



Aime Silver (l) and Naomi Fifield of Fleece and Flower Farm enjoyed the February 5 Danbury Grange Market. Photo: Mary Fanelli

Danbury Blazing Star Grange

Blazing Star Grange press release

The very successful Grange winter markets in Danbury are winding down, with two more markets on the horizon – March 5 and April 2.

The snow in February brought out many people locally and from the surrounding towns who were looking for some sunshine and sustenance on a snowy day. A record number of McGrange breakfasts were sold, and the homemade corn chowder disappeared like magic.

The next market is Saturday, March 5, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Don't forget to come with a hearty appetite and treat yourself to a McGrange breakfast of sausage, egg, and cheese on a muffin served with hot coffee or juice for \$3.50. Or, stay for lunch when clam chowder and macaroni and cheese will be served.

Among many items available at every market are locally produced vegetables, honey, meat, eggs, baked goods, soaps, crafts, needlework, jewelry, wool supplies, recycled wool designer clothing, and recycled Corian made into cutting boards.

One of several vendors at the markets is Fleece and Flower Farm, also known as Roberts Greenhouse, of Webster. Aime Silver and Naomi Fifield bring an entrepreneurial spirit to the market with their eclectic mix of agricultural products and expertise in wool. Visit their Web site at FleeceAndFlower.com.

The farm raises 30 sheep, of which

15 will lamb this spring. They produce their own wool from start to finish using environmentally-friendly Cushing dyes, from which the water can be recycled. Some of their wool products include knitted shawls and scarves, felted products and kits, skeins of wool and roving for felting, blankets, and sheepskin rugs.

In addition to delicious jams and jellies, they also sell lamb, pork, beef, and chicken – all raised on their farm. They even start their own plants in two 100-foot greenhouses that are heated with a wood-fired furnace.

Danbury Grange Winter Market is an alternative shopping venue. All products are either raised or fabricated by the vendors with a focus on sustainable living. Among these are Phyllis Rockwell of Newfound Wool Works, who makes all of her clothing from recycled wool sweaters and cloth; Donna and Phil Sprague raise their own beef and make all their baked goods in their home bakery; Susan and Keith Cutting raise bees and process their own honey in addition to farming vegetables and raising livestock; and Neil Kenny recycles Corian into cutting boards.

Danbury Grange Markets are held on the first Saturday of each month from the November Harvest Market through the April Winter Market, from 9 AM to 1 PM. For more information, contact Donna Sprague at 768-5579.

Andover Service Club News

By Joyce Egge
Andover Service Club

We were not able to have a meeting in January due to a snow storm, and in December we enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Nonni's in New London. So here we are in February.

Our February meeting was held on the 9th and presided over by President Robin Boynton, who began by thanking the hostesses for their scrumptious Valentine treats.

Opening words were provided by our corresponding secretary, Mary Ofenloch. Our program for this meeting was a book discussion of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Arnie Barrows.

Our annual club auction will be held in March, so please bring your treasures and money to that meeting.

In April we will be having our Guest Night at the Bluewater Lodge. It will be pot luck, and our program will be the sensational "Second Wind."

Half-Price Sale

The Thrift Shop is having a half-price sale on all sweaters and any piece of donated clothing that is red. Next month, more of our spring clothing will be on the racks. We will soon be automated in our accounting system.

The Andover Service Club will again be serving a delicious lunch at the Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, from 11 AM until the meeting begins at 7 PM. There will be chili, chowders, breads, and pies. The money goes to support scholarships.

The meeting ended at 11 AM followed by lunch and the book review. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, at the Masonic Hall in Potter Place. As always, we welcome new members.

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop
By Gisela Darling
Andover Service Club

Our annual Winter Sale will take place all through the month of March with any donated clothing item 50% off.

The Andover Service Club Thrift Shop carries a great selection of clothing for the whole family. Come in and check us out!

Shopping at our store not only saves you money, but your purchase also supports the many worthwhile organizations in town. Recycling and re-using clothing not only makes financial sense but is also good for the environment.

A note to our consignors: during the month of March, we will not take any consignment articles in order to get ready for the next season.

Our Winter Hours are Tuesday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Wednesday, 3 to 5 PM; Thursday, 10 AM to 4 PM; and Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM. We will go back to regular summer hours at the beginning of April.

Please also note: If school is closed due to snow or bad weather, the Thrift Shop will be closed as well. It is a good idea to call ahead to 735-5269 if you have any doubts. Or call Thrift Shop committee chair Gisela Darling at 735-5681.

The Andover Thrift Shop is located beside the Andover Elementary/Middle School and is staffed by volunteers from the Andover Service Club. Proceeds from the shop support scholarships, projects, and organizations in Andover and the wider community.

We are also proud that we can be of help to families who have experienced fire or other hardships.

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