

*"Keeping
the Community
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 16 NO. 5 FEBRUARY 2021

Lady Penelope's Dolls' House

The fund-raising Dolls' House raffle was won (fair and square!) by Harriet Notton – the winning ticket being drawn at Wangford Carol Service on 20th December.



The raffle raised £281.00 towards the ongoing Church restoration costs. This will be added to a legacy from Lady P. and her family towards the repairs to two windows in the church – thereby continuing the theme of "Light" in the church that was so important to Lady Penelope.

Revd Perry and Wangford PCC would like to thank all who supported the raffle by buying or selling tickets – in particular Wangford Farm Shop for displaying the house.

Santa Paws Appeal

A Cats Protection - Anglia Coastal cat enjoying toys and blankets that were so generously donated to Wangford Vets Santa Paws Appeal.

The charity were overwhelmed by your amazing support.



Wangford Green Shoots



Wangford's new wildlife- and community-friendly garden adjacent to the Community Centre is beginning to take shape. Beds have been dug, manured and mulched, and bases for the seating have been made. Benches, one of which is in memory of the late Parish and Community Council chairman Philip Hayes, have been delivered, along with a picnic table - and beautiful silver birch and mountain ash trees have been planted, together with an initial instalment of more than 400 bulbs. Native species hedging plants will arrive in early February to fill the beds in front of the garages and Norfolk Road.

Geoff Pepper and Helen Rolfe are masterminding this project on behalf of the Parish Council, and, observing strict social distancing, a number of villagers are involved in its implementation. Post-pandemic it's hoped more volunteers will be able to be involved.

Something to look forward to indeed!

Food Bank Donations

Please continue to donate to the Lowestoft Food Bank. This can be done by leaving food with John and Jan Collins, 19 Lakeside Park Drive, Reydon, or telephone 01502 725731.

INFORMATION

Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday
8.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday 8.00am - 4.00pm

- * Face coverings must be worn.
- * Only 4 customers are allowed in the shop at any one time
- * Please keep your distance from others, and observe the 2m rule and floor grid



The South Waveney Alliance Network (SWAN) is a grouping of the following NHS General Practices:

Sole BayBeccles
Longshore (Kessingland, Wrentham and Wangford)
Cutlers Hill (Halesworth)
Bungay

It is the SWAN Primary Care Network Vaccination Programme that is operating out of the Sole Bay Health Centre in Reydon. The Sole Bay Health Centre was chosen to be a local vaccination centre because it has lots of space for people and cars and it is big enough to allow the routine health centre to continue alongside vaccination. If vaccination patients need transport to the centre, this can be provided by HACT (Halesworth Area Community Transport) and BACT (Bungay Area Community Transport).

Vaccinations began on Thursday 14 January. The centre has been using the Pfizer vaccine which has a three-day shelf life and needs to be stored at minus 70 degrees. Other vaccines will be used as they become available. The supply is still patchy, but the Centre currently has the capacity to vaccinate 400 people a day, 7 days a week, running four stations assisted by 110 local volunteers. All over 80s should have their first dose by the end of January, and all over 70s by mid-February.

There is strict guidance about who can be vaccinated, and in what order. The NHS will let you know when it's your turn, and you should not contact Sole Bay Health Centre or your GP.

Community Matron Cathy Ryan writes: "The vaccine comes at short notice. If you are given an appointment please attend at the time given. Don't say 'yes' if you are unsure, then not turn up. If you can't make it, let your surgery know. These vaccines are precious and once made up cannot be restored, so we cannot afford to waste any. The roll out is complex and challenging, but rest assured everyone is working hard to bring this to you in a safe and timely way. Be patient and respectful. Thank you."

It's also vital to note that, while the vaccine stops you getting sick, scientists don't know yet if it stops you passing coronavirus to other people. So even though you're safe, you could still be a danger to your friends and family if you break the lockdown rules.

Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday CLOSED

Face coverings must be worn.

For those isolating or vulnerable the ordering service is still available. Call 578246 / email rj.miller@btinternet.com

Wangford Vets Opening Hours

01502 578999

Veterinary Practices are counted as an essential service so we will continue to be open throughout lockdown, offering the majority of our services to keep pets healthy and happy. We are also offering telephone consultations for check-ups and non-urgent appointments.

Opening hours remain 8.30am - 6.00pm on weekdays and Saturday 8.30am - midday.

Emergency cover is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 01502 578999.

WangfordHelp

We are still here to help you.

Email: wangfordhelp@gmail.com
Phone: 07941 156508 / 01502 578408

Uggeshall Coronavirus Community Support

If you would like support, or would just like to discuss your worries please telephone Sarah Butt 578519 / 07979 770383

Wangford Post Office

Thursdays
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at the Community Centre

Barber

Stewart Sharman has provisionally booked Wednesdays, 17th February and 24th March from 2.00 - 4.00 pm, just in case lockdown is relaxed.

Wangford 100 Club 2020/21

Winners in the January Draw were:

1. Edna Utting
2. Pete Hart
3. Carolyn Robertson

Mobile Library

The service is suspended until further notice. Library buildings are also closed. Loans have been extended until March.



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FEBRUARY'S TEAM LETTER

Dear Friends

January was not an easy month for anyone. A new severity of coronavirus caused a national lockdown, and a medical emergency in our hospitals. As I write, the start of February does not look like it is going to be any easier. The whole world has a very Lenten feel about it. We are reminded that we are but dust, and our own ideas of self assurance and self reliance now look like so much ash.

Lent starts in mid February just as we might hope to emerge from the worst of the lockdown. Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance requires wisdom. The wisdom to look back and to acknowledge the things that we did wrong, the times we turned away from God and pursued our own agenda. As a human race a time of repentance might be a good thing and the timing of Lent might be highly appropriate and helpful.

We hope and pray that the vaccines will defeat the virus and that life will return to normal. But what should normal be? Lent is a time of spiritual discipline during which, by prayer and fasting, we turn back to God, hear his voice, and learn to be his people once again. The kingdom of God is described by Jesus as being evident when: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. (*Matthew 11 verse 5*) In other words when society is transformed by the infusion of God's grace and mercy. What might a God-filled, kingdom-based society in our church and in our public life look like in a post-Covid world?

Lent is the time to seek that vision and to let it begin in each one of us, as we seek that future which is God's loving gift to his people. As always the Book of Common Prayer expresses better than I can the things that I am trying to say:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ

Simon

News from Wangford Vets

Booster vaccinations during Lockdown

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown we are unable to offer booster vaccinations in February. However, the vaccine manufacturers have given a 3 month safety margin on them. This means, for instance, that if your pet received its booster vaccination last year on the 3rd February, it will be safe to defer the vaccination until the 3rd May.

If your pet falls into one of the following exceptions below please phone the Practice to talk to a member of staff who will be able to assist you:

1. Your pet is due for their first booster vaccination the year after receiving their primary vaccinations.
2. Your pet needs their primary vaccinations.
3. Your pet is near to being 3 months overdue for their booster vaccination.

We would like to assure you of our continued support and hope that you are keeping safe and well.

24 hour emergency cover is available by calling
01502 578999

News from Wangford Church

Sadly, due to the latest national lockdown and with everybody's safety in mind, we took the difficult decision to again close the church for both communal services and private prayer. This was a very difficult decision after having the church closed for so much of 2020, but we felt this was the right decision for everybody.

This is being reviewed constantly and we will inform everybody once it is felt safe to worship together again. When we do open the church again, there will be extra social distancing measures in place to ensure the safety of all and we appreciate everybody's understanding regarding this.

There are online zoom services each Sunday with the details posted on the church noticeboard; you can also email me on markn.church@gmail.com and I will forward you the link each week.

The planned visit of the author Angela Lawrence to the church on Saturday February 6th has naturally had to be postponed and we will advise of a new date when safe to do so.

We very much hope to see everybody again soon

Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)

Patricia Dorothy O'Brien RIP

The funeral service for Pat, who died suddenly at home in Church Close, Wangford, on 20th December was held at Wangford Church on Tuesday 12th January 2021 attended by her son Mike and a small group of friends. The service was videoed for the large number of family and friends unable to attend because of the lockdown.

Pat was born in south-east London in October 1935. A mastoid operation as a child went wrong, a nerve was cut, and the side of her face dropped. This led to bullying at school, which affected her confidence.

She worked as a telephonist for a London stockbrokers and later for the GPO, and then became a park greenkeeper, where she met Bill.

In 1965 she married Patrick O'Brien, and they became firm friends with Bill. Good at saving, Pat bought a minivan and also a flat. She loved animals and people, and was always a good listener. A good cook, she was very houseproud. Pat nursed her mother and Patrick, and was a great support to her aunt.

Pat liked many types of music, and, although not a great fan of Christmas, she enjoyed Christmas songs and carols, including 'O Holy Night', which was played in the service.

She took early retirement in the mid-90s from her greenkeeper job, and after the deaths of her mother and Patrick, she and Bill moved together to Suffolk.

After Bill's death in 2020, and despite her declining memory, she wanted to stay at home with Toby the dog; thanks to the support of friends and neighbours Paul and Sam, this was made possible.

She was buried in the churchyard and donations in Pat's memory were invited for the Redwings Horse Sanctuary as their work was very close to Pat's heart.

George Shephard RIP

George passed away peacefully on January 11th aged 86.

His funeral will take place at the end of January.

Fay and Jane are touched by the overwhelming number of cards, messages and letters of condolence they have received.

Wangford Carolling

Even with the more relaxed Christmas rules, carolling round the village wasn't possible, so our usual instrumentalists came together in a socially-distanced way at Wangford Farm Shop on the Saturday morning before Christmas to play carols and seasonal music for 90 minutes or so.

£91.41 was collected for the Children's Society.

Thanks to all who gave so generously, and to Linda and Ray for hosting us.

News from Sotherton

Thanks to the efforts of Revd. Barrie Slatter, St. Andrew's was able to go ahead with a celebration of Christmas on Sunday 20th December.

Instead of the usual Carol Service - pretty pointless with no congregational singing allowed - we had a Crib Service, written in modern language by Barrie, who made the large cut-out figures which were brought up by members of the congregation. Barrie and the PCC also ensured that the church, not connected to mains electricity, was sufficiently illuminated by candles, including his triangular frames for battery-powered candles suspended from the old oil-lamp chains in the nave.

Music was provided by Sue, using her keyboard so no-one needed to pump the organ until the last voluntary, and sung by 5 socially-distanced singers from the Team Choir.

News from Uggeshall

How to do a Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols at St. Mary's in the midst of a pandemic, with restrictions on numbers, social distancing and mask wearing, and no congregational singing? Everyone hoped we could find a way - and we did, albeit in a slightly different format.

The usual central dressing and blessing of the crib was extended to form the whole service. It was based on Revd. Barrie Slatter's re-writing of the nativity story, with the crib in the centre of the chancel, and with all the figures being brought up as always by members of the congregation. Many of our usual readings in their King James Bible versions were also included, and Clare Palmer and Sue Taylor were joined by five members of the Team Choir plus Alison Evans on organ; standing socially distanced around the chancel they sang solos, trios and well-known carols in harmony. The words of the carols were printed in the order of service for those in the congregation who wanted to quietly hum to themselves behind their masks!

Attendance was by (free) ticket booked in advance, and the logistics were ably masterminded by Denise Baker. In the end the congregation numbered 24, who were guided to their allotted places in the seating plan, which was carefully constructed to enable families and bubbles to be together, but socially distanced from anyone else.

And strangely, people didn't seem to mind the alternate pews taped off, nor the readers reading from wherever they happened to be sitting, nor everyone's details being collected for track and trace - not even having to wait at the end for dismissal a pew at a time. It seemed that they were just glad that the Christmas Eve tradition had been maintained. And Uggeshall was able to make a donation of £150 to East Anglian Children's Hospices.

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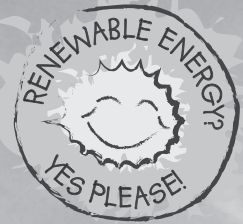
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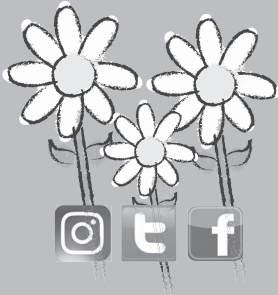
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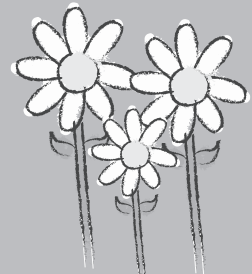
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ABRAHAM

Joe Corrie (1894-1968) was a Scottish miner, poet and playwright known for his radical working class plays. Although born in Slamannan, Stirlingshire, he spent most of his life in Fife down the pits. I came across his poems some time ago. It's never too late. No less a poet than T. S. Eliot wrote of him: *"Not since Burns has the voice of Scotland spoken with such authentic lyric note"*.

Here is a short three verse sample

It's fine when ye stand in a queue, at the door o' the 'Dole', on a snawy day,

To ken that ye leive in the bonniest land in the world, The bravest, tae.

It's fine when you're in a pickle, Whether or no' you'll ger your 'dough',

To sing a wee bit sang o' the heather hills, And the glens below.

It's fine when the clerk says, "Nae 'dole' here for you!"

To proodly turn, and think o' the bluidy slashin,

the English got

at Bannockburn.

Cracking stuff eh? The Battle of Bannockburn (1314), engraved on every true Scot's heart.

I heard 'Auld Lang Syne' being sung a few times over the period and it was smashing to hear the proper lyric i.e. without the addition of the superfluous and incorrect *'for the sake of'*.

When I was very young and before I acquired my life-long nickname, of which I am glad because for long enough I was not too keen on my given name, the one diminutive I did not care for was 'Norrie'. I would remind my chums not to use this which, of course, had the opposite effect. Mercifully no-one in England has called me thus except recently (not bad really through more than fifty years). I mentioned to Michael (who perpetrated the crime) that 'Norrie' was abhorrent to me and of course he continued to use it. And, glory be, I like it. Perhaps it's the English accent rather than the ghastly Fife nasal sound with which I grew up. Mind you I would still not wish it to be used regularly. So, be warned.

Sitting outside the beer tent watching the 2015 Open at St Andrews on the large outdoor screen, listening with gritted teeth to that droning old bore Peter Alliss, a nearby Scottish viewer (I could tell by the accent), on his own, remarked to no-one in particular: "That Aliss talks such absolute rubbish". I replied: "Hallelujah, finally someone who agrees with me". Mind you, we are on our own with that and proud to be so.

60 years of *Coronation Street*. I still watch now and again but don't enjoy. The plot lines are ridiculous, there's so much misery and the characters are, in the main, unlikeable. (From this criticism I exempt the splendid Roy Cropper). However, the reason for mentioning *The Street* is that, pedant to the last, it annoys me that critics, reviewers and writers constantly refer to life on the 'cobbles' when, I maintain that the Street is not paved with 'cobbles' but stone 'setts'. Cobbles are rounded stones rather like large pebbles, as are those in Wangford High Street on which people park their vehicles but shouldn't; and setts are rectangular, flat paving stones which is what appear on the Street. Glad I sorted that out.

No apologies for returning to this theme. Pubs have been an important part of our social life for more than a thousand years, forming an essential part of history. One or two pubs feature

strongly in TV soaps and other programmes as a focal point of folks' every-day lives. In previous times we played games, spouted rubbish, met members of the opposite sex and, of course, sank a few. This is no longer the case, there being other leisurely pursuits to fill our time. Like all good institutions the pub evolved gradually into what we even now refer to it by that name. Call it what you like - drinking place, alehouse, inn, tavern, public house, local and, long-time gone, gin palace - it existed as a refuge from the often weary world outwith. After World War Two pubs started to become meeting places for the whole community with such additions as function rooms for entertainment attempting to rid the idea that they were merely haunts for working class men and, wonder of wonders, removing the stigmatisation of women frequenting the premises. Mind you, it took a wee bit longer in the land of the barbarians to accept unaccompanied girls in the holy of holies. The pub is different from any other commercial undertaking but in terms of how we spend our time it will never be as important as it used to be. There are so many choices now. We are drinking less, pre- and, most likely post-Covid, and, let us admit it, a pub will always be regarded as primarily a place to get a drink. We go there now because we want to and not because there is nowhere else to go. They are disappearing regularly. When once the sight of glowing windows and chimney smoke in a remote country spot would make you wring your hands with pleasure, alas almost all are gone. There are yet enough to go round and they will always be welcome. Every village deserves a pub and I for one am grateful for the wee Angel being rescued. Talk of pubs being in decline is nothing new. Landlords are battling all the time. Cheap booze from supermarkets, beer duty, business rates, drink driving, smoking ban, and now this awful pandemic. While most businesses have been hit, pubs have had it worst of all. For the 'wet-led' ones it especially difficult. It is not just many thousands of jobs that are at stake but also part of the British identity. Supping a pint over a bag of salt and vinegar or a pickled egg is part of our heritage. The familiarity of pubs is a comfort. A rescue mission should not just be down to the Government but to those of us who give a damn. We who care must wander in regularly to keep them alive; as the saying goes, 'use them or lose them'. Although I have all but forsaken John Barleycorn I hope to continue to visit to enjoy the company. I shall give Dr Johnson and Hilaire Belloc a rest and give you quotes from two more greats - To prove that the bard himself is up-to-date in these troubled times : *I would give all of my fame for a pot of ale and safety* (William Shakespeare) and *A good local pub has much in common with a church, except that a pub is warmer and there's more conversation.* (William Blake)

Abraham

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 OR PUBLISHERS.

*"Keeping the
 Community informed"*

Church Services

In the light of the enhanced lockdown Revd. Simon & Revd. Alan decided the best thing to do to keep our church family safe is to provide limited mid-week worship, and online/home worship on Sundays.

Sundays via Zoom

8am and 9.30am Eucharist (CW) via Zoom

9.30am Family Service via Zoom

Mid Week

Tuesday - 6.30pm Eucharist via Zoom

Wednesday - 8.45am Morning Prayer at Reydon

10am Eucharist at Walberswick

Thursday - 8.45am Morning Prayer at Southwold

10am Eucharist at Southwold

8pm Compline via Zoom

For access information for the Zoom services go to
www.solebayteamministry.co.uk

February Fill Dyke

Now stand the hedgerows damp with mist,
 The fields lye sullen, wet and drear the air is,
 even as I breathe in this the morning of a coming year.

Yet even as I breathe in this the drizzle of the morn -
 I sense that all is not lost, all gone - forlorn.
 That under foot life's form and force is waiting patiently.

For always, after frost and bitter wind's keen blow
 have killed old year stone dead,
 Before the coming of kind spring, that cheersome thing,
 is heralded by windy braggart March,

There is that month of damp and chill,
 to winter's skirt clings still,
 'Tis February's Wet.

*Written around 1965/66 from notes compiled whilst the author,
 now a Wangford resident, was sitting in heavy traffic some mornings
 on the A1 southbound.*

The title is an old English country name for February.

