

*"Keeping the Community informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 16 NO. 6 MARCH 2021

## Southwold's been yarnbombed!



*All you need is love - for Valentine's Day*

The latest trend in street art! Yarn-bombers cover an object or structure in a public place with decorative knitted or crocheted material. Statues, postboxes, seats and other public objects are all fair game, and it's all done in secret and without official permission – although the recipients don't seem to

mind at all, and it cheers up passers-by in these gloomy times.

So far, crochet-crazy Janna Fleming from Wangford has decorated two of Southwold's post boxes. Keep your eyes peeled for the next installation.



*It might be stormy now, but the rain doesn't last for ever*

## Mission accomplished



Well done to this Spar delivery driver, clearly unused to the perils of Wangford in the snow, who managed to extricate himself from Old Priory Gardens, and eventually, after executing a several-point turn, reversed alongside the Village Store - giving onlookers some heart-stopping moments along the way!



# 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



Norfolk and Waveney 's COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to make good progress as it was revealed that more than a third of people in the area have received their first dose of vaccine.

Data from NHS England shows that 34.9% of people aged over 16 have received a first dose of vaccine, ranking Norfolk and Waveney third out of 42 health systems in England. The national average is 28%.

The figures show 297,668 patients received at least one dose of the vaccine by February 14.

## WangfordHelp

We are still here to help you.

Email: wangfordhelp@gmail.com

Phone: 07941 156508 / 01502 578408

## Libraries

The mobile library service is suspended until further notice.

Southwold Library will be open for Select & Collect and reservations only - visit [suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus](http://suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus).

Opening times:

Monday Closed

Tuesday - Saturday  
10.00am - 1.00pm,  
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Sunday  
11.00am - 4.00pm

## 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](mailto:rj.miller@btinternet.com)

## Census 2021

Census day is Sunday 21st March. This will be the first time that the census is conducted primarily online, with a target of 75% of responses completed online.

You must complete the census by law. If you do not, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000. However, one or two questions are clearly labelled as voluntary.

A letter will be sent to each address in March with a unique online access code and instructions. Any household will be able to receive a paper form on request, and households in some areas will receive a paper form to start with. (*Editor: the mechanism for doing this is proving difficult to unearth!*)

If you need it, you are encouraged to ask for help from family and friends in completing the form, and Wangford-Help and Uggeshall Coronavirus Community Support are also here to offer support.

## Barber

Due to the continuing lockdown, Stewart Sharman will be unable to visit in March. His next visit will be on Wednesday 28th April from 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Community Centre.

If you need Stewart to make a home visit, please ring him on 01502 218838 to arrange for it on the same day. He is fully PPE compliant, and you will need to wear a face covering.

## Wangford 100 Club 2020/21

Winners in the February Draw were

1. Carolyn Robertson
2. Jackie Casement
3. E.A. Jackson

## Uggeshall Coronavirus Community Support

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

## Southwold Rapid COVID-19 testing site

One of Suffolk's 16 new rapid testing sites will open at Stella Peskett Hall, Southwold on 3rd March.

These sites are aimed at people who don't display any COVID-19 symptoms but cannot work from home, and are being encouraged to get tested twice a week.

The test involves taking a swab of the nostrils and throat, and takes around 15 minutes. It is free, and results are sent by email or text within around an hour.

To book a test ring 0333 772 6144 or visit the website at [suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/getting-a-test](http://suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/getting-a-test).

Opening times are:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 7.00 - 11.00 am  
Thursday 3.00 - 7.00 pm Saturday/Sunday Closed

## Food Bank

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 by telephoning 01502 725731.



## Wangford Post Office

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# MARCH'S TEAM LETTER

*'The question is not 'Where was God at Auschwitz?'  
but 'Where was humanity at Auschwitz?'*

People search for God not only in places one might expect like Glastonbury Abbey or Lindisfarne, but also in the strangest of places. I am always intrigued when the tabloid press reports on an individual who claims to have found the face of Christ when they happen to cut open a potato or see him in a reflection in a puddle, in a cloud formation or some other random event. I am afraid that my empirical brain demands greater proof than this and so I find myself with the sceptics challenging such a slim piece of evidence.

It was the theologian Maurice Wiles who questioned such forms of evidence, asking why would God appear in such an arbitrary place like a cut-open vegetable but not intervene in events like the Holocaust, other genocides or even a global pandemic?

It was this question that led me to think through the answer to Wiles' question. My answer was inspired by joining in our recent Holocaust Memorial Day which was well attended this year on Zoom. One of the speakers, Doctor Joanna Rustin, spoke to us about Rabbi Hugo Gryn, who was in Auschwitz as a child and towards the end of the war was moved with his father via a death march to a labour camp, called ironically 'Lieberose' or 'Lovely Rose'. Rabbi Gryn recalled Yom Kippur in 1944 where he found a quiet place and tried to remember as many of the prayers for the day as he could. He found himself crying uncontrollably, in a way he never has since and felt that God was crying with him and that he was not abandoned by God. Rabbi Gryn believed this experience enabled him to survive as a person and still value the importance of kindness, friendship, and family life. When people asked him where was God in Auschwitz, his answer was that God was there violated and blasphemed, and the question, he argued, that was the greater, was where was humanity at Auschwitz?

As we journey through Lent, towards Good Friday and Easter and begin to see the dawn of hope with more and more people being vaccinated I believe that we should hold on to Rabbi Gryn's words, that God will never abandon us, and instead of looking for the image of Christ in a potato, perhaps we should look for God in the face of a man on a cross.

*Reverend Alan*

## News from Wangford Vets

Antifreeze poisoning  
We have sadly seen several cases of antifreeze (ethylene glycol) cat poisonings recently. Cats in particular are likely to ingest any spilt antifreeze, and this can be fatal. Symptoms in cats include vomiting, a sleepy or depressed demeanor, a drunk-like and un-coordinated state, as well as seizures and difficulty breathing. Signs can begin to show 30 minutes post-ingestion.  
We advise that you contact us immediately if you suspect poisoning and bring your pet straight down. 01502 578999

## News from Uggeshall

# LATITUDE

AT HENHAM PARK 22nd - 25th JULY 2021

The organisers of LATITUDE have announced recently that at present they are confident that the festival will be going ahead this year. The final decision is likely to be made a lot later in the year but in view of this announcement, if you want to go to Latitude this year please register your interest by phone or email for Uggeshall concessionary tickets between 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Contact: - Pearl Felgate on 01502 578531 email: [pearlfelgate@googlemail.com](mailto:pearlfelgate@googlemail.com)

The main conditions are:

1. All applicants must be **permanently resident in Uggeshall** and be registered on the Parish Council's Electoral Roll. A routine check is made.
2. Householders may apply for tickets to [pearlfelgate@googlemail.com](mailto:pearlfelgate@googlemail.com) stating the **names of those who would like a ticket, their address & contact details, what day they would like a ticket for and how they will be paying for the ticket (cash, bank transfer etc)**. Tickets will be strictly for the use of the registered members of that household (children 12 years and under are admitted with a child ticket please contact Pearl Felgate for further details).
3. The price of the concessionary tickets is determined by the Latitude Festival organisers, Festival Republic Ltd. They allow no price variance. At present no price has been set. Once it is known, individuals will be informed directly.
4. Close of registration is midnight on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Cancellation of ticket requests may only be made before this time. Thereafter, the sale stands in law and must be concluded with the purchase of tickets requested.

## George Samuel Shephard RIP

The funeral service for George, who died peacefully on January 11th aged 86 took place at Waveney Memorial Park and Crematorium on 28th January, attended by family, friends and neighbours.

George was born in Potters Bar in 1934. His maternal grandparents lived in Wangford, and, following his grandfather's death, the family moved here to the house in Church Street where Fay still lives. George attended Reydon school whilst sisters Fay and Jane joined Henham.

During his National Service George served in the Black Watch, and spent time in Germany and British Guiana. Whilst in the army, he became interested in boxing, winning several cups and later representing Suffolk in that sport.

On leaving the army he worked for the famous Garrett engineering firm in Leiston, and then, wanting a change, he trained as a tree surgeon, becoming very successful even though he was scared of heights.

George had many hobbies, including shooting, for which he won many trophies. He was a competent fly fisherman, and travelled all over the UK pursuing the salmon. In later years he took up scuba diving, and swam here and in Malta and the Red Sea. He also taught himself to ride horses, bought a horse box and earned some extra money transporting horses round the area. In his early twenties he even taught himself to play the guitar, and played and sang in local pubs with a group.

George refused to be bored, and grabbed life with both hands. He was a true countryman, and was never happier than when he was out in the Suffolk countryside. He loved all animals, in particular dogs and Siamese cats. In fact, George just loved life

He would not be cowed by illness or injury, and determinedly got himself back to fitness, and also back on his bike, after every setback, until, in late 2020, he fell off and broke his hip. It was particularly sad that, whilst undergoing rehabilitation in a care home, he contracted coronavirus.

Fay and Jane wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have sent cards, letters and messages and the compliments they have paid to George. Many thanks also for the donations already made in his memory to Hillside Animal Sanctuary, Hall Lane, Frettenham, Norwich NR12 7LT.

## David Baker

Former resident of Wangford,  
passed away on January 26<sup>th</sup> at  
Norwood House care home, Middleton,  
aged 85 years.

Yvonne and family would like to thank all those who kindly sent messages of condolence.

## Jean Rattenbury

We were all so shocked and saddened to learn that Jean has passed away. She will be greatly missed.

Neil, Eimear and Ethan are very grateful for all your kindness and support over the last few weeks.

Neil wishes to especially thank Cathy Ryan and her Sole Bay Care Team who looked after Jean so well and also Gill and the team at the Shop who have been absolutely amazing.



*February at Reydon Marshes. Photo: Rod Tassinari*

## News from Wangford Church

It is very good news that the Covid vaccine rollout is going so well, and we thank the NHS staff and all the volunteers for their hard work in making this such a success.

These notes are being written before the February Government review but looking positively and with the continuing improvements in the situation in our thoughts and prayers, we are tentatively looking at opening the church for communal worship on Sunday March 28th (Palm Sunday) at the usual time of 11.15 am. This would also mean we can all be together for Easter worship in church at the beginning of April, with the necessary social distancing and other measures in place. (*For service details see page 12*).

We are also looking at opening the church for private prayer during March. It will be nice to see the church doors open again for people who wish to have a quiet moment to pray.

Zoom services will continue at present with Holy Communion at 9.30am on Sundays. Once our church opens, this will move to YouTube, live-streamed from Reydon. If you have not yet attended any of the online services and wish to have further details please let Jackie or myself know.

*Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)*

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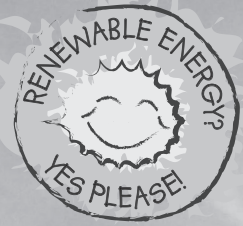
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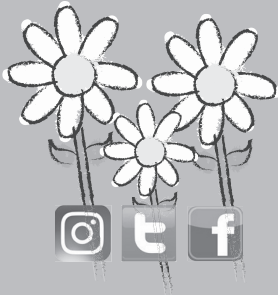
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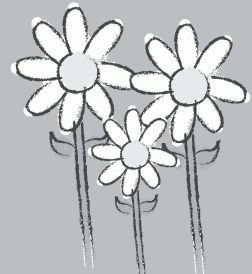
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# ABRAHAM

The television dramatist Russell T. Davies has come out with some guff suggesting that only gay actors should play gay parts, believing that it gives greater authenticity to the roles. Let's have some fun by looking a wee bit closer at that pious idea. First of all, how to know, unless they have been 'outed'? A whole new aspect to the legendary 'casting couch'? This leads to gays not being permitted to play straights - that's authenticity for you. You can just see the majority of Equity jumping up and down at that. It also conjures up farcical notions such as disabled people only being played by the disadvantaged; Scots, Irish, English Welsh and every other nation only employing actors born therein. How many hunchbacked Frenchmen will be queuing at the doors of Notre Dame and how many peglegs applying to portray Long John Silver? The point about theatre and acting is to give people the opportunity to be what they are not, be it homicidal maniacs, halfwits, lovers, comedians, whatever; to escape for that odd few hours into a world of fantasy, at the same time giving the audience a similar freedom. Mind you, it can create a disaster or two along the way. I am thinking particularly of Mel Gibson's mangled accent in *Braveheart*, Dick Van Dyke's laughable version of a cockney in *Mary Poppins*, and an Oscar being awarded to a vastly over-rated Jock playing an Irish cop in *Chicago* with a Scottish accent. When it comes to it, it's just entertainment and as Christopher Lee once pointed out, the purpose of an actor is to act.

While I'm at it I watched a programme about the composing and production of the hit musical *Hamilton*, dealing with one of America's founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton. I have no comment to make upon the merits of the show and I am not likely to see it. It intrigued me, however, that the three main characters, including two presidents, all white in real life, were played by black actors. This does not bother me in the slightest, echoing Christopher Lee's words. I am willing to bet, though, if it were the other way round and a white actor was chosen to portray say, Nelson Mandela or Muhammad Ali, the woke brigade would utter howls of protest.

It has long been accepted by fair minded folk that politics and sport should be kept apart. Personally I believe that that particular horse bolted long ago, but let us assume for the argument that it is yet a well-held maxim. No doubt that is why the ruling bodies of golf have no problem with promoting the Royal and Ancient game in the likes of China and Saudi Arabia where, by all accounts, their human rights records leave much to be desired. Why then have the American PGA and our own R & A decided that Trump courses should not be used for championships organised by them? They obviously disapprove of Trump; fair enough, he may well be a complete fruitcake, but what does this have to do with playing golf on his courses? The authorities can't have it both ways. This is double standards and hypocrisy on a monumental scale.

As the twilight of my life is upon me I seem to be giving the land of the barbarians more thought than I have for a long time. This has been exacerbated by Billy Connolly recently extolling its virtues in grand style in Scotland's biggest selling Sunday newspaper, the dreaded *Sunday Post*\*. "I love Scotland with a fierce passion. I love talking about Scotland, and, most of all, I love being there. I have lived in America for many years now but I have never stopped feeling Scottish". Pamela

remarked: "Billy is constantly drawn back to Scotland. It's as though he'd fade into depression without a regular fix". ...."being Scottish is a lovely thing. Scotland is a unique and wondrous place". I agree with all of that but good manners prevail upon me not to bang on too much about it, although there are moments when it slips out a wee bit strongly. I am proud of being Scottish, especially coming from the 'wee kingdom', and I do love to return every year particularly since I discovered another super place to enjoy off the top of the land. When I hear another Scottish accent from visitors or residents I cannot help engaging in conversation with the stranger. Being proud of where you come from is a weird feeling. Would it make a difference to me were my formative years spent in Glasgow or Birmingham, rather than the attractive rural village that was my home for the first twenty two years? What would I have become if I had not escaped? I do know that I am glad I have been in another country for the greater part of my life and I can view the early fold from afar. Ralph Fiennes was born in Ipswich and spent part of his childhood there, and Wangford. He was given advice from fellow actor Gabriel Byrne - "Whenever there's a big question for you in later life it's very good to go home and walk the paths of your childhood". That is reasonable but not why I do it, which is: 'if you don't go, you can't come back.'

I have recently re-read 'Reflections Of A Southwold GP' by Dr Christopher Hopkins, an utterly charming look back at a long well-led life, the highlight of which for me was his reminiscences of the enjoyment and vicissitudes of working as a rural General Practitioner in this blessed plot where we reside. It resonated with my own memories of childhood in 'Mucky in the fifties when the whole community was served by one doctor and a district nurse. There have been so many changes since and as the Doctor points out finally, not always for the better. The book ends with a fine tribute to his children, but especially to his wife Mary without whom, he makes clear, he could not have achieved his ambitions.

\*Now that the barbarians are clamouring again for an independence referendum I remind you what Tom Nairn, political theorist and academic opined - 'Scotland will be reborn the day the last minister is strangled with the last copy of the *Sunday Post*'.

*Abraham*



*Spring's definitely on the way!*

# DIRECTORY

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 OR PUBLISHERS.

*"Keeping the  
 Community informed"*

NOW ON THE WEB AT:  
<http://wangfordwithhenham.onesuffolk.net>

## CHURCH SERVICES

For the time being, in order to keep our church family safe, we will provide limited mid-week worship, and online/home worship on Sundays.

### Sundays via Zoom

8.00am and 9.30am Eucharist (CW) via Zoom  
 9.30am Family Service via Zoom

### Mid Week

Tuesday - 6.30pm Eucharist via Zoom  
 Wednesday - 10.00am Eucharist at Walberswick  
 Thursday - 10.00am Eucharist at Southwold  
 8.00pm Compline via Zoom

For access information for the Zoom services go to  
[www.solebayteamministry.co.uk](http://www.solebayteamministry.co.uk)

**Dependent on Government easing of the lockdown, we hope to be back in church on Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March.**

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

11.15 am Wangford  
 6.00 pm Uggheshall

### Palm Sunday

Holy Communion (CW)  
 Evening Prayer (BCP)

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April

9.30 am Sotherton  
 11.15 am Wangford  
 6.00 pm Uggheshall

### Easter Sunday

Holy Communion (CW)  
 Holy Communion (CW)  
 Evening Prayer (BCP)

### Services in Holy Week

29th March Monday 7.00 pm Walberswick  
 Compline 1-3 Stations of the Cross

30th March Tuesday 6.30 pm Reydon  
 Holy Communion 4-6 Stations of the Cross

31st March Wednesday 7.00 pm Blythburgh  
 Compline plus meditation on Stations of the Cross 7-9

Maundy Thursday 7.00 pm Reydon  
 Holy Communion live streamed via YouTube

Good Friday 10.00 am Southwold Ecumenical Service  
 Good Friday 2.00 pm Reydon  
 Last Hour at the Cross 10-14 Stations of the Cross Live  
 streamed via YouTube

## Walks in Suffolk

Visit John Harris's [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk), part of the Walking in England suite of websites with one for each county.

With hundreds of walks to download and print for free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.