

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

October 2020

Cover Illustration drawn by Mark Powell, Beachamwell ©

WELCOME



Hopefully you are all still coping in these very strange times

Communities are still supporting each other so many thanks to all involved.

Thanks to those people who have contributed articles, photographs, drawings etc which are very much appreciated. Please keep them coming.

Take care and stay safe. 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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Please submit all information through your Village Contacts.

Deadline for copy for the November 2020 edition:

11th October

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NOTES FROM THE RECTORYAKA HONEY TREES

Wissey Valley Benefice

Rev Carol Nicholas-Letch Parish Priest Wissey Valley Benefice Honey Trees, Furlong Drove, Stoke Ferry, PE33 9SX 01366 500704

carolnl53@hotmail.com

Comprising the Parishes of: Barton Bendish: Beachamwell with Shingham & Drymere: Boughton: Methwold:

Wereham: West Dereham: Whittington: Wretton with Stoke Ferry

The Ever Changing Seasons



Dear Friends

I have been watching the progress of the harvest as we enter Autumn and the ever changing landscape. In the fields around home the grain is in and the fields ploughed; further afield as I journey around the countryside there are pumpkins growing in the fields around Christchurch and Three Holes, a magical sight invoking memories of Harvest Festivals with pumpkins and gourds decorating the churches with lights shining out from the larger ones with crosses cut in the sides. The seasons come and go, just as they have for millennia: they are unaware of the pandemic raging around the world, the joys and the tragedies that affect us all as we journey through life.

Our Creator God, like the seasons, is ever present. He watches and abides alongside us, through the good and the bad times; the times of want and the times of plenty and as we face yet another wave of infection from this dreadful disease I recall the words of Christ:

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

My way of coping at the moment is to do as I am told, encourage others to do the same, help others when the opportunity arises, pray for us all - here in our villages and for the whole world and to remember that I am a child of God and that He loves me - just as He loves each and every one of you.

Rev Carol

St Mary's Church Houghton-on-the-Hill

RE-OPENING SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2020

this historic and beautiful 11th century church with priceless wall paintings, will re-open on Saturday 11th July at 2pm

THEN DAILY FROM 2PM TO 4PM UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER

We have taken steps to ensure the Church is Covid secure. Join us for a guided visit to the church and its delightful gardens, and become a Friend of St Mary's to help secure its future.

Registered Charity No. 1069758

www.houghtonstmarys.org.uk admin@houghtonstmarys.org.uk St Mary's Church. Browns Lane, Houghton-on-the-Hill, North Pickenham, PE37 8FB Or contact Alan on 01760 720070



RECIPE PAGE

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE - FROM DISASTER TO TRIUMPH

Anyone who has done enough cooking will have had a disaster. Mostly you learn, move on and forget.

I still fondly remember my Nan saving the day when my mousse separated. The mousse separated because with youthful exuberance I decided that there was not enough brandy - so I added more. It was part of an important dinner party for ten and, of course, I wanted everything to be perfect. The solution was to adjust the menu from chocolate mouse to chocolate surprise by adding a large carton of lightly whipped double cream and freezing - thanks Nan.

All chocolate mousses are based on 50g chocolate and one egg per person so to serve four

200g 70% cocoa chocolate 4 eggs 2 tablespoons of rum or brandy 300ml of double cream



1. Melt the chocolate in a largish bowl over a large pan of barely simmering water, reserving 2 pieces for grating later (put these in the freezer).

2. Separate the eggs.

3. Add the egg yolks and brandy to the chocolate and combine well.

4. In a separate bowl beat the egg whites to soft peaks.

5. Add the egg white to the chocolate mixture and fold in well. You can stop here if

you simply want chocolate mousse.

6. In the same bowl you beat the egg whites (saves washing up) lightly whip the double cream.

7. Add the cream to the chocolate mousse reserving 4 desert spoons of cream for later.

8. Place the chocolate surprise mixture in 4 suitable serving dishes / heavy glasses, cover with cling film and allow to cool.

9. Once cool, place in the freezer, remove 20 minutes before serving.

To serve, make a few holes with a fork and add the liquor of choice for each person, top with a dessert spoon of cream and grate on some chocolate.

Geoff Siddons (Beachamwell)



CHILDREN'S PAGE



QUIZ PAGE

- 1. How many bones are there in the human face 4, 14, 24 or 34?
- 2. What was John Lennon's middle name?
- 3. Boris Spassky is a famous name in which sport?
- 4. When a surgeon performs a myectomy what is removed?
- 5. Which member of the Royal Family's Christian names include Elizabeth, Alice, Louise?
- 6. Which boy's name appears in most nursery rhymes?
- 7 According to the proverb, what can't you do if you don't speculate?
- 8. Zemmiphobia, equinophobia and bufonophobia are phobias relating to what?

9. Which is the longest book in the Bible - Joshua, Proverbs, Leviticus or Psalms?

- 10. MacKechnies Stores features in which popular TV drama?
- 11. Where did the catchphrase 'Are you sitting comfortably' originate?
- 12. 'Pure & Simple' was the number one debut single of which pop band?
- 13. How many bathrooms are there in Buckingham Palace 28, 48, 78 or 108?
- 14. Ceilidh is the Gaelic word for what dance, dream, entertainment or visit?
- 15. In Star Trek what is Captain James T. Kirk's middle name?
- 16. Which 1960's singer named his daughter Tulip after the song that made him famous?
- 17. Solve the following clues to flowers a) vulpine attire b) partygoer without partner c) Remembrance Day flower d) fragrant Prince.
- 18. Which district was designated as Britain's first National Park?
- 19. What is the 49th state of America?
- 20. What is the ideo locator on an outdoor map?
- 21. How did denim get it's name?
- 22. What are Rocky and Bull winkle in the children's cartoon?
- 23. How many US states have a land border with Mexico?
- 24. Why is it called plaster of Paris?
- 25. Which actor's name means 'cool breeze over the mountain's' in Hawaiian?

quarries in Montmartre, Paris; (25) Keanu Reeves

Answers: (1) 14; (2) Winston; (3) Chess; (4) Part of a muscle; (5) The Princess Royal; (6) Jack; (7) Accumulate; (8) Animals - the great mole rat, horses and toads; (9) Psalms; (10) Monarch of the Clen; (14) Visit; (15) Tiberius; (16) Tiny Tim [the song was 'Tiptoe through the Tulips']; (17) a - foxglove, b - wallflower, c - poppy, d - sweet william; (18) The Peak District in 1951; (19) Alaska - admitted in 1959; (20) The 'you are here' arrow; (21) It is derived from serge-de admitted in 1959; (20) The 'you are here' arrow; (21) It is derived from serge-de Nilmes, a fabric made in Nimes, France; (22) A squirrel and a moose; (23) Four - Ninges, Arizona, New Mexico, California and Texas; (24) It was mined at gypsum

COUNTRYSIDE NOTES

Romany Gypsies - PART 2

As a child in Sussex I remember sometimes seeing a gypsy family camped along a nearby country lane. They were recognisable away from their camp because they smelled of wood smoke. They were part of my childhood and I never felt intimidated by them. Gypsies were the seasonal workers of yesteryear, moving from place to place picking fruit, vegetables and hops, conveniently bringing their homes with them. The men made pegs, sharpened scissors, knives, shears and scythes and dealt in rags and bones. The women folk sold the pegs and baskets, lace and artificial flowers they'd made, also lucky white heather. For food, when able, they ate what nature provided with the help of a long dog or two, snares and catapults. They were opportunists; there were trout to be had and game, hares, rabbits, hedgerow fruits and plants. But they still needed money to buy a few essentials such as flour.

Words from the Romany language are still in use today. It can be traced back to Sanskrit Romanes, a language, with variations, used by gypsies across Europe. Romany is the British version. It was originally only a spoken language, never a written one. Those who transcribed it had to guess at the spelling. Surprisingly, there are words we are familiar with used either as slang or as being derogatory. Slang words appearing in our dictionaries are

- COSH meaning a stick = truncheon,
- NICK to steal,
- LOLLI means copper coins = money,
- CUSHTI means good = cushy or easy
- Gaffer derived from GAVVER meaning boss.

Romany words used in a derogatory way are

- PIKIE, which originally meant a gypsy expelled from his tribe, often now used when referring to gypsies and travellers in general. Another association is because gypsies used to beg at turnpikes.
- In pure Romany DIDICOI means someone who is half Romany or having very little Romany blood
- GORGIO refers to anyone who isn't a Romany.
- A Romany living wagon is called a VARDO.
- The stove inside is a QUEENIE and provides heat
- most cooking is done outside over a YOG (campfire).

COUNTRYSIDE NOTES

To keep up with modern times new words have been added to the Romany language. The one I love is the word for a television set....

DINNILOS-DICKING-MUKTAR translated as a fool's looking box.

There is a Romany Gypsy museum near Spalding which we found very interesting, likewise our visit to Appleby Fair, the mecca for gypsies. We talked with several as they travelled along surrounding country roads in their magnificent horse drawn wagons. There are six designs of which the grandest are elaborately decorated in glorious colours, including gold, and worth six figure sums. A combination of different woods were used to make them, including oak for the wheel spokes, beech for the axle, ash for the shafts and pine for the floor and panels. The owners are equally proud of their horses, more often than not black and white. Although vardos were cherished, by tradition, they were burned when the owner died.



Jill Mason [Barton Bendish]

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

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.



CSV, 237 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9NJ Find out more at <u>www.csv.org.uk</u> Like CSV UK' on Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/CSVUK</u> Follow @CSV_UK' on Twitter: <u>www.twitter.com/@CSV_UK</u>

'THINKINGFUEL' - TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF BUYING HEATING OIL

At Community Action Norfolk we believe in fair outcomes for all Norfolk residents. <u>'ThinkingFuel</u>', our collective heating oil buying service, helps combats fuel poverty across the county.

We are asking for your help in raising awareness of ThinkingFuel.

Heating oil – helping the community

Because heating oil is not a price-regulated commodity like electricity and gas, consumers are vulnerable to the fluctuations of market prices. 'ThinkingFuel' has supplied low-priced heating oil to thousands of Norfolk residents who know and trust that we are able to supply oil at competitively and consistently low prices.

Members also know that in buying oil from us they are helping CAN support community development and local projects across the county, including the around 400 community buildings across our county.

You might also consider buying oil from 'ThinkingFuel' for your own premises. We supply oil to business and community premises as well as households, and we can also supply LPG and bottled gas. And as a charity you can of course complete a declaration to claim reduced VAT at 5%.

We can also post you a supply of A5 leaflets for display or distribution - contact <u>steve.nunn@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk</u> or call 01362 545027.

If you'd like to talk to us about 'ThinkingFuel' or indeed if you need advice and guidance on funding, governance or project planning for your organisation, please call 01362 698216 (you may need to leave a message but we will get back to you) or email <u>office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk</u>

Thank you for your help in raising awareness of this important community support project.

Thank you

The Community Action Norfolk Team

Please direct all general queries to the main office by calling 01362 698216 or <u>office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk</u>

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To find out more, call us on 01553 616200 or visit www.careline-cs.org.uk





Tel: 01553 616200 www.asklily.org.uk

Helping adults in west Norfolk get involved in their community



in association with orfolic County Council Wash Register



2048-0-0

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.

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.

The assessors will also be able to advise whether any grant funding is available for any works required.

To book an appointment call the Careline Community Team on 01553 760671

CHARITY WALK FOR MERLE BODDY CENTRE

You may have picked up from the EDP that Peter Harris undertook a charity walk on behalf of the Merle Boddy Centre from 15 - 20 September but if you didn't here is the article:

EDP article from early March 2020:

Swaffham Octogenarian will walk 100 miles in support of Merle Boddy Centre, Swaffham

PETER HARRIS is a well known Swaffham personality who uses his enthusiastic walks to raise funds for local and national charities and he has done so over many years. His enthusiasm has included five Marathons and long-

distance hikes across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Now he will set off once again, with a route of 100 miles, based on the historic Angles Way, which combines such famous paths and bye-ways known as Peddars' Way, Icknield Way, Weavers Way and Iceni Way, between Great Yarmouth and Thetford.

Please REWARD his endeavour with generous donations for his determination to assist the work of the Merle Boddy Centre with Mental Health Day Care.

He is looking for sponsorship and donations can be made via the Just Giving website, for which the link is:

https://www.justgiving.com/ campaign/walknorfolk

If you do decide to donate, then please consider the Gift Aid mechanism which means a further 25% added to your donation - at no extra cost to you!! **Thank you**.

[Photograph shows Peter arriving home at the end of the final day, Congratulations and well done -Ed]



DOWNHAM MARKET LIBRARY IS OPEN



We look forward to welcoming you back! You can

- follow our one-way system to browse the shelves
- pre-order a selection of up to 10 books for adults for free through Select and Collect Use the online form at norfolk.spydus.co.uk or call 01603 774777
- borrow our new Grab and Go children's book bags for families
- book one 60-minute session per day on a computer. To book a session or if you need any help using our computers call 01603 774777
- return items through the drop box or self-service kiosks
- download the FREE Spydus app to check out books on your smartphone
- download eBooks, audio books, newspapers and magazines by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

We've made some changes to keep you safe, so

- there is no 'Open Library' access
- please bring your library card with you or join in the library or online
- we may ask for details from you to help with Test and Trace
- you will need to wear a face covering in the library
- we have a one-way system for social distancing
- hand sanitiser is available for use on the way in and out of the library
- surfaces and computers will be regularly wiped down
- returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours
- sorry, there are no newspapers, magazines or seats in the library and the toilet is not available.

We've made some changes to our opening hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 1000hrs 1800hrs
- Wednesday: 1000hrs 1800hrs
- Thursday: 1000hrs 1800hrs
- Friday: 1000hrs 1800hrs
- Saturday: 1300hrs 1600hrs
- Sunday: Closed

www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

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Barton Bendish - St Andrew's Church Celtic Service

A candle-lit service in the Celtic tradition

Sunday October 11th at 6pm Come and join us. All welcome



Wereham Village Hall

Because of the ever-changing guidance please check our website/Facebook pages as programmes are subject to change. For more information on activities, cinema listings or to book go to www.werehamvillagehall.co.uk/whats -on call 01366 502214, or pop into the Hall weekdays 10am to 3pm We are pleased to welcome visitors back and pleased our safety measures are working well.

Wereham Village Hall CASH BINGO

Every Wednesday. Doors open at 6.30pm. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Café open before and during the break.

Weekly prize money and jackpot Call Diane on 01366 500798

Wereham Village Hall CAR BOOT AND CAFÉ

Car Boot Sale will be on Sunday 25th October from 8.30am to 1pm. Cafe open from 8am for hot breakfast rolls, snacks and drinks. £5.00 a pitch to book indoor/outdoor pitch, call or text Phillip on 07759 033492 Future dates for your diary: 29th November

Wereham Village Hall CINEMA NIGHT TBC

Friday 23rd October TBC see the website/Facebook for information online at www.werehamvillagehall.co.u k/events, from the village hall (10am to 3pm) and on the door

Wereham Village Hall SHORT MAT BOWLS

Will return in the new year from January for further details contact Phillip on 01366 501330

NON-CONTACT BOXERCISE

Mondays 6.30pm until 7.30pm call Maria for information 07885609655 TAI CHI

Fridays 12.30pm until 1.30pm call Pete for information 07845 937707

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Slowly, the clock ticked round to four o'clock when, at last, I heard my mother's familiar and very welcome voice very close by in the corridor outside. It had been a long and impossibly pointless afternoon sitting, huddled over another uneaten meal in that friendless Dining Room. I was used to being rebuked and dismissed as faddy by the ferocious woman who supervised our table with evil relish every day. If ever I were to write a history of primary schools I have known and loved, it would be, in the most part, an account of my unending struggles with school dinners. Endless dollops of reeking cabbage, stinking swede and numerous vegetables too disfigured to identify. Rice pudding with brown skin and red jam was no less appetising than tapioca with cinnamon or prunes and custard. It seemed that food was used to strike fear into the hearts of all but the most hungry.

I had offended the powers of reason and, having disobeyed an instruction to clear my plate before I could have any pudding, let alone get down, it was decided that I would stew over my meal for as long as it took for me to see sense. I tried pushing some food around my plate for a bit and, once or twice, lifted some formless, green mush to my lips but I couldn't get inspired by the Headmaster's latest incentive scheme. Finally, as the moment of liberation approached, I stuffed a piece of cold gristly meat into my mouth, hoping that my mouth wouldn't notice. It did. As my mother burst through the swing doors, I vomited spectacularly over my congealing dinner, my forgotten pudding and the Formica tabletop. I felt instantly better and, as a statement, my reaction to the gristle was as eloquent as anything I could have said.

My mother who, then as now, was a pocket battleship in defence of her children exploded with rage.

"You mean you've kept him sitting there all afternoon all on his own because he couldn't finish his dinner?" She demanded.

"Mrs Stephen, you pay two and sixpence for Andrew to have school dinners. His refusal to eat properly is a waste of your money. We don't have this trouble with local boys."

My mother wasn't impressed. "Well it's my two and six to waste. We know you don't like RAF boys in your school but that's no excuse for treating them cruelly. I'm taking Andrew out of your school and he can stay at home with me for a few weeks until we move to Cosford." And so it was. My time at a school which seemed to exist for the sake of its own rules was at an end. I felt nothing. No relief, no regret, no exhilaration...certainly no embarrassment at my mother's assault on compliance and blind authority. Nothing at all.

It had felt temporary from the beginning. My brief sojourn in this forgotten end of

Birmingham had begun promisingly enough, climbing the steep wooden steps of Castle Bromwich railway station, a place alive with shrieks and whistles and the hissing of steam. Whatever else I thought about always being on the move, I remembered the arrivals and departures with fondness. I loved the smell of travel and the thrill of travelling to unknown destinations. Some people don't understand the romance of the railways or its fading grandeur but its endless variety and its pointless beauty have always appealed to me. Like many of my generation, being on a journey has always been part of the dream.

We had been sent to a camp for RAF families in transit. We met people about to leave for Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar and I envied them. No sunshine or foreign country for us. Not literally anyway. This would be a new way of life for me and maybe more foreign than an RAF camp abroad. The people living nearby seemed very friendly, less so away from the camp. Castle Bromwich had seen its best days as an RAF station during the war, when it had been absolutely vital. Vast numbers of Spitfires had been built in a vast factory next to the married quarters, which were all that remained of forces activity here in the late fifties.

One day my brothers and I found our way into one of the huge factory buildings. It was very neglected and crumbling but the rubble strewn concrete floor still had neatly painted, different coloured lines painted on it, dividing up the space. We had great fun bellowing into the void and waiting for our voices to bounce back. It was very light in this otherwise forbidding building mainly because of the acres of glass made up by hundreds of tiny individual panes on each towering wall.

As we left, in search of further adventures, we came across four or five scruffy looking boys, who seemed friendly enough if a little smelly. It was a job to understand what they were saying but, eventually, I understood that they were asking us to join in their game. I thought this was very kind until I noticed that they were holding long metal poles and that their game was smashing as many windows as they could reach. I didn't much like this idea and warned the boys that we could get into trouble breaking things which didn't belong to us. They found this very funny and started calling us names, some of which I'd never heard before. Suddenly a jeep screeched to a halt a few yards away from us and four men with red bands round their caps jumped out. They seemed very angry and jabbed their fingers at us, demanding to know why we had been smashing windows again. I protested our innocence and suggested, guite unconvincingly, that we'd tried to stop the other boys. Somehow the other boys had melted away long before we noticed their absence. One of the policemen took my name. He didn't seem to believe me when I struggled to remember our new address. He let us go, saying that he would deal with me later.

My mother wasn't best pleased when the police turned up at our home. I stood

feeling petrified during their discussion so I didn't really hear what was said. I didn't like the sound of it though. When my mum said," Wait till your Dad gets home," I was convinced that the outlook was stormy.

At the weekend he returned from Cosford, having already started work there. I was playing in a semi derelict shed at the end of the garden, pretending that I wouldn't be found there. I expected big trouble but when at last he appeared by my place of refuge, he was smiling. He had brought me some sweets and said how proud he was that his son had stood up to the naughty boys. I found grown ups very confusing sometimes.

Later that weekend there was a terrible commotion next door. There were shouts and screams and doors banging over and over again. Suddenly my dad got up and went out and the voices seemed to get louder. After a while it quietened down a bit and then a police jeep arrived outside. When Dad came back, he was very quiet. He was wearing an expression I hadn't seen before but then he was a bit of a mystery to us boys. He often came in late or he was away working. Sometimes he went to Scotland to visit his relatives, most of whom lived in Aberdeen. He always came back very smiley and he usually had some Edinburgh Rock for us. We were always pleased to see him but I don't think we ever got to know him very well when we were little. Really he belonged to the RAF rather than us. Years later he told me that our neighbour had been hitting his wife and daughter and he wasn't having that. I was very proud when I found out that he'd gone round to stop it. The police arrested him and he was warned that if he did it again, he would be discharged and go to prison.

For some weeks my mother took me to the local Infant School. We walked along busy main roads past parks, fields and groups of trees but everywhere smelled of smoke. It was a long walk and, some time before we reached the school, we could smell it, or rather the sulphurous aroma of our food being cooked. It was so strong and so permanent that it seemed to seep into the very brickwork of the building. The school, like its meals, soon became the stuff of nightmares and made me wonder what previous schools had been playing at if this was what they were supposed to be like. The music room stretched via a kind of flimsy bridge over the road, shaking from time to time when heavy lorries passed noisily beneath it. Our teacher, a distant and frankly terrifying figure, roared his encouragement at us and waving his arms about, whilst describing things called minims and crochets, which were very important. We didn't sing or listen to music. We looked at chalk marks on a stained blackboard, wrote a lot of words down and stared out of the windows. It would be hard to find a teacher anywhere more pointlessly pompous or more uninspiring. Most of our classrooms were very dark and very silent. We were anyway. Most days passed in a haze of inactivity, fuelled by far off, monotonous voices. Our usual

teacher spent a lot of time telling us facts but he seemed to prefer the sound of rapidly scratching pens. I didn't mind this too much but the days were very long. And, of course, there were the all important dinners. Trial by ordeal it seemed and, for me, hugely experimental. I would tackle a brightly coloured shapeless

mass and try to identify its most likely identity. Every dinner time seemed to provoke a battle with someone or other who was very disappointed with me. Failure to achieve a clean plate was obviously the most heinous of offences to these fierce defenders of virtue. These battle lead to that fateful day when the Headmaster took personal control and took impressively decisive action.

Eventually we left this twilight realm and we never looked back. Even now, the appearance of a certain type of school building makes me shudder. And, rebel to the last, I still hate cabbage, Brussel sprouts and most things which are green.

Another train journey later, we were surprised to find that Cosford was very close to where we had been. It might as well have been on another planet though. We walked through endless fields and football pitches to get from the station to our very pleasant house on Valiant Road. We were living on a very big camp but somehow it felt that we were far out in the country. The main road behind our house was so quiet that I could cycle along it more or less safely. I was supposed to stop when the pavement ended but nobody checked and I didn't always. A huge railway embankment enclosed one end of the camp in its curve and I could get close enough to the trains to wave to the passengers. Sometimes trains set fire to the embankment and sometimes passengers waved back. Life was a delightful adventure now. I was sad that I didn't see many steamers, they seemed to pull the Expresses and not much else. The little diesel railcars were better than nothing though. At last I could roam unsupervised. My habit of exploring every inch of where I lived had begun. It has yet to end.

I discovered that it was pleasant to chew the leaves of Lime trees and that Blackberries often grew in great numbers and that eating them wasn't stealing. I used to go to the station to watch the trains go by. The man in the ticket office told me that a very famous man called Brunel had built the station. It didn't look very impressive though.

Local people, like the ones in Castle Bromwich, had the irritating habit of speaking as if they couldn't be bothered to get to the end of their words. Although they always seemed too tired to speak properly, they were very friendly and we felt welcome.

After a while, I was taken to school and left in the care of a very busy lady who put me in a corner with a huge pile of comics. This was the most fun I had ever had at school. I was quite surprised when, a very long time later, the lady said,"

I am so sorry. I forgot all about you!" She promised that I would join her class properly the next day. I didn't mind. I liked reading comics and I hadn't been shouted at once. Every day brought something new. One day we played games with tin cans full of water. This was called capacity. Another day, we went for a very long walk round a massive lake called a reservoir which had something to do with Birmingham. No one told us why we were walking but I thought that it was so that we would see beautiful things. I was very tired and very happy when I went home that day.

The school buildings were very modern, full of light and very airy. On the other side of the road stood an ancient, ramshackle farm, with hayricks, a noisy cockerel, working horses and plenty of mud. Our teachers sometimes took us there to look at the animals, although they made us look away if they got too friendly with each other. After making things with plasticine, we had something called a bank where we bought stamps which we stuck in a book. I would rather have bought chocolate but the stamps looked nice. Sometimes I was invited to the front to spell words on the board. When I got beautiful right, the teacher clapped. It has always been one of my favourite words since then. I was discovering that I was guite good at some things and I was always happy when I made the teacher smile. She had a lovely smile and I became addicted to it. I didn't like playing with numbers or some kinds of craft. I would get beside myself with frustration when I couldn't make things which everyone else seemed so easy to do. Mum said that I was impatient and that boys didn't need to be good at craft anyway. We laughed a lot in that class, even when our wax crayons melted in the sunshine when we were drawing outside. It was such a relief to find out that you were allowed to enjoy yourself at school.

During the holidays we used to walk into Albrighton, the village where our school was. We crossed a narrow stream by a wooden bridge, pausing to listen to the water gurgling beneath. Often, I would have my mum to myself and we could walk much further. The hedges were scented and full of wild flowers which were white and looked like bells. The bees seemed really noisy to my untrained ears. One of the first shops we came to has a very impressive mechanical Sugar Puffs train in its front window. It went round and round the displays, disappearing into tunnels for several tantalising seconds. One day we watched a man in a very dark suit trip and fall outside the bank. He was carrying a large bag of coins which cascaded into the long grass. He spent ages looking for them but people kept finding them for ages. It was a rare moment of excitement in the village.

Soon it was time to move to Junior School and one cold and very misty morning, we were led in single file across the yard to the Big School's playground. We stood very still in silent rows while whistles blew and we waited to see what

would happen to us. It was hard not to worry. Our new teachers came out and called out the names of the children they wanted in their class. I was strangely pleased to be chosen almost straight away because I normally came a long way down an alphabetical list. All that and a Christian name for a surname too! My new teacher looked a bit like the Queen and sometimes she sounded a bit like her too.

Now we had to learn how to sit up straight in rows of two and talk about different countries which were very far away and full of very poor people. We were put into different clubs or Houses and they were named after capital cities which could be found in the Commonwealth. I was put into Canberra so I was able to wear a round metal badge which was red. My favourite colour was blue but that was Ottawa. Some countries were called colonies and people with different coloured skins lived there. All these things were new to me, like Assembly. This was where a very tall lady who swayed like a snake and threatened to do terrible things to people who bullied but she didn't say what that was. She was our Headmistress and because of this she wore a very wide belt with a shiny buckle on it. We did a lot of singing, standing up and listening. We were taught all about kindness but I was very frightened of the tall lady. One day I had to go upstairs to her office to get a new red badge because mine had fallen off on the scrambling net. I scrabbled about with my hand in a big glass jar and she talked to me as if she knew me. The view from her window was brilliant. I thought that being a Headmistress must be a very good job to get.

Another day we were told about a miracle in the sky, called a Sputnik. We all went outside to look at a strangely bright flashing light as it raced across the sky and then it was gone. Sometimes I could hear trains in the distance struggling past Albrighton station, which was much grander than the one at Cosford. Some of our teachers talked about a famous man called Billy Wright, who played for a team called Wolves against teams from other countries at night time. I didn't know how that was possible. Sometimes they took us to a theatre in Wolverhampton. We saw a pantomime starring Lennie the Lion. It seemed a bit childish and everyone kept shouting so you couldn't hear it properly anyway. We worked hard every day and no one ever shouted at us. It made me sad thinking about Castle Bromwich. Were grown ups in each separate place really so different in their behaviour? Adults were a real puzzle.

I always seemed to be very happy in Cosford. There was always so much going on. Battle of Britain Day was always really exciting, with flying displays, ice creams, people in fancy dress and Barrage Balloons. My dad used to say things about Waafs and balloons but I expect he was just being silly. I enjoyed watching people marching in parades especially when my dad was a marker. They were building a new indoor athletics stadium and at weekends, when no

one was about, we used to climb scaffolding, paint walls and run about on the track, which seemed to have a slope on it. I was allowed to catch the bus to school on my own now, although, once or twice, I spent the fare at the shop next to the bus stop. I would run upstairs, pick up a discarded ticket from the floor and try to convince the Bus Conductor that it really was mine. I was put off the bus a few times but I didn't mind. I was usually nearly home by then anyway.

Things were changing all the time. My mum got a part time job in the Naafi Bar for a few evenings each week. We didn't mind but Dad had to make our tea at times. He didn't like doing it during the Billy Cotton Band show, although Beans on Toast can't have been that hard. I hated butter and he used to bury it under the beans as if I was just making it up. I used to stay hungry when he did that. Sometimes he would get very red in the face when Mum came home a bit late and say that she'd had the last dance with Eric Yerdley. They would discuss it for days. It was an unpredictable world. Once I tried out Brylcreem from a jar in the Sitting Room before poking my fingers into a plug socket. It hurt but I didn't get much sympathy.

We had become a bit better off and had our own television now to watch Bill and Ben and Andy Pandy on. I thought Tales of the Riverbank was very strange but I enjoyed grown up programmes like Rawhide, The Lone Ranger and Whirly Birds, even if the heroes didn't know how to speak properly. We also had a huge machine called a Radiogram delivered one day. My dad started to collect record by Cliff Richard and Lonnie Donegan but I think he preferred Glen Miller and Joe Loss. I couldn't understand why.

Every Saturday I went to the Astra Cinema on my own to watch the Matinee and eat ice cream. After a while I started to meet up with other children and we would go together, sometimes acting out scenes from the week before. Once or twice a nice man gave us sweets and invited us into his house but we never had time. One Saturday morning we decided to go in as a dare. We knew that we shouldn't but there were five of us and we thought we would be safe enough from a harmless old man. He offered to show us round but we sat watching his television, eating sweets and drinking orange juice. The girls went upstairs with him but came back down almost straight away, shouting and crying. Suddenly, we sensed real danger and fled.

Later that day a policeman came to our house and asked me, very gently, about what had happened. It was difficult to answer properly because I didn't really know. He asked me a lot of questions about whether we had seen him before, exactly what he'd said to us and if I had been frightened. The man's house was quite near to the cinema but quite often we'd seen him hanging about on the edge of the woods nearby. He didn't always want to speak to us and sometimes he looked quite miserable. When he did speak to us, I always thought that he

seemed very kind. The day when he upset the girls was the first time he'd frightened me but it was only because I didn't know what had happened. I have never liked not understanding things. The policeman finished by telling me that I must never go into a stranger's house again. I told him that he wasn't really a stranger because we'd seen him lots of times before. Anyway, we never saw the man again and his house looked very neglected with broken windows and an overgrown garden. My dad started to take me to the cinema from then on. Something had changed.

Sometime after that I started to have vivid nightmares, although they were so vivid I thought they were real. I would lie in my bed listening to the strains of No Hiding Place as darkness fell and, almost straight away, a hideous old crone would appear near to my bed, cackling with laughter and clutching a knife which she seemed to stab me with two or three times. She had yellowish waxy skin, a stare I couldn't meet and awful broken teeth. Eventually, I learned that if I lay on my side facing the wall and got to sleep before she came, that no harm could come to me. Before that, I hated going to bed and woke up several times with a terrible pain in my side where I thought I'd been stabbed the night before.

When we went on our next holiday to Cambridge, we were told that we weren't going back to Cosford. I wasn't sorry. I was going to spend a few weeks at St Phillip's School on Ross street. We would enjoy being thoroughly spoiled at my Nana's house, the only fixture in a constantly turning world.

Andrew Stephen



BARTON BENDISH & EASTMOOR VILLAGE NEWS

Village Update

Well, still not much news and with coronavirus infections on the rise it is unlikely that any Barton events will be able to get underway, anytime soon. We've already lost our NGS Barton Bendish Hall Open Gardens, our Village Open Gardens and the Art and Crafts Exhibition. Our Macmillan Coffee Morning has also gone by the board. The Church did manage to squeeze in an 'in the garden' Harvest Breakfast which was well supported. Fortunately the sun shone and, although good weather can never be guaranteed for events held outdoors, the chances decline with the waning year. There must now be a big question mark over Bonfire Night at the Hall. All these events would have been sizeable fundraisers for the church and to a lesser degree the Village Hall, which is a big blow to everyone concerned. But life has to go on and, in the scale of national charities, Barton might seem quite trivial, but even so it's important to the community that the Church and Village Hall manage to keep their heads above water. Needless to say any donations and fund raising ideas would be most welcome, even if they can't be rewarded with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake!!

I would like to think our Victorian Evening in December could still be held. It really brings Christmas to Barton and is an excellent hour or two of entertainment, mostly home grown, which reinforces the community spirit. The Village Hall is visibly taking shape now and it would be a lovely way to christen it.

Jill Mason

Goodbye to Jack and Eileen

Jack and Eileen Richardson have now moved into a bungalow in Downham Market. Until he left Jack had lived in Barton all his life, fifty eight years of which was spent in the same cottage! He worked on the farm, under a succession of owners, and on reaching retirement age wasn't ready to put his feet up so transferred to tending the Hall gardens. Jack's own garden was always immaculate and he played a large part in village affairs including many years serving on the Parish Council.

We wish him and Eileen well and hope they find life in a bungalow with a smaller garden much easier. Having been regulars at village events hopefully, when things settle down, we'll be seeing them again in Barton.

Jill Mason

Update from Barton Bendish Parish Council

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.

A virtual meeting was held on 9th September 2020. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Chapman.

During the meeting it was agreed to co-opt Dr Tim Webster as a member of the Parish Council. The other Councillors were pleased to see Dr Webster return to the Parish Council.

RAF Marham have advised that unfortunately they will not be able to host the usual Christmas Lunch this December due to the coronavirus pandemic. They expect to be able to return to hosting this popular event in 2021.

The Parish Council currently has one casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would be interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council please contact the Clerk, before 11th November 2020, for further information or to express an interest.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th November from 7.30pm. This meeting will be virtual via Zoom. 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: <u>bartonbendishparishcouncil@aol.co.uk</u> Further information is available on the Parish Council

Further information is available on the Parish Council website at

bartonbendishparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk



Barton Bendish Village Hall – Update Sept ember 2020

Works have proceeded well over the summer months with completion of the new roofing and dismantling of the scaffolding externally. The hall acoustic ceiling has been installed and the first fix installations of mechanical and electrical work are also complete which allowed the internal scaffold to come down. Doors and Windows are in with just the new front door to come. The new limecrete floor is down in the hall and curing. Work is now concentrating on the external work, kitchen and WC's.

Finances are looking good. Readers may recall that we raised just over £250k in grants from various bodies, and although this was a little short of our target of \pounds 275k, the cost savings we have made mean that we can still complete the project as envisaged. We are still proposing to decorate the hall as a community effort once the builders have finished and volunteers would be very welcome for that task. We shall put a notice out nearer the time.

The Trustees are grateful to MJB Building Contractors Ltd., who have done an excellent job so far and managed to maintain safe progress despite the pandemic. Completion has obviously been delayed by the Covid-19 restrictions but is now anticipated for the end of October. The trust is taking advice as to whether, and how, we might be able to re-open for functions but at the time of writing, things remain very uncertain.

Covid-19 has also delayed the Trust's AGM which is always open to the public. It would normally be held in June but is currently postponed until such time as a suitably Covid safe arrangement can be made.

The Trustees have also considered the management arrangements once things return to normal. To this end we have a vacancy for a caretaker for the building, whose duties would include access arrangements for hirers, cleaning the hall, and day-to-day maintenance requirements. If anyone feels they can assist, please get in touch.

The hall is leased from Albanwise, who have kindly agreed in principle to extend that lease following the improvement works, until 2047. This means we can be sure that the community gets the benefit of all this hard work for some time to come. The premises are managed by a registered charitable trust which has a vacancy for a further trustee, so if you are interested in steering this important community asset through the next stage of its life, please do get in touch.

Chris Parsons 07769 720976

Community Breakfast

We might well have hoped that an end to the Covid 19 crisis might be in sight by now but it seems increasingly likely that, until a reliable vaccine is available, life will be full of setbacks. Since the outbreak at Banham, Norfolk has been identified as an area where new cases are now at a worrying level. Until now, those of us living in West Norfolk have considered ourselves to be relatively safe and very fortunate. The holiday makers, who have rushed here assuming that Norfolk is a safe haven, ignoring social distancing and refusing to wear masks, have been irresponsible and foolish to a frightening degree.

Having said that, I believe that no day should be wasted. We must respect Covid but never be defeated by it and stop living entirely. On September 5th, some of the Barton Bendish community, and others from local villages, gathered in the Old Rectory garden for breakfast. Although we were quite separate from each other, seeing familiar faces, hearing familiar laughter and sharing an event, were all lovely reminders of the time before and showed how much we have all missed spending time together. We are, as always, very grateful to all those people who made it possible. We are lucky in Barton to have so many people who share a vision of what a community is and what it could be.

It was good, too, to see our church being used for a baptism. Preparing for it involved deep cleaning the old and venerable building, which has been closed for too long. At last we have a number of services coming up and I am hopeful that the community library can get started too. Obviously all the precautions necessary for these troubled times will be taken. I hope that we will make good use of the church and library. Any book donations or spare bookcases will be very welcome.

The Village Hall looks splendid with its new doors and windows. When I first arrived here there were people saying that an extended and improved hall would never happen. Without enthusiasm, nothing ever does. I hope that we will meet in this wonderful building before Christmas. We shall see.

Greater Anglia have been busy improving the railway line from King's Lynn to Cambridge. We will now have eight carriage trains so that, in normal times, everyone will have a seat. Quite right too. Now Boris needs to give us the money to reopen the lines from Lynn to Hunstanton and to Norwich. We can all dream.

Andrew Stephen



[Photograph—Andrew Stephen]

The following is a provisional list of services until and including December this year.

As you would expect they are all subject to the ongoing easing of lockdown and Government guidelines.

Sunday 11th OctoberCeltic ServiceSunday 08th NovemberService of RemembranceSaturday 19th DecemberChristmas Service

6.00pm St Andrews 10.30am St Andrews TBA

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS



I am very pleased to tell you that we have been successful in getting two grants recently towards the repair of the thatch. We have had a grant of £3000 from the Norfolk Churches Trust and £3000 from the Round Towers Trust. We still have outstanding applications for a couple more but we have now raised It is likely the work will £18.000. now be done in the spring of 2021. Thank you to the hard working committee members who have put such efforts into these applications.

As you will have seen the work in replacing the stolen lead roof has started. It will be a relief to finally see the Church emerge from under the tarpaulin and look like it should again. The replacement roof is made of terne steel which has no commercial value and will weather down to look like lead.

Depending on the Covid guidelines we hope we may be able to arrange some activities for the Church in the forthcoming months and maybe we can hope to have some Christmas celebrations. We will of course let you know.

In the meantime we hosted the Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride in September. Thanks to all who helped on the day, especially Mark Lusby and Peggy English who tidied up the Church after many months of disuse to make sure it looked its best.

Peggy Ray [Chair of Friends of St Mary's]

Parish Council

Friends of Marham Christmas Lunch

Here is the letter received re this event. Understandable but disappointing..... *Good Morning,*

I am writing to you to let you know that unfortunately we have had to take the decision to cancel this year's 'Friends of Marham Christmas Lunch.' it's an event we like to host and I know it is enjoyed by all who attend. We plan to run the event in 2021 and will send out details next year. In the meantime thank you for your understanding and support.

Regards

Graham Spark MBE MA |OC Community Support Flt | RAF Marham

Mobile Post Office

Monday and Thursday 13.00 – 13.15: Tuesday and Wednesday 11.10 – 11.30

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

Cleaning up After Pets or NOT Cleaning up After Pets that is the Question..... We hope that people will take notice of this Notice....... Too much evidence in the Village of people not cleaning up after their pets. Very unpleasant and not necessary.



BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE HEWS

The Dye Family





Matilda Elizabeth Anne, who is 2, introduces her sister Eliza Ellen Anne who was born 27th July at 11:01am weighing 8lb 6.5oz

Eliza is a wonderful addition to the family of Gemma, Michael and Matilda.

We are hoping for the world to return to normal soon so we can come for a walk round the village with our new arrival.

Michael Dye (our Postman)

(Congratulations to all the family from everyone in Beachamwell – wonderful news – Ed)

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

John and Pauline Gross



Congratulations to John and Pauline who were married on 22nd August in Pentney Church.

They were originally going to get married on March 21st but due to the Corona virus this had to be postponed.

(Best wishes for every happiness in the future from all in Beachamwell- Ed)

BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS

Boughton Church



[Photograph - Pam Wakeling]

September 13th 2020.

The first service at Boughton since March 12th, so we were very pleased to welcome a small congregation for 'picnic church'. Our very popular Breakfast Church is temporarily suspended, so we had a picnic outside the church, with everyone socially distancing. The weather couldn't have been kinder, with a gentle warm sun and very little wind. Dom Rye provided music and we had a reading and reflections from Pippa. The main thought from that was 'we should aim to forgive those who use us badly, but if we can't forgive, we can love them.' That will be a useful thought in my own life, I'm sure.

Next month will probably be a bit cooler, but at the moment we are planning an Animal Service for the second Sunday in the month, to start at 2 pm. My dog will certainly be there, so I hope many of you will bring animals along. I think it's

BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS



[Photographs—Pammie Walker]

too stressful for cats, so I'm leaving my lovely Peppa at home. Please come along if you can. You'll be very welcome, even if you don't have an animal of your own!

The fourth Sunday every month will continue to be a communion service at 11am.

Pam Wakeling (Church Warden)



BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS

Boughton Parish Council

As the restrictions due to the pandemic persist we again held our parish council meeting in September via video conference. Even while virtual, our meetings are still open to the public. Check the website for upcoming meetings and joining instructions. All are welcome.

At the September council meeting we discussed a number of topics and resolved issues with two items that have become important this year, the playground and the pond.

Firstly, we agreed to refurbish the rope bridge play equipment in the playground. While not unsafe as it was, it had been subject to a number of repairs and had become somewhat unsightly. Many thanks to Andy Beeston for keeping it going. We now have a new set of ropes that should last us many more years.

Secondly, we agreed to clear some of the reeds encroaching into the pond. This has taken a while to arrange as, frankly, there are just about as many opinions on the pond as there are people in the village! Some hark back to the days when there was little or no vegetation. Others enjoy the form it has today. Further back, at times it even had no water at all. So deciding what to be done isn't as simple as either leave it alone or put it back to "how it was". Last year the council resolved to seek independent expert advice from two bodies, namely the Environment Agency (from whom we need permission to work on the pond) and The Internal Drainage Board. We now have that advice, which is that the flag irises will be controlled naturally by rising and falling water levels in the pond and that the reeds should be scaled back to around 50% of their current level. This advice balances the environmental benefits and impacts of the reed population on water quality, wildlife cover and general amenity. Expect to see work start in the next few weeks. At the time of writing the council is considering tenders for the work from contractors with appropriate certifications to undertake this sensitive task, further complicated by the fact that the pond has no inflow and is clay-lined and potentially easily damaged. One error with a digger and we could lose all the water.

Finally, a plea for some help. For years now, volunteers have undertaken the task to maintain the playground and the grounds around the pond. And we thank them for it. They are now seeking to pass the mantle on to others, and while councillors have taken on the role of playground inspections we still need some help with grass cutting and trimming. If you can spare an hour or two once a month or so, would you be willing to join a mowing/strimming rota? If so, please contact the clerk on 01366 683017.
BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS

Our next council meeting is on 3rd November at 7pm. Check the website or Facebook for details: Web: <u>https://boughtonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk</u> FB: <u>https://www.facebook.com/boughtonpc</u> Keep Safe *Neil Matthew Chair, Boughton Parish Council chair.boughtonpc@gmail.com*

'Alive' Active Newsletter

This is a new newsletter which came out in September 2020. Many of you have met me virtually or in person already but for those I have not met I am the new Community Development Manager at Alive West Norfolk and my role is to work with the whole community to support people to get active. There is no greater time than now to get people to increase the amount they move and I hope that we will be able to work together to ensure that all residents in the borough have access to activities that can support their health and wellbeing. I hope to send this out quarterly to keep you updated on national and local initiatives and to also give you a flavour of what we are doing here at Alive West Norfolk

Alive Active Communities - As a new team at Alive West Norfolk we are currently reviewing our strategy for the next 12 months. One of the most important ways of doing this is to talk to you and your community. I would really love to hear from you and find out what your community needs. Please contact me at the following address: community@alivewestnorfolk.co.uk. I am more than happy to come along and see you for a socially distanced meeting or we can do a virtual meet/phone call. In August we got our new social media page up and running – Alive Active Community. Please like and share so that we can build our followers and be

Frances Rayner Community Development Manager



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

DATE	VILLAGE	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday 6 October	Barton Bendish	Hatherley Gardens	11:10 am
Tuesday 6 October	Beachamwell	Old Post Office	09:45 am
Tues. 13 October	Drymere	Telephone Kiosk	09:45 am
Tuesday 6 October	Boughton	Mill Road	10:45 am
Friday	Wereham	Queen's Close	12.25 am
2 & 30 October	Werenam	Village Hall	12:45 am

For services to all 'Group 4' villages ring Mobile Library Information on 01362 693184 (Barton, Beachamwell, Boughton & Drymere) or 01366 383073 (Wereham) or look at the website - <u>https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-localhistory-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/mobile-library-routes-andtimetables</u>

MARKETS - Farmers' and Indoor

Ely (Farmers')	Second and Fourth Saturday each month 8.00am to 2.00pm
Fakenham (Farmers')	Fourth Saturday each month 8.30am to 12.00pm
Kings Lynn (Farmers')	Second and Fourth Saturday each month
Swaffham (Indoor)	Every Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm
Wisbech (Farmers')	Alternate Fridays 8.30am to 2.00pm

For information:- <u>www.farmersmarkets.net</u> or your local Tourist Information Office

VILLAGE, COMMUNITY and PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Barton Bendish	Andrew Stephen	01366 347549	07748015464
Beachamwell	Cathy Friend	01366 328892	
Boughton	Pam Wakeling	01366 500429	
Wereham	Angie, Lyn or Sara	07497 430005.	weekdays 10 - 3
	www.werehamvillage	hall.co.uk/ hallhire	Anytime
	38		

West Norfolk Community Transport provides door to door transport for the local community allowing access to the market towns for medical appointments, shopping or visiting friends.

Village	Day	Destination	Price	With Concessionary Pass	Office
Barton Bendish	Friday	Downham Market	£5.50	£4.00	Swaffham
Beachamwell	Tuesday	Swaffham	£5.50	£4.00	Swaffham
	Friday	Downham Market	£6.00	£4.00	
Boughton	Tuesday	Downham Market	£5.50		Kings Lynn
Drymere	Tuesday	Swaffham	£4.50	£3.00	Swaffham
	Friday	Downham Market	£5.00	£3.00	Swaffham
Wereham	Tuesday	Downham Market	£4.50		Kings Lynn

You need to be a member and you must prebook your seat. For more information please call Kings Lynn - 01553 776971 Swaffham – 01760 720906

WISSEY VALLEY GROUP CHURCHWARDENS

Barton Bendish:	Mhari Blanchfield	01366 347 849
	Linda Webster	01366 347 563
Beachamwell	Rev. Carol Nicholas-Letch	01366 500 704
	Canon William Burke	07770 630 202
Boughton:	Pam Wakeling	01366 500 429
Wereham:	Sheila Smith	01366 858 165

PRIORY GROUP CHURCHWARDENS

Fincham	Cathy O'Brien	01366 347279
Marham	Philip Fay	01760 444199
	Glenda Jayes	01760 339688
Shouldham	Brian & Ann Hullah	01366 347814
Shouldham Thorpe	Gordon Reid	01366 347253

NETWORK RAIL

4 bridges in the Manea area require some urgent work which, because the bridges are in an area designated as a site of special scientific interest controlled by Natural England (NE) and because NE will only provide access for railway renewals works between July and October, the work has to take place soon.

Following discussions with train and freight operators, the work is expected to be completed during a 28- day closure of the line between Ely and Peterborough from the 6th September to the 4th October this year. Additional work will take place during the following weekends:-

- Sunday 11th October
- Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November
- Sunday 8th November

Greater Anglia will operate a rail replacement bus service while the work takes Place. East Midlands Railway and Cross Country trains will also help people complete their journeys. Details will be published in due course and passengers should check with their operators nearer the time.

In order to make the best use of our time on the track, we are currently looking at what additional work we can carry out to make the railway better for passengers and freight users once services return to normal. Further details will be published nearer the time.

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE LOCAL AREA

Note that all services are subject to change or cancellation as the pandemic situation changes.

Sunday 4th	October	The Seventeenth S	unday after Trinity
9.30 am	Runcton Holr	ne	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Whittington		Holy Communion
10.00 am	Shouldham		Morning Prayer
11.00 am	Marham		Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Wereham		Evensong
Sunday 11th	October	The Eighteenth Su	nday after Trinity
9.30 am	Wretton with	Stoke Ferry	Service of the Word
11.00 am	Watlington		Holy Communion
2.00 pm	Boughton		Animal Servoce
Sunday 18th	October	The Nineteenth Su	nday after Trinity
9.30 am	Whittington		Service of the Word
11.00 am	Marham		Morning Prayer
11.00 am	Watlington		Holy Communion
11.00 am	Wereham		Morning Prayer
Sunday 25th	October	The Twentieth Sun	day after Trinity
9.30 am	Wretton with	Stoke Ferry	Service of the Word
11.00 am	Watlington		Holy Communion
11.00 am	Boughton		Holy communion
6.00 pm	Barton Bendi	sh	Celtic Service

ONLINE SERVICES

Deanery Services

https:/us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155? pwd=dy9nNzRJby91OVprZG9nSzIMSEIPZz09 Password Wanda123

Regular Thursday Communion at 10am and Sunday Communion at 11 am Any queries, please email me or phone 01366 328663 (Pippa Blackall). WNPG: They are directing all churches to the Church of England's Virtual Sunday Service at https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre churchonline/virtual-services/virtual-services.

The 8pm Sunday service at Bexwell as a recurring Zoom meeting which means the same link can be used each time up to and including July 12th. And here, for those of you who are assured to see endless digits, is the 'raw' view: https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/88587728714

pwd=QU1pSUo0ajRaWGRVYmx6OWNLe WdZQT09 (Both are links to the same recurring event) Meeting ID: 885 8772 8714 Password: 493178

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 Church

We are taking small steps to opening up the church. It is being cleaned next week, once all Covid protocols are in place we will be opening for Private Prayer, no date yet.

Wereham Parish Council

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday 10 November 2020 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 <u>werehampc@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>www.werehamparishcouncil.co.uk</u> 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 is 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.

Coronavirus – Covid-19 – Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives (As at 08.09.20)

Re-Opening of Play Area: The play area was reopened on 4th July in line with Government Guidance, a risk assessment took place and additional signage has been added to the play area. Users are advised to sanitise their hands before and after use; use disinfectant wipes or spray prior to use on the equipment in high traffic areas; do not eat within the play area and most importantly social distance from others within the play area. At this time due to flowing activity at the play area that the Council do not need to monitor usage or put usage restrictions in place. Please all follow this guidance. Anyone concerned should contact the Parish Clerk by telephone or email in the first instance.

Volunteers and Assistance with Shopping: If there are volunteers who could help other residents in the village with essential shopping please contact the Parish Clerk who will add you to a register that is being kept. If there are residents still needing help with essential shopping or medical prescriptions with no family or friends network affected by covid-19, please also get in touch with the Parish Clerk who will be able to discuss options available for helping

WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

you. Though Covid-19 has eased as at 5th August, the Council is continuing to have arrangements in place.

Please continue to keep to the social distancing guidelines, for the latest Government Advice view the following websites:

The HSE have now created a dedicated Coronavirus page for businesses here: <u>https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm</u>

This should be used in conjunction with the NHS information here:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Social Behaviours – We often talk about what is 'anti-social behaviour', but the Council would like to promote social behaviours' as a positive step. It is important that we all consider our neighbours and fellow residents in any actions that we take in our own homes, gardens and out and about. Wereham has been well regarded by visitors and residents as being a friendly village with many opportunities to make friends and support each other. It is important that we continue to uphold these values, so just a couple of social behaviours to highlight and think about:

Please could users of the playing field and facilities and parents of children who attend unaccompanied think about how late is acceptable to be using it, as potentially past daylight hours it can cause disturbance to neighbouring homes. We have not ever had an official closure time, but a reasonable time would probably be when it begins to get dark.

Fishing at the pond is for parishioners only, this is for the protection of the fish as their environment is a delicate balance, but also for the homes that surround the pond. There are rules displayed at the pond. Whilst confrontation is not something the Council wishes to pursue with individuals that don't abide by rules and who are not parishioners, residents of the village can assist by ensuring they follow the fishing rules, tidy up after themselves and spread the word to others that this is the case and fact.

Dog Waste continues to always be an issue, and with five dog bins around the village, including those in our own homes, there should be no excuse for not cleaning up after. But unfortunately it continues, please could all dog walkers in the village collect their dog waste and either take it home or place in the dog waste bins provided and paid for by all parishioners. We all want to enjoy our village so there really is no excuse not to pick up dog waste. The five dog bins

WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

available are at the playing field; off Cavenham Road, Lamas Lane; End of the Row/Wretton Row and on Church Road/Junction with back lane). So this is plenty of points to deposit waste plus the option to take it home. Please respect the village and clean up after your dog.

Wereham Cemetery – Memorials Next of Kin: Please could any members of the public known to be the next of kin for memorials within the Wereham Cemetery please contact the Parish Clerk to agree to share their contact details. We need to ensure that our contact database for the purposes of contacting next of kin, where we need to discuss memorials is as up to date as possible. Memorials that have been laid down for safety reasons can be reinstated by commissioning a stone mason to install what is called a NAAM bar.

Highways – Paths and Roads – Defects: Please report anything that you see verges, trees, pot holes, main holes, drains to Norfolk County Council Highways via their defects page of their website. You need to set up a login, and once on the site you can easily report issues and upload pictures of the issue. They will then arrange inspection. You are also able to track the report. Should a report not be resolved as you wish please then contact the Parish Council. The Parish Council will report issues that it finds, but if residents do this also we can increase the repairs that we notice need doing. <u>https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/</u>

Helen Richardson

Wereham Parish Clerk and Finance Responsible Person Email <u>werehampc@gmail.com</u> or Phone/Text: 0779 500 6811

Wereham Village Hall

We are pleased to report that a number of our pre-Covid activity groups are now up and running again, and we are enjoying welcoming back both old and new members to the Hall. The monthly Car Boot Sales are proving popular, the October date being the 25th. Also the weekly bingo sessions on a Wednesday evening, Boxercise, Line Dancing, Zumba and many more. Tai Chi is due to start up again on 2 October, and other activities are planned to recommence later this year or in the New Year. For further details on any activity or event at the Village Hall, please contact the individual group organiser and/or check the Village Hall website and facebook page.

All the necessary measures have been put in place to meet the government guidelines to make the Village Hall a COVID-19 Secure Venue, and to ensure that we can at all times protect all of our staff and customers. However, we continue to rely on all of you to follow all of the standard guidelines to protect both you, friends and family, and other users of the building.

In addition to adhering to the standard measures such as the use of hand sanitiser, the 'one in one out' system for the toilets, and keeping to the defined entry and exit points, it is very important that everyone maintains appropriate in a social distancing when attending events at the Hall. For example at events,

WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

such as bingo, car boots, craft fayres, etc we cannot allow more than 6 to gather group. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering, we would kindly ask you to inform the Hall staff or group organiser to avoid any misunderstanding with other users of the building.

All group leaders and event organisers are taking responsibility for all of their members' and participants' safe use of the building, maintaining accurate records of all attendees and retaining a register of users.

We are certain that by continuing to work together and respecting each other, we can provide a safe environment for everyone at Wereham Village Hall. As the situation progresses and hopefully improves, we look forward to a number of other activities and events taking place in the Village Hall, and to welcoming everyone back to the Village Hall in a safe, secure and healthy way. Please keep checking our website and facebook pages for the latest news.

We value your continued support and look forward to seeing you again soon. *Keith Murray*

Wereham Village Hall Needs You.....

The Village Hall is managed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, and we are looking for new people who have a genuine interest in supporting the local community and in helping to provide a

range of activities, events and services for the people of Wereham and the surrounding villages.

The trustees meet approximately 10 times a year, and are responsible for the management and planning of the Hall, as well as fundraising and marketing and the day to day operation of the building.

As a trustee, by contributing your skills, experience and enthusiasm, you will be able to make a real difference to the lives of residents by creating and maintaining a social hub where people can meet and spend time together, reducing social isolation, and improving people's general well-being.

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For further information, please contact John Millard on 01366 500790 or email j_millard@live.co.uk





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LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS

In common with most of the population, I have spent much of the last six months re evaluating things that I know the value of. Much of what we have taken for granted has come under question or is passing into memory but, currently, here are the lists of films I would choose to watch and watch again for a variety of reasons.

Top ten British Films

- Brief Encounter. Of course. I love a bit of romance, self denial and stiff upper lip. We have been back to Carnforth where some of the most atmospheric film scenes ever were recorded. The restaurant has been restored to its former glory too. Always worth a look if you feel hard done to.
- **KES** Anyone who worked in schools during this era loves this film. I first saw it at film club at school, ironically enough. Brian Glover is quite superb as the PE teacher we all used to dread. Incredibly evocative.
- Don't Look Now. It has Julie Christie in it.
- Withnail and I. I never get tired of watching this film. Part of me has always wanted to be Withnail.
- **Zulu.** A wonderful film about heroism. Sentimental and a thing of its time. But so am I.
- The Go Between. Julie Christie is in it.
- Educating Rita....a story of heroic failure, one of my chief interests. I love a flawed hero.
- **The Wicker Man.** Rightly a cult film. It is full of interest and has a surprisingly horrible ending. One of the first films to do this. Game of Thrones owes it a lot.
- **Far from the Madding Crowd.** I have returned to the novels of Thomas Hardy all my life and Julie Christie....
- **Billy Liar.** Yes, she's in this too but Tom Courtney steals the film as the ultimate fantasist. Billy is just one brave step away from being a creative genius. Like most of us, He never takes it.

Not all great films are British....staggeringly.

- **The Godfather** is a tour de force, particularly Marlon Brando, who had lost much of his appeal by this time. I hated him in Last Tango. Maybe I was supposed to.
- **Schindler's List** is the film that needed to be made about the Holocaust. It deals with an impossibly harrowing story superbly.
- Forrest Gump. I can't believe that there are people who don't like this film. It is richly tragicomic and reminds us all of things we don't like about humanity. It also shows that true goodness is nothing to do with being clever and that all we have to offer is our true selves. Not a bad lesson.

LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS

- **To Kill a Mockingbird.** Still makes me cry. We should all want to be Atticus.
- **A Clockwork Orange**. The first film to make me fear the Establishment.
- **Easy Rider.** I was and am inspired by this film. I still struggle with Authority and the power of Reaction.
- **Rain Man.** Superbly acted and a reminder that we should never judge people on appearances.
- Annie Hall....just seems true.
- **The Sleepers.** Woody Allen is just funny, he is a genius.
- **The Third Man.** Written by tortured genius Graham Greene. Possibly the greatest film ever made.

I have forgotten or left out many others I ought to mention..

- Ken Russell's films which challenged our ideas of what should be shown.
 The Devils looks unflinchingly at what motivates our behaviour and the way that sin is whatever powerful people say it is.
- **The Ruling Class** has a mesmerising performance by Peter O' Toole in it. Unique and fascinating

And, as a former teacher, of sorts, I couldn't leave out **Dead Poet's Society**. I'm not sure what it was I was trying to do as An English teacher. I just hope it was something like the Robin Williams character was trying to encourage. We should all be encouraged to sing our own song.

Andrew Stephen (Barton Bendish)



Before you take me away, I just want to update my profile picture."





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