

Christmas 1997



LIVE

Issue No 3

Christmas will soon be upon us with all the pleasures and panics that brings. This third Village Live includes places to go and things to do - a walk to take that will burn off at least two mince pies together with thoughts and Christmas experiences. Local December Church Services are included where, I'm assured, a warm welcome awaits.

Security and safety have been a recurring theme from contributors and it does pay to take care particularly when it is dark and as houses fill up with Christmas gifts. If you take the advice on lighting, please ensure that your light won't dazzle drivers and that it doesn't point light skywards. I wouldn't want the stars to disappear.

I've been helped in this edition with contributions from Colin Handy, Ros Stewart, Georgina Oldham and Thomas Jackson and with lots of information from many many more.

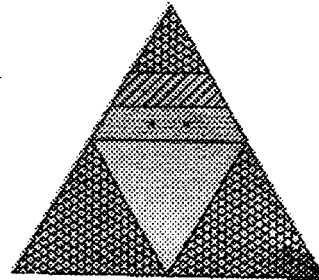
Christmas is always a time for remembering. As a child my "big" present usually had slightly tacky paint and Santa always left it on newspaper in the bath to dry.

Many of you will be remember past Christmasses, both happy and sad. I hope that something in this issue will add a little to your pleasure this year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Anne Jenkin 820338

**QUILTED TREE DECORATION TO MAKE**



**INSTRUCTIONS**

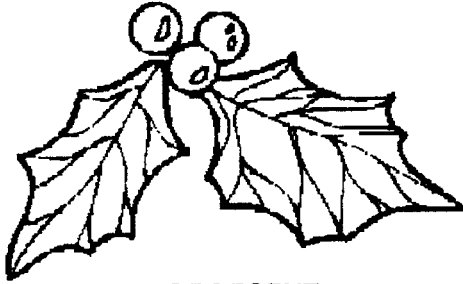
Page 5

**DADS AND LADS**



*Put away the trains and See Page Three*

## Keeping Safe and Secure This Christmas



### IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT BURGLARIES

Many houses now display burglar alarm boxes after the series of distressing break-ins this summer.

Should that be the end of the security story or just the beginning? Now that the dark nights are with us, what about installing security lighting?

For around £20 these clever devices, with their ever alert passive infra-red (P.I.R.'s) detectors, offer a warm welcome to you when you return home after dark. They also prevent the smartest of burglars getting anywhere near your property unseen.

*Don't stay in the dark age, get switched on and join the bright people, before it's too late.*



### ROAD SAFETY: AN XMAS PLEA

Christmas is a good time to remember how fragile lives can be and to remember that disaster can be waiting on wintry roads for any of us.

In these murky days with greasy or, possibly, icy roads, most of us drive knowing that we may not spot hazards until the last moment when they suddenly emerge from the gloom.

While it's not possible to persuade the local fauna to wear more reflective fur or plumage, it is essential that the rest of us make ourselves as visible as possible with torches, lights and reflective gear.

Drivers too must remember that people and animals are out and about too.

Check car lights are working and as free of mud as possible. Go slowly on these country roads - give us time to appreciate your car's sleek lines as you go by!

Take particular care overtaking whether it's humans, animals, farm machinery or other cars in your path.

### ***Road accidents ruin Christmases.***



### Going away this Christmas.

A few points when leaving your home - from someone who is around the village early each morning & knows the tell-tale signs that show you are not at home!

Some people never close their gates unless they go away!

Timers are set for lights but the curtains aren't drawn - why not ask a neighbour to draw them for you?

Radios are left on, but they're not on at 6 am if you are at home!

*Think carefully, are you advertising your absence?*

---

### **ANNUAL CHARITY WALK**

The Annual October Walk for Charity was a great success thanks to Val Smith and Wendy Lee's organisation.

With three routes to choose from of 2, 5, and 7 miles, a band of hardy walkers, some with their dogs, an enjoyable day was guaranteed. It was a glorious autumn day and no-one minded paying up to take part.

Val and Wendy were to be found at various "checking in" points before the welcome lunch of soup and crusty bread in The Rhodes Hall. The walk raised a wonderful £108 for Cancer Research.

---

## DADS AND LADS FOOTBALL - TIME FOR A REVIVAL?



**Saturday 27th December  
11 a.m. ??????????**

**Can we make Christmas 1997 extra special by having a Dads & Lads Football match?**

This match was a highlight of previous Village Christmasses and I'm reliably informed that it was discontinued when the Dads could no longer hold their own - however much they bent the rules - against a batch of sturdy country lads.

This defeatism is pretty sad, isn't it? Today's Dads are made of sterner stuff, I'm sure. There must be a few still in possession of many of their faculties who could give the lads a run for their money - particularly in these liberated days when Mums & Lasses could join the footballing ranks.

Needed - two team organisers, one ref, a flat patch of land and some energetic players & spectators.

*We'll be trawling for volunteers at the next pub quiz, the Pie & Punch Evening at the Hall and at the Friday Night Club or ring me, Anne Jenkin, on 820338 if you've got some puff to spare.*

## Sun Shines on Manor Farm Open Day

by

**Thomas Jackson**

On Sunday 19th October, 38 years nearly to the day since heavy horses left Manor Farm Sevenhampton, a pair of black Shires owned by Graham Miles were back cultivating on the ploughing, they were there for the Open Day and "Crank Up". Visitors enjoyed a warm and sunny day in which to stroll around the Farm.

This was a chance for everyone to look at Robert's engine collection, numbering over 70 different stationary engines ranging in size from 1/2 hp. weighing 50 lbs (22.5 kg) to the large Keighly which weighs over 3 tons and produces 24 hp. A selection of the engines were run during the day.

There were visiting engines too out in the field along with a couple of tractors - one of which, an early 1950's Fordson, could be seen ploughing. This tractor was driven up from Coombe Hill for the day.

On view, too, was a collection of hand tools and implements, largely from the horse era, some on view in the field with more in the Cotswold stone barn. Some visitors being as fascinated by the building as the exhibits.

Displayed too was a "mystery" implement, some type of cutting device which caused a lot of discussion. Suggestions ranged from a thistle cutter to a river weed-cutter then to some form of inter-row weeder. No definitive answers so far, I'm still working on it.



## Brockhampton Quilters

The Quilters held a very successful coffee morning on 8th November, in memory of founder member, June Andrews.

The magnificent total of £305 was raised for the Leukaemia Research Fund. June's husband Bob brought along some of June's craft books which were sold and he went home with the quilt which the group had finished after June's death.

Fittingly, it will now be her daughter Sue's very special Christmas present!

## A Christmas Walk

from  
Colin Handy

Like all good walks, the Christmas walk starts and ends at the pub. So if you want to wear off the Christmas excess lace up your boots and try the Parish walk, starting and ending at our own Craven Arms.

From the pub walk up through the village towards the Stow road and at The Quarry bear right onto the public footpath alongside Elsdown.

After 50 yards cross the stile on your right and head steeply down-hill. The path curves left to cross four fields before emerging onto Gassons Lane. Turn left and follow the lane into Sevenhampton.

At the 'T' junction go right, cross the ford and continue up-hill.

At the next junction cross straight over the main road and follow the footpath sign straight ahead. Keep the wall on your right and climb up-hill.

In the second field a footpath joins you from the right. 200 yards after this turn half left and cross the field towards a wooden stile. Continue at the same angle until you join a minor road. Here turn right and walk along the road.

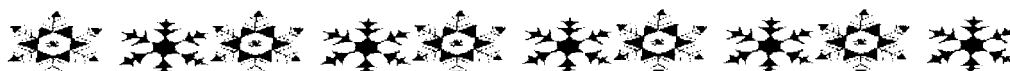
After a quarter of a mile leave the road and follow the bridleway sign into the field on your right. First keep the wall on your left until entering a third field where the wall is now on your right. Continue down-hill to rejoin the road.

Cross straight over into Church Lane and continue down-hill.

Leave the lane and enter the churchyard on your left to follow the footpath sign for "Brockhampton". The path passes to the right of the church before leaving the churchyard, with a large farm wall on your left.

In the second field the footpath slowly descends at a slight right angle as you head for the refurbished brewery chimney.

Leave the field through a metal gate and follow the grass track up-hill to return to the Craven Arms and a well earned drink.



# Father Christmas Tree Decoration

by Georgina Oldham

## Materials

Small pieces of Christmas fabric

White felt (for B)

Small piece of flesh coloured fabric for face (c)

2oz (60gm) polyester wadding

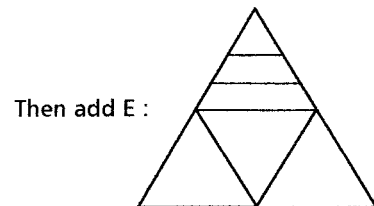
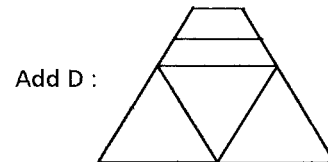
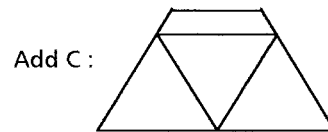
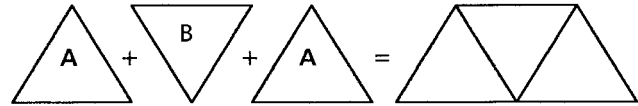
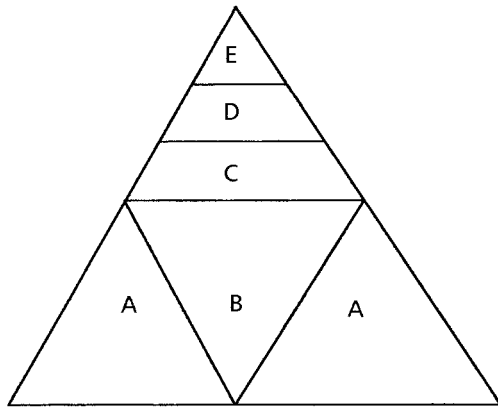
Backing fabric

## Method

Stick the templates onto card (e.g. cereal packet) then cut them out on the black lines.

Take each template and draw round it on the wrong side of the fabric. Cut out  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) outside your pencil line.

## How to stitch together



## Cut out backing & wadding

Place backing fabric on top of pieced Father Christmas (right sides together).

Place wadding on top.

Stitch around triangle leaving a hole for turning.

Turn.

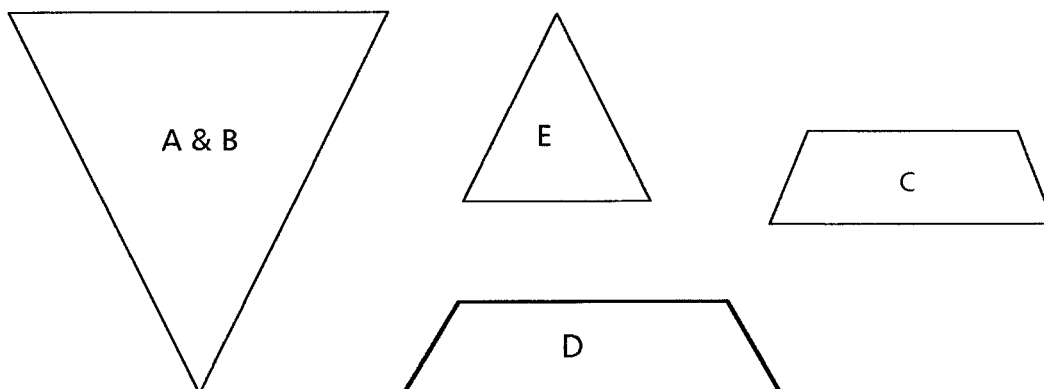
Slip stitch opening.

Quilt.

Draw eyes on to face, preferably using a fabric pen.

Attach a ribbon for hanging.

## TEMPLATES:<sup>1</sup>

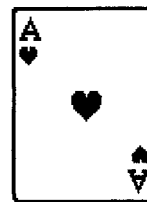


<sup>1</sup>The sizes of the templates should be : 2" high for the big triangle 1" for the small. The two others should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ " high. The triangles are all equilateral.

**A Christmas Game for Most Ages**  
**Racing Demon (imperfectly remembered)**  
**Not for the Genteel**

For 3 to 10 Players. (More than ten could get silly!)

Essential equipment : Pack of cards (the tattier the better) per player, large patch of floor or empty table. Sharp elbows, keen eyesight.

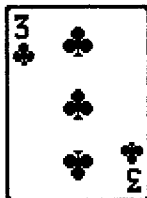


Players sit/kneel on floor or round a table. Each player has a pack of shuffled cards. The object is to get rid of your cards (preferably legitimately) before the other players can dispose of theirs.

All players play *simultaneously* and at their own speed. NO "TURNS" OR PRISONERS ARE TAKEN, IT'S A RACE. Each player deals themselves four cards, face up, and a pile of 13 face down, top one turned over. After a shout of "Go!", the rest of the pack is then turned over three by three.

Any Ace in the row in front of the player or turned up from the pack is moved into the middle of the playing area. Gaps in the row of four are filled from the pile of 13 cards.

For example: If there is an A♥, in the middle and *any* player turns up a 2♥ or has a 2♥ in their display of four cards, they can play it on top of Ace and so on until the K♥ is reached.



The scoring means that it is particularly important to play out any Kings you have as they score heavily for you or against you if not played. It is important to survey all the piles in the centre (there can be up to four piles for each player on the go at any time). Try and get your Kings out before another player gets there.

Remember **any player** can place their 2♥ on any other player's A♥ and then their 3♥ on the 2 etc so you've got to be quick to get your card on the pile ahead of other competitors. The same method applies to all other suits, ♠♣&♦. When a player runs out of their row of four and pile of thirteen cards, they bring this to the attention of the others by a shout of "STOP" or similar.

Cards which have been played are then separated out into individual packs again and scored at 1 point each for Aces, 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, Jacks and Queens played and 10 points for each King. Deducted From this score at the same rate is the total score of the cards left from the player's display of four and their pile of thirteen which have not been played out. (The first player "out" obviously has nothing to deduct). Scores are noted by someone with pen & paper!! Each pack is then shuffled and further rounds are played.



The overall winner is the one with the highest number of points when the time arrives for another mince pie or turkey sandwich to be devoured or immediate medical attention is needed by another participant.

# BYGONE CHRISTMAS

Ros Stewart

Christmas celebrations were very much simpler early in the century before commerce took the simplicity out of it. Christmas Lunch was a very feast. No one ate on this scale for the rest of the year. A large joint of beef was usually the chosen meat - turkey didn't come in until the 1930s. Vegetables were all home-grown and the puddings and pies, all home-made.

## ON THE LEVEL

Colin Handy

What have the walls of Elsdown and The Old Chapel, Brockhampton got in common with the gateway opposite Church House, Sevenhampton?.

Well all three walls are engraved with a "Bench Mark" which looks like this



Bench marks are used by surveyors and engineers to find the elevation of objects and indicate a known height above sea level. There are quite a few bench marks around the parish, perhaps you can find the others when you are out and about this Christmas.

By the way do you know where sea level is measured from?. (Page 8 for answer)

The Christmas Pudding had silver coins in it. Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe came from the garden. Children made paper-chains and we had large Chinese lanterns - a night light in each one - hanging everywhere. No fairy lights on the Christmas tree & candles were considered too dangerous with children running around.

Socks & stockings were hung up on Christmas Eve and we were never disappointed on Christmas morning though I remember, on one occasion, my sister, who was five, received a real china doll, whilst my doll was made of something unbreakable. I was very upset that Father Christmas had not trusted me with a china doll.

We played a game called 'Spinning the Trencher'. The trencher was a circular, wooden bread board and the players sat around in a circle. One in the middle spun the board on its edge and shouted a name. If your name was called you had to catch the trencher before it fell. If you missed you had to pay a forfeit agreed by the others. (I suppose it could have been a bit like strip poker - but we were too nicely brought up for that!)

We made room for a lots of chocolates, got very tired. .And So to Bed.

## CHURCH SERVICES at Sevenhampton and Charlton Abbots during December



Dec 7 8.30am 11.15am	Sevenhampton Charlton Abbots	Holy Communion Holy Communion
Dec 14 10.00am 6.30pm	Sevenhampton Sevenhampton	Family Communion Carol Service
Dec 21 8.30am 11.15am	Sevenhampton Charlton Abbots	Holy Communion Matins.
Dec 24 Christmas Eve 2.00pm 11.30pm	Sevenhampton Sevenhampton	Crib Service Holy Communion
Dec 25 Christmas Day 8.30am 1115 am	Charlton Abbots Sevenhampton	Holy Communion Matins

## Pies, Punch and Carols

Village Hall

Monday 15th December 1997

7pm for 7.30 start

*Carols for all to sing with accompaniment  
from local musicians*

**Children from Andoversford Primary  
School**

**will be entertaining us.**

Plenty of punch and mince pies.

Adults £2.50 Children £1.00 proceeds to local  
charities.

If you have any suggestions which one please 'phone  
Cherrie Handy on 820355 or Georgina Oldham on 820423.  
We would prefer the money to go to children but we are  
open to suggestions. There will be a raffle and prizes  
would be greatly appreciated please. Also volunteers  
needed to make mince pies.

*And For A*



## Good Neighbourhood Scheme

The scheme begins in January! After two meetings with Sally Bex (Field worker GRCC) helping us to avoid the many possible pitfalls. There was a meeting of drivers in the Village Hall Reading Room on Tuesday Nov 25th to discuss Insurance, - journeys etc. - additional volunteer drivers will be most welcome.

### Enquiries:

Sheila Agius - 820102

Di Brown - 820271

Fay Swain 820402



## Wine Tasting

*An evening of wine tasting with a knowledgeable local resident is planned for the New Year. A minimum of 10 will be needed to make the class interesting & viable. Interested? Contact Doris Austin on 820425 to book a place.*

## Bridge Club

There has been a request for the rebirth of the Bridge Club. If you have ever wanted to learn the game this would be the opportunity in friendly company. Contact Doris Austin 820425 if interested. Enough support and weekly meetings could start in the New Year.

## Pies and Carols Poem

Holly, lolly, let's be jolly -  
So original don't you think.  
Shopping folly, off my trolley  
Just sit down and have a drink.

Lights are tested, looking festive,  
Tree is dressed gold, red and pink.  
One step nearer, getting clearer  
Must just have another drink.

## Ros Stewart, 1994

Cards are posted, chestnuts roasted.  
Off to Church for midnight watch.  
All is ready now, we've boasted  
So a few hours sleep we snatch.

Mince pies baking, head's stopped aching,  
Trifle will be set by tea.  
Children cosy, Dad is dozy -  
Wake him please, so that he  
Can fill our glasses up, and we

*Will drink to the Health of our dear friends  
And wish them all*

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Answer to Page 7: Sea level is taken from the average mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall