

"Keeping the Community informed"

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 16 NO. 8 MAY 2021

Polling Information

The Polling Station at Wangford Community Centre will be open from 7.00 am and 10.00 pm on Thursday 6th May.

To keep everyone COVID-19 safe, there will be a one-way system similar to that used for the flu clinic last November. Entrance will be through the main door, and exit through the Bar and down the ramp. Voters are asked to note that from 1.00 - 3.00 pm the Post Office will be operating in the Bar, and care will need to be exercised on exit to maintain social distancing. Post Office users have been asked to give way to voters who are exiting (see below). Cones outside the building will mark where you should queue, and inside floor markings will indicate where you should wait.

As at all polling stations, face coverings must be worn, the hand sanitizer provided must be used on entry and exit, and 2m social distancing must be observed. Polling staff will be responsible for regular cleaning, and at busy times you may need to wait for a booth to be sanitized. You are welcome to bring your own pen or pencil, but cleaned pencils will be available for each voter.

Please follow any instructions given by the door steward or polling staff so that everyone can vote safely.



Wangford Post Office

The Post Office will be able to open on Polling Day, Thursday 6th May. However, to keep everyone COVID-safe we all need to be vigilant, as the entrance to the Post Office is also the exit from the Polling Station. Post Office customers - please check no-one is coming out through the bar before you enter the ramp; give way to them, and make space for them to exit safely.

15th April -The Angel's first customers



Will Evans and Jack Symonds enjoying that refreshing first post-lockdown pint at about 3.15 pm on 15th April.

Not long to wait now until May 17th

Road-map permitting, both the Angel and the Plough will reopen for indoor service from May 17th. Indoors and out, it will be table service only under the rule of six or two households, and social distancing and mask wearing will be in force when moving around inside. Food will be served, but, unlike last time, you can order a drink without having to order a meal, and there is no curfew. You will still have to register for track and trace.

Both pubs hope to return to their pre-lockdown opening and food service hours, but do check their websites/Facebook/notices for up-to-date information.

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



Wangford Post Office

Thursdays
from 1.00 - 3.00pm
at the Community Centre

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 phoning 01502 725731.

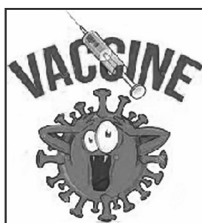
Items in short supply at the moment include tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk, rice pudding and tinned fruit.

Help with delivery

If anyone would like me to deliver their donations to Jan Collins I would happily arrange that when I take my own. I go every Friday morning.

For more details please contact me on 578987.

Valerie Beckett



Almost a quarter of people aged over 16 in Norfolk and Waveney have received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, newly released figures show, and the rollout is now inviting those aged 42 to book their appointments.

WangfordHelp

We are still here to help you.

Email: wangfordhelp@gmail.com

Phone: 07941 156508 / 01502 578408

Uggeshall Coronavirus Community Support

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

Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday CLOSED

Face coverings must be worn.

Orders

We are happy to continue to make up orders, but due to changes of staff roles, the delivery service is no longer available. If you can't collect your order in person, ring WangfordHelp on 578408.

To place an order call 578246 or email rj.miller@btinternet.com

Roof

Work on replacing the shop roof is almost complete. It all looks very smart, and for the first time ever, insulation has been included. Hopefully we'll all notice the difference next winter!

JUST BEEN JABBED? Here's what you need to know



Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Symptoms to watch out for over the next few days are:

- Bouts of extreme smugness.
- Sense of superiority over anyone who hasn't had a vaccine.
- Absurd curiosity over whether your friends have had AstraZeneca or Pfizer.
- A need to tell everybody how short the queue was and how smashing all the volunteers are.
- Compelling desire to take a photo of your vaccination card and post it on social media.
- Misguided feeling of immortality.
- Failure to understand why you still can't go on a foreign holiday.
- Ability to annoy the hell out of 20-year-olds by asking "When are you going to have yours... Oh they've run out, have they?"

Mobile Library

Suffolk Libraries has apologised for the cancellation of the April visit due to illness.

The next visit is on Wednesday 12th May.

10.10am at Millfields,
10.35am at Wangford Church.

Barber

Stewart Sharman's next visit will be on Wednesday 2nd June 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 2021

Winners in the April Draw were:

1. Dylan Forristal
2. Tricia Cox
3. Andy Robertson

Wangford Vets

Early May Bank Holiday

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Duncan Jones,
Halesworth manager

Duncan Jones,
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Stuart &
Mark

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MAY'S TEAM LETTER

Dear Friends,

Without doubt, one of the worst consequences of the various Covid-19 restrictions has been the physical separation from loved ones. For Anne and me, our fifth grandchild was born early in lockdown and we have never held him. That is sad for us, but many people have faced heart-breaking sorrow. We have seen images of distraught relatives outside nursing homes, their hands pressed on the outside window of their loved one's room, the closest they could get to physical contact with them.

For many others, that dreadful separation has become permanent, in this world anyway. Almost unbearable pain has been experienced by those whose loved one has passed away all alone, if it were not for the holding hand of one of our amazing and wonderful nurses. We pray that we will be reunited with them, one day, in God's Kingdom.

Separation from loved ones is truly awful. Why, then, were the closest friends of Jesus, those who had spent every day for three years in his company, so full of joy just ten days after he left them, physically, for the last time?

On Thursday 13th May, the Church celebrates the Ascension of our Lord. We ponder the day when his physical presence was withdrawn for the last time, but in so doing he became present with, and available to, all his disciples in every place and in every age.

Then, on Sunday 23rd May, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, or Whitsun. Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church, because it was on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, unifying and empowering them as one body, to be Christ's body in the world.

This bunch of timid, cowardly, men, hiding behind locked doors, were completely transformed. Now, they knew no fear. They proclaimed and lived the Good News of Jesus Christ, without fear or favour.

I wonder how many of us have envied the first disciples, feeling that we have missed out by not living alongside him, enjoying his company, listening to him, and being able to ask him questions? But what we do have is wonderful too; we have Christ's Spirit living within us. We do not just have an understanding of Jesus in our heads, we have a relationship with him in our hearts.

With every blessing,

Fr. Stephen

News from WangforCd hurch

It was great to finally have the church open again and to see so many people at the Palm Sunday and Easter services. Face coverings and social distancing measures are still in place to keep all of us safe, and thanks to everybody for their understanding with this.

For those that are still not ready yet to worship with us in person, the Sunday services from Reydon at 09.30hrs are being live streamed on youtube. If you search for St. Margarets Reydon on youtube, you should be able to watch live or even watch a recording at a later time.

Following the sad death of the Duke of Edinburgh, a memorial photograph was displayed in the church during the week leading up to the funeral and it was nice to see some comments in the visitors book regarding this.

The church is still open each day for private prayer with surfaces being wiped down each day for your safety.

As I write this, the sun is shining and it is really encouraging to see more people out and about in the village. The Angel opening their garden on selected days is another small nod towards a return to normal and we look forward to being able to ease the current restrictions in church as the summer progresses, so we can all mix more freely and even start singing again.

Finally, the APCM will take place after our service on May 9th.

Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)

News from Sotherton

The next service at St Andrew's will be Holy Communion at 9.30 am on Sunday 16th May when all are welcome to join

News from Wangford Vets



Good news - our Wangford Vets shop is back up and running.

The online shop and the repeat prescription ordering service is also still available via our website:

www.wangfordvetclinic.co.uk

Trish Cox

Our thoughts are with Wangford resident Trish Cox and her family as she fights to recover from very serious injuries sustained in a road traffic accident on the A12 between Yoxford and Kelsale on 21st April.

Jean Bichara RIP

The funeral service for Jean, who passed away on 11th March, took place at Wangford Church on 25th March.

Beryl Jean Gray was born in Hackney in 1932 at the Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital. Her mother Rita was a 17-year-old unmarried domestic servant, and the Salvation Army arranged for Jean to be fostered and then adopted.

She grew up in London and Wales during the war, a shy child who was always interested in painting and dreamed of being an artist. Her mother died when she was 14, and her father when she was 24. After his death, she took herself to art school in Colchester, and then to Goldsmiths College in London to train as an art teacher. After graduation, Jean taught art in some pretty rough secondary schools, and later went on the design carpets.

For a single lady at that time Jean was adventurous and travelled widely around Europe on the back of a motorcycle, and cycled round Yugoslavia with a friend. She met Pierre one rainy night outside a youth hostel in Venice. They married in 1964 in Nigeria, where Pierre had grown up, and settled in London, where sons Simon and Tim were born in 1968 and 1973.

It was in 1973 that Pierre and Jean decided to have a weekend away, asking his secretary to book 'a hotel by the sea' and ending up at The Swan in Southwold. They were so taken with the area that they bought a small, cold cottage in Wangford that same weekend, buying the house next door in 1978. In 1992 they left London for good, and made Wangford their home.

Jean gave up teaching to raise the children, but her passion for art continued right up to her Alzheimer's diagnosis a few years ago, and she worked in a studio in the garden.

Jean was a quiet person, not at home in large gatherings, but she was kind, gentle, and sincere. She was also great company, with a gift for storytelling. In his eulogy at her funeral, Tim remarked that she used words the way she used to paint in her artwork.

St Paul's words from Corinthians - "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" - were read at the funeral, and in his sermon vicar Alan said that Jean personified Paul's words. She always demonstrated humility and gentleness, and lived a life of loving service to her family, and also to those in the wider community, including Wangford church. She was patient, very kind, with not a hint of arrogance or rudeness, and she bore her illness stoically, and kept her faith in God.

Both she and Pierre were members of the church, and served on the PCC, and Jean, who had a lovely singing voice, was a faithful member of the church choir. Three of her fellow choristers, the maximum permitted under the pandemic regulations, came together to pay musical tribute to her, accompanied by two of the organists she had worked with.

Jean, who always said that she wanted to lie down in a country graveyard when she passed away, was buried in the churchyard.

Donations in her memory were invited for the Alzheimer's Society and the Sole Bay Care Fund.



Venice, painted by Jean Bichara

Thanks to villagers

Jean Bichara 1932 - 2021

On behalf of myself and my family, I wish to thank the many friends, neighbours, and fellow worshippers of Wangford Church for their support, help and sympathy during our recent bereavement, the loss of my wife Jean. We are fortunate and grateful to be living in this lovely village since 1973.

Pierre Bichara

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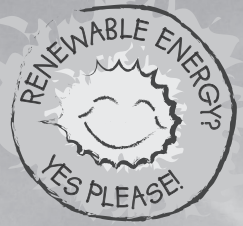
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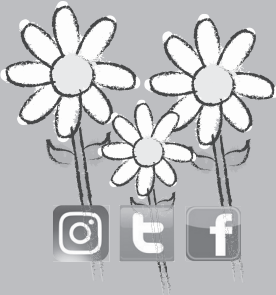
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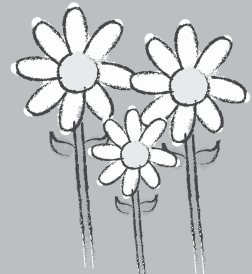
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ABRAHAM

I'll do this quickly. I am loath to dispense additional oxygen of publicity to a pair of narcissistic, hypocritical idiots but I did watch that interview, which, you can be sure, was rehearsed and edited to within an inch of its life. He tells us he was 'trapped' and, before entering the ghastly dysfunctional institution, she informs us that she did no research. How stupid is that? The quicker these numpties duck under the radar the better for all of us.

An old chum from down Epping way told me that his main conversations of late have been about pub re-openings. He misses the company, as so many of us. Mind you, he also commented that a few of his friends confided that as they were acclimatised to buying cheap booze from the supermarkets and supping at home, they may carry on giving the pub the elbow. Another unfortunate by-product of lockdowns. By the way, can anyone out there tell me in words of one syllable, what happened to last year? Where did it go? Thinking about it, now I'm concerned. When I do wander back to the wee Angel will the regulars be back? - 'Sub-titles' John, Richard the Gold, Charles the Fence, 'Rescue Dog' Bill, 'Vroom, vroom' Robin, a sprinkling of Marks, and the talented bloke from Church Close whose name escapes me. And will the girls return - Ginger Spice, Eliza Doolittle, Looby Loo, Lily the Pink etc? Worrying times indeed.

Once more I admit to my dwindling band of loyal readers my ignorance of the customs and beliefs of the land of my birth. It was only recently that I discovered that the barbarians' national animal was not one of our iconic wildlife species but a mythical, magical, one horned beast - the Unicorn. Featuring in many cultures the Unicorn is apparently a symbol of purity, innocence and power and, legend also informs us, the horn can purify poisoned water. They are fiercely independent and difficult to capture or conquer which, again we are told, will sound familiar to anyone who has read their Scottish history, and that Scots have always felt an affinity with what they represent. How come, therefore, this was never mentioned at school, for example, and it took me almost eighty years to discover? animals of Ireland and Wales?

Now teachers may be expected to give boys lessons on how to respect women and girls. Leaving aside the belief that respect must be earned and not automatically assumed, this is yet another aspect of parental responsibility being foisted on an already overworked third party.

Summertime 2005. Idling our time away early evening in the Angel, having viewed and more or less decided to buy our house, we had not yet encountered any familiar faces in Wangford. Not to worry, however, as looking out the door I espied two folks from our bygone Southwold days. Mrs Abe, I and the children would use the caravan down on the site at Easter and summer; as would the 'Southwold Boys' in October and my little old self at birthday time. Memories of Friday and Saturday nights in the Harbour Inn came storming back; the cosy top bar with the dartboard, bar billiards table, warm stove and fishing memorabilia, with the 'piece de resistance', fish and chips delivered in newspaper that have never tasted better; none of your poncey plastic boxes here, matey. Nan (for it is she to whom I refer) behind the ramp dispensing the nectar and Ron beavering away round the back to feed the punters. A

young Nick, he of the flowing locks, might also be spotted flitting hither and thither. So, I wandered out of the Angel and approached Ron in his buggy greeting him with "Hello, Ron, its ***** do you remember me?" and was properly deflated when he answered "No". Nan immediately jumped in with "I do". That clinched the deal. There you have it, for having wee barbarians from Fife and Dufftown in your midst for sixteen years, you now know who to blame. Bless you, Nan. Rest in peace.

Give to me the life I love,
Let the lave go by me,
Give the jolly heaven above
And the byway nigh me.
Bed in the bush with stars to see,
Bread I dip in the river-
There's the life for man like me,
There's the life forever.
(*The Vagabond - Robert Louis Stevenson*)

Abraham

Wangford poem from a newbie

First year here, has now flown by,
Where did it go, the sun in the sky,
Friendly people saying hello to me,
Farm shop trips for the plants and honey,
Now looking at the Easter Bunny,
Village shop always has a smile,
Both pubs easily within a mile,
Lovely parks and meeting other owners of dogs,
Listening to hard working neighbours chopping logs,
Feeling blessed to be part of what you have here,
Nothing around to bring one fear,
Church full of inclusion for everyone,
New chapter in our book has begun,
World opening up slowly again,
Soon having a beer in the welcoming Angel outside,
No more needing to be indoors and hide,
Careful steps to the new way it will be,
Community spirit has been here for all to see,
Village life here is certainly sweet,
Enjoying getting the garden a little bit neat,
Church service where you feel at home,
Grandchildren painting our garden gnome,
Lovely vets with adorable staff,
Watching in the fields the baby calf,
Walks to the woods, the gorgeous blue bells to be found,
Rising early, hearing the charming church sound,
Children playing and a welcoming feel,
Definitely a very long term seal,
Kindness notes came through our door,
Made us smile all the more,
See you soon for a drinkies or cake,
Looking forward to events where I can volunteer to bake.

Nina and Graham

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"Keeping the Community informed"

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd May 5th Sunday of Easter
11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 9th May 6th Sunday of Easter
11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall Evening Prayer (BCP)

Thursday 13th May Ascension Day
7.00 pm Reydon Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 16th May 7th Sunday of Easter
9.30 am Sotherton Holy Communion (CW)
11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 23rd May Pentecost
11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 30th May Trinity Sunday
11.15 am Blythburgh Team Service
6.00 pm Uggeshall Evening Prayer (BCP)

In addition, for those unable to attend in person, all services from St Margaret's, Reydon will be live-streamed via YouTube. Simply Google 'YouTube', and search for 'St Margaret's Reydon Parish Church'.

Update on Wangford Community Garden

We are pleased to tell you that the planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs and wildflowers has gone really well. Given the restrictions on how many people can meet, even outdoors, the volunteers including Parish Councillors have exceeded our expectations. I would like to thank all of those that were able to help and for their fantastic support.

The paths are being cut again so access round the garden and to the benches and picnic table will be much easier for when we get the warmer weather. We are also installing a heavy duty mesh path under the grass leading from the Community Centre tarmac to the disabled access picnic table so that wheelchairs and buggies have better access.

Watering the trees and shrubs is going to be important throughout the spring and summer months so don't be surprised to see someone with a hosepipe.

There are plans to bulk up on the bulbs and wildflower seeds next autumn as we were too late to get a large order last year. Please use the garden for meeting people, quiet contemplation and appreciate the increasing wildlife. But don't forget to take your litter home and keep it tidy.

Geoff Pepper