



WELCOME

Here is your new edition, hopefully full of the items you want to read. My conversations this week have centred, quite naturally, on the vaccine and how it might, at last, change things towards what we remember for our Thursday club members. My impression is that most of us have adapted to this new world where access to our best friends is via technology, where the news is designed to make us feel more miserable than we were yesterday, where our homes have become workshops, offices, gyms and treatment rooms. This greater resilience will carry us through to new hope in the New Year.

Next week's edition will be a Christmas one, hopefully carrying messages and greeting from every one of our club members. Phone me, message me, email me your short greetings, jokes or poems and we can share them with everyone.

24 hour service
NEED HELP OR ADVICE?
CONTACT PETER
MOB NO 07974573582
peter.crathorne@gmail.com

bag o' books.....

There are shopping bags of books that can be delivered to your doorstep. You look through these make your selection and the bag is collected from your doorstep later in the day.

DAILY MEETINGS ON ZOOM SUSPENDED

After discussions with the regular attenders at these meetings it has been decided to reduce these to two meetings each week for the time being.

Tuesday Morning 11.00 – 12.00 noon will be a discussion group mainly concerned with current affairs, locally, nationally and internationally.

Participants suggest items for discussion and each item is generally given 20 minutes with the chairman ensuring that all get an opportunity to make a contribution. While this does not suit everyone, those who have joined say they have enjoyed the session.

Thursday 11.00am to 12.00noon.

A virtual re-creation of our treasured Thursday Morning Club, usually well attended. There are usually around a dozen lively people sharing experiences from the week; there is much laughter and participants always leave uplifted from the feelings generated by the lockdown.

THIS IS AN ARTICLE I PICKED UP ON THE
INTERNET FOR ALL OUR BOOK LOVERS

Tackling life's big challenges through the proven power of reading

[https://worldbooknight.org/?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://worldbooknight.org/?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=[UNIQID])

Dear Peter,

We are thrilled to share with you the World Book Night 2021 booklist, 'Books to Make You Smile', presented by The Reading Agency and in partnership with Specsavers to celebrate the 10th anniversary of World Book Night.

World Book Night is the annual celebration on 23 April that aims to inspire everyone to pick up a book and share the joy of reading. It is a key part of The Reading Agency ([https://readingagency.org.uk/?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://readingagency.org.uk/?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=[UNIQID]))'s mission to support everyone in reading their way to a better life and using the proven power of reading to promote skills and learning, health and wellbeing, and build connected communities.

Today, we're revealing our new booklist and opening applications for organisations to receive books to distribute in April 2021. As well as print books available in the giveaway, the list also features three audiobooks that will be available for the public to apply to download in Spring 2021. More information about the audiobook offer will be announced soon.

We're so excited that the list features a specially commissioned book, Stories to Make You Smile. Featuring ten uplifting short stories by bestselling authors including Jenny Éclair, Mark Watson and Dorothy Koomson, this collection is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

See the full booklist ([https://worldbooknight.org/books?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://worldbooknight.org/books?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=[UNIQID])) and read on to find out more about the application process.

[https://worldbooknight.org/books?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://worldbooknight.org/books?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-8b31c74582-82277341&mc_cid=8b31c74582&mc_eid=[UNIQID])

How are your crafty ideas coming on?



KNITTED ANGELS

This is the seasonal craft activity being undertaken in Wootton at the moment. Parishioners are being asked to knit an angel. This is to be hung without a fuss on the door of a neighbour who you think could do with a little tender care.

Janet has the knitting pattern if you want to have a go.

ROGER TAKES US IN ANOTHER DIRECTION



The “HUB” needs a JokeBox time for a few laughs!!

Every one of us has a store of favorite gags, the oldest and best.

This is the place to share some and reveal how you and your strange mind tick.

But before your inner self is displayed, think of the variety of gags there are,

and shoot yours at the Hub

JokeBox

The anti-authority...Blackadder, Peter Cook, The irreligious...Dave Allen, Monty Python, The crazy logic...Spike,

The misogynist...Les Dawson, The self-mocking...Ken Dodd & most of the best Jewish

comedians..Groucho, Mel Brookes.

The totally irreverent...targets anything modish, self-important

The political...the sky's the limit.

The true story..you heard or were



the butt

So, to set the ball rolling, some of my own treasures:==

“I wouldn’t want to be a member of any club that would have me as a member”

?close to home?

“Perkins, I want you to fly over to Bremen, take a shufti, don’t come back. We need a futile gesture at this stage of the war.”

“The mother-in-law came round Tuesday, I knew it was ‘er; next door’s Alsatian was wimpering in the yard”

“Baldrick, (tin-hatted and too conspicuous over the trench top) I do not want to have to go to London Zoo to tell your mother you are no longer with us”

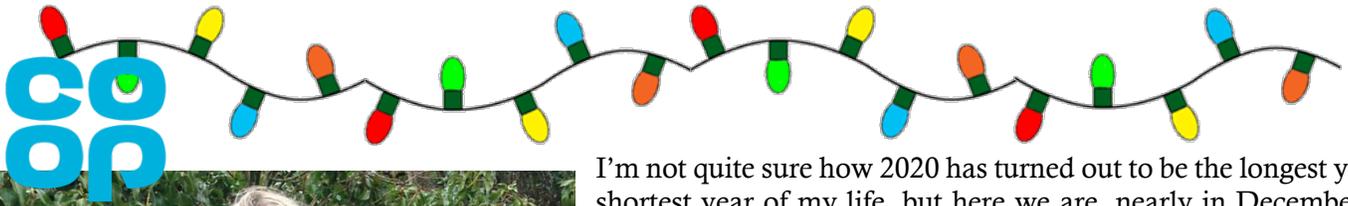
“There’s a lot of evil in this world, Dud. Yes, Pete, but it was His first Universe”

a DIYer wanted an angle grinder for some slabs: at the tool hire counter:==

“Got some slabs to cut, ‘ave you got an organ grinder. Sorry, mate, just can’t get the monkeys”
I have a load more but could get arrested and bankrupt the Trustees.

OVER TO YOU

Sophie's Section: shares some positive thinking.



I'm not quite sure how 2020 has turned out to be the longest yet shortest year of my life, but here we are, nearly in December! Being in my 20s, I grew up in the 90s and believe me when I say I'm fully aware of how privileged I was (and still am!) to have Christmas with my family in a safe and warm house every single year. I realise that that may not have been the case for some of you.

For me, Christmas is nostalgic and comforting, full of magic, even in adulthood. It's what gets me through the weather turning from grey and dull, to cold, grey and dull. The funny thing is that I only recently realised that I was depriving myself of these things in all other months, even though they make me so happy! So, I began to ask myself why.

I narrowed down that bright lights, soft jazz, and dark nights were the aspects of Christmas that brought me the most joy. Therefore, I have made a decision to incorporate as many of them into my lifestyle all year round come 2021. Fairy lights in all nooks and crannies of my home, an old record player of Frank Sinatra LPs and blackout curtains. I'll let you know how

I get on...

The reason I'm blabbering on about all this is because I think we all need a little extra joy in our lives, given how testing 2020 has been. I implore you to find what makes you happy, any of those little things, and make them part of your every day. It's all part of the story of you, and that should be celebrated all year, not just once or twice.

Sophie is the Hub's Deputy Executive Officer working part time she is also a qualified counsellor.

THIS IS THE FUNDRAISING SECTION.



When you buy selected Co-op products and services, 2p for every £1 spent goes into your membership account. And we'll split the same between like-minded organisations and local causes.

You can select a local cause you would like to support. If you do not select a cause to support, we'll share the funds you raised equally between the 3 causes in your community. We give you a new set of causes to choose from every October. You can change the cause you support at any time. Please go on line to your co-op Account and opt into the Hub we need your support.

This is a short message from Rachel: I am still not making huge progress. Have been in regular contact with the doctor the last few days and am having another blood test tomorrow now. I am still really struggling with bright light, and my body aches constantly like I've done a big gym workout or something. I can potter slowly around the house but that's pretty much my limit and still spending most of my time in bed or on the sofa so I don't get totally exhausted. I struggle on the stairs and have managed to fall both up and down them about 3 times each now. I am gradually getting stronger in my grip so am now able to hold on a bit better which makes it a bit less shaky. My mum is doing well. She says probably feels back up to about 80% she just has to not over do it and sit down a little more than normal but certainly seems to be on the more normal recovery path. My doctors are at least being really supportive as I know some others have not fared so well. They think I have lost 25-35% of my muscle and because I still get a temperature occasionally that this won't be able to start building back up while I'm actively still trying to fight the virus. I have sent Rachel our very best wishes as she struggles to recover.

EASY MINCE PIES AT LAST!



Ingredients

225g [cold butter](#), diced

350g [plain flour](#)

100g [golden caster sugar](#)

280g [mincemeat](#)

1 [small egg](#), beaten

[icing sugar](#), to dust

Method

STEP 1

To make the pastry, rub the butter into the flour, then [mix](#) in the golden caster sugar and a pinch of salt.

STEP 2

Combine the pastry into a ball – don't add liquid – and knead it briefly. The dough will be fairly firm, like shortbread dough. You can use the dough immediately, or chill for later.

STEP 3

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Line 18 holes of two 12-hole patty tins, by pressing small walnut-sized balls of pastry into each hole.

STEP 4

Spoon the mincemeat into the pies. Take slightly smaller balls of pastry than before and pat them out between your hands to make round lids, big enough to cover the pies.

STEP 5

Top the pies with their lids, pressing the edges gently together to seal – you don't need to seal them with milk or egg as they will stick on their own. *Will keep frozen for up to one month.*

STEP 6

[Brush](#) the tops of the pies with the beaten egg. Bake for 20 mins until golden. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 mins, then remove to a [wire rack](#). To serve, lightly dust with the icing sugar. *Will keep for three to four days in an [airtight container](#).*

SUDOKU

The way to solve this Sudoku puzzle is to fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column, and every 3 x 3 box, contains the numbers 1 - 9. It's simple to understand, tricky to master and difficult to resist!



Ask your newsagent for Puzzler's SUDOKU magazine, on sale now.

		6				1		
4			1	9				7
		1	5		3	6		
8				6				3
6	4					7		2
	7						2	
1	2					3		9
		5	9		7	4		

ACROSS

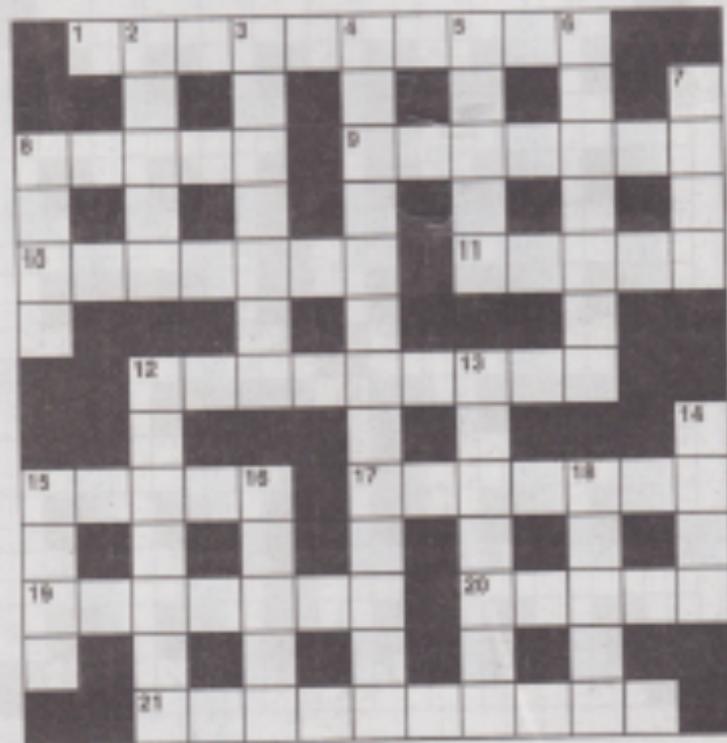
- 1 Retracts or modifies an opinion (4-6)
- 8 Sound of derision (5)
- 9 Improve (a painting or photo) (7)
- 10 Thick sauce (7)
- 11 Style of heel (5)
- 12 Ascertained (opinions) by questioning (9)
- 15 Songs of thanksgiving (5)
- 17 Oblivious (7)
- 19 Vermouth cocktail (7)
- 20 New __, capital of India (5)
- 21 Faced with a firearm (2,8)



DOWN

- 2 Take as your own (5)
- 3 Food-preparation room (7)
- 4 Body with Brussels as its HQ (8,5)
- 5 Room under the roof (5)
- 6 Banged (your toe) (7)
- 7 Front of the lower jaw (4)
- 8 Follower of a religion founded in the Punjab (4)
- 12 English county bordering Scotland (7)
- 13 Unnamed person (2-3-2)
- 14 __ Moore, Indecent Proposal star (4)
- 15 Amateur radio operators (4)
- 16 Strap for throwing stones (5)
- 18 Flanagan's singing partner (5)

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For DVDs Check the list in previous editions and book by phoning Peter. We have about 50 in stock.