

Pooh looked at his two paws. He knew that one of them was the right, and he knew that when you had decided which one was right, then the other one was the left, but he couldn't remember how to begin.

POOH

Having your missing tail recovered is all well and good, but remember that it will have to be re-attached.

With a hammer and nail.

When you shout ... "Is anybody at home?" in to a Rabbit hole, and a voice answers "NO!" - it probably means you're not welcome.

THE BUZZ

"If you don't like thistles - then don't bend a perfectly good one" said Eeyore.

"Hello" said Pooh, ... in case there was anything outside.

"Hello!" said Whatever-it-was.

"I'm Pooh" said Pooh.

"I'm Tigger" said Tigger.

Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.

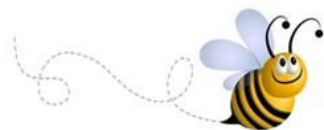
"Pooh!" he whispered.

"Yes Piglet?"

"Nothing" said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw.

"I just wanted to be sure of you".

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



Dear Buzz Readers,

A New Year is with us. May it be one which frees us from our homes to be able to be with members of our families, to visit friends and acquaintances once again.

We must believe, never give up and keep looking for hope.

Like all charities The Buzz depends on monies from those that advertise in it and donations from its readers if it is to survive. I have tried my best to keep the Newsletter published throughout 2020. It has been harder because village functions and things happening just hasn't and so alternatives had to be found..

Delivering the publication through your letter boxes each time has been trickier too. Nevertheless with the help of volunteers both regular and new we have done our best and I hope that you continue to think the publication worthwhile. My thanks also goes to Rose for her unique covers at the front of each issue.

Any article, mention or photograph for The Buzz that you wish to have published in the next issue please see that I get it by the 20th February. Why not pay a visit to our great village website **www.bridgerule.co.uk** kept up to date for us by Cliff Seymour-Smith and **Bridgerule's Buzzing Community** facebook page under Administrator Stacey Cholwill.

Sheila Cholwill Editor

email: sheilacholwill@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01288 381350

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Please call: 01288 381 272

Collection available. £2 delivery charge for orders under £15.

Most romantic wedding ever arranged in less than two hours after Covid Tier changes



Daniel and Rachel Kensit who live in our village had their wedding planned for the 31st of December in Poundstock Church followed by a reception at The Gildhouse. So far so good!!

The couple had spent six hours decorating the venue on the 30th. But then Boris said Cornwall was moving into tier 3 from Midnight and they quickly realised the reception would not be able to go ahead the following afternoon because of the new rules of tier 3. This was already 3.30pm!

Daniel was at the venue, sorting speakers for the music when Rachel called to tell him the devastating news. Understandably they were both gutted but they were not going to let it defeat them and their very special day and so decided to call the vicar in charge, Rev. Dougie Adams, to see if it was possible for him to carry out the ceremony that evening followed by the reception.

In the meantime, Daniel phoned the caterers to see if they could provide their services that night instead of the following day. Amazingly he rearranged his evening and the vicar called at 4.40 pm and confirmed the wedding could go ahead. The next hour or so was a blur for the couple of rushing to parents, making phone calls left right and centre. Remarkably the marriage took place at 6.15pm.

Daniel and Rachel were so grateful to the photographer and videographer who too managed to get there on time and the florist who managed to get to the church to give out the buttonholes and bouquets. Not to mention all their guests getting ready and changing their arrangements to make it so special for the family.

The lovely photograph shows Daniel and Rachel together with their children Jacob, Florence, Wilfred and Reuben.

SHEILA'S MENTIONS:

Birthday wishes:

Betty Ingram on the 4th January.

Gary Abbott on 14th January.

Vic Pickett on 23rd January.

Joan Marshall on 24th January.

Ron Abbott on 8th February.

Paul Cholwill on 13th February.

Tony Wallis on 16th February.

Marie Field on 21st February.

Alan Quilter on 21st February.

Harry Cholwill for 24th February.

Christopher Darwin on 29th February.



Warm Wishes are sent to Angela Brock who has recently undergone a knee replacement operation.

Congratulations to-

Paul Crocker and Nicola Jackson, Archie and Henry on the safe arrival of their little brother, Reggie Anthony Crocker.

Remembering:

Our thoughts are with Kevin Norton on the recent sudden death of wife Susan.

Our thoughts are also with Pat Haydon on the recent death of husband Lionel. The funeral has already taken place.

Thank you to everyone who helped to light up our village over the Christmas period. What an effort and much appreciated.

Do you keep chickens, ducks, geese...?

Help protect your birds from the risk of **#birdflu**

Did you know?

There is a constant risk of bird flu in the UK from wild birds. As it's highly contagious take action to protect your birds from catching it.



Remember

Any very sick birds, or unexplained deaths, must be assessed by your vet. By law suspicion of bird flu is notifiable and can affect poultry movement and trade.

Tip 1: Cleaning

Clean footwear before and after visiting your birds. Keep areas clean and tidy, and regularly disinfect hard surfaces. Humanely control rats and mice.



Tip 2: Feeding

Place your birds' food and water in fully enclosed areas that are protected from wild birds, and remove any spilled feed regularly.



Tip 3: Fencing

Keep your birds separate from wildlife and wild waterfowl by putting suitable fencing around the outdoor areas they access.



Tip 4: Register

www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-registration 

Register your birds online and get alerts on any outbreaks of bird flu

Supported by:



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gov.scot



The Poultry Club
OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Experienced tutor based in Bridgerule currently has spaces available for private tuition.

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Bespoke classes in your home. £25/hour, free initial consultation

Please contact Katie 07976 599275 or katie_beat@yahoo.co.uk



Dear Bridgerule - many thanks for the warm welcome we've received since we began to visit BACK IN SPRING 2020!

We are very grateful for your support, and we look forward to continuing to bake for you. YOU'LL find us in the village hall car park on the **fourth friday of every month.**

FIND OUR REGULAR MENU AND OUR MONTHLY SPECIALS ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND OUR WEBSITE - OR POP DOWN AND PICK UP A FLYER! text us your orders on [07967 000396](tel:07967000396) - OR COME DOWN AND LET US KNOW WHEN YOU'D LIKE TO COLLECT.

**ELECTRONIC PAYMENT PREFERRED (BACS/PAYPAL) -
WE ARE ALSO GLAD TO ACCEPT CASH.**

alexswoodfiredpizza.co.uk

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MOBILE LIBRARY 2021

VISITS BRIDGERULE

BRIDGERULE VILLAGE HALL 14:00 - 14:30

BRIDGERULE UPLANDS 14:40 - 15:20

JANUARY 20TH

FEBRUARY 17TH

MARCH 17TH

APRIL 14TH

MAY 12TH

JUNE 9TH

JULY 7TH

AUGUST 4TH

SEPTEMBER 1ST

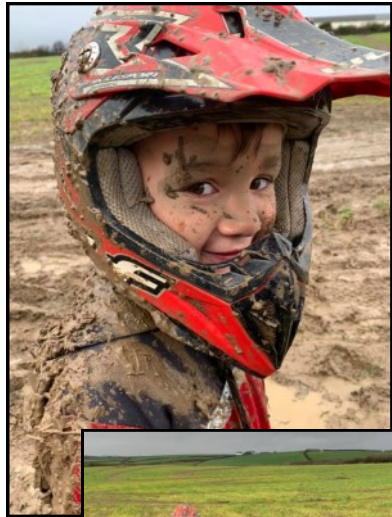
OCTOBER 27TH

NOVEMBER 24TH

IT HAD TO BE DONE!

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

WELL, THESE BOYS
ANYWAY!



Astro Forecast January & February 2021

Aries

Disruptions may be out of your control. Relationships with parents seem to bring decisive change, it may be unexpected but it stems from what has already happened. Expect change at work, a house move or even a change of partners.

Taurus

Repressed emotions bring surprising changes. Relationships with women are intense and there could be a power struggle with one. Home and Family are important now, but issues beyond your control may cause family, financial and domestic affairs to alter.

Gemini

You can accomplish much now, but you can ride roughshod over others and it brings opposition. Strangers, dark places and romantic relationships can be risky and jealousy causes arguments. Try to keep calm, accidents occur when you are angry or overly excited.

Cancer

Legal conflicts cause you to behave badly. Idleness or extravagance can create an overspend especially on holidays or dealings with partners. Foreigners can be the cause of trouble which may also involve loved ones. Moodiness can also cause trouble and you need help to sort it out.

Leo

Ambitions can turn people against you and it brings opposition in work. Personal achievement is to be expanded in some way, possibly from new beginnings. You need help or advice from those in authority. Buying something new regarding transport will be a sound investment.

Virgo

Make plans for the future. Business negotiations are highlighted and a contract brings benefits. An issue with others from the past can cause concern, but it's a good time with partnerships, marriage, business and legal relationships. There may be a court case to deal with.

Libra

It's a very romantic and creative time. Important friendships or love relationships can blossom. Keep a note pad or diary close you can be forgetful and mistakes happen, it can create problems in business or financial matters. News or a gift can prompt change, but be patient.

Scorpio

You're ambitious and irritated by restrictions and setback. You will feel physically and mentally in a good place and it's a good time to negotiate with those in authority. You hear of a forthcoming happy event. Concerns over others can bring disharmony or upset.

Sagittarius

People from different backgrounds expanded your outlook. Recent poor health will improve as it seems to be brought in a gift. You will feel optimistic, acting with energy to make success for yourself. New ideas bring an opportunity which paves the way for something new in your life.

Capricorn

Opportunities surround you and can bring financial reward. People want your advice, but some may ask for a loan, beware! No matter what, your life will be expanded in some way. Don't miss a golden opportunity in your work.

Aquarius

Transport and travel feature, but journeys with no purpose bring hold ups. You've a tendency to be tactless and to exaggerate possibly from an inner tension. If this is the case, make sure you don't throw out the good with the bad.

Pisces

Nice surprises are on the way and a journey livens up your love life. Something out of the ordinary will happen bringing much pleasure. Romance is in the air and exciting people suggest more freedom. Be careful, not to become too amorous or overly excited.

Cassandra

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW
METHODIST SUPERINTENDENT
MINISTER**



Dear One and All,

I have arrived among you as Superintendent minister of the Bude and Holsworthy Circuit of the Methodist Church at a difficult and anxious time.

Covid- 19 has disrupted lives and brought fear, sadness and grief to many. And yet it is the way of Christ to enter into such situations and it is for me to follow in that example and be of service. This is my twenty sixth year of ministry including being a student minister at Bristol University and Wesley College. I have moved to Chilsworthy from Plymouth with my wife Donna, who is an ordained Methodist minister and now chaplain at Shebbear College, where, incidentally, I went to school as a boy. I have three adult children and four grandchildren. I also have a West Highland terrier called Mr Wesley. I have served as a minister in London and Plymouth and have been a chaplain to hospitals in London and in Plymouth and also to a women's prison in south London. I have also served as Deputy Chair of the Plymouth and Exeter District. I am the Spiritual Adviser and Freedom to Speak Up Guardian for Livewell Southwest and a governor at Shebbear College. Prior to becoming a minister I was a detective in the Metropolitan Police.

I am an Exeter Chiefs follower as well as supporting Crystal Palace FC (someone has to) I enjoy walking on Dartmoor and have academic interests in Theology and Ethics. I have been known to skydive on occasions and wish I had learnt how skydive at a younger age – I am now restricted to tandem jumps which are fun but frustrating at the same time. I look forward to serving Christ in the Bude and Holsworthy Circuit and sharing the Christian journey with you.

Every Blessing Simon.

Are all Laptops the same!

Millions of computer users have bought a Laptop yet many will not associate fully the terminology used by the manufacturer relating to the device's functionality. Namely is your Laptop a Netbook, Notebook, Chromebook, MacBook or Gaming Device?

What do I mean?

All Laptops have limitations, some more than others and they are designed this way to be price competitive and when used for the activity it is designed for, will provide a good and long-lasting service. However, large numbers of users want to play video games or watch TV and Films on a system which has limited RAM, CPU speed and video or graphics capability, thus causing the system to malfunction, crash or become slow in its operations, or just stop!

Wi-Fi also plays an important part, older systems may have a low 56 mbps speed card installed, modern devices can have 600+ mbps card and as Wi-Fi operates a duplex system, you're likely to only get half that speed when using Wi-Fi against full speed when hard-wired to a router.



If using your device for Netflix streaming, or online gaming, install a USB Wi-Fi ac adapter with a high data transfer rate, 600 Mbps or more, plus a dual band which works on 2.4GHz and 5GHz band. These USB plug ins can be bought for a few pounds. The USB may need to be forced to access the 5GHz band, a fact sheet and procedure to follow is available, contact me for email

document.

Microsoft have ceased to support Windows 10 1809 and earlier and only Windows 10 1903 and later versions will receive patches and updates. To check your version, click the windows icon, bottom left of screen, select settings, click "system" and "about". Windows 10 version details can be found under windows specifications. If your version of Windows 10 is out of date, activate windows update in settings, or download the current version from; <https://microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows10>

**For free advice on all computer issues contact Brian Meadows
Nofix-Nofee Computer Repair Services Tel: 01288 381061**

Support still shown in difficult year for Cholwill's Christmas Reindeers

With such a difficult year for everyone, no Christmas Craft Fayre's to go to and working out how the supporters would be able to get their wooden Christmas friends safely anyway, the Cholwill reindeer factory had to make a decision of whether to open up or not.

But they knew their favourite charity had also financially suffered in 2020 and so the family decided to get the chainsaws, drills and saws out, but would make less than in previous years.



Up to now Paul and Stacey had opened up an order line on social media but this year sales have just been basically word of mouth. Following on from being on BBC Spotlight last Christmas people have been eager to get their orders in and show their support.

One lady from *Northam* bought three with one being sent to her son who lives in *Italy*. Two telephone calls have come from *America* to purchase reindeers for their relatives in Devon. The doctors surgery at *Black Torrington* put one on display and from that followed 9 further orders. The Cholwill's Reindeer Factory has seen supporters this year come from *Plymouth, Exeter, Seaton and Yeovil* for their red nosed Christmas friends. Staff at *Harpers of Holsworthy* too have purchased quite a few as presents. Some other supporters have said that they have waited five years to get one of Colin's Red Nosed Reindeers.

The Cholwill family are extremely grateful to the ladies who knit scarves for their reindeers each year and are pleased to report that Christmas 2020 will see another £4500 being donated to Little Harbour Children's Hospice with a running total now at £48200 raised in just 8 Christmas.

ANOTHER BYGONE PHOTOGRAPH OF OUR VILLAGE



Rose Hitchings has just bought this post card for her Village History File.

The lady in the photo was Miss Amy Gilbert on the doorstep of her home. Locals back then would call her flannel feet! Why? Because she was quite tall and slim and walked everywhere in very flat brown buckled sandals.

On a daily basis she would come out of her house, walk across the road with her teapot and throw her tea leaves into the hedge. One day though she walked right out in front of a motor cyclist and suffered a broken leg.

Colin Cholwill remembers delivering logs to her with his horse and cart and said she loved to make an excuse to try and pay for the logs less than she should. Her neighbour, Ms Bowman, ran the church Sunday School from her house. Mrs Violet Bewes, Ray's gran, who lived at the time at Wharf Villa, would lead the Sunday School with her.

The past year has been like no other, and at times I'm sure we have all felt quite anxious, if not scared. So the editor of The Buzz thought she would invite a local **Business**, a **Teenager**, a **Retired Couple** and a **Young Mum and Front Line Worker** what life has been like for them living in our rural village of Bridgerule throughout the pandemic and their hopes for the future.

We begin with the business:

***Glebe House
The Brewer Family***



“For us at Glebe House, I think the worst part of the pandemic was back in March this year. At the very start there were so many questions and uncertainties. Whose bookings do we have to cancel? How long will the lockdown be? Will we be able to host the beer festival? As a business how can we survive this? One of the worst tasks was calling up our guests and explaining they couldn't visit us. Some were very understanding, some were very upset and others very angry. It was certainly a stressful time, we were constantly on the phone to guests, agents & the local council re-arranging stays and organising refunds. We also had three weddings booked to take place this year, our very first weddings (including a couple from the village Sally Webb and Alan Quilter), which sadly we had to postpone until 2021 which was hugely disappointing.

The lockdown wasn't all bad. After the chaos at the start we found ourselves with a lot more time on our hands, and able to get on with those jobs we weren't able to do normally. The hour exercise daily also meant we were able to explore the village more. We often found ourselves having a good chat to a lot of people from the village, which we really enjoyed; it's such a lovely friendly village.

Watching the news and seeing how bad everything was in the big cities, we really appreciated living in the countryside in a relatively very safe area. Once the restrictions eased, it was really nice being able to open our gardens and tennis court to the village (with the councils permission), and it started to feel a little more normal with other people enjoying the grounds and it not being so quiet.

When we heard that we could open up again in July it was a huge relief for us, as the Peak summer trade is so hugely pivotal for our business. Then the reality kicked in, there was an overload of information coming from so many different sources about what we could and couldn't do, especially regarding cleaning routines and running a swimming pool. Fortunately, being self-catering meant that we don't have too many indoor communal areas and it should be fairly simple for guests to keep themselves to themselves, but with the shortage of PPE it was a concern whether or not we could open up in time. Our cleaning staff have been fantastic and have taken the situation very seriously. Cleaning obviously takes a lot longer now, but it's so nice being able to open again.

We put up an outdoor marquee as a bar, instead of opening the indoor bar. We have found this to be a lot more popular and opened the bar most nights. To make the evenings more interesting, we started to host pizza nights and gin nights which were great fun, as the summer went on we opened these events up to the local village and we were thrilled with their response and had some great evenings which almost resembled a mini beer festival at times. Over the second lockdown we looked at how we could diversify our business and decided to offer a Pizza delivery service (as there's no-one who delivers takeaway to the village), and again the response has been really positive and we are thinking of continuing this service onwards every Saturday.

2020 has certainly been a very strange year, it's had its stresses, boredom and confusions, but overall we feel very lucky that we are all healthy and safe. We heard that Stacey Cholwill was trying to organise a big light up for the village after such a strange year, and decided to invest heavily in Christmas lights to bring a bit of festive cheer. It's been lovely walking around the village again and seeing all the lights up."

Our Retired Couple -

Graham and Joan Whatmore

In March 2020 my wife Joan, and I went into lockdown as did the rest of the country. That first three months didn't seem much of a problem because my son Scott did all our shopping and attended to anything outside of the house that required attention. In truth we were not in the habit of going out much apart from shopping and the occasional visit to the hospital for an out patient appointment so it didn't really deprive us of much freedom to be honest.



I have some serious medical problems and with me at 84 and Joan at 86 we were at considerable risk should we have contracted the virus and somehow, knowing this, made the lock in much easier to bear. Sadly we are still in that position 9 months later; some things never change.

Scott continued to do our shopping and we continued to remain in the house unless circumstances demanded we go out and it became a way of life. This last lockdown though affected us a lot more. We suddenly noticed our lack of freedom. Joan, especially, but I was fully aware of the dangers of mixing too much and putting myself at risk so I found it more bearable. During the summer I often went for a little drive around the lanes surrounding Bridgerule just to get me out of the house and although I never left the car it was a break. It was something to look forward to. But once Autumn arrived those trips stopped and remain stopped to this day!

Next week sees the start of the vaccine injections and we will be among the early recipients hopefully. Personally I am eager for it to happen. Of course we will still be at risk and we are fully aware of that but psychologically it is a much needed boost to our moral and can't happen quickly enough as far as we are concerned.

I dread to think what state we would be in if there was no vaccine on its way. Another year of living like this just doesn't bear thinking about. If the virus didn't get us the depression just might!

Thank God for the NHS eh!

Our Teenager — Abi Neep

The pandemic has affected us all very differently, as a person of the younger generation it has been a strange time to grow up. I turned 18 at the end of the first lockdown and the most celebrating I could experience was a small picnic on the beach with just two friends. There has been positives and negatives for me as an individual, not being able to socialise or see friends has been a tough time as after leaving college this is what most teenagers would love to be doing. It was a very odd thing to be told that I would not be taking my final A Level exams this year too, young people have been told exams would shape the rest of our lives and they have been cancelled, future plans for work, study and travel have been changed and been made extremely uncertain. I have a small job in Bude and was furloughed from that for months much like the rest of us and the now slow introduction back into work has actually been a lovely experience as I have been able to see people again and interact as young people should. Physical distancing goes against the impulse of an adolescent, spending time away from home to be with friends was a very prominent part of my life and to have that taken away was frustrating and strange.

Although not all, many people believe that not getting out of bed and being lazy and watching Netflix for a lot of the time is a teenagers dream, I on the other hand was itching to get out and do exciting things this year, I had planned to attend festivals and enjoy many parties and social gatherings with friends, there were talks of going abroad on holiday with a friend too and it was disappointing to learn that I could not do this.



As a collective both myself and my peers did stick to the lockdown rules and didn't see each other for quite a long time. As an individual I was at that time very worried about the dangers of the virus and felt under a lot of pressure not to spread it as the media suggested that it was my kind of age group that was causing the rise in cases. I think mentally this prospect affected a lot of young people around me and caused my age group to be pushed into a circle of blame which took a toll on the mental wellbeing of young people.

There have been positives for me in the whole experience however, I have focussed on self progression, when lockdown hit I got up and changed myself. I began home workouts and walked my husky every day, I have become more motivated in not just my fitness but everything I do, when I began to see results from my exercise I appreciated that if I persist at something I will get there in the end. I have kept fish for two years but I never had an interest in them and was about to give them up, luckily through a time of imposed contemplation in lockdown I found interest in this hobby again, I have been caring for them and even began a breeding process. I learnt to surf, I won't lie, I am no professional, but the intense effort on your muscles and the sheer mental tenacity it takes to even attempt to begin this sport has pushed me to be more motivated than I have ever been. Of course we cannot forget the luscious sunshine we were blessed with over that period and I earned myself a glowing tan if I do say so myself, so no complaints there!

In comparison to living in a crowded sub-urban community, I feel I have been very lucky to have a free range of space and many places to walk and get fresh air in. It was nice to be able to head down to the beach and other various places in the beautiful area that we live in. It was also lovely to observe many other people in the village that I'd never seen out before heading for daily walks around the Dux loop, I believe amidst all the gloominess, the isolation period has given people an incentive to enjoy our surroundings. Around October time last year I was faced with the challenge of applying to university, I had no idea what I wanted to do but felt under pressure to pursue this without even the slightest clue of what career path I wanted to take up. I fortunately held off from this application and as lockdown hit it gave me time to think about what I wanted and I realised my potential for a course in professional and creative writing so I applied to

this at university and was successful and I will be beginning my course in September 2021, an adventure I am extremely excited about. This shows that the lockdown in a way has helped me reflect on my life and enabled me to prepare for my future, a prospect I believe we can all be excited about as our lives are hopefully on the brink of returning to some kind of normal.

***Young Mum and Front Line Worker -
Gemma Furse***



Since the news spread about the unknown Covid 19 virus, the impact has had a huge effect on my work and family life. When the first lockdown happened, myself and my husband were both fortunate to be furloughed from our jobs. I worked within Early Years education and my husband within the building industry.

We enjoyed the sunny days in the garden and managed to get so much done around our house. Zoom quizzes with friends and family passed the days; it was actually quite nice. We were safe in our home away from the nasty virus circulating outside. As time went on home schooling had its ups and downs. Being completely out of routine, my children longed to be with their friends so explaining why they were unable to go out, without creating too much fear was quite tough, and not being as socially active took its toll. But we muddled through and learnt to enjoy just having the time together.

Once the lockdown lifted the first thing I wanted to do was visit my mother. She has health conditions which means she is vulnerable. I decided to visit on my own to lessen any risk and spent two days with her, also managing to see my older sister and brother who both have worked throughout.

My sister being a mental health nurse and my brother managing the trains from Birmingham to London. It was an emotional reunion as it was the first time since February, we had been together, which had been tough. It's amazing now how thankful I am for the ability to FaceTime. With the lack of person-to-person contact, this form of communication has made a massive difference and been a God send, but the joy of being able to spend physical time together was amazing.

Unfortunately, once the lockdown came to an end in July, we also had the heart breaking news that my husbands gran had been diagnosed with leukaemia. This threw a whole new light on the impact that lockdown and Covid had with distancing to keep our relatives safe. My husband had popped by throughout the lockdown with our boys to see his grandparents from a distance outside but considering pre Covid we saw them weekly, with her diagnosis, it meant that the time we had spent apart was even more heart-breaking. Covid meant there was no time spent beside her in the hospital, as family inside was limited so of course grandad would sit with her. We could only manage to spend time talking to her through her hospital room window, which we will now add to memories and we will forever cherish. When the doctors finally confirmed the aggression of the cancer and there was no help they could offer, palliative care was to be started, which thankfully could be done at her home. This chance to have her home and spend her last weeks together will be forever valued. The lessening of the virus enabled her to have her dying wish of family around her, and I know how grateful as a family we are to have had that time.

It's devastating how Covid has kept other families apart at such a sad time, as we know others haven't had the chance to come home for their final days. But we will always thank God for time.

The funeral was limited to family but the people who lined the street was overwhelming and showed how much community will come together and what an amazing and loved lady she was. Even a pandemic won't keep people away to show their respects.

Going back to work was then surreal. After having the safety of our home, leaving that sanctuary to be in contact with so many others had a massive impact on my mental health. When working with children they are the priority and at no time should they sense unsettledness. Coming home I would be anxious and overly clean everything. I couldn't stay in the same clothes if I been out in them and no one came into the house. Shopping was all done on line as being out at work was enough for my anxiety that having to do shopping 'in shops' was just overwhelming.

When our children went back to school, they had a week of being out of sorts but definitely have blossomed with the new structure and they are both so lucky to be in a smaller village school, where thankfully through the hard work of staff and parents, we have kept the virus at bay.

In November I made a decision to change jobs from the Early Years sector to a Primary School teaching assistant. A dream job and an opportunity that I'm grateful for. But my new job in itself has come with anxieties. Moving to a bigger school (which has seen virus cases), means more contact outside of our safe bubble. But with everyone working together and the systems put into place to keep students and staff safe, we can only hope that with a vaccine in place and another about to become available to quash this horrible virus, we can all come out the other side.

If this year had taught me anything, it's that, family and friends are gifts that should never be taken for granted. Birth has been around us and never been more beautiful.

Death of loved ones is hard at any time, but now we have the added impact of loneliness, which is the hardest thing to watch. Just taking the time to even make a phone call makes the biggest difference.

I've learnt that children have got so much more resilience than we give them credit for and as a parent, the proudness I feel towards my children and how they've handled this massive change to their life, is forever going to be heart filling, I think we all need to resort back to a child like view and just be thankful for the little things.

The final thing I've learnt is how much I value human connection and that the moment it's safe to do so I'm never going to take for granted a simple hug, a coffee date, a meal out or holiday.

Covid may have kept us apart in distance but it's made my love for others grow so much stronger.

The Editor is sincerely grateful to The Brewer Family, and Joan , Abi and Gemma for spending time to write on the impact of Covid 19 and what it has meant for each of them. She cannot thank them enough,

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NOTES

Well that was Christmas 2020 ! We now have to put up with the New Year 2021 and all it entails. Do not expect that anything will really change from the criminal's point of view. Just a new angle on how to start a scam, or just an old fashioned confidence trick.

There will be new phone calls from BT, Amazon, Sky or Ebay.

Please do not ever press '1' or their chosen number. No good will come of it.

Unless you have started this 'conversation' with them - it's all a SCAM or a FRAUD. Put the phone down.

Spurious emails from folk you may know was dealt with in the last Buzz. Hackers jamming up your systems or merely pinching your password was the subject of an 'Alert' recently.

To join up for Alerts of many types, go to the Devon and Cornwall Police website, or try "neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/".

I'm sure we all hope for the vaccines to work, and BREXIT to settle down quietly but it could be a long hard slog.

So look after yourselves and your neighbours and friends.

Remember if you didn't join then you can't win, and if it looks too good to be true, then it probably is..

John McDougall

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

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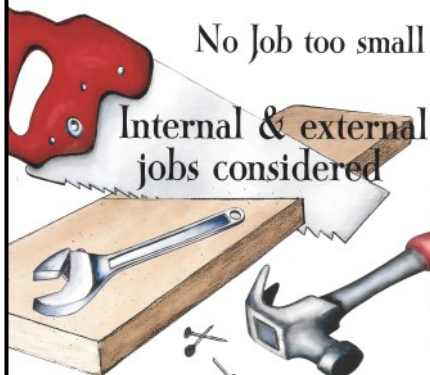
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