

# *Fynn - Lark News*

**DECEMBER - JANUARY 2023**



## **ALL-AGE CHRISTMASES**

I have fond childhood memories of singing carols, door to door, for different charities each year. We would take it in turns to ring the doorbells or hold out the collection box; sometimes we would volunteer to sing a favourite carol for the house we visited; sometimes we were given sweets or cake or hot drinks! We wrapped up warm, took torches or lanterns – and sometimes we witnessed tears in people's faces.

Was it the words, the tunes, or the memories of past years' and friendships we were re-kindling? Or was it the sheer joy of meeting our neighbours face to face in such a relaxed and informal way, whatever their age, or whatever their occupation? In a remote corner of countryside Essex, I learnt many years later that I had sung before a former Prime Minister – I had no idea at the time!

**Magazine for the Parishes of Great & Little  
Bealings, Playford and Culpho**

We all have quirky memories of family at Christmas too? I think of one of my grandparents who always took charge of cutting the turkey as if it was an intensive surgical operation requiring admiring and attentive staff to watch in awe; and another who made a big thing of cracking as many different nuts in a bowl that couldn't quite cope with all the shells spilling all over the place! And then the vexed question of listening to the Queen's broadcast (now the responsibility for our new King) – before we sat down to eat, or after?

And another strong personal memory, are the wonderful cards and messages we all receive and often keep. I have one on my noticeboard from my former Bishop of Chichester – because of a quote from a 4th century Bishop of Milan, St Ambrose, inside:

“He was wrapped in swaddling clothes  
That you might be freed from the  
bonds of death

He was in a manger

That you might be at the altar

He was on the earth

That you might be in heaven.”

It is a privilege to be a priest among so many different people and ages in both town and country – especially when gathered around the altar of the Lord of all creation. Feel invited this Christmas, at Great Bealings, or wherever your spiritual home resides! It really does matter that we move from sentiment to thoughtful reflection, good religious praxis, and to know deep down: that God desires our closer sacramental company, and not just at Christmas.

So, I wish you every blessing for our closer belonging, and a faith-filled New Year. With the beating heart of God at our side, let the Christ-child enter into your homes and surprise you with...serious joy!

*Fr Nigel (Rector)*



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## ***NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST***

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### **FLN FINANCES**

We are still in the black, but with our Magazine regularly topping the 40-page mark, we have less in hand at the end of this year than last year. The amount of money in hand has been halved, so the Magazine next year will be very dependent, as always, on the continuing support from individuals, Parish Councils, and advertisers – plus, hopefully a little bit more, to make up for increasing costs. For the record, our surplus from this year gives us scope for just 3 issues next year. We work within fine margins. Ideally, we would like to recruit more individual contributors to our finances so we invite anyone who regularly enjoys this magazine and who would like to support us financially to consider setting up a standing order, or, even, making a one-off payment to the following account:

Yorkshire Building Society. Bank Reference: 60-92-04  
Account Number: 81099367  
- plus your own name as reference

***Our grateful thanks who all who currently support us.***

### **FYNN LARK NEWS - DELIVERIES**

Grateful thanks to everyone who has collected, sorted and delivered the magazines this year.

Special thanks to John Forrest who is retiring from delivering the Fynn Lark News in Beacon Lane after many years of volunteering and helping to keep residents in touch with village life.

Thanks also to Gill Peck who has agreed to take over deliveries for Beacon Lane in the New Year.

### **TO 2023 ...AND BEYOND...**

- Readers
- Contributors
- Volunteers
- Advertisers
- Supporters

***ON BEHALF OF THE EDITORIAL TEAM***

***WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY***

***CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR***

The Hearing Care Centre  
691 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4NA  
[hearingcarecentre.co.uk](http://hearingcarecentre.co.uk)

On **Monday 3rd October** we opened our new state-of-the-art audiology clinic offering comprehensive hearing health assessments and ENT nurse-led wax removal services in Ipswich. You will find us at **691 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4NA**, just a few minutes' drive from our previous location at Upper Brook Street. Our brand-new bespoke clinic offers a quiet and calm atmosphere for our patients. Free on-site parking is also available along with a spacious and comfortable seating area for you to relax in whilst you wait for your appointment

### Why Have We Decided to Move?

The Hearing Care Centre has been delivering specialist hearing care in East Anglia for almost 25 years. As one of the longest-standing audiology clinics in the county, we have always worked to offer the best service available.

This is why we've responded to patient feedback from a recent survey we carried out and invested in a bigger, better space in Ipswich, where we can offer bespoke consulting and ENT treatment rooms in order to provide our patients with the the affordable excellence they expect and deserve. Since we're slightly removed from the city centre, we are also able to provide free on-site parking, which we know is important to our patients.

Get a free hearing health assessment by clicking below or by calling 01473 230330.

### Book an Appointment

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## IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to report on two recent deaths:

Dorothy Richardson, who moved some time ago away from her home in Lower Street, Great Bealings. Dorothy was a well-known figure with the Bealings WI. She was still cycling well into her 80s.

We are also sorry to have to report of the passing of Ann Barratt, formerly of Seckford Bungalow. She too had been a prominent local figure, and we profiled her recently in this Magazine before she moved to Grundisburgh. Her funeral was set to take place on November 28<sup>th</sup> in Great Bealings Church.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families of these two ladies.

## QUIZ FUNDRAISER LEADS TO MARATHON SUCCESS

This year, I was lucky enough to win a place at the London Marathon and I personally committed to raise money for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a charity I have worked closely with for nearly 20 years.



I am very pleased to say that I completed the Marathon in 5:55, albeit with a knee injury I unfortunately acquired halfway round.

What an experience it was! To have thousands of strangers shouting and cheering you on from start

to finish is something I will never forget. There were so many sights and sounds to soak up along the way and to run round some of London's most iconic landmarks was very special. It took around a week for my legs to fully recover but it was worth it.

To help raise money for my marathon I held a Quiz Night at Grundisburgh Village

Hall back in September. I was so pleased to see so many local residents and businesses support my event either through ticket sales or prize donations. Everyone had a fantastic time, and, on the night, we raised somewhere around £800. This, added to my existing fundraising pot, ended up taking my total to £3,274. My original target was £2,000 so I am incredibly proud of and a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a UK charity that trains dogs to alert deaf people to sounds they can't hear, as well as helping them leave loneliness behind.

Would I do it again? I'm already in the ballot for next year ☐

*Matthew Coward  
Little Bealings*

## NATURE NOTES – with a bit of HISTORY

**- With thanks to contributors from all four churches**

The coming together for COP27 in Egypt has revived and again highlighted concerns for the environment and for the future of the planet. Readers may have become aware that local churches are taking a much more active role in raising awareness of the need for action to deal with the problems. They have explicitly become part of the campaign to "save the

planet”, seeing it as a safeguarding of what, for them, is a divine creation. This has not always been the case, so the increasing influence of Eco-church movements has been important in putting churches alongside other more secular organizations working to protect our planet for future generations. Churchyards can certainly play a role in this.

All four of our churchyards are special places. Primarily they are a final resting place for generations of villagers, and, as such, a repository of history. With all due respect for their primary purpose, they are now increasingly managed with a view to their being in harmony with wildlife, fauna and flora, the natural world. Even the rabbits tend to be viewed as less pestilential than they used to be, and the range of wildflowers and plants in these churchyards is impressive.

#### **CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT -AND CONFLICTING OPINION**

Those consulted for this article about churchyard management agree that churchyard management invariably divides opinion into two broad camps: those who want the area left as a wildlife haven and those who believe it is a necessary mark of respect to keep the churchyard fully accessible and trim throughout the year. A middle way is usually found, with paths being kept free during the growing months, so that access to the graves is maintained.

#### **THE CHURCHYARD AS HISTORY**

Churchyards are a repository not only of mortal remains but of historical memory. Those generations of ancestors who have preceded us, are now lying at rest. Some of the memorials are grander than others, for instance, at the front of Playford Church there is the National Memorial to Thomas Clarkson, his family grave, surrounded by wrought iron railings. Great Bealings churchyard has the tomb of the very eminent Moor family, and there are several Nurseys, from The Grove, buried in Little Bealings. Recent graves, of those both eminent and

humble, are much visited, particularly at Easter and Christmas, and it is seen very much as the duty of PCCs to ensure that those areas, in particular, are kept in good condition. It is not theoretically the duty of churches to maintain the actual gravestones.

#### **THE CHURCHYARD AND TREES**

Churchyard trees have tended to be sombre, often typified by those gloomy long-living yew trees. They, and other species, may have stood sentinel in the churchyard for hundreds of years.



Commemorative trees are planted, celebrating, for example, landmarks in village history, the new millennium, an anniversary, of the WI perhaps, or, indeed of individuals. As such they are markers of village history. More recently, churches have tried to increase the number of trees, as part of a green canopy, respecting the call to plant more trees to help the planet reduce its carbon footprint. Trees need to be cared for. They sometimes die. The lower branches need to be lopped. Calling in a tree surgeon is an expensive business. But trees, bushes, wildflowers, wildlife in general provide a living antidote to the solemnity of what can so easily be seen as a place of death and gloom. What better illustration could there possibly be of the Christian concept of resurrection? New life co-habiting with the remains of the old.

#### **THE CHURCHYARD AND WILDERNESS**

Some areas of churchyards may appear

unkempt. Sometimes this is deliberate, sometimes this is because of a shortage of willing labour. Stinging nettles can be justified as ideal habitat for certain butterflies, but they could equally be the result of gaps in the workforce. There is a clear division of opinion as to whether churchyards should be allowed to grow wild. In most there is now a compromise.



Many will have heard the story about the visitor who complimented the sexton on the way in which he and the good Lord had cooperated to keep the churchyard in good order – with the sexton’s reply; “You should have seen it when the good Lord had it all to himself.” Not irrelevant here.

**THE CHURCHYARD AND BIRDS/ANIMALS/WILDFLOWERS**

All four churchyards are havens for wildlife. There is an abundance of wildflowers, rabbits, owls, moles, bats, pheasants, mice, occasional deer, and a host of wild birds.



Nest boxes are scattered around. Hedgerow maintenance is carried out once birds have nested and winter food reserves have been used. Great Bealings has two owl boxes and an Observation Cabin,

useable by anyone wishing to sit and gaze. The churchyard has long been surrounded by rabbits. All attempts to keep them out have failed. Guardians of

churchyard space try to time the cutting of vegetation to coincide with flowering of the fauna whilst maintaining a safe and welcoming pathway to those who wish to visit their departed. Some areas and paths need to be cut, as visitors and churchgoers do not appreciate wet shoes or feet when they step out of their cars, nor do they like walking through shin high grass.

**THE CHURCHYARD AND US**

Churchyards have traditionally been viewed as resting places for the departed. Graveyard poems have tended to dwell on the melancholic side of things. In recent times more attention has been paid to the life within these churchyards, the trees, now so much more than just the sombre yew trees standing sentinel over the departed. We think more of the plants and the animals that make them their home. Churchyards are now viewed as an extension of the church, another space where spirituality can be experienced.



Volunteers from our communities, not just those who go to church, still care for the churchyard, as a village amenity. Work parties take place and become sociable village events. Additional volunteers are always welcome, and usually rewarded with refreshments.

Sometimes the church services take place outside, with the open air somehow adding a special rural dimension to them. Church tourism accounts for many visitors and passing rambblers and cyclists can be seen eating sandwiches, taking picnics,

dropping by while walking the dog, or just sitting and gazing. Churchyards are there for all.

### THE CHURCHYARD AS CLASSROOM

Churchyard trails can be set up for children to follow. Gatherings of messy church take place outside, in the churchyard, with bug hotels, plant recognition sessions. Typical of this kind of activity are the churchyard wildlife group, *Little Bealings Borrowers*.



The following information is provided by Ben Wale, and you can contact him on

07769183638, [ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org)

The group was set up in September 2021 by Lightwave in partnership with East Suffolk Community Partnership, Bealings School and Little Bealings Church. Their strapline is 'Do something small to be part of something big'. They help children and their families to see that caring for the natural world begins in a small way, on their doorstep, near their home or school.

The group is for children of any age and their parents. They meet on Wednesdays in Little Bealings churchyard, 3:10-3:50 after school. Little Bealings Church is part of the Eco Church awards scheme and already actively managed by kind volunteers to benefit people and nature. As well as enhancing biodiversity in the churchyard, those who are involved with Borrowers have fun, discover new skills and learn together, which all benefits physical, spiritual and mental health and well-being.

5 Quay Point, Station Road, Woodbridge, IP12 4AL  
Email: [reception@islandhousedentalcare.co.uk](mailto:reception@islandhousedentalcare.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01394 388008

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Some of the things achieved so far, using teamwork, garden tools, creativity, and some hard physical work, have been Building and painting bird boxes, making a bucket pond, compost bay, bug hotel ('Buglings School'), bird feeding station, wormeries, planting bulbs and a hedge, collecting wildflower seeds and investigating lichen and minibeasts. We have recent photos of the group planting Crocus and Daffodil bulbs along the path by the churchyard.



The children enjoyed digging deep holes. People walking past thought they might be pit traps! They look forward to seeing the colourful flowers popping up in the Springtime.

There is a spiritual side to this, as befits a churchyard. Just as others visit the churchyard for this reason so do Borrowers reflect each week on the beauty of nature, God the creator and his creation.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

Wednesday 7th Dec:

#### **Christmas Treats**

Making marshmallow lollies and snowmen

Wednesday 14th Dec:

#### **Cooking**

Christmas French Toast

### **OUR CHURCHYARDS AND THE FUTURE**

The paragraph above ties in with the importance attached to engaging the younger generation with churchyards, and with the role that they can play.

Churchyards seem increasingly to be seen a place of spiritual contemplation, an outside variant on what goes on within the church building. In our ecologically sensitive age, the value of these quiet places is increasingly recognised. They offer an escape from the often-hectic world around us. You do not have to be a churchgoer to appreciate what they have to offer.

But as churchgoing dwindles, so too does the small army of people required to keep not only the churches open, but the churchyards cared for. It is easy to assume that churchyards will be there for ever, that people will continue to take responsibility for them, and that there will be burial space, when the time comes. After all, they have been there for hundreds of years.

But that assumption is a dangerous one. Churchyards do need people to care for them. If those people can no longer be found, if nature itself takes over, they will increasingly and more extensively become wilderness – wilderness all over. We would like to think that pride in our village churchyards is pride in something special which is to be cherished and which will endure, and that people will continue to offer to work to keep them that way.

*Norman Porter*



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## EGYPT AND EAST SUFFOLK

The COP27 conference was held in a far away country, Egypt, and we were kept up to date by numerous TV programmes. But what are we doing here, in East Suffolk?

I am indebted to Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment, for his input to this short article.

The environment is one of the principal foundations of this council's first administration. Cllr James Mallinder was given the task of devising and developing a meaningful environment policy. His vision has been important across the last four years, making sure environmental considerations are an integral part of the formation and delivery of policy across East Suffolk.

East Suffolk council declared a climate emergency as soon as possible. We know we need to lead by actions not just words, to question the status quo and to make bold changes in how the council functions. The environment is not just about the trees we see outside – it is also about jobs, employment, houses, consumption and waste. So, our environmental policy works alongside business, not acting as a separate pressure.

Development can be positive if it uses fewer resources more efficiently and leaves a smaller carbon footprint. It is not a binary relationship. We do not choose a tree over a house; instead, they must, and should, work together. It is crucial in local government that themes and visions

thread across all divisions. The environment should not be locked in a silo, so we are embedding environmental considerations in all policy formation and council decisions.

We need to move away from talking about just the effects of the more environmentally friendly ways of doing things, such as increasing recycling or driving an electric car. We also need to look at how we can change long-term behaviour, such as buying and wasting less in the first place or adopting more sustainable forms of travel – such as cycling or walking – where possible. The key is to encourage residents to think about alternative ways of behaviour, and at East Suffolk we lead by example. Our successful 'pardon the weeds we are feeding the bees' campaign and a total review of our fleet of vehicles (hydrotreated vegetable oil used as fuel for our refuse trucks and introduction of electric cars) to name two of our important policies.

All District councils, in particular, have an important role to play in leading by example and empowering local communities to do something. Here at East Suffolk, we have placed the environment at the heart its function. No matter how small the changes in our behaviour, any should be celebrated. It's these small changes that will make a real and lasting difference over time.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

*Colin Hedgley  
District Councillor for Carlford Ward.*

# **Bealings Village Hall & Playing Field need your help**

**Saturday 14th January 2023. 0930 - 1230**

The Bealings Village Hall Trust need volunteers to help clean & repair play equipment, clear paths and clean up leaves

**on the Playing Field and around the Hall**

Anyone able to help - even if it's only for an hour please bring a spade/rake/wheelbarrow/gloves

All activity will be performed with social distancing in accordance with the latest Government guidelines

Please email Keith Beaumont

at: *keith.beaumont13@btinternet.com* if you plan on coming to help clear leaves

*Bealings Village Hall Trust is a charity run by volunteers for the benefit of the community.*

Additional volunteers are always welcome for a variety of tasks.

If you have a few spare hours and wish to help in any way please contact the Secretary on 07769 195132 or email: *bookingsrecord@bealingsvillagehall.org.uk*

## **FOUND**

Necklace found on the field during the first week of November.

please email Keith Beaumont if it belongs to you

*keith.beaumont13@btinternet.com*

## WARM ROOMS AT THE ANGELA COBBOLD HALL

The hall is open from

**10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M. EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY**

The facilities will include free refreshments, including hot and cold snacks and drinks etc. use of the hall's equipment including, table tennis, darts, board games puzzles etc. together with the television and Wi-Fi access.

The Reading Room stock will be available for use or loan including both adult and children's books.

No booking necessary...there. will always be a warm welcome!

For information 01473 620213 [pandvcarr55@gmail.com](mailto:pandvcarr55@gmail.com)



## DEMENTIA WORKSHOPS ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

Seckford Chapel, Seckford  
Almshouses, Seckford Street,

Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NB



We will be hosting a series of meetings in the coming months in the historic Seckford Chapel, at which we will provide the opportunity for talks on a variety of topics, including:

Power of Attorney and living wills, support for family carers, local services and information on living with Dementia.

The dates for the carers meetings are as follows, all **from 11:00 – 13:00hrs:**

**Wednesday 14th December – TO BE CONFIRMED**

We are able to provide a **limited number** of places for individuals living with Dementia to join in with the activities at Seckford Care for the duration of the meeting, in order for carers to be able to attend.

All welcome, but to book a place for a relative with Dementia, please contact

**Cathy O'Brien on 01394 386520. [www.seckfordcare.org.uk](http://www.seckfordcare.org.uk)**

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## **Leah Hinks' Pottery Classes at The Granary**

Ever been curious to try out pottery? Artist and experienced potter Leah runs two after-school classes on Wednesdays. The classes take place in her beautiful bright studio, and are perfect for children to explore their creative side.

Leah also offers adult classes on Tuesday evenings.



***All classes are all back to normal and if you would like to join, just contact Leah for more details.on 01473 735880.***

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# GREAT BEALINGS

## RECTOR

Father Nigel Prior, St Mary's Rectory, 11 Church Street, Woodbridge. 01394 610424

## PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs Dee Knights, Dunure, 39 Avocet Lane, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SF Ips 624240

## PCC SECRETARY

Mr Eric Barnett, Southernhay, Lodge Rd, Great Bealings Ips 738803

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## PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARISED NOTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

### WHITE LINES OUTSIDE ANNESLEY HOUSE

– Colin Hedgley (CH) said that this matter needs to be referred to Elaine Bryce (EB) to progress. The PC will draw up a list of all outstanding highways matters that we would like her to progress.

### REPORTS

**County Councillor Elaine Bryce** – A report has been received and circulated and is attached to the minutes on the website. There were no queries on this.

**District Councillor Colin Hedgley** - A report has been circulated to Cllrs and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally commented on the additional funding received by ESC to tackle rough sleeping, also on a recent fly-tipping case, and some free parking in Woodbridge at Christmas. He reported that the recent Roadshow Advice Centres had been well attended and the levelling-up money is being spent. He confirmed that the new Chief Executive of ESC has been appointed and will be starting in the New Year.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**DC/22/3705/FUL** – Creation of swimming pool- Rosery Farm Cottage, Lodge Road

Some concerns had been raised by a resident. To address these, the Council resolved to support the application, on the assumption that it will be installed to the correct specification and standards to ensure that, if the pool is drained, the water is treated and filtered before it gets to the river.

**DC/22/3848/FUL** – Installation of ground mounted solar panels in garden – Garrods

**Hill, Lodge** - The PC resolved to support this application.

### Decision Updates:

**DC/22/2529** – **Aberfeldy** – Application permitted by ESC

**DC/22/2330** – **Cherry Tree Cottage** – Application decision still outstanding

**DC/22/2871** – **Stone Cottage** – Application decision still outstanding. SJ reported that further visits from Environmental Services are still taking place

**DC/22/1517/CLE** – **Regency House** – Cllrs expressed disappointment that the decision to permit the continued use of a large shed on the flood plain behind the house failed to acknowledge that the use of the area as a garden would not, of itself, change the status of the flood meadow, and appears to have disregarded the concerns raised as to the potential pollution and flood risk posed by the development.

### OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:

**Enforcement Matters** – **ENF/22/0069/USE** – **Water Meadow, Lower Street**

ESC enforcement officers have made contact with the landowner at a recent site visit and have given him a short extension of time to comply with the requirements of the planning enforcement action.

**Review of Neighbourhood Plan** - Sue Prentice (SP) reported that the pre-consultation draft revised Plan was sent to ESC at the end of September

### HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

**SAVID/SID** – John Carter-Jonas (JCJ) advised that he suspects the SID is failing, as he needs to change the batteries frequently. CH asked to be kept informed.

## **Quiet Lanes:**

**(a)Grundisburgh Road** – SP reported that she had sent a letter of thanks to the resident who had erected a wooden post and the Quiet Lanes sign.

**(b)Lower Street** – this is currently work in progress

**Other Highways matters** – SP advised that the railway sleepers proposed for the land at the Grundisburgh Rd junction are unviable. The plan now is to re-site the Grit Bin and plant some dwarf fruit trees – she will investigate this with Sally Johnson. In the meantime, she has purchased some more plants from the Parish Planters fund.

## **FOOTPATHS**

**(a) By Cherry Tree Cottage** – Regan Scott raised the issue of whether the landowner or SCC was responsible for the condition of the footpath. SP suggested that the question of landowners' responsibilities regarding footpaths is a matter to be resolved between the SCC Footpath Officer and the landowner. Anyone who raises issues with footpaths should be encouraged to inform SCC via their website.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**Trees** – JCJ has taken delivery of 220 trees. He will arrange a meeting with a local landowner in the next week or so to discuss planting

**Other** – SP now has a contact at AWA to discuss the Great Bealings treatment plant**2022/23-13**

## **FINANCE AND ADMIN**

Cllrs noted the recent national pay award which applies to the Clerk. Seven payments were authorised for office expenses, November and December salary and PAYE, village sign insurance and plants.

**Draft Budget** – The Clerk has circulated a draft budget for 2023/24. Funding requests have been received from the Angela Cobbold Hall (ACH) and two charities, plus a request for an increase in the donation awarded to the Bealings Village Hall (VH). Cllrs decided to decline

the request from the ACH as it is very popular, and they concur with CH's opinion that it should be self-funding. Cllrs maintained their position that unfortunately, at present, the PC is unable to support granting funding to any charities. Cllrs also decided against increasing the donation to the VH, as this would mean an increase in the precept. However, it was acknowledged that the VH is facing substantial financial demands in 2023 and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to EB requesting some funding from SCC towards the resurfacing of the car park. The draft budget was provisionally approved, and a final decision will be made at the January meeting.

**Provisional Precept Discussion** – The Clerk has circulated the council tax base figures supplied by ESC. Cllrs agreed to maintain an unchanged precept of £7500 for 2023/24 and this will be confirmed in January.

## **Other Finance and Admin**

The Bank Reconciliation was approved for signature

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Community Governance Review** – The PC's recommendation to reduce the number of Cllrs from 8 to 7 has been approved by ESC w.e.f 04.05.23

**Spare 'History of Bealings' books** – the PC is unable to accept the offer to purchase some of the remaining books as there is no storage space available.

**Village Sign** – This was originally funded by the local W.I. which has recently disbanded. The PC resolved to accept joint ownership of the sign, in conjunction with Little Bealings PC.

**Village Welcome Pack** – This is now extremely out of date. Cllrs agreed that its format is no longer relevant in this digital age and the information should be part of the Village Website. SP will liaise with Norman Porter.

**May Coronation** – Cllrs discussed whether a local celebration event should be staged during the weekend of the



Coronation. A suggestion that the event could be combined with the Plant Sale due to take place the previous week had been rejected by the organiser. Some concern was expressed regarding the potential availability of volunteers for both events. No decision was taken.

#### **DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2023:**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Annual Parish and PC Meetings, July – TBC, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

The public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes on any item on the agenda in the Public Participation session. Full draft and approved minutes of the Parish Council are available on the Council's website. The agenda is published approx. a week in advance of a meeting.

*Dee Knights – Clerk 01473 624240*

*Email: [greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Website: [www.greatbealings.co.uk](http://www.greatbealings.co.uk)*

## **ST MARY'S**

### **CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES**

As we approach the end of 2022 it is time to take stock. Where does our church stand, both financially, and in terms of its role within our community? We can offer no great optimism on either front. We do urge all in Great Bealings who value their church, to consider how they can help to secure its on-going survival. Read on – digest the situation, and ponder how **you, yes YOU**, might help.

Financially, we were delighted to receive a bequest from the late Commander Michael Kersey, resident in Australia, but with distant family roots in Great Bealings. There are 13 Kersseys buried in the churchyard. That bequest was a welcome bonus

Otherwise, the situation is of deep concern. With present levels of income, from regular givers – our warmest thanks to them – offertory takings from just one service a month, and occasional events, such as concerts, the prospects are that

we can last out for just two or three years. At that point, the paying of our parish share of over £10000 a year will be an impossibility. It is the paying of the parish share which secures the services of a Rector.

We have been engaged in structural and fabric works, (roof, tower, bells, stained glass) but almost all of that has come from external funding agencies, to whom we are profoundly grateful. Regular income, at the current rate, cannot keep pace with the demands of our parish share, plus costs of insurance, utilities and on-going upkeep. Without income from secular events our situation would be dire.

Beyond the church building itself, we are also determined that the churchyard will continue to be well-kept and cared-for, offering a quiet place for retreat and contemplation to all who, within the village and without, wish to take advantage of it. Our churchyard could increasingly be viewed as a sort of community garden, our own local response to the challenges confronting the planet. We are lucky to have individuals and bands of volunteers who help enthusiastically with this task.

As in so many other towns and villages, our role within the community has shrunk. Attendance at services is low, but – be assured – those who do come along will almost always go away feeling the better for it. Even Festival Services, or services commemorating national events seem to be less well attended than they used to be. The role of village churches used to be the bringing together of a community in celebration or commemoration of events of significance beyond the village. Even that role seems to be fading away. How can we reverse that trend?

So, let's think positively. There is much national gloom, much despair at the health service and long waiting times, social care and mental health issues seem to be all around us, the consequences of Covid have been insidious, our nation is economically challenged. As an antidote to all this, how about making a New Year resolution to

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give the church a go, rediscover the friendship of community, of shared values, of a deeper understanding of the world we live in. Alternatively, you could just decide to wander around the churchyard, putting yourself in a contemplative frame of mind – walks with and within nature have been shown to be one of the best antidotes to gloom.

Your Rector and PCC will continue to work hard to maintain the church and churchyard as places which can offer something for everyone. Please give them your support.

### LOOKING BACK



The village Remembrance Ceremony took place at the War Memorial on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, synchronised with national commemorations. 30 plus people attended this ceremony, with Archdeacon Jeanette Gosney officiating.



Members of the family of Edward Porter, Great Bealings' only WW2 casualty joined us, and laid the wreath. Churchwarden

Norman Porter spoke of Edward Porter's short life and involvement in the war, while past and current Parish Council Chairmen, Eric Barnett and Sue Prentice, also played official roles in the ceremony. The occasion was followed by coffee inside the church.

### PCC Meeting. 14th November

Main points emerging were:

1/ **Finance:** The present financial position is precarious. Price increases for utilities range from 7-11%. The church is running at a loss, and this is unsustainable. This could have implications for the future status of the church.

2/ **Strategy:** A list of financial priorities will be drawn up, including issues outstanding from the 2021 Quinquennial. This will give us a framework for a strategic approach to works that need to be carried out.

3/ **Safeguarding:** Measures are being taken to ensure that the church and members of the PCC are fully compliant with Safeguarding legislation. Jeremy Hawksley has kindly undertaken to be Benefice Safeguarding Officer, and details will be made available as to how best to contact him. The various relevant policies will be in place.

4/ **Events and Occasions:** It was felt that the Evensong with the Jubilate Singers and the Remembrance ceremony had been good occasions. Plans are in place for a full involvement of families in our Carol Service, and the Bealings Tombola Stall for the Christmas Market is filling up. Cards will be delivered to all households, thanks to churches Together in Woodbridge, giving details of services over the Christmas period. Our own Christmas Service will be at 6.30 pm on Christmas Eve, earlier than last year – and not such a long wait for midnight!

5/ **Churchyard:** Our churchyard has been chosen for a national survey, soil-sampling in churchyards. Churchyards are special places, normally uncontaminated by insecticides, fertilisers, herbicides etc so can provide



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helpful information.

### **Burial of ashes**

The ashes of Hon Jill Ganzoni were interred alongside those of her brother, John (Lord Belstead) in a short ceremony in the churchyard on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Father Nigel Prior officiated.

### **Works and projects**

The process for repairing our stained-glass windows is under way. There will be a short delay in the procurement of materials, but, with funding in place, we hope that this project will soon be completed.

### **Churchyard**

The recent rain has been very helpful in establishing the new trees, without any need for additional watering. We are considering significant repairs to the dilapidated fence which extends beyond the red brick wall.

We have been accepted for a national "citizens' science" scheme, measuring and evaluating soils in churchyards. The organization concerned is "Caring for God's Acre". These soils have been uncontaminated by insecticides, pesticides, omnicides etc and can give agri-experts valuable information. It would be great to have a small group involved in this. Any volunteers? – children especially welcome.

### **Services for December**

**Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am.** St Nicholas Family Communion – with donation of toys. Gifts of toys will then be passed on to EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospices).

### **CHRISTMAS.**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm.** **Carol Service**, with the Benefice Choir. The choir can be specially boosted for this period. If you are interested in singing with the choir, and in participating chorally in the Christmas period, please contact the Parish office. There will be no Morning Prayer on this day, because of the evening service.

Please note: the World Cup Final is at 3.00, so even with Extra Time and

penalties, this should not be a problem!

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.** **Benefice Crib Service + Christingle** at St Mary's, Woodbridge.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm.** Christmas Communion

**Rector's "Surgery"**. Our Rector makes himself available on Monday afternoons, so if you would like to see him, do please contact him on 01394 610424, or at the Parish Office on 01394 388820.

*Please also refer to services being held, at other times, at St Mary's, Woodbridge*

*Norman Porter. Churchwarden  
(nhp@rillcott.co.uk)*

## **FRIENDS OF GREAT BEALINGS CHURCH (in partnership with Friends of St Mary's Church, Woodbridge)**

A tombola stall (Tombealinsola) was set up as part of the Christmas Market held in St Mary's Church, Woodbridge. We cannot at this stage report on the outcome of the event, but many thanks to all who contributed items for the stall.

Thought will be given as to how the church might participate in village commemoration of the coronation of King Charles 111.

Plans are being put together for a French Evening on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This would be on the same lines as the German evening in 2022, and would, naturally, include French wines.

## **VILLAGE RECORDER**

Please note in the previous issue of this Magazine, it was reported that Jonathan Fieldsend was official Recorder of both Bealings parishes. This arose from a misunderstanding, and it should be noted that Norman Porter is officially the Recorder for Great Bealings. He will maintain a running chronicle of events within the parish and would be grateful for contributions from organisers of events which should be included in any on-going record of the History of our village. Please



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# LITTLE BEALINGS

## PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Gary Jones

*revgaryjones1985@gmail.com*

07714 614095

## PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs. Carol Ramsden, The Hollies, Holly Lane, Little Bealings

07731 456133

## PC SECRETARY

Toni Cornish

07583 743695

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## PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of matters considered at the Parish Council meeting held on 7 November 2022:

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The agent for four applications for barn conversions at Grove Farm presented them to the Council. A resident commented on the complexity of Declarations of Interest and on the need for criteria for donations made by the Council.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**DC/22/3733/P3Q, DC22/3734 P3Q, DC22/3735 P3Q and DC22/3736 P3Q: Barns A, B, C and D Respectively - Prior Notification - Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Use Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion at Grove Farm The Street**

It was resolved that there was no objection to the conversions, but concern about the increased volume of traffic and visibility at the junction with The Street. (ESC has approved the application for Barn A and the other three have been withdrawn.)

**DC/22/3937/FUL: Side extension to encompass swimming pool at The Chestnuts Martlesham Road**

It was resolved that there was no objection to the development but that a condition should limit use to domestic use.

**DC/22/4061/VOC: Variation of Condition No. 2 of DC/22/0598/VOC - Variation of Condition Nos. 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16 of DC/21/1714/FUL - Proposed erection of 1no. new residential dwelling with attached: Land North of Martlesham Road and**

**Adjacent to The Old School House Martlesham Road**

It was resolved that there was no objection to the development but possible conflict with an existing private sewer system would be drawn to ESC's attention.

**DC/22/2242/FUL: Part change of use of the garden to sale of cars on an appointment basis, for a temporary period of 18 months The Chestnuts Martlesham Road**

This application has been withdrawn.

**DC/20/5259/FUL Construction of two standalone self-catering Gate House buildings alongside ancillary accesses, parking, landscaping and other associated works at Kesgrave Hall**

It was resolved to ask ESC why the Council had not been consulted on these applications, given that one of the Gate Houses was located in the parish at the North Road access.

### SINKS PIT

ESC had responded to the Council's complaint saying that it was waiting for the non-determined applications to be withdrawn. It was resolved to ask ESC why the applications could not be refused now.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

ESC had sent a payment of £1,854.75, being the Council's share of the levy arising from new development in the parish.

### ESC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

The Chairman had attended a meeting, at which the ESC 'Ease the Squeeze'

initiative was a key issue and would attend the next meeting on 9 January. Mike Garnham would represent the Council at a Cycling Safety Working Group on 28 November.

#### **SALC AREA MEETING**

The Chairman attended this on 8 November.

#### **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)**

The SID would be displayed in Playford Road for November, then passed to Playford Parish Council for December.

#### **WAR MEMORIAL WORKS**

The works have been completed and payment of the grant from the War Memorial Trust requested.

#### **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

District Councillor Colin Hedgley's report had been circulated and is available on the Council's website. A report was awaited from County Councillor Elaine Bryce.

#### **WELCOME LEAFLET**

This has been updated and is available on the Council's website: <https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/new-to-the-village/>

#### **HIGHWAYS**

A new report of outstanding highways issues would be prepared and if necessary, a repeat request for white line replacement would be made to SCC and County Councillor Elaine Bryce.

#### **CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III**

A joint celebration event with Great Bealings would be explored.

#### **FINANCE**

##### **Quarterly Internal Control Report**

Mr Hunter was completing this.

##### **Budget for 2023/24**

The Council had received a request for funding from the Angela Cobbold Hall and for an increase in the funding provided to Bealings Village Hall. It was agreed to increase the total amount allocated for Donations in the budget, but

not to increase the precept (i.e. the income required and collected via residents' Council Tax by ESC). The approved Budget is published here: <https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/budgets/>

#### **Asset Register review and Risk Assessment**

The updated register and assessment were approved and can be viewed here: <https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/pc-agenda-list/> The Council would be pleased to accept joint ownership of the wooden village sign with Great Bealings Parish Council if it was offered, and to gift the light in the Village Hall Car Park to the Village Hall Trust.

#### **Business Risk Assessment for 2022/23**

This was approved, with PAT testing of electrical equipment to take place as required and can be viewed on the above link.

#### **Income and Expenditure**

Income had been received from ESC for the second half of the precept, and the CIL payment. Expenditure for the Clerk's salary for November and December (including back dated national pay award) and expenses, to Community Action Suffolk for the website hosting fee, to the contractor for the War Memorial Works was approved, plus donations to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk) and the Citizen's Advice Bureau, in all totalling £3,292.29.

#### **NS&I Account**

The signatories had been updated.

#### **DATES OF MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be on Monday 9 January 2023 in the Angela Cobbold Hall, unless urgent business requires a meeting in December. Dates were approved for meetings, to be held in the Angela Cobbold Hall, until March 2024 as follows:

#### **2023**

6 March

Annual Parish Meeting, followed by



Parish Council Meeting  
15 May  
Annual Parish Council meeting  
3 July  
4 September  
6 November 2023

## 2024

8 January  
4 March

In the event additional meetings were required, these would be on 6 February, 11 April, 5 June, 7 August, 2 October and 4 December 2023 and 5 February 2024.

Please visit our website for further information, including draft and approved minutes of Parish Council meetings:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

Carol Ramsden – Clerk to the Council  
07731 456133  
[littlebealingspc@btinternet.com](mailto:littlebealingspc@btinternet.com)

## CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Last year the Parish Council received a donation of Christmas cards to be sent to everyone in the village. We know it was much appreciated by some, but unfortunately it is not an expense we feel it is appropriate for the Council to take on this year. So just a few words as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and take stock of the challenges and the positives of 2022.

2022 has seen the Parish Council continuing its work for the village, responding to consultations and applications that impact on Little Bealings, and listening to development, footpath and other concerns raised by residents. We aim to be accessible to all - by phone, email or do send a letter or note.

Financial pressures are everywhere. We have now set our budget for next financial year, maintaining the precept (our income

paid via Council Tax) at the same level but increasing the total amount we will have available for donations. This will enable the Council to support village organisations and to donate to charities we are told are working in the village.

Next year sees Parish Council elections and I would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the Council. Do give it some thought over the Christmas break!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Ian Ransome  
Chairman  
Little Bealings Parish Council  
07885 073925  
or [chairman.lbpc@gmail.com](mailto:chairman.lbpc@gmail.com)*

## ALL SAINTS

### GIVING PROGRESS AND THANK YOU

We recently raised our financial situation in FLN and sent a leaflet to Little Bealings Residents. Our giving has since gone up considerably and we say a big thank you to everyone who is supporting us in keeping the work of God alive in our parish. Our new and existing supporters have made a big difference which is very encouraging for the future!

We still have a way to go however, needing to find about another 6K a year somehow and with a large shortfall this year. If in any way you can help us close this last gap, then please consider our parish giving scheme which you can find out more about here: <https://littlebealingschurch.onesuffolk.net/more/funding-sos/>

Every penny given this way goes towards ministry and basic bills, in our lay team we are all volunteers, and we truly appreciate your help. With any questions or if you don't use internet websites, please contact me on 07857 838678 or [john.wittgreffe@btinternet.com](mailto:john.wittgreffe@btinternet.com).

With thanks once more,

*John Wittgreffe, Acting Churchwarden*

## REMEMBRANCE

*They shall grow not old, as we  
that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the  
years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and  
in the morning*

*We will remember them.*



Little Bealings remembered the fallen at All Saints church with a plethora of poppies knitted by the village's Knit and Natter group. Reverend Gary Jones, Mike Bryer and John Wittgreffe led a poignant Remembrance Sunday service before the congregation moved to the newly restored war memorial and Francis Mutimer read the Roll of Honour. Thirteen men from our small village lost their lives in action, devastating the families of Little Bealings and no doubt the village as a whole; we remembered them, standing silently, solemnly and respectfully heads bowed. The silence ended with the National Anthem.

Sixty-two people visited the Remembrance display where numerous scattered knitted poppies reflected the soldiers who bravely gave their lives for our tomorrow. Not to be forgotten, purple poppies told of the animals that also fell; a knitted reconnaissance pigeon and poppy covered horse reminding us of their fate.

Homemade quiche and crumble were provided until 4.00 p.m., giving people time to read the mounted and screened displays that gave greater insight into the lives and deaths of those honourable men whose names are inscribed on our village memorial.

## WORD FROM THE STUDY

By the time this is published, we will be in the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means waiting. Why is it when we are in a hurry, things always seem to take longer. My mum used to say, "A watched pot never boils"! It is also the beginning of the Church's year, as last Sunday we celebrated Christ the King, plus Stir Up Sunday. A time when the Christmas puddings were given a last stir plus a drop or two of alcohol, for medicinal purposes of course!

Advent is a time when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord. As humans we are not good at waiting! We do not choose presents for our family and friends on a whim. So why do we always prepare for the coming of Christ on a whim? Let's make time; let's make our lives, our homes and our families ready. Let's not rush this most Holy Season, we need that time too. We are important, five minutes a day just being ourselves, use those moments to speak to God, to share our concerns for our family, friends and neighbours; we need that space, our spiritual preparation for the coming of our Lord is important.

Christmas time is about God's time invading our time. How do we welcome Christmas? This year feels very different; the cost of living, the uncertainty that surrounds our country at this time. Good news is in short supply. It was not much different when Jesus was born, in an occupied country, poverty was rife, yet in a stable cold dark and in an animal trough for a bed, the greatest gift of all was given; not a place you would expect to find the Prince of Peace. The

Christmas carol has these words "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given." The God who came to earth because we were worth it. We are God's children, made in His image, He promised never to abandon us. Love changes everything, the more love we show, the nearer the Kingdom of God becomes.

We have welcomed to our land families from Ukraine. Doors open and love enters in. To see two lorry loads full of stuff leaving for those in need is truly amazing. Not even Santa could match that!

More love, less hate is the true message of Christmas. We think about what our friends would like for presents and then go and buy it for them, the value is not important, what is important is the thought.

Please do join us for our Christmas services either at All Saints Little Bealings or St Marys at Playford, whichever one you choose; you will be made most welcome.

If you require any information about the Christmas services, please visit our website, give me a ring, or contact one of the Churchwardens at Little Bealings, or Colin Hedgley at St Mary's Church, Playford.

May the peace of the Christ-child reign in your hearts and the joy of the gift of Christ be our guide.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2023.

Every blessing.

*Reverend Gary Jones*

# ALL SAINTS LITTLE BEALINGS

## CHRISTMAS

### & NEW YEAR CALENDAR

DECEMBER	EVENT
Sat 3rd Dec 2.00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Wreath Making Workshop</b> (Sorry – all places taken)
<b>CHRISTINGLE</b> Monday 5th 3.30 p.m.	<b>CANDLES, ORANGES, RIBBONS and SWEETS!</b> A Christmas all age carols service in aid of The Children's Society.
Sun 11th 10.00 a.m.	<b>Sunday Service</b> all welcome
<b>CAROLS</b> Thurs 15th 7.00 p.m.	<b>CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT-</b> join us for a traditional carols by candlelight, a real highlight of Christmas!
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4.00 p.m.	<b>CRIB SERVICE-</b> for children and all the family, celebrating Christmas around the nativity scene!
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10.00 a.m.	<b>Join us in celebrating</b> the true meaning of Christmas!
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b> 10.00 a.m.	<b>A short, informal, reflective service</b> of 20 mins, with prayers for our community
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30 a.m.	<b>Fynn Valley Walks Group-</b> leisurely guided walks each week in our amazingly beautiful countryside, usually about 3-4 miles
<b>EVERY SATURDAY</b> 10.00-12.30	<b>Church open for visitors, coffee/tea and private prayer</b>
JANUARY	EVENT
<b>EVERY SATURDAY</b> 10.00-12.30	<b>Church open for visitors, coffee/tea and private prayer</b>
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>as "Every Wednesday" for Dec</b>
Sunday 8th 10.00 a.m.	<b>Sunday Service</b> all welcome
Sunday 22nd 10.00 a.m.	<b>Sunday Service</b> all welcome

# The return of the Pop up Pub!!

A date for your diary....

Unlucky for some...Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

January 2023 at

Bealings Village Hall from 6.00 p.m.

Live music!

Beer! Wine! Soft drinks!

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Come if you dare...



## ANGELA COBBOLD HALL

The Trustees and management of the hall wish a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all the friends, hirers and hall users and thank them for their continuing support and encouragement.

The Hall is available for family social occasions during the Christmas holidays.

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“Warm Rooms” with refreshments continue to be open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

During Advent there will be a collection point for the FIND food bank in the Hall porch.



Roger Roseboom celebrated his special birthday with two other nonagenarians and was given a wonderful cartoon picture by local artist Chris Roe.

### WARM ROOMS AT THE ANGELA COBBOLD HALL

The hall is open from

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The Reading Room stock will be available for use or loan including both adult and children's books.

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# PLAYFORD

## PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Gary Jones

[revgaryjones1985@gmail.com](mailto:revgaryjones1985@gmail.com)

07714 614095

## PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs. Marian Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings, IP13 6PH

Ips 738468

## PCC SECRETARY

Mrs. Eileen Stennett, Lux Farm, Playford Road, Playford

Ips 635236

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## PARISH COUNCIL

These are condensed notes of the proceedings of the Playford Parish Council meeting held 2nd November 2022.

A full version of the minutes appears on the website: [www.playford.org.uk](http://www.playford.org.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Co. Cllr Elaine Bryce sent apologies and explained she is unable to attend meetings on a Wednesday for the foreseeable future but assured us of her assistance when required. Her written report is appended to the full minutes on the PC website.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dist. Cllr Colin Hedgley's report is appended to the full minutes on the PC website. Colin added that currently there is a worrying number of retrospective planning applications being submitted, the problem of rough sleepers is being monitored, a roadshow on the Cost of Living crisis is going around the area, the incidence of fly tipping is getting worse, free Wi-Fi is being promoted and Road Safety week starts on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

### ACTION POINT REVIEW

Notification has been received from the Definitive Map Officer, that the recommendation for the application to have the unregistered footpath between Butts Road and Church Road reinstated, should be rejected. This is to be appealed against.

Progress on C324 traffic priority problems is in abeyance while Cllr Elaine Bryce is awaiting a meeting with Highways officials.

Delivery of the small side gate to enable

mobility scooters to bypass the main gate across the footpath to Tuddenham when it is locked, is still awaited.

A suggestion that funds would possibly be available from the county council budget to fund signs to deter large vehicles from using Church Lane is being explored.

See Action log appended to the Minutes on the website for more details of these items.

### FINANCE

Payments were authorised for the Clerk's salary for September and October, tax to HMRC and for stationery expenses. The Bank reconciliation was agreed and the budget for 2022-23 was found to be on track. The Precept required for the year 2023-2024 will be decided at the meeting to be held in January 2023 when the budget for the following year is agreed.

### HIGHWAYS

We are still awaiting Highways' views on traffic priority issues on the C324 as above. The new shared SIDs device is working well and will be back in Playford for December. The drainage ditch bordering Butts Road in front of the Village Hall has been cleared out by SC Norse Ltd but grips in Hill Farm Road need digging out – Norse to be asked to do this when they are next in the area.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultant Ian Poole hopes to have the first draft of the Plan ready very soon, having recently updated it to include the list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets in Playford. Locality fund money obtained for the Plan must be used up by the end of the financial year.

## PLANNING MATTERS

**Application DC/22/1794/FUL** Single storey side and front extension to The Old House, Bransons Lane is still awaiting a decision by ESC Planners

**Application DC/22/3153/FUL** Cart lodge and office above at Hill Farm Cottages, planning decision awaited.

**ESC Enforcement Officer issues:** The numbers of cars being parked at a premises in Hill Farm Road is now less of a problem, but the situation will continue to be monitored.

## OTHER MATTERS

Playford Toddler Group has now closed due to lack of volunteers to run it.

Two more quotes are to be obtained for the work required to repair the bottle bank.

An update is required for the PC details on the parish website. It has been suggested that an interactive History Board informing the public of local points of interest in Playford, might be an asset – some costing is needed and will be considered.

The wooden border surrounding the boules piste on the playing field is in need of repair – this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dates of PC meetings in 2023 were agreed.

There is still a vacancy for an additional councillor on the PC.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Weds 11th January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

*Marian Hedgley – Clerk 01473 738468  
e-mail: [playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk)  
website: [www.playford.org.uk](http://www.playford.org.uk)*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following a lot of hard work by the Neighbourhood Plan team, our Plan is nearing completion and it is hoped that we should have the final draft before the end of November, 2022, Once this has been reviewed and approved, we can begin the process of consultation.

*Keith Carson*

## PLAYFORD W.I.

We would like to pay tribute to Gina Corani, a member of Playford W.I. who has very sadly passed away. Gina supported the W.I. over many years including time on the committee and as President. Her ideas and enthusiasm for all our activities and for village life especially in creating memories for children, most recently at this summer's Jubilee celebrations, will be dearly missed. We extend our sincere condolences to all her family and friends.

We hope everyone visiting the Village Hall over the festive period enjoys the Christmas tree that we'll be decorating. At our December meeting we'll be playing 'New Age Kurling', an indoor version of ice curling - without the ice but with all the competitiveness! If you'd like to give it a try, join us on 6th December at 7.30 p.m. in Playford Village Hall! We'll then be kicking off 2023 straight away with our first meeting of the year on January 3rd. We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year - [Playfordwi@gmail.com](mailto:Playfordwi@gmail.com)

## PLEASE SUPPORT PLAYFORD ST MARY'S via the Parish Giving Scheme

We know from research\* that many people value the presence of the local parish church in their community for a whole variety of reasons: historically, architecturally, socially and spiritually; one lady said to her local vicar "Oh yes, vicar, this is my church – I come to all your jumble sales."

In other words, the parish church fosters a real sense of belonging, even in ways that may seem unconventional, and many people enjoy sitting quietly just inside or outside, if there's a bench, perhaps appreciating the centuries of effort that have gone into maintaining our historic churches or the beauty of the churchyard in more rural areas.

The Parish Giving Scheme is a way of supporting your church, with a regular direct debit, which also has *opt-ins* for Gift Aid and/or inflationary giving (a small

# Celebrate Christmas at Playford Village Hall

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increase each year on the anniversary of your giving). It is operated centrally in Gloucester, but each church has its own unique parish code to ensure that your giving reaches the correct destination!

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You can join online, by phone or with a paper form, arming yourself first with the name of the church as it appears on the PGS website:

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If you have any queries, please contact Sally Wainman (Local Giving Advisor for All Saints Kesgrave). I can provide paper forms if you don't want to set up a Direct Debit online - Phone: 07807 984589

*Sally Wainman*

\*National Churches Trust 2019

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## PLAYFORD CHURCH SERVICES

### December

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Morning Service.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 p.m.	Candlelight Carol Service. Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Bring your friends and all the family.
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15 p.m.	Combined Midnight Mass at <b>Playford</b> (with Little Bealings).
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Combined Christmas Morning Service at <b>Little Bealings Church</b> .

### January

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>		<b>No service</b>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Family Communion.
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Benefice Service at All Saints Kesgrave.

*Everyone is welcome to our services.*

## BINKY AND CO.

Binky was getting worried. Christmas was fast approaching, and his wonderful wife Indigo had not dropped her usual heavy-handed hint as to what she wants as a Christmas present. If he got it all wrong, then there would be hell to pay. Conversely his idiot son (at a seat of higher learning) had demanded money in the form of a large cheque or deposit in his bank account. Well thought Binky he can wait. He is a now a fully paid-up member of the Woke Official Front For University Learners (or WOFFUL for short). He was useless before he went to university and if they do their job as advertised, he should be twice as useless when he finishes. Binky preferred his professors to be grey haired, elderly and wear a suit and tie. These so-called professors that are twenty-five and have a

degree in the mating habits of the Ugandan greenfly are merely fluff faced usurpers. They know nothing of the real world.

However, the boy's doting mother wanted to go to the University Christmas Reception so that she could discuss her son's progress and tell the Dean where he was going wrong. But her son forbade it and had her cancelled at the WOFFUL AGM. But Binky's wife knew nothing about wokenism and so turned up anyway. But first she had to attend the carol service in the chapel. Now I am sure good reader, that you are aware of 'Carols from King's' that is on the television at Christmas. Well, this was similar except it was rubbish. And it was rubbish because the visiting parents couldn't sing and the students at the back deliberately sang out of tune and the incorrect words in order to punish the parents.

After the Carol Service, Indigo came outside to be met by her son. He was proudly holding a bicycle. "Where did you get that bike?" demanded Indigo. "Well, you see mum, it was like this. I was walking down the road and a beautiful young woman on a bike stopped, put down the bike, took all her clothes off and said, "Take what you want." "Mmm" said his mother, "Good choice, I don't think any of her clothes would have fitted you." (Well, one has to keep up with modern thinking, even in this magazine.)

Indigo went brazenly up to the Dean's door, knocked and went in. "Get out" came a harsh shout from behind a large wooden desk covered in paperwork and a gold-plated letter opener gripped tightly in a quivering bony hand. "I'll tell you when to come in." "And I will tell you what you can do with your letter opener" retorted Indigo. The Dean melted. He had a passion for XXXL ladies with attitude.

"My dear lady please take a seat" said the Dean in his most Uriah Heap sort of way. "Now how can I help you?" "Well," said Indigo "I am sure you have already recognised the brilliance of my son as sure as I

have recognised the stunning humanity and sensitivity in you" she began "My dear Dean all I ask is that you should not hide that sensitivity by awarding my son anything less than a first-class degree at the end of his studies". The Dean had never been called sensitive and human in all his life. He quite enjoyed it. "My dear lady your request is safe in my hands." said the Dean. "Tea?"

"I do remember your son very well from his first day" said the Dean stroking his beard thoughtfully.

"I stood in front of the class and asked if anyone in the class thought they were an idiot and if there is one then he or she should stand up. After a minute, your son stood up. I asked him if he actually thought he was an idiot. The boy replied, "No, I just didn't want to see you standing there all by yourself." "Yes, I remember him very well indeed."

*Binky says, "A happy Christmas to all our readers."*

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# CULPHO

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John Lapsley, 1 Abbey Farm Barn, Culpho

01473 738008

## CHURCHWARDEN

Richard Garnham, Cherry Box Cottage, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TT

01473 738139

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## CULPHO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

It is with heartfelt sadness that I report the passing of Paul Bruce who lived in Culpho for many years. We offer our prayers and thoughts to his wife Sue, daughter Hannah, her husband Stephen and their children Reuben and Natalia.



Paul's funeral will be held in Grundisburgh Church on Thursday December 8th at 11.30 a.m.

Ipswich Choral Society wishes to thank everyone who shopped with them at the Craft Fair which was held in St Botolph's church on 19th November. Special thanks to Richard and Christobel Garnham along with Lyn Chapman for their invaluable help and support. The fair raised £358.70p which will be used for developing the choir's activities. Ipswich Choral Society will celebrate its

200th anniversary in 2024 with some wonderful music. To start our celebrations, we will sing Prayer for Ukraine by Lysenko/Konysky and Tchaikovsky's mesmerising Liturgy of St John Chrysostom in Ely Cathedral on Saturday 28th January 2023.

Chris Pearce is working feverishly behind the scenes organising the programme for Culpho Music 2023. Chris is hoping that dates will be confirmed before the next edition of the news.

A reminder of the Christmas Carol Service to be held in St. Botolph's on 18th December at 3.00pm when everyone will be welcomed. Christmas drinks and food will be on offer after the service. Those football fans amongst you will be aware that the date and time of the service coincides with the final of the World Cup, so remember to push the record button as you walk out of your house!!!

Our church looks beautiful lit up during the winter nights and it is planned to illuminate the church over Christmas. Please contact the church warden if you wish to have the lights switched on for a particular occasion.

*Richard Garnham*



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## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWS

Contributions for the February 2023 News to be submitted by:

**5.00 p.m. Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January.**

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> January.**

### **DISCLAIMER**

**The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Team.**

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