may do the same the following Thursday, it depends how we get on and what we feel needs doing. The following week, 5<sup>th</sup> August, we will start to do rehearsals for “Here we are Again” so we hope to see many of you there – we know that most of the rehearsing can be done in small groups but it might be nice to have a meeting to look at the overall format of the show.

Hope to see you all soon – take care - Dil

## **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Newsletter 68!**

“Freedom Day” (??) well, unless we go back into lockdown this will be my final weekly Newsletter. A fairly busy week in the Smith Household ending with a weekend full of visitors on what should have been the weekend of the Summer Show – now the Autumn show, having been moved to 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September. We decided that we would go ahead with a weekend of social events for some of the “guests” who had intended to travel to take part in our first show since the Pantomime in January 2019! – some of them actually made it! whilst circumstances and family commitments meant that at the last minute some could not attend. However from Friday evening to Sunday evening we had a series, suppers and lunches and outings and on Sunday we all met at Pru’s for a final musical gathering. We enjoyed it very much and hope that we see them all again – when we hope to, actually, put on the show.

It’s been a long haul for all of us since we last met at the village hall and hopefully we will be able to

get back to Theatre Club Normality from the first week in August. We hope to resume Thursday rehearsals from 4<sup>th</sup> August, with the intention of meeting weekly thereafter (we will resume Tuesdays when we get nearer to production). The first “rehearsal” will probably be a short presentation of what we hope to do in September and a chance for people to collect scripts and organise rehearsal time for their particular ‘bits’ with others involved. After that we’ll decide who wants “stage time” and when on a weekly basis.

I’ve been looking back over the newsletters since the first one on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020! One of the earlier striking notes was the report from Steve White when he first went back into London during lockdown; written on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – commenting that he passed one vehicle, a bus, between Headley Down and Farnham – only 4 people on the train when he boarded and only 27 disembarking at Waterloo – London empty with buses crossing Westminster Bridge with no passengers, even at peak time. I continued working until the end of September and during the early weeks driving through Headley I rarely passed another vehicle.

Despite our hopes that we could perhaps put on a low-key Christmas event it was not to be, and we mainly met on zoom most Thursdays throughout the lockdown period; doing, play readings, quizzes, watching past shows on YouTube; we even had a virtual Green Room. We did a “performance” of “Flint Street Nativity” (which was hilarious). We also had a very successful New Year’s Eve party via Zoom which had at least 12 households coming and going throughout the evening – from Chicago, Kent, East Sussex, Hastings, Corsham, as well as many locally – probably around 30 people in all attended.

From January onwards we were learning week by week of the increasing numbers of people having their vaccinations and, gradually, things began to look more hopeful and we planned a Summer Show – “Here We Are Again” – but despite the gradual easing of restrictions and the increased opportunities to meet up inside and outside we found that the promised “freedom” was not going to happen in time for us to do the show! – We reluctantly postponed it until the Autumn – here’s hoping! everything crossed! We did manage to have our “Break-out” at Pru’s on 11<sup>th</sup> July and had a pleasant picnic. We missed those who weren’t there and hope to see them soon.

I have left the sad bit of this newsletter to the end – we will greatly miss those who we have lost since the start of the pandemic, Shirley and Janet of course but also Steve Baker who joined us from time to time in our travelling shows. We hope that we will get the opportunity later in the year to do an event to celebrate Shirley and Janet and remember all that they meant to us and all that they did for the club.

I will sign off for now. Keep in touch and do let me know if you want any help with anything or just want an update on what’s happening. The next newsletter will be the monthly one which follows the committee meeting in early August.

Take care – love to you all – Dil x