

*"Keeping  
the Community  
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 17 NO. 1 OCTOBER 2021



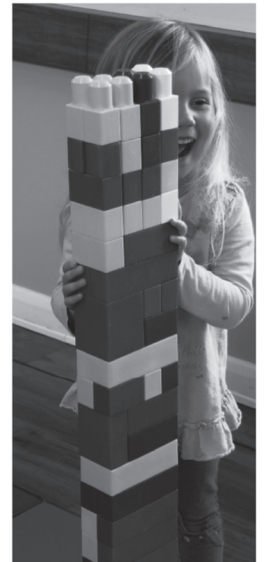
## TODDLERS ARE BACK!

Toddlers have made a welcome return to Wangford Community Centre after what seems like an eternity - and it's lovely to see them and hear their news. During lockdown, some have moved on to big school, and some have acquired new baby brothers or sisters. We're also pleased to welcome those who are joining us for the first time.

We meet every Monday from 9.30 to 11.30 am, and everyone is welcome - mums, dads, grannies, granddads, aunties, uncles - all you need is a little person with you!

It costs £1 per child per session, and there's lots to do and learn from. There's a mid-session snack break for the children, and plenty of tea and coffee available for the adults. We usually end with some music.

If you're thinking of joining us, just come along one Monday to have a look.



## Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday  
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Please continue to observe social distancing and mask wearing.

## Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday  
9.00am - 5.00pm  
Sunday - CLOSED

## Uggeshall Community Support

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

## Wangford 100 Club 2021

Winners in the September Draw were  
1. Tiddy Woolnough  
2. Pete Hart  
3. Jane Shephard

## WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

### Wangford Parent and Toddler Group

Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am Community Centre

### Body Conditioning

Tuesdays from 9.30 - 10.30am Community Centre

### Blythburgh Bowls

Tuesdays at 7.00pm Community Centre from 5th October

### Wangford Community Council

Tuesday 5th October 7.45pm Community Centre

### Wangford Art Group

Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm Community Centre

### Knitting Group

Thursday 7th October 2.30pm N.B. in Wangford Church

### Book Club

Thursday 7th October 8.00pm Community Centre

### Community Garden Working Party

Friday 8th October 10.00am - 12 noon Millfields

### The Arts Society

Tuesday 12th October 2.00pm Southwold Arts Centre

### Wangford with Henham Parish Council

Tuesday 12th October 8.00pm Community Centre

### Uggeshall Coffee Morning

Thursday 14th October 10.30am Old School Hall

### Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Thursday 14th October 7.30pm Southwold Arts Centre

### Wangford Church Coffee Morning

Tuesday 19th October 10.30am N.B. in Wangford Church

### Blyth Valley Labour

Monday 25th October 7.30pm Community Centre

### Mobile Library

Wednesday 27th October  
1010 - 1030am Community Centre  
1035 - 1045am Wangford Church

## Harvest Festivals

Sotherton - Sunday 3rd October at 4.00 pm  
Uggeshall - Sunday 10th October at 6.00pm

## Jean Burns RIP

### Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for Jean, who died on 18th March, 2020 will take place in St Peter and St Paul, Wangford on Saturday 6th November at 12 noon.

## Food Bank

Please continue to donate to the Lowestoft Food Bank. This can be done by leaving dry goods with John and Jan Collins, 19 Lakeside Park Drive, Reydon or phoning 01502 725731.

### Help with delivery

If anyone would like help to deliver their donations to Jan Collins, Valerie Beckett would happily help when she takes her own every Friday morning.

For more details please contact her on 578987.

### Collection point

There is also a basket for your donations at the foot of the font in Wangford Church.

## Mobile Library

The next visit is on Wednesday 27th October 10.10am at Millfields, 10.35am at Wangford Church.

## Tennis Court

The key for the tennis court behind Wangford Community Centre can now be obtained from Wangford Village Store during opening hours (Mon-Sat 8.00am to 6.00pm, Sun 8.00am to 4.00pm).

Hire costs £1 per person per hour. Please remember to lock the court after use and return the key.

## Don't be anti-social!



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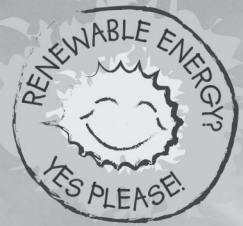
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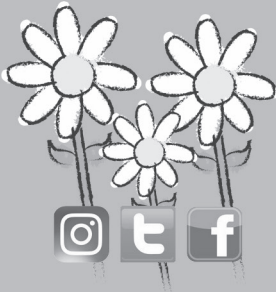
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## Update on Wangford Community Garden

The work parties continue to go well with our willing volunteers doing great work. Some have even come back on other days to finish what they started.

The long grass areas have now been cut, raked and the hay removed. This will help to reduce the vigour of the stronger grasses and allow the wildflowers to flourish.

The next work party will be on Friday 8th October as Helen, a real stalwart, and I will not be available on the second Sunday of the month. It will be at the same time (10am to 12noon), same place, but, sorry, with no refreshments supplied this time.

The aim is to get the centre beds and the Norfolk Road bed weed free so that we can plant bulbs on the November work party. Narcissi, Tulips, Crocuses and hopefully Alliums will be planted in the beds and in the grass. We also intend to sow wildflower seeds to improve the diversity.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work. Thanks also to Barry and Brian for cutting, clearing and removing the hay.

*Geoff Pepper*

## Suffolk Wildlife Trust (Blyth Valley and Southwold)

'River Blyth Project Update'

Speaker: Alice Wickman

Thursday 14th October  
7.30pm  
Southwold Arts Centre

Cost: £3 (including refreshments); children free

## The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2021 series continues on Tuesday 12th October when Sarah Cove will speak on 'How did he paint that? An introduction to technical art history'.

Lectures commence at 2.00pm in Southwold Arts Centre. Visitors and Members' guests are welcome. A small donation will be appreciated.

## Time to light the fire?

I'm a bit ambivalent about autumn. What I dislike about it is the retreating light, and the encroaching, damp, chilliness. But the glowing colours of the turning leaves are sensational, and the lure of hibernation is comforting. Autumn is also the season of bonfires. The crackling flames and the heady smell of woodsmoke are a joy. I love a good outdoor fire. Indoors too. Home and hearth is a huge symbol of warmth, security, home, comfort. Any story with home-loving creatures like hobbits and badgers and beavers in it has a fire where you can toast your toes and your crumpets.

But this cosy notion of the fire is pretty remote to the way that fire often appears in the Bible. In most Bible stories, fire is a fearsome thing which brings death and destruction. It is attached to the idea of the unreachable, dangerous, God. It is untouchable, holy. It creates distance, not intimacy. "God is a consuming fire", says the Book of Hebrews.

Israel's early prophet and leader Moses – while herding sheep – comes across a bush that's on fire, yet not consumed by the flames. If that isn't scary enough, then the bush starts talking to him! Moses doesn't know what to do with himself. He finds himself faced with the God of no explanations, the God of otherness. This God warns Moses to remove his shoes, because he is standing on holy ground. "I am who I am," the Almighty tells him, mysteriously.

I was brought up with holy, 'out there' God, a forbidding, stern, capricious, interventionist God who was not easy to please, and often disappointed by my poor performance. And it's been important for me to explore other images of God which are more welcoming, more accepting. One of the most important things to the development of my faith is to find that God is also woven into the very fabric of the universe.

The marvellous Welsh poet and priest RS Thomas seems to take this on board in his poem *The Bush*. It's a very nuanced piece, with many layers, but – appropriately for this time of year – he talks of the staggering beauty of autumnal colours and the mystery and succour they provide:

*I know that bush,  
Moses; there are many of them  
in Wales in the autumn braziers  
where the imagination  
warms itself. I have put off  
pride and, knowing the ground  
holy, lingered to wonder  
how it is that I do not burn  
and yet am consumed.*

It's the beauty that consumes him. The blazing leaves and the very earth itself say the same thing that the burning bush said to Moses, "I am who I am". It fires Thomas's imagination.

This autumn, as we walk through the fallen leaves and melt marshmallows in the bonfire, it's worth remembering that this is holy ground. But maybe don't take your shoes off.

*Malcolm Doney*

## News from Uggeshall

### Uggeshall Cinema

I have some very sad news that I'm sure will come as a shock to all of you. Nick Wood passed away very suddenly on 15th September from a heart attack.

Nick was the brains behind the Uggeshall film nights and we would like to try to continue in his memory although it was his projection expertise that will be difficult to replace.

I hope you agree it would be fitting to try and carry the film nights on in some way but for the meantime any future screenings are postponed. I'm sure you will all join in sending our love and thoughts to Janet.

*Matt Grady*

### Uggeshall Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 14th October 10.30am to 12.30pm in Uggeshall Old School Hall. Come and join us!

*The Coffee Morning Team*

### Harvest Festival

Do join us at St. Mary's for our Harvest Festival Evensong on Sunday 10th October at 6.00pm. Gifts of dry goods for the Lowestoft Foodbank will be most welcome.

## News from Sotherton

### Harvest Festival

You are warmly invited to our Harvest Festival service at St. Andrew's at 4.00pm on Sunday 3rd October. Gifts of dry goods for the Lowestoft Food Bank will be most welcome.

There is no 3rd Sunday service this month.

## News from Wangford Vets

We have been welcoming our clients and their pets back into the practice since 13th September. We do however ask you to continue to observe the following measures to maintain a safe environment for us all.

- Please park in the numbered bays and text reception on arrival.
- Please continue to wear a face covering at all times while in the practice and observe sensible and considerate social distancing at all times.
- Please use the hand sanitising stations when entering the practice.
- Just one adult to accompany each pet, please.
- Please don't enter the practice more than 5 minutes before your appointment.

If you are self-isolating or experiencing any symptoms please DO NOT visit the practice. If your pet needs medical attention, please call 578999 for advice.

## News from Wangford Church

The summer has seen life in church return to some semblance of 'normality' with some of the stricter Covid restrictions being eased. We pray that this will continue and whilst we still have some measures in place for the safety of all, it has been lovely to see more people in church and to also start having additional services such as the Team service in August and a recent baptism. We also had a lovely big choir for the team service and now have congregational singing each Sunday.

It was great to also host the author, Angela Lawrence, who visited the church in August to read from her book "Rumour" and provide the background to the tragic story of William and Alma Smith who are both buried in the churchyard. William and Alma were much respected members of the village but due to paranoia and rumour, William was accused of being a spy for the German army. The event raised £317 on the day which will go towards the restoration of their gravestone with a promise of further donations to come. Please do read the book if you get an opportunity.

We hope that in future, we will be able to open the church to the community for other events as well as regular worship each Sunday.

A slightly more unusual event recently was the visit by a group from Wangford, Reydon and Southwold churches to a Beer Festival held at Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral. It was a very different experience to my usual visits to a Church, but certainly no less enjoyable. Whilst we cannot promise a similar event here in Wangford, watch this space!



On October 24th, we will have a Service of Morning Prayer (Matins) and this will then take place every other month on the 4th Sunday. Along with the resumption of family services for the alternate month, we hope this will vary the style of worship we offer.

*Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)*



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# ABRAHAM

When did sportsmen stop enjoying competing/ playing games, and allow something called 'stress' to take over their lives? This indulgence brings to mind the words of the great flamboyant Australian cricketer Keith Miller (1919-2004) who, among other things had been a World War 11 fighter pilot. In an interview with Parkinson he remarked, "Pressure? There is no pressure in Test cricket. Real pressure is when you are flying a Mosquito with a Messerschmitt up your arse".

Ruby Murray (1935-1996) was an Irish singer who, in 1955, set a pop chart record by having 5 hits in the top twenty in a single week, a feat unmatched for many years. I mention her now because if a certain foodie writer gets her way the word 'curry' will be consigned to the dustbin. For the reason that, she tells us, the word does not accurately describe the diversities of Indian cuisine. Fair enough, I suppose, but it will also consign Ms. Murray to oblivion as the hoi-polloi will no longer be able to announce after necking the obligatory half dozen or so pints of lager on a Saturday night that he'll finish off by vacating the 'rub-a-dub' and nipping down the 'frog' to the Star of India to buy a blindingly hot 'ruby' to take home to the old 'trouble and strife'. I tell you, it's just no fun anymore.

I knew it. I told you. Countdown has been ruined for me by that ghastly woman. With her whiney, snarky voice, complete lack of humour, inability to ad-lib, obsession with hearing

herself speak, what have we done to deserve this? I have watched the show on and off since 1982 because it is gentle and civilised with no gimmicks, bells and whistles or fake suspense like so many other game shows. But I shall continue to tune in, gritting my teeth, hoping that the powers that be will realise how useless she is.

Life, as we know it Jim, seems to be getting back to normal, or as normal as it ever will be. I have been wandering into Southwold passing the time of day with visitors, talking to the dogs, watching the children on the beach within their own wee bubbles and just strolling about meditating about how fortunate we are to live in God's own little acre. Mind you, I can just hear the doom-mongers muttering - don't get too complacent sonny, life has a habit of creeping up and giving you a hefty one up the backside with its size elevens. But - I have seen the earth turn red in the evening, the dew sparkling in the morning and the snow under a shiny sun; I have smelt grass after a shower of rain; I have shivered when the north east wind has rattled my teeth and wondered at the might of the North Sea raging upon the shores of Suffolk. All that will do for me.

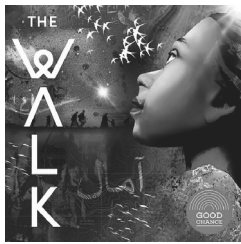
*Abraham*

## Walk with Amal

To raise awareness of the 79.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world, Hope and Aid Direct is supporting an Arts Festival to bring to light the harsh realities of child refugees and migrants. In collaboration with War Horse's Handspring Puppet Company, they are presenting The Walk .

At the heart of The Walk is Little Amal, a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl who has embarked on an epic voyage that is taking her across Turkey, and across Europe. The puppeteers operate Amal whilst walking on stilts, an incredible feat not least due to the heat of many countries Amal will pass through.

From Monday 25th October until Thursday 4 November Rev. Alan will be involved in the transportation of the two Amal puppets and the puppeteers and cast as they make their journey around the UK, visiting a number of cities, starting off in London with a final performance in Manchester.



## Book Club

At our September meeting we discussed 'The Bone Garden' by Kate Ellis. The setting was in Devon and although place names were fictitious we thought some were recognisable by the description. It was an interesting narrative style which saw initial chapters with headings extracted from a 1703 travel journal around English country houses, and latter chapters used an epistolary style reporting on letters from the son to his father who lived at Earlsacre. Archaeologists were digging at Earlsacre and discovered bones of some age. Chapter headings were a clue to what had happened.

Some felt characterisation and relationships were stereotypical and there was an enormous cast of characters to chart. The historical deaths were quite grizzly and a servant girl was buried alive. Some 300+years later things came to a head during a cricket match. We did discuss how cricket represented Englishness and its manners of engagement - who is allowed to play, following rules, gentlemanly conduct, afternoon tea and a veneer of civilised behaviour - but we soon came to see who was murdered and consequently 'out' of the game: the local solicitor who had knowledge of dishonourable intentions towards Earlsacre.

He also had a secret preoccupation with photographing women. One of the questions in the narrative was which of these led to his death. There were several instances of doubling of events linking the historical murders with the cricket club murder. We assumed the moral of this detective story was that human nature is a constant but there is good and bad in all of us. The ending was neatly dealt with but despite this we generally agreed it was a good book with a well thought-out plot. We next meet on Thursday 7th October at 8pm in the Community Centre to discuss Alan Johnson's memoir 'This Boy'.

*Gill Smith 578620*

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Church Wardens  
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 Secretary Sue Hosking 578287  
 Wangford Community Centre  
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 Chair Helen Walker 07557 784927

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 Sole Bay Health Centre 722326  
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DEADLINE: 11th day of Month preceding publication

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*"Keeping the  
 Community informed"*

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## OCTOBER 2021 CENTRE DIARY

4th Oct	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
5th Oct	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Community Council	Bar	7.45pm
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.00pm
7th Oct	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Book Club	Bar	8.00pm
11th Oct	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
12th Oct	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Parish Council	Bar	8.00pm
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.00pm
14th Oct	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
18th Oct	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
19th Oct	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.00pm
21st Oct	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Hall	1.00-3.00pm
25th Oct	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
	Blyth Valley Labour	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
	Alms Houses Trustees	Bar	7.30-8.30pm
26th Oct	Post Office	Hall	10.00-12noon
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.00pm
27th Oct	Artmakers East	Hall	10.00-3.00pm
28th Oct	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm

## CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd October 18th Sunday after Trinity  
 11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)  
 4.00 pm Sotherton Harvest Festival

Sunday 10th October 19th Sunday after Trinity  
 11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)  
 6.00 pm Uggheshall Harvest Festival

Sunday 17th October 20th Sunday after Trinity  
 11.15 am Wangford Holy Communion (CW)  
 6.00 pm Uggheshall Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 24th October Last Sunday after Trinity  
 11.15 am Wangford Morning Prayer (CW)  
 6.00 pm Uggheshall Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 31st October All Saints Day  
 11.15 am Blythburgh Team Communion  
 6.00 pm Uggheshall Evening Prayer (BCP)

For those unable to attend in person, all services from St Margaret's, Reydon are live-streamed via YouTube.