

GRAPEVINE

AUTUMN 2020

“OUR AUD” - MEMORIES FROM VILLAGERS OF AN AMAZING LADY

Many of you will have read the tribute to Audrey in the Parish Magazine written by her son and daughter. This gave you a brief sketch of her life and how freely she gave her time to so many causes and people. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, it wasn't possible to meet and celebrate her life as we would normally have done, so we thought it fitting that this edition of the Grapevine be dedicated to Audrey in thanks for her huge contribution to our village community, prevailing generosity and good humour, and infectious enthusiasm for life.

To those of us in the village who knew her, it soon became clear that she was a very unique person who gave so much to help and support others. She didn't judge or criticise but listened and gave wise advice. She was discreet and I always left her company feeling much more positive about life despite its problems. *Sue A*



Audrey was a faithful member of the Art and Craft group, a very talented needlewoman and artist. In all of the exhibitions we saw examples of her work, one of which was a beautiful wedding dress made for her daughter Helen. She was always very modest about her watercolours but they were delicate and atmospheric and at the last exhibition her picture of an old sailing boat was one of the first items to be sold. Audrey came to the Friday morning club even when her hands were too painful to be able to use a needle. She never complained but persevered in her attempt to complete her panel of the Bayeux Tapestry which is beautifully stitched. Sadly she didn't quite finish it before she died but the ladies of the group are determined that we will complete it for her and that it will be framed and hung in the village hall in her memory.

On a personal note, when I had a coffee morning a couple of years ago to raise money for Nephrotic Syndrome, a condition that my youngest granddaughter, Lucie has, Audrey won first prize in the raffle which was a beautiful patchwork quilt. This quilt was the perfect match for Audrey's bedroom and she was thrilled with it. Last year she gave strict instructions that upon her death the quilt should be returned to Lucie so that it can again be used to raise further funds for Nephrotic Syndrome research. I was typical of Audrey's kindness and thoughtfulness. *Carol C*

Audrey was a good friend and was always involved in everything in the village from organising to later helping out. She was so apologetic in later years when she was unable to help out but still supported if she could. Over a cup of tea a couple of years ago I told her she was stubborn but she denied that and we agreed that she was determined and independent. She then looked at me and said I was the same! Everyone was welcome into her house for cup of tea and chat and she always had a smile for you. I think of her every time I do 'crafty' things with my granddaughters as this is what she did with her own. Miss you. *Sandra C*

Audrey, affectionally known as Aud, or Mrs P, by those from the village whom she taught and transported to and from Steeple Ashton school many years ago. She was always available and willing to help from altering a bridesmaid dress to witnessing documents and numerous other things in between. Nothing was too much trouble and we could always rely on her to be there if needed. *Min & Paul S*



I didn't know Audrey for long but for me she was a very stylish lady with a twinkle in her eye and a knowing smile! She always had time for you and was undoubtedly a genuinely lovely lady who will be greatly missed by us all in Great Hinton. *Kirste L*

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I used to take Audrey to church in Steeple Ashton and sometimes shopping. She was always full of thanks but I would reply that I enjoyed her company. I really meant it, as she was such a lovely person with a friendly, helpful, positive personality. She was grateful for our help in the last few years and would ask Beryl, Anne and myself to lunch as a thank you for our help. We will miss you so much Audrey. *Carolyn H*

Audrey was a member of all the village clubs but I will always remember the delicious meals which she cooked for the Lunch Club. In 2018 she made the Christmas puddings and I visited her by chance when she was mixing them. This was at a time in her life when she found holding the spoon difficult so I was pleased to stir the mixture for her, though, in true Audrey fashion, she was reluctant to hand over the spoon. Audrey was a keen member of the bowls club and bowled with greater accuracy than most even at a time when she found picking up and holding the bowls a challenge. This perfectly sums up her “carry on and don’t make a fuss” attitude to life. *Susie SS*



When the new hall opened with its well-fitted kitchen, Audrey realised it would be possible to start a lunch club for those who would not wish to come out in the evening to events in the hall. The whole village had been involved in fund raising over the years to rebuild the hall, so lunch would be the opportunity to make sure everyone could enjoy a social gathering in the hall. If there was any surplus over the cost of the lunch some extras could be bought for the hall, of which the cushions are the best appreciated.

Whilst the cooks had free range on the choice of menu, Audrey took responsibility for the lunch around Easter time and we always enjoyed roast lamb. Audrey kept a record of the menus for a couple of years and on 19 April 2001 we had spiced leg of lamb followed by pashka, a traditional Russian Easter dessert made from cottage cheese, eggs, cream, butter, dried fruits and flaked almonds. Delicious!!

For many years Audrey organised a harvest supper followed by an auction of local produce from village gardens with the donations given to a Christian charity. There were very few lunches that Audrey missed from that first one on 9 November 2000 and it was wonderful that she came to no. 148 on 5 March which was the last time she was able to leave her house. *Richard C*

A little lady arrived at the kitchen door on the day we moved in with a warm welcome to the village and a card. This we learned was Audrey. This visit was often repeated with gifts of tomatoes, runner beans and apples. We soon learnt that Audrey’s late husband Brian had built a garden railway of which she was immensely proud. This inspired my husband’s enthusiasm to build his own garden railway, and when it was completed we held a little party in the garden. Audrey cut the ribbon for the first train to run. A well travelled, kind soul whom I still find it hard to believe isn’t across the road in her garden. Always immaculately dressed and colour co-ordinated and very much missed. *Mary & Keith S*

We feel privileged to have been friends with Audrey since she came to live in the village with her husband Brian and their two children about 54 years ago. She was always willing to help in practical ways but also a good listener and confidant. She was an integral part of the village and will be greatly missed. *Di & Joe N*

We remember Audrey for how welcoming and friendly she was when we moved into the village 20 years ago. She was always interested in everyone else in a nurturing way, and was a wise lady with a zest for life and a sparkle in her eye. She was at the heart of everything in Great Hinton and had seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm – which we admired. *Rebecca & Steve L*

Audrey was one of the people who made us feel so welcome in 1976 when we moved to Great Hinton. She joined our neighbours Helen Swinstead, Bunty Mayhew and Sandy Salmon in supporting me as a new mum when Vicky, and then Alex were born, and she was always there at the centre of all the village events we attended with the children. Memories of Audrey will always come with seeing that jovial but knowing smile, accompanied by a definite sparkle in her eye. Audrey not only lived at the heart of the village, she was the heart of the village! *Mary & Paul W*



Audrey was a very humble, unassuming person who had the ability to be able to connect with anybody she meant regardless of their age. She would always think of others before herself and over the years actively led and supported events in the village. From the first day we met Audrey in 2004 she was very welcoming and I remember she invited me round for afternoon tea. A real gem has departed this world, we will miss her. Forever in our thoughts. *Rachael and Jon L*

“OUR AUD” - MEMORIES FROM VILLAGERS OF AN AMAZING LADY

I met Audrey when I taught at St Augustine's school with her husband Brian 50 years ago. She and Brian were very supportive of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme I was setting up, Audrey was particularly kind and very encouraging. She loved children, on one occasion she took one of my four children on the steam train at Christmas. She was a great help. Three years ago when she came to visit me in my new house she gave me a painted flower pot which is now on my patio. We continued to see Audrey on our return to Great Hinton village functions. She always had a twinkle in her eye and continued to quietly support the village. I will always remember her with great fondness. *Patricia P*



We feel very privileged to have been able to call Audrey our next door neighbour for the past 36 years – our memories are all fond ones. She was a very determined lady and she was also extremely kind, caring and thoughtful – we will miss her. *Sue & Tim S*

Audrey was a very accomplished artist and even though in later years she had difficulty moving her fingers she would always try a little of her tapestry at Art and Craft. She would view other crafters work with enthusiasm and encouragement, often if I pointed out a fault with my work she would say “a blind man would be pleased to see that”.

Teaching and living in the area for so many years meant Audrey knew numerous people. It became an amusing game of how often we would be stopped for a chat when we were out locally or perhaps at Lacock. I would playfully ask about the person and Audrey would reply with an impish glee “I taught him”. It happened so many times she must have been a wonderful teacher to be remembered so fondly.

Audrey was a kind and thoughtful neighbour and always tried to repay people with kindness. She tried not to ask for help but it was always a pleasure to assist such a lovely, sincere and compassionate person. She will be missed as a friend and neighbour. *Beryl F*

I first met Audrey properly when she asked me to help with the Grapevine, and my first impression was admiration for how well she knew her way around an iPad! To me, she was a wonderful combination of kind, funny, meticulous, mischievous, spontaneous, and always elegant. The village just isn't the same without her. *Jemma B*



LADIES CLUB NEWS

Since last September's grapevine we have had (until now!) a busy year. On October 5th we held a Golden Celebration Buffet lunch to celebrate 50 years of Great Hinton Ladies Club. 20 current members and 9 past members enjoyed the wonderful selection of food, which we always manage to provide. 4 founder members were present - Audrey Plummer, Diane Norris, Val Austin and Jill Wickham. Jill came all the way from Cornwall just for the day, Eloise came from Derbyshire and Helen from the Isle of Wight.

We next had a very interesting talk from Dee, a former nurse, about nursing before technology when absolutely everything was hand written. For our craft evening in November we made felt Christmas tree decorations. In January we were entertained by a quartet from Worton called 'Music and Mirth' which was quite comical at times.

There was also the usual carol singing, Christmas meal and skittle afternoon. However all suddenly came to a halt in March and we will not be meeting again until at least January 2021.



SPRING AND SUMMER SOCIAL EVENTS

It has been an extraordinary late spring and summer for all of us and can probably only be matched by the life changing events of the 2nd World War. We, and the rest of the country, have had our lives turned upside down and or social interaction with others changed beyond recognition. We can only be thankful that Wiltshire, and especially our area, appears to have suffered less than many other areas, and we have, as far as is known, not had anyone in the village catch the COVID-19 virus.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Social Committee took the decision to postpone all planned events for the rest of 2020, with a commitment to review this at regular intervals. As the national lockdown progressed, a socially distanced photo competition was held to record what people had been up to during lockdown. There were 52 entries, all of which can still be viewed on the village web site under Clubs & Events. Villagers were invited to vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences and there was a special prize for the best 'technically correct' picture.

There were also lots of photos taken around the village on VE Day:



As we move into the autumn, COVID-19 is not going away and is as big a risk to the vulnerable as it ever was. Therefore, the Social Committee has decided to continue the suspension of 'formal' social events, which means, unfortunately, that there will be no Bonfire & Fireworks this year. The Trust and the Social Committee are continuing to regularly review the status of COVID-19, the legal advice and directives issued to Village Communities, and the views of the Village and will get social events up and running again as soon as it safe (and legal) to do so.

LOCKDOWN PHOTOGRAPHY

COMPETITION WINNERS



1st Place – Orson chatting to Mary
Orson loves to chat to Mary next door and is often found perched on the tallest sleeper having a chat over the fence

Chloe Saunders

2nd Place –
Granddad teaches
maths

Home schooling
during lockdown
was a challenge
for all generations!

Mary Winterburn



3rd Place – Poppies
alongside a Great Hinton
footpath

I took this photo of one of
my own watercolour
paintings of a footpath in
Great Hinton.

Carol Clarke

Technical Prize – Heron

Mid morning on 17th June.
On my first walk away from
the usual local routes I went
to Caen Hill. There very few
people around and a single
canal boat. A family of
swans were happily doing
their daily ablutions close to
the path and this heron was
standing on the barrier
separating the lock from the
holding pond, enjoying the
peace and quiet.



Sandra Crumpler

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

VILLAGE WEBSITE

The 'new' village website (www.greathinton.org.uk) is now very much up and running and on it you'll find lots of information about village life, news and events, club updates, and reports from the Parish Council, Community Committee, and Memorial Hall Trust. You can also read the archived Grapevines that Audrey Plummer collected over the years.

Graham



KC CUP 2020

I hope you have been spending time during lockdown planning your entry for this year's competition - design a logo to represent our lovely village of Great Hinton.

I had one entry very early after my first communication and I know of one other being prepared. Please let me have any entries by the end of October. They can be via email (sandra@crumpler.org.uk) or had copy through the door (7 Peppercorn). I will place the images on the website and on the face book page for all villagers to vote. Results to be announced in November.

Sandra

READING IS NOT ALWAYS EASY

If you are reading this, you are (obviously!) a reader. You may have been one of the lucky ones who found learning easy, or it may have been more of a struggle. It is a sobering fact that many people don't master this vital skill during their school days. The reality is that 2.4m adults in the UK cannot read, while a further 2.5m struggle to read. This means that carrying out everyday tasks can be challenging, if not impossible.

Read Easy is an expanding national organisation that tackles this issue by offering free, one-to-one coaching, using resources specially developed for adult learners. The local group started in Melksham in 2016 and has now expanded to cover all the surrounding towns – Bradford on Avon, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Trowbridge and Westbury.

We need to recruit new members to our Management Team to develop this vital work. In particular, we are looking for a Team Leader who would be supported by our existing incumbent.

We also need reading coaches (tutors) who are able to work in Trowbridge, Devizes, Chippenham or Corsham. Volunteer Coaches will need to be confident and passionate about literacy and have the equivalent of about one day per week to spare. No previous teaching experience is necessary as support and training are provided.

If you'd like to play a key part in helping to radically improve the lives of adults near you, while developing your own existing skills and learning new ones in a supportive environment, then why not get in touch?

To learn more about becoming a Read Easy volunteer, please contact me at melksham@readeasy.org.uk or on 07939 556541.

As a Read Easy volunteer, you will find it fascinating, rewarding and enjoyable to help people whose lives are being transformed, often after years of frustration.

David Williams
Read Easy Management Team Leader



 Read Easy

100 CLUB

The village 100 club is a major source of financing the running costs of the village hall. We currently have 109 members in 2020/21 who pay £15 subscription per year. Approximately half the income is redistributed as prizes. 5 monthly cash prizes of £20, £15, £12, £10 and £8. There are also two bonus prizes - one in the summer and one at Christmas. Despite the lockdown, and on-going restrictions, the monthly draw has continued to go ahead with a handful of villagers instead of at the usual village social events. These draws will continue into the coming year. Winners are receiving their cash envelopes through their letterboxes. Once again thank you to everyone for buying a ticket(s), and continuing to support this fundraising activity. Good luck to all for the remainder of 2020/21. Rachael Lawes tel: 07717 810938

100 Club 2020-21

These are the names of the lucky winners so far:

Month	No.	£20	No.	£15	No.	£12	No.	£10	No.	£8
April 2020	58	Rosie Souster	54	Diane Norris	81	Sylvia Baker	3	Adrian Kwasnicki	15	Ken Young
May 2020	1	Dianne Kwasnicki	12	Rebecca Locke	7	Sue Selwyn-Smith	66	Sandra Crumpler	63	Catherine Cooper
June 2020	47	Terri Dodd	116	Debbie Ellis	30	Mandy Henderson	126	Lorraine Holmes	10	Mike Evans
July 2020	18	Peter Doel	90	Mary Winterburn	102	Carol Clarke	41	Anne Truman	92	Jackie Crease
August 2020	107	Steve Adams	100	Ros Cornelius	22	Paul Winterburn	48	Ralph Hansford	87	Nick Hawkins

Summer bonus £50: No. 93 Rachel Carr

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

The main issues I have been alerted to during lockdown are the amount of fraudulent emails and social media/telephone scams people are receiving. There is an endless list of scams including Amazon, BT, HMRC and even the NHS Track and Trace Service! The advice as always is:

- A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. Only give out your personal or financial details to use a service that you have given your consent to, that you trust and that you are expecting to be contacted by.
- Don't be tricked into giving a fraudster access to your personal or financial details. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.
- Always question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

Social media scams seem to be commonplace these days and a recent example on Facebook (publicised by Wiltshire Trading Standards) relating to a "luxury holiday giveaway" at Centre Parcs is a prime example: **Wiltshire Trading Standards - *** SCAM ALERT – LUXURY HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY AT CENTER PARCS ***** You are not going to win a luxury holiday but you may lose out to scammers!

A page was set up by scammers and within 3 hours it already had almost 18k shares. Scammers set up these pages to obtain your personal data or to collect "likes". In this case the page is later sold/changed names by the scammers to fill your newsfeed with spam. By 'signing up' you are giving the scammers your personal details. Our advice is to spend a few minutes checking out pages before liking and sharing posts such as these. Think about the following:

- When was the page set up?
- How many posts are on the original page?
- Does the page have the blue tick to confirm the profile is the official page of the business it's claiming to be?

I am sure you have noticed that the police/local incident emails have been non-existent since lockdown began, I will of course send anything I receive when/if this restarts. If you are not already on the NHW mailing list or are new to the village, please consider adding yourself. If you are not receiving the NHW information emails, you are not being alerted to any incidents that are occurring locally or in the nearby towns.

Debbie Scott

NHW Area Coordinator

870410 deb.a.scott@btinternet.com

Other useful contact numbers:

Emergency Calls	999
Non-emergency Calls	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2040



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

We live in the countryside because we enjoy the quiet life, away from the hustle and bustle and grime of the city. In order to ensure everyone is able to live harmoniously it would help if we all followed these few golden rules:

DIY enthusiasts – please respect your neighbours and don't undertake noisy projects before 8:00 am (9:00 am on weekends) or after 8:00 pm – children need their sleep.

Gardeners – please don't have bonfires before 6:00 pm. If you can see washing out or windows open, it would be neighbourly to let people know before lighting the fire.

Dog owners – please remember to always pick up after your dogs and don't allow your pet to poop on the verge, or leave poo-bags around the village. There is a real risk of the spread of disease in livestock from dog faeces so if you walk your dogs off lead in the fields, please be aware of their 'movements' in every sense!

Party people – everyone enjoys a party but generally only if they're actually there! If you're celebrating, good for you, but please take it indoors and keep the noise down after midnight (8:00 pm on weekdays).

KIOSK LIBRARY

We are very pleased to report that the Kiosk Library has been a huge success during lockdown and would like to thank everyone for your support in both donating and borrowing books during this difficult time.

Your donations, including some very popular titles kindly offered by Audrey's family, have enabled us to add new books on a regular basis. As always crime and detective books have been popular, but there has also been a recent interest in family sagas and romantic fiction! Plus we have received more children's books suitable for different age groups - these are always popular with grandparents!

Please keep borrowing, and also donating books in good clean condition. Due to lack of space we are unable to accept more than ten books at a time. I appreciate that lockdown has been a good opportunity to have a turn out, and as you know we greatly appreciate your donations but recently there were 72 extra books totally blocking the already full shelves. Sadly whilst there were some good titles I am afraid their condition was not acceptable and I was only able to keep back 16 for the Library meaning that I have to take the others home (five large bags full) until I can get to the charity shop. Please also remember

that as always we can only accept novels due to limited shelf space.

Just recently we were able to take eight sacks of books to The Mind Charity shop at Paxcroft which they were pleased to accept having been closed for so long.

Keep reading.....

Anne and Beryl.

