

HBC LADIES' NEWS

Welcome | Nature Notes | Lockdown Memories

Welcome

Welcome to the ninth edition of the **HBC Ladies' News**.

Many thanks to Ian and Julie for their contributions this month.

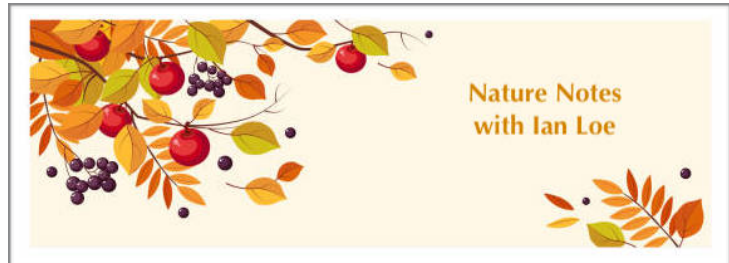
Maybe when you next close your curtains of an evening, look first on the outside of the window as there may be a Winter moth on the glass attracted by the light from the room.

Also, check out the RSPB's [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) to be held between January 29th - 31st.

Once again we are in a National Lockdown and it is still important to keep in touch with each other, whether by a quick letter, email or telephone chat but nothing more physical!

Book Angels

Many thanks to Jenny for challenging us to make a Book Angel. Here are some examples.



What to look for in Winter

When I last wrote we were entering the season of mists. I heard recently that as from the 1st December we are now, meteorologically speaking, in Winter. This reminds me of an ancient ditty that went as follows:

*'When the temperature is at zero
and from cold we're all half dead
I count him the biggest hero
As puts his feet right doon in bed'*

From the perspective of a more elderly person I can just about remember such days. Today we all live rather more comfortably with centrally heated homes with perhaps the addition of an electric blanket. We are indeed privileged, if not spoiled, but it does, of course, come at a cost. The cost to our environment will be mostly felt by our children and grandchildren.

Nature might seem to be dormant at this time of the year but this is far from the truth. On the first day of winter I observed Redwings feeding from the holly berries in the garden. These birds, along with thousands of others, have flown from Scandinavia and Russia across the North Sea to enjoy our warmer climate and to feast upon an abundance of wild fruits.



That same day I noticed a small drab coloured moth resting on our front door. The Winter moth, yes, that's its real name, is peculiar in that the female is wingless. It is one of only a few moths that emerge in Winter.

Lockdown Memories

When I look back on 2020 it will definitely be with mixed emotions! Sad, happy, thankful, hopeful and a deeper spiritual belief.

I found music to be a great comfort during the more difficult times and regularly listened to The Cambridge Singers singing music composed by their musical director John Rutter.

[Gaelic Blessing](#) and [The Lord bless you and keep you](#) are so beautiful and were very meaningful throughout the year.

Click on the song titles to hear the Cambridge Singers.

Julie Elmes

Last Month's Puzzle

Many thanks to those who entered last month's competition and again a box of chocolates was awarded to Barbara who found 101 three or more letter words from the word **Christmas**.

Next Month

In the February's edition:

- More lockdown memories
- Readers' letters and comments

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What to look for in Winter (Cont.)

Wild flowers are mostly over but the occasional Buttercup and



Dandelion can still be seen along with drifts of white Dead-nettle. Very soon, however, we will welcome the first snowdrops and winter aconites to be followed by primroses, lesser celandine and coltsfoot.

Garden shrubs are continuing to provide us with colour and scent. Look out for Viburnum - sweet scented with rose-tinted flowers and Winter Jasmine - yellow flowers before the leaves appear. My Christmas Rose, Helleborus niger, will soon be flowering, what a joy to behold!

Another winter marvel is the shrub Daphne mezereum with beautiful pink, delicately scented flowers.

It is time to close, but before I do, I must refer you to Val Joslin's front



garden where the lovely mauve coloured iris, *Iris unguicularis*, is flowering freely, but of course, maintain social distancing.

And finally, marvel at the great balls of Mistletoe hanging from so many trees in the village. Fortunately these are at a great height so should not pose a problem to any innocent young lady passing by!

Ian Loe

A Verse to Ponder

