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December 200 Sponsored by Chris Walker of 'Origin Arts' 84 Leads Road, HULL. Tel: 01482 838171 Fax: 01482 879678

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This Newsletter was produced by the Village Hall Committee, who are all amateurs, using their own time, equipment, petrol and Paracetamol (for the headaches producing it causes!). The W.V.H.C. would especially like to thank CHRIS WALKER of "ORIGIN ARTS" for sponsoring this issue. We seem to be growing in popularity, we may be known as "The Village that time forgot" in Yorkshire, but Withernwick is known not only in France and Canada but also in Kuwait and Australial (Our village delivery lady is "itching" to hand deliver those copies!) Once again a big THANK YOU to Lesley! We would like to take this opportunity, to thank (in anticipation), our future sponsors who are; Geoff Wilkinson for March 2001 (and also for making life easier!), Sue Stockdale for June 2001, Anne & Bruce Reed for September 2001 and John Moulds for December 2001. Adverts remain the same at £12 for a ½ A4 page, £6 for a ¼ A4 and £3 for a small one. Sales and Wants remain the same at 50p for 30 words, which will include a landline phone number. Please check dates and times before you set off to anything and remember, if you want an item included in the Newsletter, so long as we can read it, we can reproduce it. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. The deadline for the next one is Monday 10th February. Any inclusions should be sent to either Linda or Julianne. This leaves us with only one thing left to say and that is,

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Julianne Ashton – Secretary and Bookings, Tel 527952. Linda Graham – Chairperson and Editor, Tel 529087. Mike Ashton – Proof Reader, Tel 527952. Jayne Rider – 100's Club, Tel 527215. Liz Barker – Treasurer, Tel 527331. Jackie Hudson – Pub Quiz, Tel 527431. Jon Kemp – Pub Quiz, Tel 527748. Rod Mitchell – Tel 527160.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE A.G.M.

This was held in the Village Hall on Monday 21st August 2000. Seven committee members were present, but not a single villager came to this riveting meeting! (200 households in the Parish and each one was notified personally in the June Newsletter). Some enquiries of the content of the meeting have prompted us to give a brief summary of the items discussed. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary gave their reports for the past year. The Keep Fit class was to re-commence in September. The Holderness Community Church no longer wished to use the hall. The Callenetics class had to be cancelled due to lack of support. A senior youth club had been established. The 100 club was up and running again. Liz wanted to retire from taking bookings for the hall. Julianne agreed to take over the hall bookings. As there was no other business the AGM was closed and the normal monthly meeting took place.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY (millennium or not!)

The New Years Eve bash will be held in the Village Hall on Sunday 31^{st} December, (of course), from 9pm and will finish around 2am, with Disco Date again. There will be a 'communal supper' table, as we did last year, and the fridge will be on to chill your bottles of the bubbly stuff again. Tickets will be limited, so it's a case of first come, first served. Ticket prices are :- Senior Citizens £3:00, Children £3:00, Adults £4:00 and a family ticket will be available for £12:00, (family tickets admit 2 adults and up to 3 children). We will have a drinks bar for the over 18's. Tickets will be on sale as soon as the poster goes up in Linda's window, (on the pub corner), on Monday 11^{th} December.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES HELD IN THE HALL

Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday	3:30 - 4:45pm 7:30 - 9:00pm 7:30 - 9:30pm 7:45 for 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm	7-Up club. Term time only. 40p. Meg and Melanie Croft, 563055. Keep-Fit. £4:20. Hornsea Adult Education Centre, 533942. Senior Youth Club. 50p. Harry Elliott. 527412. Ladies Group, first Wedesday in the month only. £12 (Guest £1.) Junior Youth Club. 40p. Janis 527241 and Denise 527707.
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FRNEST COLTON WRIGHT was the Headmaster of Withernwick school from 1896 until he died in 1929 (33 years) He was also St Albans Church organist (see memorial tablet in the church). His daughter, Mrs Esme Hubbard, sent in the following contribution.

I well remember many years ago spending long summer holidays at Withernwick with my children. At that time, they palled up with the children of the then vicar, The Rev GA Hewson and a small group of these enthusiastic youngsters used to cycle to Cowden or Mappleton for their daily play at the waters edge, or cricket on the clean sand when the tide was out. Cricket was resumed in a field not far from the church in the evenings - the Scrafton boys joined in and some of the girls and many parents delighted in watching and even making use of us as a spare fielder How sad that my own father did not live long enough to enjoy the development of his grandchildren who made friends with many an ex-pupil of his when he was Master at the school What became of those children? I can tell you about Mr Hewson's eldest son Alex who met up with my own son Lionel many years later when they were both seeking living accommodation in London. This flat consisted of about 8 spacious rooms and in the ground floor flat of corresponding size resided the pop group known as The Rolling Stones. Many a teenage fan slept on their doorstep and had to be carefully avoided by occupants departing for work each day. Alex became a Lecturer at the Imperial College after leaving Oxford and obtaining his Doctorate, Lionel was a Quantity Surveyor with Bovis Holdings the Builders, a chap worked at the French Embassy, another in the Diplomatic Service and a fifth a Solicitor by the name of Tony Henman. Years elapsed, my son going to Nassau in the Bahamas where he married an English girl (a teacher) there and then on to work in Kuwait, where his twin sons were born. At the age of 9 they became boarders at Ardingly Collage in Sussex and eventually playing tennis in the under 18's in that circuit they met up with Tim Henman who was then playing in the over 18's. Naturally they have followed each other's tennis careers over the years. Tim No.1 British tennis player and our twins going to University Recently Lionel flew over from Kuwait to attend Tony Henmans 60th Birthday party, as Tony especially wanted a reunion for his old flatmates. And it was a unique occasion held at the Wimbledon Tennis Clubs Banqueting Hall where every one of the flatmates turned up well and happy. Alex Hewson is now directing a mathematical science project at Cambridge University, married but no children. Lionel spending the intervening years in Nassau, Spain and Kuwait, this latter place a paradise of shining gold, all property is for rent only, my son pays over £1,000 a month for his villa which has an indoor swimming pool, games room, and servants living quarters in the front courtyard. All domestic electricity is free and petrol 10p a gallon! Which brings me to present day hazards in the UK. My eldest daughter has been in Australia for over 40 years and every time she returns to England she says, "How can you afford to live here".

It is heartbreaking when ones children emigrate but we have to take every advantage of this and visit them when the opportunity arises. We spent 3 weeks in Nassau when our son was married in 1968, and several times ventured to Australia, and I loved the

travel so much I continued these long haul trips even after my husband passed away and travelled on my own.

I have visited Kuwait several times too, and becoming rather bold I packed quite a few bottles" in my case which was x-rayed in Kuwait customs and they searched me to death, confiscating all the drinks (Whisky, Brandy, Gin, Harvey's Bristol Cream, Sandman's Port, and red wine) It's a wonder I didn't get escorted to jail but the customs even promised I could collect it when I left as I was travelling on to Melboume in Australia. However, my twin grandsons looked forwards to taking me to the Kuwait customs to collect all this booze but my son feverently halted us because he was afraid of any political repercussions when his permit for work came up for renewal. Although he has been there for 25 years now he still has to re-apply for a work permit now and again.

Janet, my son's wife, is Deputy Head Teacher of the English school in Kuwait. I passed on to her some of your previous Newsletters, with your activities, as one of the staff at her school is doing a medieval project, and so maybe some of your

activities would be enumerated in a "Widdle East Project".

By the current Newsletter that is sent to me by Linda, I gather that you are all making a splendid effort for the residents of Withernwick Village. (The Fete-Ed) The amazing thing is that you all seem so enthusiastically anxious to get on with the job, and

there is nothing more rewarding than making good use of ones ability in whatever field.

I am fortunate in that I now reside with my second daughter, Cynthia and son-in-law David, in the late evening of my life, I do nothing in this large residence which David inherited from his mother, only the ironing which is a joy, not a task to be hurried which becomes a chore to a busy mother. My daughter takes me to all my social activities, three times a week for my Whist Drives, hair appointments, medical like chiropody, collecting any medication, pension dues which we are warned never to collect on our own. Even our jolly police hover round the Post Office lest mugging occurs (it has happened to me) which gives lone shoppers untold courage.

Christmas will soon be upon us - we never know who will turn up here for Christmas, its something we all look forwards to, even I used to anticipate it with pleasure even though I did all the cooking with a glass of stout in my hand at the same time!

Cheers everyonel Best wishes to you all!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the Falcon team for winning the Radio Humberside Pub Quiz (again) on Sunday 12th November I

FOR SALE shop bought Playstation games; Mickey's Wild Adventure, Kula World, Spyro the Dragon, Crash Bandicoot 2 (Cortex Strikes Back), Overboard, Oddworld (Abe's Oddysee), Final Doom, Soul Reaver (Legacy of Kain). £5 each. Phone Linda - 529087

PUMPKIN PARTY

The W.V.H.C. joined forces with the youth clubs to produce this party for the village kids. They spent all afternoon decorating the hall, which looked great, just like a ghost train, and they managed to transform the inner porch into a giant pumpkin! The younger children that attended had a really great time, it was well supported by the older kids and quite a few family groups came along too. The fancy dressers looked great and the prizes were awarded in age groups again. The winners were Kristian Ashton, Hannah Graham and the oldie was Kate Oliver. Best pumpkin prizes were given to Amber and Bianca Gilmore who came first and Andrew and Hannah Graham got the runner-up prize.

TRICK OR TREAT

Quite a few children roamed the village, some with their parents and some in-groups. Not as many as last year as it wasn't a very nice night. Some adult's who had stocked up on sweets, fruit and candy complained that they had some left over! Most of the revellers had taken the time to don fancy dress and looked great. We feel sure that we speak on behalf of all of the parents of the Trick or Treat brigade, when we say a huge thank you to all of the villagers who acknowledged the kids.

We would however, be interested to know which parents noticed eggs and flour missing from their cupboards, as this mixture was thrown over two cars in Church Lane. One of the car owners had to wash her car at 7am, on a very cold morning, before she could go to work. The other car owner also had to spend a great deal of time scraping the gunge off his car before he could wash his. A pretty NASTY trick in our book.

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CRIME---CRIME---CRIME---CRIME---CRIME---CRIME

If you are a victim of crime PLEASE report it to the police. Tel 01964 532133 (Hornsea Police Station) or for none urgent items Tel 0385 531341 (Phil Pickering's mobile).

The Parish notice board is located on the wall of Alan Fawcette's house on Main Street, directly opposite Church Lane (next to the blue double gates). You can find the police report regarding local crime inside this box. (Also the agenda and date of the next Parish Council meeting).

We would like to update you on the recent crimes around the village. On 28th August the Village Hall was broken into and a fire extinguisher was used to spray foam all over the hall, stage carpet, tables and chairs, this was reported to the police. On 16th September Mr Saltmer's T.V. aerial was ripped out of his house wall. In September Richard Fenton's van, which was parked off the road, behind his house, had two windows smashed and a torch stolen. On the same night in St Albans Close a car was broken into and the radio stolen. Two youths set fire to a crop field, we understand that they have now been charged. During the 9th October week, a drainpipe was ripped off the Village Hall wall, and the new decking banister was vandalised. On Saturday 4th November the phone box was vandalised AGAIN, this time the kids left 3 of the windowpanes smashed over the pavement and the road for cars to drive over, along with the bottles that they had smashed. (Mrs Mainwaring went out and swept it all up). On the same night, paper and rubbish was set alight inside the bus shelter. The rubbish bin was ripped off the wall and stolen.

BITS AND BOBS

DID YOU KNOW that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council for a new Councillor? Details are available from Mr Bert Rhodes, the Parish Clerk – see inside the Parish notice board.

THE W.V.H.C. also has vacancies for two new members. Keith and Jackie Moon, due to other commitments, are no longer able to continue (thank you both for your input over the past year.) So if anyone would like to find out what this entails please feel free to have a chat with any committee member. HAVE YOU NOTICED the improvements to the car park and front porch? We think that the trustees of the Poors Land Charity, Tony Brittan and Peter Barker deserve a BIG thank you for making the area a lot better especially the decking that now enables ease of access.

FUN PUB QUIZ

The October Fun Quiz was played in quite a full pub with the questions set by Jon Kemp and Kerr Ash was the quiz master. There were quite a few teams taking part. Nick Clare's team "WELL DONE" won it! The November quiz was won (by 1 point) by "The Withernwick Witches" (who ever they are!) The questions this time, were set by Chris Garbut with Kerr in his usual role! The 'Play-your-cards-right' bonus round was resurrected after this quiz. 20 tickets were sold giving a £10 cash prize, every ticket holder had a go and guess what — no one won it! So there is £10 in the kitty to start off the bonus round after the next fun quiz, which will be held on Friday 1st December at 9pm, when Kerr, the man with the mike, will set the questions! And Chris will provide everyone with supper again — thanks Chris!

SENIOR YOUTH CLUB NEWS By Harry Elliott.

The village youth club is very much up and running with the Disco's and trips out to Lazer Quest being very popular. We would like to give a big vote of thanks to the Neighbourhood Watch for a donation of £150:00, to help with the club's running costs.

We always have room for more members, so if you are 13 and are bored on a Tuesday night between 7:30 and 9:30pm call in the Village Hall and have a Dr Pepper, everyone will be pleased to see you. If any adults could help to supervise one night a month please give Harry a ring on 527412

VILLAGE BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

We hope you were all able to thaw out when you got home! After the initial panic on the Saturday about the storm warning for the Sunday, we felt that we should go ahead as planned. As it turned out, the wind had got up not long before the huge bonfire was lit, which then went up in a puff of smoke – blink and you missed it! But it kept us warm long enough to watch the fireworks light up the sky (neck supports will be on hire next year!) which were also 'spread' about by the wind. But then so were other people's fireworks as well, which meant that we were able to watch a few more displays from around the village, without moving from the warmth of what was left of the bonfire! Liz and Eleanor kept fingers warm with hot-dogs, jacket spuds and hot drinks and Jonty kept the kids well supplied from his sweet shop. Special thanks go to the Ashtons and the Moulds for once again providing the venues for this community event. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Bulson for donating some fireworks and thank you to every one who made a contribution in the bucket, the £43:87 raised went towards the cost of the fireworks. (Linda is looking for an 'old gay', ready for next year – any offers?)

WHAT'S ON IN WITHERNWICK

DECEMBER			
Friday	1 st	9:00pm	Fun Pub Quiz. At the Falcon.
Sunday	10 ^{tn}	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service. St Albans Church.
Wednesday	13 th	2:30pm	School's dress rehearsal, specifically for younger brothers,
			Sister's, extended friends and family, in the Village Hall.
Thursday	14 th	6:30pm	School play for parents and older brothers and sisters.
Sunday	17 tm	5:30pm	Starting at the Village Hall, Carol singing around the village.
Monday	18 th	10:30am	Withernwick School in St Albans Church.
Wednesday	20 th		WiSPA outing to Hull New Theatre, Jack and the Beanstalk.
			Last day at school.
Thursday	21 st	7:00pm	Carol Service. St Albans Church.
Sunday	24 th	10:30am	Crib Service. St Albans Church.
	25 th		MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!
Sunday	31 st	9:00pm	New Years Eve party. Village Hall.
JANUARY			
Monday	1 st		HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!
Thursday	4 ^{tn}		Happy Birthday Julianne. (Thanks Linda)
Tuesday	9 th		Back to school, Village and Hornsea.
Monday	15 th	2:30pm	Christingle. St Albans Church
Tuesday	23 rd		Happy Birthday Linda. (Thanks Julianne)
Friday	26 ^{tn}		Admission to secondary school forms must be returned, Year 6.
FEBRUAR			
Friday	9 th		Deadline date for the next Newsletter.
Friday	16 th		Last day at school, Village and Hornsea.
Monday	26 th		Back to school, Village and Hornsea.

W.V.H.C. CHRISTMAS

Committee members will be carol singing around the village during the evening of Sunday 17th December accompanied by **SANTA** with his sack of "goodies". If anyone would like to join us, you will be most welcome. We will congregate at 5:30pm inside the Village Hall (to stay warm for as long as we can !)

We can hear the groan's all ready "Oh no, not another QUIZ!" But we KNOW that you LOVE doing them Really! This one's different, it's general knowledge and it's very seasonal as the Theme is Christmas. The sheets are £1 each and the winner will receive a £10 cash prize. Sheets are available NOW, from any WVHC member and the closing date is Friday 15th December. The winner will be notified by phone. So come-on and have a go, after all it is the season of good will. (Only 20 questions this time - it's Christmas!).

WITHERNWICK SCHOOL NEWS

By Mrs Fernie, Headteacher.

The Children, staff and Governors have all been busy for the first part of the Autumn Term and are looking forward to

Christmas and all the excitement that this brings. During the summer holidays the floor in class 1, which has been damp for many years, was finally removed and a damp course,

new floor and carpet were laid. Miss Mitchell and the children are delighted with the end result

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the Riversiders Tournament on Saturday 30th September. The netballers were numers-up (and, in fact, on goal average, scored the same number of goals as the winning team). The footballers were nearly in the final, but on this occasion the number of gaols went against us which meant we came third over all. My thanks also go to all the parents who supported the school and cheered the children on.

The Harvest Festival took place on Wednesday 11th October. Mrs Sylvia Rice-Oxley led the service and, as is customary on this occasion, invitations were extended to grandparents, senior citizens, parents, staff and governors. The Salvation Army gratefully

received the harvest gifts.

The book recent book fair had sales of £156:27, which gives the school a profit of £54:70. The raffle winners were Leanne Davis, Heather Croft, Isabelle and Nicholas Moulds who were able to select a book of their choice. Many thanks to everyone who supported the book fair.

The School Support group (WiSPA) held a Christmas Toy Party on Friday 3rd November. There were gifts suitable for all ages, a raffle and refreshments. Many people began their Christmas shopping that evening and a percentage of the proceeds were for

On Wednesday 20th December WiSPA have very kindly offered to take the children to the New Theatre to see this years Panto "Jack and the Beanstalk" starring Billy Pearce. As you can imagine, this is the highlight of the school festive calendar for the children who are all looking forwards to this event.

Our Millennium Tea Towel is now on sale at the school priced at £2:50 and is a representation of all the children's artwork These would make wonderful Christmas gifts and there is one on display in Miss Mitchell's classroom if anyone would like to

view before they buy. Please contact the school if you would like to purchase a tea towel.

Many thanks to everyone who collected, cut and counted our mountain of Walkers crisps tokens (nearly 9,000 in all!). This has enabled us to receive 48 items (mainly books but also some numeracy resources and CD Roms) into school which will benefit the children enormously. Thank you all once again.

Governor News. We are pleased to welcome Mr Stephen Croft as a Co-opted Governor for a four-year term from November

Finally, I am sure that most of you will be aware by now that Mrs Shirley Smith made the decision to retire from her post in the kitchen during the summer break. Mrs Smith has worked at Withemwick Primary since 1968 and, as well as this, has offered her support on a voluntary basis on too many occasions to mention over the past thirty-two years! To commemorate Shirley leaving us we invited her into school and presented her with a gift of Wedgewood china and some chocolates. Mrs Smith reciprocated by leaving the children 3 tubs of chocolates to share! I know you will join with me in wishing Shirley a long and peaceful retirement. Martin's Caterers have appointed Mrs Beverley Clark as Mrs Smith's replacement and staff, pupils and governors all hope that Mrs Clark will enjoy her time at Withemwick Primary School.

100 CLUB

The August winners were -1st Bruce Reed £25, 2nd Barbara Wallis £15, 3rd Diana Barker £10. In September the winners were - 1st Robert Stone £25, 2nd Arthur Young £15, and 3rd Jim Harry £10. The winners for October were - 1st Julianne Ashton £25, 2nd Julia Moulds £15, and 3rd Bruce Reed £10. There are only a couple of numbers left, so if you forgot (again) last time, now is your chance to snap them upl Tel Jayne on 527215

ANON

The question 'Can a man think like a woman? Reminds me of the story of the bottle on a deserted beach. When he pulled out the cork, a genie appeared and offered to grant him anything he wanted. The man replied that he was rich, fit and wanted for nothing.

Surely there's something said the genie. OR said the man. I have to go to America often on buisness

and don't like flying or boats. Could you build me a bridge so I could drive to the States?

'A bridge right across the Atlantic?' Said the genie. That's a tall order. Can you not think of something else? The man thought for a while and then asked; 'Could you enable me to understand how a woman's

"This bridge," said the genie, Did you want lights on it?"

MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING'S

SEPTEMBER. Seven Parish Councillor's attended and E.R.YC Councillor S Willie. There were also nine members of the public to listen to the discussion's that took place. PC Phil Pickering had been invited to give an up date on the crimes committed in the Parish recently. He said that criminals were moving into rural areas (because of CCTV in surrounding towns) and that thieves were attacking garden sheds. Mr Paul Mears, Senior Environmental Health Officer, was invited to outline the law regarding dog fouling which some villagers were concerned about. The law applies where there is a 30 or 40 mile per hour speed limit and includes pavements, grass verges and the road surface. In Withernwick it also includes the Churchyard and Burial Ground, the playing field and the Village Hall grounds. There were 2 planning applications, one for a single storey extension, and another to convert a barn into a dwelling. There were 2 planning consents, one to erect a conservatory, and another to construct a dormer window.

OCTOBER. Seven Parish Councillor's attended and ERYC Councillor D M Hoskins. There were five members of the public present. A planning application to demolish a two-story extension and rebuild the same and two planning applications from Whitedale, one for the retention of a boundary wall and another for the erection of two single storey extensions. Prospect House was discussed regarding allegations of

certain incidents which were reported by villagers to the Council.

NOVEMBER. Seven Parish Councillors and three members of the public were present. The Application for a single storey extension had been approved. (September meeting). A notification of the removal of a hedgerow was received. The letter from the Independent Inspection Unit regarding the allegations (October) that could not be substantiated was read out. Prospect House was discussed with input from Julie the Manager who told the council that she had received around 30 referrals to fill two vacancies at the home, but all the referrals she had refused because they were unsuitable for the home and for the village.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

Monday	9:12am	East Yorkshire bus no 241 to Beverley (return from Beverley 12:29pm)
Monday	7:00-8:15pm	Meeting Point, 11-15 year olds. Meg & David Croft. Tel 527334
Wednesday	9:12am	East Yorkshire bus no 241 to Beverley (return from Beverley 12:29pm)
Tuesday	2:00pm	Darby & Joan. Alternate Tuesdays only.
2 ^{n⁴} Wednesday	1:45pm	Pram Service at St Albans Church.
2 ^{na} Sunday	6:00pm	Praise and Prayer. St Albans Church. A different theme monthly.
3 rd Monday	7:45pm	W.V.H.C. meeting in the Falcon.
3 ^{ra} Wednesday	7:30pm	Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall.
3 rd Sunday	10:30am	Holy Communion. St Albans Church.
4 th Wednesday	7:45pm .	Senior Youth Club meeting in the Falcon.
4 th Sunday	10:30am	All Age Worship. St Albans Church.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Local Government Act 2000 requires principle local authorities in England and Wales to prepare a "community strategy" for promoting the economic, environment and social well-being of their areas and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The key to an effective community strategy is successful partnership working and community involvement throughout the process. A series of mobile road shows and public meetings have been organised. The community strategy will set out the services to be provided by the Police, Health Authority, Local Authority and other bodies over the next five years to improve the quality of life for everyone. This is your opportunity to have a real say and help plan for the future.

PUBLIC MEETING. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. ROADSHOWS.

Thursday 7th December. 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Monday 27th November.

Floral Hall, Hornsea. Newbegin Car Park, Hornsea. Zebra crossing lay by, Skirlaugh. Aldbrough School.

8:30am to 10:30am. Tuesday 23rd January. 8:30am to 10:30am. Wednesday 24th January.

WITHERNWICK LADIES GROUP

This friendly bunch of ladies meet in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:45pm. They have an interesting time at these get-togethers, enjoy guest speakers, outings, Village tours, delicious suppers and lots more! New members are always made very welcome and the membership fee is only £12 per year. If you just want to go as a guest to a meeting, the fee is £1. So if you would like to make some new friends, go along to the Village Hall on Wednesday 6th December or Wednesday 3th January.

ST ALBANS AUTUMN FAIR

There was such a large number of people who came to this event, which was held in the Village Hall, that you almost had to queue to get in ! The bookstall had a very large selection for the avid reader to choose from, lot's to pick from on the plant stall including garden plants, bulbs and some very pretty houseplants. The craft stall had some very nice handmade goods for sale that would make lovely gifts for Santa to deliver. Someone's kitchen must have smelled wonderful when the cakes and buns were being baked for the cake stall. A good selection of tombola prizes for those that picked a winner. Everyone managed to find a table to sit at while they enjoyed their cups of tea and home made sausage rolls, cakes and buns after they had finished perusing the stalls while waiting for the raffle to be drawn.

SNOW-CAPPED CHÓCOLATE CAKE

This is a real treat for any chocoholic, enjoyable either iced or un-iced, it's an easy to make moist, rich, dark chocolate cake. Make a week before Christmas and wrap un-iced in foil. Serves 20. Prep time 30 min, cook 11/4 hours, cool 1 hour, finish 30 min.

INGREDIENTS.

100g (40z) cocoa. 375mls (34) boiling water. 225g (30z) butter, softened. 425g (150z) granulated sugar. 425g (150z) plain flour. 2 tsp. bicarbonate of soda. ½ tsp. baking powder. 4 eggs, beaten.

For Frosting, 325g (120z) caster sugar. 2 egg whites. 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar. Edible silver balls.

1. Mix cocoa and boiling water until smooth. Leave to cool. 2. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. 3. Sift flour, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder together. Gradually beat the eggs into the butter mixture, alternately with some of the flour mixture, beating well after each addition. 4. Gradually fold in cocoa mixture alternately with the remaining flour mixture. Gently mix until an even colour. 5. Pour mixture into a greased, base-lined, deep 19cm (7 1/2 in) round tin. Cook at 350F, 180C, Gas 4 for 11/4 hours or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. 6. Upturn tin on a wire rack. Leave to cool completely with tin in place. 7. Turn out cake. Using a large serrated knife, cut cake into 3 layers and put bottom layer on a 23cm (9in) round cake board. 8. Make frosting. Put sugar, egg whites and cream of tartar in a large bowl over a pan of gently boiling water and whisk until smooth. Continue whisking until mixture forms stiff peaks, about 8-10 min. 9. Sandwich cake layers together with a little of the frosting. Quickly spoon remaining frosting over cake, swirling and pulling it into peaks with a pallet knife to give a random snowy effect. 10. Press silver balls into frosting peaks.

_4ND FIN.4LLY... A small boy, watching his mother washing up, commented, "Mum, where did you work before you got the job with us?"