

*"Keeping
the Community
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 19 NO. 6 MARCH 2024

THREAT TO WANGFORD POST OFFICE

We have learned that Post Office Ltd is planning to replace the outreach services currently provided at Wangford Community Centre and village halls in Snape, Yoxford and Walberswick with a mobile van. The service at Kelsale is scheduled for complete closure.

The outreach services have been provided for the past 11 years by Saxmundham Post Office, whose postmaster is scheduled to retire this month. The incoming postmaster is happy to continue to provide the outreach service, but we are told that the Post Office will not allow this.

There has to date been no communication from the Post office with either the Parish or Community Councils. When asked for clarification, Wendy Hamilton, the Post Office's Network Provision Lead (Norfolk, Suffolk and North Essex) confirmed the plans, and admitted that the number of sessions was likely to be reduced (at Wangford we currently have 2 hours twice a week). Questions about notice and a consultation period produced an equivocal answer. There would also be a human cost, with the redundancy of the current staff member.

Wangford Post Office is well-supported. When surveyed over just two sessions in February it was used not only by customers from Wangford, but also from Uggeshall, Sotterley, Henham, Clay Common and Reydon.

It's clear that the proposed replacement van will result in a reduction in the quality of the service provided, as there is only space for one customer at a time, and disabled access is only possible via a ramp which apparently has to be deployed by the operative.

Wangford with Henham Parish Council and Wangford Community Council, the PCCs of Wangford and Uggeshall and local organisations have resolved to oppose the proposed change. If you as an individual wish to protest please see the information leaflet with this copy of the Messenger - and act quickly!

GRAND HENHAM STEAM RALLY

Following 2023's successful event, the Grand Henham Steam Rally has been able to donate £44,000 to six local charities.

The rally is organised by volunteers from Blyth Valley Rotary, Wangford Community Council, the PCCs of Sotherton, Uggeshall and Wangford as well as many other individual volunteers. To reflect their hard work on the rally throughout the year, these three organisations received a total of £33,000.

And every year several additional local charities are supported. In 2023 these were the Pear Tree Fund, Sole Bay Care Fund and Beccles Army Cadets, who received donations totalling more than £11,000.

At an event on 19th January, Rally Chair Helen Walker presented cheques to the beneficiaries, and took the opportunity to say thank you to all the amazing volunteers who make the rally possible.

Diary date: The 48th Rally is on 21 and 22 September, 2024 at Henham Park.

*Ruby Tuesday
and Peggy Sue
Rush enjoying
all the fuss at
the Wangford
Animal Blessing
Service on 11th
February.*





Wangford
Post Office

Tuesdays
from 10.00am - 12 noon

Thursdays
from 1.00 - 3.00pm
Community Centre

Food Bank

Please leave items for the Food Bank in the basket at the front in Wangford Church for collection on Friday morning.

Most needed food items are UHT milk, tinned fish or meat, tinned fruit, tomatoes or veg, baked beans, biscuits, rice pudding, and pasta.

Anything else is always welcome e.g. tea, coffee, chocolate, custard, toiletries, female sanitary items, baby food and nappies.

Lowestoft Foodbank can be contacted on 07307 866146

Email: info@lowestoft.foodbank.org.uk

Southwold Library

**Suffolk Libraries Day
Saturday 23rd March**

Treasure Hunt

10.00am - 1.00pm
2.00 - 5.00pm

Cake Stall

10.00am - 1.00pm
2.00 - 5.00pm

Quiz Night

7.00pm

Cardinal Newman Hall

For full details go to
[https://](https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/southwold-library)

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/southwold-library

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Wangford 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

Wangford Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 2nd March 8.45am The Angel Inn

Uggeshall Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 5th March 7.30pm Old School Hall

Book Club

Thursday 7th March 8.00pm Community Centre

The Arts Society

Tuesday 12th March 2.00pm Southwold Arts Centre

Wangford with Henham Parish Council

Tuesday 12th March 7.30pm Community Centre

Mobile Library at Wangford

Wednesday 13th March

1010 - 1030 Community Centre 1035 - 1045 Church

Uggeshall Coffee Morning

Thursday 14th March 10.30am Old School Hall

Uggeshall Cinema

Thursday 14th March 7.00pm Old School Hall

Wangford Men's Breakfast

Saturday 16th March 8.45am The Angel Inn

Wangford Church Coffee Morning

Wednesday 21st March 10.30am - noon

Afternoon Tea

Thursday 28th March 2.30pm Community Centre

Wangford Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 30th March 8.45am The Angel Inn

Wrentham Village Hall Film Night

Saturday 23rd March

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE:

Dead Reckoning Part 1

N.B. Doors open earlier at 5.45pm,
with the film screening at 6.30pm.

Only £5 on the door including refreshments. Easy parking.

All are welcome. (Cert 12A)

Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday
8.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday 8.00am - 4.00pm

Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday 9.00am
- 5.00pm
Sunday CLOSED

Wangford Fundraisers' Charity Quiz

Raising funds for The Brain Tumour Charity and The Sandra Chapman Centre at James Paget Hospital on Thursday 18th April at Wangford Community Centre, 7.00 for 7.15 pm start. Entrance fee 10.00 per person (maximum team size of 4). We are also bringing back 'buy an answer' so bring your cash!!!! Two course supper of Jacket potatoes - choose from Baked Beans, Cheese or Tuna (please confirm your team's choices before the event) - and a dessert. Bring your own drinks and glasses. If you would like to donate a raffle prize we will be very grateful.

To enter or for further information, contact racheldade@hotmail.co.uk or call 01502 578311

Looking forward to seeing you for a fun night of laughter

Wangford 100 Club 2023/24

Winners in the February

Draw were

1. Rachel Dade
2. Josephine Adams
3. D. Foulger



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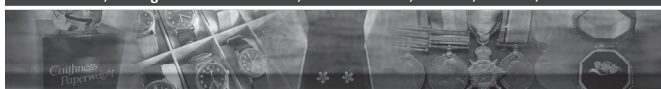
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MARCH'S TEAM LETTER

'I am convinced that neither death nor life nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord'. Romans 8:38-39

These are some of the most powerful words that St Paul ever put 'pen to parchment' and are a great help to me as I reflect on the changes and chances of this life.

My mother passed away in August last year, and working out with my sister the best care for my 92 year old father, the selling of my parents' house, and getting my Dad settled in a care home has been a major 'crunch' moment as psychologists call it, in my life.

Losing a parent is hard at any age and I know a number of my clergy colleagues and friends are coping with similar challenges of caring for elderly relatives.

Since my father has been in the care home his health has dramatically improved and being just twenty minutes drive away has been a real blessing. At the age of 92 he has taken up piano lessons, which has astounded me as my father has never played the piano in his life. The care he is receiving in the care home is simply wonderful.

During this month we will continue our journey through Lent, and then walk together through the events of the last week of Jesus' life culminating in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and on the last day of the month, Easter Day itself.

It is the events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection that caused the conversion of St Paul and then his extraordinary commitment to preach the gospel throughout the known world for the rest of his life. St Paul met the risen Christ on the Damascus road and as a result his life was changed for ever.

As we walk the way of the cross this Easter and celebrate Christ's rising from the dead I invite you to come along to any services across the Sole Bay Team so that you too, like St Paul can be convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

A holy Lent and Happy Easter to you all.

Rev. Alan

News from Wangford Church

I am writing these notes still covered in dog hair after the amazing 'Blessing of the Animals' in church on February 11th. We had almost 50 dogs (and a rabbit) who were all very well behaved throughout the service, so thank you to all who attended (and their owners). Many thanks also to Walter and the staff at the vets too for helping to publicise the event; we raised £267.13 from the collection in church alone, with further donations made directly to the vets. The total amount will be donated to our local branch of the Street Vet charity, and it will be a great help to them as they continue to care for the pets of those who sadly find themselves homeless at this time.

As you read this, we will be observing Lent and the church will be building towards Holy Week and Easter. Easter Sunday will be on 31st March this year and it would be nice to see as many people as possible in church to celebrate with us. There will be other services during Holy Week across the Team, and the noticeboard outside the church will have details of these.

Churchyard Gardening

We are looking for anybody with either green fingers, or who is just willing to lend a hand with some issues in the churchyard. In addition to general tidying up, we have a problem with 'Trees of Heaven' which we need to cut back and then manage going forward. Trees of Heaven may not be the most apt name for this plant as they are proving to be quite problematic, so if anybody thinks that they may be able to help for a couple of hours one day, please do contact either Jeff (jeffreybridges55@gmail.com) or myself (markn.church@gmail.com).

Light up Wangford

This is one of the subjects we receive the most comments about. We often hear how nice it looks when the church is floodlit in the evenings or when the star is shining from the tower during the Christmas period. Sadly, rising energy costs mean that lighting up the church is proving to be more and more expensive these days and we have already had to start reducing the hours when the church is lit.

As an example, the church costs £66 per day in general running costs with £7 per day needed for floodlighting alone.

We know that finances are tight for everyone these days and our church is certainly not immune from this. If anybody would like to donate whatever they can afford to help with the lighting of the church, this would be very gratefully received; please contact Jeff Bridges, Sheila Scholes (sheila_scholes@hotmail.com) or myself if you would like to find out ways to donate.

There is also a card reader in the church and all donations will help to keep the church floodlit and such a welcoming sight as you enter the village.

Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)

Book Club

At our February meeting we discussed 'A Secret Garden Affair' by Erica James. We all agreed it was a very easy book to read, but the majority of comments were not positive. We did not particularly like the anachronistic framework and the constant dashing back to the past by one or other character. Some of the garden descriptions were very good, but we felt the characters lacked depth. We did discuss this as a contrast to the book we read last month - Sally Rooney's 'Beautiful World, Where are You' - and the two very different styles of writing, content and plot, but ultimately about human relationships. Some of the narrative was set around the royal wedding in 1981 but we were uncertain as to whether it was deliberate to locate the story within unfolding tensions and events in the Royal family at that time and by implication the troubled relationships of the characters, or whether it was a realism technique - to set the narrative against a factual event and time to give it credence. This book contained multiple events - there was assault, miscarriage, a child given away, a fiancé caught with a best friend, secrets, lies, and sisters at war. Resolution came at the end with sisters making up after 40 years, birth mother and daughter sorting things out, great niece then called her great aunt 'Grandma' and great niece began new career as a gardener plus receiving the attention of the new local dashing doctor. We did feel the book was something of an "Aga saga" with an all's well that ends well sentiment. We next meet on Thursday 7th March at 8 pm in the Community Centre to discuss 'Agent Sonya' by Ben MacIntyre.

Gill Smith 578620

Wangford Community Speed Watch

Several residents have approached the Parish Council about setting up a Community Speed Watch in Wangford. Speeding through the village is felt to be on the increase, and with more traffic coming through at times due to flooding at Potters Bridge, frustrated drivers are being inconsiderate to residents and other road users.

Before facilitating setting up a scheme the Parish Council needs to know that there will be enough volunteers to sustain it. There must be a minimum of six volunteers who must be over the age of 18. A CSW co-ordinator will need to be appointed to be responsible for the equipment and administration.

The Parish Council must support the scheme. The locations chosen for monitoring must be assessed for suitability and volunteer safety by a trained member of Suffolk Constabulary. Volunteer training and insurance will be borne by the Constabulary.

If you feel that you are willing and able to volunteer and want more information please contact Geoff Pepper via wangfordwithhenham.pc@gmail.com

News from Sotherton

St Andrew's

There's no service on the 3rd Sunday (March 17th), but do join us for our Communion service at 9.30 am on Easter Sunday morning (31st).

News from Uggeshall

Uggeshall Coffee Morning

March's Coffee Morning is on Thursday 14th from 10.30am in the Old School Hall. Everybody's welcome.

Uggeshall Cinema

The film for 14th March is The Hundred-Foot Journey, a 2014 comedy-drama starring Helen Mirren and Om Puri. Doors open at 7.00 for 7.15pm.

Matt Grady

Uggeshall Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 5th March, 7.30pm at the Old School Hall.

LATITUDE

AT HENHAM PARK
25th - 28th July 2024

Would you like to go to Latitude in 2024?

**Register your interest for concessionary tickets
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APPLICATIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. IF THE TICKET ALLOCATION IS OVER SUBSCRIBED THEN PERSONS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE MAY TAKE PRECEDENCE.

CONDITIONS APPLY

1. All applicants must be **permanently resident** in Wangford or Henham and be registered on the Parish Council's electoral roll. A routine check will be made.
2. Households may apply for a maximum of four paid tickets per property, strictly for the use of registered members of that household (children 12 years and under are admitted with a child ticket).
3. The price of concessionary tickets is determined by the Latitude Festival organisers, Festival Republic Ltd.
4. Close of registration is Midnight, 21st March 2024. 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.
5. There will be no right of appeal and the Parish Council will not subsequently enter into any correspondence relating directly to this ticket allocation.
6. Successful applicants will be notified after the closing date, together with the total cost, payment arrangements and ticket collection information. This information will also be published on public notice boards in Wangford village.
7. Festival Republic Ltd will print onto the tickets the names as given at the time of Registration, and such tickets will not be transferrable.
8. Tickets, proof of identity and residence will be thoroughly checked at the gate by Festival Republic Ltd. representatives, who reserve the right to refuse entry to Latitude Festival.
9. The Issue of concessionary tickets is also subject to any further regulations and conditions subsequently applied by the Latitude Festival organisers, Festival Republic Ltd., or the Henham Estate.
10. The Parish Councils decision with allocation of tickets will be final.

Wangford Mens' Breakfast

On a bright sunny 17th February morning a record number of 18 attended the monthly Breakfast Club at the Angel Inn. Rev. Barrie Slatter gave an interesting history of the founding of Australia. Having dispatched many prisoners to the Americas, they eventually protested, and our authorities thought of the barren land in Australia. Barrie explained the hardships of a long voyage and establishing habitation and penal colonies in uncultivated lands.

Clean plates all round. Next month (16th at 8.45) John Bennett will talk about the eccentric Southwold Electric Picture Palace. Interested- contact johnscholes@hotmail.com.

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ABRAHAM

Isn't it wonderful how a well produced television programme can do an immense amount of good? After 21 years of denial, lies, obfuscation and worse, the Government is finally taking action against the Post Office for perpetrating a monumental scandal. Hopefully, the outcome will involve a massive apology and suitable financial compensation. Sadly, no words or money can adequately atone for the stress caused, the early deaths, the suicides, imprisonments, the bankruptcies and misery. We can only hope that this disgusting atrocity will never recur. Oh, and you can bet your bottom dollar that no-one responsible will be prosecuted or punished.

I organised a Burns Supper on the 25th January, and a number of dear people congratulated me on its success. Thank you for that. I have decided to cease trying to get folk to sing the proper ending words of 'Auld Lang Syne' i.e. omit the words 'for the sake of'. I don't know when they crept in, but I can assure you that Robert did not write them. However, I shall not give up banging the drum about the difference between 'menage' (domestic establishment) and 'manege' (riding school). I have been told that even horsey people do it wrongly.

If I run into a person from Kent, trying to sound clever, as is my wont, I ask him if he is a 'Man of Kent' or a 'Kentish Man'. I hear you say "does it matter?" To a nerd like me, yes. I was told the answer one day when I posed the question to a lady at the Red House who proudly informed me that she knew because she was the Secretary of 'The Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Man'. Therefore, for your delight, Men of Kent come from North and East of the Medway and Kentish Men hail from South and West of the Medway. Magic, eh?

Harry Becker, (1865 - 1928) was an artist, now pretty well forgotten, known for his recording of the Suffolk countryside, farming life and the lives of those who worked the land. Born in Colchester, he was living in London with his wife (Georgina) and daughter (Janet) when, in 1913, he gave up what would likely have been a lucrative artist's career, and settled in rural Suffolk, thus committing financial suicide. The Beckers initially lived at their familiar holiday destination at Old Hall Farm on the edge of Wenhaston, boarding there for two years living on money that followed them from London. In 1915, they bought a house in the village so committing themselves to a truly rural life among the farm labourers and fields. There was little local income from picture sales and Georgina found work in 1916 at St Felix School taking drawing classes. In 1921, the Beckers moved to the Old Vicarage in Wenhaston, renting it, no doubt reflecting their diminished financial status. Georgina was let go from St Felix in 1923 and three years later they took up residence in a farm cottage some three miles away named Hinton Lodge. Round about this time the Loftus family took an interest in the Beckers, firstly through London born Eileen Reynolds and her husband Lowestoft MP Piers Creagh Loftus, later by Adnams Brewery Managing Director Nicholas Loftus and his wife Prue, both parties mounting exhibitions locally. In 1928 bronchitis and pneumonia killed Harry in Ipswich Hospital on 11th September just short of his 63rd birthday. Now, this is the confusing and mysterious part for which I ask you old Wangfordians for help. At Harry's end, laid to rest in Blythburgh churchyard, sources say that Georgina and Janet moved to the Old Vicarage, Wangford. We know the old Vicarage today as 1, 2 and 3 the Old Vicarage. Before it was divided, it was surely known as The Vicarage and in 1928 it would have had an incumbent. If there was a previous vicarage where was (or is) it? Anyone who can shed light, please contact the sainted editor. Georgina last moved to Little Priory (that bit's easy) and died in 1957. The vast collection of Harry's

drawings and paintings was shared between artist Kenneth Green and the Loftus family.

Ditches, rivers and brooks overflowing, roads and tracks flooded and impassable in places. For sure, we're heading for a summer hosepipe ban.

Our fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers fought two world wars to rid ourselves of nutters like Putin. Almost 80 years on, spot the difference.

Abraham

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd March		3rd Sunday of Lent
11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 10th March		Mothering Sunday
11.15 am	Wangford	Mother's Day Service
6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 17th March		5th Sunday of Lent
11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 24th		Palm Sunday
11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm	Uggeshall	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 31st March		Easter Day
9.30 am	Sotherton	Holy Communion (CW)
11.15 am	Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00pm	Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)

Younger than Springtime

This is the next Caedmon Evening to be held at Wrentham Chapel on Wednesday March 20th at 7.00pm. Join us for another seasonal celebration in music, word and song. As usual, we invite anyone attending who would like to perform to bring their contribution along on the night, where it will be woven into a varied programme of entertainment in 'bring and share' style. During the interval there will be a light buffet with wine and fruit juice to enjoy with a good chat.

There is no charge for this event, but any contributions to the upkeep of our historic Grade II* listed chapel will be much appreciated. Further details: Sue Hardy on 07771 882738

The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2023/4 series continues on Tuesday 12th March when Nicola Moorby will speak on

'As if by Magic: The Secrets of Turner's Watercolour Techniques'

Lectures commence at 2.00pm in Southwold Arts Centre.

Visitors and Members' guests are welcome.

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DEADLINE: 11th day of Month preceding publication

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MARCH 2024 CENTRE DIARY

4th March	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
5th March	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
6th March	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
7th March	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Book Club	Cttee Room	8.00pm
11th March	Toddlers	Hall	9.30- 11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
12th March	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	7.30pm
13th March	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
14th March	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00- 3.00pm
18th March	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
19th March	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30 - 10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
20th March	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
	GHSR	Bar	7.30-9.30pm
21st March	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
25th March	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Private Hire	Hall	7.00-8.00pm
26th March	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Reydon Bowls	Hall	11.00-1.00pm
27th March	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
28th March	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Afternoon Tea	Hall	2.30-4.30pm
29th March	Private Hire		All day

Wangford Ladies' Breakfast

On February 3rd, Laura Knight joined us to speak about the charity C.A.P - Christians Against Poverty. Most of us were unaware of this national organisation that has helped thousands of people out of debt since 1996. Anyone in need of free debt advice and personal support can book an appointment on 0800 328 0006 or contact them on line capdebthelp.org.

The Angel served us a delicious breakfast, very much enjoyed by us all.

There will be two breakfasts during March, the 2nd and 30th. Elona Rogers will join us on the 2nd sharing her knowledge and advice on how to get a good night's sleep.

Chris Ure will be speaking to us on 30th about The Southwold Arts Centre.

We meet at The Angel Inn Wangford 8.45-9am.

For more information contact Jan . Perrypoppy@aol.com