

*"Keeping the Community informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 15 NO. 9 JUNE 2020

## VE DAY : 1945 - 2020



*And the locked down Wangford 100 Club May draw was supervised by Alfie, a resident of Blacksmith Close*

**Well done, Wangford and Uggeshall!**



**BREAKING NEWS!**

 Wangford Veterinary Clinic



**Petplan Practice of the Year 2020 Winner**



# LOCKDOWN INFORMATION

## Wangford Village Store

We are open Mondays to Saturdays from 8.00am to 6.00pm, and on Sundays from 8.00am to 4.00pm.

\* Only 4 customers are allowed in the shop at any one time

\* Please shop quickly, with minimum conversation with staff and other customers

\* Please keep your distance from others, and observe the 2m rule and floor grid.

## Wangford Help

Our Community Council volunteers are ready to help you with shopping, collecting medicines, walking the dog, or just ringing for a chat.

You can phone, email or text us. Give your name and contact details, and tell us how we can help

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

### NEW - cash withdrawals

If you are running short of cash, but have a cheque book, don't venture out - we are now able to withdraw money for you. Ring the helpline for more details..

## Wangford Vets

We are running with limited staff each day. Our opening hours are:

Monday - Friday  
8.30 am - 4.30pm  
(Closed for lunch between 1.00 and 2.00 pm)  
Saturday and Sunday -  
OUT OF HOURS ONLY

There are no routine appointments at the moment; we are only able to see urgent or emergency cases. Home visits are for emergencies only.

To order your pet's repeat medications, email: enquiries@wangfordvetclinic.com, or register on the Wangford Vets website: www.wangfordvetclinic.com and follow the straightforward instructions. Please allow 2 working days from ordering to collection. We will notify you if there is any problem with availability. Your medication should be collected from the practice between 2pm and 4pm Monday-Friday.

Please also email any general non-emergency enquiries where possible.

Please note if you have ANY EMERGENCY, we are still here for you - call the usual number 01502 578999

## Wangford Farm Shop

Our current (temporary) opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 9am-1pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday CLOSED

Home deliveries to people who are over 70 or classed as vulnerable are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To order please ring 01502 578246 or email

rj.miller@btinternet.com by 3pm. You can pay by card or by bacs. There is a £2 delivery charge; alternatively a neighbour, friend or volunteer can collect for free.

## Health Advice

### Coronavirus

If you have a high temperature or a new cough, stay at home completely (self-isolate) for 7 days, or until your symptoms have gone. Rest, drink plenty of fluids and take paracetamol to reduce your temperature.

If you have serious symptoms that you cannot manage at home, in the first instance visit [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk) for guidance. If you cannot go online, call 111.

Do NOT visit your surgery.

### What to do about any serious sudden illness

In the event of a suspected heart attack, stroke or other sudden serious illness, dial 999 as usual. A&E departments are still operating normally - and separately from coronavirus patients.

### What to do if a condition you are already being treated for gets worse

Ring your surgery. They will tell you what you should do.

## Food Bank Donations

The need for Food Banks has never been greater. Donations can still be left in the porch of St. Margaret's, Reydon. Thank you for all your support.

If anyone is aware of someone in financial difficulties and/or need who could benefit from a food parcel please encourage them to contact the VHC in the first instance (01502 724549) or [vhcsouthwold@btinternet.com](mailto:vhcsouthwold@btinternet.com)

## Uggeshall Coronavirus Community Support

We telephone isolated people regularly and make sure they have adequate food, medication and support and stay as safe as possible. We collect supplies from Wangford Village Store, Wangford Farm Shop and the local surgeries.

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

If you are aware of someone who might need support at this time, please put them in touch with us.



## Southwold Post Office

is open on Mondays from 10.00am to 1.00pm and Wednesdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

The first 30 minutes each day are reserved for the elderly or vulnerable.



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**St Barnabas**  
Southwold

In 2018 Saint Barnabas opened a family-based Day Centre for older, frail people and those with dementia.

A Day Centre can mean many things to lots of different people. It can be a place to go for some company or to have a hot meal. We can provide assistance with personal needs, such as bathing and, most importantly, a Day Centre can provide day respite for a family member struggling to care for a person with dementia.

We have a variety of different activities to suits all needs. The Day Centre is open 4 days week from 10.00am to 4.30pm.

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# JUNE'S TEAM LETTER

## Let's hope

We've all been learning to do things differently. The way we shop, the way we communicate, our use of transport, the way we do church - and that's just the beginning. It's taken a lot of thought and reinvention. I'm guessing that the changes haven't all been bad (that's certainly the case for me) and we've learned to adapt. Like the old salts this coast is known for, we've trimmed our sails according to the shifting winds. It's what we do. We've had to use our imaginations. And fortunately, it's a key component of our very being. It's at the very heart of what it means to be human. And it's involved in almost every decision we make.

Christians trace this back to our defining myth, the creation story in the book of Genesis, where God says: "Let us make human-kind in our image, according to our likeness." If God is able to create this universe from nothing, then it takes one hugely significant faculty - imagination. God had to imagine that there could be something rather than nothing. And humans are made to reflect this creative, imaginative God - we're makers, inventors. But imagination has other important dimensions. For example, in order to form relationships and work together we need to imagine what our partners, our children, our neighbours are thinking and feeling. This has been vital in the wonderful upswell of mutual support we've seen.

And, crucially, our imagination gives us the ability to shape the future. It's rooted in that huge, open-ended question: "What would happen if?" This is the key to our ability to develop, organise and plan. If you want a new road system, if you're designing a garden, if you're picking a school for your child. . . whenever you do anything which has consequences, your imagination comes into play. Also - and this is of huge importance right now - our ability to *hope* is absolutely embedded in the imagination. Imagination is to be alive to possibilities. When I was growing up there were certain fixtures that I thought would never change: apartheid in Africa, for example, the Berlin Wall. But people hoped, and worked and planned, and the future changed.

We're pretty sure that coronavirus is going to be with us in some form for a very long time. There's no going back to 'normal'. We can't go back - we can only go forward. In a radio broadcast in April, the Rector of St Martin's in the Fields, Dr Sam Wells said that we hope that "our failures are no longer the end of a story but the beginning of a better story." He went on to say that our experience gives us "a once-in-a century invitation to imagine something richer, truer and deeper than normal ever was. This isn't a time for looking back, but for imagining the future and starting to live that future now."

As I said at the top, this will affect the way we shop, the way we communicate, our use of transport, the way we do church. How we support one another. We can't squander this chance, we can't simply leave it up to the members of SAGE or the government. Instead, let's ask ourselves the question "What would happen if . . ."

Let's hope.

*Rev Malcolm Doney*

## Wangford 100 Club 2020

Winners in the May Draw  
were

1. Beryl Meldrum
2. Andy Robertson
3. Patricia Cox

## Bill James RIP

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Bill in James Paget Hospital on 26th May.

Our thoughts are with Pat and Mike at this difficult time.

## News from Wangford Church

I'm sorry to say that, as we are still in lockdown, the church is locked, the main gates are locked, and there are no services. Funerals may only be conducted at the graveside and be attended by immediate family only.

Of course, any re-opening of the church may have to be delayed if the work on the roof is eventually able to begin. Watch this space! And, whenever we're allowed to re-open, careful cleaning will be required before any services can be resumed. At that time the Cleaning Rota will start again but with a reduced number of cleaners due to the increasing age of those who help. Some are in the vulnerable group and are either self isolating or shielding someone in their household. So if any of you - male or female - is able to volunteer to help, please contact me.

Last month I said how beautiful the churchyard had been and I am delighted to say that we have given another sack of daffodil bulbs to enhance next Spring's display.

The Sunday morning Services brought to us by Zoom are a great success; many thanks to Rev. Alan for arranging this. We have been keeping in touch with our regular worshippers by a weekly telephone call which seems to be appreciated, and paper copies of the Zoom Service together with the Team News are available from the Church Porch.

Meanwhile - Keep Alert and Stay Safe.

With best wishes to all

*Valerie Beckett, Churchwarden 578987*



## George Garrard RIP

The funeral service for George, who died on 1st May, took place in Wangford churchyard on Tuesday 19th May, attended by his close family.

George was born in Rayleigh, Essex on 4th July 1928. The family moved to Upminster shortly thereafter, where George remained for the first 66 years of his life. He and Jo married in 1953, and had two sons, Matthew and Nicholas.

An architect, George commuted, first to London, and then, from 1959, to Basildon, where he worked for the Development Corporation. He loved architecture, which suited his slow, meticulous, perfectionist approach. A modest man, his proudest achievement and the high point of his career was Noak Bridge, a social housing estate designed as part of Basildon new town, planned to have the traditional character of an English village. It is now a conservation area.

George was passionate about old cars, having bought a Railton in 1954 - the car he and Jo drove, with some adventures en-route, to Preston in 1988 to transport daughter-in-law to-be Helen to her wedding to Nick. He and Jo also tried not to miss the annual Railton Owners' Club meetings, wherever they took place.

The Garrards' usual summer holiday destination was Southwold, and they bought Pond Cottage as their rural retreat. This became their retirement home, where they started a new chapter of their lives, joining local societies and Wangford church.

George's faith defined him. A regular worshipper all his life, he was too shy to read or speak in church, but on building sites he was known as 'The Bishop' for his pastoral manner. He and Jo supported Nick throughout his training and ministry, and they also took great pride in Matt's career as an artist. George would often deliver paintings to galleries and exhibitions so that Matt did not have to leave his easel.

Known throughout his life for being late, in Wangford, where he would arrive at the Village Store ten minutes before closing, or at church well into every service, he was nicknamed the 'late George'. But he was able to laugh at everything, and never minded being laughed at himself.

He was at his proudest as a family man, and that devotion to his family was made evident in his every word and action. For years he and Jo injected life and vitality into every family occasion. Their love for each other was infectious and evident in every breath they took, inseparable and undividable.

George was exceptionally generous with both his time and money, and it was very difficult to stop him from paying for everything.

He had a toughness too - a determination and stubbornness - and even as the years progressed and his health declined he fought to retain his independence and autonomy. His fall last summer was dreaded but also not unexpected - but despite a hip fracture and 3-week stay in JPH he survived and thanks to the care of the staff at Dell House and the ever-loving presence of Jo he lived nine more months - he saw his first great granddaughter born, Matt and Izzi's purchase of a home in Wangford, family graduations, achievements, and most recently Nick's appointment to his new ministry.

Then this April the virus hit him, and, in Jo's words, his resistance was threadbare and he was unable to fight back.

Wangfordians will remember George as a real gentleman, smiling, courteous, kind, who, in a delightfully old-fashioned and gracious way tipped his cap to every lady he met.

## News from Uggeshall

### VE Day

Ten people attended the 2 minute silence in the churchyard and the bell was rung 75 times on VE Day



### Uggeshall Teas

We have been monitoring this unprecedented situation over the last few weeks and it is with great sadness that we have come to the conclusion that it will not be feasible to safely hold the Uggeshall Country Teas this year due to the situation the country finds itself in with the Coronavirus.

We understand that this will be hugely disappointing for many of you but we would like to thank all of our supporters and look forward to welcoming you back next year.

If the situation changes or there are any further developments later on in the year we will keep you informed.

*Pearl, Linda, Amanda, Jane, Jenny & Denise  
Uggeshall Teas Committee*

### Church Services

Church services are now being broadcast live using Zoom.

Week 1 at 8.00am (BCP Holy Communion) and 9.30am (CW Holy Communion)

Week 2 at 8.00am (BCP Holy Communion) and 9.30am (CW Holy Communion)

Week 3 at 9.30am (CW Holy Communion) and 3.00pm (BCP Evensong)

Week 4 at 8.00am (BCP Holy Communion) and 9.30am (Family Service)

To join the services please contact Rev Alan Perry (453624) who can provide you with the log-in information (each service has a different Meeting ID), or Harriet Notton (07713 939701) for technical advice and support.

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# ABRAHAM

*What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare?*

This dastardly lockdown has its compensations: grockle-free streets and open spaces; peace and quiet (can't you just hear the birds in all their glory?) and time to dwell upon times past, never to return. My mention of John and Janet having had the wee cottage next to ours for 50 years triggered a remembrance of life in the village then and before from a dear lady who now lives in Reydon (nice to know the little Messenger reaches those far-flung shores) who informs me that she "lived in Wangford since 1942, when I married the local blacksmith". Those of you (older? folks will know that I am referring to Mrs Freda Prime, a 'weel-kent face' as we are wont to say in the land of the barbarians. And also well remembered, Freda, I can assure you. Freda tells me that in those halcyon days we had 4 pubs, 2 butchers, 2 petrol pumps, 3 grocers, 1 Doctor, 1 District Nurse, 1 British Legion Hall, 1 Taxi service, 1 Vicarage; no Community Centre; an old mill on the footpath between Norfolk Road and Wangford Road; there were just four houses opposite the shop, the rest being meadow land and, of course, the A12 went through the High Street. Which takes me back to my own wee town which was, once upon a time, also self-contained and self sufficient. Why go searching for the bright lights and pots of gold when the earth's bounty surrounded you? Mercifully, Wangford is much better off than many other villages that have no facilities at all and must rely on private transport to exist. Thank you for your very friendly letter, Freda, and if you can think of anything more, you know where I am - in one of the old baker's shops you recall so well. *That is the land of lost content, / I see it shining plain, / The happy highways where I went / And cannot come again.* (A. E. Housman)

When I go, and pray that it will be a long time hence, at the service (be there one) I insist that any readings shall be from the Authorised Version. I cannot abide the sanitised, dumbed-down later so-called translations. The richness of the King James Bible, gifted to us in 1611, with unforgettable images that we learned, has been tempered down to the platitudinous sounds of (and I have nothing against these professions) Civil Servants, Bank Managers and Insurance Salesman. When Jesus returned to Nazareth and was rejected the AV tells us that he 'said unto them, "A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house." And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief!'. This became, in a newer version, "A prophet will always be held in honour, except in his home town, and in his own family." And he did not work many miracles there; such was their want of faith'. Brutal, clumsy, dull and an insult to the intelligence of churchgoers everywhere. So, vic Alan, if you and I are still around and you are good enough to preside, you have been given notice.

I think it's true that you should never return to stay. There are various reasons why I shall not go back to live in Muchty. The first is that I have promised Mrs Abe that I won't. It can never be the same. On my trips to have a wee peep once a year it can be quite depressing seeing how the town has declined. In common with so many other places the once-thriving facilities have all but gone, supplanted by the out-of-town supermarkets and tainted by incomers who show no interest in the social and community fabric, vacating the town so often in their streak-of-lightning cars and Chelsea tractors instead of appreciating the beauty in and around. Would I be accepted? In my conceit I do

not doubt that I would. The few brethren who remained and who remember me would be delighted to have me back in the 'early fold' if for no other reason than to have someone new with whom to stroll down memory lane. But I fear that that would pall after a short while, and then what? No, I shall stay where my heart is - in dear old Blighty. Still, I was recently talking to my oldest chum, who also decamped Muchty long since, recalling those salad days when we wandered the surrounding countryside amid 'those blue remembered hills', with the whole world in front of us, expecting to save that world with our enthusiasm, energy and philosophy, and I suggested that once again we retrace these boyish steps as a necessary exercise in nostalgia. He agreed and when I added the caveat that he might end up carrying me, he said that that would be no problem.

Wandering through the churchyard in Walberswick we came upon these sobering headstone inscriptions: for a lady who was 94 when she departed, simply - *She persevered to the end!*. And a gentleman of 84 - Father, Grandfather, Brother, Husband, Sailor, Writer and Maverick is laid to rest. 'Thank you for a good life Lord. *Sorry about the mistakes!*'

Let's not kid ourselves, we are not all in this together. *The rich man in his castle, The poor man at his gate; God made them, high or lowly, And ordered their estate.* Whether we should all know our place and defer to our so-called betters is alien to every free man's beliefs, but there is no denying that this lockdown has once again emphasised monumentally the great divide between the have and have-nots. There was never going to be any doubt where the moneyed class were going to end up during this crisis - in their vast country estates or second homes, never mind the Governmental advice. For sure this enemy is common to us all but our experience of self-isolation can be so different. Those of us who do live in rural areas with gardens and open spaces are more fortunate than those in the towns and cities without gardens and without even a park within walking distance. Imagine, if you can, being stuck in a tower block with an increasingly fractious young family and then tell me that there is not a difference directly related to class and money. The statistic that almost a third of England is owned by gentry and half the country is owned by 25,000 landowners merely heightens the indignation that the less fortunate folk are entitled to feel. When we get back to something resembling normal life (will it ever be the same for some people?) the moneyed mob will return refreshed and perky and the proletariat will just have to lump it - as ever.

*Abraham*

## First Thursday Knitting Group

There's no news of a restart date as I write but as things change daily I am hoping we can meet again soon. I will be in touch as soon as we can make plans.

*Valerie Beckett 578987*



# 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  
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 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  
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Police Urgent 999 Non Urgent 101

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDITOR SUE TAYLOR:

79 High Street, Wangford

Telephone: 01502 578408 Email: suethemusic@gmail.com

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## TO ADVERTISE CONTACT ANGLIA PRINT LIMITED:

5b Moor Business Park, Ellough Road, Beccles NR34 7TQ

Telephone: 01502 715551 Email: info@angliaprint.co.uk

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## From The Wangford Observer

Today the RNLI are selling tea towels that read "Life is a shipwreck, but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats."

These are troubling times that we are living through; but as we keep trying to explain to those young people born after 1955 we have been through it before and survived.

In 1957 I was a student in London living down the road from Westminster Hospital when the Asian flu pandemic hit, when it is calculated 2 million died globally, with 100,000 in the UK. We did not have a transport lockdown, people continued going to work, and people could not work at home on their I-pads, as they had not been invented. I shopped in the Army and Navy Department Store in Victoria Street, and we could go swimming in local council-run swimming pools. Because attendances were lower than normal, students showing an NUS card could get into most West End theatres, cinemas and concert halls for ten shillings (50p today) - any seats. I attended more productions and concerts in that period than I have in the last 60 years.

Times weren't that bad, we were all singing in the lifeboats. I knew several who succumbed to the pandemic but all survived. I heard of one student at another college who felt unwell and decided to get on his motor bike to drive home, but sadly he had an accident and died; this was before wearing helmets was a legal requirement.

Twenty years ago my aunt gave me a tea towel that reads:

*"What is a Senior Citizen? A Senior Citizen is one who was here before the pill, television, frozen foods, contact lenses, credit cards ... and before men walked on the moon. For us "Time Sharing" meant togetherness, not holiday homes, and a "chip" meant a piece of wood. "Hardware" meant nuts and bolts, and "software" wasn't even a word. We got married first, then lived together, and thought that cleavage was something butchers did. A "stud" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and "going all the way" meant staying on a double-decker bus all the way to the bus depot. We thought that fast food was what you ate in Lent; a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" we had for tea. In our day "grass" was mown, "pot" was something you cooked in, "coke" was kept in the coal house and "a joint" was cooked on Sundays! We are today's SENIOR CITIZENS. A hardy bunch when you think how the world has changed!"*

So to get through these tough times, keep smiling, the pandemic will end and we can once again enjoy life with all our family and friends, parties will take place as will weddings and music festivals.



**Remember –  
 it's your  
 job to clear  
 up after me!**