



Mo-Pod, Rev & Oddy at Keyham Christmas Lunch

## Diary Dates

### January:

18<sup>th</sup> WI Oriental Knotting - Hungarton Village Hall

### Church Services

### January:

3<sup>rd</sup> (Epiphany) – Hungarton – 9am - Eucharist  
10<sup>th</sup> (Baptism of Christ) – **Keyham** – 9am – Eucharist  
17<sup>th</sup> Hungarton – 5pm – Compline  
24<sup>th</sup> **Keyham** – 5pm – Compline  
31<sup>st</sup> (Candlemass) – 11am Benefice Service Billesdon

The funeral of Vivienne Dixon was held in Hungarton on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### Church Flower Rota

### January:

3<sup>rd</sup> Twelfth Night (please make sure all Christmas decorations are removed from the Church)  
10<sup>th</sup> Sophie Bridgwood  
17<sup>th</sup> Sophie Bridgwood  
24<sup>th</sup> Kim Bird  
31<sup>st</sup> Sandra Price

### February:

7<sup>th</sup> Sandra Price  
14<sup>th</sup> LENT  
21<sup>st</sup> LENT  
28<sup>th</sup> LENT

A special thank you to Julie, Elizabeth and Claire for being such wonderful hosts and providing us with delicious food during our Flower Group dinner. Just a reminder that any ladies can join our group all we ask is for you to be on the rota to provide flowers in the Church (big fancy arrangements are not expected just a nice bunch of flowers or a plant). A Happy New Year.

**Sandra**

## KEYHAM VILLAGE HALL CLOSES FOR GOOD...

...reason. Great news! The Village Hall has recently been awarded a grant of £8,600 by the Big Lottery Fund towards its refurbishment project.



Funds have also been made available from both Keyham United Charities and Village Hall reserves.

At an anticipated total cost of £16,100 the project will include a complete transformation of the hall kitchen, new floor coverings in the toilets and the back wall will be boarded and skimmed.

Work will start immediately and will take about six months to complete. During this time the hall will be closed. If you would like to book the hall for events in the second half of the year please contact the Chairman regarding availability.

**John Hughes,**  
**Chairman Village Hall Management Committee**

### Service of Light

Another £10 has been received taking the total for the MacMillan Nurses collection to £100.

**Brian Atkin**

### Carol Service

The collection at this year's Carol Service raised £150 for Leicester Link Charity.

**Brian Atkin**

### Village News

Anthony & Vicky Rosevear are delighted to announce that their eldest daughter Anna, got engaged to Mr Mark Androsiuk on the 21st December.

## Keyham Christmas Lunch

Villagers, their relatives and friends – 75 in all – gathered together on 20<sup>th</sup> December for the village lunch. Much chattering on arrival and, along with a welcome drink, the scene was set for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Val Day had done the catering and was assisted by Wanna, Gwilym and Mrs Hill who helped serve the buffet-style lunch.

KN provided the basis for a table quiz (refer page 5) and, whilst giving the answers, Mr Ed took the opportunity to send best wishes to Jim & Mollie Hoskinson for their forthcoming move to Somerset. A couple of poems from Oddly were followed by Claire Windle and Mike Jerman who got us in a festive mood with some Carol singing; Claire led the singing accompanied by Mike on guitar. The afternoon was rounded off by Keyham's version of Pointless with quiz master Peter Gothard; Peter did a heroic job of providing the answers and controlling the contestants! Lots of chaotic fun & laughter.

**Margaret Hughes**

## Pensioners' Lunch



Youngsters Gatecrash the Pensioner's Lunch (photo: Christine Hill)

## Trustees of Keyham Charities

### Crime in Keyham

Charles Green (farmer at bottom of Snows Lane) has had a number of farm items stolen in the past couple of months. If you see anything suspicious please let KN know.

**Ed**

## January Article

'An Englishman's home is his castle' we are told. As a nation we certainly take great pride in our homes, the fact that we have one of the highest rates of home ownership in Western Europe bears this out. We are far less likely to want to rent where we live than our European neighbours, we want to live somewhere that we feel is 'ours'. Our homes are important to us, and this is highlighted at this time of year, with Christmas decorations, friends and family coming together to – as the advert tells us – 'make our house a home'.

The most important festival in the Christian calendar in January is Epiphany, which is celebrated this year in our churches on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January. Epiphany literally means 'appearance' and forms a whole season – Epiphanytide - beginning with the celebration of the coming of the Magi (Epiphany itself), through to the Baptism of Jesus (10<sup>th</sup> January) and ending with the Presentation of Jesus in the temple (31<sup>st</sup> January). It is a time of discovering who Jesus is, and how he showed himself to the world.

One great and ancient tradition of Epiphanytide is that of house blessings. Last year at the Epiphany service we blessed pieces of chalk, which I then took out to the homes across the Benefice that were to be blessed; I was asked by over 20 families to come and bless their homes last year. The blessing itself takes around 10 minutes and involves marking the doorpost using the chalk with the following letters and numbers: "20+C+M+B+16". You'll recognise the year 2016 on the outside, the sign of the cross connects each letter and number, and the letters themselves stand for 'Christus Mansionem Benedictus', Latin for 'Christ Bless (This) House'.

The house blessings are a wonderful way to show how important our homes are to us, and how we wish to welcome God's love into our homes, praying that they will be a place of joy and love for the year to come.

It would be wonderful to have even more house blessings to do this year than last! If you would be interested in having your house blessed this Epiphanytide, then please do contact me on [revfelixsmith@gmail.com](mailto:revfelixsmith@gmail.com) or 01162599508.

**Rev'd Felix**

# KEYHAM NEWS

If you have a Bicycle which you no longer use, why not give it to someone who will?

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Our churches are collecting unwanted bicycles for the Leicester-based charity 'City of Sanctuary'. The charity takes in old bicycles, repairs and restores them and gives them to refugees in the city for their use. The bikes enable users to travel to appointments they otherwise may not be able to attend, including getting to college, training, church services, welfare appointments and social gatherings with friends and peers. This is one way in which our churches will be supporting this charity over the coming year.

If you are able to donate a bicycle, in any state of repair, please contact the Rev'd Felix Smith on [revfelixsmith@gmail.com](mailto:revfelixsmith@gmail.com) or 01162599508 or Gill Wheeler.

The bicycles will be collected at Cottage Farm, Keyham (opposite the church) on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.

## Old Sewing Machines Required

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Our churches are collecting old sewing machines in good working order for the Leicester based charity 'City of Sanctuary'. One of the many things the charity does is to help refugees in the city of Leicester with mending clothes and items for the home, allowing parents on low budgets to look after their families and learn new skills. This is one way in which our churches will be supporting this charity over the coming year.

If you have a sewing machine that is no longer used, but still works, please contact the Rev'd Felix Smith on [revfelixsmith@gmail.com](mailto:revfelixsmith@gmail.com) or 01162599508

**Rev'd Felix**

## HUNGARTON & KEYHAM W.I.NEWS

**DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas celebrations began for the W.I. with the Robin-a-Tiptoe Group Carol Service held in John the Baptist church in Hungarton. Candles glowed from windows surrounded by holly and ivy runners. The font too was adorned with a garland of holly, ivy and Ionicera nitida variegata, interspersed with bunches of holly berries. A lovely atmosphere with carols being sung and the smell of mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread filled the air. **THE START TO CHRISTMAS!**

### **DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>: CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!**

Thanks to Susan and Tom Scutt we had the perfect venue, at the Coach House. As the door opened we were met by a beautifully laid table. Candles were lit, glasses were filled with champagne, starters and nibbles were passed around and the chatter began. Sue had cooked the main course of roast beef, red cabbage, carrots and roast potatoes all served with a beautiful sauce. Then the sweets arrived and what an array, all brought in by W.I. members. Pavlova decorated with fresh figs and mandarin oranges, raspberry moose and trifle. Chocolates followed with tea and coffee. During the meal crackers were pulled, crackers with a difference providing entertainment of bird song which as you opened a little card bird song rang out loud and clear! Black-bird, robin, song thrush and blue-tit. Presents were opened amidst more chatter. Thank you Susan and Tom for hosting our special Christmas gathering.

**JANUARY: First meeting in the New Year,** is on the **18<sup>th</sup> January** in Hungarton village hall. Oriental Knotting in which we will be able to have a go.

**FEBRUARY:** This meeting sounds very interesting. Subject:- Teas from around the World.

**FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>:** This may be of interest too, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February at Long Clawson village hall there is a seminar. "Ask the Experts" Will give information updates and awareness on the following subjects:- Aortic aneurysm (research in women); Breathing (respiratory research); Cancer (Mesothelioma)

**R.H.S. HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW:** I am organizing a coach trip to the flower show. Date Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016. If you are interested and can commit to this date please let me know. The sooner I know I can fill a coach, the sooner I can book and keep costs down. Ring me on 2595672.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!**

**Marie Lloyd (President)**

# KEYHAM NEWS

## Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to anyone who took part in the shoe box appeal this Christmas. With donations from many people in Keyham, Billesdon and Wigston Academy (where I work), we were able to give over 75 filled shoe boxes to the City of Sanctuary charity based near Leicester Cathedral.

People of all ages were delighted to receive such generous and thoughtful gifts as well as necessities. I am sure that any person, young or old, displaced from their home, their country and maybe their family, will have sensed the kindness intended in each wrapped box.

With kind regards and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2016,

Gill Wheeler

## Keyham Ramblers



Keyham Ramblers enjoyed glorious weather for their walk to Hungarton (the long way!) between Christmas and the New Year.

Sadly this will be Jim and Mollie's last walk with the group before they move to East Coker in January. Veterans of the Rambler's expedition to the Three Peaks of Yorkshire and many Peak District Sleepovers; they are already planning guest appearances back in Leicestershire and Somerset Sleepovers.

## KEYHAM LOOKALIKES (#8)

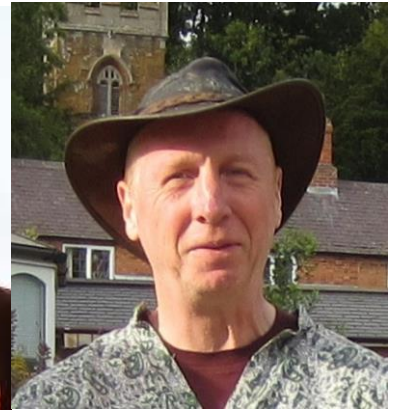
**Question:** Who looks like Geoff Barnett?

**Answer:** "Who" looks like Geoff Barnett!

I used to think it a little odd when I would mention Geoff and others would reply "Who?". Surely everyone knows Geoff I thought. Now I realise that were saying "Who!". See for yourselves the striking resemblance between Geoff and Dr. Who #4 Tom Baker.



Barnett



Baker

When I pointed this out to Mrs. Ed she was so amazed that she put down her Daily Mail. She pointed out that... both like wearing unusual hats; both like long distance travel (Geoff on a bike across the USA; The Doctor across time and space) and both have an interest in the re-use of telephone boxes! Surely they must be related. Moreover, there are those in our midst who believe that the Dr. Who TV programme is a documentary; they may like to consider whether Geoff and The Doctor are actually the same person.



Keyham Phonebox



The Tardis

**Ed (based on an original idea by SB)**

## KEYHAM BOOKWORM'S MONTHLY READ

### THE SCENT OF ALMONDS - CAMILLA LACKBERG

January and February are never the most pleasant of months so to ensure an easy start to your reading year Bookworm has chosen a series of short stories from another of the highly acclaimed Scandinavian authors currently featuring in all UK bookshops. Camilla Lackberg is an economist to trade and after a variety of successful entrepreneurial ventures she turned her hand to writing and it is no great surprise her thrillers have been so well received.

The Scent of Almonds is the first short story in the book and is set on an island off the coast of Sweden. During a snowstorm which traps a family in a hotel on the island a body is found in the library. Real Cluedo stuff with an excellent plot and strong characters. As well as the quality of writing, the breadth of plot make this a thoroughly good novel sure to be enjoyed by followers of the crime genre. For example An Elegant Death is set in a fashion boutique where a murder is witnessed and Dreaming of Elisabeth is set on a boat where the main character becomes fearful of the man she is with. Each story is tense, well set out and credible with great characters and The Scent of Almonds is ideal for any KN readers looking for a thriller they can put down and return to without having to revisit the original plot.

Many KN readers will have enjoyed the likes of Stig Larsson and Jo Nesbo as well as TV series such as The Killing as Scandinavian crime fiction enjoys great critical acclaim. The reasons for this success are many and it seems safe to say Camilla Lackberg is a worthy addition to this role of authors.

Currently The Scent of Almonds is available from Amazon for £6.99 in paperback excluding P&P or £4.06 on Kindle. Waterstones have it in paperback at £6.99 including P&P and £0.99p on their new download system.

Hopefully a good start to the year and here's hoping 2016 brings us as many quality reads as 2015 did.

### Bookworm

## KEYHAM NEWS - CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2015

At this year's Keyham Christmas Lunch guests took part in this KN Quiz. For those of you who missed that event here it is again (answers on the back page).

In the **January** edition which wild animal made its first appearance and how many times in total did it appear? 2 points

Who wrote a very powerful poem about war in the **February** edition? 1 point

In **March** which film was shown in the Village Hall? 1 point

In the **April** edition "Bookworm" reviewed the latest book by the author of "One Day". Name that book and its author. 2 points

In the **May** edition whose wedding photo appeared and which family cycled to Norfolk? 2 points

In the edition **June** "Keyham Lookalikes" commenced. Name all of those featured throughout the year. Use the back of this sheet for your answers. 14 points

In **July** which WI Calendar Girls appeared "full frontal" on their way to the Palace? 2 points

In **August** "Oddly" wrote about his favourite dinner. Which three food items did he crave? 3 points

In the **September** edition who were the Keyham Croquet finalists, who umpired the final and who presented the prizes? 6 points

In **October** which Oscar-winning actress met a Keyham headmaster? 1 point

In the **November** edition who had organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning and (to the nearest £20) how much did they raise? 2 points

In the **December** edition Rev'd Alison told us about her 360-mile walk. Which river did she follow for 140 miles? 1 point

**Tie breaker:** - In December, how many copies of Keyham News did Mr. Ed send out by email?

## Resolution

Can I repeat the past  
But not make mistakes,  
Can I connive and strive  
To make a better place  
And give love priority,  
Humbled by the beauty  
Of life in all its forms,  
Can I arrange a self  
But remember it's a semi  
Shared with other lives;  
Will I treat the hours  
As a timeless tender  
Then discover they have gone.

## Pantomime

Serried seats enclaving  
Kids entranced, cheering, screaming,  
Adults in attendance  
Watching the awry  
And painted friends in frolic  
To cheer the festive time,  
Turning all to children.

So the comely Queen  
With a vectored villain,  
A weaving crone of witches  
And of course the Joker,  
Carry ribald stories  
On a waving wand,  
Mace or cunning crook,  
Emblems of sure power  
Vectoring the tale  
To its triumphant end.

## A Dainty Pie Forsooth

I lie round, indentured  
In the sweetmeat trade,  
Encoded with a crimp  
Cover brushed to brown,  
Or as a mincing tart  
My raisins, peels and spices  
Seduce the sanity  
To raise my bite to art.

## Oddly

## NEWS from NEDD

Greetings from the far north-west, where we have had gales and driving rain for a couple of days. Not that it stopped me getting down to 'The Village' (Lochinver, 14 miles away) last night for a performance of *Spectre* in the travelling cinema the Screen Machine.

I was intrigued by your 25-years-ago news item on Asil Nadir. One of my last jobs for the Leicestershire Museums Service in 1989, before Pat and I retired up here in 1991, was to co-ordinate an ecological survey of Burley Wood, adjacent to Burley-on-the-Hill, which his company was hoping to buy. He had posted plans to put a golf course into this ancient woodland, which we thought was an appalling idea. I managed to obtain £6000 from his investment company towards the survey (which cost the Museums Service considerably more than that to carry out), and we undertook the survey, with lots of help from local naturalists. We found all sorts of interesting and important features and presented them with a 280 page report. In fairness, I have to say that, on receipt of the report, they withdrew their planning application for the golf course and did not proceed, so far as I remember, with purchase of the property, which included the house. One of our local conservation successes! A few years later some financial mismanagement caught up with him and at least one of his former employees and the rest is history.

Another bit of news.

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/9137/highland\\_naturalists\\_win\\_national\\_awards](http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/9137/highland_naturalists_win_national_awards)

There is lot about our natural history exploits up here, but of course before that there was 50 years of the same in Leicestershire for Pat and over 30 for me, the last 14 of which was from our base in Keyham. You might like to see a detailed tribute to Pat that I have written for the 2016 yearbook of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, with an accompanying photograph taken up the coast in 2002.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Ian Evans



Pat & Ian & Foinaven

# KEYHAM NEWS

## PATRICIA ANNE EVANS (1929-2015)

Pat Evans died on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at her home at Nedd in Sutherland, a few days short of her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been a member of the BSBI since 1952, when she was a post-graduate research student at the University College, Leicester, and served as Recorder for vice-county 108 (West Sutherland) from 1993 until her death. She was co-editor, with Tony (A.L.) Primavesi, of the *Flora of Leicestershire* (1988), and co-author, with Ian Evans and Gordon Rothero, of the *Flora of Assynt* (2002).

Pat was born in Leicester on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1929, the only child of John Kenneth Padmore, a boot agent, and Nancy Wilson Padmore (née Aitken), who was from a Scottish Borders family. Her father was a man of considerable character; as a 15-year-old, in the middle of WW1, he had, with the connivance of his headmaster, falsified his age and enlisted as a Midshipman in the Royal Navy. Early in her childhood, the family moved to Thurcaston, a village on the edge of the Charnwood Forest, an area that Pat came to love. She was encouraged in her natural history interests by her father, who took her bird's-nesting and also taught her fly fishing, and she inherited his love of gardening. She was educated at Loughborough High School, where a school prize for 1939, *A Pocket-book of British Wild Flowers* (Hall, 1937), is evidence of an early interest in the world of plants. Later prizes, chosen by her, reveal a breadth of interest in the outdoors that was perhaps then unusual for a girl. In 1942 she had *Everest the Challenge* (Youngusband, 1936) and the following year *Big Game Hunting and Collecting in East Africa, 1903-1926* (Kittenberger, 1929). She left at 17 to take additional science courses at Leicester Technical College to qualify her for university entry.

Thwarted in her ambition to read horticulture at Reading University by the numbers of returning servicemen from WW2, she opted in 1947, happily as it proved, for the four year course in Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Dublin. She specialised in botany and graduated with 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours in December 1951. David Webb was Professor of Plant Biology there from 1949, and she gained an excellent knowledge of the plant-life of Ireland, particularly the west, on his field courses and also assisted him as a volunteer in the University Herbarium. However, her time at Dublin was not all work and no play. On one occasion her photograph graced the front page of the *Irish Times*; she had been spotted, wearing a New Look dress, at a race meeting at The Curragh, when she was supposed to be doing a physics practical. She retained an interest in clothes throughout her life, and became a competent seamstress, even fashioning her own jeans for fieldwork.

On her return from Dublin, Pat took up, in October 1951, a post-graduate research post in the Botany Department of the University College, Leicester, under Professor T.G. Tutin, working on varieties of lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and its close relatives *R. scoticus* and *R. reptans*. This research involved fieldwork in Orkney and Shetland and the subsequent cultivation of material and examination of pollen fertility and other characteristics at Leicester. It resulted in the designation of three sub-species of *R. flammula*, *flammula*, *scoticus* (E.S.Marshall) A.R.Clapham, and *minimus* (A.Benn) Padmore, an interpretation that is still accepted. Pat left in June 1954, shortly after her marriage, in April, to local architect Laurie Candlish. Their son, Nicholas, was born in 1956, and results of her research were not published until a year later (Padmore, 1957).

In the late 1950s, the Candlish family moved to Woodhouse Eaves in the Charnwood Forest, where in 1960 Pat was one of the founder members of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club. She served this still-flourishing organisation as Hon. Secretary for five years (1964-1969) and continued as Editor of its quarterly newsletter *Heritage* (a name she suggested) for a further sixteen (1969-1985), culminating in the 100<sup>th</sup> (Silver Jubilee) issue of February 1986. She also actively participated in the work of the scientific committees and served on the Council of the Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation, and was a member of the management committee for their large Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve.

Pat was also a founder member, in 1967, of the Leicestershire Flora Committee, set up by Ian Evans of Leicester Museums and Tony Primavesi of Ratcliffe College to work towards a new tetrad Flora of the county; Ian and Tony served respectively as Chairman and Hon. Secretary/Editor. She undertook fieldwork in the Charnwood Forest area, acted as a referee, and later helped Tony in the onerous task of correcting and editing draft texts, by a number of authors, as well as making her own contribution. It was a mark of his gratitude that he insisted that her name (as 'junior' co-editor, she always maintained) should share the title page of the *Flora of Leicestershire*, which was published in 1988.

In the mid nineteen-sixties, she embarked on two part-time occupations, adult education and journalism, that brought her to the attention of an audience well beyond local natural history circles. She tutored courses in natural history, ecology and plant identification for the WEA and University Extra-mural Departments, and gave numerous talks, all illustrated by her own photographs. For ten years (1966-1975) she wrote a monthly nature article for the *Coalville Times*, and then transferred to the *Leicester Mercury*, for whom she wrote a weekly column for a further sixteen years (1975-1991), based always, she insisted, on her own observations. She also wrote longer articles for the quarterly magazine *Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage* (1988-1991).

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By 1972, Pat and her husband had separated, and were later divorced. In 1975, the Chairman of the Flora Committee, Ian Evans, was falling behind in his allotted fieldwork, to the concern of Tony Primavesi, who, unknown to him, circulated an appeal for assistance. Pat volunteered for this task, with completely unintended consequences. Ian later separated from his wife and, following their divorce, he and Pat were married in 1978 and moved to a Victorian cottage at Keyham, which they had extensively refurbished. There, they spent a happy fourteen years creating a decorative and productive garden out of a derelict half-acre, which included an old orchard.

Meanwhile, Pat had been developing her skills as an ecological survey worker. She had been involved in the Loughborough Naturalists' Club field-by-field surveys of Charnwood Forest (1967-1973), but her first contract was a survey of Bradgate Park for the Nature Conservancy in 1973. She subsequently undertook some twelve comprehensive surveys, often of large or geographically widespread sites, for their successor, the Nature Conservancy Council, latterly in conjunction with the Ecology Unit of the Leicestershire Museums Service, which was headed by Ian in his role of County Ecologist. They included the Grantham Canal (1975), roadside verges (1975-1976), sand and gravel workings (1976-1977), the Belvoir Woodlands (1977), the floodplains of the Rivers Soar and Wreake (1978), woodland SSSI (1978-1979), and habitat mapping of all the Leicestershire and Rutland SSSI (1982-1983).

In 1978, following a planning inquiry into the proposed establishment of three new deep coal mines in north-east Leicestershire, it had been realised by the Museums Service that site-specific ecological information was completely lacking for many areas of the county. Accordingly, Pat was appointed in 1978 as their first contract Field Ecologist, and set off on a field-by-field survey of the parish of Bottesford, spread over some 6000 acres in the north-eastern corner of the county. This was a Phase 1 survey, supplemented by detailed target notes, photographs, and records of any animal life encountered. Her continuing work in this area was later complemented by that of a large team funded by the Manpower Services Commission, but the methodology used was that developed by her in consultation with Ian.

Coincidentally, this first parish survey was one of the most rewarding, since in May 1978 she came across a group of hitherto-unknown unimproved grassland fields, which contained more than 4,000 green-winged orchids *Anacamptis morio*. This site, through the generosity of the Duke of Rutland, who owned it, later became the Muston Meadows National Nature Reserve. Pat continued her ecological survey work throughout the 1980s, and by 1991, through her efforts and those of the MSC-funded team, all but three of 284 parishes in Leicestershire and Rutland (excluding Leicester) had been mapped and evaluated. She had surveyed 38 of those parishes, and at least 161 individual sites, and her personal contribution to knowledge of sites of ecological interest in Leicestershire and Rutland was quite unique.

Pat and Ian took their annual holidays either in south-western Ireland or on the west coast of Scotland, including many of the off-shore islands, walking, fishing and botanising. In 1982, they spent a week in June at the Drumbeg Hotel, in the parish of Assynt, the southernmost of the five large parishes that constitute vice-county 108, West Sutherland. They fell in love with the area, made longer visits in subsequent years, and in 1988 started work on a flora survey of the 164 tetrads that make up the parish. This did not meet with everyone's approval. It was suggested that a broader-ranging survey of selected tetrads across all of the wide-flung hectads of the vice-county might be more useful, and it was implied that extensive areas of the parish, on Lewisian gneiss, would prove botanically dreary. The first suggestion would have involved an inordinate amount of travelling and the second, as they had already surmised, proved quite unfounded.

At the end of July 1991, Ian took early retirement from the Leicestershire Museums Service. Pat and he moved two days later to a house they had had built on another half-acre plot, albeit of rockier ground, but with native hazels and other trees, overlooking Loch Nedd, a mile east of Drumbeg. There they set about creating another garden, indulging Pat's long-held ambition to grow bog primulas and Himalayan poppies, amongst other things, with a large vegetable garden and greenhouse thrown in. Work on the Assynt tetrad survey continued apace in that and subsequent years. As luck would have it, they were visited in April 1992 by Gordon Rothero, who was reconnoitring the area for a field meeting of the British Bryological Society later that year. He returned twice or more times each year, surveyed the bryophytes and added substantially to knowledge of the montane phanerogams. He became a very good friend and co-author of the *Flora of Assynt*, published privately in 2002.

The three of them carried out almost all of the fieldwork involved in the flora survey, apart from that on a BSBI field meeting in 1993 and occasional visits by experts in particular groups. They walked more than 2000 miles in some 400 tetrad visits, often well off tracks, accumulating 30,676 records of 694 taxa of phanerogams and 13,600 records of 501 taxa of bryophytes, the latter from a sample set of 99 tetrads. Since the fieldwork season is relatively short in the far north-west, June to mid-October at best, non-botanical visitors were discouraged during this time and holidays taken 'at home'. During the intervening winters, Pat inputted and mapped all the records, compiled the systematic accounts and, finally, produced the camera-ready text, with



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embedded maps, from which the *Flora* was printed. Ian's particular contributions were navigation and recording in the field, the introductory chapters, historical records and illustrations; other tasks were shared.

Eastern parts of West Sutherland were always a problem for Pat and Ian, since reaching them entailed long drives and/or overnight stays. However, following a BSBI meeting based at Tongue in 1995, they surveyed parts of Strath Naver and Strath Halladale as contributions to the 2002 *Atlas*. These visits were supplemented by ones to some very remote areas in 2003 and 2004 as part of the Local Change survey and also, in the same years, by extensive Site Condition Monitoring surveys on the Invernaver and Strathy Coast SSSI. The latter, although focussed on key species, did introduce them to the delights of previously unvisited parts of the north coast, although it was frustrating not to be able to do more general recording. These surveys allowed Pat to fine-tune her skills in the identification of eyebrights *Euphrasia* spp., and to further develop an interest in roses *Rosa* spp. that had started when she was working in Leicestershire with Tony Primavesi.

After 2002, Pat and Ian's fieldwork was focussed mainly on detailed tetrad recording of those parts of West Sutherland that are within a couple of hours' drive of Nedd. These included most of the lower ground round to the eastern side of Loch Eriboll, with a number of the offshore islands. Up to the end of 2014, some 200 tetrads had been surveyed, most of which had either never before been visited by botanists, or not recorded in detail. Most of the remaining 400 tetrads in the vice-county further to the east that have yet to be surveyed suffer from the same lack of information, although, given the underlying geology, some of these may not be quite so productive. Pat had also started work on a detailed analysis of recent records for a *Rare Plant Register for West Sutherland*, to which Ian's contribution was to be the historic records. Ian hopes to be able to complete this *RPR*, as a tribute to all her efforts, given some assistance with the now rather antiquated data-base on which the records were assembled.

This account of her life is inevitably dominated by Pat's botanical interests, but over two decades in Assynt she was an active member of a number of local organizations, including the Episcopalian Church, the SWRI and the Assynt Field Club. She also contributed generously to local and national charities, especially those concerned with animal welfare.

As she moved into her eighties, Pat began to show some signs of memory loss and associated problems, which were diagnosed late in 2012 as the onset of vascular dementia. She retained, however, her physical capabilities, enjoyed walking and took an active interest in the garden, the wider landscape and the natural world, until a few weeks before her death. She also seemed to accept, with almost unflinching dignity and good humour, the limitations her condition imposed. Her funeral, in Lochinver on 9<sup>th</sup> May, was attended by a large number of family members and friends from near and far, and she is buried in the cemetery at Stoer, two hundred metres from the restless waters of The Minch.

Pat was proud of her Scottish ancestry, tracing it back in one line, on her mother's side, over some five generations, to John Crerar (1740-1840), who was for many years Head Forester to the Dukes of Atholl, and whose portrait, by Edwin Landseer, is at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery; he was also a noted fiddler. Her immediate family were few, since her father was one of two brothers who had married two sisters, but she took a delight in their interests and accomplishments. Her son, Nicholas, is a skilled motor engineer and keen fly fisherman; her grandson, Struan, shares his father's interest in fishing and fly-tying and has recently graduated in countryside management at Ayr; her granddaughter, Corinne, is a violinist, who has just completed her B.Mus. at Manchester.

Her own accomplishments were recently recognised by two awards. On 21st November 2014, the John Muir Trust presented her and Ian with a Special Volunteer's Award for their contribution to 'the knowledge, understanding and conservation of wild places in Scotland'. A year later, on 19th November 2015, Ian and she shared, she posthumously, the National Biodiversity Network's first Gilbert White Award, for their 'outstanding contribution to biological recording and improving our understanding of the natural world'.

So far, this account of Pat's life and work has been couched in the customary third-person format, but I would like to conclude with a personal tribute. Pat was kind, generous, an accomplished naturalist, writer, cook and homemaker, an enthusiastic and skilled gardener and a beloved mother and grandmother. She was capable and self-reliant, could be courageously independent, and did, on occasion, throw caution to the winds. She and I enjoyed a loving, supportive and productive partnership for nearly forty years. She lived life to the full, and will be greatly missed by many, not least by me. I would like to thank family and friends, old and new, whose love, companionship in the field and help sustained us through all those years, particularly the last few.

**Ian M. Evans**

# KEYHAM NEWS

## KEYHAM NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS:-

**JAN:** FOX FOR 1 POINT; 4 TIMES FOR 1 POINT; 2 IN TOTAL  
**FEB:** LIZZIE SKELTON FOR 1 POINT  
**MAR:** PRIDE FOR 1 POINT  
**APR:** US FOR 1 POINT; DAVID NICHOLLS FOR 1 POINT;  
2 IN TOTAL  
**MAY:** SUE&KEV FOR 1 POINT; WHEELERS FOR 1 POINT;  
2 IN TOTAL  
**JUNE:** JIM HOSKINSON/ALFRED WAINWRIGHT  
TONY&CAROLE JOHNSON/SONNY&CHER  
STEVE AYLOTT&DAVID WITCOMB/WALDORF&STATLER  
EDNA&RICHARD&CHARLIE/HILLARY&TENZING  
MOLLIE HOSKINSON/JANE FONDA  
JOHN HUGHES/RONNIE CORBETT  
GLYN PRICE/JAMES COBURN&RICHARD HEARNE  
2 POINTS FOR EACH MONTH; 14 IN TOTAL  
**JULY:** MARY WOOD FOR 1 POINT; MARIE LLOYD FOR 1 POINT; 2 IN TOTAL  
**AUG:** SAUSAGES FOR 1 POINT; MASH FOR 1 POINT;  
GRAVY FOR 1 POINT; 3 IN TOTAL  
**SEP:** PETE HAWKER; FREDDIE STEVENS;  
GEOFF BARNETT; SEB WHEELER;  
KEITH WOOD; DAVID WITCOMB; 6 IN TOTAL  
**OCT:** GLENDA JACKSON FOR 1 POINT  
**NOV:** JULIE EMBERTON FOR 1 POINT;  
£180 FOR 1 POINT; 2 IN TOTAL  
**DEC:** THAMES FOR 1 POINT  
**TIE BREAKER:** 98  
35 POINTS AVAILABLE IN TOTAL

### Keyham News Deadline for February Edition

The deadline for KN February edition is  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.

All articles and photographs to  
The Lodge or [jandm.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:jandm.hughes@btinternet.com)

### STOP PRESS: STORM FRANK HITS KEYHAM!

The latest storm to hit the UK (Storm Frank) brought down a large Ash tree in the village just missing the Church.



Root.....

... and Branch