

The

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Leighton News

September & October

Number 342

A TALENTS RETROSPECTIVE



BUILDING THE BELISSIMA - Pages 6 & 7

This month's issue is kindly sponsored by:

SPLASH PLUMBING & HEATING

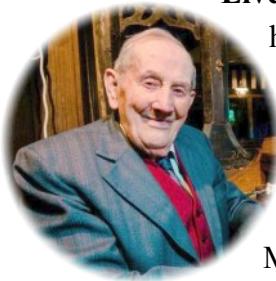
See back cover for further information



CHURCH SERVICES SEPT/OCT 2020



As a result of Covid 19, and the rules being regularly altered, Church Services at Holy Trinity Leighton, in September and October, will be detailed on the LARGE notice fixed to the Church Gate. The first service at Leighton is at **9.30am on September 6th**.



Elvet Owen Richards was a farmer and a quiet and faithful churchman, who lived all his life within a few miles of his birthplace in 1928, on the Long Mountain which straddles the boundary between Shropshire and Montgomeryshire, England and Wales. In 1942 Elvet bought the organ which he played throughout the rest of his life, with a particular love of the sacred songs of Moody and Sankey.* At the age of 17 - to help out - he took over as the organist of the little half-timbered church of St Mary's, Trelystan, high on the Long Mountain and reached by a track through pasture.

Over the years since then he has missed very few services, and he had just made it into his 75th year as church organist when ill health confined him to his home.

Elvet served church and community in many other ways too: he was churchwarden for some years, and remained an active and thoughtful member of Trelystan PCC for the rest of his life. Because as churchwarden he didn't feel comfortable signing a cheque to pay himself as organist, he remained unpaid for his playing from then on. He was awarded his "back pay" as organist as a gift to mark his 70th anniversary, at a service attended by the then Bishop of Hereford, Richard Frith.

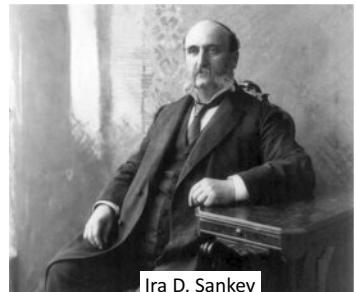
In 2018, the year of Elvet's 90th birthday, his service to church and community was marked by the award of the British Empire Medal, and this was a source of great pride to him, always to be worn on special occasions. A previous incumbent, Robert Leach, describes Elvet as a man "who made the Christian message part of himself and lived it out in his day to day life: kind, gentle, forgiving and patient, and always with a twinkle in his eye" — and it's hard to improve on that description.

Elvet was a man who asked little of life and gave a great deal; farm and family, community and church were always close to his heart, and his faith, dedication and service will remain an object lesson to us all, along with his unfailing good humour. He was also pretty much unbeatable at draughts! His beloved wife Lil predeceased him in 2012, and he leaves his children Edwina, Ted, Yvonne and Sam, and their families.

Rev. Bill Rowell

*Moody and Sankey

If, like us, you didn't know who they were, check them out on Wikipedia. **Sacred Songs and Solos** is a hymn collection compiled by Ira David Sankey, who partnered Dwight Lyman Moody in a series of evangelical crusades from 1870 until Moody's death in 1898. A more general Google search leads to a whole lot of YouTube videos with massed congregations - thousands of people - recreating the meetings. Some of these appear to be in period costumes. Judging by the film quality it looks as though these were made in the 1950s or 1960s.



Ira D. Sankey



Now we are all starting to find our 'new normal' we thought what a lovely time to celebrate the start of coming out of hibernation.

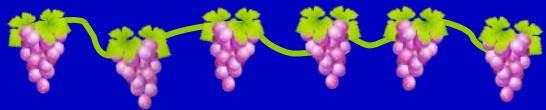
On the 12th September, we are planning a Socially Distanced Picnic in the Church Car Park; just an informal event to meet your neighbours. Many people have had a difficult few months, so please come along and join friends and neighbours to say hello and introduce yourself to people who you may have not met before, or just say hello to someone you've not seen in a long while.

If you want to wear a mask - we won't judge; we just want to see as many villagers and friends as possible.

We have a very unique village and we would love to bring a bit of community spirit back. We have decided on the carpark as our venue as it is the most central part of the village; and such a pretty setting.

So, pop along to say hello, bring your own chair/blanket and food and drink - if you have a gazebo or similar and want to bring it along for a bit of shade/cover, then feel free. We will provide the music and you just bring some chatter. We will start about 3pm and go home when Rev Bill tells us to.

VILLAGE GRAPEVINE



Mrs Iris Thomas of Hirddol, Leighton passed away suddenly at her home on the 2nd July 2020 aged 96 years.

Iris had lived in Leighton for 70 years of her life, firstly coming to live at The Hawys, Leighton in 1949 where she began her farming career with her late husband Jack. She milked one cow by hand daily and had a few chickens. Then in 1960 Iris, Jack and their firstborn Hazel moved to Hirddol at the Farm Buildings taking along 6 cows and a few more chickens and that's where Iris and Jack expanded their livestock and it was at Hirddol that Iris spent the rest of her life surrounded by her family.

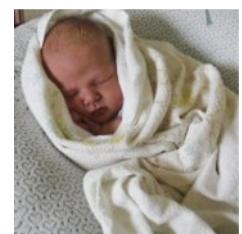
Iris and Jack had 3 children Hazel, Bryan and Andrew and went on to have 6 grandchildren Beverley, Rachel, Sarah, George, Amy and Jasmine and 4 great grandchildren Matthew, Abi, Lauren and Robert. She lived a very happy and long life and has been an active member of the Leighton WI and cleaning Leighton church and doing the church flowers.

Iris loved her garden and also loved to read. She loved her annual holiday to Saundersfoot and day trips on buses to various places in the Peak District.

Iris's grandson George Thomas and his wife Katie have had a beautiful baby boy named Jack Edward on 5th August which has brought the Thomas family a great deal of joy.

Welcome to the world!

Here we have a photo of little FFION LOUISE GRAMS who was born on May 23rd 2020 at 8.38pm at her home in New Sharon, Maine, USA. Ffion is the daughter of Troy and Sarah (nee Jones, Seven Wells) and a Great Grand Daughter to Doris Jones of Maesnant. We wish them all every happiness, especially Doris who will be celebrating her 98th Birthday on 13th September.



Welcome also to baby SIDNEY MICHAEL BEAU O'BRIAN who was born to Alice Knapton and Liam O'Brian who are a couple well known in Leighton and Trelystan. Alice and Liam used to live here and have both continued to be involved through their work. Baby Sid was born on Tuesday 26th May at 11.30am weighing in at 8lbs 6oz. We wish them all every happiness.



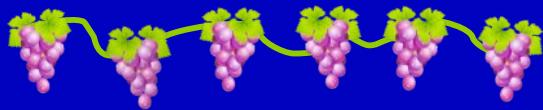
Great to see that our very own Dorothy Schofield is making a steady recovery from her recent poorly spell and we look forward to seeing that mini zipping around the village soon.

Thank you to Haydn & Sarah Jones who have continued their village tidy up by tirelessly strimming the roadside verges and clearing the ivy.

Thank you to everyone who has spent so much time keeping Leighton Village Hall, Leighton & Trelystan Churches and Churchyards and Leighton School open when possible, impeccably tidy and above all safe through this pandemic. There is so much behind the scenes work that continually goes on in the village and we are very grateful to you all.



VILLAGE GRAPEVINE



KATHLEEN HUMPHREYS

The family of Kathleen were touched to be invited to pay tribute to her in the Leighton Newsletter. Sadly Mum passed away peacefully on 26th May after a short illness aged 92.

She was laid to rest at Leighton Church on 5th June, only 10 close family could attend. This was a great shame as many friends and relatives would have wished to be there. However, the service was simple and lovely - the sun shone and the birds sang and she was reunited with Dad who passed away 20 years earlier.

Mum and Dad (Tom) moved to the Malt House in 1948 where they farmed for more than 50 years and where my sisters Trish, Margaret and I grew up.

Mum was very much a 'village person' and was involved in everything that happened in Leighton; Church, School, W.I., Mothers' Union, Fêtes and Flower Festivals to name a few.
Leighton W.I. Christmas Party Guildroom 1960s



Leighton W.I. Christmas Party Guildroom 1960s



1981 Charles and Diana Royal Wedding mugs presented by Miss Mollie Preece helped by Mum and Elizabeth Emberton, watched over by Dad in the background

The Malt House sometimes looked like a catering kitchen as she did her part in preparing for the various functions, but her favourite thing was the Flower Festivals because of her love and knowledge of gardening and flowers.

In the late 1970s and 1980s she and Dad worked tirelessly to raise funds to build the new village hall that opened in December 1985. There were fancy dress parties in the Guild Room, BBQs in the Quarry and at the Tank celebrating Royal Weddings and Coronation Anniversaries.



Flower arrangers and helpers Victorian Flower Festival Leighton Church Aug 1988

There are many Leighton people who were part of Mum's life who will remember all the fun of those happy years; the family are very grateful for the messages of sympathy and recalled memories of Mum.

There will always be a 'Leighton' story to tell.

Gill Davies

BUILDING THE BELISSIMA

Mike Bennett, a highly qualified yachtsman, applied his expertise and knowledge to building the splendid model we saw in the **Festival of All the Talents** in Leighton Church about a year ago. Here's his story of its construction.



The yacht was built from a kit initially costing £255 with an extra £30 for the lead keel weight with numerous additional costs typically associated with such kits, not least of which was the radio control and servos to operate the sails and rudder. It is approximately 48" overall with a draft of 12". Once rigged it stands about 72" from the ground. A number of modifications to the original design were made along the way to embellish what was considered rather basic in some areas. The bow section was filled with polystyrene for buoyancy in case the worst should happen, but the vessel has proved very stable once on the water. Many obstacles needed to be overcome probably because the original instructions were written in German, but perhaps the most interesting was when it was discovered the beautiful mahogany decking aft had been pre-cut on the skew.

After much contemplation it was decided to abandon the supplied piece and a photocopy was made from the foredeck onto ordinary photocopy paper, firmly affixed to ply and given many many coats of varnish.



Hull formed – some ribs trimmed to deck level and awaiting removal of some masking tape holding the hull in shape



First gunwale glued and held in place with masking tape and clips



Hull receiving first of 6 coats of varnish (thinned). Showing also the wooden keel awaiting fitting of the lead bulb



Hull varnished and spray painted red below waterline with white boot topping



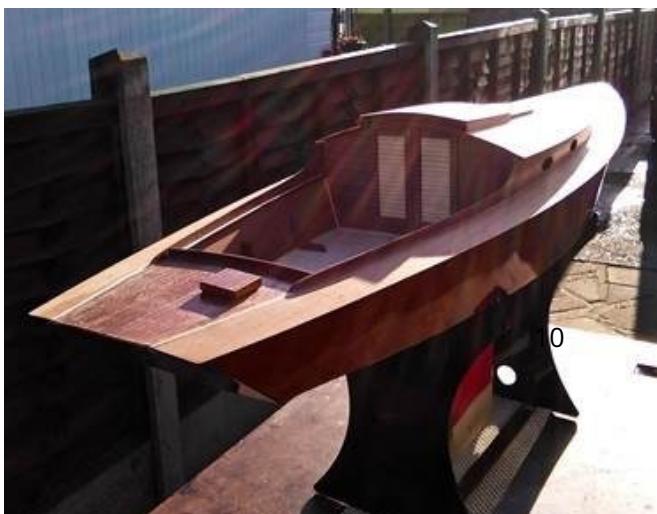
Cabin sides in place and the bow has started to receive polystyrene and cork chippings in case the worst happens!



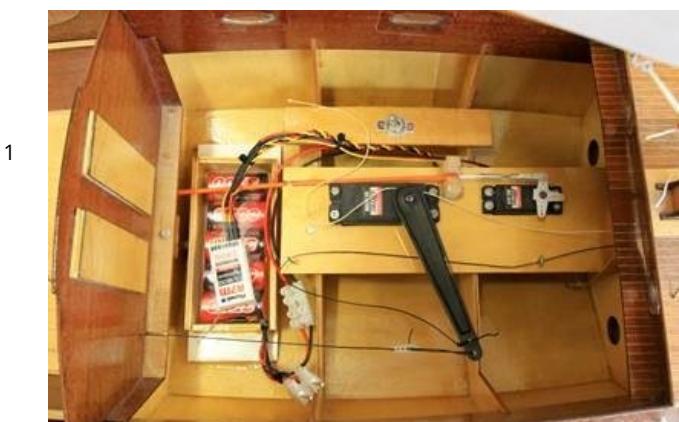
Decks offered up, taped and weighted whilst glue (30 minute epoxy resin) dries



Off-site" manufacture of the decks showing the forehatch under construction



hull and deck complete apart from keel bulb



inside the hull showing radio control gear, batteries and the two servos for sail trim and rudder control

As always, do have a look at the online PDFs to see the immages in colour an in more detail.

Hi Everyone,

Well we are slowly moving back to a more normal way of life, although still restricted. I can't say I am enjoying the busy roads, but it is nice to be able to socialise in small groups and venture a little further.

Since the last edition of the Leighton News I have been training for a charity bike ride that I agreed to participate in back in late 2019. The ride is organised by JFC, a local company that I do various promotional work for. The original challenge was to bike 300 miles in 3 days, starting in Ireland at the company's HQ, and riding back to Oswestry where

their UK centre is based, but due to Covid 19 the ride had to be cancelled.

However, as restrictions were lifted, we saw the opportunity to do a more local ride. And eventually, we decided to take on the official Welsh Iron Man Course in South Wales. The event takes place

this Saturday (15th August) and it will see us trying to complete 110 miles in 1 day, with lots of steep banks to really challenge us. I have been raising money for the DPJ Foundation which focuses on mental health, a great charity that I am proud to be supporting. Those of you that know me, know that cycling is not something I have done before, and following the tough training, I can tell you that it is not something I enjoy! But I do enjoy a challenge and pushing myself both physically and mentally, which is why I agreed to participate. Hopefully, I will be able to complete and do the charity proud. This is a photo of myself and the lady behind the DPJ Foundation.

On The Farm

The dry weather has enabled us to complete our 3rd cut of grass silage with the 4th almost ready. We have successfully harvested our wholecrop triticale and our pits are full of good produce ready for the

year ahead, with only the maize being left. Thankfully, the crops are looking exceptional.

We will be looking to harvest the maize (corn on the cob) in October - hopefully the weather will be kind to us but if it isn't I can assure you we will be doing everything we can to keep the roads clean. However please be aware and drive at a speed to meet the conditions whilst we are cleaning the roads, and be aware there might be people in the road working in the dark early nights.

The Dairy

The dairy is going from strength to strength - the carefully planned layout and building design, along with the attention to detail and hard work from Rob and the team are bringing great benefits to both the dairy and the cows, including their health, with fertility at an exceptionally high level and milk yields increasing.

Below is a picture of the cows in their shed, all lying down in their cubicles that have mattresses in for the comfort of the cow. The cows are free to either rest/sleep/eat or just wander around as they like. As you can see from the photo there is only one cow standing, demonstrating the comfort the cows are experiencing and their desire to sit and rest in a comfy place.



TB

Unfortunately, following the latest TB test, we had 2 animals that had to be culled. They were not TB reactors, but the results were inconclusive, so the Welsh Government enforced their exit from the herd. I was so positive before the test that we were going to go clear for the 3rd time, so it was an incredibly sad day on the farm when the results came through as they did.

Building

Building had been slow during lockdown, but were back up to full speed again now, and we are



currently building the second slurry tower with the concrete base being poured next week (18th August). Following that we will be covering the old existing slurry store and then moving on to

installing the separators. I am very excited about covering this area, as to me it is the most unattractive area on the farm, so hopefully it will soon be more pleasing to the eye for the passing traffic. Opposite is a picture of the slurry tower base ready for pouring concrete.

News

We have been hiring yet again and welcome Emily Sampson to the team, originally from Essex but now living outside Carno with her boyfriend. Emily's role is to work alongside Sarah with the calf rearing. We have also hired Hannah Powell from Berriew on a part time basis to cover Sarah and Emily's time off and holidays. It's really exciting to have 3 young ladies to care for our calves and ensure they get the best start in life.

We also welcome a vet student here on the farm for a 2-week placement to gain experience on all things animal related, and I hope she will enjoy her time with us.

Finally, I purchased myself a new toy in the form of a brush cutter lawn mower - some of you may have noticed I have cut the bund next to the school which has tidied up the area no end. I am also mowing the verges by the farm to make the farm tidier on the entry into the village.

All the best, Fraser

GOODBYE LEIGHTON NEWS... ?

THE NEXT ISSUE of the Leighton News for November & December will be my last as editor. It's a job I've very much enjoyed since September 2015 and have learnt lots of useful new skills along the way.

However, I have several other projects I want to develop and hope someone - or a group of people - will be able to pick up the baton and continue something that is, apparently, a record-breaking run for a local newsletter/magazine.

Unfortunately, there has been no response to our appeals for replacement editors. This is disappointing when Desktop Publishing has become so easy to use and fun to do. As a last attempt to encourage volunteers, I'm making a YouTube video on how to turn a typical article submission - often a Word document with text and some photos - into a good quality A4 page ready for printing. I've used some items from Fraser's article last month to make a demo page with all the important features. Next

month there will be links to the video, the FREE trial software and downloads of the contents. Rather than learning how to use the software (boring), you can follow the demo and find out how to recreate this page (very satisfying!).

LOWER LEIGHTON DAIRY

Hi Everyone,

Firstly, I hope everyone is coping with life under lockdown and adjusting to the new temporary way of life. Personally, for me not much has changed, with life on the farm continuing pretty much as usual, although I must admit that I have quite enjoyed the quieter roads and life seeming slightly slower, and although busy on the farm, I'm enjoying less pressure from the outside world, having time to appreciate the simple things in life and the beautiful surroundings we have live in.

We as a family have been on lots of walks around the village and woods, admiring the structures and architecture created by the Naylor family many moons ago, and of course participating in the Ministry of Silly Walks up by the stud farm. Leighton really is a special area with so much to admire and an area we're lucky to be able to call home.

This week (16th May) I reach the milestone of 40,

harvested in early August, ready to feed the cows for the following 12 months. This crop is referred to as wholecrop after harvest, and is one of the ingredients fed to our cows as it is good for promoting good gut



health.

We have also planted all of our maize (corn on the cob) which should be harvested October/November. This is the main ingredient in the cows' diet, and is good for milk production and a crop the cows love to eat. Hopefully we will have some rain and warmer nights so that the crops grow well.

We have also harvested our first cut of grass silage, and again the weather enabled us to harvest it in the best conditions, taking the grass whilst it was young and full of sugars and energy. This is the other main ingredient that makes up the cows' diet. Our plan is to take a grass silage crop every 5 weeks throughout the summer months, weather permitting.

This year we invested in a new forage harvester to harvest our crops, as pictured below, and with this new machine we have been able to invest in the latest technology available. Through the harvest lab, that is a piece of kit attached to the machine, we are able to

TB TESTING

Our most recent TB test was a success with all the cows at Leighton passing, which was a big relief. We were however unable to test around 30 calves due to the social distancing rules that came in to place mid-way through the test because calves need to be held whilst the vet completes the test.

although I keep telling Claire I feel like a 21 year old - apparently my body tells a different story!

On The Farm

April and May are busy months in the farming calendar, and with the dry weather we have been able to plant crops relatively easily, although the ground was very hard. We have completed planting our spring corn, mainly Triticale, that should be

DH



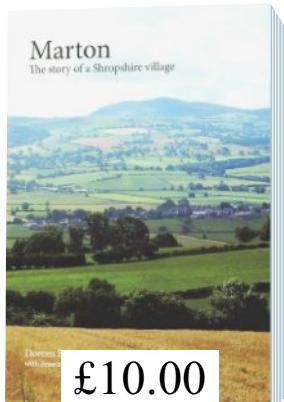
AN APPEAL FOR HELP

At this time when fundraising events are not possible, Revd Bill has made an appeal to friends, neighbours, and the congregation, of Leighton Church, for donations and offers of more regular support via bankers order.

Many of us don't realise that these days the church has to be totally self supporting financially. At the moment, along with many other churches, its future is in danger without the support of its community.

If you have received details of the appeal please do use the stamped addressed envelope for your reply. If you haven't, and you would like to help in any way, please do contact :
Revd. Bill Rowell tel: 01938 552064 or Treasurer Ann tel: 01938 555034

Copies of *Marton, The story of a Shropshire village* and *Trelystan, Church, Township and Community* are still available to buy

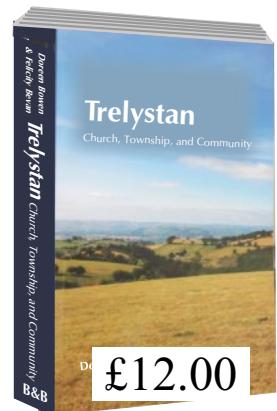


Please contact

Felicity Bevan: 01938 580778

or

Doreen Bowen: Tel. 01938 580116



LEIGHTON LITTER PICKERS!

No doubt many of you have seen an increase in litter over the past few months. There seems to be a lot of discarded fast food packaging and other things thrown from cars. So if you want to do something about it, join me for a monthly litter pick up to keep Leighton tidy! It would be great to get a group of volunteers together, but there is no ongoing commitment: come as often or as little as you like. Give me a call or send me a text on **07796 716 810** if you're interested.

Dave McCourt, Old Cable House



FORDEN with LEIGHTON & TRELYSTAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A Vacancy exists for a Community Councillor for the
Leighton Ward of the Community Council

Do you care passionately about your local community or town?

Is there something you want to change or improve for residents?

Are you ready to take challenging decisions?

Why not stand for what you care about and become a community councillor in your local area?

**We meet on the last Thursday of every month either in Leighton or Forden,
and meetings usually last between 1 – 1½ hours.**

You do not need to have a political affiliation to join.

To qualify: you must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or a European Union citizen and be 18 years of age or over: and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Registered as a local government elector for the area named above; or
- During the whole of the last 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the community name above; or
- Your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been in the community named above; or
- You have during the whole of the last 12 months resided in the Community.

If you are interested in representing your
Community, please apply in writing to:

The Clerk: Mr Clive Rowlands

Address: 21 Severn Street, Welshpool, Powys. SY21 7AD

TOP ISSUE THIS MONTH



**Please clean up
after your dog**

Thank goodness someone has had the courage to erect signs on the CHURCH ROAD regarding dog faeces. It's lovely to see people using the countryside to walk their dogs but "PICK UP YOUR DOG POO" and put it in the nearest bins or take it home. We live in a lovely rural village, so, don't spoil it with your DOG LITTER

A LOT of readers have complained about this form of anti-social behaviour. We have seen the evidence - emailed photos of dog excrement scattered along the village lanes - too nasty for publication here. The complainants have identified one particular offender - not named at the moment, but they know where you live...

STUART & ALICE TREVOR JONES

Wedding at Trelystan Church

on 21st August 2020.



Stuart & Alice (nee Walton) celebrate with
Alice's Grandmother Roma Tibbott.



Stuart Alice Tilly & Hettie

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CONTACT **07859 907 459** Robert Walton

1st Leighton Cub & Scout Group 1965 - 67-ish



1. GORDON SMART.
Lived at Hollybush'.
Worked for the forestry

2. ROBERT JONES
3. TONY EVANS
4. ??
5. DAVID GRIFFITHS
6. GWYNFOR LEWIS?
7. MICHAEL COOKSON
8. ??
9. MERVYN DAVIES
10. DEREK JONES
11. ALAN JONES
12. MICHAEL PINCHEN
13. ALAN SMART

We believe we were the first scout group in Leighton and when Gordon sadly moved away we were also the last. Dont forget the Austin A40 estate for extra points!! Can anyone identify numbers 4 or 8?

100 CLUB THREE MONTHS RESULTS



JULY

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|
| Phil & Barb Mills | £35 | No 55 |
| Yvonne & Geoff Naylor | £25 | No 116 |

AUGUST

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|
| Robert & Lauren Jones | £35 | No 106 |
| Cletterwood Mill | | |
| Bernard Oliver | £25 | No 89 |

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------|
| Dorothy Scholfield | £35 | No 61 |
| Terry Walton | £25 | No 39 |

Drawn by Mrs Jane Walton on 10th August 2020

There are numbers still available to buy
IF YOU'RE NOT IN YOU DON'T WIN
Please please contact
Chris Walton on 01938 552 833

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Carol Harris: 01938 553 430



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The next issue will be for **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2020**. You can send us copy for articles and
announcements any time from now on. The deadline for the next issue is: **Friday 16th October 2020**

David Holloway tel: 01938 570 675 email: news@long-mountain.co.uk