

*"Keeping
the Community
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 19 NO. 7 APRIL 2024

WANGFORD POST OFFICE

Thank you for your support in signing the petition and writing to Therese Coffey. We got 259 signatories in 7 days - well done. Unfortunately Post Office Ltd have refused to engage with us over the changes. They unilaterally decided to close the indoor facility on 21st March, to be replaced by a mobile van from 27th March. However, we have objected strongly to their intention to locate the van in the layby outside the church, and they have agreed to move it to the Community Centre car park. Our long-serving subpostmaster Danny Thorp has been made redundant.

As we feared, there is to be a reduction of 50% in our service. Unlike the other outreaches (one of which faces an 84% reduction, and another which has been closed altogether), we will still have 2 visits per week, but on consecutive days, and for only 1 hour each day. There has been no consultation about the choice of days, which means that on one Wednesday each month the van will be competing for carpark space with the mobile library!

The new times are:

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 am

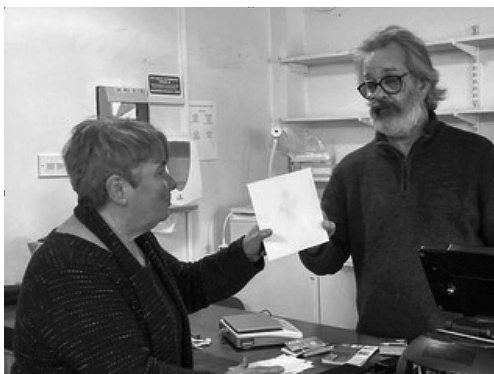
Thursday 2.30 - 3.30 pm



Please let us know what you think of the new service, and how well you are able to access the van.

Sara Farrands farrands.mars@gmail.com

Sue Taylor suethemusic@gmail.com 578408

A presentation in appreciation of his long service to us was made to Danny as he prepared to close down the outreach for the last time.





QUIZ

**In aid of The Brain Tumour Charity
and Sandra Chapman Centre**

Thursday 18 April 2024
in Wangford Community Centre
7.00pm for 7.15pm start

Teams of 4 (maximum) £10.00 each person

which includes Jacket Potato and Dessert
(Choice of fillings, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese)

**To book your team please contact Rachel Dade on 01502
578311 or racheldade@hotmail.co.uk**

Please bring your own drinks (and nibbles) and glasses

Raffle

Removing the conifers round the Wangford Village sign has opened up the view into the Community Garden, and the daffodils are making the most of it. Behind them, the rosa rugosa are waiting to burst into leaf.





Wangford Post Office

Wednesdays
from 10.30am - 11.30am

Thursdays
from 2.30 - 3.30pm
Community Centre

Mobile van in the
Community Centre
car park

Southwold Library

Easter Holiday Activities

Medieval Knight Crafts

Tuesday 2nd April
11.00 am at the Library
Free crafts - swords,
shields, castles.
No need to book.

Terrific Train Fun! Trainmaster Suffolk

Thursday 4th April
12.30 and 1.45 pm
Reydon Village Hall
£4 per child
for 1 hour's play.
Booking required
01502 722519
email: southwold.library
@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Free Unicorn Easter Crafts for Kids

Tuesday 9th April
11.00 am and 2.00pm
at the Library.
No need to book.

Wangford 100 Club 2024

Winners in the March
Draw were
1. Andy Atherton
2. Linda Pepper
3. Simon Casement

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Wangford Toddler Group

Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am Community Centre

Body Conditioning

Tuesdays from 9.30 - 10.30am Community Centre

Salsa

Wednesdays from 7.30 to 8.30pm Community Centre

Wangford Art Group

Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm Community Centre

Wangford Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 30th March 8.45am The Angel Inn

Wangford Community Council

Tuesday 2nd April 7.45pm Community Centre

Book Club

Thursday 4th April 8.00pm Community Centre

Wangford Church APCM

Sunday 7th April 12noon (approx) after the service

The Arts Society

Tuesday 9th April 2.00pm Southwold Arts Centre

Wangford with Henham Parish Council

Tuesday 9th April 7.30pm Community Centre

Mobile Library at Wangford

Wednesday 10th April

1010 - 1030 Community Centre 1035 - 1045 Church

Uggheshall Cinema

Thursday 11th April 7.00pm Old School Hall

Wangford Church Coffee Morning

Wednesday 17th April 10.30am - noon

Wangford Charity Quiz

Thursday 18th April 7.00 for 7.15pm Community Centre

Wangford Men's Breakfast

Saturday 20th April 8.45am The Angel Inn

Afternoon Tea

Thursday 25th April 2.30pm Community Centre

Spring Sale

Saturday 27th April 2.00pm Community Centre

Wrentham Village Hall Film Night

Saturday 27th April

OPPENHEIMER

Doors open earlier at 5.45pm,
with the film screening at 6.30pm.

Due to the length of the film there will be a
short comfort break.

Only £5 on the door including refreshments. (Cert 15)

Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday
8.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday
8.00am - 4.00pm

Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday
9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday CLOSED

Food Bank

Please leave Items for the
Food Bank in the basket
at the font in Wangford
Church to be collected on
Friday morning.

Most needed food items
are UHT milk, tinned fish
or meat, tinned fruit,
tinned tomatoes or
vegetables, baked beans,
biscuits, rice pudding,
and pasta.

Anything else is always
welcome e.g. tea, coffee,
chocolate, custard, toilet-
tries, female sanitary items,
baby food and nappies.

Lowestoft Foodbank
can be contacted on
07307 866146 or
email: info@lowestoft.
foodbank.org.uk



Saturday 20th April
Wrentham Village Hall
in aid of

Action Medical Research.
7pm for 7.30pm start.
Teams of 6 (max). Bring
your own drinks/nibbles.

There will be a raffle.
Tickets £5 per person
available from :

Sue - 07946 203084
Jane - 07795 232783
Joan 01502 473665



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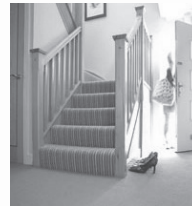
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Duncan Jones - Manager

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APRIL'S TEAM LETTER

"Christ is Risen!" "He is Risen indeed!"

You will be reading this perhaps a couple of days before or after Easter. Easter is very early this year. I remember one Easter struggling up steep hills in North Essex, (they are not known as the Essex Highlands for nothing!), in the snow trying to get to the next village to take the Easter Service. On arrival, the church bells were being rung heartily and near the entrance to the church was a large wooden cross adorned with dozens of glowing yellow daffodils. It was a wonderful symbol of resurrection life in the deep snow. In that tiny village church over a hundred people were ready to praise and worship Christ our Risen Redeemer. Such joy!

I read somewhere very recently, though I cannot find where now, that in the Soviet days in Russia, on Easter day there was a packed hall of people listening to an ardently atheistic speaker outlining why belief in God was unnecessary. He went on and on and on. After his speech a priest got up and said one sentence to the people gathered there: "Christ is Risen" and back came a resounding "He is Risen indeed!" The people knew from their own lived experience that Jesus Christ has broken all constraints of time and space by being present with us everywhere, anywhere and at all times.

The Easter season, like Christmas, does not last just for one glorious day of consuming Easter eggs, the donning of Easter bonnets (do people still do this anywhere?) and rolling decorated hard boiled eggs down any convenient slope. It lasts until Pentecost : 50 days later. In fact you could argue that every Sunday is a mini Easter when we come together to worship our Risen Lord and to share his Risen body and blood in the Eucharist. Then being sent out, we the Church, are to continue his work of love and forgiveness, caring for others and standing up against injustice.

"Christ is Risen!" "He is Risen indeed!"

Rev. Margaret

News from Wangford Church

As we enter April, we have just finished Holy Week with a series of services across our team of churches. As well as celebrating Easter Sunday in church on 31st March, we also welcomed the Blythburgh singers to our church for a service of music and readings on Good Friday. Thank you to director Ellis Bell and the singers.

A note for your diaries is a visit by the Bohemian Choir who will be singing in church on Tuesday 23rd April at 3pm. It promises to be an afternoon of great singing and music and everybody is welcome to attend this free event.

The monthly coffee morning will take place in church on 17th April at 10.30. As usual, there will be tea, coffee and cakes as well as a raffle and the monthly draw of the Wangford 100 club. If you haven't been, it is always a lovely morning and all are very welcome.

Foodbank - We are grateful to everybody for continued donations for the local foodbank. Sadly, the foodbank is needed more and more these days and we are always happy to take more donations of non-perishable food items which are most gratefully received by the foodbank and their customers.

Summer is now on the way I hope, and if you are interested in helping in the church grounds, please do let us know.

Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)

Wangford Ladies' Breakfast

A group of 16 ladies very much enjoyed Elona Rogers speaking about sleep patterns on March 2nd. Interesting and relevant to us all.

We meet again on March 30th, at The Angel Inn Wangford as usual at 8.45-9am, when we welcome Chris Ure from Southwold Arts Centre. For more information contact Jan. Perrypoppy@aol.com

Wangford Community Council

Spring Sale



Saturday 27th April
Wangford Community Centre
at 2.00 pm
Admission free
Refreshments available

Stalls include

Sandra's Dandelion Wishes clothes, Janna's Norfolk Originals, Carolyn's Santa Paws Raffle, Gallery of Daydreams, Deb's Decoupage, The Jam-Jar Bakes (Including gluten-free), Lily's plants and pictures, Sylvia's Church Fundraiser, Preserves, Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, Bus Stop, CDs/DVDs, Books and the Grand Draw.



Proceeds to Wangford Community Council

Drive-It Day at Wrentham Chapel

National Drive-It Day is on Sunday April 21st, when those with classic vehicles are encouraged to be out on the roads. Wrentham Chapel will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm, offering 'Pit-Stop' facilities i.e. toilets and refreshments for passing travellers and anyone who would like to pop in to view the chapel and admire some classic vehicles.

Further details: Sue Hardy on 07771 882738

Book Club

At our March meeting we discussed 'Agent Sonya' by Ben Macintyre. It was generally agreed that this was an incredibly interesting narrative based on the life of a communist spy who operated in plain sight in the UK and the inability of MI5 and MI6 to connect the signs and facts of her rather unusual behaviour. Ursula's story began as a young Jewish woman from a well-off family in Germany in the years, leading up to World War II. She felt strongly about the many injustices she saw and became politically active. Almost by chance when accompanying her husband to a job in Shanghai, she was recruited into Russia's communist party. She eventually became known as Agent Sonya, and achieved the highest rank in active communism held by a woman at that time.

We saw that luck also played a part and that she was never betrayed although many of her colleagues were. Her cover was of a housewife and mother and she took her children with her to the various places she worked and covered miles of the Oxfordshire countryside on her bike. She was adept at assembling radio equipment, gathering intelligence and inspiring others to help her.

Ursula lived an incredible life and in her later years became a successful author. We discussed whether everything in this superbly written and compulsive narrative was factual and we felt there must be some authorial input in connecting events and her thoughts. Ursula gave everything to a cause which she felt could save the world but as alliances were made and broken both politically and socially, we came to see that the ideals of fairness, truth and coexistence were ultimately unachievable.

The majority of us agreed this book is highly recommended and compulsive reading.

We next meet on Thursday 4th April at 8pm in the Community Centre to discuss Kate Atkinson's 'Shrines of Gaiety'.

Gill Smith 578620

Wangford Mens' Breakfast

John Bennett came along on the 16th March for the monthly Breakfast Club meeting. One of his many lasting achievements in Southwold is the Electric Picture Palace in Blackmill Road, just off the High Street. The vision of turning a near derelict barn and cart shed into a fully functioning cinema full of ambience and charm began in 1998. Much enthusiastic fundraising and effort saw Michael Palin open for business in May 2002. Regular film shows are still held. If you have never been it is really a lovely place to enjoy a night at the cinema. The next meeting on April 20th has Dexter Kirk to tell us about the workings of the Southwold and Reydon Society. Interested in coming along? Contact johnscholes@hotmail.com.

The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2023/4 series continues on Tuesday 9th April when James Campbell will speak on

'The Art of Winnie-the-Pooh'

Lectures commence at 2.00pm in Southwold Arts Centre. Visitors and Members' guests are welcome.

News from Uggeshall

Uggeshall Cinema

The film for April 11th will be 'The Colour Room'. The story is inspired by the life of Clarice Cliff who overcame her humble beginnings to become the celebrated ceramic artist we know today. Doors open at 7.00 for 7.15pm.

Matt Grady

News from Sotherton

St Andrew's

Do join us at 9.30 am on Easter Sunday 31st March and on Sunday 21st April for our services of Holy Communion.

The Birds, the Bees and the Flowers

In our village, we have various projects ongoing to help enhance life in Wangford for wildlife and people who benefit from living here. This month we are celebrating a special bird who will soon return to our skies, the Swift, as well giving an update on the progress of our Community Garden area.

Our volunteers continue their excellent work keeping the Community Garden and WildSpace looking beautiful. There is already plenty of colour with bulbs, wild flowers and shrubs flowering. The array of daffodils, donated by the Council, will soon be making a dazzling display behind the village sign and beyond. The flowers are already attracting bees and ladybirds, and we look forward to seeing more birds as the trees grow and mature providing more insect homes.



Soon we will be looking out for the return of Summer birds; Swallows and most importantly Swifts. We are very lucky to have these high speed acrobats of the sky nesting in our village. Their numbers have gone down so we want to do all we can to protect them and the old roofs where they nest. There are already special nest boxes above the village shop (you may hear recorded calls being played to attract them). We are preparing a banner to hang out to welcome them, donated by SOS Swifts (Save our Suffolk Swifts Action group; more information online). If you plan any roof works to pre-war buildings, please keep the months of May-August undisturbed as these are Red-list birds, protected by law.

Helen Rolfe

Wrentham Bowls Club

Free Open Day

Wednesday 24th April, 3.00 - 7.30pm

To book a slot contact

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Letters to the Editor

Abraham wrote about Harold Becker and family, whose widow and daughter moved to Wangford after Harold died. As an old Wangfordian I can report that during my childhood I was aware of two ladies by the name of Becker living in Little Priory, Church Street, Wangford. At that age I never knew their relationship but do remember one was called Janet.

I know of no other Old Vicarage in Wangford - only that which is now divided into numbers 1, 2 & 3 as stated. What I do know is, people who live outside Wangford often confuse Wangford with Wenhaston, Wrentham or Westleton. I have experienced this many times and to me it is perfectly possible that Abraham's 'sources' may have also confused the Vicarages.

Gwen Stockdale

The late Douglas Howeld provided information in a booklet compiled for 'Wangford Week' in 2004 that 'Little Priory' was originally named 'Church House', but the only connection with the Church as far as he knew was the possibility of old Priory remains in the orchard. Prior to the Beckers moving in it was the home of Samuel Clutten, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Southwold District. I think the Luxtons bought the property direct from the Beckers. Interestingly Douglas also advised that the paddock was at one time the local branch of the British Legion's bowls green.

My father's generation spoke of Janet Becker with celebrity status - she was described as an artist and author.

The late Joan Hunting's memoirs, also compiled in 2004, expand on this. Janet Becker used to invite the children into her garden for art classes. During WW2 she was a WVS volunteer and would visit the searchlight battery with her trolley full of goodies for them. She produced small greeting cards which she sold through Clarkes the baker, and wrote (or edited) The Story of Southwold by F. Jenkins, a small book about Blythburgh, a booklet on Sutherland House, and a novel entitled 'Ploughshare into Pylon'. Paul Scriven believes Janet pre-deceased her mother. There is a memorial to her on the north wall of Blythburgh Church.

Harry Becker is remembered in Wenhaston by a development named 'Beckers View'.

Malcolm Woolnough

ABRAHAM

Apropos last month's scribbles, the sainted one (and Mrs Abe) informed me that I had written about Harry Becker before, in 2021. Dear me, is the old boy losing it?

What is a true reunion and does it serve any useful purpose? The idea I suppose is to make the effort to turn up and hope that by meeting old, almost-long-forgotten friends, some semblance of pleasant catching up and reviving happy memories might be shared. My experiences in such matters have been varied. Loyal readers may recall that I told you about the long weekends my colleagues and I used to share every October in Southwold. Since we worked together these laddish occasions could scarcely be called reunions, except for our Geordie pal who did travel from Chester-le-Street. However, in 2005, the dynamics changed when I had decamped to this blessed plot and these annual jollies carried on with my treating them as true reunions. So far, so good. School reunions - entirely different game of soldiers. I attended two in my time and wish I hadn't. The first was in 1989 to celebrate 100 years of the school, 28 years after I had left. What I recall is meeting a number of old classmates, none of whom meant a great deal to me, aside from Andrew and Posie, who made it their business to welcome me. One forgotten chum offended my sensitivity by remarking that he wouldn't care to live in London, there being too many coloured people. Except that wasn't the word he used but something far more offensive. The second time was in 2005 exclusively for the intake of 1955. This one wasn't much better. However, again there was Andrew and the funniest and dearest chum I had in these days - Bruce. Back in Auchtermuchty for the evening was a relief. There you have it. Mrs Abe warned me that it would be pretty awful and that I would be all bitter and twisted. She was right. Would I go to another reunion then? You bet I would; like a shot.

I read that half a dozen students applauded in a cinema in a German city when watching a documentary about the organisation of the holocaust. Witnesses said that the applause occurred at the end of the film when the words "Six million Jews were murdered under the rule of the National Socialists" appeared on screen. This sort of behaviour renders one speechless.

Still in Germany, apparently a linguistic study has found that English has at least 546 'drunkonyms' i.e. words meaning stocious, bladdered, wellied etc. Surely a candidate for the Guinness Book of Records? I presume that this nonsense costs money to produce. Wouldn't the compilers' time be better employed frogmarching moronic racist students to the nearest calaboose?

I also read that large numbers of children are attending school for the first time without being toilet trained, and that about 20% of parents do not believe that it is necessary to so train them. Given that reception teachers are there to teach the little darlings the tools of life to enable them to enter the wider world, it is downright unreasonable to expect them to teach them also where to defecate and urinate. After all, by the age of four, most children can talk in sentences and behave in an appropriate manner. Knowing where to defecate and urinate is not rocket science. Dogs and cats can manage almost immediately.

Abraham

C H U R C H S E R V I C E S	Sunday 7th April	2nd Sunday of Easter
	11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 14th April	3rd Sunday of Easter
	11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 21st April	4th Sunday of Easter
	9.30 am Sotherton	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 28th April	5th Sunday of Easter
	11.15 am Wangford	Family@Church (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Holy Communion (BCP)	

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APRIL 2024 CENTRE DIARY

1st April	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
2nd April	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
	Community Council	Cttee Room	7.45pm
3rd April	Post Office	CARPARK	10.30-11.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
4th April	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	CARPARK	2.30-3.30pm
	Book Club	Cttee Room	8.00pm
7th April	Private Hire	Hall	9.30 - 12noon
8th April	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
9th April	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	7.30pm
10th April	Post Office	CARPARK	10.30-11.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
11th April	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	CARPARK	2.30-3.30pm
15th April	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
16th April	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30 - 10.30am
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
17th April	Post Office	CARPARK	10.30-11.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
	GHSR	Bar	7.30-9.30pm
18th April	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	CARPARK	2.30-3.30pm
	Charity Quiz	Hall	7.00pm
21st April	Private Hire	Hall	All day
22nd April	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
23rd April	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
24th April	Post Office	CARPARK	10.30-11.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
25th April	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	CARPARK	2.30-3.30pm
	Afternoon Tea	Hall	2.30-4.30pm
27th April	Spring Sale	Hall	2.00pm
29th April	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
30th April	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm

May Elections - Voter ID

Don't forget that you'll need photo ID to vote on 2nd May. Acceptable documents (even if they're out of date so long as the photo is still a good likeness) are

- Passport
- Blue badge
- PASS card
- Driving licence
- Bus pass

If you haven't got photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, but the deadline for this is 5.00pm on Wednesday 24th April.

You can apply online at gov.uk. For a paper application form, phone East Suffolk Council on 01502 523320.