

News And Views

Hartington, Biggin, Earl Sterndale

Vol 7, Issue 6

Dec 2017/Jan 2018

The Face of God

A few years ago there was a song in the charts called “One of us” that had the intriguing lyrics:

“If God had a face what would it look like?
And would you want to see, if seeing meant
That you would have to believe...?”

“What if God was one of us?
Just a stranger on the bus
Tryin’ to make his way back home?”

In the books of the Old Testament (O.T.) it is taken for granted that no one has ever seen the face of God. Of course, God doesn't have a face in the sense that you and I do. In the more ancient and primitive books God is spoken of as being very close to human beings and He is often described in a very “anthropomorphic” (man-shaped) way. In the Book of Genesis – the first book of the Bible – God makes all things out of nothing by his word but walks like a man with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day! We are told elsewhere that no one can see God and live – even Moses, the “Friend of God” is only allowed to glimpse Him from behind as he passes by (Exodus 33). Later, God makes Himself known to Elijah in a still calm (1 Kings 19).

Gradually, as the O.T. story unfolds over centuries, there is a theme of God hiding Himself even more completely from mankind. In the Book of Deuteronomy God declares of humanity, “I will hide my face from them: I will see what they will do”. In the last three books of the O.T. God makes no appearance in the narrative; indeed, in the last book (of Esther) he is not even mentioned!

The contrast with the advent of Jesus in the New Testament could not be more dramatic. His

birth is foretold and announced by angels and accomplished by divine intervention. His public ministry will be endorsed by miracle after miracle – often witnessed by hordes of people. It seems as though the earlier centuries of wonders have returned. Suddenly, it is like living in the days of Scripture again.

When Jesus' days on earth are over, his followers were able to declare, “We have seen the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”.

It is this truth, I suppose, which is expressed poetically in traditional Christian art. The infant Christ lies in a manger – His tiny head radiating golden light.

It is at the heart of the Christian faith that God has shown himself to us in Jesus; he allows us to glimpse Him, only, and live. He presents himself, first, as that most vulnerable and lovable thing, an infant child.

If we could go back in time and stand in the stable and gaze at the child, what would we see? Just an ordinary baby in the squalor of that stable – or the radiant face of God made flesh who transforms his surroundings by the glow of his presence?

As the song quoted asked, if we encountered God as “one of us” in this workaday world, would we want to glimpse his face if it meant we were never the same again? Would we dare to look into the manger?

I hope you glimpse the Christ-child in the midst of all that is tawdry this Christmas – and I hope you enjoy some golden moments with those you love.

A Merry and Blessed Christmas to you!

Richard Benson,

Vicar

01629 812234

BIGGHARTS- A new term, some new pupils and a reputation to maintain. BIGGHARTS, combined students from Biggin and Hartington Primary Schools, always perform in the cluster competitions and festivals with skill, determination and teamwork. This was demonstrated in the first competition held on 27th September – Hockey. We entered 2 teams totalling 15 children from years 4,5,6.

All of Key Stage 1 from Biggin took part in the Indoor Rounders competition and Kyle Allsopp and Amy Leslie participated in the multi-skills and Annabelle Garlick, Aylssa Kirk and Ebony Lea took part in the special event for girls at the Arc.

Hartington is looking forward to participating in the Sports Plus festival on 11th December

Request for help - I'm collecting used good quality books of any sort for charity. The books will then be sold off and all proceeds will go to this year's chosen charity. Sainsbury at Kingsway in Derby are selling the books, members of the public voted for The Fire Fighters Charity as their charity for the year. The Fire Fighters Charity actively supports fire fighters in need. The charity provides

rehabilitation after an injury getting fire fighters back into their active role.

If you have any unwanted books, they could be fiction, non-fiction, children's books, reference books, history/cook books, any sort of book really, I would be very grateful of any donation and happy to collect them from you at your convenience. helendebes@googlemail.com

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HARTINGTON NEWS

Harvest Festival and Supper- Another wonderful community occasion spanning all the generations. The children packed the boxes for our senior members under the guidance of Mrs Celia Critchlow. This was in church which was decorated beautifully. See the School report for details of the lovely service conducted by the children which was then followed by the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

An excellent Pie and Pea supper, followed by homemade Fruit Crumble donated by local residents, was enjoyed by 130 people. Many people assisted by waiting on, and preparing the tea and coffee, a special mention to the HYPAC leaders who gave up their evening to help.

Donations, plus a wonderful raffle, ensured that we "cut even". The evening concluded with the Children handing the boxes to the senior members present (the others circulated the next day). The generosity of the community meant we had surplus; the children thought it was a good idea to give this to those in need. To this end it was sent to the food bank in Ashbourne.

Hartington C of E Primary School- Another busy but enjoyable term where the children have been fully involved in every opportunity. The beautiful Wells Dressing of the "Maypole" raised £44.10; Ruby Debes was the Poppy Queen for this year and did an excellent job with her

entourage at the Wells Dressing service and the Hartington Sports and Country Show.

We now have 2 after school clubs- on Tuesday it is delivered by Derby County Community Trust and on Thursday Tai-Chi.

Julia Gow from the Wildlife Trust took the children to Hartington Meadow (near to Hartington Station) where they collected wild flower seeds to be sown at School.

Our annual visit to St Giles Church to pack the Harvest boxes was done on September 29th under the watchful eye of Mrs Celia Critchlow.

The MacMillan Coffee Morning, in conjunction with Mrs Bel Kerr, raised the magnificent total of £350. This was followed by a most enjoyable Community lunch when the raffle was drawn and the children delivered a "Bingo" session.

The NSPCC presented a "Speak out- Stay Safe" assembly on 5th October followed by a Workshop for years 5&6 on the 19th October.

Year 6 had a very enjoyable and challenging time at Whitehall and the whole school enjoyed a Tag Rugby taster session on 13th October.

Our year of Gardening Club commenced in October where the children cleared the village planters of the old summer flowers and a few weeks later planted the primulas saved from last year.

The Woodland Trust have sent us 30 saplings to create a hedge alongside the School wall; the children have planned where to place the trees and will nurture them throughout the year.

The PTFA provided a Halloween Party which was held in the Farm Shop.

A celebration assembly was held in Church on the 3rd November, this was attended by parents, governors and many of our Community lunch visitors. It was a really special occasion when the children showed their work in Art and they were presented with certificates acknowledging the contributions they had made in their PE lessons, BiggHarts and Whitehall. The next one will be held on December 1st when we will have a visit from our friend Peace, an international netball

athlete from Uganda who is studying at Loughborough University. She will share with the children what it is like to be part of Christmas in school and church in Uganda.

The whole school visited the War Memorial on 10th November at 11am for some minutes of reflection.

On 18th November our annual visit to the ARC for the BHF sponsored swim- we will report on this in the next edition.

As Christmas draws ever closer the whole school, with Elton, will visit "Chesterfield at Christmas"- Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service; the nativity "Tinsel and Tea Towels" will be on 12th December in Church at 6pm, followed by Pea and Pie Supper in School -tickets £5 and £3.

The final Community Lunch for 2017 will be on 15th December when Christmas jumpers are to be worn. The term will conclude with a visit on 18th December to the Opera House at Buxton for the Pantomime- Sleeping Beauty and the school Christmas Party on 19th December.

Hartington C of E Primary School- Ofsted Report- The Head Teacher has been praised by Ofsted for "providing pupils with the best possible opportunities." Ofsted inspector Helen Williams visited Hartington C of E Primary School in October, to assess areas including education, leadership and links with the local community.

Ms Williams addressed her findings to Head Teacher, Tracy Blackwell. She reported: "You and your staff are passionate about providing your pupils with the best possible opportunities and strive for improvement. Assessment information is used to finely target pupils' gaps in learning and, as a result, they make good progress. In the early years, expectations of children are high and, as a result, they settle quickly and make rapid progress."The school is a key part of the community. Pupils are proud to display their work in church. You provide your pupils with many opportunities to learn about different cultures and religions... The curriculum

is broad and balanced and designed to interest all pupils."

Mrs Blackwell said: "We are absolutely delighted that our little school, at the very heart of our village community, has been graded 'good' by Ofsted once again. The visit was the first short inspection of the school since our previous assessment in 2013, where we also received a good rating. Everyone involved with the school, from pupils, staff and governors, to local residents and businesses, played a big role in helping us to maintain this high level recognition that it so rightly deserves." The school celebrated its 150th anniversary in July last year with Duke of Devonshire as a guest of honour at a special commemoration event. He said at the time: "This generation of young people are being given the best possible opportunities to study, to learn new skills and to develop to their full potential."

HYPAC- Back in action on September 25th with a full complement of 30 children aged between 8-13yrs and 8 newly trained Level 2 leaders. For the first time in our 9 years we have needed to create a waiting list for new members who become 8 years of age. We welcome a new secretary, Mrs Vicky Critchlow and want to thank our treasurer Mr Alan Ollerenshaw for ensuring we have fully documented accounts. These two voluntary positions are critical, alongside our constitution, to ensure we are able to apply for grants. Without these grants we would not be able to provide such a range of opportunities for our young people.

This year so far we have visited Mouldridge Mine at Pikehall, had the Portable Climbing Wall and KMX Bikes courtesy of the excellent "Adventur" Team from Chesterfield and a course of Archery provided by the Scout leaders. All of this alongside the more traditional activities of Football, Basketball, Hockey, Dodgeball and circuit training.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas treat to Megazone in Derby on December 4th. Lastly I would like to say thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to

attend some of the sessions to support the young leaders; Mrs Helen Debes, Mrs Sandra McCurrach, Mr Dan Blackwell, and Mrs Vicky Critchlow.
Liz Broomhead

Hartington Art Group – This is held from 1.30pm to 4.30pm every Monday at the Royal British Legion Club. New Members welcome. All medias catered for. £2 per week includes Tea/Coffee and Biscuits.

History Group - The Ancestry Group has commenced a project "who lived in my house" and family connections. The aim is to cover each house in the village, with a view to producing a village family tree. To assist us we would like any information you may have regarding who lived in your house previously, or any history connected to your house, as it will greatly assist our research.

Please call Lesley on 84532 or email lesleybirch@hotmail.co.uk, even if it is just to let us know the people who lived in your house before you. The Ancestry Group meets on a Monday evening 7.00pm to 8.00pm in the Bakehouse. If you would like to join us in this interesting work, you are more than welcome, just contact Lesley for further details.

WW1-Visit to France WW1 Battlefield Visit - Plans are underway to arrange our visit to the WW1 Battlefields in 2018. Contact has been made with a couple of companies, and they are working out an itinerary for us, which we hope will partly follow in George Frederick Birch footsteps, taken from his diary, and also take us to see a WW1 war cemetery, and other places of interest.

It is anticipated that the visit will be for 3 nights with travel by coach from Hartington. More details will follow in due course when finalised.
Lesley & Liz

Hartington Village Hall

This fantastic facility in the heart of the village, was left as a Charitable Trust to the Village almost 100 years ago and as such is owned by the Community of Hartington.

However in recent years it has struggled to generate sufficient funds to cover operating expenses and certainly not enough to update and refurbish the facilities. At the same time the burden of managing and operating the Hall has fallen on fewer and fewer shoulders.

It is critical that wider support and more help in running the Hall is obtained. At present there are only 3 Committee members and Trustees plus a few residents helping with opening and cleaning.

In an effort to address the worsening financial position and to gain wider support there have been two recent meetings involving all groups who use the Hall plus representatives from, the Parish Council, village businesses and current Trustees.

Both meetings were attended by around 20 people who were very concerned about the current financial position which puts the very future of the Hall at risk. They examined ways in which there can be better promotion of the Hall, including plans for a new website with automated booking and ways of seeking grants for renovating and improving the premises.

The first step however is to elect a new Village Hall Committee, as at least two of the current three members wish to step down. The committee should by Trust have a larger number of villagers and the more people involved the easier it is to share the load and run the Hall successfully. We also need people who can help out with duties on an occasional or rota basis. "Many hands make light work"

We will shortly be calling a Village Hall EGM to decide how to take matters forward and to elect a new Committee. Leaflets will be distributed with the date and we hope that many more of our residents will attend, at least to hear the position, help with ideas and hopefully give a small amount of their time in the future to keep the Hall going.

It is *your* Village Hall but without your support it is at genuine Risk!

Remembrance Concert- On behalf of the RBL "Battleback" Centre, at Lilleshall, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who "Did it again" by coming and supporting the fund raising concert on November 10th. The Warslow Silver Band were better than ever, if that is possible. "Janet's Gang" from Buxton were on top form too and I would like to say a special thank you to Danielle for her solo; it was both moving and reflective. I am most grateful to every performer for giving of their time to come and support "Battleback"

Thank you also to all the people who helped prepare for the concert and clearing up afterwards, it would not be possible to do such a good evening without you. Together we raised more than £900 gross on the night. Well Done one and all. Sarah Lacey

PCC- The meeting was held on Wednesday 22nd November in Hartington Village Hall-Bakehouse. Donation given to St Giles Church in memory of the late Bernard Mellor (8.10.17) was £263.00 The PCC would like to gratefully acknowledge this generous donation in Bernard's memory and thank his family for their support of the church.

It is hoped that a "service of Thanksgiving" for the life of Desmond Shirley, who did so much for St Giles Church, will be held in the New Year. Confirmation of this and a date, have yet to be arranged. Desmond's funeral has already taken place in Stockport.

Situations Vacant:- Clerk to Governors, Governor, Mid day supervisor and General Catering Assistant. If you are Interested please contact school 01298 84254 or email tracy.blackwell@hartington.derbyshire.sch.uk

Christmas Tree Festival-Well that time of year is fast approaching! The Christmas Tree Festival will be held on the weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December. The theme this year is "Happy Christmas".

There will be 20 trees on display, decorated by groups and business in Hartington, and we have had some wonderful ideas for the decorations.

The festival will open at 4.30 pm on the Saturday, immediately following the "Switch on" of the village Christmas Tree lights on the green, and then on the Sunday 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. As usual mulled wine will be served with mince pies, and a children's colouring competition for the younger generation to enter. Admission is free of charge, and donations are asked for a mulled wine/mince pie, with all proceeds going to Hartington Community Group. We look forward to seeing you and wish you a "Happy Christmas".

Christmas Tree Festival Tombola

The Festival will not be complete without its Tombola! So we appeal, once again, for any contributions towards the prizes. In past years your generosity has made this a great success.

Gifts may be left at Sue's Newsagent or the Village Stores.

Many Thanks.

PTFA Christmas Market- Sunday 3rd December 11am -4pm **FREE ENTRY!!** Santa's Grotto 2pm - 4pm Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Mulled Cider, Cakes, Mince Pies, freshly filled festive baps.

Stalls include: - Vintage Gifts, Homemade Jewellery, Reflexology and Herbal remedies, Christmas Decorations and gifts, Gifts for all the

family, Handmade Cards, Cheese Stall, Christmas Decorations made by the children, Hartington Schools take on "Whack the Rat"... "Thud the Pud", Chocolate Tombola, Glitter tattoos and many more.

St Giles Church Collects for Ashbourne Food Bank.

Thanks to the generous donations of food for the Harvest Festival Service and Supper, a few surplus items were donated to Ashbourne Food Bank. That has inspired St. Giles Church to start regular collections for the Food Bank and a box has been placed in Church for any donations.

If you can please give any items of non-perishable food e.g. cans and packets etc. or toiletries and put them in the box and we will arrange to take them to Ashbourne Food Bank to help those in need.

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BIGGIN NEWS

Biggin C.E. Primary School. So far this term, all the children have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports activities including cross country running, hockey and indoor rounders for KS1. One of the highlights of this term for Y6 pupils, was the annual visit to White Hall. I was delighted to hear about the fun they all had but also the achievements of particular children who excelled in the

adventurous activities. Three of our girls also went to the Arc Leisure Centre in Matlock to take part in an event with the specific aim of involving girls in different physical and sporting activities. They especially loved the indoor surf boards and Cheer Leader activities.

We have hosted several special Assemblies this term. All children attended an age-appropriate assembly led by NSPCC staff. As part of a day with Derby County in the Community staff,

“Ewie” (Rammie’s female counter-part), attended Assembly and got stuck in the narrow doorway in our old building! And, as always, we are pleased to work with MAST staff who lead Collective Worship once or twice each term.

Our school Harvest Festival was held in Church on Friday, 13th October. Harvest baskets, generously donated by parents, were left in Church for the weekend as part of the village Harvest celebrations. They were then distributed to older residents living in the village and surrounding area.

The Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need was really well supported. Parents, staff, children and Governors, walked along the Tissington Trail as far as Hartington Station. The school raised over £200, an amazing amount for a very worthwhile cause.

Now we are starting to rehearse for our Christmas Concert. I have chosen to repeat one of my favourites from 10 years ago, the beautiful story by Leo Tolstoy about the shoe-maker “Papa Panov”. This concert will have mixed feelings for me: it will be my last as Head of Biggin C.E. Primary School as I am retiring at the end of the academic year. So it is a year of “last evers” for me and a challenging, but hopefully, exciting time of change as well for the school.

Unauthorised memorial plaques at Heathcote Mere -Hartington Nether Quarter Parish Council is concerned that two memorial plaques have been fixed to the bench seats at Heathcote Mere without permission from the parish council. There should be no items of this nature or otherwise placed at this site. Hartington Nether Quarter Parish October meeting. Council will remove these plaques shortly but would like to give the opportunity to the persons responsible to remove them and retain them.

Hartington Nether Quarter Parish Council has a Garden of Remembrance wall, in the parish council cemetery at Biggin where authorised memorial plaques can be placed through the correct application procedure. There is a fee

involved. This item will be discussed at the next meeting at the beginning of December 2017 and thereafter, the plaques will be removed. Mrs S Hampson Clerk Hartington Nether Quarter Parish Council.

Biggin WI- The October meeting was a busy one again, we discussed the Christmas outing and decided to go to Newton House Hotel as we had a lovely meal there before. Our speaker was Paul Newman, talking about catching the burglar by chemicals. He talked about how we all leave a trace of ourselves where ever we are and how the police and forensic experts can detect the tiniest specks of evidence.

The November meeting was the annual AGM. Sandra read out the treasurer’s report telling us we had a healthy bank balance but we may need to fund raise this year, a few ideas were suggested for next years’ agenda. Julia read out the secretary’s report; we have had a busy year with some interesting speakers and the outing to Newton House for Christmas the Open Gardens at Parwich and Sudbury Hall. Mary thanked everyone one for their support during her year as president and looked forward to another busy year. The committee was re-elected and there was a bring and buy stall and a raffle followed by a lovely supper prepared by all members which made it a very enjoyable evening.

WATERLOO INN -A big thank you for all those that supported the race night, this was a great success and we raised just over £500 towards Breast Cancer.

We also like to thank everyone that came and supported 'Cheatin' Hearts' this was another great night with plenty of dancing.

The fancy dress night with Eclectic Duo was a fun night with many people dressing up.

Our Christmas menu will be out soon so do not forget to book a table.

To finish the year, we have the following events booked: - Boxing Day - Peter Jackson, Rock 'N' Roll, 60's, Soul and Motown and much more New Year’s Eve - Linda Dean (sometimes

performers with her brother) All events start at 9pm. We do add events to this list so always good to check Facebook for any updates.

Weekly Events are as follows: Wednesdays - Take Away Night, fish and chips, sausage/burgers and chips. Thursdays - Quiz Night starts at 9.30 pm. We also have Dominoes and Darts teams if you wish to join us.

As mentioned before please book your table for meals as when we have events on we do get busy and we cannot always guarantee that a table will be available. Once again we value your support and hope to see many of you at some of our events. Debs and Steve

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EARL STERNDALE NEWS

Earl Sterndale C of E Primary School - We have a few forthcoming fundraising and Christmas events to which all are welcome:

Christmas Concert – Monday 18th December – 2pm and 6pm. All are welcome to our Christmas Concert which will be held in St. Michael & All Angels Church, Earl Sterndale. This year promises to be a musical bonanza including a Christmas cantata, our traditional 12 Days of Christmas and some fabulous musical surprises.

Christmas Bingo and Quiz Night – Tuesday 19th December – 6-8pm. Our annual Christmas Bingo and Quiz Night will be held in school. There will be various bingo rounds and several quiz rounds with grand prizes for each. There will also be light refreshments for sale. All are welcome.

Community and Church News-As our Sunday services are a “no go” it was good that the school held their Harvest service on Friday 29th September, and was open to all. The sale of produce on Monday night made £117, which included a donation from Beryl and Harry Hodgkinson. We say a big thank you to the school staff and parents for their hard work, with the

very nice baskets the children presented at the service. Some of the produce was distributed, by the children, to the elderly people in the village.

A big thank you to Kevin for his brilliant job of auctioneering the produce, Lynne and Debbie for sorting the produce, to Phillip, as cashier and to Angela for a welcome cuppa to finish the evening off as well as all who supported the event.

The profit from the Flower Festival, held in August, was £1,108, with expenses for flowers and oasis being £85.


The Christmas Market, which was arranged for 24th November, has had to be cancelled due to lack of support and unforeseen circumstances.

Earl Sterndale Church-A note, to make it clear, the current position: Due to lack of attendance at services, no regular services will be scheduled over the winter. In the spring, a public meeting will be held and the position for the future will be assessed.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can still be held in the meantime; Please contact the Vicar, The Reverend Richard Benson on 01629 812234.

The date for the next meeting will be (provisionally) April 20th 2018 which will also be

the AGM, held at The Quiet Woman Inn at 3.00p.m. Please attend this vital meeting about the Church.




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White Peak Group Registers

Wedding:

16 th September	Allen Meehan and Leah Davis	Hartington
30 th September	Charles Pollard and Elizabeth Sampson	Taddington

Funerals:

5 th September	Bernard Mellor	Hartington
31 st October	David Mycock	Chelmorton
16 th November	Richard Mellor	Macclesfield

Services for Sundays and other Major Festivals

Date	Biggin	Earl Sterndale	Hartington	Readings
3rd December ADVENT SUNDAY (Purple)	11.15 am Holy Communion	~	8.00 am Holy Communion 1662	Isaiah 64 : 1 – 9 Mark 13 : 24 - 37
10th December Advent 2 (Purple)	2.00 pm Carol Service	~	10.00 am Holy Communion	2 Peter 3 : 8 – 15a Mark 1 : 1-8
17th December Advent 3 (Purple)	~	~	6.30 pm Carol Service	1 Thessalonians 5 : 16 – 24 John 1 : 6 – 8 and 19 - 28
24th December XMAS EVE (White/Gold)	~	~	4.00 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass	Hebrews 1 : 1 – 14 (and 5 – 12?) John 1 : 1 - 14
25th December XMAS DAY (White/Gold)	11.15 am Holy Communion	~	9.30 am Christmas Service	Titus 2 : 11 – 14 Luke 2 : 1 – 14 (and 15 – 20?)
31st December Xmas 1 (White)	JOINT BENEFICE EUCHARIST BIGGIN 10.00 am			Galatians 4 : 4 – 7 Luke 15 - 21
7th January THE EPIPHANY (White/Gold)	11.15 am Holy Communion	~	8.00 am Holy Communion 1662	Isaiah 60 : 1 – 6 Mathew 2 : 1 – 12
14th January Epiphany 2 (White)	~	~	10.00 am Family Service	Revelation 5 : 1 – 10 John 1 : 43 – 51
21st January Epiphany 3 (White)	11.15 am Morning Worship	~	10.00 am Holy Communion	Genesis 14 : 17 – 20 John 2 : 1 – 11
28th January The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas) White/Gold	~	~	10.00 am Holy Communion	Hebrews 2 : 14 – 18 Luke 2 : 22 – 40
4th February 2nd before Lent (Green)	11.15 am Holy Communion	~	8.00 am Holy Communion 1662	Colossians 1 : 15 – 20 John 1 : 1 - 14

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Anna & Laura Heeley, Emma Doak (Village Stores Hartington)	84222	A J & S.PEACH Newsagent & General Store	84291
“Curtain Call” Drama Group	84634	Matilda Bay	07917669449
		Farm Shop and Café	07710132201

We also wish to thank Hartington Hall YHA who allow the photocopying of the News and Views to be done on their premises free of charge

PLEASE EMAIL, WHERE POSSIBLE, ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE BY Jan15th to
liz@broomhead.net or give to Margaret Partridge or Liz Broomhead.