

“Keeping  
the Community  
informed”

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 18 NO. 10 JULY 2023



The stunning life-size 'Coronation Cloak for a Conservation King' (above) by Wendy Hawkes in the display at Wangford Church.

Wangford and District Community Council



## Summer Fayre

Stalls include

Sandra's Dandelionwishes Italian clothes, Janna's Norfolk Originals, Wax and Wicks (candles and melts), The Jam Jar Bake (includes gluten-free cakes), Bath Bonita (bath bombs, soaps etc), Carolyn's Cakes for the Santa Paws Appeal, Plants and Produce, Giftware, Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, Bus Stop, CDs/DVDs, Books, and the Raffle with many prizes

Saturday 8th July

in Wangford Community Centre  
at 2.00 pm

Admission free; refreshments on sale

Proceeds to Wangford Community Council



During the Coronation weekend in Wangford Big Help Out volunteers weeded, tidied, painted, replaced goalposts, put up decorations in the Centre, baked, made sandwiches - and lots of other jobs that needed tackling. In Wangford Church there's a new board of photos of the Big Help Out and Big Lunch and the glorious Coronation floral displays.

## Food Bank

Items for the Food Bank can be left in the basket at the foot of the font in Wangford Church from where they will be collected and taken to John and Jan Collins at 19 Lakeside Park Drive on Friday morning.

Lowestoft Foodbank can be contacted on 07307 866146 or email: [info@lowestoft.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@lowestoft.foodbank.org.uk)

## Wangford 100 Club 2023

Winners in the June Draw were

1. Karen Olley
2. Jeff Bridges
3. Peter Hart

## New -

### Ladies' Breakfast

On the first Saturday of every month starting 5th August at 8.45 for 9.00am at The Angel, Wangford. Come along for a social morning of good food, chat and an interesting speaker.

If you would like to join us please email Jan at [Perrypoppy@aol.com](mailto:Perrypoppy@aol.com) and I will send you a menu.

## Summer Concert

**Saturday 5th August  
Wrentham Village Hall**

A variety of musical entertainment in aid of Action Medical Research. Ticket £10 (includes a free interval ice cream). Please bring your own interval drinks. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets from:  
Angela 01502 675262  
Jane 01502 675623  
Joan 01502 473665

# WHAT'S ON IN JULY

## Wangford Parent and 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

## Mobile Library at Wangford

Wednesday 5th July

1010 - 1030am Community Centre

1035 - 1045am Church

## Uggeshall Coffee Morning

Thursday 6th July 10.30am Old School Hall

## Uggeshall Cinema

Thursday 6th July 7.00pm Old School Hall

## Book Club

Thursday 6th July 8.00pm Community Centre

## Summer Fayre

Saturday 8th July 2.00pm Community Centre

## Wangford with Henham Parish Council

Tuesday 11th July 7.30pm Community Centre

## Wangford Men's Breakfast

Saturday 15th July 8.45am The Angel Inn

## Community Garden Working Party

Sunday 16th July 1000am

## Wangford Church Coffee Morning

Wednesday 19th July 10.30am - noon

## Blyth Valley Labour

Monday 24th July 7.30pm Community Centre

## Afternoon Tea

Thursday 27th July 2.30pm Community Centre

## Uggeshall Country Teas

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July 2.00 - 5.30pm  
Old School Hall

## Wrentham Village Hall Film Night

### LES MISERABLES

(Cert 12A)

Saturday 29th July

Award-winning musical set in 19th century France starring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Russell Crowe and Eddie Redmayne.

Doors open 6.45pm, film screens 7.30pm

Only £5 on the door including refreshments. All welcome.



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Tuesdays  
from 10.00am - 12 noon

Thursdays  
from 1.00 - 3.00pm  
Community Centre

## Community Garden Update

The June work party was well attended as usual with eight volunteers working hard. We also all had time to have a good chat about various subjects. Work consisted of selective weeding, planting and watering. The poppies were looking very colourful and the bees and hoverflies were loving them. With a variety of other wildflowers and shrubs in bloom the insect life abounds. There were plenty of ladybird larvae on the leaves of the roses and other shrubs, The most exciting wildflowers were the three Bee Orchids and the one spike of the White Bee Orchid which is considered very rare in Suffolk. The next day, two of our volunteers recorded 42 species of flowers blooming, which is a big increase. This is a combination of wildflowers and carefully selected planting. Our next work party will be on Sunday 16th July at 10.00 in the Community Garden beside the Community Centre. Please feel free to come and join us and do whatever you are capable of.

*Malcolm Woolnough*

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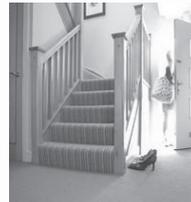
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# JULY'S TEAM LETTER

## “Summer is icumen in” (Trad Folk Song 1260)

One of my favourite poems, by e.e.cummings begins:

*“I thank You God for most this amazing day  
For the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
And a blue true dream of sky  
And for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes...”*

Despite writing this on an unseasonably cold, late spring morning, my spirits rise hearing these words, not least because I was on Blackheath common this morning undertaking a bird survey with my resident expert! We walked and listened, recording who was calling for a mate, setting up home or noisily protecting their nest by chasing off a predator; a process repeated each spring, over 10-weeks. Highlights included hearing a Cuckoo, Garden Warbler, Song and Mistle Thrushes. All results are collated and compared against previous years to monitor changes and drive actions. Volunteers and local conservation groups work to maintain habitats in many places to encourage once common flora and fauna to survive, and sometimes thrive, despite many things about the way we live, farm, do business and leisure that can adversely affect them. The poem concludes:

*“Now the ears of my ears awake  
And now the eyes of my eyes are opened”*

As Christians, what can we do about the unfolding climate emergency? Creation is surely groaning (Romans 8: 22-3)? Using our eyes and ears to inform our hands and hearts, responding personally, practically and locally whether in our gardens and churchyards with “No Mow May” or litter picking on favourite walks; engaging with challenges experienced by subsistence farmers through documentaries such as “Thank You For The Rain” or going back to the beginning to Genesis artistically imagined by Jacqui Parkinson in her ‘Threads Through Creation’ panels.

While giving thanks locally for our relative riches, consider what to do in response, do it well and do it now (Ecclesiastes 9:10)! Whether through prayer, a personal change in your lifestyle, writing to your MP, signing a petition, marching for change, or volunteering with a wildlife group. No matter how small your response feels, act now for future generations.

*Rev Judy Miller*

## Book Club

At our June meeting we discussed ‘Act of Oblivion’ by Robert Harris. The general opinion was that this is an excellent book although one criticism was that perhaps there could have been a little less detail. We liked the historical setting - the regicide of King Charles in the 17th century. Those that signed the warrant of execution were hunted down to America. The hunt was relentless and we came to see that there were good points and faults in both sides and how it destroyed so much of life and expectation. We appreciated the huge amount of research that went into this book and it is historical fiction and as such there is no certainty around the events or characters. The description of the killings was horrific, and particularly where people were hung, drawn and quartered. We came to understand exactly what that meant. We thought it was interesting that Cromwell was portrayed as “king like” with the inference that he had stepped into the King’s role to the extent that he even wanted to name his son as his successor. At the beginning Cromwell was seen as representing the good, but as the narrative built up, we came to see that Cromwell and his followers were not all they appeared to be. It was said people wanted a King, and they would not follow a committee. An excellent, fact-packed, mixed with licence to elaborate and embellish, highly recommended book.

We next meet on Thursday 6th July to discuss Melissa Harrison’s ‘All Among The Barley’ at 8 pm in the Community Centre.

*Gill Smith 578620*

## News from Wangford Church

Firstly, a note for your diaries and some very exciting news. We are delighted to announce that The Jazz Goats will be returning to the church on September 2nd for a night of truly great jazz, swing, rock & roll and pop music. Anybody who saw them play in church four years ago will remember what a great night out it was with lots of dancing in the aisles, and once again, the good people at Moss & Co will be operating a licensed bar. Tickets are £12 and available from myself, Jeff Bridges or Revd Alan. Alternatively email [markn.church@gmail.com](mailto:markn.church@gmail.com).

June saw us celebrate the wedding of Robbie Adamson and Jodie Baggott in church. It was a very emotional day and we all congratulate Robbie and Jodie and wish them all the best for their future life together.

We have also just had the full restoration of the gravestone of William and Alma Smith who died in 1914 and 1915. Their story is a fascinating one and there are plans for a memorial service for William and Alma which will be attended by members of the Smith family. Many thanks to everybody who donated towards the restoration.

The photographs in church which were part of the King’s Coronation exhibition will be on display for a few more weeks so if you haven’t already seen them, please do pop into the church and have a look. There’s also a new board with photographs of the Big Help Out and Big Lunch.

The July coffee morning will be in church on the 19th at 10.30 and will include the 100 club draw and a raffle as well as drinks and cakes. Everybody is welcome to attend.

*Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)*

## Joyce Myrtle Purkiss RIP

*Joyce passed away on 7th May at home in Wangford, just a few months short of her 100th birthday. This is an extract from a tribute written by her niece, Lin Whitfield.*

Joyce Blyth was born in Wandsworth, South London, in the autumn of 1923. Her childhood wasn't an easy one. Her father struggled to find work during the 1920s and early 1930s; her eldest sister went to live permanently with her grandmother when Joyce was two, and her other older sister died of diphtheria when Joyce was eight.

Joyce wanted to be a hairdresser, but she would have had to work for 4/5 years at 7s 6d a week. Her father said she must earn more, so she worked in a succession of factory jobs.

At the outbreak of WW2 Joyce chose war work rather than entering the armed forces, and operated a lathe in a munitions factory, making gun sights and other aeroplane parts. Tragically, her older brother was killed at the age of 20 in a flying accident in 1942.

After the war Joyce continued to live at home in Twickenham. Although she had a number of boyfriends, she had no thoughts of settling down. However, in 1950 a young man by the name of Geoff Purkiss got a driver's job at the grocers' where Joyce worked. Obviously smitten, Geoff's dogged persistence eventually paid off, and she agreed to go out with him. They married in 1952, and he was devoted to her. They proudly celebrated their diamond anniversary in 2012.

For some years Joyce worked as a shop cashier and Geoff worked in the motor trade. Then in 1966 they took a leap of faith and set up their own business, GNP Factors, supplying motorcycle accessories to shops and dealers. The business really took off in 1973 when the wearing of crash helmets became compulsory. It was hard work for both of them, but they made an ideal team. Geoff had an easy manner with people, and Joyce was a brilliant administrator.

They sold the business in 1984, and in 1985 they retired to Suffolk, where they'd holidayed on a number of occasions, and they soon became valued volunteers in Wangford and its surrounding area. Joyce ran a Friendly Club for many years and helped out at many other community events. She could usually be found bustling about the kitchen organising refreshments. She was also an accomplished hand-knitter, and garments she'd knitted featured on the front covers of women's magazines in the 1970s.

Animals were a big part of Joyce's life. She and Geoff loved dogs and cats, and they spent many hours exploring the Suffolk countryside and walking with their dog. They also loved their garden and delighted in the local light sandy soil – such a change from London clay!

Joyce suffered from hearing problems for many years. She was totally deaf in one ear and suffered from tinnitus in the other, and she struggled to hear and participate in conversations in group situations. She also developed a very painful form of neuralgia in her jaw, bouts of which became more frequent over the last fifteen years and required strong medication.

Joyce was convinced that she would die at the age of 62 as her mother had done, and was rather surprised to find herself still fit and healthy at that age! She was also sure that Geoff, seven years younger than her, would outlive her. His death in 2014 was a great shock to her.

After Geoff's death Joyce was lonely, but the support from neighbours and her wonderful carer, Dee, enabled her to remain at home, as she wanted, during her final years.

## News from Uggeshall

### UGGESHALL COUNTRY TEAS

at

*The Old School & Garden, Uggeshall*

on

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### Uggeshall Coffee Morning

July's Coffee Morning is on Thursday 6th from 10.30am in the Old School Hall. Everybody's welcome.

### Uggeshall Cinema

It was lovely to see so many of you at the last screening. Thanks once again to the coffee morning ladies for leaving the sweet treats and gorgeous sausage rolls!

The film for July 6th is 'Allelujah' based on the play by Alan Bennett with a stellar cast including Jennifer Saunders, Derek Jacobi and Judi Dench. It's a warm, humorous, and deeply moving story about surviving old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back. Doors open at 7.00 for 7.15 pm.

*Matt Grady*

### Group Parish Council

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th July, at the Old School Hall.

### Wangford Mens' Breakfast

On Saturday the 17th June, John Brownfield from The Waveney Valley Beekeepers Association gave an interesting and amusing talk at the Angel Inn. Various bits of paraphernalia were passed round for examination. The enthralled 18 attending rounded off with a cracking good breakfast. This month on 15th July, Derek Child will explain 'The Impact of Modern Technology for the Visually Impaired'. If you are interested, contact [johnscholes@hotmail.com](mailto:johnscholes@hotmail.com)

We meet 8.45 for 9.00 every third Saturday at the Angel Inn, High Street, Wangford.

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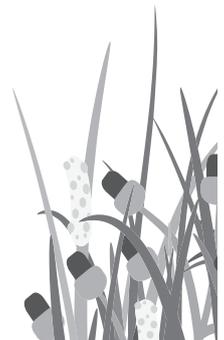
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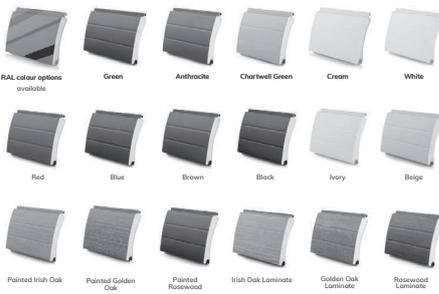
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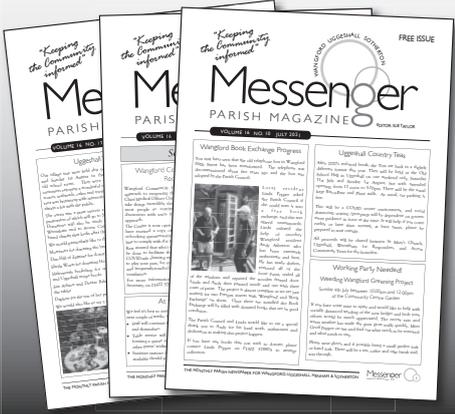
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# ABRAHAM

Another recent hospital visit brought to mind the first time I attended a similar institution in Bridge of Earn, Perthshire, some 60-odd years ago, with a broken ankle. A dear neighbour, who kept hens, rather than bringing me the obligatory flowers and fruit, presented the ward nurses with fresh eggs, directing them to ensure that I was given a soft boiled one, with soldiers, every morning, or else. They did as they were told. I expect the food and health police would be frothing at the mouth nowadays.

The trip to Orkney in May was fine, despite the 5-hour wait for the connecting flight from Aberdeen. I like Norwich Airport; it is small and friendly and, at the time of our flight, very unbusy. Dear old Loganair. The on-board cuisine is immaculate. Tea, coffee or water with a shortbread biscuit or caramel wafer. The terminal building at Kirkwall is dinky and particularly attractive, akin to an art gallery or museum. When we arrived there were sniffer dogs capering about on the luggage carousel. Drugs on Orkney? Dear me. The children's extended and renovated wee cottage has been done very well and, speaking as a fussy ex-hack of a Planning Officer, that is praise indeed. The views are fantastic. On the adjoining field louped a hare with a supporting cast of a frisky oystercatcher, a sleepy snipe and hovering kestrel, not to mention Frances' two moggies. The Islands really are spectacular. 70 of them, 20 inhabited, with the largest being named, with utter banality, Mainland. We visited a fossil museum, having to cross the Churchill Barriers at Scapa Flow, dropping in at the wonderful kitschy Italian Chapel (two Nissen huts bolted together and converted by Italian prisoners of war). We dined at the Brewery, a short walk from the cottage. Mrs Abe went a-puffin hunting, this being the right time of year for the birds, but alas could only spot one in the distance using the bins. A highlight was meeting two ladies who attended the wedding in April 1968 in St Magnus Cathedral at which I was my oldest and grandest chum's best man. He married an Orkney girl who also, at some time shared a flat in Aberdeen with Mrs Abe. (It does get entangled). It was said at one point that of the three fellows from Auchtermuchty, the groom, trawlerman Pete and myself, I was the only one that was liked. I knew nothing about Orkney then and could recall nothing about the wedding. In 2004 we started to visit and then a sort of love affair began.

As I say, the Islands are special. The scenery with the pastures, lochs and hills and livestock - lambs and calves were in evidence. There are miles of perfectly constructed drystone dykes (*Ed. drystone walls*) with no sign of alien mortar joints. There is much to do and become involved with - birdlife, neolithic history, military remains and martello towers, music, sports, storytelling, crafts etc. Of the two towns Mrs Abe favours Stromness with its ancient main street flagged on either side and settled in the middle, so constructed to allow the carriage wheels to function smoothly and the horses to trot safely. Amid the street is a superb art gallery with, to remind us of home, a couple of works by Margaret Mellis, amongst the likes of the Nicholsons, Hepworth and talented local artists. I could go on but if you have time in your life, have a look.

I have broached the subject now and again referring to it as 'one last dance', 'a final adventure', to be closer to Frances. We would be happy in Orkney despite the 18 hours of wintry darkness and without a decent pub. What can Wangford offer

that can compete with the joys of the Islands? Let's have a look. We live in a quaint little cottage which suits us fine, in a super village with facilities to match (a terrific shop, a vet, farm shop, church, surgery, a dangerously close lovely pub, decent public transport system), the most moderate climate, a grand set of chums and other folk (very friendly neighbours), four miles from one of the most beautiful coastal towns, and all the culture one could wish for within easy reach. I'm pretty sure I've missed some things out. You will have concluded that it's a no-brainer. Ergo, you will be putting up with us for yet a few years. Was that a groan, I hear?

I have just finished rereading Ronald Blyte's masterpiece *Akenfield* and I had quite forgotten how riveting it is. It was first published in 1969 which means that almost two more generations have gone by. How well he listened to and recorded the long gone voices of the rural population. Words of wisdom indeed - A saddler - *The Scotch farmers who came here in the 1930s were really good payers. They worked harder, farmed better. Their wives helped them. Too many of the Suffolk farmers' wives were trying to be ladies. A successful pig farmer - I find the East Anglians cold and hidden. I have never experienced such coldness before. They can be barbarous and there is an innate cruelty in them. You find it all over the village. The Poet - Words have meaning for me here. I am lucky. I came here to get better but I have in fact been reborn. I have escaped into reality. A scottish farmer - There were all these fine farms standing idle and no great rush by anybody to work them. We got our jackets off and got stuck into it. The Gravedigger - You might come back as a cat! I love cats. I have a family of ten cats in the churchyard.....they're very comfortable indeed. They cost me 10s a week to feed and they don't even belong to me. They don't belong to anybody.....There are worse things than coming back as a cat. Where are the men today with such recollections? In my youth I should have listened to the old people, for they trod where I shall never tread. They saw what I shall never see. There are yet some about but they are a rapidly dying breed. It is sad, but it is so.*

Apropos the above makes me recall the occasion when we were visited some years ago by Mrs Abe's Uncle Ken from South Wales who, with his wife and daughter, stayed over with us. Conversing in the evening when drink had been taken the subject matter turned to correspondence between Uncle Ken and our young daughter Frances. She, learning that Ken and Tom (Mrs Abe's dad, who died when she was four years old) had been brought up on a farm in rural northeast Scotland, wished to know all about their early lives. Many letters and photographs flowed back and forth, Frances being an inquisitive, budding historian even then. Ken was free and generous with his time and memories, expressing appreciation that someone so young should show such interest. His daughter Jenny started sobbing, saying "Dad, you have grandchildren of your own. Why have you not told them of such things?" Ken gave the most obvious answer of all - "They've never asked".

*Abraham*

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## JULY 2023 CENTRE DIARY

3rd July	Toddlers	Hall	9.30 - 11.30am
4th July	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
5th July	Salsa	Hall	7.30 - 8.30pm
6th July	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Book Club	Cttee Room	8.00pm
8th July	Summer Fayre	Hall	2.00pm
10th July	Toddlers	Hall	9.30 - 11.30am
11th July	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	7.30pm
12th July	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
13th July	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00- 3.00pm
17th July	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
18th July	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
19th July	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
	GHSR	Bar	7.30pm
20th July	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
24th July	Blyth Valley Labour	Cttee Room	7.30pm
25th July	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
26th July	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
27th July	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00- 3.00pm
	Afternoon Tea	Hall	2.30-4.30pm

## CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd July	4th Sunday after Trinity
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 9th July	5th Sunday after Trinity
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 16th July	6th Sunday after Trinity
9.30 am Sotherton	Holy Communion (CW)
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 23rd July	7th Sunday after Trinity
11.15 am Wangford	Wedding
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 30th July	8th Sunday after Trinity
11.00 am Blythburgh	Team Communion
No service at Uggeshall due to Uggeshall Country Teas	