



# Keeping In Touch



*Edition 73*

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## **News from Babs and John.....**

Another Saturday and another RSPB site and more bugs, this time RSPB Minsmere on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

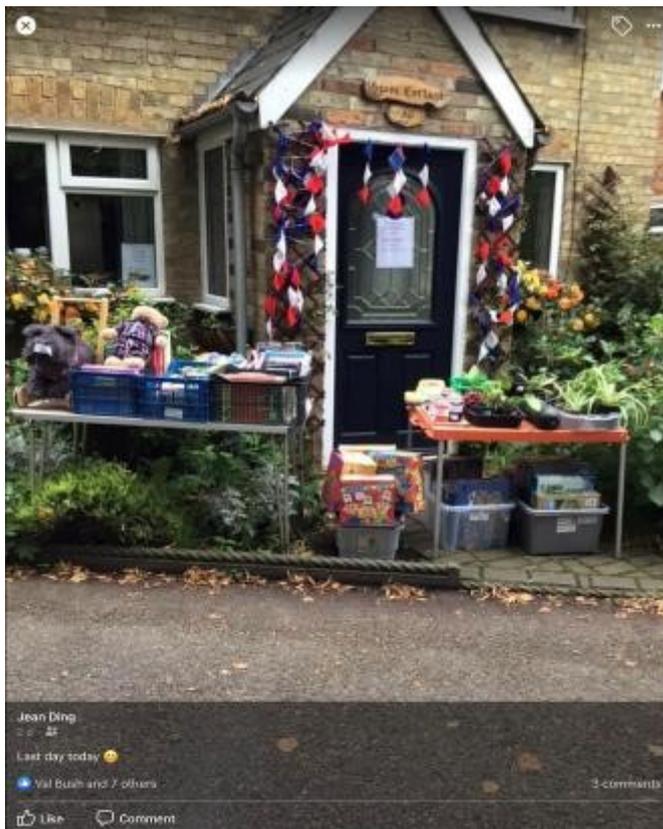
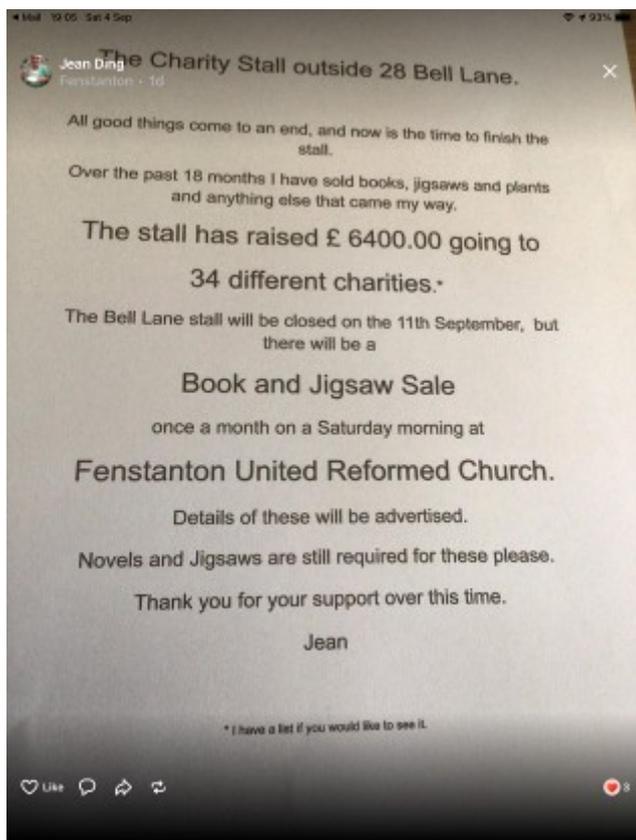
We were lucky an expert was on hand to explain what we were watching and amazing to see in real life not just on a wildlife film. In a sandy area there were two wasps I hadn't heard of, both have similar behaviour but with different prey. The sand wasp goes for caterpillars and the Bee Wolf for Honeybees and if you look closely in these photos, you will see each with prey. Watching them move prey as big or bigger than them is amazing. Both dig small burrows in sand, paralyse their prey and then bury the prey with the wasps' eggs in the burrows and back fill so you cannot see where the burrows are. The paralysed, but not dead, victims provide fresh food for the emerging eggs and then eventually die as new life emerges. Amazing!



**And the fruits of her garden Harvest! Anyone else have favourite Autumn recipes?**



**OUR FRIEND Jean Ding in Fenstanton has done an amazing job over the last few months! Well done Jean!!**



***Irene calling....***

**THINK ON!**

Tories broke their promise  
And Labour condemn,  
But there's no surprise  
For fact facing men.

Years underfunded  
NHS, Social Care,  
No use the blame game  
Make change and repair.

Workers may moan, yes,  
It means higher tax,  
But one day they'll be old  
And that is a fact.

Disablement, old age  
Brings health issues new,  
Can knock on your door  
Right out of the blue.

Social Care's wanting,  
But still waits in queue,  
Catch up for hospitals  
All ages pursue.

Old folks worked long, hard  
And paid all their dues,  
Remember that one day  
You may need help too!

cc.IRENE CARTER

## Stitches for Survival – an update by Sally Runham

Here are some panels by St Ives Eco Faith group:



Stitches For Survival, an international group of **crafters**, is making 1.5 miles of fabric artwork to encircle the COP 26 conference centre to campaign for a maximum global warming up to 2050. Mary Cox and Sally Runham are working with St Ives Eco Action Eco Faith group to coordinate local effort. You can be part of Stitches for Survival by knitting, crocheting, stitching or crafting a full panel of 60x100cm or a quarter panel of 30 by 50cm (12inches by 19.5 inches). It must be in earth colours such as green and blue. This peaceful campaign aims to:

- Support bold and binding actions on climate change
- Tell world leaders they must act now together
- Create a colourful protest that can be recycled into warm blankets for refugees.

Panels can be put into Just Sharing shop by kind permission of manager Sue Billings, and they will be sewn together, and displayed as a local offering.



## Drink to the Harvest

Monday 27th September @ 7.30pm on Zoom

Although it's been two years since the Peterborough Christian Aid Committee last offered the popular Friday Lunches at Westgate New Church, we are still thinking about food and drink!

We invite you to a fundraising event to celebrate the harvest. Pour yourself your favourite drink, and join with us to give thanks for those who have produced it.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about current Christian Aid projects to improve harvests and livelihoods in the face of the climate crisis.

Following an introduction on the work of Christian Aid by Alex Cassidy, our local Church Engagement & Fundraising Officer, his colleague Kate Ormerod will talk from first-hand experience about the projects which Christian Aid is partnering in Malawi. We will end the evening with a short time of prayer.

The event will last about an hour and include video clips and an opportunity to ask questions.

**We hope that you will be able to join us**

For joining details and Zoom link please contact Matthew Clements on [matthew.clements142@btinternet.com](mailto:matthew.clements142@btinternet.com)

Donations: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/PeterboroughDrinkOR240724](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/PeterboroughDrinkOR240724)



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## ***Some recollections from Philip in France.....***

### **THE DAYS OF LARGESSE**

It's harvest-time. Well does this octogenarian remember the Harvest Festivals in your church of yesteryear – a mere seventy or so years ago.

Having suffered years of war deprivations and rationing (which remained for a mere nine years after a war that we were supposed to have won), the largesse of the congregation at Harvest Festival knew no bounds. The membership presented the cream of their fruit and vegetable crops which were displayed, in three tiers which spanned the apse.

The centrepiece always was a magnificent loaf, made by Stiles the Bakers, opposite, in the shape of a wheatsheaf – complete with field mice. It was a veritable work of art.

Well do I recall the reaction of two dowager doyennes, charged with displaying the produce, when a new adherent arrived with a box of apples.

“ I've brought you these wind-falls from my garden,” he said, proudly.

He was given rapid and short shrift by both dowager doyennes. “ Take them away,” they snapped, “ Only your best fruits will suffice at Harvest-time!”

He returned an hour later, much humbled, with a box of his best fruits, would you believe. And years later, he left a very large chunk of his estate to the church. It was a small fortune. Largesse indeed.

What happened to the produce? It was auctioned off the following night in the Church Hall – with the proceeds going to various good causes.

Well do I recall, as a youngster, being given a six-penny piece to bid for some eggs – still on the ration. This small sum bought me a dozen speckled browns which nobody seemed interested in bidding for. My mother was delighted with my purchase. All turned out to be double-yolked. Largesse indeed!

Sadly these charity Harvest Festivals seem to have lapsed into history. But today we have year-round Food Banks. Praise the Lord.

*Philip Simpson.*

## ***A Postcard from Derbyshire..... From Barbara and David who managed to get away last week for the first time in over a year.***



*Left to right.... Dovedale, views over Buxton from Solomon's Tower and Chatsworth.*

