

# Foxley News

*For the residents of Mansel Lacy, Brinsop, Moorhampton,  
Upperton, Wormsley, Yarsop & Yazor.*



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support from a Foxley Group Parish Council grant.*

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## Editorial

A message from Brian and Caroline Barrett:

After more than 14 years sharing good and a few bad experiences with everybody in our lovely village, the time has come to move on. Circumstances made it difficult to say goodbye personally to everyone we should have liked but hopefully we will return to say farewell properly.



A message from Leigh Greenway from Upper house,  
Wormsley

Missing male ginger cat since last June . If he has decided to move in with you that's ok as long as he's happy. Otherwise we would like him back. Please give us a ring on 07590522547

Why is it not possible to stick a £20 note between the pages 165 and 166 in a book?

Notice in airline ticket office, Copenhagen:  
We take your bags and send them in all directions

**As Chairman of the Garden Club**  
**I would like to wish all members a Very Happy Christmas**



**As Editor of this magazine**  
**I would like wish everybody a Very Merry & Happy Christmas**



*Editor Cal Edwards*  
*Assistant Editor Joyce Potts*



*All articles, letters or other items may be subject to editorial discretion. The editors do not accept responsibility for articles printed in this magazine. Please send or deliver your copy to:-*

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# Foxley News

Publication date    2020/21    Editions    Copy deadline

Autumn	Monday Aug 31	Monday Aug 17
Winter	Monday Nov 30	Monday Nov 16
Spring	Monday Feb 22	Monday Feb 8

## Foxley Flyer

The supplement to the Foxley News will be published at the beginning of the months when the Foxley News is resting. Viz. January, February April, May, July, August, October, November. It is a single A5 sized sheet. - Brief items of interest should be sent to

Joyce Potts, editor, within the copy deadlines. Tel: 01432 356392

e-mail - [joycemike06@gmail.com](mailto:joycemike06@gmail.com)

## Community Association

Dear All,

What a year we have had or not as the case maybe, sadly the Association has been totally shutdown this year due to the pandemic and the restrictions that have been placed on us, having said that it has given us time to rest and reflect with a view that things will change and hopefully we will be able to return to some normality in 2021.

As a result we have had to postpone our A.G.M. normally held in October, once we can operate, we will look to hold it in the New Year, this is a gentle reminder that everyone is welcome to attend and join us in making things happen in our area, we will advertise the date both through the Foxley News and the Notice boards in the parish.

Locally we have lost a few residents from the village namely John and Jennifer Spinks who have moved to Weobley, Brian and Carolyn Barrett who have moved to Stourport, Raymond and Sylvia Jones who have also moved to the Weobley area, but I have been informed that we have new residents whom I hope will like to become involved in the activities within the village.

Sadly during the year a long time supporter of the Association Cis Edwards passed away and I know that she was in the thoughts of many of us during that time of her illness, we also lost Derek Hembrow from The Gate House, and for those that remember her Joy Smith (Freeman) who lived in the village for many years and was the local district nurse and church warden.

Let's make 2021 a year for enjoyment and support of the residents of what is a fantastic parish to be part of. And finally what I would like to do is to wish you all the best for the Christmas and the New Year and look forward to making things happen.

Dave Gwynne  
Chairman.

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## Mansel Garden Club nothing going on bar the weeds



*Stories from a Vicar.*

*Favourite wedding story:* I had been conducting a wedding rehearsal in Church with the bride and groom, going through the service and answering questions. The couple were just leaving afterwards, when the groom came back, "By the way" he said "will you put the word 'obey' in the brides promise?" "Well" I said, "we usually omit it nowadays, but of course I will put it in if you want it" "Oh". said the groom, "I'm not bothered myself; but she wants it in, and I always do what she says".

*Favourite funeral story:* I was visiting an old lady on the anniversary of her husband's death. "I had him cremated you know" she said. "Yes" I replied, "I think cremation is a very good thing, don't you?" "Indeed I do" she said "And I have decided to be cremated myself – if I'm spared".

*Favourite Radio story:* Shortly after the war, while things were still scarce, I happened to come in one day when my wife was listening to "Woman's Hour", and heard the lady announcer say "I am glad to tell you that corsets are coming back in the shops at last, but at present only in the smaller sizes. We larger women will have go on looking round for a while."

---

This is the sad story of a man told by his doctor that he has less than 24 hours to live. He goes home and breaks the news to his wife. Loyally she plans to give him the perfect dying hours. She suggests a theatre visit to see his favourite star. He says, no he couldn't face that. She tries tempting him with his favourite restaurant. No, he doesn't fancy that. Desperate, she offers to drive him to their much loved favourite beauty spot, hold hands and look up at the stars. This fails too.

She gave him the responsibility. What would he like to do? He says he wants to take a case of champagne up to the bedroom and make love all night.

"That's OK for you," she says. "You don't have to get up in the morning".

## Lacy Ladies & Gentlemen in suspension

Husband: "What do you want for Christmas?" Wife: "A divorce!" Husband: "Can you think of anything cheaper?"

Pony Daughter: Mommy, I want a beautiful pony with a bow for Christmas.

Mother: OK then on Christmas Eve we will go to the hairdresser.

Train Set: Mason says to his mother: You can delete the train set from my Christmas wish list. Mother: Why is that?. Mason: Yesterday, I found one in the closet.

Presents Father: My son, who brings the presents for Christmas?

Son: Amazon! Father: No, I mean the fat man with the beard. Son: Edward, the postman?



Here's a prayer found in Chester Cathedral:

Give me a good digestion lord, And also something to digest:

Give me a healthy body oh Lord, With a sense to keep it at it's best.

Give me a healthy mind oh Lord, To keep the good and pure in sight.

Which seeing sin is not appalled, But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored, that does not whimper, whine or sigh.

Don't let me worry overmuch, about the fussy thing called 'I'

Give me a sense of humour, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke.

To get more happiness from life, And pass it on to other folk.



### The Strong Young Minds programme...

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## THE REWARD

Bill Clinton and his driver were cruising along a country road one night when all of a sudden they hit a pig, killing it instantly. Bill told his driver to go up to the farmhouse and explain to the owners what had happened. About one hour later Bill sees his driver staggering back to the car with a bottle of wine in one hand, a cigar in the other and his clothes all ripped and torn. "What happened to you?" asked Bill. "Well, the Farmer gave me the wine, his wife gave me the cigar and his 19-year-old daughter made mad passionate love to me." "My God, what did you tell them?" asks Clinton. The driver replies, "I'm Bill Clinton's driver, and I just killed the pig."

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It is late December and the correctional court judge is in a good mood. He asks the defendant: "What are you accused of?" The defendant replies "I am accused of having done my Christmas shopping too early!" The judge says "But that's not a crime." "Well, it was before the store opened..."



Why can't women put on Mascara with their mouth closed?  
Why is it that doctors call what they do 'Practice'?



On Christmas Eve, a long time ago, Santa Claus was getting ready for his annual journey. But this year there were many problems. Four of the elder elves became ill and the younger more in-experienced elves did not produce the toys as quickly, so Santa started to worry that he would not be ready in time. Then Mrs. Claus tells him that her mother is visiting. This makes Santa Claus stressed even more so. When he begins to gather the reindeer for his sleigh, he discovers that three of them are ready to give birth and two have jumped over the fence. The elves begin loading the sleigh and one of the boards of the sled breaks off and the bag of toys falls to the ground dispersing the toys all around. It goes without saying that Santa was not exactly in his best state of mind and slightly triggered. Then the doorbell rings and Santa goes to the door and expects another problem. He opens the door and there is a little angel with a big Christmas tree brought to cheer up Santa. The angel says in a loving tone: "Merry Christmas Santa, is it not a beautiful day today? I have a big beautiful tree for you, is it not a beautiful tree, where do you want me to put it?" And so began the tradition of the angel on top of the Christmas tree.

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A woman, shortly before Christmas, told her husband that she would like something able to go from 0 to 100 in more or less 4 seconds ... It goes without saying that she wanted a new car. The husband was a bit of a cheapskate. So for Christmas, the woman received a bathroom scale!

---

Two young girls are talking during a school recess. One asks the other "What did you ask for Christmas?" She replies "A Tampax." "What is that?" the other girl asks. "I do not know, but with it you can go horseback riding, to the gym, ride a bike..."

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### The Harvest Mouse (*Micromys Minutus*)

*Micromys Minutus* translates from the Latin as “smallest tiny mouse”. The harvest mouse can weigh as little as a 20p piece. They grow to between 50-70mm and apart from their small size their skeleton is also notably light, being just 5% of their total weight. Ours is 15% of our bodyweight. This beautiful tiny mouse is a russet orange in colour with undersides of pure white. They have small but furry ears and a shorter muzzle than most mice. The Harvest mouse's tail is unique being prehensile and is used as a fifth limb, normally as an emergency brake when descending head first.

These little mice more than likely came over from China before the English channel was formed. They have still not moved very far North and are not found in Scotland or Wales. Most Harvest mice are found in England below Yorkshire.

The Harvest mouse lives in reedbeds, hedgerows, woodlands. Areas of tall grass are favourable habitats to where they can build their nests. They are omnivores and eat a variety of seeds, fruit and invertebrates but they have been known to eat moss, roots and fungi. They are extremely active climbers and will feed in the stalk zone particularly around dusk and they will react very quickly by either freezing or dropping into cover. This response can be to rustling 7 metres away.



In long tussocky grass, farmland and the edges of grass are favourable habitats to where they can build their nests. They eat a variety of seeds, fruit and invertebrates but they have been known to eat moss, roots and fungi. They are extremely active climbers and will feed in the stalk zone particularly around dusk and they will react very quickly by either freezing or dropping into cover. This response can be to rustling 7 metres away.

In Winter they are forced to cease their climbing lifestyle and descend to ground level. They are now in competition for food with other small mammals. The Harvest mouse is the only British mammal to build a nest of woven grass well above ground level, up to one metre. Their nests are built depending on their needs, a small nest of 5cm in diameter for a non breeding nest. A 10cm diameter nest for a breeding one. They will have several litters a year between May to October and most litters are born in August. Litters are normally around 3-8 pups and are born blind and hairless. These extremely tiny mice grow fast and start exploring on the 11th day. By the 16th day the young are abandoned but will continue to use the nest. The most familiar image of the Harvest mouse is in a crop of wheat or barley. Today with farming methods this would be extremely rare. The biggest threat is cold wet weather and a threat to the management of grassland. Mowing in late Summer is very bad for this little mouse due to breeding during this time, also if no scrubland is left over winter they will have no shelter. They receive no formal legal protection at this time, but are on the red list of threatened species. The picture is of the only Harvest mouse I've seen. This was with the Gloucester Wildlife Trust and the mouse was pregnant. We couldn't believe how small she was and fell in love with them immediately.

Angie Starling

#### Message for Christmas

Smile awhile, and while you smile another smiles and soon there's miles of smiles, because you smiled.

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## Feeding Birds in the Winter

It can be tough for our birds at any time in our changing climate and farming methods. But the cold of winter means they need much more energy just to keep warm. With the shorter days it also means they have less time to find their food. But if you are kind enough to help them out no matter what size garden you have, you will be helping these little guys just to stay alive



If you take a few minutes to know what birds are visiting you this can help. Different birds eat different things in different ways. Some prefer feeders and some prefer being on the ground. Some prefer nuts and fats while others fruit. A little bit of knowledge can help you help them but at the end of the day if you put some food up high and on the ground they will find it. Now leftovers. Most are great but will cover what you can leave and what to not put out. Great leftovers are cake, mince pies, dried fruit (if you can moisten it with a bit of warm water even better) unsalted nuts, fruit, grated cheese, potatoes in any form as long as it is unsalted, pastry raw or cooked, oats, cooked pasta and rice. All of this is excellent for our song birds to snack on. Bacon rind is ok again as long as it is unsalted. So the next list is a definite please do not feed to your birds. Salt is huge no as it's poisonous to them. Anything mouldy as this can spread disease and is obviously not a healthy option. No turkey fat, it's too soft and will stick to their feathers and stop the very important weatherproofing from working. No bread or milk. No desiccated coconut, fresh is ok. Remember your own pets too as vine fruit can be very bad for them so make sure they can't Hoover up what you're putting down for the birds.

Obviously you can buy lots of great food all year round as well. Suet, peanuts, sunflower hearts, nyger seeds and lots of other seeds which provide fast high energy food for them. By feeding are we interfering with their natural survival? Well research suggests that food gathered at feeders makes up less than 20% of the diet of blue tits in winter. So there is no reason that they would lose their ability to naturally forage for food.

We have already interfered with their habitat by seriously lessening it with building. With intensive farming that leaves no edges and uses lots of pesticides, and with climate change altering how the insects and plants are behaving at different times of the year. So these little creatures who we can all help unlike other wildlife who might not visit us, definitely need all we can give them. It's also incredibly good for our emotional stability and mental health.

By helping them we help ourselves.

Remember if you use feeders please give them a good clean with hot water regularly to stop any diseases from spreading. Lastly please provide some fresh water, even a small saucer helps. Just make sure in very cold weather it's not frozen Thank you

Angie Starling

This young woman comes home takes off her coat in the hall drops off her shoes and goes upstairs, she enters her bedroom to see two people in bed with their feet sticking out at the bottom. Infuriated she picks up a baseball bat and beats both figures in the bed. Then feeling justified she goes down to the kitchen to make a cup of coffee. She is very surprised to see her husband sitting there drinking coffee. He Says "Hi Honey, my parents popped over for the weekend I've let them sleep in our room"!

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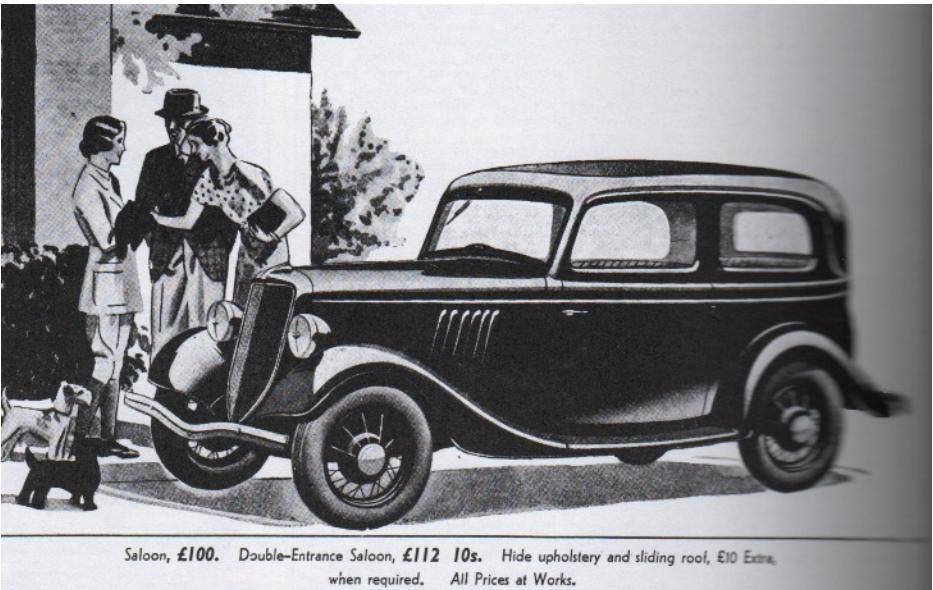
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 "Any particular sort?"  
 "I'm very partial to a bottle of wine"  
 "And what do you spend on a bottle of wine?"  
 "Oh, About half an hour"





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An optimist and a pessimist were best friends. For years, the optimist had been trying to get the pessimist to say something positive but always without success. Then one day the optimist had the bright idea of buying a pet so talented that even the pessimist would be unable to find fault with it. So he went to the local pet shop and asked the owner whether he had any birds or animals with a remarkable talent.

"I have a dog that can walk on water", said the pet shop owner.

"Perfect", said the optimist. "I'll take him. My friend won't be able to say anything negative about such an amazing dog".

The next day, the optimist and his new dog went for a walk by the lake with the pessimist. The optimist was playing catch with the dog on the bank but then suddenly he hurled the ball out into the middle of the lake. Just as the store owner had promised, the dog stood on his back legs, ran across the water, fetched the ball and ran back across the water to shore.

Grinning from ear to ear, the optimist turned to his friend and asked "Notice anything unusual about my dog?"

"Sure", said the pessimist, "He can't swim".

An overly stressed man had been seeing a psychiatrist for three years in a bid to cure his irrational fear that there were monsters lurking under his bed. But all the psychiatrist's efforts were in vain and the man was no nearer to being cured. Eventually he decided that future sessions were a waste of time and money so he cancelled the appointments.

A few weeks later, the psychiatrist bumped into the man in the street. The man looked much happier.

"You look well". Remarked the psychiatrist.

"Yes" smiled the man. "That's because I'm cured. After all this time, I can finally go to sleep at night without worrying that there are monsters lurking under my bed. The psychiatrist was pleased but puzzled. "How have you managed to get cured? Nothing I tried seemed to work".

"I went to see a different doctor," explained the man. "He is a behaviourist and cured me in single session".

"In one session?" Exclaimed the psychiatrist, "How?"

"It was simple," said the man. "He told me to saw the legs off my bed"..

A young woman turned to her fiance and said. "When we get married, I want to share all your troubles and worries."

"That's very kind of you darling", He replied, "But I don't have any troubles or worries" She said "Well, that's because we're not married yet".

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool - I gave him a glass of water.

I just read that 4,300,347 people got married last year - shouldn't that be an even number?.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather, not screaming and yelling like the people in his car.

I find it ironic that the colours red, white and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

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*Mansel Lacy  
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Hall Booking Agent - Cal Edwards  
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Stuart Deane, Joyce Lewis  
Rosa Williams, Rob Hallett  
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Ken King,  
David & Angela Starling,*

*Lacy Ladies & Gentlemen*

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Vice Chair - Vera Cole  
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Secretary - Speakers Sue Carpenter  
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Sue Hallett, Mark Mangan  
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*Brinsop with Wormsley P C C*

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Due to the Coronavirus outbreak the Parish Council has not met in person since September, with the next physical meeting planned for February. It is hoped that by then, the situation has improved and that meeting can go ahead. That said, any council business arising continues to be dealt with remotely. At the time of writing, the first phase of the drainage clearance project has been completed. That is to say, the main open ditches on the minor roads across the Foxley Group have been cleared of silt and vegetation. Also the grippers, the paths for water to pass through any raised verges into the ditches themselves, have also been cleared or re-cut. Phase two which involves high pressure jetting of the covered drains is due by the end of November. The water jet uses a sophisticated head that will not only unblock silt but will even cut through and remove tree roots. This work is being undertaken as a one-off exercise and is funded by a grant, obtained from the County council, over and above the standard annual precept. The intention is to ensure all roads for which the Parish council has routine maintenance responsibility, are well prepared for the Winter season. The main roads passing through the area, for example the A480, remain the responsibility of the County Council and their contractor, Balfour Beatty. Another issue that had previously arisen was that the first bus of the day toward Weobley and beyond was timetabled to bypass the village. After a prolonged series of exchanges with the County Council and the bus operator, this bus now passes through the village and is due at the church at 8.10.

After more than ten years as Parish Clerk, Brian Barrett has stepped down and Rob Hallett has taken over. Brian has done sterling work over this time to ensure the Parish Council has run smoothly and that the Councillors have been able to reflect the views and wishes of the residents. The Parish Council thanks him sincerely for all he has done and wishes him and Caroline well in their new home in Stourport

## Traditional Free- Range Christmas Poultry

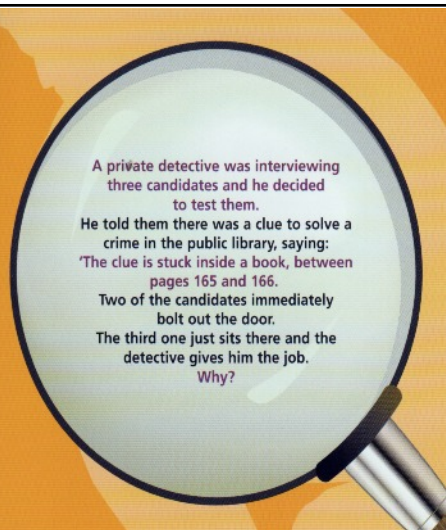


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From the Rev. Rana Davies-James, The Vicarage,  
8 Hillside View, Credenhill HR4 7FD 01432 760443 E-mail: rana.james@virgin.net

Dear Friends,

In 1 Kings 17 in the Old Testament, God called Elijah out into the wilderness, to a place of separation. That's something that a lot of people can relate to right now as they find themselves separated from family, friends and colleagues, as we find ourselves, once again, in lock-down. God deliberately separated Elijah out for a time and for a purpose, so let's assume that God has allowed this separation for us too. In Elijah's isolation, God provided water and he used ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat. They were an unlikely and unexpected delivery service because ravens normally steal food; they don't give it away! But God is a God of surprises, and a God who sustains us in difficult circumstances. Elijah spent time alone with God for 18 months, and during that time he got to know God in a way that he'd never known him before, and to see him do things he'd never seen before. When we find ourselves locked-down away from family, friends and other people, we will see God move in ways we've never experienced before. The place of separation was also a place of shielding for Elijah because, unknown to him King Ahab was looking for him to kill him.

If you find yourself separated from those things and people you feel you really need, draw closer to God and see him surprise, shield and sustain you. Remember, **Jesus** made a promise to his followers before he left this world: he **said**, "**I am with you always**," and thanks to the work he did on the cross, these words are not small or empty. They carry great weight and understanding, for our **security in Jesus** came at unimaginable cost. And now, thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus we can rest in the assurance that we are **never alone**, because every believer is saved by the grace of God through the work of Jesus Christ.

None of us can be certain at this time what sort of Christmas we might have this year, but I hope and pray that it won't be a lonely one, that you will find company in the God who loves you and who longs to be a part of your life if you will let him.

May God bless you this Christmas Season and bring you peace.

Trevor and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a much better New Year!  
Rana

### Church Services

Mansel Lacy Church continues to remain open every day for personal prayers and devotions. The next planned service will be (hopefully) our Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm.

The church has had a huge drop in income this year, with no fund-raising allowed and no Sunday collections. As many of you will be aware, old buildings are costly to maintain so if you feel able it would be a wonderful gesture to gift some money to the church to help with its upkeep and running costs. Please either pop your gift into the gift box in church or through Stuart Deane's letterbox at 'The Oak'. We would be most grateful for anything you can help with.



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"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. LIVE HAPPY IN 2021!

#### LASTLY, CONSIDER THIS:

- ~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!
- ~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!
- ~You forget names.... But it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you!!!
- ~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf.
- ~The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore, but you really do care that you aren't as interested.
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV 'ON' than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... ???
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~Everybody whispers.
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

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January - Angie Deane/Sue Rawlinson. February - Tammy Gwynne/Fiona Horwood

April - Lindy Davenport/Vera Cole May - Pam Powell/Marian Powell

June - Jennifer Spinks/Angela Starling July - Tracey Lewis/Sue Rawlinson

August - Ann Fairhurst/Jacky Jones September - Angie Deane/Sue Hallett

October - Vera Cole / Kim Williams November - Fiona Horwood/Jennifer Spinks

December - Christmas Décor All who can give time please

If you cannot do your month for any reason, please contact: Sue Hallett 590980