

## That Stranger is a Friend you haven't met.....

I was having a nostalgic moment the other afternoon and going through some of my folk DVDs, The Dubliners, Steeleye Span, Ewan McColl and more. The Houghton Weavers are amongst my favourites.

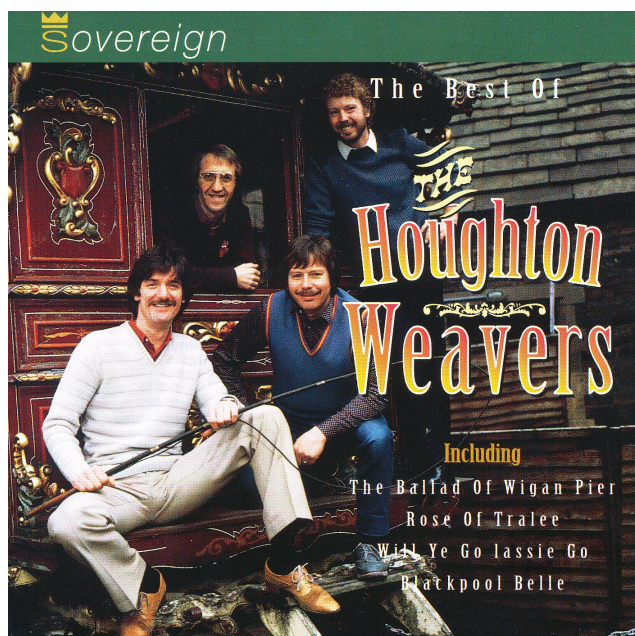
In my youth I was (and still am) an avid fan of folk music. Myself and a couple of friends would travel far and wide for a folk evening or a concert.

Then came marriage and baby so our wanderings were curtailed somewhat, until Jo grew and Brian and I picked up our love of folk music and discovered The Houghton Weavers.

They sing mainly English folk music, much of it in Lancashire dialect, as well as folk versions of easy listening hits, and were formed in 1975.

One of their songs is called "That stranger is a friend you haven't met" and it suddenly jumped into my head as I was sitting in church last Sunday. Was this divine inspiration for the newsletter?

The lyrics of this particular song were written by Bob Barratt (1938—2004) a record producer for EMI and founder of the label Grasmere. The original quote is "There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met." and it is attributed to William Butler Yeats an Irish poet who won the Nobel prize for Literature in 1923.



### **"That Stranger is a Friend you haven't met"**

1) *Walking through the back streets of this town where I was born,  
I chanced upon a down and out waking with the dawn.  
His raincoat it was tattered and his trousers they were torn  
So I thought of what the preacher said last Sunday.*

*Chorus: That stranger is a friend you haven't met,  
Shake his hand and treat him like a brother.  
That stranger is a friend you ain't met yet,  
Stretch out your hand, spare him a smile,  
Show him he's welcome here.*

2) *I gave him my last cigarette, loved him like my own,  
Offered him the comfort of my humble hearth and home.  
It's better for to give than to receive, you can't deny,  
There but for the grace of God go I.*

3) *Six days we do labour, the seventh we can rest,  
So make the most of life, don't be content with second best.  
Ask not what your fellow man can ever do for you.  
Show him this philosophy is true.*

How many times have Kath and Muriel said these words to us in one form or another?

I really like this song so I just wanted to share it with you.

I wish I could say that I practice what I write but, as well you know, it's not an easy thing to do.

But it doesn't have to be that down and out, it can be a neighbour or someone in the Co-op when you're doing your shopping. Just a smile and a greeting may make all the difference to someone's day.

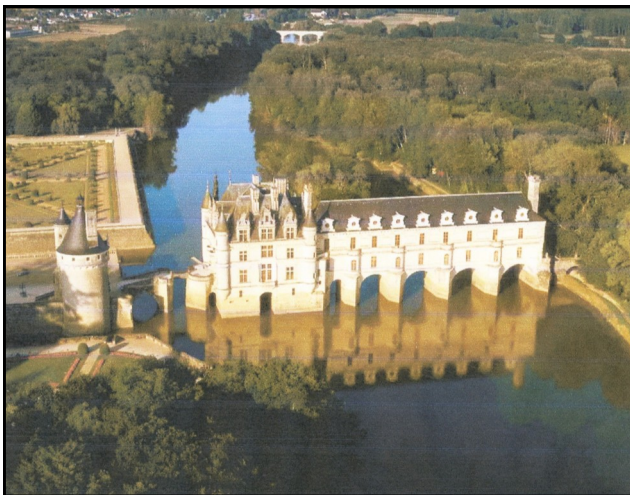
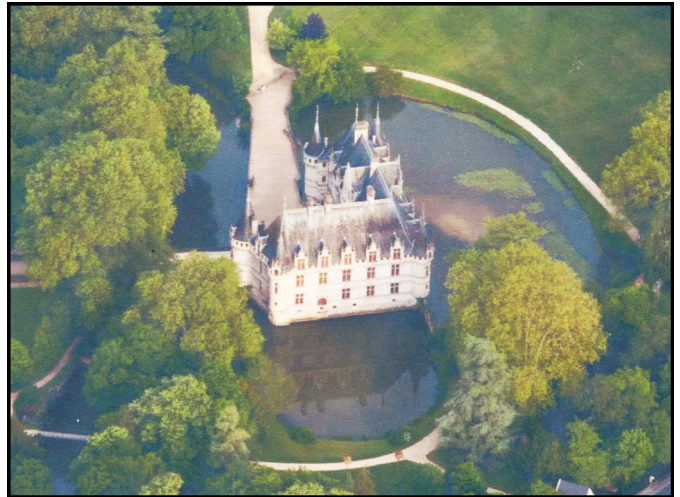
So, I'm going to give it a go, keep my head up, make eye contact and smile!

## The Chateaux of the Loire

Some years ago we joined Endon Flower Club on a week's coach tour of the Chateaux of the Loire Valley in France. This area had many magnificent buildings along the valley which for centuries had housed the French Royal Court and were homes to the wealthy aristocrats. From Endon we travelled south to Weymouth where we boarded the ferry to Cherbourg. Back on dry land we journeyed to our hotel in Tours. This city had made great strides in rebuilding after suffering a great deal of damage in WW2.

First on our list of visits was the Chateaux at Villandry which was famous for its magnificent gardens which date back to the Renaissance of the early sixteen century. We were not disappointed. The gardens were built on three terraces and designed to be viewed from above. On the upper terrace was a vineyard, an orchard and a reservoir which was the source of the irrigation system. On the middle tier was a very spectacular formal garden and the lower garden was the 'potager' which provided vegetables and herbs for the chateau.

A visit to the chateau at Azay-le-Rideau was the treat for the next day. It was a wonderful fairylike building built on pillars in the river to look as though it was floating in the water. It is strange that this typically French style building should have an English style park with avenues of tall trees. We remember our third chateau at Loches not so much for the beautiful building but for the room where Joan of Arc had met with the Dauphin and persuaded him to be crowned King of France.



The Chateau at Chenonceau was another amazing building spanning the River Cher looking in many ways like an ornate bridge. The main entrance into the chateau was guarded by two marble sphinx. Many walls were hung with fine early 16<sup>th</sup> century Flemish tapestries and most rooms had ornate fire places. In the Louis XIV drawingroom there was a painting of Jesus and St. John by Rubens. The kitchens had a splendid large dresser and there were copper pots and pans stacked everywhere.

Our next stop was at the Chateau Amboise which had been home to the royal Court for many years. It was here that King Francis I had welcomed Leonardo da Vinci to France. Sadly, Leonardo only lived there for about two years before he died and was buried close by in the Chapel of St. Hubert. Built in vivid white stone on the side of the River Loire was the Chateau at Saumur. It is such a romantic building that it was called 'The Chateau of Love'. It was a Huguenot fortress and then for over three centuries it was home of the national riding school. It is now the Museum of Horses and Riding. The Abbey at Fontevraud was an exceptional building as it was the only one on our tour not in prime condition having been badly damaged in the religious wars with the Huguenots and then used as a prison for five centuries. Even so, from an historical view point it was important as here were the tombs of an English King and Queen, Richard the Lionheart and Eleanor of Aquitaine.

We returned to our hotel for our last night's sleep in France, discussing all the wonderful building we had seen. Could anything be more dramatic than the views of the chateaux at Chenonceau or Azay-le-Rideau surrounded by water? We were woken in the middle of the night by a noise of people on the roof of the hotel. It was the fire brigade. The hotel was on fire! Down the stairs we ran, knocking on doors and shouting 'FIRE'. We gathered in small groups in the street to watch smoke and flames reaching into the sky. No one was injured and the brigade succeeded in putting the fire out and we eventually returned to our beds. What a dramatic end to a dramatic week!

**Prayer Corner:**

At the beginning of the new academic year-  
Lord Jesus,  
Bless all teachers, students and staff with knowledge, patience and strength.  
Guide all in their learning journey and protect them along the way.  
May this year be filled with achievements, friendships and positive experiences.  
In your loving name we pray.  
Amen.

*Muriel*



**September Services:**

- ★ 10th—Praise and Prayer—Rev Patricia and KH
- ★ 17th—Holy Communion—Rev Barry
- ★ 24th—Morning Worship—KH & MF

**October Services:**

- ★ 1st - \*HARVEST\*
- ★ Family Service - KH and Team
- ★ 8th - Praise and Prayer - KH/MF
- ★ 15th - Holy Communion - Rev Barry
- ★ 22nd - Holy Communion - Bishop Michael
- ★ 29th - Memorial Service KH/MF



**Help wanted for Harvest flowers!**

Can you donate some flowers to make our church look seasonal for the Harvest service?  
A bunch of flowers, an arrangement or anything seasonal to spruce up the church.  
The brighter the better - let your imagination run wild.

All contributions gratefully received  
at church on Friday 29th September  
at 2pm.

Thank You *Barbara x*



**Smiles:**

The parish priest called to visit an elderly couple. The old gent said, "When I die I'm going to leave everything to my dear wife." "He already does that Vicar," replied the wife.

The Vicar at Harvest Festival had arranged all the vegetables in front of the Altar. He asked the children if they could name them. The replies were potatoes, cabbage, carrots, broccoli, and swede. So he asked if they could use one word to cover them all. A little boy held his hand up and replied "Gravy."

The village Rector was passing a very well kept garden and stopped to admire the beautiful flowers.... "The Lord and you have done remarkable things to this garden," said the Rector to the owner. "Well, thank you Rector", replied the owner, "but you should have seen it when it was only the Lord in charge."

A young child walked up to her mother and stared at her hair. As mother scrubbed on the dishes, the girl cleared her throat and sweetly asked; "Why do you have some grey strands in your hair?" The mother paused and looked at her daughter. "Every time you disobey, I get one strand of grey hair. If you want me to stay pretty, you better obey."

The mother quickly returned to her task of washing dishes. The little girl stood there thinking. She cleared her throat again. "Mother?" She sweetly asked again. "Yes?" Her Mother replied. "Why is Grandma's hair all grey".

A Vicar was talking to people after a service, when he said, " I spend a lot of time these days thinking about The Hereafter." I go into a room, or upstairs, and wonder what am I here after? "

# HARVEST

**Sunday 1st October**

Bring your Harvest donations to the service.

All harvest produce will be donated to Leek Foodbank

Our speaker will be a representative of the Foodbank

We will welcome baskets, boxes, carrier bags or single items, but remember that it all goes to the Foodbank so please consult the list of items needed.  
(see following page)

Harvest Lunch at the village hall follows the service.

Pie, peas and gravy are on the menu and the cost will be £15.00 per head including dessert.

There will be a list in the tower to sign for your choice of pie, either steak and ale, chicken, ham and leek or Mediterranean vegetable tart,

There will also be a list for people to offer to make a dessert.

Choices to be made by 18th September please in order to get the numbers to the caterer & payment to Julia please. Because of the short time frame, please tell anyone who may be interested!



**Leek Food Bank:**

**OUR SHOPPING LIST**

- **UHT MILK**
- **TINNED SOUP**
- **TINNED MEAT**
- **TINNED FISH**
- **TINNED VEGETABLES**
- **TINNED FRUIT**
- **PASTA SAUCE**
- **RICE PUDDING**
- **CUSTARD**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS (NON-REFRIGERABLE)**
- **FRUIT SQUASH**
- **TOMATO KETCHUP & BROWN SAUCE**
- **TINNED POTATOES**
- **RICE**
- **INSTANT MASH**
- **JAM**
- **INSTANT NOODLES AND INSTANT PASTA**
- **MICROWAVABLE RICE**
- **CHOCOLATE**
- **TEA AND COFFEE**
- **HAIR SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER**
- **SHOWER GEL AND SOAP**
- **MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANING SPRAY**
- **CLEANING CLOTHS**
- **WASHING UP LIQUID**
- **TOILET ROLLS**
- **TOOTH PASTE AND TOOTH BRUSHES**
- **NAPPIES**
- **CAT AND DOG FOOD**

**ANY FOOD NOT ON OUR LIST THAT YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE IS ALSO MUCH APPRECIATED.**