



INGOLDISTHORPE VILLAGE WI KEEPING IN TOUCH DECEMBER 2020

President's Letter

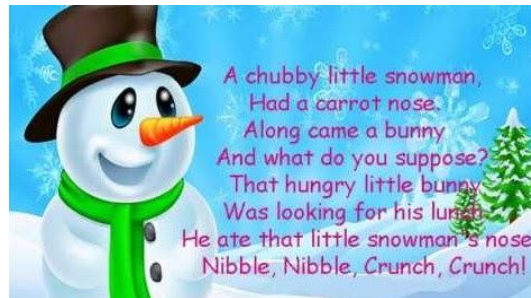
I seem to be starting every message with the same words "Another change...."

Although things are very different, as best we can, we have started arranging our programme for next year (well done to Carole and team). It's still an unknown situation but we are planning to be up and running again from April.

In the meantime, even if we cannot be together in person we will continue to keep in touch and at the end of the phone if you need to talk. And as soon as we can meet, we will.

If you are spending time with loved ones or friends this Christmas stay safe and if you want a little nostalgia, do you remember listening to this?

Lesley



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Carole Casey and Sue Nulty, do hope you will be able to be with family and or friends for the day.

WI Library

The Library is still open and doing well. Make certain you stock up with books and puzzles to see you over the Christmas weekend, but please don't leave it until the last minute. I think we are so lucky that Jean had the idea of starting our own library and thanks to Kath and Hazel who deliver direct to your door even better service than the NCC Mobile one. New titles have been added:

Elly Griffiths

The Ghost Fields

The Outcast Dead

The Dark Angel

Puzzles

Tall Ships Amsterdam

Lanes End

Steam Trains

Blue Peter Inn Cornwall

Gorilla Family

AND several new Sudoku Books



Also a reminder - make certain you have enough medication to see you over both Christmas and New Year.

Thank you from Carol Hodges



Memories of the Inglestars

For this Christmas edition of our Newsletter we thought it would be nice to reminisce about some antics of the “Inglestars”, our in-house drama group. The group's members are ever changing, depending on the amount of arm twisting applied, as older members are no longer with us and new members with hidden talents are recruited. In my case I don't remember how it happened but I can say now that my talent is not acting, it is in looking ridiculous and twisting arms. My arm was well and truly twisted when Mary Mitchell, a true star, turned up at my door with 2 large boxes containing scripts, music sheets and various bits and bobs which she had collected; and all she said is *Your turn now” then disappeared.

We have reduced our audience to tears of laughter at many Christmas party nights, with short sketches and mini pantomimes. We have been dressed as fairies, witches, cats, Prince Charming, Cinderella, Snow White, even the 3 bears and elves. Some of us have been dressed in a tutu, pointy hats, wigs and bees just to name but a few, every conceivable disguise.

We have fronted themed evenings as Abba, cavorting on the stage in 70/80's gear and wigs. With backing a group of Angel and Dancing Queens. The Caribbean evening with Bob Marley and his band (Barbara Wragg) plus Carmen Miranda (Mary Mitchell) was mind boggling. Barbara and her dreadlocks and Mary with what looked like a bowl of fruit on her head. Plus many more such evenings.

On one occasion we really took to the boards with a full evening of short sketches for the public's delight. The idea was to raise money towards a new village sign. The hall was packed, the props and scenery were amazing and backstage the terror was palpable, Maureen and Chrissie did everything from Scenery to make-up, the cast helping with costumes,. The

evening was a huge success and the hall was full. The final words spoken were NEVER AGAIN. However we have put on some really good efforts since that night in 2011 but not for a year or two.

What we need now are some new members to carry the mantle forward, so are there any budding artists out there who would love to take up the mantle, maybe for next year?

Carole



Indian Plum Cake

This is a lovely seasonal cake. Not as rich as some but with flavour and very easy to make.



Serves 8-10

115g (4oz) unsalted
butter
115g (4oz) sugar
4 eggs
115g (4oz) plain
flour
115g (4oz) raisins

225g (8oz) sultanas
115g (4oz) crystallised ginger, chopped –
you can get this at Norfolk Deli
115g (4oz) ground almonds
1tsp baking powder
1 tbsp mixed spice
5 tbsp brandy
A pinch of salt

Preheat the oven to 150 C/fan 130/gas 2. Grease and base line a 10cm loose bottom deep cake tin. Cream the butter and sugar until light and creamy, then gradually beat in the eggs, adding a little flour if the mixture curdles. Fold in the remaining ingredients, then pour into the cake tin and bake.

Pets

After we had to take our beloved 16 year old cat to the Vet's for the last time at the end of August we waited a few weeks until we felt that we could have another one. So in the middle of October on a Monday morning off we went to the RSPCA cat shelter and came home with Sophie.



She is a 2 year old very nervous fluffy tabby. We brought her igloo cat bed home with us, thinking she would feel safe in it (she hasn't even looked at it) but the first thing she did when we let her out of the cat carrier was disappear at a speed Usain Bolt would be proud of, not to

be seen again until 9.30pm. She had been hiding in a vegetable rack in the furthest corner under the worktop. Then she disappeared again until Tuesday night when she came out after we were in bed to eat her food and use the litter tray. This carried on until Saturday when we had someone come to the door and after that we couldn't find her anywhere, we practically turned the house upside down but gave up and hoped she hadn't got outside as I don't think we would have seen her again. But again the food had gone the next morning and when I looked for her she was behind the washing machine!! We set to blocking all spaces that she could get through and I have at last found her hiding place after spotting a fluffy tail under the TV cabinet (we had looked there several times so she must have just moved from one end to the other!).

Three weeks on and she has finally accepted me as the one who feeds her and we can now play, on her terms of course, so hopefully by Christmas she will be a lap cat because she is such a sweetie, although I dread to think what she will make of the Christmas tree and how many baubles will be left on it!!! At least she has kept us occupied during the second lockdown!

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and 2021.

Hazel

Useless Information about Christmas

- ★ The Victorians did not eat turkey at Christmas, they ate Goose.
- ★ Santa wasn't red until Coca-Cola changed all that around the early 1900s. Before that he was usually dressed in green or blue.
- ★ Christmas elves were supposed to keep an eye on how children behaved prior to Christmas, however many elves were on the naughty list themselves. They usually arrive on December 1st, often bringing an early present, with a warning that they will report back to Santa on any bad behaviour. While in the home, they will appear in different places every day, with antics like wrapping the Christmas Tree in loo paper or popping up next to the eggs in the fridge.
- ★ In Iceland, children receive visits from 13 mischievous trolls, or "Yule Lads", over the days running up to Christmas. They leave gifts in a shoe, these can be either small presents or cold potatoes if the children have been naughty.
- ★ Although the Japanese do not have a holiday at Christmas many people do celebrate. They do not eat turkey but instead enjoy Kentucky Fried Chicken. Christmas cakes are also sold as romantic gifts for loved ones.
- ★ In Norway, families hide their brooms before going to bed on Christmas Eve, so that they cannot be used by witches, who are traditionally believed to arrive overnight.



DO YOU REMEMBER..

Christmas tree baubles that were made of the thinnest glass imaginable, and when you took them out of their tissue paper each year there was always another one broken?

Christmas Quiz

1. What did the other Reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his red nose?
2. How many ghosts were there in the story A Christmas Carol?
3. White Christmas – not for Elvis. What colour did he call Christmas?

4. Which modern day country was St. Nicholas born in?
5. Which country invented the drink Eggnog
6. Name Santa's Reindeer who have names beginning with the letter D
7. What were the contents of Mince Pies in Victorian Times?
8. Which Carol brings you 'Comfort and Joy'?
9. What was the best selling Christmas Song?
10. What ornaments do Elves have on their shoes?
11. How does Santa get back up the chimney after he has left the presents?
12. Which Reindeer's name means Thunder?

DO YOU REMEMBER..

New pennies, all burnished bright and sugar mice and clockwork cars with keys that always got lost, but it didn't matter because the key to the wind- up soldier-with-a-drum served just as well?

Thank-you Letters.....

having to write those thank-you letters especially when the presents failed to come up to expectations – here are some from one anonymous recipient:-

Dear Auntie

Oh what a nice jumper

I've always adored powered blue,

and fancy you thinking

of orange and pink

for the stripes — how clever of you!

Dear Uncle

The soap is terrific

So useful and such a kind thought

And how did you guess that I'd just used the

last of the soap that last Christmas brought.

Dear Gran

Many thanks for the hankies

Now I really can't wait for the flu,

And the daisies embroidered in red round my

name

How utterly thoughtful of you.

Dear Sister

I quite understand your concern,

It's a risk sending jam in the post

But I think I've pulled out

All the big bits of glass

So it won't taste too sharp on the toast.

Dear Cousin

What socks!

And the same sort you wear,

You must be the last word in style

And I'm certain you're right

That the luminous green

Will make me stand out a mile

DO YOU REMEMBER...

The last post on Christmas Eve, when there were so many cards that the postman couldn't get them through the letter-box, so he had to knock. You realised later in life that he was looking for his Christmas Box.



Wassailing

Here we come a wassailing
 Among the leaves so green
 Here we come a wandering
 So fair to be seen

I'm sure you have all sung this, but may not know the origin of it. Wassailing is a very ancient custom that is rarely done today. The word Wassail comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase 'waes hael' which means good health. Originally the

wassail was a drink made of mulled ale, curled cream, roasted apples, eggs, cloves, ginger, nutmeg and sugar.

The tradition of wassailing falls into two distinct categories: the house-visiting wassail and the orchard-visiting wassail. The house-visiting wassail is the practice of people going door-to-door, singing and offering a drink from the wassail bowl in exchange for gifts; this practice still exists, but has largely been displaced by caroling. The orchard-visiting wassail refers to the ancient custom of visiting orchards in cider-producing regions of England, the purpose being to awake the cider apple trees, and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the Autumn.

Traditionally, the wassail is celebrated on Twelfth Night.

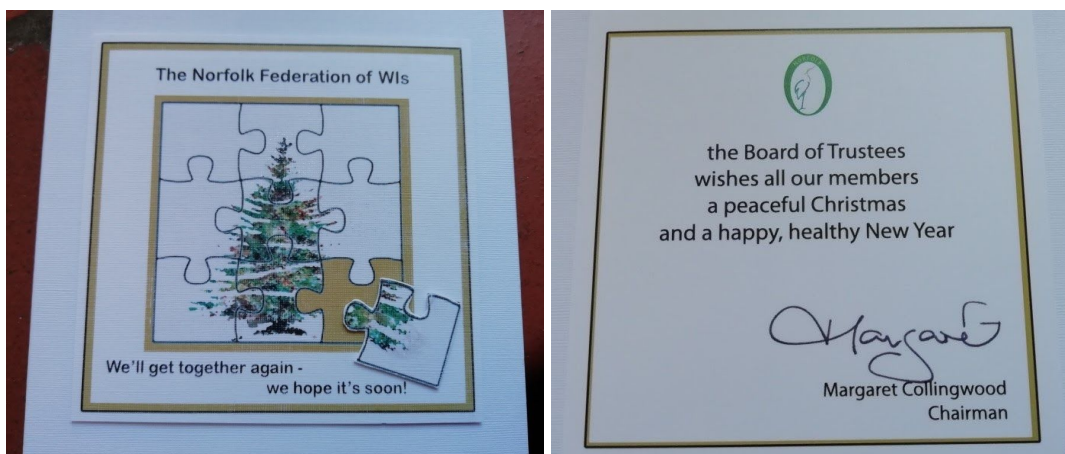
(If you are going for a walk on 6th January take a drink with you and sing to the trees in our Memorial Orchard.)

Answers to Christmas Quiz

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Join in any Reindeer Games. | 7. Beef and Spices |
| 2. 4 | 8. God rest you Merry Gentlemen |
| 3. Blue Christmas | 9. White Christmas |
| 4. Turkey | 10. Bells |
| 5. England | 11. Touches his nose, smiles and nods |
| 6. Dancer, Dasher and Donner | 12. Thunder |

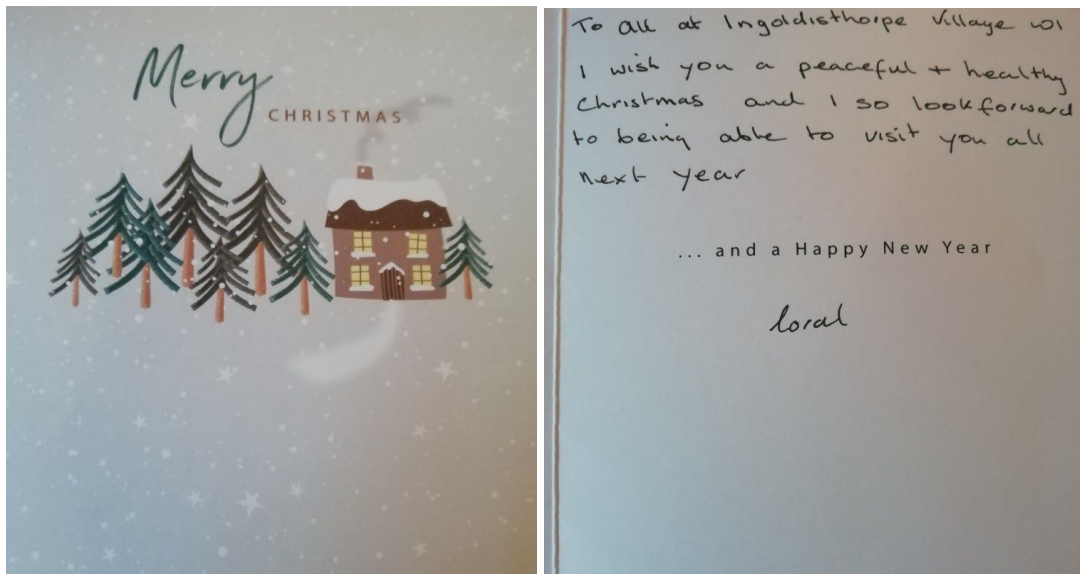


Christmas card from Norfolk Federation





Merry Christmas from our W.I. Advisor Coral Batchelor



The Twelve Days Of Christmas



December 14 Dearest John. I went to the door today and the postman delivered a partridge in a pear tree. What a delightful gift. I couldn't have been more surprised. With dearest love and affection, Agnes

December 15 Dearest John. Today the postman brought your very sweet gift. Just imagine, two turtle doves.... I'm just delighted at your very thoughtful gift. They are just adorable. All my love, Agnes

December 16 Dear John. Oh, aren't you the extravagant one! Now I must protest. I don't deserve such generosity. Three French hens. They are just darling but I must insist.... you're just too kind. Love Agnes

December 17 Dear John. Today the postman delivered four calling birds. Now really! They are beautiful, but don't you think enough is enough? You're being too romantic. Affectionately, Agnes

December 18 Dearest John. What a surprise! Today the postman delivered five golden rings. One for each finger. You're just impossible, but I love it. Frankly, John, all those squawking birds were beginning to get on my nerves. All my love, Agnes

December 19 Dear John. When I opened the door there were actually six geese-a-laying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds again, huh? Those geese are huge. Where will I ever keep them? The neighbours are complaining and I can't sleep through the racket. PLEASE STOP! Cordially, Agnes

December 20 John. What's with you and those birds???? Seven swans-a-swimming. What kind of joke is this? There's bird do-do all over the house and they never stop the racket. I'm a

nervous wreck and I can't sleep all night. IT'S NOT FUNNY.....So stop with those birds.
Sincerely, Agnes

December 21 OK Buster: I think I prefer the birds. What am I going to do with eight maids-a-milking? It's not enough with all those birds and eight maids-a-milking, but they had to bring their own cows. There is poop all over the lawn and I can't move into my own house. Just lay off me. Ag

December 22 Hey! What are you? Some kind of sadist? Now there's nine pipers playing. And do they play! They never stopped chasing those maids since they got here yesterday morning. The cows are upset and are stepping all over those screeching birds. No wonder they screech. What am I going to do? The neighbours have started a petition to evict me. You'll get yours. From Ag

December 23 You Creep! Now there's ten ladies dancing - I don't know why I call them ladies. Now the cows can't sleep and they've got diarrhoea. My living room is a river of poop. The commissioner of buildings has subpoenaed me to give reasons why the building shouldn't be condemned. I'm getting the police on you. One who means it. Ag

December 24 Listen Idiot, what's with the eleven lords a-leaping? All 234 of the birds are dead. I hope you're satisfied, you rotten swine. Your sworn enemy, Miss Agnes McCallister

December 25 (From the law offices Taeker, Spedar, and Baegar) Dear Sir. This is to acknowledge your latest gift of twelve fiddlers fiddling, which you have seen fit to inflict on our client, Miss Agnes McCallister. The destruction, of course, was total. All correspondence should come to our attention. If you should attempt to reach Miss McCallister at Happy Dale Sanitarium, the attendants have instructions to shoot you on sight. With this letter, please find attached a warrant for your arrest. Merry Christmas



And finally:

From the Keeping in Touch Team. We wish you a Happy and Healthy Christmas and hope that the Covid Rules will soon allow us to meet again once a month.



Merry Christmas
and happy New year!