

The Parishes of Barton Bendish & Eastmoor; Beachamwell, Shingham & Drymere; Boughton; Wereham

February 2021

WELCOME

There's more from the villages than expected. Even in the pandemic, village life goes on.

The best advice we can give is:

Stay at home.

Protect the NHS.

Save lives

If you have to go out, wear a face covering and observe social distancing. Wash hands frequently . Even if you've had your vaccination, act responsibly. We can't yet return to our old lives.

As always, 'Happy Reading ' The Editorial Team Eileen and Pam

Thanks to all contributors and apologies to any whose work has not been shown in this issue.

We promise to include your articles wherever and whenever possible. Please do keep them coming.

Many thanks to the distributors, we couldn't do without you!!!

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11th February

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Priestly Ramblings

Looking back on 2020 I think we can pat ourselves on the back for perseverance e, fortitude and, as the Queen stated in her Christmas Day speech, our indomitable spirit!

We have handled masks, sanitizers - oh how the wafers at Holy Communion taste after dousing ones hands with sanitizer- ask Susan Smith!!!!- on line shopping, click and collect, no hugs, no ladies or men who lunch, no chats over coffee and then the grief, isolation and not seeing our loved ones except via zoom if we are lucky.

We all long to have things back how they were before the pandemic and just as we thought that things were getting better WHAM! the dratted thing mutated making itself more catchable - is that even a word?

But fear not there is a knight in shining armour on the horizon in the form of VACCINE!

I can't wait!!! Maybe then I can take our girls in my arms and hug their fears away; cradle our new baby great granddaughter and gaze into her big liquid brown eyes. I am sure many of you feel just the same.

Throughout this dreadful experience I know that many of you have kept going because of the faith you have in God's love for you. Many times over the last months we have been reminded of that love in the actions of many who have come to the aid of their neighbour.

For God's love came down at Christmas in God incarnate, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, meaning God with us; and by bringing His Son to live and dwell amongst us God's love - His light- was left in the hearts of His children - you and me - which we share with others as we walk together on our journey.

God bless everyone, keep safe and soon, I pray, we will be able to see our loved ones face to face.

Rev Carol - Priest in Charge Wissey Valley Benefice 01366 500704

COVID, COMMUNITY AND THE FUTURE OF SOME CHURCH BUILDINGS

Many commentators have high-lighted the fact that, in some cases, the Covid pandemic has accelerated some changes that were happening anyway; some obvious examples are the switch from high street to online shopping, the fact that many people can work from home and actually be remarkably effective and so on. In this latter case, there seems to be an environmental benefit in terms of less transport and therefore less air pollution. Allied to this has been the suggestion that there will be some cultural changes especially when it comes to food shopping and eating: for example that the local and home grown will assume a greater importance in our diet rather than the global. Similarly, there have been changes in the life of the church, much activity for the church community has been found on Zoom. Facebook and Youtube. There is a sense in whch the interactive groups meeting on Zoom, for example, have become forms of community in their own right. I suspect that many churches will carry on with Zoom services when church life return to normal – whatever that normal might be.

One real concern I have is for the future of the church buildings and how the pandemic may have accelerated the situation for some of them. I have written of this before. Recently, one of the statements we have heard doing the rounds is that "the church is not the building, it is the people". Even the Archbishop of Canterbury has repeated this cliché. I have to say, I disagree, in my view, the church is both the people and the building, TS Elliott wrote in his poem Little Gidding, in reference to the church there:

"You are not here to verify, Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity, Or carry report.

You are here to kneel, Where prayer has been valid."

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, indeed in the case of wider humanity, some places have always been holy; among such places are the village churches of England, usually the oldest and most architecturally and aesthetically significant building in villages, the repository of the history and memories of the village community, holding the joys and sorrows of life in their space; their walls soaked in the incense of prayer often over a thousand years or more. They are holy places and to be dismissive of them is not only pastorally insensitive, but theologically unsound - the Incarnation was at particular place and time and the Word was made flesh. Scripture supports the idea of a place being set aside as holy viz Jacob at Bethel (Gen 28: 10-21," How awesome is this place; It is none other than the house of God); Moses in Exodus 3 - "the place on which you are standing is holy ground". The first action by the followers of Jesus after the Crucifixion was in effect the first Christian pilgrimage to a place that was held to be ever-after holy, the Holy Sepulchre. The Cenacle, the site of the Last Supper, in effect the first Christian synagogue, was held as a special place by the early church. Indeed, often the early church held their meetings and services at the sites of martyrs from very early times, these places later to become sites of churches.

I am a member of a diocesan committee that is overseeing the future care of church buildings, especially those whose future is becoming uncertain. How will they be used, will they be little more than museums or will they remain public spaces that meet community needs? We need

to reimagine our holy buildings and their use. This could be in various additional roles as post office, shop, art centre, meeting hall, farmers' markets but also remain places that tell the story of the village and proclaim the faith. I think the fact that Lichfield Cathedral has become a major vaccination centre is simply wonderful; how good if other churches and cathedrals could follow their example.

One thing that I am certain of is this: we need to engage the whole of the village communities in the care of these ancient and lovely buildings; we need to ask our neighbours and friends how they would like these holy spaces to support the wider community and pray for their support. I am passionate about the well-being and survival of these holy places but I also acknowledge that when this pandemic ends we will need in many cases, all the help that we can get. If anyone would like to share their ideas with me, I am very happy to hear them and will feed them into the Diocesan Committee,

Meanwhile, best wishes, keep safe and stay well in the Lord

William Burke

Editorial 5 4 1

Once again, we are in lockdown and this edition will not be published in a paper format. I know some people are unhappy about this, but we rely on volunteers to distribute it and some felt that it was unsafe and outside the lockdown rules. If you are able, please pass on the emailed edition. It will also be available on the Fincham Group News website.

www.finchamgroupnews.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS IN THE WISSEY GROUP CHURCHWARDENS

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Boughton	Pam Wakeling	01366 500429
Wereham	Sheila Smith	01366 858165

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS

Please contact Revd. Carol Nicholas Letch

Services in this benefice are currently suspended. Please see centre pages for arrangements about online services. There are a variety of services at different times. If you have internet access but need help in accessing the services there are people who can help. If you would like the weekly pew sheets with the Bible readings for Sundays, please contact Pam Wakeling

If you do not have internet access the following information came from the Bishop of Huntingdon.

We remember those who have no internet access. Please publicise the Church of England's Daily Hope, a free national telephone line, which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of the phone. The line -which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044-has been set up particularly with those in mind who are unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions; to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to those who are most isolated in our society.

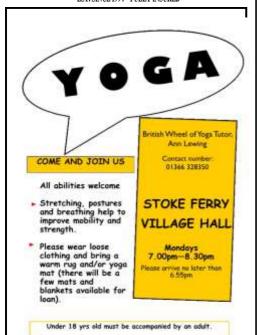
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the year

Contact Debbie - 01366 502150

47 Wretton Road, Stoke Ferry, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 9QJ www.little-oaks-preschool.ik.org

Sticky sausage, squash and roast vegetable traybake

Created by: Linzi Barrow, Vice President of Buckshaw Village WI, Lancashire Federation



This recipe is gluten, egg and dairy free. Remember to check the labels if you are using any ready-made ingredients.

An easy allergy-friendly dish that uses seasonal vegetables so you can ring the changes throughout the year. It's a one-pan dish, so it saves on washing up too!

Serves 4

Ingredients

- • 12 gluten-free pork sausages (check packaging)
- • 1 tbsp olive oil or rapeseed oil
- • 3 large red or white onions, peeled and cut into quarters
- • 1 butternut squash or other seasonal squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunky cubes
- • 2 large peppers (red or yellow are best), deseeded and cut in 6 or 8 pieces
- • 2 cloves of garlic peeled and roughly chopped
- • 1 large courgette, topped and tailed and cut into chunks

- • Small handful of sage and thyme leaves, very roughly chopped
- • Salt and pepper to taste

3 tbsp sweet chilli dipping sauce – if you like it spicy, try using sriracha instead (both are readymade so check labels for allergens)

Method

- 1. Preheat your oven to 200°C/ gas mark 6.
- 2. Pour the oil onto your largest baking tray or roasting pan along with the sausages, onions, squash, courgette and peppers, and toss in the oil
- 3. Sprinkle over the herbs and garlic and season lightly, ensure everything is well mixed.
- 4. Place in the oven and bake for approximately 25 minutes, gently toss the sausages and vegetables again and bake for another 15 minutes
- 5. Remove from the oven and drizzle with the sweet chilli sauce. Toss to 5. ensure everything is coated and return to oven for a further 10 minutes until golden and sticky.

Serve straight out of the oven with steamed broccoli, cabbage and baby roast potatoes.

Recipe reproduced with permission from the Norfolk WI website.

If anyone is interested in joining a new online WI, please contact either the Norfolk Federation Office, or me. I went to an inaugural meeting and it's worth giving it a go. You may have wanted to join, but be unable to travel or access the regular 'in person' meetings. It's not an either or, and I shall be sticking to membership of Fincham and District, but it's a chance to meet people from a wider area of Norfolk.

Pam Wakeling

Lily has changed!

From 1 July 2018, our Lily service expanded to include everyone over 18, not just those in later years.

Lily provides a comprehensive range of support in west Norfolk to combat loneliness and social isolation in adults of all ages. The project is linked to the 'No Lonely Day' initiative and encourages our residents to develop friendships and engage in their local communities.

The Lily online directory lists organisations, services and activities that help people to live healthy, active and independent lives. It includes information relevant to adults of all ages. If you would like your event or organisation to be included in the directory, get in touch asklily.org.uk

Lily Advisors from local charities are available to offer one-to-one support to people at home or in community locations.

Lily has a strong focus on community development, by helping groups to arrange activities and encouraging volunteering, and by providing community events, onsite information sessions, and support for employers, schools, and colleges.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to know how Lily can help, call 01553 616200 and choose option 6.





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SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED?



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Beautiful facilities:
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rooms available for hire (main hall,
community room and meeting room).
Visit www.werehamvillagehall.co.uk
or call Angie, Lyn or Sara on
07497 430005 to find out more.

Free home assessments on offer

Older, disabled or vulnerable residents of West Norfolk are being encouraged to book an appointment for a free home assessment from Careline Community Services.

The assessments, which are carried out by a team of qualified staff, will help residents, who may be living with a disability or dementia, or who are simply older and less mobile, to identify concerns in their property which may be affecting their day-to-day life. The assessor, trained by the Disabled Living Foundation, will inspect the home to see whether measures could be introduced that would reduce the possibility of slips, trips and falls and generally make it easier for people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Measures that could be considered include installation of a Careline personal alarm, improved lighting arrangements, heating checks, draught proofing, smoke detectors and easy-to-use taps along with recommendations for other adaptations that may reduce any potential risk to the resident. Practical solutions for those living with dementia are also available, this includes signage or colour differentiation for those who suffer with memory loss and are visually impaired.

Wereham

Mobile Post Office

Please note that Mobile Post office will park near the Village Pond on the following days/

Monday 14.00-14.15

Tuesday 12.25-12.55

Wednesday 12.25-12.55

Thursday 14.00-14.15



ALPHABET QUIZ

- 1. The fruit in Tarte Tatin?
- 2. Children's TV programme featuring Professor Yaffle (the wooden woodpecker)?
- 3. Charles Babbage's notable invention?
- 4. Framework for oil well drilling machinery?
- 5. Traditional fur trim on ceremonial and heraldic robes?
- 6. A maker of arrows?
- 7. A hot spring which shoots out boiling water and steam?
- 8. Metric unit equal to 10,000 square metres?
- 9. Chemical element with atomic number 53?
- 10. Contest fought between medieval knights with lances on horseback?
- 11. Basketball-netball hybrid game for mixed male and female teams?
- 12. Zurich's river?
- 13. The twelfth letter of the Greek alphabet?
- 14. The Tokyo stock exchange index?
- 15. A fine translucent stiff cotton muslin used chiefly for making dresses?
- 16. Female part of a flower?
- 17. A type of low fat curd cheese?
- 18. The right page of an open book?
- 19. The white part of the human eye?
- 20. Bride in the 1998 film Bride of Chucky?
- 21. Mottled green and yellow citrus fruit hybrid between a grapefruit and tangerine?
- 22. Roman goddess of the hearth?
- 23. US state of which Madison is capital?
- 24. Irrational fear or dislike of people from foreign countries?
- 25. Circular collapsible tent of felt or skins used by Mongolian nomads?
- 26 Italian dessert of whipped egg yolks, sugar and marsala wine

Answers on page 17

Group4 News

Please find public transport information links below. This is to assist with finding the latest information about what public transport services are operating in your area. It may also help when advising your constituents or parishioners. These links provide the best source of information as operators have been changing services at relatively short notice as they react to government guidance and the latest situation. In addition, if a member of the public in Norfolk is having trouble accessing essential services or supplies please call 0344 800 8020.

Broadland

First - https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information

Konectbus - https://www.konectbus.co.uk/coronavirus/

National Express - https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates

Our Bus - https://www.ourhire.co.uk/our-bus

Sanders Coaches - https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts

Breckland

 ${\tt Coach Services -} \\ \underline{ https://www.coachservicesItd.com/2020/03/update-limited-timetable-from-30th-march-until-further-notice/ }$

First - https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information

Konectbus - https://www.konectbus.co.uk/coronavirus/

National Express - https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates

 $West \ Norfolk \ Community \ Transport - \underline{https://www.gtt-online.co.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-update/$

Great Yarmouth

Border Bus - https://www.border-bus.co.uk/coronavirus-info/

First - https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information

Mega Bus - https://uk.megabus.com/service-alerts

National Express - https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates

Sanders Coaches - https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts

King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Coach Services - https://www.coachservicesltd.com/category/news/

 $\label{lem:lynx-https://www.lynxbus.co.uk/news/covid-19-timetables-monday-30th-march-until-further-notice/$

Mega Bus - https://uk.megabus.com/service-alerts

National Express - https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates

Stagecoach - https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east-midlands/the-fens West Norfolk Community Transport - https://www.gtt-online.co.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-update/

North Norfolk

Our Bus - https://www.ourhire.co.uk/our-bus

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Sanders Coaches - https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts

Norwich

Border Bus - https://www.border-bus.co.uk/coronavirus-info/

First - https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information

Konectbus - https://www.konectbus.co.uk/coronavirus/ Mega Bus - https://uk.megabus.com/service-alerts

National Express - https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates

Norwich Park & Ride - https://www.norwichparkandride.co.uk/updates/

Our Bus - https://www.ourhire.co.uk/our-bus

Simonds Coaches - https://www.simonds.co.uk/latest-news Sanders Coaches - https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts

South Norfolk

Border Bus - https://www.border-bus.co.uk/coronavirus-info/

First - https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information

Konectbus - https://www.konectbus.co.uk/coronavirus/

Our Bus - https://www.ourhire.co.uk/our-bus

Simonds Coaches - https://www.simonds.co.uk/latest-news

West Norfolk Community Transport - https://www.qtt-online.co.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-update/



- 1. 1. Apples
- 2. 2. Bagpuss
- 3. 3. Computer
- 4. 4. Derrick
- 5. 5. Ermine
- 6. 6. Fletcher
- 7. 7. Geyser
- 8. 8. Hectare
- 9. 9. lodine
- 10. 10. Joust
- 11. 11. Korfball
- 12. 12. Limmat
- 13. 13. Mu

- 14 14 Nikkei
- 15. 15. Organdie
- 16. 16. Pistil
- 17. 17. Quark
- 18. 18. Recto
- 19. 19. Sclera
- 20. 20. Tiffany
- 21. 21. Ugli
- 22. 22. Vesta
- 23. 23. Wisconsin
- 24. 24. Xenophobia
- 25. 25. Yurt
- 26. 26. Zabaglione

Alphabet Quiz answers

COUNTRYSIDE NOTES

PET CARE in the 1950s

Pet care in the 1950s was basic. It seems incredulous that today it has become a multimillion pound industry with large shops solely devoted to selling pet care products and accessories. Pets certainly weren't pampered then and there were few, if any, exotic pets; maybe the odd hamster, budgie or canary but no snakes, spiders or lizards.

Dogs were often kept to work or as guard dogs but also, by many households, as pets that lived indoors. Ours was fed on Spillers Shapes which, if I remember rightly, came in five different shapes and colours. Alternatively there was Winalot, a cereal based dry food to which morsels were added. It might be table scraps, gravy, surplus offal, raw tripe or meat, perhaps a cooked de-boned rabbit or possibly a tin of Chappie. There were no complete foods, no different flavoured recipes or formulas to cater for specific nutritional requirements. Dog food came in bags or tins; there were neither pouches or frozen. Raw marrow bones were given; cleaning your dog's teeth regularly was not common practice. Medication comprised of Bob Martins condition powders and worm pills, a dusting of flea powder and cod liver oil to 'make his coat shine'. There were no toys, just a ball or a stick.

Cats didn't have fancy beds, scratch poles or play things. With no central heating they sort the warmth of the kitchen range or living room fire and usually had a favourite chair to curl up in. Ours was fed crunchy Felix cat food, a tin of Kit-e-Kat, or, if lucky, the odd tin of sardines. Mice often took up residence in rural cottages and there were times when a pet cat earned its keep just as the farm cats did.

Rabbits made wonderful pets for kids, they were cheap to keep and cuddly and lessons were learned about being responsible for a pet. Rabbits were kept in home-made hutches, usually larger than those sold today. They were given a bed of hay, which they also liked to eat, but their main diet comprised of fresh

grass, dandelions and cow parsley gathered from the hedgerows as well as lettuce, cabbage leaves and root vegetable peelings. Additionally, ours were given dried bread or maybe porridge oats.

Poultry Our chicken were kept in an orchard with a hut. It had perches inside and nest boxes that could be opened from outside to collect the eggs. Sawdust was used on the floor and hay in the nest boxes. They were free range but had to be shut in every night to prevent them becoming a fox's dinner, not then the case in Norfolk though. They were fed on layers mash which was moistened with water or boiled up potato peelings. Sometimes wheat might be fed, or sweepings from the granary, but to lay well they needed extra protein. I seem to remember a red, fine powder sometimes being added. Karswood Poultry Spice claimed to "Increase your egg yield" and "Keep your poultry in tip-top condition". When they got past their 'sell by' date for egg laying they became our dinner, although by that age they needed to be boiled in a pot on top the stove, rather than roasted in the oven!!

Jill Mason

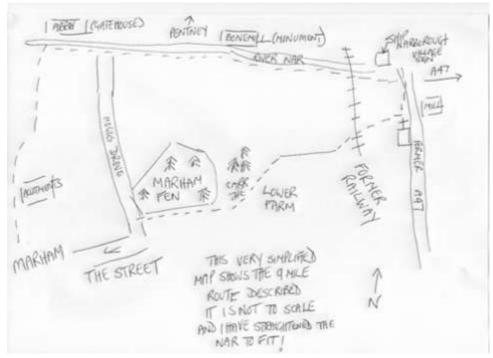
Walking - the Exercise of Kings

I'm not sure that I can claim that this kind of exercise is the exclusive privilege of royalty but it is legal and, for many, it has made the difference when coping with feelings of fear and isolation. There is no doubt that a decent walk does your body good, liberates your mind and presents the kind of challenge we all need. All psychologists seem to suggest that low self-esteem is the inevitable result of living a life without challenge or, worse still, of ducking the ones which do come our way. Add to that the fact that walking is by far the best way to see Norfolk. The county is known for the astonishing variety of its huge skies, changes in light and the haunting beauty which is too oftendismissed as bleakness.

Leaving aside that no one knows how far we can drive in order to take exercise, or how long it will be legal to walk with one other person from another household or bubble, I have a recommendation. This circular walk begins at the Ship Inn in Narborough, a mere 6.5 miles from my front door in Barton Bendish. Straight up Your Honour.

Group4 News =

Walking down to the church brings you to a footpath on the right. Ignore the first one, you will come back that way, and walk past the church and its graveyard. Those interested in the history of flight will find the graves of several RFC pilots killed in



training rather than combat. Learning to fly was a very dangerous occupation all those years ago. A building standing in the churchyard was once used by the aerodrome, the first military airfield in Britain I believe. WE Johns was based there for a while and was involved in the training of pilots. Good material for the 'Biggles' novels he wrote. Johns loved Norfolk

After this, keeping Lower Farm to the left, you make for a small wood called 'The Carr' and then a much larger one which dominates Marham Fen. You walk to the left of this for some distance until coming to Hoggs Drove, a name which betrays Marham's agricultural history. When you come to Main Street, turn right and walk to the centre of Marham where you turn right onto Fen Lane. From here you can see a farmhouse, much of which was Marham Abbey before the Reformation. A field opposite the church

is full of strange lumps and hollows which are all that remain of this once extremely wealthy foundation. There are the remains of a curtain wall which has beautiful circular, highly decorative and glassless windows in it which give the scene a romantic feel.

Follow the way-marked route past the immaculate Marham allotments. This is real fen country where characteristic stretches of water and reeds give a sense of timelessness. By the time you reach the River Nar it is unlikely that you'll meet anyone else – it is a long way from any car park! On the other side of the river stands Abbey Farm and, next to that, the imposing and surprisingly huge, gateway to Pentney Abbey. It is really all that remains of another sizeable religious establishment and has been used for many purposes since. I once went to a huge youth rally there in the sixties but I will draw a veil over that.

The remaining part of the walk is along the riverbank. The river was in spate when I did this walk, as it has been for weeks. Stretches of water gleamed in the distant fields, some like lakes which had formed unpredictably at regular intervals. All kinds of birdlife can be found here, particularly those who like the unusually wet conditions. Some trees had drowned and little woods stood feet deep in water. It was a strange and haunting scene.

A bone mill has been restored on the opposite bank. I am assured that human bones were ground down here and sent along the Nar to King's Lynn to be sold as fertiliser. History is everywhere. Finally, just before reaching journey's end, you cross what remains of a railway line between King's Lynn and Dereham. The bridge supports stand forlornly in and next to the river. Always a sad sight. One Beeching cut I suspect that won't be reversed. On returning to 'The Ship' you will have walked nine miles and earned the right to be smug for the rest of the day.

There are many more favourite walks I am keen to do, particularly when it is considered safe enough to drive to one or enjoy it with my friends. Who knows when that will be? By that time perhaps our Community Library will be open, events happening in our fabulous Village Hall and, perhaps, even the Berney Arms will be open again. The important thing is that we are all still here to enjoy it.

Andrew Stephen

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Could you help a young person with a disability to think about their Future?

The CSV Futures Project supports young people with learning disabilities to explore their options as they think about leaving education.

Volunteer Mentors provide one to one support to a young person to help them develop a personal profile of their skills and interests, their likes and dislikes and their future goals. The Mentor can then support the young person to start working towards these; this can include accessing work experience and training opportunities plus the chance to try out volunteering and new social activities.

CSV needs volunteers who can offer a couple of hours of their time each week to mentor the young people as they make choices about their futures, raising aspirations by exploring together the young person's skills, interests and abilities.

We are looking for people ages 16+ - Mentors can come from all walks of life and no experience is needed but patience, the ability to listen and a sense of humour are all useful skills. Mentors receive full training and support and out of pocket expenses are paid.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Volunteer Mentor for the CSV Futures Project please contact Vicki Howling, the project co-ordinator for an informal chat. Telephone 01366 386972 or 07926 044845 or email vhowling@csv.org.uk

CSV (Community Service Volunteers) is the UK's leading volunteering charity. Social justice is at the heart of what we do; empowering people to have a positive stake in society and tackle barriers to community participation through creating volunteering and learning opportunities.

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BARTON BENDISH NEWS

Oh dear, here we are again and a winter lockdown is by no means as tolerable as the first. It's like being under house arrest when you haven't done anything wrong. There is no village news because everything has come to a standstill. The Covid figures are frightening. I just don't know how frontline NHS staff find the strength to cope physically, mentally and emotionally with what is being asked of them.

In the meantime, though, we need to think positive. The aconites and snowdrops are appearing and the days are getting longer. Guess all we can do is do as we're told, sit it out and patiently wait for the spring and to have our vaccinations.

Jill

'What is this world so full of care, we have no time to stop and stare'

There has been much said about what Covid has taken from us, a chance to have a pint in a pub, a coffee with friends in a favourite cafe, a family holiday. Aside from those who have tragically lost family members and those who have found themselves without a job, has it really been so bad?

We have been given the gift of time, time to write a letter to a friend, tidy a cupboard, read a book. Or as I have quoted from W H Davies, just have time to stop and stare!

I have been quite fortunate that, working in a supermarket my routine hasn't really been badly affected, I have continued to go into work each week. Sadly, I saw some of the worst of human behaviour, especially at the beginning, when customers started to selfishly stockpile more than they could possibly need, to squabble over the last jar of coffee or tin of beans. It wasn't the supermarkets who created the shortages, it was the customers! As lockdown gripped, it became apparent to myself and my colleagues that many of our customers had no idea where their food came from. They struggled to understand that food manufacturers and supply chains were having to adapt overnight to operating with less staff, social distancing and, at the beginning, a lack of PPE.

Although as time went on, I started to marvel at the kindness of some people. Many customers came in with multiple lists of shopping for friends and neighbours who were vulnerable and shielding. Sometimes we found customers stopping and thanking us for just coming to work. Boris was calling us key workers! There were, of course, those who chose to interpret the rules and guidance to suit themselves! Such is life!

When I got home each day I made sure that I went for a walk. We are so fortunate to live in a beautiful area, and to return to my point about time, for the

first time I really took notice of what I saw on my walks, the changing of the landscape with the seasons, the birds and wildlife. It certainly helped me to shake off my work day.

I thought about the times I had to travel to London on the early train from Downham Market to Kings Cross. I was staggered by the sheer number of passengers who did this every day. On arriving in London I often had to wait for 5 tube trains before I found one I could physically step onto. People squeezed cheek by jowl, spilling out at each station, while a few more tried to get on! When we were forced to work from home this stopped. Why should it need to start again? We have found ways of coping, of having virtual meetings.

People say 'when things go back to normal', I am not sure they should! There will be those who will quickly go back to behaving as they always have, but I sincerely hope that we can all learn from this experience and all take a bit more time to stop and stare!

Mary Simon

<u>Update from Barton Bendish Parish Council</u>

The Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman continue to manage the day-to-day running of the Parish Council during the Coronavirus outbreak. Please contact the Clerk on the details below if you have any matters to bring to our attention.

The Parish Council has received advice that it should not be holding face to face meetings for the foreseeable future and therefore scheduled meetings will be taking place virtually.

We have been asked to inform residents that the decennial census is almost upon us. Households across the parish will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, except for 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing, or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is 21st March. For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 10th March 2021 from 7.30pm. This meeting will be virtual via Zoom if we are still unable to hold a face

-to- face meeting. All meetings are open to the public, and information on how to join the meeting will be available on the Parish Council website approximately seven days before the meeting, or alternatively contact the Clerk for details.

Miss Sarah Thorpe, Parish Clerk Telephone number: 01945 430930

Email: bartonbendishparishcouncil@aol.co.uk

Further information is available on the Parish Council website at bartonbendishparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Barton Bendish Village Hall - Some Odd Fellows

I have been looking into the history of our village hall, inspired perhaps by the new lease of life the current hall refurbishment project will impart.

The story really begins in the late C18th as reformers begin to grapple with the issue of social welfare and the rise of Friendly Societies. These societies were often local village organisations and consisted of members who paid a small regular contribution for membership and as a consequence were entitled to receive aid in the event of sickness, and even funeral costs. Often, they included an element of social gathering as well, and were frequently based around the local public house.

Initially discouraged by government, the position changed in the early C19th as poor law reform began to be considered, culminating in The New Poor Law of 1834. This is the law which required villages to enter into local unions and build a workhouse, in our case at Downham Market, into which the destitute were destined. The harshness of this solution actually encouraged and fostered Friendly Societies as an alternative and Barton Bendish appears to have been no exception having a small independent farmers benefit society.

However, such village societies were often financially unstable, and this led many, Barton Bendish included, to affiliate with larger national organisations such as the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, which had been founded in 1810. As a consequence, The Oddfellows 'Loyal Duke of Norfolk Lodge' No. 2617 was founded on 27th January 1841, with 21 members meeting every Wednesday in The Spread Eagle Public House, (now The Berney Arms), hosted by the publican, Thomas Gee. I love the fact that the address is given as 'High Street', imparting a sense of grandeur that our village might struggle to live up to today.



The Grand Master of this Lodge seems to have been a young man of 20, William Fuller Lock, the eldest son of a local farmer. By 1858 the lodge had grown to 34 members and meetings were now every 4th Wednesday at The Spread Eagle. Lodge meetings were good business for publicans, with members often staying on for social occasions involving toasts where members were encouraged to 'take something for the good of the house', i.e. buy plenty of beer, which most members were happy to do! Apparently, there were fines for proposing indecent toasts.

The Lodge changed its name in 1860 to 'The Loyal Berney Lodge', although it retained the number 2617. It was not unusual for lodges to adopt the name of a significant benefactor, and many will know that Barton Bendish was the seat of the 8th Baronet Sir Hanson Berney at this time. It was common for a local Squire to be supportive of the work of the Oddfellows, either from altruism or an appreciation that membership by the working population reduced the chances of people entering the Workhouse and thus reduced the Poor Rate charged on landowners in each parish.

The lodge appears to go from strength to strength, and within 10 years membership had increased to 90 members in 1870. William Fuller is now the host at The Spread Eagle, presumably enjoying a monthly bonus on every 4th Weds as participants continue to 'take something for the house'.

Not only was the membership increasing, but by 1896 funds of £1,783 were secured against a membership of 151, with an average age of members at 36 years old. Barton Bendish had around 450 inhabitants at that time so probably every family had representation within the membership.

That amount of money would today equate to around £230,000 which would provide the equivalent of £1500 benefit to each and every member. Of course, by now, membership covers sickness and death benefits, widows & orphan's pensions, savings, annuities, financial help for members in need, and medical treatment for members and their families.

By 1901 membership has risen to 182 members with funds of £2039. The secretary is now William Alfred Rumball, a very well-known Barton Bendish name. He is succeeded by his son, William George Rumball, see the extract

BRO. W. G. RUMBALL, P.G.P.M.

Bro. William George Rumball, Berney Lodge, Swaffham and Watton District, was born in 1881 and initiated in 1897. He took office first in 1904, passing through the chairs of his Lodge. Three years later he was appointed assistant secretary to his father. In 1919 he became permanent secretary of the Lodge, Prov. G.M. and married the daughter of an Odd Fellow—all in the same year. Bro. Rumball has been a member of the Parochial Church Council since 1907, Rector's Warden and treasurer of the Church Council since 1936 and a school Manager since 1934. He was a Parish Councillor for 24 years and Clerk to the Council for 22, resigning that office in 1952. In 1950 he was elected a member of Downham Market R.D. Council and was re-elected in 1952.

Bro. Rumball's father was Secretary of the Berney Lodge from 1890 to 1919, so the period of secretaryship covered by father and son has now turned 64 years. This Lodge was taken over by the Unity in 1841; previously it had been a benefit club for farmers and tradesmen. Bro. Rumball still holds some of the old books.

He became Secretary of the Juvenile Branch when it started in 1913.

He is a tower of strength to Odd Fellowship in his Lodge and District. from a 1954 Oddfellows magazine

In 1902 they are still meeting in The Spread Eagle on 4th every Wednesday. However the most important change around this time. which may connected with a growing temperance movement. the

Lodge decides to move away from The Spread Eagle and consider the construction of a new and purpose-built Odd Fellows Hall.

Interest free loans from the Oddfellows' Manchester Head Office may have funded the construction, or maybe the 9th Baronet, Sir Henry Hanson Berney also contributed. He certainly provided the land, and it wasn't too far from The Spread Eagle for those members who still wished to 'take something for the house', after the formal meeting ended.

It is unclear when the new hall was actually completed but it is first reported as the meeting place of the lodge in the 1906 Oddfellows directory, which confirms my view that it was completed between 1902 and 1905.



The photograph of around 1910 reveals the initials O.F.H. in the fanlight above the door, decrying its provenance to the world. I believe that is William Alfred Rumball standing proudly by the gate.

Membership also peaked at about this time with 215 members in 1907. During the early years of the C20th one of the great events

in the village calendar appears to have been the anniversary of the lodge.

One former rector for the area was an honorary member and recounted the following story of such an event to an Oddfellows conference in 1927. "With banners, the members marched round the village and came to church where I preached to them, and afterwards dined with them. Afterwards they had sports, a very healthy proceeding. The Odd Fellows bound that community together as brothers, looked after the sick and acted generally as a wise and tender mother acts towards her children. Whenever the banner of the order reposed in the church, I was very much struck by the three great words Amicitia, amor, veritas, and saw those words (Friendship, Love, Truth) carried out in the work of the lodge."

Prior to the establishment of the Welfare State the Oddfellows was the largest friendly society in the world. It was the forerunner of, and blueprint for, the Welfare State, but run on a voluntary basis. Between 1912 and 1948 they also undertook National Insurance contributions and benefits on behalf of the government.

Village halls are a relatively recent development, following the end of the first world war and largely driven by a government wanting to build social cohesion as a bulwark against threats of communism and civil unrest. The demise of the Oddfellows coincided with the need for a community hall alongside the establishment of a Welfare State which removed the underlying need for Friendly Societies. The Berney Lodge No. 2617 was wound up in 1980.

I am unsure of the mechanism which allowed our hall to transfer from Oddfellows to community function, although I assume it is through the estate of Barton Hall and its subsequent owners. More research is needed here, and I would welcome any further information from readers. I can be contacted through the G4 editors. However, I think we can all agree that Barton Bendish Village Hall is well used, and hopefully, with the refurbishment and extension currently underway, will continue to be so for many years to come.

Chris Parsons

Trustee - Barton Bendish Village Hall Trusts

Beachamwell Parish Council



The Parish Council has been advised that it should not be holding face to face meetings for the foreseeable future, due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Meetings will therefore be held virtually via Zoom. Members of the public are still able to take part in these meetings. Information on how to access meetings will be provided on our website or you can contact the Clerk on

the details below.

The Councillors and Clerk will continue to manage the day to day running of the Parish Council during this period and you can still get in touch with us in the usual way if you have any matters to bring to our attention.

The Parish Council has been asked to inform residents that the decennial census is almost upon us. Households across the parish will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is 21st March. For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

Date for the next Parish Council meeting is:

Wednesday 17th March 2021 Ordinary Meeting Starting at 7.30pm

Clerk to the Council:

Miss Sarah Thorpe

01945 430930 <u>beachamwellparishcouncil@gmail.com</u>

Councillors:

Cllr. Tom Sanderson (Chairman)

01366 328244 / 07803 963804 <u>tomsanderson@btconnect.com</u>

Cllr. Diana Lambert (Vice Chairman)

01366 328227

Cllr. Richard James

01366 328968 <u>rjj1james@gmail.com</u>

Cllr. Pat O'Donnell 01366 328385

Breckland District Councillor New Year Report

What a year 2020 turned out to be, a difficult year is a understatement, I hope you all had a great Christmas and hope 2021 will be a year we can get back to some sort of normality.

As your Breckland Councillor I continued to work with Breckland Council colleagues and officers in supporting you our residents. Examples are:-

- Support for residents with planning, housing and health issues.
- Covid 19 support for vulnerable residents
- supported a Conservative Government Grant through Breckland council of £10,000 for Beachamwell Memorial Hall

Please contact me if you have any concerns that I might be able to help with.

Peter.wilkinson@breckland.gov.uk/Mobile 07788381796 / 01760338819

May I wish you a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Councillor Peter Wilkinson.

The Friends of St Mary's Church

Happy New Year to everyone. Unfortunately, as you will have no doubt noticed,



the work on the church roof has stopped. We have been informed that due to a step in the old lead roof we cannot replace it with Terne steel as planned. The roof will now be replaced with lead which will have to have alarmed, so we are looking into possible grants for alarm maintenance. Work was due to start in November but that was cancelled

because of the pandemic, so we are now waiting to hear from the Insurers when we can reasonably expect work to commence, bearing in mind current restrictions.

We are hoping that we will be able to go ahead with the thatch replacement in late spring but again it depends on the lifting of the covid19 restrictions.

On a happier note Debbie has secured a fantastic grant towards the thatch and once we can hold a meeting in the village hall we will hold an open meeting to let everyone know all about it.

Hopefully we will be able to hold the gardens open day as planned and resume our adhoc lunches as well as other fun fundraising activities by the summer.

Watch this space

Patricia Clarke (Treasurer FoSM)

A Tribute to Carole Wilson (1939 – 2020)



As many of you will know already, Carole died peacefully at the QE hospital in Kings Lynn on Boxing Day last year. She had lived for around 30 years at the Old Rectory in Beachamwell with her husband Brian. They had only recently moved into Swaffham, but sadly Brian also passed away earlier last year (June G4N tribute). For the many of us, who knew them both so well through their numerous village activities, it is the end of an era.

I am indebted to the many friends of Carole who have emailed or spoken to me with their special memories about her — I have

even received copious notes and photographs from her friends in New Zealand, where for many years she and Brian regularly visited and stayed, missing the worst months of our cold winters! It is upon these, with thanks, that the following tribute is based.

Carole was into everything that village life offered, and was often the promoter and organiser of such events, always ably supported by Brian. Until last year, her fitness and zest for life were remarkable. She was always welcoming to newcomers in the village (a plan I suspect to get one involved in her many schemes!), and if necessary to cajole and pressure you into doing things that you might inadvertently have promised to do during a weak moment! She called a spade a spade!

The Wilson's arrived in Norfolk just a few years after we had arrived in Shingham, and it was through their drive to do things that we met them. Many of the activities were to raise money for St Mary's Church in Beachamwell - over the years this ran into many thousands of pounds to support much needed renovation work.





Carole was a stalwart member of the Beachamwell WI for over 20 years. She was actively involved in the annual village Open Gardens Day which brought visitors from many miles around, and hosted tea and cakes in the Old Rectory gardens, organising a team of village ladies to provide the cakes, serve refreshments and book entertainments. She was enthusiastic and active member Beachamwell Local History Group, and with Brian made invaluable contributions to exhibitions on the history of the village and its churches. Together they ran a holiday let and B&B, bringing countless visitors to the area, many of whom came back year after year.

One of Carole and Brian's great joys was competing in the annual Beachamwell Horticultural Show with home grown produce from their own garden. I gather from their neighbours that they were particularly competitive when it came to the 'Vegetable Box' competition!

Carole and Brian were never shy of a challenge – in 2012, as part of the inaugural Brecks Food Festival in Swaffham, they help deliver a picnic hamper, chairs, booze and picnic table to the top of the Eco-Centre wind turbine as part of the winner's prize. It hit the press – "two seventy year olds' run up 305 steps laden with picnic goodies".

But cycling was a huge part of their lives. I remember one Sunday morning when we bumped into them on their bikes and asked

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

them where they had been – just to the coast and back was the reply, putting us somewhat to shame. They travelled the world, and met many friends on their cycling holidays – I gather that with one group they got named "the cockney kids"! After their first few trips to NZ they eventually left their fold-up bikes there for their next visit - they had settled on a small town called Coromandel in North Island where they had made many friends and, of course, got fully involved in all that was going on there. Apparently, each year when the bikes were retrieved all the locals knew that "the Wilson's were back in town"!

For us, their organising of the Beachamwell Half Marathon on the Sunday of the



first May Bank holiday was the highlight of the year, with friends and family coming from all over the place to take part. It introduced many to an exercise they had never really considered taking up. Last year was the first time (for obvious reasons) that it didn't take place - let's hope this year we can hold the "Wilson's Memorial Half Marathon", even if shorter and not on the same date?

Bob Baker, Shingham

Farewell

At the time of writing we don't have a date for our move but by the time you read this we may have more information. In the meantime, we would like to say a thank you to all the people who have sent their best wishes for our intended move. We shall miss everyone and of course the pop-up pub, I shall miss the book club. We do hope that we can visit the village after our move Covid and Vaccine permitting to see everyone and perhaps still help on the village's special days

Once again, our very best wishes to everyone. Please stay safe

Michael and Brenda East

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY (Priory Group)

These are the currently projected services during February, but all are subject to change or cancellation as the pandemic situation changes.

Wednesday, 3 February

10:00am* Watlington Morning Prayer

Sunday, 7 February The Sunday next before Lent

9:30am Runcton Holme Holy Communion 10:00am Shouldham Morning Prayer 11:00am Marham Holy Communion 11:00am* Watlington Morning Prayer

Wednesday, 10 February Ash Wednesday

10:00am Watlington Morning Prayer

Sunday, 14 February First Sunday of Lent

9.30am Shouldham Thorpe Holy Communion 11:00am* Watlington Holy Communion

Wednesday, 17 February

10:00am* Watlington Morning Prayer

Sunday, 21 February The Second Sunday of Lent

11:00am Marham Morning Prayer 11:00am* Watlington Holy Communion

Wednesday, 24 February

10:00am* Watlington Morning Prayer

Sunday, 28 February The Third Sunday of Lent

10:00am Fincham BCP Holy Communion

11:00am Tottenhill TBA

11:00am* Watlington Morning Prayer

Due to the pandemic, no services are currently taking place in the Wissey Valley Benefice.

^{*}Link 3 will be used for Priory Group Zoom services should it be necessary to cancel communal worship.

ONLINE SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Online Zoom services are due to take place as below. Services may change as the pandemic situation changes.

Thursday, 4 February

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 7 February The Sunday next before Lent

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below 8.00pm Compline See link 4 below

Thursday, 11 February

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 14 February First Sunday of Lent

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below 6.30pm Evening Prayer See link 4 below

Thursday, 18 February

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 21 February The Second Sunday of Lent

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below 8.00 pm Prayer and Meditations See link 4 below

Thursday, 25 February

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 28 February The Third Sunday of Lent

6.50pm Service of the Word See link 2 below 8.00 pm Prayer and Meditations See link 4 below

Link 1 - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155? pwd=dy9nNzRJby91OVprZG9nSzIMSEIPZz09

Link 2 - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82822775006? pwd=eU12TDN0VTJpZFVocld4WlpvZEM4dz09

Link 3 – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84842560875? pwd=Ym82ajBzWIZzdXRoYVNiUW1JSWRsQT09

Link 4 – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83015183191? pwd=Y2toS2RkeEJDQUhBSXICektzZXg4dz09

BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS

All Saints' Church

At the moment, we are unable to offer 'in church' services, although the church remains open for private prayer on Wednesdays. Even before the decision to suspend all services in the benefice was taken, it was clear that Boughton, in common with most churches, has problems. The regular members of the congregation are all of a certain age and obviously not able or willing to sit socially distanced in a building, hurrying away afterwards without stopping to mingle—as directed. It's more rewarding to attend one of the many online services which are available.

It was wonderful to be able to sing carols on the green before Christmas. We were all socially distanced and enjoyed mulled wine. Many thanks to Dave Friswell and his elves for organising this.

Not having services presents us with other, more practical problems, however. We are relying on a very small income from a few people who make direct debit contributions. Our contribution every month (mandatory) to the Diocese alone is about five times what we receive from that. We also have insurance, grass cutting, maintenance of the building—the list goes on. We have been unable to raise funds from events such as Open Gardens Day, Breakfast Church and garden sales. Boughton church is the only building in the village which can provide a meeting space, as we have no dedicated village hall. If you value that space and the church itself, please consider if you can make a regular offering to keep it going please consider doing so. I put my normal collection money to one side every week, so it becomes a habit and isn't noticed. We have so few amenities in this village, so please help us to preserve the church as a going concern. *Pam Wakeling*

Rainfall between October 2020 and early January 2021

Here we are in the New Year, and as I write, things are just beginning to dry up a bit, and the rain has been replaced with freezing fog.

It cannot have escaped anyone's notice that the end of last year was exceptionally wet, with parts of Brandon, Thetford and Hockwold having to be evacuated on Boxing Day, as the Little Ouse burst its banks for the first time in fifty years in Thetford town centre, leaving Captain Mainwaring sitting up to his essentials in dirty water. Elsewhere, in Bedfordshire and the surrounding area, flooding was widespread, as well as further east in Norfolk. All this water made its way down to the relief channel that runs through Denver Sluice, and on to Saddlebow, where

the tail sluice is situated. This is where I sail. The water levels were coming up on to our top car park between flushes; and then being sent out to sea through all seven sluice gates. They let the water out during low water on the tidal river, and close the gates as the tide comes in again, so the rise and fall of the water level on the relief channel is considerable. None of us could remember this happening for more than twenty years, and certainly not in such a sustained manner.

Turning to the rainfall, October continued very wet with high winds and gales featuring frequently. The total rainfall for the month was 93.2mm, and only a handful of days remained dry. November, on the other hand was relatively dry, with only 34.6mm altogether, but we had some very heavy showers amongst that, and more than our fair share of gales and strong winds.

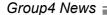
But none of this compared to December. Large quantities of rain fell on a number of days, the two worst being 28.8mm on 3rd, and a colossal 31.7 on the 23rd. Storm Bella hit us on Boxing day, but we were lucky to get away with just 5.6mm with the wind – the forecast had been for torrential rain. But the total for the month in Boughton was 129.6mm, which is over 5 inches, and in places quite close by, this total was higher as much of the rain was quite localised.

We have to hope for some quieter weather now, as everywhere is saturated. Both farmers and gardeners would like to be able to get on with work that has been abandoned for the time being, and anyone working with grazing animals will be happier if they are not up to their ankles in mud. Sue Pogmore

From Neil Matthew, Chair of Boughton Parish Council

Firstly, may I wish everyone in Boughton a Happy New Year. It will no doubt be a difficult start as we enter another period of lockdown, but with vaccines on the horizon there is now hope we are nearing the end of our trials. Please be aware that there are various scams doing the rounds regarding vaccination, including some villains offering counterfeit jabs for a fee. You will be contacted by the NHS when it is your turn for inoculation. Keep on eye on the Parish Council website for more news as we receive it.

Don't speed when you come to or travel through Boughton! We now have a new speed device in operation.



Initial indications are that it does act as a deterrent and the average speed of "speeders" did reduce on Mill Hill Road while it was there. If we spot regular offenders we will take further enforcement steps, but I am happy to say that the majority of passing vehicles do so at a safe speed.

The sign has been deployed for a little while now, and my first report on the statistics it has reported was presented to the Parish Council meeting held on 5th January and is now available for all on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. I will post further updates as we get further data from the different locations it will be used in.

The regular meeting of the Parish Council in January (held virtually) passed the council's annual budget for the financial year 2021/22. While this is a "steady as you go" budget we have had to increase the precept slightly to ensure we maintain reserves needed for contingency and to build funds towards playground equipment replacement. We remain in the lowest 25% of the range of council tax in the county.

Finally, we still have a casual vacancy on the Parish Council. If you feel you have something to contribute to the work the council does, can spare a few hours a month to help out, why not apply to be considered as a councillor? While often frustrating as things can take a long while to get done, it can also be rewarding to volunteer to help make your community a better place to live.

If you have any ideas or comments on how the Parish Council should be using its funds, please get in touch. If you have any questions about how the Parish Council is run, its obligations, policies, procedures, legal and regulatory frameworks please check out the website or get in touch by email.

Stay safe.

Neil Matthew

Mail: chair.boughtonpc@gmail.com

Web: boughtonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

MOBILE POST OFFICE will park near the village pond on the following days/ times,

Monday and Thursday 14.00 – 14.15

Tuesday and Wednesday 12.25 -12.55.

Wereham Craft Group

Unfortunately we had to cancel our craft fair for 7th November due to Covid restrictions. Two new dates will be decided in Jan 2021 so please keep an eye on all the usual sites for information i.e. G4, Village Pump, Local posters, Facebook book etc. We very much look forward to seeing you all next year. Please stay safe everyone. For details please contact Rosemary on 01366 501330, 07749240606, e-mail rosemary.pease@btinternet.com.

Short Mat Bowls.

We aim to start again in the new year, but the sessions will be in the afternoon. Details will be in all local publications as above.

New players will be very welcome, no experience needed. For details please contact Philip on <u>01366 501330</u>, <u>07759033492</u>, email rosemary.pease@btinternet.com.

Car Boot and Cafe.

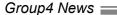
Unfortunately the November car boot had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Jan 2021 is the next car boot, allowing for Covid restrictions. Please see local publications or media sites for confirmation. For details please contact Philip on 01366 501330, 07759033492, email rosemary.pease@btinternet.com.

WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL

In this ever-changing situation regarding what is permissible within the guidelines for all government tiers, it is difficult to provide definitive information about the operation of the Village Hall in the early New Year.

There is great enthusiasm from many of our existing groups and activities organisers to recommence meetings and sessions as soon as possible. Therefore, we encourage everyone to check with our website - www.werehamvillagehall.co.uk - and our Facebook page on a regular basis for the latest updates.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their understanding and support during these uncertain times.



We hope very much to be fully up and running again as soon as possible and to welcome everyone back into our lovely Village Hall.

Keith Murray

Trustee, Wereham Village Hall

Happy New year from The Friends of Saint Margaret's Church Wereham.

Many, many thanks to the Friends of Saint Margaret's Church and everyone who supported Wereham church's advent events throughout December .

The friends have been very active and productive during Advent.

Chocolate advent calendars were given to Wereham children by Chris and Keith Murray to mark the start of advent . Thank you Chris and Keith.

The advent windows around the village have been a great success and enjoyed far and wide.

Many thanks to everyone who has taken part and to all those who enjoyed looking at the windows Special thanks to Duncan and Briget Slade for organising and to John Nellist for putting together the excellent photos and videos on the Facebook pages .Thanks also to Sue Candler and Chris Lawrence and friends for designing and building the church nativity scene.

It was lovely that about 60 people were able to gather in the churchyard by the illuminated nativity scene on Christmas Eve to sing our favourite carols led ably by Dom, Jen and Keith.

The stunning Christmas boxes given by the friends of Saint Margaret's to those nominated by their friends and neighbours were gratefully received. They were given to recognise and reward those members of the local community who have gone the extra mile to help and support their neighbours and other local residents and who continue to do so. Many thanks to Karen Rodgers whose idea it was and who organised the whole thing with the very able help of many others in the village.

Many thanks to all those of made donations to the church during Advent. Approximately £1500 was raised for the church. As everyone knows it's been a tough year financially for the church with the usual fundraising events of 2020 cancelled because of the virus.

Please look for the new Friends of St Margaret's church Facebook page for lots of photos of all the events and videos of all 24 Advent windows.

The Friends Of St Margaret's will be organising further fundraising events

during 2021 so please look out for them and please give the church your support.

Donations for Wereham church are always welcome

The just giving page is:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmargaretswereham

Cheques and donations are always welcome too.

Wereham Parish Council

Next Meeting Date - Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 7.00 pm

Agenda items must be received before the end of the month prior to each meeting, items received after this time will not be possible to discuss. Please send to the Parish Clerk at weerehampc@gmail.com. The Agendas for meetings are always published on the Wereham Village Notice Board three clear days before the meeting, and notified via the Wereham Parish Council Facebook Page and on the website www.werehamparishcouncil.co.uk You will also find minutes of all meetings here too. Please contact the Clerk should you wish to attend virtually once the agenda is public for joining instructions. The Council are meeting via Zoom virtually until further notice and in following guidance issued to it by authority bodies, invitation information and how to attend is placed on each meeting agenda.

Defibrillator - Red Telephone Box at the Pond

Message to All New Residents and Reminder for Others: There is a Defibrillator owned by the village in the Red Telephone Box at the Wereham pond. This is managed and checked by the Parish Council. You don't need training on how to use it as it has a screen that offers step by step instructions. The only occasion any person who finds themselves seeking this equipment would be following a 999 call and not before. The device is registered with the ambulance service and therefore upon anyone calling 999 they will advise that person to collect it. The ambulance service would provide the code that is required to access the defibrillator. However the Parish Council did purchase some key fobs and fridge magnets with the cabinet code on should anyone like one, please email werehampc@gmail.com and it will be posted through your letterbox. Obviously keep this very safe as it is good to have this information close to hand, but we would prefer emergency access only to the cabinet. There is also an emergency telephone in the red telephone box that is paid for by the Parish should the device be required it will enable assistance, you would simply push a button. Should you wish to register interest for an awareness session in 2021 for its use please email werehampc@gmail.com.

URGENT RESPONSE FROM WEREHAM RESIDENTS NEEDED BY END OF FEBRUARY 2021 SURVEY ON WHETHER TO GRANT FUND WEREHAM CHURCH WITH WEREHAM PARISH COUNCIL FUNDS

Wereham Parish Council have received a grant funding application from the Wereham Parochial Church Council (Friends of St Margaret's) for £4k to help with the running costs as covid has effected their ability to fundraise leaving them with a deficit of funds to be able to be open and going forward. The Parish Council felt that in order to make a decision at their March meeting, they need to engage with Wereham residents on whether they would be in **support or not** of the Parish Council making a grant fund of £3k - that ultimately is from tax payers funds in the village. The Parish Council agreed to fund £1k of the £4k requested based on a budgeted amount held for the Church Clock, so this will leave a grant fund of £3k requested. So please phone 07795006811 or email werehampc@gmail.com the Parish Clerk by 28 February 2021 to say whether you are in support or against an additional grant fund of £3k from council tax payer funds.

The Church currently are trying to fundraise themselves via a 'Just Giving Page' as below website, if you wish to contact the Church yourself to directly donate please contact them via the Churchwarden Sheila Smith whose number is available on the Church of England Website as 01366 858165.

https://justgiving.com/fundraising/stmargaretswereham

WEST NORFOLK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (MAGPIE CENTRE):

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled is to hold its Annual General Meeting via Zoom, at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 23 February.

All are welcome, but to register your interest, please visit our website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk, and you will be sent the code which will enable you to access the meeting.

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Home-Start Swaffham & District The Community Centre, Campinglands,

Swaffham, PE37 7RB Tel: 01760 721271

Email: admin@homestartswaffham.org.uk

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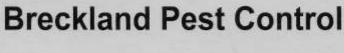
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- helping groups to arrange activities and encouraging volunteering
- providing community events and onsite information sessions providing support for employers, schools, and colleges

Accessing Lily

You can access Lily in a variety of ways:

- the Lily online directory
- by telephoning 01553 616200
- at community groups, locations and events

home visits from a Lily Advisor

Why use the Lily online directory? The Lily online directory lists organisations, services and activities that help people to live healthy, active and independent lives. It is expanding to include more and more information relevant to adults of all ages.

Topics include:

- learning, work and volunteering
- what's on
- things to do
- travel and getting around
- money matters
- staying safe
- · caring for others
- care and support for you
- news
- childcare and family support
- advice and advocacy

housing and care homes

You can search the site by:

- category
- keywords
- location

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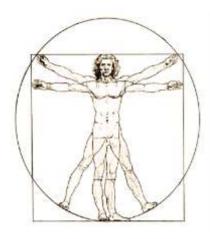
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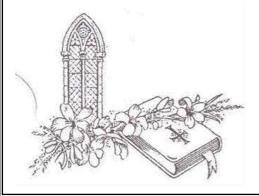
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The End of the Beginning.

I felt no great sense of loss when I left St James' Primary School for Boys for the last time but I had loved living in sleepy old King's Lynn. I spent practically every Saturday morning at the Majestic absorbed in westerns and slurping tubs of warm ice cream. It was like being in a ballroom apart from the shrieks and laughter from the huge audience of raucous children. I loved the Walks with its avenues of huge Elm trees, strange old buildings and endless grass. I had never seen anything like it. I had become familiar with my regular trails past the bus depot, in the sweetshops near Windsor Road and past the South Gates Garage where you could buy huge bars of Crunch. The town had shrunk as I got to know it. New places always made me desperate to explore and when everything was familiar, I hated to move on. Local people were surprisingly friendly, given the animosity I had experienced at school, I often went with Mum to a nursery on Goodwins Road where she bought plants and flowers while the owner fed me with orange juice and cake. I wished that all grown ups were like her. The lady in the Spa shop who wobbled a bit as she walked, wanted to ask me all about Germany and places I'd been far from Norfolk. If only I didn't have to go to school! I could have been very happy there.

Shortly before leaving Marlowes for the last time we were picked up by Uncle Bill and Aunt Lily to visit some lovely people called Willson in their bungalow at Grimston. I had never heard of them but Mrs Willson was the sister of my Great Nana Hunt. They were daughters of a man named Moses Meeks who had a building firm in Cambridge. Aunt Lily was one of Great Nana's daughters and it all seemed very complicated. It seemed that a number of our family had left Cambridge to live in Norfolk, which was a funny thing since we'd come from Banham in the first place. Not that I knew where Banham was but the Hunt family originated there, in fact there is a place called Hunt's corner in the village. I knew that Nana Hunt had many relatives in Norfolk and a chalet in Heacham but the family jigsaw was beyond me to put together.

On the way to Grimston we stopped at the local railway station which was in the last throes of its existence. Uncle Bill told me all about the Muddle and Go Nowhere Line as a sleek new green diesel wheezed through with an endless succession of rusty clanking trucks. The Willsons told fascinating stories about their time living on Wooton Road, British Industrial Sand and a wonderful ruined church at a place called Bawsey. It was an afternoon I didn't want to end. Some people find old folk boring. Not me. I've always found them to be patient, kind and interesting in a way that other grown ups simply weren't.

Later, driving towards Gaywood, we stopped outside a strange house which looked a bit like a castle. It was split into two semi detached houses, called Hanville and Jenville. Aunt Lily told us that the houses had been built for two sisters, Jenny and Hannah, by their husbands, and named after then. Even then I was a bit of a romantic and although the houses looked eccentric and impractical I loved their story, one which most people would never know. The houses stood next to the Gaywood River and no one who passed them could fail to notice them. Even better than that, it seemed that I was related to the sisters in some way but I was no longer listening. My impetuous mind had already moved on.

Moving Day did eventually arrive and it was surprisingly low key and matter of fact. I thought a bit about scrumping apples with Paul Wilmore, sailing our wooden door- boat on the stream at the back and our trip to London when I took awful photographs of Tower Bridge while our boat was rocking up and down. I had never really taken to the house and anyway it was in the past now, along with Dennis Law scoring in the Cup Final and England enjoying their usual struggle against the West Indies. I had left my pictures from Look and Learn on my bedroom wall but Mum didn't seem bothered.

As usual Dad was nowhere to be seen. He had arranged for his friend Ginge to pick up the four of us, along with a small mountain of boxes and cases which we had arranged in an untidy heap by the front gate. We were used to moving on and I was curious about what RAF Marham would be like. It had been odd living in a town surrounded by ordinary civilians with different jobs in an uncontrolled environment. We were heading for the familiar. Ginge was tiresomely cheerful, explaining the significance of nearly every building we passed on the A47. He got very animated by a big house in East Winch which wasn't even there, telling us that the people who had lived there had moved to some place called Castle Howard. Why would anyone ever want to do that?

Eventually, having been overtaken by a very slow moving train and held up at a level crossing for ages, we turned past West Bilney Church because Ginge knew a short cut. It turned out that he knew a lot of short cuts. Each one took us to the house of a different pretty woman who sold him eggs, pheasants or vegetables.

When at last we reached our new home, we discovered that our most encouraging address was to be Burnthouse Crescent. Our residence was much like many of the Married Quarters we had stayed in over the years and the familiarity was somehow comforting. Outside there was a good sized patch of

grass which would be ideal for football. Behind the house, and mounted on a wooden pole was some kind of siren which would wail alarmingly and unpredictably at various times. We were told that it was just practice and that no one ever took any notice of it. Grown ups always seemed to understand the most secret of things. How did they do it? Another huge mystery was the way mum warmed the entire house simply by pouring coke into a boiler with loads of wood and burning newspaper. She sometimes did something she called riddling which was like a magic trick. It always made the kitchen smell of coal but you can't have everything. Mum seemed delighted to know that we could all have baths whenever and however often we wanted.

The Naafi, typically, was a real Aladdin's Cave where you really could buy anything from fire lighters to Jelly Babies to hair curlers. We also bought boxes of tea with pictures of football teams on the side. Very often there were different things inside on cards. My favourite thing was pictures of the Beatles wearing funny coats without collars. That Summer I had been listening to the radio a lot more and we argued about which group was the best. My brothers liked the Searchers and Billy J Kramer and the Dakotas but there was nothing like the Beatles in my opinion. I had discovered that Matt Monroe and Frank Ifield were out of date. My mum and dad listened to crooners like that and to the Big Band sound ,which they did Ballroom dancing to. I didn't ever see them doing that but people said that Dad was good at it. Some called him Snakehips, which he didn't seem to mind. You never think your parents are very good at anything so it was good to hear.

I was enjoying TV a lot more too. I'd always liked Crackerjack but now I started to watch Juke Box Jury, Sportsview and the News. Soon Dr Who and Top of the Pops appeared and they became unmissable. My brothers were scared of the Daleks but I wasn't, not really. I began reading the paper as well, which annoyed my parents at times because they could never find it. There was an Astra cinema near the airfield and the three of us had a long walk to get there every Saturday, looking forward to the customary westerns and to Laurel and Hardy. Sometimes we would see a V bomber taking off. They would hang, almost motionless, in the sky, as if they were about to fall out of it. Then, as if it had suddenly had second thoughts, it would make a terrible noise, try harder and soar away into the sky.

The day came when the three of us started back at school. The same school. I don't think that had ever happened before and I felt pleased that I wasn't joining a school on my own, as I had so many times before. We walked together on the chalky path which sloped down through a huge field to the village below. After that I would rarely see them at school except at those times when every pupil

was assembled in the playground for PT. It was a curious sight, all those children doing starjumps and stretches on the tarmac. It was lovely to get out into the fresh air for a while. It did wake my ideas up a bit too, which is what I was told it was for. Sometimes we went into the Dining Room where we could produce art on the big tables. Mr Baker showed us how pictures in newspapers were made up of dozens of tiny dots and we tried painting and drawing using the same method. We might use charcoal or little sponges dipped in paint to create different images. We were never bored in those lessons. Mr Baker was a slightly dishevelled chaotic character who smoked roll ups when doing duty in the playground. He told us that he lived in a very old house in a tiny farming village called Barton Bendish. Naturally we all thought he'd made it up because no one had ever heard of it and because he was always telling us tales.

I was in the top year now and we would have Games all afternoon every Wednesday. We would play football, whatever the weather because Mr Baker was a fanatic and didn't want to take us indoors. We were always Celtic against Rangers and it was very competitive. I had begun watching football but hadn't really played it before. I started to look forward to it and found that I considered myself a natural Left Back. On rare occasions I scored and loved the feeling. I used to think about it for days afterwards. I only missed football once because I was kept in all afternoon for an offence called "insubordination." This was something to do with being too clever for my own good whilst talking to Miss Gooderson.

Once I was sent to the school nurse for a health check. She measured my height and weight before telling me to undo my elastic belt, which had a complicated snake fastening.

I was dumbfounded. And then outraged. She fumbled clumsily about in my nether regions before pronouncing that all was well. Why shouldn't it be? I thought. I have tried to avoid medical appointments ever since and have never understood the appeal of fierce women in starched, clinical uniforms...Other than that, going to school in Marham was a real pleasure. Mum gave us our bus fare every day, knowing that we would walk over the field and spend it on Black Jacks and special packets of bubblegum with big cards inside with footballers' faces on. These were highly prized. We swapped a lot of them but I always kept the ones of Jimmy Greaves because he was the man I most wanted to be when

[&]quot;But they'll fall down!" I whimpered pathetically.

[&]quot;That's right," she said," and take your pants down too."

I was ten.

Unusually the school had two populations. One consisted of children who had always lived there and the other were children of RAF personnel and were just passing through. The populations were more or less equal and mixed surprisingly well. I became very friendly with some of the villagers. One family had ten children. One day we passed a group of workmen who were converting two council semis into one house to accommodate them all. Wonderful .You couldn't really avoid getting to know other RAF children. They were the ones I played with at weekends and in the evenings. One night an American airman tried to arrest me because I was carrying a toy Winchester rifle painted to make it look realistic. He didn't believe me, even when I showed him the roll of caps! I was saved by two women who came out of their houses, assessed the commotion and told him that he was stupid. I loved that. We did fall out sometimes. A lanky and very pale boy called Andrew Barker made some loud and unpleasant remarks about my brother Richard. I said, foolishly loudly, that he'd only been mean because he was ugly and had no friends. Immediately we were surrounded by a howling mob shrieking, "Fight! Fight! Fight!" We knew the rules and circled each other for a bit. He hit me first, which took me completely by surprise. Then he hit me again and I thought I'd better do something. I hit him twice, as hard as I possibly could, as Dad has once advised me. He looked shocked, muttered, "That'll teach you," and turned on his heel. The mob were happy and Andrew and I became good friends after that. It was my last fight....at that school

We were taught by Mrs Kirkup, the Headmaster's wife. She was always reminding us that we were the top class, saying that we should set a good example and that she was preparing us for the 11+. She said that it would be the most important exam we would ever take because our futures depended on it. Somehow it would determine which school we went to next. I had no idea why. I always went to the school which was the nearest to where I lived at the time. We spent a lot of time working out codes and riddles and peculiar sums where you had to work out how many cubes their were in a pyramid. It was fun but I couldn't see what these strange shapes had to do with sums. Some of what we did was called mental and it was certainly different. I have never minded doing pointless things when they are fun to do

The second part of this story will have to wait for a future edition, but thanks to Andrew Stephen of Barton Bendish for his recollections.

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