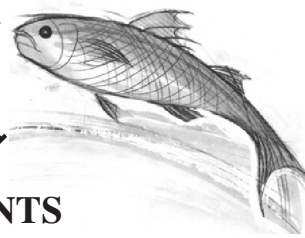


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #47

www.dangarisland.net

WINTER 2015

Three Farewells

Ann Howard



The saddest thing possible is your child dying before you. Lincoln was only 46. He died on March 8th suddenly from undiagnosed liver cancer, in Jakarta, where, as a brilliant linguist, he had lived happily for 18 years as Director of Berlitz. He helped many people, gave time to rescuing stray dogs and finding them homes and arranged for Mitsubishi to donate a bus for a travelling library. He helped fund the orangutan and elephant sanctuaries. He was known as 'Mr Jakarta'. His family is devastated. He died the exact week he was returning to Australia to live, after 27 years in Asia. We were all very close – holidaying together, emailing, phoning, skypeing and sending presents and we

were so looking forward to his return. My youngest son, his best mate, had to break the news to me. I had to break the news to one of my grandsons, who worshipped his 'best uncle'. My partner, Robert was very saddened. His deep friendship with Lincoln, started when taking Lincoln to Japan on tour, beginning his career in linguistics. Robert bailed him out when he splurged on his credit card (s)!

Friends brought armfuls of flowers to our city studios. Lincoln had three farewells. In Jakarta, over 300 friends (many who work for the UN) flew in from LA, Tokyo, Australia, Kenya, Dallas, Singapore and Rome, to join his younger brother in paying their respects over

three days. The Embassy and mutual Indonesian friends were marvellous, so helpful and kind. Then friends in Bali, where he holidayed, sent out little paper boats full of flowers, eggs and candles for him. The third ceremony was on Dangar Island where he'd requested his ashes be laid. This was for us to say goodbye. The few islanders still living here who knew Lincoln, joined us. Afterwards, his nephew scattered petals from flowers given to us, on the river at sunset. The river was looking at its best. It was a sweet and moving tribute to him. Other ashes have gone to Kenya, where a mango tree was planted and Jakarta sanctuaries where Lychees were planted.

... continued page 2

Free Wi-Fi

Dangar Island Bowling Club

Dangar Island Bowling club now offers FREE Wi-Fi to patrons of the club. Come in and ask for the password when you eat and drink at the club!

Made to order!

Homemade sausage rolls, pies and savoury tarts.

Adrienne 0409 746 275

Dangar Island Playgroup

Vanessa Payne

Fridays 10-12

Dangar Island Hall
\$4 child / \$1 second child
Morning tea and craft activities provided

Call Vanessa for more details
0414 317 260



MULLET MAIL BACK ISSUES Archived online

A selection of back issues of the Mullet Mail are available on our Community website. You can access the site at either dangarislandleague.net or dangar-island.net.

Three Farewells

Ann Howard

... continued from page 1

Lincoln always came home to the island when in Australia. He spent his childhood on Dangar Island in the 1970s, enjoying its freedom with his two brothers and a tribe of companion animals. His main claim to fame was when, aged 8, swimming outside the shop he came face to face with a large John Dory, and clasped it in his arms. He persuaded two other children to stand guard on the poor gasping fish, rushing home for the wheelbarrow. I can see his face now – scarlet with excitement, ‘Mum, mum, I’ve caught the biggest fish!’ There are many stories about Lincoln: the first island child with a cassette player (early adaptor!) he turned his bedroom into a disco, playing Kate Bush and Carole King. The other 9 island children all wanted to be in it. He lived life on his own terms but was always irreverent, kind, generous, full of energy and so funny he could make people explode with laughter.

We have made a special garden for him, planted with bluebells and forget-me-nots. A friend had a plaque made on which is carved ‘the candle that burns the brightest, lasts half as long’, Lao Tsu. Lincoln was my soul mate and I will always, always miss him.

Thank you to our friends in the fire brigade and islanders who have sent messages and thoughtful cards, or given a hug along the way. Friends are so important.

Some mutual Indonesian friends are visiting the Island in June to see where Lincoln was a happy child and see his garden. Everyone is welcome to sit near this special place where (usually) you can just hear the island gift of quiet, when birds sing, the wind sighs in the leaves and children laugh happily in the park, and feel grateful for the gift of a child. A gift that keeps on giving.

What Happened To Me

Bruce Lambert

Organised chaos, that’s what it is.

Blood pressure monitoring away

to the left, charts being

updated there on the right.

A cleaner darts in

to mop down the floors,

as three doctors converse

at the foot of a bed.

Medication time and did I open my bowels?

The shower awaits

but wait just a minute.

I truly don’t wish to carp or offend

It might not seem much

to those seasoned old-handers,

but I only came in to visit a friend.

Felt Workshop

Lisa Hayes

Would you like to learn how to make felt?

I’m hosting a one-day workshop for a small group of 5-6 people, in the Community Hall in July (date tbc).

While learning the basics of felt-making, you will produce a unique and beautiful piece of felt to take home. Previous workshops have produced scarves, hats, bags, bowls or you may have something else in mind.

Morning & afternoon tea will be provided. Total cost \$95, including materials.

Please call or email Lisa Hayes: 0405 005 745 or lisahayes.aus@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more information.



Lisa’s work will be on sale this Sunday at the Art Show in the park, 10am- 4pm

ARMR is live!!!

Martin Lloyd

What ???

Don't worry the answer is in the name - **Australian Refugee Media Resource.**

If you are still reading, great this site is for you. If you've given up already then you're just the person I would love to reach. ARMR is a library site collecting links to articles, text, audio, video, podcast and graphics that may be of interest to anyone with a concern about our current refugee policy.

ARMR is a one stop shop of resources so that you will no longer feel at a loss for

a news headline, a fact, an argument, an NGO contact and FAQ page or somewhere you can search for an example, a case study or how you can help to campaign.

Please drop in, view the articles, have a think, start an argument. You can find ARMR on Facebook or at **australianrefugeemediaresource.weebly.com/**

If you want to help or know of any articles please contact me through the website or Facebook page.

Thanks to you all and just do something.

STOP THE BOATS



Blast from the Past

David Reynolds

See also pages 10-11



A photo of Elizabeth Morse (*see article page 10*) taken from near the tennis court (*page 10*), looking up towards their cottage near where the club is today, along Grantham. Interesting to see the avenue of planted trees. They were obviously planted soon after 1864 when Henry Dangar had orchards tended by the island caretakers, the Stanburys.

Dangar Island League

Peter Wolfe

We can summarise this league report as “the quiet during the storm”. The period saw the Island lashed by the storms and we were all reminded of how supportive and resilient the island is in difficult times. It was good to see folks looking out for each other and helping when needed.

We should give special mention to all those who kept services running in exceptional circumstances. The ferry barely missed a beat while the rest of us were trying to stop our boats being swept away to New Zealand. Well done Ferrymasters. It was also amazing that we maintained power during the storm (sorry Wobby).

Many households had damage but we should be thankful that, compared to other areas like the Hunter Region, we got off lightly. Bradleys Beach took the worst pounding and there was significant erosion together with large quantities of debris deposited on the beach. Residents and Council have been working on the cleanup

and looking at what can be done to minimise future erosion. The League has attended a residents meeting on this subject and formally written to Council to propose and coordinate a plan of stabilising measures.

We have inquired regularly over the next steps in the wharf upgrade, but there is little new to report. The Council is keen to engage a facilitator to lead the dialogue between the interested parties. We don't have any dates for this yet. We do believe that work is being done behind the scenes on the various technical queries and that this needs to be completed before any future consultation.

This is the time of year some people travel and our weekender friends and neighbours are here less frequently. We do encourage everyone who can to come to our next public meeting on June 20th at 2pm when we can update on all issues and you can have your say.

Spot a dolphin in the River?



Take a photo of its dorsal fin and contribute to local research with Marine Biologist Cassie Chronik

Individual dolphins can be told apart from one another by their dorsal fins - and each dolphin has its own story. Help us work together to gain information, track and protect the bottlenose dolphins who share our waters.

email photos with DATE, LOCATION, NUMBER of Dolphins in the pod and ACTIVITY (if known) to: oceanmatters@gmail.com

Dangar Island Cafe

Fiona Mullen

As winter has arrived, heart & soul warming soups will be available. Styles will vary; let us know your favourites!

Cindy is currently exhibiting her lovely paintings, each one a quirky view of our life here. Play 'Where's Pixie?' she features somewhere in each one. Following Cindy's display we will host Matt Glendenning's artwork. Opening date in July to be announced.

We are delighted to have Brenda Hall back on the island. A very welcome return to the volunteer BBQ roster! If you would like to be part of our roster or exhibit your work in the future, drop a line to

info@DangarIslandCafe.com

Donation boxes are situated on the 'community shelves' in the shop. These are for the Community First Responders and the second hand books sales for the Firies. Does anyone know the origin of the Firies box that seems to have been in situ forever?

A reminder that during winter river visitor numbers decrease. Local businesses all face the same difficulties of surviving on local custom alone during this time. Please assist where possible by buying locally, our infrastructure is really essential to us all.



Owner of White Putter on Rick Nock's Jetty

Could the owner of the timber putter with a blue canvas cover please contact Rick ASAP.

DIMC

Antony Schinckel

Despite the best efforts by Hornsby Shire Council the planned upgrade of the Dangar Island Ferry Wharf continues to hold up our plans for the mooring co-operative. The current situation is that a concept design is on the table. Discussions with community groups regarding pros and cons of that design have demonstrated concerns regarding mobility access issues, ferry operational safety matters and Rural Fire Service facilities.

Most of these issues have been resolved, with a number of queries being taken to Snowy Mountains Engineering Authority (SMEC, the engineers commissioned by Council to develop the design).

Each time the community requests clarification on specific points that need a

report from SMEC there is a cost incurred which the Council has to meet. Three such reports have been requested and delivered at Council's cost. SMEC is an internationally respected engineering firm but some answers given by them to community queries have not been accepted by those asking the questions. It is difficult to understand the rejection of answers from such an eminent body and it is the rejection of these answers that is resulting in Council being reluctant to take the design matter forward to a 'design to build' stage before an acceptable concept design evolves. We ask that members of the community involved work with the council and its experts to move this process forward.

Our position is that DIMC would like to see the following as part of that concept –

- A ferry pontoon facility that will facilitate the development of the mooring co-operative.
- A ferry pontoon facility that meets the Standards Australia parameters for mobility access or better
- A ferry pontoon facility that meets the needs of Roads & Maritime Services.
- A ferry pontoon facility that meets the standards required by the Dept of Transport
- A ferry pontoon facility that meets community needs, eg the Rural Fire Service, First Responders, the River Boat Postman and others.

The DIMC Committee continues to work with Council, statutory bodies and the community to further the co-operative. DIMC is not just the Committee but is a community based group working with

and for their community's improvement. We now have in excess of forty membership commitments, representing a significant proportion of the island's residents. These come from a wide spectrum of island residents, from families with babies to people in their seventies, and number around a hundred individuals who all currently use their boats with difficulty.

Contact us on info@dangarislandmooringcoop.net
DIMC – Ant, Sue, Tom, Stu and David.



Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

Cybele Shorter, Captain 2015

Our AGM 2015 saw Wally Bower resign as president after a solid ten years of conscientious, determined, thoughtful and productive guardianship of the brigade. Wally has negotiated with Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai District RFS and Hornsby Shire Council to ensure projects, no matter how big or small, stayed on track. Wally has been there as a sounding board and a good friend for everything within and outside the brigade. Wally worked tirelessly on our annual fundraisers to ensure we raised enough funds to complete the fit-out of the new fire station which is a resounding success. He kept us fed, on our toes for meetings and held us all to our word. A promise to Wally is a commitment the bites you back if you forget. Thank you Wally, for everything, and we look forward to your continued membership in the support team.



Ros Holland has elegantly stepped into the capacious Presidential shoes, with Philip Holland dashing in as her valiant Vice. This bright duo is already winning the executive over while we dry our eyes as Wally exits stage left. Our active firefighters and support volunteers are increasingly engaged with a wide range of brigade responsibilities from Communications and Engagement to Training and Maintenance. We currently have six Advanced Firefighters and five Crew Leaders, keeping our fire brigade in tip-top shape. Congratulations on all 2015 Officer appointments and re-appointments, thank you on behalf of the brigade and the community.



Three of our Advanced Firefighters, Kathy, Tom and Martin, are skipping down the yellow road training to become Crew Leaders and our future. Please encourage them along as this training takes commitment, time and energy to complete. Of these three I'd like to make special mention of the contributions Kathy makes to the brigade. This year we have acknowledged Kathy with the honour of our Peter Short Award for outstanding volunteering. Kathy is a delightful member of the team, enthusiastically involved with all aspects of being in the brigade.





Hydrants

Jonathan Sykes

After years of road surface disruption, our FIREWISE Adopt-A-Hydrant program is back on track. Finding a fire hydrant quickly is vital in structure fire incidents, as we only have around 3 minutes of water on the truck.

Our Hydrant Adopters are residents who keep a weather eye on a favourite hydrant in case it becomes covered or obstructed, and 13 year old Max Doggett is our Super Adopter. "As long as they work, they're safe," he says. He's walked to every hydrant on the island, checking and reporting on service condition and find-ability. With Max's help we've recently restored and upgraded signage, and we're rolling out blue reflective markers where we can find a suitable spot. Thanks Max!

Maybe you can't match the energy and dedication of Max, but why not become a Hydrant Adopter! It's easy and you can help save lives. A quarterly email reminds you to quickly check your baby and report any problems so that our maintenance team can swing into action. Drop us a line at dangarislandrfb@gmail.com or call Jonathan 0404 719 997.

Pile Burns

Bill Lynn-Robinson

Now that you're all winter prepared with a Home Escape Plan, a clean chimney and smoke alarms with new batteries, you might want to reduce build up of fine fuels in the garden. Pile burns permits are a little simpler in winter.

- 1. You only need a permit from Hornsby Council.**
- 2. With permit in hand, advise your neighbours when you will be burning.**
- 3. Dry material only, no green waste and no treated timber.**
- 4. No fires on the shore line.**



J (June and July)

Marcus Whitaker

J is a consonant in English, but some nations use it as a vowel - than which nothing could be more absurd. Its original form, which has been but slightly modified, was that of the tail of a subdued dog, and it was not a letter but a character, standing for a Latin verb, *jacere*, 'to throw', because when a stone is thrown at a dog the dog's tail assumes that shape. This is the origin of the letter, as expounded by the renowned Dr Jocolpus Bumer, of the University of Belgrade, who established his conclusions on the subject in a work of three quarto volumes and committed suicide on being reminded that the j in the Roman alphabet had originally no curl.

Jealous, adj. Unduly concerned about the preservation of that which can be lost only if not worth keeping.

Jester, n. An officer formerly attached to a king's household, whose business it was to amuse the court by ludicrous actions and utterances, the absurdity being attested by his motley costume. The king himself being attired with dignity, it took tge world some centuries to discover that his own conduct and decrees were sufficiently ridiculous for the amusement not only of his court but if all mankind. The jester was commonly called a fool, but the poets and romancers have ever delighted to represent him as a singularly wise and witty person. In the circus of today the melancholy ghost of the court fool effects the dejection of humbler audiences with the same jests wherewith in life he gloomed the marble hall, panged the patrician sense of humour and tapped the tank of royal tears.

The widow-queen of Portugal
Had an audacious jester
Who entered the confessional
Disguised, and there confessed her.

'Father,' she said, 'thine ear bend down -
My sins are more than scarlet:
I love my fool - blaspheming clown,
And common, base-born varlet.

'Daughter,' the mimic priest replied,
'That sin, indeed is awful:
The church's pardon is denied
To love that is unlawful.

'But since thy stubborn heart will be
For him forever pleading,
Thou'dst better make him, by decree,
A man of birth and breeding.

'She made the fool a duke, in hope
With Heaven's taboo to palter;
Then told a priest, who told the Pope,
Who damned her from the altar!

- Barel Dort.



Jews-harp, n. An unmusical instrument, played by holding fast with the teeth and trying to brush it away with the finger.

Justice, n. A commodity which in a more or less adulterated condition the State sells to the citizen as a reward for his allegiance, taxes and personal services.

From The Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce (1911).

DANGAR ISLAND BOWLING CLUB
ART SHOW
Sunday June 21st 10am - 4pm

Dangar Island Bowling Club

Andy Payne, President



Summer and autumn trading at the Club has been very positive, contributing to the ongoing viability of your Club, providing employment opportunities for islanders and funding maintenance and improvements to the amenity of the club.

We appreciate islanders patronage of the Club and their support of the regular events.

Entertainment

Over the last few months we've hosted some quality bands including Blues act Darren Jack and emerging local talent in the Stoned Beagles / Blind Venetians and the smooth jazz of Peter Power. The Club has also hosted the DIFS who have put on two great Australian films in Priscilla Queen of the Desert and Gallipoli. Open Mic events continue to be the top fixture of each month, whether the power is working or not.

We are an unpaid volunteer board trying to do the best thing by the Club and its members, our staff and our community. At times these objects come in to conflict but we try and do the best we can. Noise from a few of the once a month Sunday Sessions has clearly upset a number of our immediate neighbours and we apologise for that.

Feedback

We welcome the chance to receive feedback on the impact that the Club has, both positive and negative. We appreciate that not everyone is comfortable to approach individual directors (but we're happy if you do).

If you'd prefer to provide your feedback online there is a 2-3 minute online questionnaire at: <http://dangarislandbowlingclub.com.au/contact/index.php>. We'd really appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback, both positive and negative on all aspects of the club and the services provided. Many people already have so make sure your voice is heard.

Art Show and Christmas in July

Michael Liebenberg and others have been working with Evan to put on the Art Show and in July we have a renewed Christmas in

July (tickets available at the Bar – and will sell out so get yours now to make sure you don't miss out).

Improvements

Users of the club will also have noticed a number of the improvements that have been made, including the installation of cooling fans (just in time for winter), outdoor heaters (surprisingly in time for winter) and the removal of the old opaque 'clears'. Thanks to a kind donation from Hat Head Bowling Club and a semi professional installation from Matt we also now have shade at one end of the bowling green (just in time for winter). There is a long list of repairs and improvements still to be done, and the next job is better insulation of the clubhouse roof which will provide year round benefits.

Bowls

The annual singles bowls tournament will be held on the October long weekend, so now's the time to get some practice in. New bowlers are always welcome and members of the club always get to bowl for free. Come and impress over the winter months and you might get a berth in our Shire Cup team in September. All equipment is provided and if you come down on a Sunday afternoon we can even give you some tips.

AGM

The Club's Annual Meeting will occur on Saturday 25th July at 11am. This is another chance to hear about what's happening at your club. Importantly it also provides you with an opportunity to join our volunteer board - we can always do with more help. However much or little time you can offer it will be gratefully received.

My thanks go to Leigh, Evan, Steve and Ness for their continued efforts over the last few months, to Matt and Chris for providing help through the ether, Cam Ley (Associate Director, Greens) as well as Corrynth White and our wonderful staff.

Dangarlicious Kitchen @ DIBC

Josh Smith

Heading into its 5th year on the island, we continue to provide our hand made pizzas and pasta every Thursday from 5:30 pm. Don't forget that we can also deliver if you give us notice when you order!

Our à la carte menu continues to be available every Friday, Saturday and Sunday with local seafoods and French and Italian infused cuisine. With local beverages, wines and imported spirits it's a great place to connect with community and immerse yourself in the unique Hawkesbury River lifestyle and simple hospitality.

Ask about our corporate catering or book a function or party with us. Save \$\$\$\$ and let us plan the event for you.

BOOK A CHOOK!!

Call to book a roast chicken with a large serve of chips for only \$20. Just make sure to give us 24 hours notice.

Our new winter menu is due out in July. Check the club website www.dangarislandbowlingclub.com.au/ or follow us on FB to stay in touch with what's happening at the club.

Take away and delivery available.

Support your local kitchen.

Call us on 9985 7083.



Blast from the Past

David Reynolds



An amazing photo that the Dangar Island Historical Society has recently uncovered. If you thought that the tennis court next to the public wharf in the 1930s was the first one on the island, think again! This photo is from 1887, showing a tennis court on the site of present day Grantham Crescent, about halfway between the Club and Bradleys Beach. It was built for Ryland & Morse, the American engineers, to enjoy while the bridge was being constructed on the island between 1887 and 1889.

The couple at the far end of the court are Edwin Morse and his wife Elizabeth, and the tall man near right is engineer Charles McDonald, the only other American to accompany Ryland & Morse to Dangar for the bridge construction. Notice the two Newfoundland dogs in the photo, which would have been brought from the US by them.

As well as being a fantastic snippet of the island's past, this photo is a very important piece of Australian tennis history. This may be the first ever photo of tennis being played in NSW! The first official matches were played in 1885 but only illustrations of these survive. The Australian Tennis Museum is currently researching this and will let us know soon.



An amazing panorama of Dangar Island taken from the public wharf in the 1930s! Great detail of Dangar House and its tennis court and enclosed ladies' baths. The only house to the right of the wharf is 8 Neotsfield, which was originally used as the first Post Office. Behind it you can see 1 Riverview on the corner. And of course, the old bridge on the far right.



Another shot of the tennis court.



And another taken from the same spot looking towards Wobby and Croppy Point.

Koalas on Dangar?



Over the years there has been much discussion on whether there was ever a koala colony on Dangar Island. There was a newspaper report in *The Argus* of a fire on the island in the 1920s that killed many koalas but we have never been able to substantiate that claim, and think that they got their facts wrong, as there was a large bushfire at Marra Marra at that time. We do know that the island produced some varieties of eucalypt that koalas feed on.

However, the one piece of evidence we had was an old poor quality photocopy of a photo of Edwin Morse, the American bridge engineer, and his wife sitting in front of their cottage on the island in 1887, and a koala could be seen sitting in a tree behind them. There has been debate on whether this koala was real or possibly a stuffed toy placed in the tree.

Well, we have now uncovered the original photo and I'll leave it up to you to decide whether the koala is real or not! What do you think?

Cold Comfort

Bruce Lambert

It was the drink that made me do it,
I didn't mean it love.
Though my hand was raised in anger,
I didn't mean to shove.

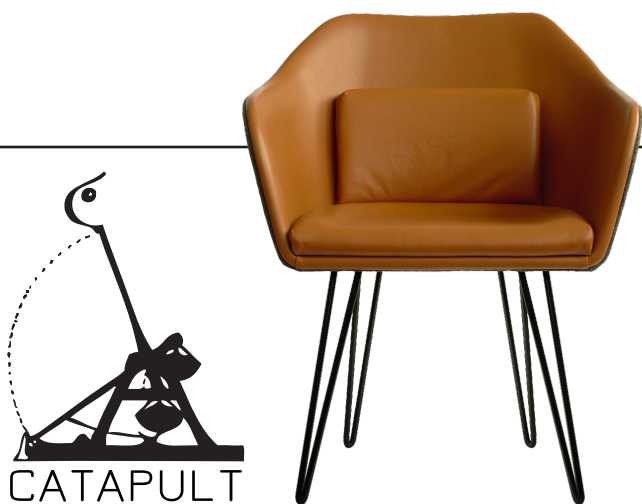
For all your pain and suffering,
you must surely realise.
That to speak and stand against me,
it is me that I despise.

Mea Culpa is the order of the day,
for unwarranted intrusion and distress.
A lack of understanding and empathy display,
the need of self appraisal in excess.

The shock of one arriving when good people are abed,
is evidence enough of lack of thought.
The petulant behaviour in words that were unsaid,
was unworthy in such matters of this sort.

Your time is truly precious and must carefully parcel out,
to meet competing needs of family bonds.
one can but hope to offer this heartfelt cry without,
the thought of your displeasure as it absconds.

Two Australian women die every week as the result of domestic violence.



Are you after any new lighting, furniture, accessories for the home or office?

Check out the Catapult website for Australian made and manufactured designer products.

www.catapultdesign.net.au

Or speak to Leigh for a 'mates-rates' discount.

Bowling Club Events

June

Sunday June 21st

– ART SHOW in the Park, 10am-4pm

July

Friday July 3rd is Open Mic

– bring your friends, family and talent!

Saturday 25th July

– ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 11am

Saturday 25th July

– Christmas in July DINNER

August

Friday 7th August

– OPEN MIC NIGHT

– bring your friends, family and talent!

September

Friday 4th September

– OPEN MIC NIGHT

– bring your friends, family and talent!

Sunday 6th September

– FATHERS DAY LUNCH

October

Friday 2nd October

– OPEN MIC NIGHT

– bring your friends, family and talent!

Sunday 4th October

– OKTOBERFEST

Don't forget to get your home brews brewing for beer and cider judging on the day!!

Mullet Mail Deadlines 2015

September/Spring Edition 2015

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 31st August

IN BOXES: Friday 14th September

Christmas Edition 2015

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 23rd November

IN BOXES: Friday 11th December