

*"Keeping  
the Community  
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 15 NO. 4 JANUARY 2020

## Best Wishes for 2020 to all our readers



*The Sole Bay Singers  
brought sunshine  
despite the dismal  
weather outdoors.*



### Wangford Christmas 2019

Celebrations got off to a flying festive start in Wangford. Christmas Lunch saw more than 50 folk of a certain age sit down to turkey with all the trimmings, entertained by the Sole Bay Singers in fine voice. Thank you to The Village Store for donating the wine, and to Wangford Farm Shop for raffle prizes. For those somewhat younger, Father Christmas made a surprise visit to Toddlers, with an individually-matched present for every child. How do those elves do it?



*The kitchen and front-of-house  
teams get to sit down at last to  
enjoy the fruits of their labours.*

## Wangford 100 Club 2019

Winners in the Christmas Draw were

1. Alan Perry
2. Sara Campbell
3. Beryl Meldrum
4. George Sheppard
5. Sue Taylor
6. Carol Browning

## The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2020 series of lectures commences on Tuesday 14th January when Adam Busiakiewicz will speak on 'The Queen of Instruments: the lute within Old Masters paintings'.

Lectures commence at 2.00 pm in Southwold Arts Centre (St. Edmund's Hall), Southwold. Visitors and members' guests are welcome.

A small donation will be appreciated.

## Grand Henham Steam Rally

The rally is in need of a volunteer caravan steward. The role is mainly administrative and involves taking telephone bookings, receiving details of online bookings, mailing out passes and information, plus maintaining a record of all bookings.

The work is normally from May to September. If you are interested or require further details please contact:

[grahamghsr@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamghsr@btinternet.com)

## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Wangford Parent and Toddler Group  
Mondays from 9.30 - 11.30am Community Centre

Wangford Art Group  
Thursdays from 9.30 am Community Centre

Knitting Group  
Thursday 2nd January 2.30 pm Community Centre

Wangford Wingers Singing Group  
Wednesday 8th January 10.00 am Community Centre

Uggeshall Coffee Morning  
Thursday 9th January 10.30 am The Old School Hall

Uggeshall Cinema  
Thursday 9th January 7.15pm The Old School Hall

Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Thursday 9th January 7.30pm Southwold Arts Centre

Book Club  
Thursday 9th January 8.00 pm Community Centre

The Arts Society  
Tuesday 14th January 2.00 pm Southwold Arts Centre

Henham Steam Rally Presentation  
Friday 17th January 7.30 pm Wangford Community Centre

Lunch Club  
Tuesday 21st January 1.00 pm Community Centre

Mobile Library at Wangford  
Wednesdays 22nd January  
Millfields 10.10 - 10.30 Church 10.35 - 10.45

Wangford Men's Breakfast  
Saturday 25th January 8.45 for 9.00 am The Angel Inn

Wrentham Film Night  
Saturday 25th 6.45 for 7.30 pm Wrentham Village Hall

Wangford Coffee Morning  
Tuesday 28th January 11.00am Community Centre

## WRENTHAM FILM NIGHT

Wrentham Village Hall on Saturday 25th January

## FISHERMAN'S FRIEND

Ten fishermen from Cornwall achieve a top ten hit after being signed to Universal Records by a cynical London music executive. Cert 12A

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## Wangford Church Coffee Morning

The January Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 28th in Wangford Community Centre at 11.00 am.

Do join us for home-made cakes and scones, freshly-made coffee and a good old natter.

## First Thursday Knitting Group

We finished the year by sending some beautiful blankets to Jack Storer for inclusion in the next convoy of humanitarian aid to refugees organised by his son Charles.

Our last meeting was our Christmas party when we enjoyed homemade seasonal goodies.

We meet again on Thursday, 2nd January at 2.30 in the Community Centre. New members are always welcome.

*Valerie Beckett 578987*

## Wangford Men's Breakfast Group

The next meeting will be on Saturday 25th January at the Angel Inn when our own Ian Lomas will speak on 'Photography in my lifetime - with a photo judging opportunity'.

8.45 for 9.00 am

Full English - £12  
Coffee and talk only - £5

Please let Bernard know on 578766 by midday on Thursday 23rd if you wish to attend.



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# LADY PENELOPE ANNE GILBEY - The end of an era

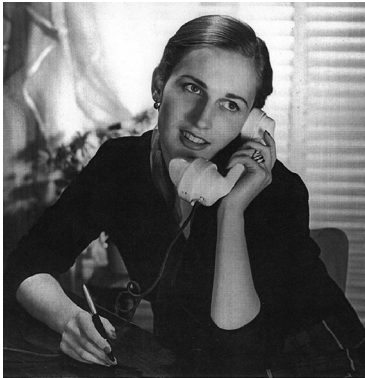
*"A gracious and lovely person who will be so sadly missed" "A true Lady. Not many of those any more!"*

Penelope (or Lady P as we all knew her) was born in 1932, the second and youngest child of John and Barbara Stradbroke. Her early life was spent in Suffolk with a brief time in Australia in 1946 when her father was appointed Secretary to the Governor of Victoria. Her parents moved back to England and to Henham in 1948 when her father acceded to the earldom on the death of Lady P's grandfather, the 3rd Earl.

Two years later in 1950, aged 17, a green-eyed and blonde Lady P married Lieutenant Commander Ian Stewart Forbes, who was working at the Admiralty. Her tall, fair, good-looking husband had been a prisoner of war of the Japanese and won the DSC. Penelope travelled with him to many parts of the world in those early years of marriage. Their first child, Catriona, was born one day after Penelope's 19th birthday, and they went on to have two more children, Caroline in 1951, and in 1956, Charles, who sadly died in 2000.



*17, newly married, on the cover of Country Life magazine.*



Lady P was immensely proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and there was usually a family muster for the October Service of Light, which she started in 1990 "to re-dedicate the floodlighting of the church to God's purpose and remember the life and dedication to our community of John, 4th Earl of Stradbroke and his wife Barbara". She wrote many letters over the years to persuade prominent TV personalities, politicians and heads of organisations to be the guest speakers.

She married her second husband, John Cator, in 1961, divorcing in 1969, and in 1984 married Anthony James Gilbey. They settled in Wangford at White Lion House. Anthony died in 2012.

For the past 20 years Lady P hardly ever left the village and was known by just about everybody. She involved herself in all the village activities, and made a point of talking to the youngsters waiting for the school bus. She took a particular interest in the lives of her father's former workers and their families, and always paid her respects at their funerals. When she became confined to a wheelchair, she would usually take a morning and afternoon constitutional, halting at Pound Corner if the weather was favourable, where people would stop and pass the time of day and keep her up with the latest news. She had a watchful eye and always tried to help if she was concerned about someone or something.

Patron of St Peter and St Paul, Wangford and a Lay Canon of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, she hardly ever missed a Sunday service and was a very committed Christian. In her time in Wangford she saw many clergy come and go and was involved in each appointment.



*With great-grandson Masa at the 2019 Service of Light.*

Penelope was a real lady, gracious, funny, and stoical in adversity. Not many people her age would have coped with the aftermath of the 2017 fire, which destroyed her kitchen and left the ground floor of the house smoke-damaged, rendering her homeless for several months, during which time she effectively camped in the Angel Inn.

Lady P died on 17<sup>th</sup> November; St Peter and St Paul was full for her funeral service on 9<sup>th</sup> December. She insisted that the order of service be virtually the same as that for her beloved son Charles. She stipulated that there should be no eulogy, and no photographs printed in it. But Penelope liked a good hymn, even if it made her cry, so the church resounded to Praise my soul, Abide with me and other well-known words and tunes, led by members of the Sole Bay Team choir. At her request her granddaughter Belinda sang 'The Lord Bless you and keep you'.

Penelope was buried in the churchyard alongside Charles and Anthony, just across the path from her parents. Donations in her memory will be shared between the Marie Curie nurses who cared for her in her final days and the Wangford Church Restoration Fund. She will be sadly missed by us all.



*Signing the contract for Raise the Roof Stage 2, in 2011*



## News from Uggeshall

### Uggeshall Coffee Morning

The first Coffee Morning of 2020 is on Thursday 9th January from 10.30 am in the Old School Hall.

### Uggeshall Cinema

January's film is yet to be decided, but it will take place in the Old School Hall on Thursday 9th January. Doors open at 7.00 for 7.15 pm.

## News from Wangford Church

We had several beautiful services in December when we marked the season of Advent, leading to the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

We also had a baptism, always a joyful occasion, but particularly so as it was of Stanley George, the infant son of one of our former choir members, Emily Rudd (née Woodhall).



*Baby Stanley George, enjoying all the attention, with Revd Alan and mum and dad Emily and Tommy.*

Sadly there was also the funeral on December 9<sup>th</sup> of our Patron, Lady Penelope Gilbey. She will be sorely missed and her death marks the end of an era for our villages. The service was attended by 140 people, and refreshments were served afterwards in the North Aisle by Café 51.

We look forward to 2020 when work will start on Church roof. We will continue to fund raise but we are grateful for donations received and grants made to us. Please let us know if you can help organise a fund-raising event.

The Church would like to wish you a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

*Valerie Beckett, Churchwarden 578987*

### Frostenden Coffee Mornings



Do join us on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall from 10.30 am for coffee, cakes and conversation. Admission £1.50; proceeds to support the Village Hall.

## News from Sotherton

St Andrews Sotherton would like to say sorry for the short notice of the cancellation the Grand Quiz night. We are at present trying to sort out another date and look forward to seeing you then.

There is a PCC meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at the Wangford Plough.

*Karen Flaxman*

### Uggeshall Gardening Club Closes

I don't know squat 'bout gardening,  
but, having got a big 'un,  
we found a 'Horticultural Soc',  
and went along to join 'em.  
But all too soon they shut up shop  
'cos people didn't come  
to hear the expert speakers  
who charged a tidy sum.

But some members were undaunted  
and set up a Gardening Club;  
once a month in a village hall  
with time to catch the pub.  
We had some super evenings  
listening to the great and good.  
We marvelled at the names they knew  
(ones we knew we should).

The speakers were so interesting.  
We hung on every word they said.  
I even liked the ones which sailed on  
clear above my head.  
But once more, numbers dwindled.  
The club's demise was clear.  
There was no point booking speakers  
whom no-one came to hear.

So, at this, our last meeting,  
we really need to say  
a whopping great big thank-you  
to those who slaved away  
to book the speakers  
and keep the books,  
which took them many a day.

So stand up Lucille, Marian and Jen  
and give a gracious bow.  
We really do appreciate  
all you've done right up to now.

*Sue Hardy, December 2019*

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Duncan Jones, Halesworth manager

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Stuart & Mark

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# ABRAHAM

Look folks, so far as I can remember, I haven't bothered you with my hobby horse this year so allow me my indulgence. The Home Secretary (someone called Priti Patel at the time of writing) has issued a consultation document suggesting that the police should have the right to confiscate vehicles immediately of "anyone whom they suspect to be trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it". Before, trespass was treated as a civil matter and only became a criminal offence if damage to property was caused. Now this lot wish to make it so serious that, on a mere whim, that centuries old persecuted minority, the Romanies, (or gypsies or travelling folk -whatever you care to call them, they are people) can lose their home. It will only apply to those who intend "to reside" in that vehicle "for any period". Not content with sealing up the majority of ancient informal travellers' stopping places, Local Authorities have failed miserably in their duty to provide a network of decent, well-run responsible transit sites; this latest draconian tripe is yet another attempt to extinguish the travelling way of life. In short, ethnic cleansing by legislation. And how do you think they suggest what to do with the travellers when there is nowhere to go? Why, where else but in council houses. Aside from the fact that council houses are in short supply with long waiting lists, this will fuel prejudice and hatred from the long-standing bigots (we don't want that sort of people near us) and the poor devils waiting for a house being queue-jumped; many of the travelling folk do not wish to, and cannot psychologically, live in a permanent dwelling and will therefore have to abandon a major part of their culture. But a glimmer of hope may be afoot. A number of police forces have responded to a similar consultation launched last year showing them opposed to such a law. Criminalisation of encampments was not supported and the lack of site provision was said to be at the heart of the matter. Mind you, cynical old me thinks that may be not so much feeling for the travelling cause as not relishing the prospect of additional workload. Still, every little helps. This is one dastardly suggested law that should be buried now.

I know that there are folk in the wee village, and their families, who have troubles, of their own, and will only speak of them if pushed, if at all. Which is why I am truly cheered when they enquire about my welfare while I am trekking through the various medical institutions. You know who you are and I thank you all. I shall try not to let you down.

It does irk me slightly to hear people trot out that old hackneyed phrase: it's not what it was, or it's changed out of all recognition. I have known this part of the world, and especially Southwold for over 40 years and I agree. I regret some of the changes, but the personality of Southwold lives on and will continue to do to the delight of most people. The North Sea is still a wonder to behold even when the south-easterly wind pierces your head like a needle; the multi-coloured beach huts with their ghastly puns of names enchant; the rebuilt pier has attractions to enjoy as does the pavilion; buckets and spades with squealing children abound; the aroma of fish and chips pervades the atmosphere as does the brewery, enticing you into the admittedly fewer number of pubs where you can eat and drink merrily; the shops assuredly have also diminished in quantity and type, being replaced by clothes and charity shops. But think still about the butcher's, the greengrocer, dear old Mumford's, Squiers, the ice cream parlours, and the super

addition of Adnams' Cellar and Kitchen. Yes, when once the pubs might sell you salted peanuts or a bag of crisps and a pickled egg, now you pay the going rate for a full meal and something called artisan sandwiches. If you care to wander, Dani's ferry is still carrying folk across to Walberswick, which has its own delights. Enough, I think. Southwold will live on forever, constantly changing but staying the same. Unless, of course, the sea claims it. But that is nature's way and who would wish to argue with that?

What more could I ask for? Two more little china moggies for Christmas. Bless his/her heart.

Being an over-sentimental jock, this is the time of year I tend to get a tad mawkish, so I leave you with the chorus of a wee mushy Caledonian song to welcome you all into the New Year:

A guid new year to ane an' a'  
 An' mony may ye see  
 An' during a' the years to come  
 O happy may ye be  
 An' may ye ne'er hae cause to mourn  
 To sigh or shed a tear;  
 To ane an' a' baith great an' sma'

*Abraham*

## Wangford Community Council Christmas Lights

A big thank you to Nick and Kevin for the fine display of lights at the Community Centre, and, assisted by Geoff Fisk, for setting up and lighting the tree on Pound Corner. This year's tree was taller than usual, and strong winds meant a challenging time for the team in keeping it upright.

Thanks also to Walter for providing the site and the electricity for the tree, and also to Uggeshall Farms and Carl Chapman for selecting and delivering it.

*Malcolm Woolnough*

CHURCH SERVICES	Sunday 5th January		Epiphany
	11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 12th January		Baptism of Christ
	11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 19th January		2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	9.30 am	Sotherton	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 26th January		2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	11.15 am	Wangford	Wangford@church
6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Holy Communion(BCP)	



# DIRECTORY

Team Rector The Reverend Simon Pitcher 725424  
 Team Vicar The Reverend Alan Perry 453624  
 Team Admin Tania Birtwistle 724115

## Parochial Church Council Secretaries

Wangford Vacancy  
 Uggheshall Clare Bailey 578679  
 Sotherton Karen Flaxman 01986 873123

## Church Wardens

Wangford Valerie Beckett 578987  
 Uggheshall Colin Hill (Churchwarden Emeritus)  
 Colonel Giles Crisp 578251  
 Clare Bailey 578679  
 Sotherton Gerard Walker 01986 874248  
 Stephen Flaxman 01986 873123

## Wangford Community Council

Vice-Chairman Malcolm Woolnough 578701  
 Secretary Sue Hosking 578287

## Wangford Community Centre

Chairman Malcolm Woolnough 578701  
 Bookings Rachel Dade  
 booking.wcc@outlook.com 578311  
 Caretaker Roy Hodgkins 07871 044120  
 Secretary Sue Taylor 578408

## Wangford Clubs

Book Club Gilliane Smith 578620

## Parish Council Clerks

Wangford Jean Brown 675739  
 Uggheshall Jean Brown 675739  
 Sotherton Caroline Cardwell 01986 781349

## Henham Steam Rally

Chair Helen Walker 07557 784927

Wangford Surgery 578257  
 Sole Bay Health Centre 722326  
 Wangford Veterinary Clinic 578999

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 PARISH MAGAZINE

# JANUARY 2020 CENTRE DIARY

2nd Jan	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-1.00pm
	Knitting Group	Cttee Room	2.30pm
6th Jan	Parent & Toddler	Hall	9.30am
7th Jan	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Cttee Room	10.00-12noon
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	2.00pm onwards
8th Jan	Wangford Wingers	Hall	9.30am-12.30pm
	Barber	Cttee Room	2.00-4.00pm
	GHSR	Cttee Room	8.00pm
9th Jan	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30am-1.00pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	7.15-8.15pm
	Book Club	Cttee Room	8.00pm
10th Jan	Yoga	Hall	9.30-10.30am
13th Jan	Parent & Toddler	Hall	9.30am
14th Jan	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30am-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	2.00pm-4.30pm
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	8.00pm
16th Jan	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-1.00pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	7.15pm-8.15pm
17th Jan	Yoga	Hall	9.30pm-10.30pm
	GHSR	Hall	4.00pm-11.00pm
20th Jan	Parent & Toddler	Hall	9.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
21st Jan	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30pm-10.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Lunch Club	Hall	12.30pm
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00pm-9.00pm
23rd Jan	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30am
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	7.15-8.15pm
24th Jan	Yoga	Hall	9.30-10.30am
27th Jan	Parent & Toddler	Hall	9.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
28th Jan	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Cttee Room	10.00am-12noon
	Coffee Morning	Hall	11.00am-12.30
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00pm-9.30pm
30th Jan	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30am-1.00pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00pm-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	7.15pm-8.15pm
31st Jan	Yoga	Hall	9.30am-10.30am

Barber's next visit 12th February