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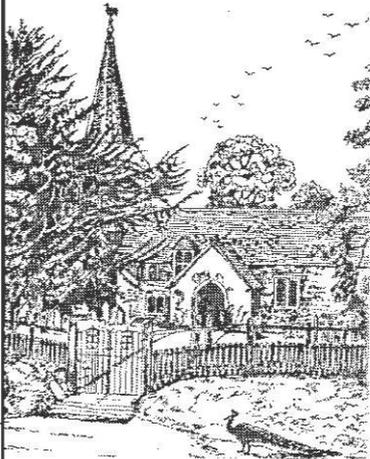
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Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

Sunday 7th June is Trinity Sunday. It's when we celebrate and wrestle with the Trinitarian nature of God. Which is rather surprising when we consider that the words 'Holy Trinity' appear nowhere in scripture – the term was first used in the second Century and not adopted by the church as an official doctrine until the 5th century. And yet an understanding of God as three persons in one substance is entirely biblical - think of Jesus' baptism when God the Father spoke to the Son and the Holy Spirit came like a dove. Even in the book of Genesis there is a reference to the Trinitarian nature of God. Genesis 1:26-31 says this: 'Then God said "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness."' Notice the plurality of this statement - Let *us* - according to *our*...



Why am I labouring this theological point? Because we are made in the image of this Trinitarian God and understanding this can give us clues about how we might better live our lives and perhaps (most) especially in these changing and strange times in which we live.

God is a community of three and the only way that such a community can eternally exist is if each member equally loves, supports, affirms, respects and gives of oneself for the other.

We are created to live in a community of love because we are made in the image of this triune God of love and perhaps we have never been so aware of this than during the 'lockdown' when community life was very much changed: when we couldn't see and touch and talk to and be with those that we normally could in pre-Covid 19 times.

As we talk increasingly about easing the lockdown restrictions there are some lessons learnt that we must not forget:

- Our model community – the Holy Trinity – is marked by love, respect, self-giving and care. Many communities we see today are marked by fear, competition, greed, envy and mistrust. This is not what we were made for – it is not how things were meant to be. The way in which the Coronavirus outbreak has slowed us down and forced us to work more

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closely together has given us an insight into this truth – there is another way.

- We need community – not just because it's nice to have but because we were made for it. How do we continue to build a loving, caring, sharing community – of which there have been many glimpses in these difficult days – as we move out of 'lockdown' and especially for those who will continue to be self-isolating or find it hard to build community? We must continue to be as creative, proactive and generous in building such community as we have been in the worst of times.

To build such community we need to be like the individual members of the Holy Trinity in whose image we are made – self-giving, loving, respectful, caring, patient of others. If this is so, no wonder then that the heroes of 'lockdown' have been the doctors and nurses and emergency workers and teachers and delivery people who have continued in their work, at risk to themselves, so that others might live. As 'lockdown' is lifted, and life changes again, we must remember and follow their example self-giving for the sake of the other – it's what we were made for.

In 'lockdown' I was sent the picture below:



I can't argue with that – Brockenhurst has been amazing in these difficult days. Let's continue to be amazing as we continue to be the community we were always meant to be – one modelled on the Holy Trinity!

Yours in Christ

Simon

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Tony Jones
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PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH

Each week, in fellowship and as a focus for prayer, we are all invited to pray for a section of the church, of the community, and for the people who live in the village. Over the year we plan to cover the whole village and here are the people and groups in focus this month.

	Church	Community	Roads
7	Reuben as he explores the Christian faith with the Primary School children	The Firemen, Police and Ambulance crews serving the village	North Weirs
14	Kigeme Diocese, Rwanda	Brockenhurst Choir	Knowle Road and Horlock Road
21	All involved in outreach to the young of our village	Guides, Brownies and Leaders	Moorlands Close
28	The Parochial Church Council	Secondary schools serving the village	South Weirs

CHURCH SERVICE WITHOUT THE INTERNET

You can now join us at 11.30am each Sunday to listen together on the telephone to the latest Sunday Service in audio form. We can telephone you; all you have to do is answer the phone and wait for the Service to start. To join our calling list, please send a message to the office, 624 684, and we will add your details to our system.

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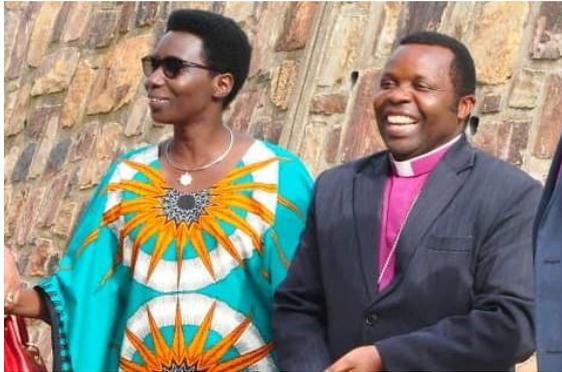
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MISSION OF THE MONTH – KIGEME



Bishop Assiel and wife Valérie

Pastor Célestin, wife Dévota & Children

Kigeme has been greatly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. After the first case of Covid-19 arrived in Rwanda on 14 March, speedy action was taken by the government. On 15 March all schools and churches were closed and large gatherings banned. On 21 March a strict, country-wide lockdown was imposed. All public transport ceased and no travel outside one's district was allowed. Borders were closed and people only allowed to leave their compound to seek food, medicine or hospital treatment. The police ensured that the lockdown rules were strictly adhered to. People could not go to markets or shops, most people had to stay at home. This all means that daily wage earners have had no income. With no church services taking place, there are no collections, from which the clergy are paid, so they and their families are suffering real hardship. The diocesan staff have had to be laid off as they cannot be paid. So Bishop Assiel has been very thankful to receive Brockenhurst's gift of over £6,000 which will help the pastors and staff. Please pray for the Bishop and Célestin, the Pastor of Kigeme.

Fortunately there has been only one death from the virus in the whole of Rwanda so the government has now lifted some restrictions. Since the beginning of May, new regulations have allowed some sectors to resume, including markets for essential vendors. Hotels and restaurants can operate but must close by 7 pm each day. Public and private transport can resume within the same region. Masks have to be worn in public. Mass screening and testing continue nationwide. There is a curfew between 8 pm and 5 am. Please pray that the dangers of the Virus will soon disappear. Kigeme has a good general Hospital with Maternity and Paediatric departments but no sophisticated and intensive care facilities. Severely ill patients have to travel south to the University Hospital, 25 miles away in Butare. Schools remain closed until September when the academic year will run from that month

instead of January as it has done in recent years. Places of worship, gyms and bars remain closed.

Reported cases of Covid-19 have been close to the Tanzanian border in the east. There have been none in the Kigeme area which is in the south-west, in the foothills of the Congo-Nile watershed. People are more afraid of food shortages and starvation than of the virus. At over 6,000 feet above sea-level the climate is generally healthy but early this year there were excessively heavy rains which caused bad landslides and some deaths when crops and homes were buried. Climate change is a big concern in such a rural area. In addition to the Mothers' Union, there is a Fathers' Union and also young people's and children's groups which all help teach and organise practical activities to improve nutrition and hygiene. The Church is encouraging many small poverty-reducing measures. Sponsorship of children in very poor families is well organised through Compassion and Christian Hope International. It is hugely rewarding to be a sponsor and not too expensive (from £15 a month). If you would like to know more, do ask one of our church members who is already a sponsor or contact Jenny Noyelle (623730). There is also a good scheme to buy solar lamps for families with no access to electricity. Above all, remember our partnership with Kigeme in prayer.

JIM RISSO

Jim sadly passed away on 5th April 2020. A small family ceremony has already taken place because of the current situation.



It was wonderful to see friends lining Grigg Lane waving, clapping and throwing flowers in order to wish Jim a final farewell as he left Brockenhurst that day. We would like to thank our friends for their beautiful cards, flowers and kind support. A massive thank you especially to Maria, the Staff at Woodpeckers nursing home and to all the kind people that cared for him during his long illness. Hopefully we will be able to hold a celebration of Jim's life later in the year.

Doreen and family.

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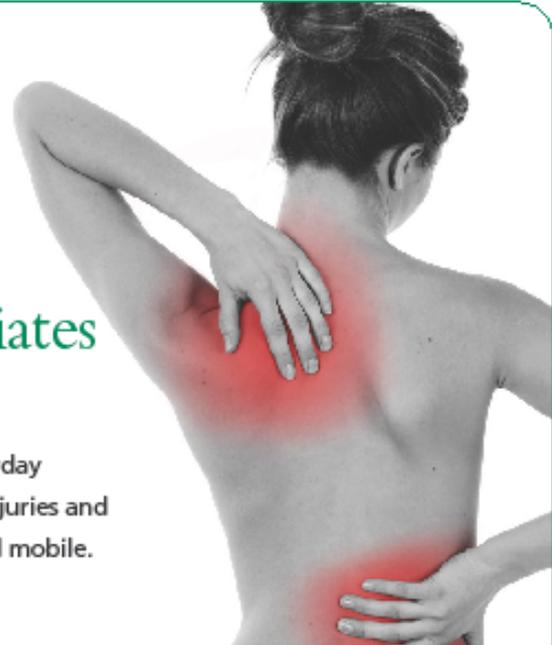


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We're sadly still not able to meet together because of the coronavirus restrictions but hopefully members are managing to feel connected with each other by email and phone calls and by 'attending' the Sunday virtual services on the church website. It's not the same as meeting up with everyone in church but it's lovely to be able to re-visit the service as many times as we like. Heartfelt thanks to Simon and the team for all their efforts. Remember, too, there are many other very helpful resources on the web site www.brockenhurstchurch.com so do have a look.

Members are encouraged to pray together on what would normally be our Corporate Communion service at 9.45 am on **Thursday 4 June** in St. Saviour's Church and also on the **25 June** with Deanery members.

We had been looking forward to welcoming Revd. Rachel Noel, Vicar of Pennington, as our speaker in June but hopefully we will be able to re-arrange this visit for another date.

Mothers' Union is not immune to the impact of the coronavirus and, in common with many charities, is facing a significant shortfall in income because of the inability to fundraise. The current shortfall is forecast to be well in excess of £1 million this year alone. This is a great shock, but the truth is COVID-19 is threatening the very heart of the Mothers' Union movement and its ability to continue its valuable work reaching out to the vulnerable and those in need.

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement with over 4 million members working with people of all faiths and none, to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change.

Members, and supporters, are therefore being asked to consider if they might be able to make a donation so that Mothers' Union will still be here after the crisis has passed. £14 allows us to nurture our fellowship and the faith of our members; £32 can help us resource and mobilise members during and after COVID-19; £48 ensures that we can continue to protect vulnerable communities around the world. Please visit www.mothersunion.org for more information and to give anything you feel able to. Thank you.

Lesley Munt, MU Branch Secretary



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WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

Another month of lockdown restrictions and not being able to meet together for the weekly lunches. Hopefully all our guests, cooks and drivers are keeping well and coping with their new way of life. Should anyone need help with shopping etc. or an occasional chat, please phone Lesley (612015) or Joyce (623329). There are plenty of volunteers waiting to lend a hand. We live in hope and look forward to the time when we can safely resume the lunches and be together again. Meanwhile, stay well and keep safe.

Lesley, Lunch Co-ordinator



POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

Thank you to everyone who has taken up the invitation to either knit or crochet poppies from the patterns in last month's magazine. The photo gives you an idea of the kind of 'field' we are hoping to achieve so we will need hundreds of poppies! So, keep knitting and crocheting!

With a little more free time than normal during lockdown, we have decided to begin mounting the poppies on stakes so if you are able, please could you put any poppies you have made, with your name, into the plastic box in the porch at St. Saviour's Church.

We would also like to have a rainbow of poppies (orange, yellow, green, blue and violet) in remembrance of the NHS and key workers we have lost to coronavirus, so if you have wool in any of these colours, perhaps you could make these poppies as well as the red ones.

Together, we will plant a spectacular 'field' - Thank you!

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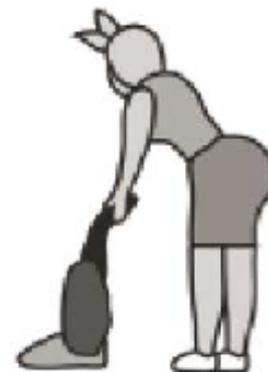
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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week is a joyful celebration of our potential to change the world through our gifts, prayers and actions, which has been running since 1957. Together, we raise funds to support our poorest sisters and brothers around the world. Coronavirus means Christian Aid Week in May has been very different this year. There haven't been house-to-house collections, Big Brekkies or bucket collections. But there has been one unwavering thing: you and your love for your neighbours near and far. That's because love never fails. We are living in unprecedented times and coronavirus impacts all of us but love unites us all.

Over the last few months, you've shown love to your neighbours in so many ways. You've picked up the phone. You've brought them food. You've prayed for them. You've shown that you are by their side. And they are not alone. While this Christian Aid Week has felt strange and rather insignificant, we know you will do what you can in these unusual circumstances to reach out to your global neighbours too.

Christian Aid Week has passed but it is never too late

In the face of coronavirus, the poorest and most vulnerable in our world need your help. Your gifts can help Christian Aid to continue to support families around the world who are living in poverty, including people who will be affected by the coronavirus.

Families who are living in over-crowded refugee camps; people who have no clean water to wash their hands; people who are living with HIV. These are grandparents, mums, dads and children – real people like you and me. We must respond to limit the impacts of coronavirus and continue to help people living in poverty.

From providing essential soap, water and hand-washing training to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, to ensuring we can continue to provide life-saving support for some of the poorest families across the world.

By supporting Christian Aid now, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today -

- By making an online donation to www.christianaid.org.uk.
- Telephone donations can be made by calling **020 7523 2493**.
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A VIRTUAL ANZAC WEEKEND IN BROCKENHURST

Having had to cancel the customary Commemoration Service at the end of April during which we remember the 94 ANZAC soldiers who lie buried in our War Graves Cemetery, how were we going to ensure that they were not forgotten?

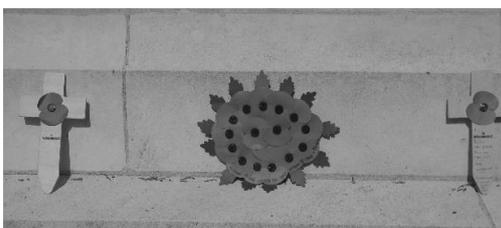
I was the British Defence Adviser in New Zealand 30 years ago and recalled that we 'stood to' at dawn at the War Memorial in downtown Wellington for a brief Service before adjourning for a warming tot of rum and a large cooked breakfast. So on ANZAC Day I stood on my doorstep at 0530 in communion with the dawn chorus before withdrawing to enjoy my tot and fry up.

Meantime the uniformed youth groups in the village, who normally place posies on the graves during the Service, impressively decorated their windows with their scarves and artwork. They also assembled a suitable wreath to lay on the cross of sacrifice in the cemetery.

In his video service on the Sunday Vicar Simon, using the war graves as his background, chose to talk about Percy Williamson who was evacuated wounded to No.1 New Zealand General Hospital here in Brockenhurst in mid-August 1918. He was operated on successfully but then caught pneumonia and died later that month. It was a moving tribute to one of those selfless young men who came half way round the world to fight alongside us and he was an appropriate choice for these pandemic fraught days.

All these activities were reported to an appreciative New Zealand High Commission. Our mutual hope is that 'normal service can be resumed in 2021'.

Mike Matthews



Wreath laid at the Cross of Sacrifice in St Nicolas' Church yard.

A DIFFERENT ANZAC DAY – APRIL 25th 2020

On April 25th 1915 in Western Turkey the Gallipoli Landings took place at 05.30am, involving mainly Australian and New Zealand troops. For ever that area has been known as ANZAC Cove, the day immortalised to honour and remember those who died on that morning, when so many lives were lost.

The day in N Z and Australia is traditionally marked by going to the community war memorial at 5:30 am. Many of our NZ visitors to St Nicholas' regale us with stories of their first memories of being lifted out of their cot at dawn!

For me this year ANZAC day was one of memories and messages, feeling very much in touch with our Kiwi friends. An email from the Frater family, whose great grandmother Deborah had come over from NZ with her soldier brother, being a superb driver she drove the ambulances up to No1 NZ General Hospital from the station where the casualties from the Western Front arrived by train on the short journey from Southampton. Deborah's daughter and grand-daughter were married at St Nicholas' church and their wedding bouquets laid on the ledge of the Cross of Sacrifice. As I laid my memory cross on that same ledge, I thought of those wedding bouquets. The large poppy added to the poignancy, as a tribute from the young cadets of the Brockenhurst College Army Cadet Force, normally on duty on ANZAC day.

An email from Christchurch NZ gave an account of 'Stand at Dawn' 2020, with all standing in their driveways singing the NZ National Anthem. In one street this was hauntingly played on bagpipes. Jo had downloaded a Brockenhurst VE bunting template for her garden fence; then, as is traditional, retreated indoors for a hearty breakfast and a tot of rum.

A phone call from Romsey from Mary aged 93 ½. Her father Albert had been nursed at the Hospital injuries sustained in a sniper attack resulting in the loss of an arm. Albert chose Aberdeen when given his convalescent rail pass, having asked Station Master 'how far could go on the pass?' Arriving in Aberdeen he found a warm welcome at the YMCA café, one of the helpers later became his wife and sailed to NZ. Albert could not return to sheep farming, so he set up a successful business, using the skill of Book Keeping that he learnt in the occupational therapy department at the hospital. That business, founded 100 years ago, still thrives on the skills he learnt in Brockenhurst. Mary vows to be with us next year.

I laid a memory cross on NZ soldier, Herbert Edman's grave as I am in touch with the family, who have only recently discovered the resting place of their great uncle. Emails from NZ and locally, telling of the joy of being able to see the streamed service, meaning so much to those here in the UK who have relatives in NZ.

Ros Dennison stood in front of the NZ war graves and these are her thoughts: Thinking about the mothers of our young men, who never saw the peaceful way their sons now lie, nor knew the way we honour and remember them. So we look forward to ANZAC Day April 25th 2021 in the presence maybe of the new NZ High Commissioner.

Diana Fletcher

BILL FREER

The family of Bill Freer, who passed away suddenly, would like to thank everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy. These gave us a great deal of comfort at a time of sadness and grief. Bill is sadly missed by all of us.

Brenda Freer

VE 75 COMMEMORATION



Captain Mike Matthews, Chairman of Brockenhurst branch of the Royal British Legion, laying a wreath at the Brockenhurst war memorial on the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

BROCKENHURST: RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

In the week before lockdown, a small group of us met to plan the Church's response to the Coronavirus outbreak. Time was of the essence as we were already in the throes of social distancing and face to face meetings were being discouraged.

A plea for volunteers in the form of a sign-up sheet in St Saviour's Church, soon had 50 volunteers, then 70. Eventually, over 140 signed up – far more than we could use. People were desperate to be 'of use', to feel part of the solution to an increasingly worrying problem. We were overwhelmed by the sheer range of offers of help, many of which, sadly, we could not utilise.

Our first priority was to ensure that every household received a card of 'Useful Numbers' so that the elderly, the vulnerable and those self-isolating could access a 'shopper' and/or have telephone contact with a friendly voice at the end of the phone. We were able to use many of our volunteers to put the cards through every letter-box. This was completed very quickly – a measure of the need people felt to be 'doing something', perhaps.

We had to work out a system of how the operation would work in practice. Simplicity was our main aim. Once requests started to come in, the Team 'matched-up' those requiring help with a 'shopper' and/or telephone contact(s) according to geographical proximity, wherever possible. Once partnerships were formed our job was largely done – we allowed the two sides to work out their own arrangements: when shopping was to be done and how payment was to be made.

Our volunteers (and those being helped) were given some basic instructions on social distancing, hygiene rules, money handling but we trusted everyone to form relationships that worked for them.

Other groups in our incredible village joined forces with us – the Brockenhurst Covid-19 Group based in Balmer Lawn Road and associated hubs in New Forest Drive, Moorlands Road, Sway Road, Broadlands/Forest Park, South Weirs and no doubt others too. All were linked together via email and WhatsApp groups. It is difficult to imagine that there was any part of our village not covered.

We hoped that many new friendships would be made across the village, and so it has proved. As with many exchanges in life, giving is so often better than receiving, as this volunteer has found:

'I have continued to do a little bit of shopping for (named). I phone her each Tuesday and she gives me a list which I get and drop off on Wednesday. I then call, stand well back and we chat for a while in the front garden. She is a lovely lady and I get at least as much out of it as she does. Most of all it is nice to be able to help in a small way and to feel useful and help protect the older members of our community.'

We have had many verbal messages of thanks from those being helped. A few have sent in emails to express their gratitude to our volunteers:

'What a wonderful service my shopper provides. Deliveries always arrive with a smile.'

'I'm not lonely; I have some new friends who phone me regularly and who let me know what's going on. I'm looking forward to meeting them when this is all over.'

All these sentiments sum up nicely how wonderful it is to be part of a caring community! One thing is certain: we can never go back to how we were BC – before coronavirus. We can never 'unknow' the people we have made contact with as a result of this crisis. Across our country, and certainly here in our village, many fine relationships have been forged, numerous kindnesses have been performed, and a great deal of goodwill has been generated. Much good has come out of bad, and for all of that we are enormously grateful.

Brockcare Coronavirus Team



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BROCKENHURST IS ON THE ECO CHURCH MAP!

Have you noticed that these days it is almost impossible to watch or read the news without coming across something or other related to environmental issues?

In recent decades, and with increasing urgency, climate scientists have warned of the dangers of catastrophic climate change resulting from human activity. Instability in weather systems is already bringing suffering to so many. It is predicted that climate change could result in food insecurity for millions, accelerate the extinction of huge numbers of species and make human life itself impossible in some parts of the world,

These issues raise **huge** questions for us:

- How do we balance our energy and material consumption with the needs of future generations, and of other species?
- How can we change our lifestyles, encourage local and global cooperation, and challenge unsustainable economic systems?
- How do we promote hope in the midst of both denial and fear?

In response to these questions, the PCC of Brockenhurst Church recently voted to join the ECO Church movement. ECO Church, run by Arocha UK, aims to help churches of all denominations make the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith, and to respond with *practical action* in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community.

At the heart of ECO Church is a unique, online survey that enables us as a church to both record what we are already doing to care for God's earth, and to reflect on what further steps we can take and then to act accordingly. The survey covers all areas of church life. Some examples of questions we will be asking ourselves are:

- Are our buildings as energy efficient as we can make them?
- Are our own lifestyles as environmentally friendly as we can make them?
- Does our worship include references to God's creation?
- How are we supporting and working with other organisations and individuals in our village who are also concerned about this issue?
- Do we support environmental charities in our giving?

We do have a long way to go and asking the questions is just the first stage of working towards our Bronze Eco Church award. But it's a good step.

We are planning a special service focussing on ECO Church and environmental issues on Sunday October 4th but if you would like to know more or get involved before then, please email me, Camilla Pearse at ecochurch@brockenhurstchurch.com.



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TRIBUTES FOR JANE THATCHER'S NHS FLORAL RAINBOW ARCH

People have been making their way to see the beautiful creation on the porch of St Nicholas' Church. These are some of the words used by people walking or cycling past.



- Yesterday I went to the church to look at the decoration. It is stunning. A rainbow reminds us that God does not forget us. Many thanks Jane.
 - A very uplifting experience.
 - What a perfect picture. Really beautiful and made me smile. As you say, a boost to the spirits. Would you convey my appreciation to Jane please? The arch looks really, really pretty! Very clever!
 - About the photograph taken by Marion Burden. Thank you, this is a beautiful rainbow of flowers. I'm sure it will lift my husband's spirits in Forest Oaks. I'll be able to show him this through the window. It's amazing what can be done if you try!
- I took my daily walk via St. Nick's yesterday to see this stunning job. It looks gorgeous especially with the sun shining on it and a few bees taking advantage of some of the flowers as well!
 - We went after lunch to see it 'in the flesh', so to speak. Definitely an 'essential journey' at this time.
 - I saw Jane's rainbow arrangement at St Nick's yesterday, so clever and just like Jane to lift everyone's spirits. I have told neighbours it is our very own 'Janeksy'.

The idea of a surprise rainbow arch was Jane Thatcher's. She thought it a perfect way to show our appreciation for everyone working hard in the NHS, for all carers and to celebrate the end of WW2. Jane's father, Flight Officer Bill Burnand, served in RAF Bomber Command; celebrating the end of the WW2 was dear to her heart. She used flowers of every colour surrounded by violet-sprayed birch twigs. With her husband Jeremy, she secretly erected the frame for the rainbow arch; then Jane arranged the flowers at speed in time for Thursday night's clap for carers and Friday's VE Day 75.

One gentleman was watching as Jane finished on Thursday. He said it was the most beautiful thing he had seen in a long time. His wife was in a Brockenhurst care home, he hadn't seen her for seven weeks, he was sad; he took a photo to send her, an emotional moment for him. He said it had made his day brighter.

Appropriately the rainbow 'framed' Simon our Vicar as he gave the Blessing at the end of Sunday's virtual service.

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3. Helping with recreational facilities and activities for the young, the poor and the needy.

To be of service we are urgently in need of funds. Donations, Gifts, Covenants or Bequests would be welcome.

Please contact Mike Dow, our Treasurer of 16, Forest Glace Close, Brockenhurst. Tel: (01590) 623794 or any of the Trustees Dr D Browne at Pasturas New, Sway Road or Keith Carpenter, 07860331402

ST ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr David Adams is the Parish Priest at Brockenhurst. The parish office is Our Lady of Mercy and St Joseph, 132 High Street, Lymington, SO41 9AQ. The telephone number is 676 696 and email address is:.

Special events for all four local parishes can be found on our website at <http://www.nfwp.org.uk>.

BROCKENHURST METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH MINISTER: **Revd Martin L Keenan**
Tel: 01425 612510
email: martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

CHURCH STEWARD: **Richard Waterman**
Tel: 01590 623328
email: richard.waterman1@btinternet.com

The Church and all activities remain suspended at this time. For enquiries please contact Revd Martin Keenan or Richard Waterman as above.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our services and activities in the near future.

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HARRY ORAM 1949 - 2020

Sadly Harry, one of the pillars of our community, has died after battling lymphoma. A Hampshire man born and bred, Harry first became a member of the Parish Council in 2003 and was still serving at the time of his passing over the Easter weekend. He contributed much to the village as Chairman for 2 years and as a member of several Council committees including Events. With a great sense of humour, if you couldn't find him in the Grotto at Christmas it might have been because he was either trying to get onto the roof of Tesco or he was stuck there! Harry also served on the National Park Authority's planning committee as Deputy Chairman and their Standards Committee as well as being a member of the Animal Accident Reduction Group. For many years Harry was the Royal Forestry Society's representative on the New Forest Consultative Panel and latterly became its Chairman.

Harry's career over 40 years was spent solely with the Forestry Commission (now Forestry England) eventually becoming Chief Forester in the New Forest. An expert, with unrivalled knowledge, he was committed to sound silvicultural principles, having a strong belief and commitment to get the balance of objectives for the New Forest right for all parties including most definitely the production of timber for the benefit of the local economy.

Since 1989 Harry lived on and ran a small holding of ponies, cattle, goats and dogs on the outskirts of Brockenhurst. A lover of all animals; any dog in distress could always find a home. Indeed, Harry saved a pig's bacon by enticing it out, being fed buns in Tesco, and running off with it down the road past the butcher with his cleaver! Married to Karolina in 2016 he was also generous with his time, mentoring students and showing tourists around his beloved New Forest. A friend, raconteur, highly respected, popular and much valued good companion, Harry will be sadly missed. His legacy will be to continue his ambition for the New Forest to remain a working forest.

Pete Wales - Chairman Brockenhurst Parish Council

As many of you know Harry was a devoted husband to me and a wonderful step-father to Mieszko. He was a source of great joy in our lives and we will miss his fun-loving nature and sense of humour. We are indeed both blessed to have had his love and presence in our lives for so many years. Losing Harry has been a very painful experience but no words could ever express our appreciation for all your loving support. The many expressions of sympathy, kindness and concern conveyed to us in so many ways has been a great help and comfort during our sorrow. We truly appreciate all your love, support and thoughtfulness: sincerely thanking you for being there when we needed you most.

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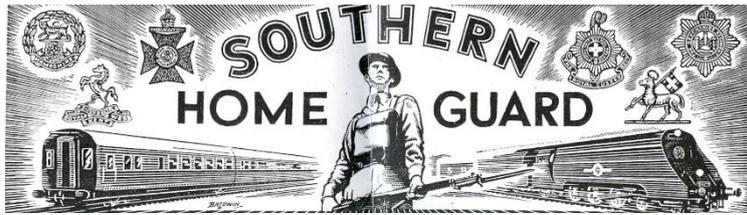
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The Brockenhurst Station Home Guard c1944.

We have heard about the Army, the Fleets of great renown,
They tell us how the R.A.F. saved the Flag from going down,
But among the unsung heroes who have fought beneath the moon,
Stand the modest band of Railwaymen, called Number Three Platoon.

Long months ago when danger loomed, we needed every man,
So from the tracks and station yards they dropped their tools and ran,
To sign along the dotted line and crave the mighty boon,
Of fighting for their country and for, Number Three Platoon.

It wasn't always easy to train them as we should,
For though their hearts were willing, their feet were blocks of wood,
And every week on Sundays from the break of day till noon
The village watched the antics of Number Three Platoon.

They practised on the Rifle Range, and that alone needs pluck,
They killed three cows and missed a horse by the merest stroke of luck.
The farmers in the district all agreed that very soon
There'd be no dead meat shortage, Thanks to Number Three Platoon.

But when sometimes on special days they held a grand parade,
They'd shine in all their glory with their medals all displayed,
They'd keep in step and swing their arms while marching 'round the toon'.
And the village felt that Britain's Safe with Number Three Platoon.

Although we laugh and put to scorn their effort to be smart,
We give salute to everyone with honour in our heart,
For if they're really needed even Huns will change their tune,
When they try to crack the spirit of our Number Three Platoon.



Some of No. 3 Platoon.

With thanks to John Purkess

SUPPORT BROCKENHURST PRESCHOOL

Brockenhurst Preschool has been established in our village for over 50 years. We pride ourselves on being a community led preschool providing affordable inclusive early years' education and enjoy being part of the village with regular visits to Woodpeckers, Brockenhurst and Sway Day Centre and of course our shopping trips to Streets Ironmongers to weigh out our bird seed.

We have recently obtained planning permission to build our own standalone building on the site of Brockenhurst Primary School and the total cost of the build is £60,000, and we are already over halfway there. However, there is still a long way to go. Our hard-working fundraising committee led by Preschool parents have been doing a fantastic job raising money within the village, but their summer fundraising plans have been thwarted by the current situation we are all facing.

We are doing all we can to raise funds through fun online activities – you may have seen posters for our *Brock Kids Online Art Show*, and our *Brock Village (*online!) Bake Off!*, but we need as much support as possible in order to achieve our aim of a secure future for our Village Preschool.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate online via our website** www.brockpreschool.co.uk, or take part in one of our online events (which are free to enter and open to all)
- **Donate by cash or cheque:** Please make cheques payable to Brockenhurst Preschool, and send to Brockenhurst Preschool, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Highwood Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7TG or contact one of our trustees to arrange collection in person on admin@brockpreschool.co.uk / 07715 361 982.

What this move would mean for Brockenhurst Preschool

In our new location at the Primary School we would be able to provide a dedicated child focussed facility, longer hours and seamless transition from Preschool to Primary school as well as, most importantly, a secure and sustainable future for the Preschool. Children would continue to benefit from the nurturing environment our fantastic team of highly qualified staff have created, as well as the excellent facilities the school has to offer. This move would mean families within our village and the wider community would be safe in the knowledge that early years' education would remain accessible to all.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity and kindness shown to us by our village so far. It has been heart-warming to receive such a positive response to our plans, and to know that we have the support of our village.

Please contact us at admin@brockpreschool.co.uk telephone 07715 361 982 if you would like any further information. Thank you in advance for your support.

Brockenhurst Preschool, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Highwood Road,
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FOREST OAKS Notes From a Care Home During the Coronavirus Pandemic

The last two months have been really challenging for Forest Oaks in Brockenhurst and Little Haven in Dibden Purlieu; Nursing Homes belonging to the Wilverley Association, a registered Charity and not-for-profit organisation. Many elderly residents in the village will remember that the Homes were established nearly 60 years ago through some extraordinarily generous benefactors, spearheaded by Blanche Hindson. As a result of scrupulous infection controls being in place, and the professionalism of our entire staff, we have to date, thankfully remained Covid-free.

We have had to make some heart-breaking decisions – asking relatives to stop visiting their loved ones, for example. Some staff who wanted to be at work, have had to self-isolate at home either due to their own health issues, or the need to protect other vulnerable members of their families.

Some of our staff have been able work from home. Whilst this has been a challenge, they have been able to continue to support the organisation through the use of technology. Our staff have been amazing. Last week, for example, many of the team came in on their day off to help celebrate VE Day with us, knowing that residents' families were not able to do so. Many staff members are relying on others in their households to do the family shopping as they don't want to increase the risk to residents' health by mixing with others outside the Home.

We have been humbled by the many kind donations from suppliers, families and strangers. We have received gifts of strawberries, sherry, visors and hand sanitiser.

You will all have seen in the news that there has been a significant lack of PPE across the world. Whilst we have had some lovely donations of PPE, our biggest challenge is accessing surgical face masks; they are difficult to find and cannot be made by local volunteers. Although we have enough, shortages are having an impact on the Wilverley Association's finances, as the prices for masks have increased from 20p to £1.00 or worst case, up to £1.35 each. Given that we require approximately 350 masks per week per Home this new requirement for staff PPE is having a significant impact on our budget. It is so sad to think that any spare money we have will go on purchasing masks rather than providing the residents with the opportunities to have trips out or have treats or new activities when this crisis is all over.

We know that during this pandemic, there have been many requests for funds from charities. If you feel able to make a donation to Forest Oaks, however small, our staff and our residents will be most grateful. Cheques can be made payable to The Wilverley Association, Forests Oaks, The Rise, Brockenhurst, Hants SO42 7SJ . Direct payments to The Wilverley Association, CAF Bank, 40-52-40. 00012942. For more information, please contact either Pam Hall, Director of Operations (622424) or Joanne Husband, Chair of Trustees (626552) or see <https://wilverleyassociation.org/>

Social isolation: how to help yourself if you are feeling lonely



Loneliness is defined as a feeling of being lonely more often than once a week. Social isolation, due to the coronavirus, may increase feelings of loneliness. Feeling lonely can affect our physical, mental and social health and has been linked to decreased memory function, depression and heart problems. Here are some ways to connect with people and take care of your health and wellbeing.

Try a telephone befriender service

Age Concern Hampshire can arrange a friendly phone call with a volunteer – call the Information and Advice line (0800 328 7154) to arrange. Also, Silverline (0800 470 8090) is available 24 hours per day and provides support and friendship to people over 55 who feel lonely or isolated. You can also find list of befriending networks on: <https://www.befriending.co.uk/>

Join local groups by telephone and online

Many local groups and organisations are now offering services and activities by telephone and online. You can complete a virtual exercise class, join a club and participate in church services, without leaving your home. Contact your local church and community groups to see what is on offer in your area or try <https://readinggroups.org/>

Learn a new hobby

A great way to occupy your mind is to learn a new hobby or skill. In addition to books and magazines, there are many online resources to help you get started. Try one of the Open University's free courses <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue> or improve your cooking skills with BBC Food Techniques: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/techniques>.

Be honest

Open up to friends and family and tell them how you are feeling. This will allow them to help you and offer support. You will be surprised how many people are feeling the same way you are and would enjoy a chance to chat with you over the phone.

For more info contact your village agent: Ros Vall on 07748 697 442

Village agents are volunteers who can help you find information and local services that will enable you to stay living safely and independently.

NATURE NOTES

Counting this floral beauty I grow warm with patriotism
These are my own dear flowers,
Springing to pleasant life in my own nation
The times are dark, but never too dark for an Eden Summer
This rich flower creation.

From English Wild Flowers by Elizabeth Jennings

Last month I mentioned emerging spikes of Solomon's Seal, named, it's believed, because where the leaf is broken from the root stalk it leaves a scar which resembles the official seal of King Solomon. It is also found in America where many tribes of First Nation people use it for medicinal purposes as well as eating the rhizomes as a starchy vegetable. The colonists also used it in stews as a potato substitute. Well, as the picture shows, mine is now looking great with its distinctive pairs of white flowers all along the stem hanging underneath the leaves. I am enjoying it whilst it lasts as I have seen Solomon's Seal Sawflies (try saying that with the wrong teeth in) sussing out the potential. Within a couple of weeks their eggs will have hatched and the resulting 'caterpillars' will reduce the leaves to a skeletal filigree! Oh well, you can't win them all!

I have noticed the move from Spring into Summer in far greater detail this year, probably because I have time to stop and stare. New plants replacing the old in Nature's on-going seasonal growth and change. The hedgerows are bursting and not only with plants but bird song and skittering critters into tiny holes in the banks. One of my favourite plants is the Red Campion, official name 'Selene dioica'. Selene being the merry drunk of the woodland and a bit of a vampire depending on which mythological story you read. It was the Romans that gave it its common name because they used to weave it into the garlands they crowned their 'champions' with at public games. It flowers from May to October and provides nectar for Bumble Bees; Butterflies and some moths feed on the foliage including Rivulet, Sandy Carpet and Twin-spot Carpet. In Wales it's called Blodau Neidr meaning snake flower, as the seeds were crushed to cure snake bites.

I am still pestered by the resident Bank Vole who has become rather partial to my shallots!! If you come across one with onion breath.....



Spikes of Solomon's Seal



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Darren Noble
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WI - Keeping Busy, Keeping Fit, Caring and Still Smiling!

In spite of not being able to get together for our monthly meetings since March and probably for several months to come, many of the WI ladies are keeping active and productive in a variety of ways as well as caring for our community. A small group of "Ladies Who Sew" are making fabric face coverings for anyone in the community who requests one. The 100% cotton fabric used has all been donated. So far, over 100 coverings have been distributed and orders are still coming in. In this way, the strain on the supply of face masks for health carers is being lessened. The face coverings can be boil washed so they can be reused and are better for the environment than single use alternatives. There is no charge for the masks, but it is suggested that anyone receiving one or more might like to make a small donation to a charity of their choice. Rumour has it that husbands are now guarding their wardrobes so as not to be robbed of their last shirts to be converted into face coverings!

A WhatsApp Group was formed several weeks ago so that members can keep in touch and provide support for one another. The group has now started undertaking virtual journeys to "somewhere nice". Group members record the hours they spend on their daily activities such as domestic chores and gardening with each hour being equivalent to a 5k walk. Within a week, the group was in Paris. Since then they have collectively walked 1000km to Munich to spend time visiting places of interest. Each day a nominated "Tour Guide" researches how far the group's efforts can take them, the weather, scenery, and things to see on the way. Group members also post anecdotes about real visits they may have made to the places reached on their virtual walks. The next destination? The Baltic, the Mediterranean or the Middle East!

The Walking Netball Group are still active! Virtual reality comes into play with this group too when they join up on-line with other Walking Netballers in other areas of the country and participate in games socially distanced in their own homes. On 14th May, ladies participated in the Biggest Virtual Wiggle and Giggle event organized by the All England Netball Association.

Competitions involving gardening, photography and on-line quizzes have encouraged members to keep in touch. Some of us are taking part in a courgette growing competition to see who can harvest two courgettes of the same dimension and colour. Judging will take place later in the summer. Other members are taking part in a photographic competition in which they take photos of their gardens or just a single plant in their gardens. A collage of the entries is to be made and distributed to all members for them to decide which is the best photo.

We are all looking forward to the end of Lockdown so that we can meet up again. We will be guided by advice from the National Federation of WIs to ensure the safety of all concerned. In the meantime, we will keep manicuring our gardens, meeting on-line, keep fit, exploring ways of contributing to our community and being safe and happy!

For more information about Brockenhurst WI, please contact Liz Wingham on 622 292.

POEM CORNER

Separation Spring

A blackbird sings
And I'm back in my first bed
Listening to that other bird
Rejoicing in a sunnier Spring
Beside that bed an egg cup vase
One daffodil cut short
A bright memory springing across the years
To the golden blooms now in disarray
Bending towards the spreading cherry tree
Shelter for the emerging bluebells
As they reach up
Catch its fading, falling blossom
The blackbird sings again
Surprising me with hope.

Annette

BROCKENHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

In view of the continuing position with the Coronavirus the meeting that was to be held on Wednesday June 17th is cancelled.

The next scheduled event following is the coach outing to Mapperton on Thursday July 16th. We will contact everyone who has signed up for this in the early part of July in the light of the then situation.

Meantime we are proceeding with the preparations for a one off Autumn Show on Saturday October 17th. A letter is being sent to all our members about this; more detail will be announced in the months to come.

For any further information telephone me on 622587.

Please everyone keep safe and well.

Adrian Butterworth. President



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DEER VISITOR



This deer made itself at home in a back garden on the Sway Road a couple of months ago. It visited for many weeks, nibbling at the new leaves but hasn't seen for a little while now, which is good because the roses are coming into flower!

RING FOUND

A couple of weeks ago I found an eternity ring on North Weir. I don't think it is very valuable but it may have great sentimental value. If you think it might be yours call or text Dave on 07740171094.

MOVIOLA NEWS

Whilst Moviola screenings are on a temporary hiatus, we've been thinking of how best to comfort and talk to our audiences during these uncertain times.

We'll be putting up articles on our noticeboard; for audiences, to give them the ability to access and enjoy free films legally. Do look to see what each week's suggestions are - and watch them, perhaps at the same time as your friends? Safely distanced in your own homes of course! And, if you wish, you can send your thoughts on these films to Moviola.

<https://www.moviola.org/noticeboard/>

We have started with our initiative #MoviolaTogether - a means to bring our audiences together, wherever they are in the country, to share their thoughts and opinions as you would in a community setting.

<https://www.moviola.org/moviolatogether>

Robert Morgan was the editor. Stephen Curson will edit the next edition.

Items for the next edition should be submitted to:
magazine@brockenhurstchurch.com by 15 June.



Fun and friendly Pre-School in the Village Hall for children of 2 yrs- school age.

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**For further information please contact us on 01590 622861
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Brockenhurst Village Hall

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01590 622580

trust@brockenhurstvillage.org.uk



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(dialing from Brockenhurst)

DOCTOR	622272
CHEMIST	623206
HOSPITALS	
<i>Lymington</i>	663000
<i>Fenwick</i>	02380 282782
<i>Royal South Hants</i>	02380 540087
<i>Southampton Eye</i>	02380 777222
<i>Southampton General</i>	02380 777222
<i>Princess Anne</i>	02380 777222
BROCK' CARE CARS	0845 643 5808
ELECTRICITY (24hr Emergency)	0845 770 8090
GAS (24hr Emergency)	0800 111 999
WATER	01962 714585

Brockenhurst Village Hall is available to the whole community and can be used for a wide range of activities, including:



- Sports & Fitness
- Arts & Craft
- Music & Performances
- Exhibitions & Trade Shows
- Clubs & Societies
- Meetings & Conferences
- Fairs & Sales
- Weddings & Engagements
- Parties of any size

Our facilities include:



- Main Hall (18m x 12m)
- Exhibition Room (12m x 10.5m)
- Craft Room (12m x 7m)
- Oak Room (10m x 7m)
- Full Sound System
- Lighting System
- Kitchenettes in Rooms
- Servery in Main Hall
- Fully Equipped Kitchen
- Free Wifi & Audio Loop
- Disabled Access
- 130 Space Car Park

CHURCH DIRECTORY

All postcodes are preceded by SO42. Telephone dialling code is 01590.

Vicar	Revd Simon Newham, The Vicarage, Meerut Road, 7TD	624163
Honorary Assistant Clergy	Revd Alan Graham, 44 New Forest Drive, 7QW	622324
	Revd Canon Diane Webster. Burwood, The Rise, 7SJ	624927
	Revd Francis Cumberlege, 10 Forward Drive, Pennington, SO41 8GA	719421
Parish Administrators c/o Church Office	Sharon Dibden	624584
	Lesley Munt	624584
Church Office	Wilverley Road, 7SP. Mon. to Fri. 10 - 12 noon office@brockenhurstchurch.com	624584
Licensed Lay Ministers	Tony Foulger, Elmina, Woodlands Rd, 7SF	623349
	Tina Cumberlege, 10 Forward Drive, Pennington, SO41 8GA	719421
	John Pearson	
Church Wardens	Alan Wright	623629
	Ros Dennison	623180
Treasurer	Peter Lay, treasurer@brockenhurstchurch.com	
Brockcare (Pastoral Care)	Sharon Dibden	624584
	Joyce Kolaczowski	623329
Children & Youth	Reuben Humphreys	624584
Gift Aid Sec.	Jeremy Moss, Little Oaks, Rhinefield Road, 7SQ	622476
Verger	Sue Lynes, 15 Greenways Rd, 7RN	623437
Magazine Editors	Robert Morgan, 18 Careys Cottages, 7TF	623890
	Stephen Curson	624666
Advertising	Church Office	624584
Distribution	Jo Parry-Evans, Pine Cottage, Meerut Road, 7TD	623123
Mothers' Union	Wendy Lay	623171
Captain of Bells	James Hodkin, 14 Auckland Avenue, 7RS	622849
Church Hall	Wilverley Road, 7SP. Bookings: Church Office	624584

This magazine is produced by the Anglican Church in Brockenhurst as a service to the residents of the village. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editors or the Anglican Church. Visit our Church Website: www.brockenhurstchurch.com

Welcome

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Richard and Karen Dance are proud to open their Welcome store in Brockenhurst, working in partnership with The Southern Co-operative.

As an independently owned family business trading for over 30 years, we pride ourselves on serving the local community with the best range possible on fresh food, groceries, local products and a range of COOK frozen food.

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