

WYGGESTONS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

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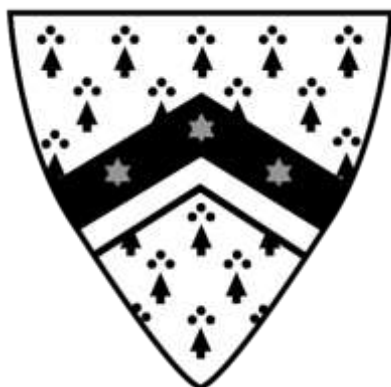
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Quiz Time – This month it's a picture round – Who's House is This? Answers in the next edition!



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The Pangnirtung Screamer!! (part two) – One residents fascinating trip to a brand new Canadian Province!



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**If you have anything you would like to add
or see featured in the next newsletter
then please let us know!**

Welcome!

Welcome to our August issue of the Wyggeston Newsletter!

As I write this we are experiencing a superb period of weather and even the many visitors and residents in the gardens seem to have retreated in to the shade – however the Gardening Group and our contractors continue to provide a wonderful display to brighten our mood. Our resident photographers will be out and about in the next few weeks taking photos around the grounds for submission to the Almshouses Association competition of images that reflect the many and varied Almshouses that Charities operate around the country. This year is the 75th anniversary of the Association and we will have a celebration later in the year, when we can!

The building works are continuing well and the new Lancaster House apartments and the office and community rooms are being fitted out in the next month for an Autumn completion. The Link Bridge is starting to take shape, with its new pitched roof – and we will be updating the boilers and some of the electrical wiring in August. Work to repair the roof to Lancaster House will also commence in the next few weeks ahead of completion of all the building works in the Autumn.

So a very busy time and many apologies for all the disruption over the coming weeks.

We are hoping that as the restrictions lift during the summer we can increase the number of socially distanced events. However please be mindful of the Government advice to wear masks in the communal corridors of the building for your and others safety. Agnes House visiting restrictions continue for the present.

In the office – a very big welcome to Jessica Lomax-Morgan, who joins us as our new Finance Officer. Lesley is remaining with us until October when she retires.

We have lots of articles this month reflecting the many travels of our residents, stories for sharing and 'Meet the Governor' - our former Chairman.

As ever many thanks to all who submitted items for inclusion and we really appreciate your support in providing material for Wiggy's Tales – keep them coming.

If you have any stories or content ideas please let us know.

Chris

**PLEASE NOTE THE FINANCE
OFFICE WILL BE OPEN TO
RECEIVE PAYMENTS ON
TUESDAY 24th AUGUST 2021**



**For those residents who have birthdays in August,
we would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday!**

William House

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rosemary Smith | 5 th August |
| Linda Lowrey | 6 th August |
| Chantelle Leighton | 1 st August |



Sadly, we have three deaths to record in this edition.

**Mrs Betty Slater, Room 13, who passed away peacefully
on Saturday 3rd July.**



**Miss Joan Bates, Room 25 and former William House
resident, passed peacefully away on Friday 9th July.**

**Mrs Rita Jones, Room 8 and former William House
resident, passed away peacefully on Wednesday 14th
July 2021.**

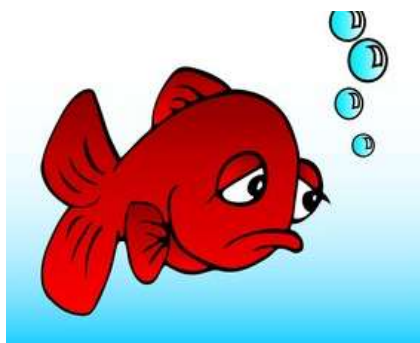


Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends

Cherryleas Development

A lot of work is going on inside Lancaster House now, so the outside doesn't look much different.....





Wyggestons offers so many good things to its residents. But it strikes me there is one thing lacking. Our great-grandchildren and great-nephews and nieces love to be told stories. So I think we should offer a story service, so that next time the children visit we can do what all good grandparents do - and that is tell them a story. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin...

THE LONELY PILCHARD

Chapter 1

Once upon a time there was a Lonely Pilchard. He had lots of sisters and brothers, but they were last seen with their many friends swimming and swirling, twisting and turning, until they were miles and miles from home. So the poor Lonely Pilchard was left all on his own by himself.

The trouble was that when his father gave his sisters and brothers their swimming lesson the Lonely Pilchard was quite poorly with a nasty cough. And before he was well enough to have *his* lesson something *dreadful* happened. A noisy boat came and caught both his parents in a cruel net and took them away to Great Yarmouth.

(What might happen to them at Great Yarmouth I would rather not say.) *That's* why he was so lonely: he was now an orphan who couldn't swim.



Living nearby was a big turtle. He was sorry for the Lonely Pilchard, and so he gave him swimming lessons. But turtles don't swim like pilchards do, and the big turtle found this difficult to understand. But whenever they were together they would stop and play and blow bubbles. The Lonely Pilchard was good at blowing bubbles. Quite often, to cheer him up, the big turtle would give him rides on his big brown back.



One day a friendly salmon passed by. But she always seemed to be homesick, and was always wanting to be somewhere else. However, the friendly salmon did teach the Lonely Pilchard how to *leap*. For salmons are very good at leaping. After a lot of practice, the Lonely Pilchard soon became quite a good leaper, and whenever they were



together they would have lots of fun leaping over the waves – although this was rather dangerous, as the Lonely Pilchard still couldn't swim.

And when the big turtle was with them they would try leaping and blowing bubbles all at the same time. But the big turtle never learnt how to leap, although the friendly salmon tried very hard to teach him.

Now it so happened that a rather fierce-looking swordfish who wasn't nearly as fierce as he looked, was watching them play. He didn't say much, but he was good at thinking. His thoughts were so sad when he heard about the poor Lonely Pilchard who couldn't swim.

While they were all playing together and blowing lovely bubbles they heard the noise of the noisy boat again - getting nearer and nearer and nearer. The Lonely Pilchard was really scared that he too might be taken away in the cruel net to Great Yarmouth. (What might happen to him at Great Yarmouth I would rather not say.) The men in the boat were preparing to throw their cruel net into the sea just where the Lonely Pilchard was floating. He tried very hard to get away, but, O dear, the Lonely Pilchard *still* couldn't swim.

In the nick of time the big turtle saw what was happening. He swam as fast as he could, which wasn't very fast, as big turtles can't swim very fast. The thoughtful swordfish distracted the men by banging on the side of the boat with his long sharp nose. This made just enough time for the Lonely Pilchard to leap like the salmon had taught him and land right on top of the turtle's big brown back. The big turtle immediately dived down into the deep sea. And so, thanks to his three good friends, with only split seconds to spare, the Lonely Pilchard had escaped. (For what might have happened to him at Great Yarmouth - I would rather not say!)

Chapter Two has not been written yet. How shall we continue and conclude the story? Any suggestions? I do hope that between us we can find a happy ending. I do like happy endings!

JOHN SEYMOUR



Why not give these simple seasonal recipes a go!

Tomato, caramelized onion & mascarpone tart

Ingredients

- Extra-virgin olive oil for frying and drizzling
- 2 red onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 250g mascarpone
- Finely grated zest and juice 1 lemon
- 4-5 fresh rosemary sprigs, leaves picked and finely chopped
- 4 spring onions, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 320g ready-rolled all-butter puff pastry sheet
- 500g tomatoes (a mix of colours and sizes), halved or quartered
- A few fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked



Method

Heat a large frying pan with a glug of oil over a medium heat. Add the red onions and fry for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the sugar and cook for a further 10 minutes until sticky and caramelised.

In a medium mixing bowl, beat the mascarpone with the lemon juice and zest, rosemary, spring onions and garlic. Season. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6.

Unroll the pastry onto a baking sheet. Spread with the mascarpone, leaving a 2-3cm border. Top with the red onions, then the tomatoes and a little thyme. Drizzle over a little oil, season, then bake for 25 minutes. Turn the oven to 170°C/150°C. Bake for 20-25 minutes until the tomatoes have shrivelled and the pastry is golden. Replace any burnt thyme leaves with fresh and serve warm.

Baked Berry Slump

Ingredients

- 200g/7oz unsalted butter, softened
- 100g/3½oz golden caster sugar, plus 2 tbsp
- 4 medium free-range eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 300g/10½oz self-raising flour
- 500g/1lb 2oz mixed fresh or frozen berries
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground ginger

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan and grease one large ovenproof dish or two smaller ones if you want to keep one to freeze for another day.

Beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, then beat in the eggs and vanilla extract and fold in the flour.

Place the fruit in the dish or dishes and sprinkle the extra 2 tablespoons of sugar and the spices over the fruit, give a little stir, then top with the sponge mixture.

Bake in the oven for 45–50 minutes, or until the fruit is bubbling and hot and the sponge is cooked. Serve the slump warm with ice cream or allow one to cool, wrap well and freeze for a later date.



If you have any recipes to share then please let us know!

Meet your Governors

We have asked some of Governors to introduce and tell us a bit about themselves.....

Introducing: John McLauchlan

I was born in Leicester on the 4th of January 1939 to John and Phyllis McLauchlan. John my Father was a Scot who came from Edinburgh, my Mother Phyllis was an Essex girl from Walthamstow in East London. I am not quite sure what that makes me!



I attended St. John the Baptist Infant and Junior Schools and the then Wyggeston Grammar School for Boys (now Wyggestons & Queen Elizabeth I College which receives an annual grant of £10,000 from Wyggestons).

After work experience at the old Leicester firm of Toller Pochin and Wright Solicitors, I went on to read law at Kings College Durham, graduating in 1961 with an upper second Honours Degree, notwithstanding indulging in Student Politics, being the secretary of the students union and representing my college at the NUS Annual Conference. My professor had told me that if I had not wasted my time with student politics I might have gained a first.

After that it was trainee solicitor (then called articles of clerkship) at Tollers, qualifying in 1964. Shortly after this I happened to bump into a leading member of the local bar who said to me. "I'm sorry I did not see your name in the Pass List for the Law society Finals. My reply was "I'm not sorry because my name was in the honours list."

After qualifying I practised as a solicitor in Leicester concentrating in Private Client work, becoming a partner at Tollers in 1965, and eventually senior partner for some twenty years until 2000 when Tollers became part of the Leicester branch of Nelsons, a prominent Nottingham firm. I worked part time as a consultant with

Nelsons until 2008 when I decided to leave for the more congenial atmosphere at Spearing Waite. I retired as a solicitor in November 2014.

In 1975 I was appointed as a legally qualified chairman of the East Midlands (later Midlands) Rent Assessment Panel. The panel is responsible for determining the rents of privately tenanted dwellings. A post I held until 2009. This was an opportunity for an interesting day out from the office. I had to write up the reasons for our decisions at a fairly relaxed pace. Briefly during the earlier part of that period I held a similar post on the Supplementary Benefits Appeal Tribunal. This was something quite different. We were dealing with claimants who were in desperate circumstances and I had to write up the decisions there and then and be ready for the next case. A relaxing day out from the office it was not.

In 1985 I became a Notary Public and I continue to practise as such from my home at Rose Cottage Hungarton, where I live with my wife Cynthia whom I married on the 8th of January 1972 (so next year will be the big 50!!). We have three children Alison, Neil and Shona, and five grandchildren Amelia, Sammy, Henry, Matthew and Charlie.

I met my wife Cynthia through being persuaded to seek election as a City Councillor in 1970. Cynthia and her parents were active members of the Conservative Party. I represented the Conservatives on Castle Ward for six years when a demographic shift suggested that I did not seek re-election in 1976. However being a city councillor gave me an introduction in 1974 to become a trustee of Wyggeston's Hospital. As you may know, nominative governors are appointed for a fixed period. When my appointment came up for renewal I would approach the Party Whips and ask them to support my re-appointment. This worked well until 1990 when the Lib-Dems called this a stitch-up and they secured the appointment of one of their members. He never attended a single meeting. In 1993 a dear friend and business colleague, the then chairman of Governors Bob Plant, rang me to say that there was a vacancy on the governing board and would I be interested in re-joining, he did not need to ask me twice and so here I am... many years later!

John



Brilliant!!! or What?

(submitted by one of the residents at William House)

A Senior Moment – An elderly lady actually wrote this letter to her bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in The Times.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three 'nanoseconds' must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my Pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only thirty eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, re-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have

modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

- 1 – To make an appointment to see me
- 2 – To query a missing payment
- 3 – To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4 – To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5 – To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6 – To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7 – To leave a message on my computer 9a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorised Contact.)
- 8 – To return to the main menu and listen to options 1 through 8
- 9 – To make a general complaint or inquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client.



It is believed that the lady who wrote this is 86 years old. What a legend!!

The Pangnirtung Screamer and Annie's Hats

(Part 2 – Pangnirtung)

So the “Pangnirtung Screamer” flew us from Iqaluit to Pangnirtung on May 19th 1999 and a temperature of -20 met us there (Pangnirtung lies just inside the Arctic Circle). However the air was so still that it didn't feel cold. Our feet were firmly wrapped in thick socks and strong boots.

However my hat was not so thick so Annie got me ready for when the wind got up. Annie Bowlat is an Inuit and is married to Roy, the principal of the small “Vicar training” College, and Margaret and I lived with them and Rachel their daughter for a week.

Annie had set up a small knitting factory, which amongst other things, made hats.

Several folks here in William House have commented on my green hat but have yet to see my Pangnirtung hat which was made before the new province of Nunavut came into existence on April 1st 1999 and so has NWT on the back..

In Church terms the Diocese of the Arctic covers an area that is 19 times the area of the UK, but the communities are separated from one another by hundreds of miles.

This fact covers one of the reasons why the students (with whom I was sharing thoughts about St Paul's 13 letters) were so interested by what Paul had written about friends on the different and differing churches which he had founded.

They, like the churches in the Diocese of the Arctic, were distanced from each other.

When on May 25th 1999 we flew back to Iqaluit, we joined just over a hundred people from the various parishes who were, each third year, prepared to spend 10 days of their holidays meeting with fellow Christians from the various parishes.

But I have jumped ahead.....

Next time I will tell you of Victoria Day and of a memorable journey across frozen sea behind a snowmobile which pulled a Qamutiik (which is just like a large coffin) in which Margaret and I had rather an uncomfortable journey!



John Tonkin

“On this mystery deep we ponder”

Here in the chapel at Wyggestons - while Covid restrictions disallow hymn singing - we include an organ solo as part of our worship.

Each week the organist chooses something associated with the season or the bible readings for that day. Recently, when it was Holy Communion and my turn to play, the following paragraph was included on the service paper:

TWO SHORT COMMUNION HYMNS TO THINK ABOUT

(Johann Sebastian Bach wrote the harmonies for both tunes)

*“Dearest Jesu, we are here at thy call thy presence owning...
...Word incarnate, much in wonder, on this mystery deep we ponder”*

*“Strengthen for service, Lord the hands that holy things have taken
“Hands...ears...tongues...eyes...feet...bodies”*

These are very ancient words with origins about 1,600 years ago,
and generally sung when leaving church after communion.

Have you ever thought of beginning your prayers with “*Dearest Jesus...?*” To do so, at least sometimes, is, I think, rather lovely. It’s a form of address we generally reserve for those who are really close and special to us. I know we normally pray, as Jesus taught, “Our Father...” But just sometimes? “*Dearest Jesus*”? Precedents can soon be found in the New Testament and elsewhere. If you can whisper the words with honesty and love, then why not?

But the words from this hymn I love so much are at the end the first verse: “*Word incarnate, much in wonder, on this mystery deep we ponder.*” Yes, the Incarnation – *the Magnum Mysterium* - is surely the greatest wonder to ponder, and not just at Christmas. But there are so many other deep wonders to ponder in the gospel story.

If you make a list of all the attributes of God listed in today’s Psalm (145: 10-18) I think you’ll find about a dozen. So there’s scope for some pondering there. And in today’s Gospel, after the feeding of the multitude the people were so overcome with awe and wonder that they sought to make Jesus King. And the disciples on the lake, when Jesus appeared mysteriously to them, were not just awestruck... but *terrified!*

But best of all is the reading from the Ephesians – here there really is great mystery deep to ponder: *“I pray”, writes St Paul, “that you may have power to comprehend...what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of God...that surpasses knowledge...”*

“O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,” paraphrased Samuel Francis in his lovely hymn.

* * * * *

But it's fair to ask how all these comforting words about deep, deep love relate to what's happening in 2021?

There was no coronavirus in Galilee. But if we read just the first two chapters of Marks' gospel we see that Jesus is immediately confronted with demon possession; with Simon's mother-in-law's fever and, that same evening, the whole population of Capernaum brought their sick to the door where Jesus was staying. After the night of prayer we learn of the leprosy sufferer, and at the beginning of chapter two, the healing of a paralytic. Pain, suffering and distress. This was the world into which Jesus came. Not so different to today.

* * * * *

*Dearest Jesu, we are here,
at thy call, thy presence owning;
pleading now in holy fear
that great sacrifice atoning:
Word incarnate, much in wonder
on this mystery deep we ponder.*

G R Woodward (1848-1934 after T Clausnitzer (1619-1684)

I'm tempted to do a line by line commentary, but I won't! Except Just to note that as well as incarnation there is sacrifice, and 'holy fear' as well as the intimate form of address. So much to ponder here. And the mystery of the Eucharist is strongly implied if not stated.

The second verse is excellent, too. “Jesu, strong to save – the same yesterday, today, for ever.” Worth another ponder! It's going to be a busy week, doing all this pondering!

JOHN SEYMOUR

PS: Incidentally - following on from the glorious flowing harmonies of the J S Bach - I thought I might try as a concluding voluntary some Lennon and McCartney: *“All you need is love”*. It seems it was really appreciated!

QUIZ TIME

WHOSE HOUSE IS THIS?

Can you name the famous occupants of these houses from fact and fiction?



Answers in the next newsletter!

Answers: 1. Lancashire 2. Edinburgh 3. Llandudno 4. The Cheviots 5. The rivers are (i) Calder, (ii) Taff, (iii) Clyde, (iv) Wye and (v) Kennet 6. Northamptonshire 7. St Andrews 8. The four counties are from north to south, Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire 9. Cumbria and Northumberland 10. It was the first to establish a public library 11. Nottingham 12. It's on the Parish Church of St. Mary's and All Saints in Chesterfield 13. Wales 14. Plymouth 15. Chatsworth House 16. The rivers are (i) Thames, (ii) Shannon, (iii) Tay and (iv) Tow 17. The course is the Royal Birkdale 18. County Antrim 19. The county of Powys 20. Guernsey