

FROM THE EDITOR

A very warm welcome to you if you have moved to Platt recently and if this is your first Christmas here. I hope that you will find information within the pages of this magazine to enable you to be part of a very enjoyable Christmas.

I heard it said recently that, today, we lead very busy individual lives that keep us apart, but loss is the one thing which draws us together. It seems that it was so here during November and I'm sure in most other communities as we marked the Armistice Centenary. Scott Wishart's research has enabled us to have a detailed picture of the life and mood in Platt a century ago. Over the last four years, with his articles and work with Platt School and at the Memorial Hall, he has drawn us ever closer. For the last month we have almost had the feeling of living in parts of two centuries at once: the years of 1918 and 2018. Scott's articles have been a superb addition to our local history and the Armistice Centenary exhibition and artefacts displayed will have left an indelible impression on many of us. So much time and effort were put into the beautiful displays, mostly made using superb knitting and crochet skills. In this magazine there is a page of photos of the displays. Before Remembrance weekend all the posts carrying photos or details of those 49 men whose lives were lost had been gathered from the localities where they had lived and put into the garden at the Memorial Hall. To look and imagine each of those stakes as a local man who died due to war brought home the utter horror, pain and suffering of those who lived here at that time. This was a village where, instead of a national average of about 10% of the men in a community who went to war never to return, in Platt it was nearer 25%.

Although the Armistice Centenary weekend marked a terrible period in British history, many people have spoken of a wonderful atmosphere amongst those who took part here. People frequently say to me, with some surprise, that we are a lively community and how much there is going on here. Long may that be so. We had a great day earlier in November with the bazaar in the church, when a good time was had by those selling all manner of items from Christmas decorations to hanging baskets, jewellery and cakes, with an excellent raffle, bottle stall and bargains galore to be had. There were also delicious refreshments served all through the day.

Lucy Jeffrey is passionately concerned about the disastrous effect of plastic on our planet. She had a stall selling metal straws at the bazaar and was very pleased to talk to those who shared her concerns. Do read her article in this magazine on page 21.

There have been a large number of events in the village during the year. They have given many people great pleasure as well as plenty of hard work. Surely, as we come to the end of the year, it is time to say 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed to the village in any number of different ways, seen and unseen. We are blest to have such a lively, friendly community.

As Christmas draws closer and we become even busier, merrily wishing a happy Christmas to all we meet or as we dash past them, let us not forget those for whom it is not a happy time, those who dread this holiday season for any number of reasons. For some it may be family relationships or family living a long way away. For some it may be the first Christmas without a loved one. There will be many who are concerned about a loved one for whom they are caring, or the loneliness caused by increasing frailty and lack of mobility. The approach of the new year may cause anxiety for those who face uncertainties ahead. But to all our readers, wherever you may be, the *Village News* team wishes you a Peaceful Christmas and Joyful New Year.

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