

Fynn - Lark News

JUNE 2020



CULPHO - TAKING THE PULSE

Recently we have been able to enjoy the celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of VE day. How enlightening it was, listening to the veterans reminiscing about their experiences which ultimately led to our freedom as a nation. Equally uplifting was learning that my 7-year-old grandson was enthralled by the wartime songs. Long may he remember them, in the hope he passes them on to future generations, and that they, too, may be reminded of the spirit and the outcome of those war years.

Culpho church parishioners have been warmly welcomed into the Carlford benefice albeit somewhat more slowly than anticipated, given the present lockdown circumstances. We are very fortunate to have within our midst personnel who are very savvy in the world of computing. That has given us

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

the opportunity to be able to take part in virtual services. They fill the gap, but it is not the same. When I visit the church to check that, hopefully, all is well, I am overcome by this spiritual feeling that the building is lonely and that it wishes to reach out and grab me for its own well-being. Hopefully, we will be able to return in both body and soul in the not-too-distant future. Unfortunately, all the hard work which Chris Pearce has done in arranging a high-quality concert season to take place in the church has somewhat floundered. Its wonderful acoustics, however, will remain ready to welcome us again, and we will no doubt have a chance to enjoy the artists' talents some time in the future.

Clare Sanders, our priest, has been

instrumental in forging the all-important links within the benefice and helping us to develop our new link with Grundisburgh. Her friendship, dedication and leadership will be sorely missed after her 15 years in post when she retires at the end of May. Much work has been done in preparing a profile incorporating all the parishes in the benefice as we proceed in advertising for a replacement for Clare. Thankfully, within the church community, there is a very willing and capable group of volunteers who will act as cover as we enter into a period of interregnum. We have much to be thankful for, much to look back on, with gratitude, and much to look forward to.

*Richard Garnham Church Warden
St Botolph's Church, Culpho*

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NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST

OUR “STAY ALERT” ISSUE

We remain in a state of alert, vulnerable and wary. We have been lucky to have been seeing out the Covid19 lockdown in a beautiful part of the world, with wonderful opportunities to channel our exercise allowances into local walks, and discovering beauties of our locally countryside which we may previously have taken for granted.

Once again, we carry few advertisements of events that we might have been able to anticipate with some degree of pleasure. The future remains uncertain. But this Magazine is once again dropping through your letterboxes, chronicling our lives through extraordinary times. Editorial fingers remain collectively tightly crossed that things will continue to improve, that there will be no second cycle of Covid-related illness, and that our readers will emerge healthy, and possibly wiser, at the end of it all.

DEFINITION

Deadline (noun)

1. the latest time or date by which something should be completed.
2. Historical - a line drawn around a prison beyond which prisoners were liable to be shot.

We are receiving an increasing number of late entries which have a ‘knock-on’ effect in the production of the magazine. Please observe definition No.1so that we are not forced to use definition No.2! *Ed*

NATURE NOTES

- MANDARIN DUCK

The internet has been carrying pictures of unexpected animals venturing into spaces hitherto packed full of humans. Lock-down has opened our eyes to spectacles normally missed in the hectic daily round. We have had more time to observe. One unexpected sighting has been an exotic-looking male mandarin duck, sitting permanently some six/eight metres up a tree near the Bealings humped-back bridge. Apparently, it has been there for several weeks. One day there were two males on separate branches on the tree. Duck number one seemed to be guarding a hole, either with a female inside incubating a brood or waiting patiently for a mate to arrive. Calling on your imagination, imagine the challenges to ducklings. Apparently when the ducklings hatch, the female will coax them down to join her on the ground. A true leap into the unknown!

I was surprised to see this bird in a tree, with the possibility of its nesting there. That was the cue to a bit of research on this species. We discovered that it is indeed what is known as a “perching” duck. The colouring of the bird is distinctive, with a mix of white, purple, red, yellow-orange, and both have crests. The adult male has a red bill, large white crescent above the eye and reddish face and “whiskers”. The male’s breast is purple with two vertical white bars, and the flanks ruddy, and he has two orange “sails” at the back (large feathers that



Karen Finch RHAD FSHAA FRSA

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stick up like boat sails). The female is similar to the female wood duck, with a white eye-ring and stripe running back from the eye, but is paler below, has a small white flank stripe, and a pale tip to its bill.^[3]



Both the males and females have crests, but the purple crest is more pronounced on the male. It prefers habitats such as the edges of rivers and lakes. It mostly occurs in low-lying areas. In winter, it additionally can be seen around marshes, flooded fields, and open rivers. It prefers fresh water., around the edges of lakes, water meadows, and cultivated areas with woods nearby – so it all fits. The Mandarin Duck is originally from China, Japan, Korea and Russia but was first imported in the mid-1700s but didn't breed in the wild here in the UK until the 1930s. Apparently the first escapees came from a collection in Cobham, Surrey. They are now widespread in the south east of England and slowly expanding north.

In China, a pair of Mandarin Ducks is seen as a sign of fidelity and so are given as gifts at weddings.

The duck is camouflaged by the rutted bark of the tree. We include a clearer picture, for recognition purposes -this is the male

Jonathan Keer

HISTORY CORNER

This has to be the issue in which we reflect back on the events of May 8th 1945, and how we did our best, even in this time of Lockdown, to remember the war-time generation, their stoical, and heroic qualities, and all that they did to enable us to be living our own lives in freedom. Parallels are drawn between the challenges of those years, and our present-day lives in lockdown. Few of us would prefer Gestapo patrols and concentration camps to Covid19.

What was it like to be living in these villages during those war years? We have records showing how people were organised into teams, in anticipation of invasion and bombing raids. Ordinary people, like you and me. And of course, we had our Home Guard, men, old and young, those not away fighting, plucked from the ordinariness of our ranks to be prepared to defend us in our homes.

Not only that, but there was a sub-section of the Bealings Home Guard under secret orders to go covert in the event of invasion and take up permanent residence underground in a secret bunker, while seeking opportunities to sabotage the German occupiers. Our local secret bunker was in a copse, on high ground in Great Bealings, one of just a couple of dozen of such bunkers in Suffolk – part of Churchill's Secret Army, consisting of young men prepared to fight the invader, even though life expectancy was around two weeks. Not that the rest of the population was necessarily any safer for their would-be exploits. Reprisals for the perpetration of acts of sabotage often included hostage-taking and exemplary executions – the brave resistance fighters took to the hills, but the results of their actions were all too often what was called “the blood of others”

It is now all too easy to see the Home Guard through the prism of the self-mocking comedy of Dad's Army, but that should not blind the modern reader to the acute sense of military vulnerability that

led to its foundation in 1940, or to its many contributions to the war effort. Nor should we forget the individual contributions of ordinary men and women from these, our villages, which could so easily have been the first to be over-run and overcome, had our island been invaded. The Home Guard was finally disbanded in 1945, happily never having been called upon to fight in anger.

As we quite rightly celebrate VE Day 75 years after that momentous day in 1945, we should perhaps reflect soberly on the chilling closing lines of a Parish Invasion Committee memo to all villagers: ***“In the opinion of those in the best position to know, invasion is more likely than not.”*** Let us give thanks that the prediction turned out, eventually, and after much sacrifice, to be wrong.

By way of introducing our next item, here



is a picture of Wendy Chard, holding an image of her late submariner father.

In the course of a Lower Street socially distanced VE + 75 commemoration she revealed that her father had twice missed the sailing of his submarine, owing to “being held up in port”. On each occasion that submarine was sunk. Such are the vagaries, uncertainties, lucky and unlucky moments of war.

Norman Porter

PROFILE

CARERS – ALL OF THEM

In our May issue, we profiled Dr Jonathan Douse, representing all those doctors and nurses who have been taking the brunt of the Covid19 crisis. In this issue we pay tribute to all those who are part of the wider caring community.

SPOTLIGHT ON CARERS – BY WENDY CHARD, GREAT BEALINGS

Before the Coronavirus hit us, the work of a Carer was mainly taken for granted. The job was carried out in the background, not recognised in our society as being very important. It was undervalued. How things have changed! And I hope forever! The profile of the role of Carers has been raised, along with that of nurses, and all are now recognised as what they are: ‘Keyworkers.’ They always have been!

There are carers who work in residential homes, but here are a large number of people who want to remain living independently in their own homes. Care for these people is provided by carers going into private homes to enable that to happen. Should I reach that state of dependence on others, it would be certainly important to me personally to be able to do what I wanted, when I wanted, and I would prefer to do it in my own home environment. I would wish to keep as much as possible to my usual routines. Many studies prove that, if it is possible, staying in your own home is good for your mental well-being. That, in turn, affects your physical health. There are many who share these opinions and seek to be cared for in their own homes.

Most people, and that means most of those who need care, wish to get up around 8am, so the job of a carer starts early. Most people want to go to bed between 8-10pm, so the job also finishes late. The required tasks can be full-on personal care, assisting in getting up washed (all areas!), dried, dressed, then breakfast made, housework done, laundry, medication given, and providing

some company. For that person, the Carer may be the only person they see all day! It is impossible to do all these tasks effectively, as well as compassionately, if rushed.

Each visit made by a Carer is full-on, physically, and very personal. You have to be a special sort of person to do the job, and you need the patience of a saint! Carers sometimes can see an individual a few times a day and they see the same people each day. As a result, they build up a very close relationship, which can in some cases go on for years. Carers can become very much attached to their clients. This can be beneficial. As they see them every day, the Carers are often the first who can identify very quickly if there is something wrong or different with that person. This information is invaluable in knowing when to seek medical advice and to get help, if necessary, and quickly.

This is not just a physical job, but also an emotional one. The Carer is the first to be at a funeral and to offer support when a client passes away. Carers offer the kind of care that we would all wish for our own parents, or what we would like for ourselves, should we need it. For Carers, their client can seem like part of their family.

Carers can need up to six references! Then they do have to undertake a number of days training, covering Health and Safety, Food Hygiene, Moving and Handling, Medication etc. They are usually shattered after it, having been unprepared for the information over-load. Caring is a highly regulated service, closely watched by the CQC. (Care Quality Commission)

Carers are DBS checked, and they have to be at a certain educational level to be able to cope with the workbooks and training. Then they do a City and Guilds level Dementia training course. They need a certain level of technical knowledge to cope with the day-to-day recording and the constant training courses which are carried out mainly via

websites. So not only do Carers have to have a genuinely caring nature, and be physically fit, but it also helps if they can sing old songs, do jigsaws, chat about the past, have a clean record, drive a car, find parking spaces, time-manage, know a bit about technology and be ok about going back to school! That is hardly a job that can be described as non-skilled. Nor should it be low paid and overlooked in value by society!

And now, on top of all that, Carers have to deal with COVID-19! The daily anxiety is considerable. It is difficult to put on a show of normality under a face mask. It is hot under those masks and the permanent wearing of gloves makes your hands sweaty too

In our present-day world, families do not look after one another as they used to. Nowadays our families tend to be spread all over the world and across the country. Therefore, we are forced to rely on those all-too-often unseen heroes who, day after day, go into other people's homes looking after our elderly and vulnerable relatives, and enabling them to stay independent.

We do unfortunately hear stories of when it does go wrong, but the majority of the time it goes well! We all need to say a resounding "Thank you" to our devoted army of carers.

Wendy Chard

PLANT SALE

With the cancellation of this year's Bealings Plant Sale came the question of what to do with all those carefully nurtured plants?

In an attempt to salvage something, I decided to offer plants for sale around the neighbourhood, simply asking people for a voluntary donation to a charity of their choice in return for a few plants. I must say the response was heartening and would just like to thank everyone who bought plants and donated. As a result of the generous responses to this appeal, a number of local charities and trusts have



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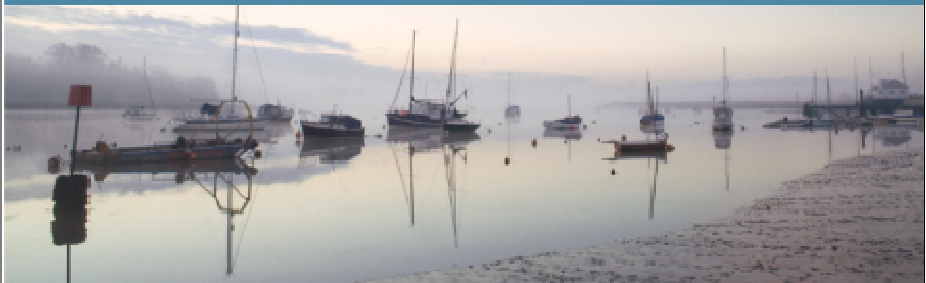
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benefited, including the following:

Bealings Village Hall Trust

All Saints Church, Little Bealings

Angela Cobbold Hall

East Anglia's Children's Hospice

St Mary's Church, Great Bealings

Families in Need (FIND) charity, Ipswich

SANDS charity

Apologies for any that I have missed from the above list. Also, I know that other gardeners around our villages have been doing something similar, so well done to everyone who both donated and bought plants, thus helping produce a positive outcome from an unexpected and difficult situation.

Francis Mutimer

CHIROPODY CLINIC

We apologise that because of the current restrictions the regular chiropody clinic remains suspended but if you have need of urgent attention please contact Charlotte direct.

BEALINGS AND PLAYFORD NEWSGROUP/MAIL LIST

We frequently have a problem with Microsoft wrongly identifying emails from our mail system as spam and refusing to deliver them. So if you have an account with Outlook, Hotmail, live.com, live.co.uk, msn or other Microsoft provided email account, you may find that a number of messages (particularly the local newsgroup) are being dropped as spam without your knowing. If you are on one of these accounts and have an alternative email provider, please let the Bealings and Playford News know your alternative email address with a quick email.

bealingsplayfordnews@googlemail.com

could you foster?

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected almost every aspects of our daily lives and whilst we are all in lockdown or self-isolation, there are still thousands of vulnerable young people coming into care, in need of a safe and nurturing home. I work for Nexus Fostering, and we desperately need to recruit more foster carers, even amid the coronavirus outbreak.

With our physical offices temporarily closed, and our recruitment events on hold, we are needing the support and help of our local parishes more than ever. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

More information can be found on our website www.nexusfostering.co.uk or by contacting

Hayley Attew, Carer Engagement Officer, Nexus Fostering
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FRANCIS MUTIMER'S LOCK-DOWN DIARY (EDITED)

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL.

This turns out to be a strange Easter Sunday in many ways. There will be no family gathering, so we exchange messages and Easter greetings with family and friends and spend a quiet Sunday morning just relaxing and reading.

In the afternoon we head off towards Lux Farm. As we approach the farm buildings, a strange sound drifts across the field towards us- someone is playing the bagpipes. The sound of bagpipes strikes me as incongruous – but then we are in strange times, and somehow it fits. The tune being played can roughly be identified as *Amazing Grace*.

Beyond the farm we pass Lux Wood, an ancient mixed woodland. It is bluebell time, and the woodland floor is carpeted with a blue haze, dotted with patches of white wood anemones. While our human world has changed, this is something ancient and unchanging to enjoy.



TUESDAY 14TH APRIL.

I have an email from someone in the village asking about plants. With the cancellation of this year's village plant sale, they are hopeful that I may have some plants available. I do have and send a list of my 'stock'. I ask the recipients to make a voluntary donation to a charity of their choice in return, which they are happy to do.

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL.

In the afternoon, we sort out the plant order and deliver them. We load the plants into two wheelbarrows and walk down to Lower Street, Great Bealings. This will count as our daily 'permitted exercise,' for which we are allowed to leave home.

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL.

In the afternoon we go for a walk across the fields towards Martlesham. The old oak in the middle of the field has a large collection of brightly painted stones laid in the grass at its base, all bearing messages of hope and encouragement to whoever is passing. There is a little Suffolk humour too, someone has augmented the collection with a small piece of paving slab, on which is written "If oi wur goin thur oi wouldna start from ere. Moind ow yew goo t'gither."

Leaving the meadows, we head home along the path which runs through Cherry Tree Farm. From a patch of brambles nearby, I hear the unmistakable sound of a nightingale. About a hundred yards further on, I spot a familiar shape swooping across the sky just ahead of us - those welcome harbingers of summer, the swallows have arrived. Two different birds, each bringing joy in their own way.

Later, we go out into the garden to join the weekly ritual of applauding all the country's NHS workers at eight o'clock. It seems that just about every household in the neighbourhood is joining in now and the applause is almost drowned out by the sound of people banging saucepans.

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL.

Liz is on the rota to work today. There are a small number of pupils in school, on what would normally have been the last day of the Easter holidays. She takes in some elder sticks, cut from the woods, and some string. The idea is to keep the children entertained making 'bracelets' from small pieces of elder with the pith poked out of the middle and string threaded through - a simple yet effective way of keeping them entertained and enjoying being outdoors

Nationally, the government has announced that the current lockdown restrictions will stay in place for another 3 weeks at least.

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL.

We pass through Playford churchyard, a mass of cowslips growing among the weathered gravestones brightens our way. It seems we could be in for another dry summer this year, if the old adage is true – 'Oak before the ash and we'll only get a splash, ash before the oak and we're bound to have a soak.' The oaks are coming into leaf now, while there is still little but bare branches to be seen on the ash trees.

TUESDAY 21ST APRIL.

The whole 'lockdown' experience has provided opportunities for people to get to know their neighbours and make new contacts and friendships close to where they live. If communities become stronger and more cohesive as a result, this will be a lasting benefit of the current crisis.

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

Just after breakfast as I go out into the garden, I hear a distinctive and welcome sound – the first cuckoo of the season. Cuckoo numbers have been in decline for a few years now and it is a noteworthy event to hear one.

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL.

I am attending a funeral today and buying flowers is not a practical option at present. I collect a varied selection of seasonal blooms. The funeral is in Kesgrave, and quite unlike any funeral service I have ever been to before. Robin, the vicar, says a few simple prayers and words of comfort as the six of us stand, not close together, but spaced out around the graveside, all observing the 'safe distance.' While Robin is speaking, the sound of a lone skylark soaring above the fields nearby drifts down from a bright blue sky patterned with a few delicate, wispy cirrus clouds. It is a scene to inspire joy, not sadness.

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

We have now been in lockdown for a full month.

Life in Bealings goes on, albeit at a different pace for many. What has changed? It is undoubtedly quieter – the normal background noise of traffic and of aircraft flying overhead is mostly absent. Spring birdsong has been a revelation for many, as they become more attuned to the natural world around them.

We have never seen so many walkers, cyclists and joggers using the paths, lanes and byways. Traffic is now greatly reduced, and pedestrians have now to a certain extent 'reclaimed the streets.'

Although all organised social gatherings are banned, neighbours and those you meet

when out in the garden or on a walk are more likely to stop and chat. You encounter small groups of villagers, standing in neat square or triangular formations so as to maintain the two metre 'safe distance,' talking animatedly and slightly louder than normal because of the spacing.

I end the day with a walk over to the churchyard in Great Bealings. I pause to say hello to Great, Great Grandfather Charles Mutimer, whose name I can still just about read on the weathered gravestone which has stood overlooking those meadows for some 130 years now.



SUNDAY 26TH APRIL.

A chilly dawn with a light frost. Fortunately, I had taken the precaution of covering my newly emerged potatoes, so no harm is done. This is an old gardener's ritual, I remember my father and his contemporaries often coming out of the pub late at night in April or May, glancing skywards on a clear, chilly evening and observing "reckon I'll have ter cover me taters up tonight."



TUESDAY 28TH APRIL.

The long dry spell has finally come to an end. The sound of rainwater trickling into the water butts is music to my ears.

Nationally, the numbers of new cases and deaths are showing a gradual decline, after peaking around mid-April. Politicians are saying that it is too soon to ease the restrictions yet, as there needs to be a sustained fall in cases over time before this can be considered.

SUNDAY 3RD MAY.

In the afternoon we take a walk along the path towards Martlesham and back via Cherry Tree Farm. The meadow below Cherry Tree Farm is carpeted with dandelion clocks. As we cross it the sound of another nightingale drifts across from the scrub on the side of the hill nearby. It is extraordinary how many nightingales we are hearing this spring, I have heard them in five or six different locations around Bealings in the past few weeks, probably more in the past month than in the last ten years. The traffic noise from the nearby A12 is far more noticeable today, certainly compared to that first Sunday of lockdown five weeks ago.

TUESDAY 5TH MAY.

We go for a long walk of around five miles, making our way to Grange Farm shop at Hasketon to pick up a few items. The shop is quiet, only four customers are allowed in at a time.

As evening falls and frost is forecast, I once again go through my potato covering ritual, having to improvise with various objects including an old tin bath and an upturned wheelbarrow, as the plants are well advanced now and upturned pots no longer suffice.

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY.

For the first time this year I hear a familiar, welcome sound and look up – a small group of swifts is wheeling high overhead, swooping, diving and screaming to signal their return to these shores, a sight to lift the spirits and mark the return of summer.



Shortly afterwards, in contrast to the joyous sounds of the swifts, I hear the haunting cry of a lone lapwing. At the same time, a buzzard is circling high overhead on the morning thermals. These two species have undergone something of a reversal in fortunes during my lifetime – I can remember seeing and hearing whole flocks of lapwings in the fields around Bealings as a boy, now they are rarely seen. Buzzards, now commonplace, I hardly ever saw as a child, along with most other birds of prey.

FRIDAY 8TH MAY.

Today is VE Day Bank Holiday, marking the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Some houses have bunting and flags outside, decorating their front gardens and fences, and a few low key 'safely distanced' gatherings are planned. It is a warm sunny day, ideal for outdoor gatherings.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY.

As I walk along a field edge heading for home, a fox stops its progress across the open field and looks warily in my direction, before turning round and slinking back into the undergrowth.

Is there anything quite like the English countryside in the evening in late Spring? Possibly, but it is more than enough for me.



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GREAT BEALINGS

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Summarised notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4TH May

WORKING PROCEDURES DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS:

The Chairman expressed thanks to Vicky Norris for her assistance in setting up a video conference facility for this meeting. Guidance from SALC is that PC's do not have to hold an Annual Meeting until 2021. Charles Barrington stated that, if members agreed, he is prepared to continue as Chairman for another year, and all other officers can remain unchanged. This was unanimously agreed. Delegated powers were given to the Clerk at the meeting on 23rd March. It was resolved that these should continue until normal procedures can be resumed, with the additional proviso that she can counter sign cheques up to a limit of £300 but, on this occasion only, the two current cheques in excess of this amount can be included. Following a request from a resident, it was agreed to invite the public to join any future meetings held by video conference. An invitation will be circulated prior to the next meeting.

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COLIN HEDGLEY

A comprehensive report had been circulated to Cllrs and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website. CH explained the reasons for the forthcoming consultation on the ESC Local Plan. There is a 10 week window for submission of any further comments.

PLANNING - Decision Updates:

DC/20/0608/0609 – Rosery Farmhouse – Conversion of cart-lodge - application permitted

DC/19/4066/FUL – Rosery Cottage Barn –

retrospective application re roof lights etc. -

The Applicant has appealed the refusal of this application; no date has yet been set by the Appeal Inspector.

HIGHWAYS

Boot Street Speed Limit Extension

SCC Highways have submitted an estimate of £12,192 for this scheme to be implemented. This figure is in excess of what the PC can afford, and there are currently no available sources of funding. Cllrs considered that, as SCC has identified this matter as a required safety improvement, they are morally obliged to fund this cost themselves. Charles Barrington has been in touch with Andrew Reid, the acting County Councillor for Gt Bealings, and he has promised to look into this.

Verge Reflector Posts The Clerk has identified a supplier for these. However, after discussion it was decided that permission was unlikely to be given by SCC for their installation, and therefore the legal liability risk was too great.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The 2019 revised Financial Regulations had been circulated for comment. These were approved and it was agreed that they are to be adopted.

FINANCE AND ADMIN

10 cheques were authorised for the Clerks salary, PAYE and annual working from home allowance, donations, office expenses and a subscription

Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20

This had been completed and circulated, and was approved by Cllrs. Charles Barrington expressed his thanks to the auditor Eric Barnett, and to the Clerk for the clarity of the accounts, as mentioned by the auditor.

Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 – This was approved and signed

Accounting Statements 2019/20 and Certificate of Exemption. – The Accounting Statements for 2019/20 were approved by Cllrs and the Certificate was signed.

WEBSITE

Thanks were expressed to Phil Holmes for the amendments he has made to the website, including an Accessibility Statement which states that the site complies with the new Disability Regulations.

PRECEPT

The first instalment of the precept has been received

NOTICE BOARDS

Paul Norris advised Cllrs that the posts on the Notice Board at the junction with Grundisburgh Road have been replaced, also those of the Church Notice Board. Thanks were expressed for this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7th July

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 at the beginning of that item. Full draft minutes and approved minutes of the Parish Council are available on the Council's website.

Dee Knights – Clerk 01473 624240
Email: greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk
Website: www.greatbealings.co.uk

ST MARY'S

There are not many programmes about religion on the radio nowadays. One programme that attracted my notice, probably because it was a Sunday morning, and, because I had nothing on by way of official duties I was lingering lazily in bed and listening to the Radio 4 early morning service, perhaps with more attentiveness than usual because it came from that gloriously lofty Salisbury Cathedral which was celebrating its 800th

anniversary. The Bishop who was preaching mentioned Suffolk's foremost landscape artist, John Constable, and his painting of the Cathedral, with the addition of a rainbow, which came to ensure its huge popularity.



I listened more closely. What was important, he said, was the presence of a church in the midst of a community, throughout the centuries, bearing witness to the lives of the people, through good times and bad, a special space, but belonging to all.

Large cathedrals and small village churches have this in common, and both deserve to be treasured and preserved as repositories of the collective historical memory, for believers and non-believers alike. Generations of men, women and children of Bealings have trodden the aisle of our church, with awe, with reverence, dutifully, indifferently. We are just the latest generation to be passing through. But the church represents all those other generations, as well as ourselves. All we need is the rainbow, and the pot of gold at the end of it.

LOOKING BACK

Regulations regarding access to churches have been stringent, but gradually evolving. By the middle of the month, access was permitted to a churchwarden to carry out inspection duties, and to a designated Priest to celebrate Communion on behalf of parishioners. John Hare did precisely that for the first time on Sunday May 10th.



LOOKING FORWARD

The future remains uncertain. The installation of Rev Nigel Prior as our new Priest-in-Charge has been postponed from early June, and a replacement date has yet to be arranged. As previously reported all other services have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Rev Dr John Hare remains available to chat over the phone should psychological or spiritual concerns arise. See church notices for contact details.

WAR MEMORIAL



The Great Bealings War Memorial stands on land gifted to the Parish, and it is the Parish Council who assume responsibility for it and ensure that it is kept in good condition. Inevitably, because of its location, and because of the holding of Remembrance services in the church and by the Memorial every November, the

church has a very close involvement over this.

Few people will have known much about the official status of monuments such as this, so it will be of interest to all to know that our memorial has now been protected by the conferring of Grade 2 listed status. That is more than appropriate. The image is not a recent one.

CHURCHYARD

The churchyard remains carpeted with wildflowers. The rabbits are proliferating. Mr Wasp's bees, in hives behind the red brick wall, seem to have decided to break out of their own private lockdown circumstances and have migrated to a hole in the wall by the church gate. Be careful, as long as they are there. Mr Wasp may try to retrieve them, but they are accessible only with great difficulty in the depths of the wall.



Less harmful, indeed totally harmless, is the beautiful spring blossom of the hawthorn tree down by the wildlife cabin, and here seen in the company of your occasionally patrolling churchwarden.

NOTICE BOARD

We are very grateful to Boot Construction (Paul and Vicky Norris) for noticing that our Notice Board was in urgent need of a bit of TLC. They very kindly and pro-

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actively arranged for it to be reinstalled on fresh feet, and securely based.

That was the cue to its being re-varnished, after the picture was taken. It



is the first feature of our church noticeable by visitors so it now offers a much smarter welcome.

Churchwarden

FRIENDS OF GREAT BEALINGS CHURCH PLANT SALE

We are deeply grateful to all those who have taken plants from individual sources and kindly offered donations in exchange. We hope all the plants will thrive, and not get nipped by the mid-month sharp fall in temperatures.

PCC AND PC COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This note to the local county Communities Officer, Andy Jolliffe reflects the current state of affairs: *Great Bealings continues to hold a list of about 30 volunteers, but it maybe says something for the resilience and helpful neighbourliness of villages that there have been all too few calls upon our would-be helpers. We seem not to have the social anonymity that can so much more easily exist in towns. Or maybe we are just lucky to live in a village with relatively little evidence of rural*

poverty. Many people are aware of how lucky they are to live in a beautiful part of the world, with gardens, and neighbours who know they are there. But we must not get complacent.

And Andy's reply, individualised, and reassuring to receive: *Thanks for this Norman, great to hear. Your story of more volunteers than need is quite common in the surrounding area, and a very positive statement of the community. We have found that although poverty is a challenge for some, people from all backgrounds have been affected through ill health, redundancy, etc. When we start coming out the other end of this, I would like to discuss with local groups how we can help maintain such a strong community group for long term benefit. In terms of complacency, we are very aware of it. As we move through this pandemic, we can expect some 'volunteer fatigue' or other issues, particularly as lockdown eases for some. If I can be of any help for yourselves and the volunteers, please let me know your thoughts and we can tackle it together. Thanks again for the response.* Kind regards and take care,

CELEBRATING

OR JUST NEED SOME CHEER?

If you or a member of your family are celebrating a birthday, or just need some cheer and you've not seen the Facebook posts, I'm offering a "dawn raid" on gardens to festoon them with bunting as a surprise!

This is bringing a little cheer and also raising funds for Sands, the Stillbirth charity, which is, along with many charities struggling during this time. I collect the bunting the same evening and is safe in terms of social distancing. Please email me if you are in Bealings, Culpho or Playford and you would like to book a slot. Many thanks

jennycoates433@hotmail.com

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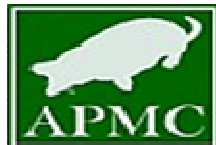
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Alison Cheeseman ATCL, LTCL

✉ alison.cheeseman@btinternet.com

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LITTLE BEALINGS

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

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

Ips 610088

PCC SECRETARY

Ms. Helen Clarkson, Leawood House, Sandy Lane, Little Bealings

07889907615

GLENN HAROLD

Sincere thanks to everyone who sent messages and cards of condolence and support following the loss of Glenn in April, they were of great comfort to us all.

His loss was made so much more difficult by the restrictions to normal life, a family funeral has already taken place.

Margaret Wilson & family

PARISH COUNCIL

I trust that this issue of the Fynn Lark news finds you coping with the regime that has been placed upon us by the Government's coronavirus restrictions. Luckily, we all live in a most pleasant part of Suffolk and have the opportunity to walk along public footpaths through the Fynn Lark valley, now saved from the destruction that an Ipswich Northern Route would have caused. Support groups are available if you find yourself in need of shopping or collection of a prescription.

The Parish Council continues to function, albeit in a slightly different manner to our normal meetings within the Village Hall committee room. Delegated responsibility for planning applications allows the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to collect the views of all Councillors and with the Parish Clerk submit responses to the planning authorities. The Council has not physically met since the introduction of the Covid 19 restrictions. We must meet in public and have considered Zoom/Skype etc for this, but have, so far, decided that this would be too restrictive to ensure you all had the opportunity to voice any concerns. The key piece of work at the moment is the review the East Suffolk Council proposed modifications to

their Local Plan as a result of the Planning Inspector's feedback. You can find the documents here: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/suffolk-coastal-local-plan-examination/>

Comments are due by 10 July.

We anxiously await the next Government announcement to see whether our planned meeting for 6 July will take place. National/Suffolk Association of Local Councils have provided guidance as to what matters can be carried forward to future meetings, and we have a longer period to comply with the 2019/20 external audit requirements, including the need to make the accounting records available for public inspection. The necessary information will be on our website in due course.

If you have any concern that you believe is within the remit of your Parish Council please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or our clerk, Carol Ramsden (email littlebealingspc@btinternet.com or 01473 610088).

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

In the meantime, keep safe and look at our website for all the latest news.

*Ian Ransome
Chairman*

*Little Bealings Parish Council
Email: chairman.lbpc@gmail.com
Mobile: 07885 073925*

CHURCHWARDEN UPDATE

These are difficult times in the village, but we hope that you have been able to enjoy the bright sunshine and Spring blooms. We recently held an online Rogation Sunday service and we are indebted to



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Helen Wittgreffe and Francis Mutimer, who took some beautiful photos of our village. If you would like to see it, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/s1Q-Evc6lg8>. While we cannot keep the church open at the moment, you can join Bishop Martin for daily prayers and services via the Facebook page "Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike CofE Suffolk". Closer to home, we are participating in regular live on-line services at All Saints Kesgrave through Zoom and if you contact me on 07810 355511 or corinnejarvis@hotmail.co.uk I can guide you through the process.

While we await guidance from the Diocese on when and how we will be able to reopen the Church, please keep in mind that we do have essential groceries (including toilet paper, a variety of condiments, canned goods, jams, oils, and freshly made pies) available by appointment and delivery within the 4 villages, along with the Refill Station which has pasta, legumes, grains, and nuts.

Again, we need to stress that like many churches and other charitable organisations, we are struggling to pay the bills that we still need to cover even when services are not being held. To that end, we have some seedlings and very young plants which are available by appointment or delivery in the Benefice and while some are not yet ready to plant out, they can be kept for you until they are a little more hardy.

Most plants are in biodegradable pots so do not need to be re-potted before planting out. Please contact Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend on 078899 07615 for more information:

Plant List

- Ageratum (Blue Mink)
- Aster (Duchess Mixed)
- Dahlia (Mignon mixed)
- Larkspur (Giant Imperial Mixed)-
- Lobelia (White Dove)
- Nigella (Miss Jekyll -Love in the Mist)
- Tithonia (Mexican Sunflower)
- Ammi (Snowflake)
- Calendula (Art shades mixed)
- Gaura (The Bride)
- Lavatera (Pastel mixed)
- Lupins (Festival mix)
- Pampas grass (pink!)

If you could consider making a one-time donation in exchange for some plants--or even £3 monthly to keep us going through this difficult time--we would be most grateful, but there is no obligation to contribute. Our General account information is as follows: Sort code: 20-98-07 Account number: 63618625.

In addition to helping us maintain and preserve our beautiful building, you will also be supporting the Bealings Community Hub venue, which has already proven to be very popular with local villagers and their visiting friends and family. For those who are missing the Monday evening Pilates class and our incredible instructor, Didi, she is doing daily sessions on her YouTube channel which can be found by searching for "Iso-cize".

We will update the Church website (littlebealingschurch.org) and send any new information on re-opening the church via the Playford and Bealings Email list and hope to see you very soon. Be well and stay safe.

With every blessing,

Corinne and Tony Fear



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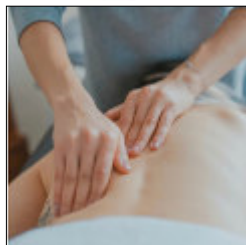
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PLAYFORD

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

THANK YOU

Would you please pass on very many thanks to those involved in keeping Playford Church open as long as they were able. The quiet times I spent there were exceptionally precious to me and have helped keep me well over the past weeks, (together with the cycle rides to Playford). You have my gratitude and appreciation. God bless you!

*Jeannie Woolf,
Little Bealings*

CHURCH NOTES

I have now had a conversation with the Archdeacon and the following arrangements are now in place until further notice.

1 The Church is to remain shut.

2 The toilet is to remain shut.

3 The metal double gates to the churchyard will remain closed and no vehicles are allowed into the churchyard. The pedestrian gate is of course open. The Lych Gate is open.

4 The churchyard can now remain open to pedestrians, walkers etc but please remember to keep your social distance.

If anyone wishes to enter Playford Church for whatever reason, please contact me and I will arrange to meet you there and take you in.

GET WELL SOON

Brian Buckle, our intrepid grass cutter, has been unwell recently. We all wish Brian a speedy recovery.

*Colin Hedgley,
Churchwarden*

PLAYFORD CHURCH LIGHTS

25th April - sponsored by Lesley and Olle Nash in memory of Toni on her birthday

1st May - sponsored by Barbara Durnett for the Wedding anniversary of daughter, Jacqui and son-in-law, Steven, love from Mum and on 2nd May on the 20th birthday of Dylan and also granddaughter, Antigoni on her 16th birthday. Happy Birthday to you both, love from Grandma Barbara

5th May - sponsored by Jonathan Fieldsend for Charlie Clarkson-Fieldsend's 9th birthday. We hope you had a lovely birthday Charlie.

8th May - VE DAY

The lights have been put on at 8.00 p.m. every Thursday in honour of all NHS Staff and all other care and support workers and essential workers who have carried on regardless.

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown and the various restrictions that come with it, the Church will now be locked, and electricity turned off. Until these particular restrictions are lifted, therefore, we will be unable to put on the Floodlights. Many apologies for any disappointment. Any queries please address to the Churchwarden, Colin Hedgley.

*Veronica Bunbury
Church Corner Cottage*

PLAYFORD W.I.

At our monthly meeting in May via Zoom we were able to contact 7 out of our 8 members for a short meeting of only 40 minutes which was constructive. We each spoke about what we were up to during lockdown. Catherine Thornber thanked all

the Playford residents & WI members who had purchased items from her in Spring Meadow which continues to accumulate funds towards the Blossom Appeal.

At next month's meeting we are inviting a speaker to give us an insight into Australia. This may or may not go ahead given the circumstances, but our members will join together via Zoom anyway.

*Sue Bruce
Secretary Playford W.I.*

VE DAY 1945

Twenty-five years ago, when Playford celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe, no one who was around in 1945 could remember anything about the celebrations. I began to wonder if the day had been observed at all. But, thanks to the internet, I have since met someone now living near Basildon who as a boy was evacuated to Playford for most of the war and whose memories of life in the village at that time remain crystal clear. Born in Wroxham Road off Cliff Lane in 1931, he was sent to live with his grandfather Charlie Ablitt when the Germans started bombing Ipswich docks in the summer of 1940. Charlie Ablitt was head cowman for George Fiske at Hill Farm and lived at Dairy Cottage. His grandson Colin Ablitt lived with him from the age of eight until he was thirteen, an experience that left an indelible impression on the young boy.

Colin was able to tell me that not only was VE Day celebrated in the village but that he and his father were involved in the day's organisation. Between us we have mapped out the day's events. At 3.00 pm on that Tuesday afternoon people were at home listening to Churchill on the wireless much as six years before, in more anxious times, they had tuned in to hear Chamberlain's declaration of war. There then followed a sit-down high tea in

the studio at Archway House, the same venue that was to be used for the coronation in 1953. At 7.00 pm there was a 'Spontaneous Thanksgiving' in the church and at 9.00 pm a large gathering in the Village Hall to hear the King. The celebrations ended with a bonfire on the Playing Field.

Colin's father set up the sound system in the hall while young Colin helped with the making of the bonfire. He was also among those who listened to the King that evening and is therefore able to give a first-hand report of events. The hall was packed, and youngsters had to make way for the older generation. A number of seats were reserved for the 'gentry'. The vicar, the Revd. Charles Houghton, took charge of proceedings and began by asking people to stand for a short prayer. And, as it was customary to stand when the King was speaking, he asked everyone to remain standing until he had finished. In helping to prepare the bonfire, Colin had been asked by George Fiske that if he supplied the horse and tumbrel, would he and his friend collect dry timber from the other side of the farm. Two thirteen-year-old boys did not need to be asked twice and were soon to be seen driving a Suffolk Punch and cart back and forth through the village. Their activity caught the eye of Susie Gray the shopkeeper who shouted across the lane not to make the bonfire any bigger as she had 'a large quantity of sugar' that was at risk, a comment that left the boys wondering how she could have stockpiled sugar when it had been on ration since the early days of the war.

The boys were also approached by the 'Village Hall caretaker' who at the time was Fred Dunnett, Geoff Dunnett's father. In the months leading up to the war the hall had been designated a Minor First Aid Post for ARP (Air Raid Precautions)

and in 1942 had come very close to being commandeered by the army. In the event this did not materialise and the Home Guard continued to use the facilities without taking control of either the building or what went on inside it. The war over, however, the management committee were keen to rid the place of its wartime clutter and return the building to full civilian use. As a former member of the Home Guard, Fred Dunnett was well qualified to do this for among the items that he carried out of the hall to put on the bonfire was a box of Molotov cocktails that had been stored under the stage and which for some time he had been wondering what he should do with them. As the Home Guard was to all intents and purposes stood down after the D-Day landings, the petrol bombs must have been there for at least a year during which time various meetings and social functions had been held and in particular the children's Christmas pantomime.

If the day was somewhat subdued and lacked the exuberance that is depicted in the newsreels, it is not difficult to suggest why this might have been so. The war in the Far East had not then been won and there were four men from Playford still suffering as prisoners of the Japanese. Of the four, two were from long-established village families. Stanley Grimsey, an uncle of Jean Durrell, lived with his parents in No. 1 Council Houses, Hill Farm Road and before the war had been a chauffeur/gardener/handyman for F. S. Stevenson at Playford Mount. He joined the 5th/6th Bn. of the Suffolk Regiment and in February 1942 was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore. Together with 620 other Suffolks he later worked on the Burma-Thailand railway where according to the Regimental records 'they mostly died'. After the war he was cared for by St Dunstan's, the charity that provides an independent

future for blind ex-servicemen and he once appeared on television at the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph being pushed in a wheelchair by Harry Secombe, a patron of the charity. The other long-established family member was Tom Dunnett, an uncle of Geoff Dunnett, who lived with his family in The Meadows in Hill Farm Road, one of a group of three houses that were pulled down in the 1960s. Tom Dunnett joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and, like Stanley Grimsey, was a PoW in Thailand. His knowledge and ready access to medical supplies saved his life. The third Japanese PoW was Freddie Broom who lived with his family at The Brook. The Brooms had arrived in the village only shortly before the war and were soon to move away again. In consequence little is known about them. Freddie's brother Eddie, who later served in North Africa, worked as a labourer on Hill Farm where, in the language of the day, he was generally regarded as a 'spiv'. The fourth Japanese PoW had left the village 20 years before he was captured and was therefore less widely known within the village. He was Philip Sherwood, the youngest child of Sam Sherwood of Lux Farm, who left home in 1922 to spend his working life as a rubber planter in Malaya. There he served as a captain in the local Volunteer Force, was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore and, like Stanley Grimsey, worked on the Burma railway. He had been born and brought up in Playford. On retirement he returned to the UK and is buried in Playford churchyard.

VJ Day itself, Wednesday 15 August, was not celebrated in the village at all although there was a well-attended 'Thanksgiving Service' in the church on the following Sunday. Two months later, at the 11.00 am service on 21 October, Tom Dunnett and Cyril Gardiner were

'welcomed' to the church. Cyril Gardiner was the son of Frank Gardiner, senior horseman on Hill Farm who lived in Hill Cottages at the top of Hill Farm Road. He was not a Japanese PoW but had served in North Africa where in 1942 he had driven a Sherman tank at the battle of El Alamein. He could therefore have been invited to the church in his own right but equally, being more of a 'church person', he could have been asked as support for Tom who had been released from prison camp only a very few weeks before.

No doubt prompted by the elaborate Victory Parade that was being planned for London on 8 June 1946, the Parish Council on 8 May at its first AGM since it had last met three years earlier, unanimously resolved that 'the times are not suitable for victory celebrations but the Council welcomes the invitation of the vicar to attend a service of thanksgiving on the morning of Sunday 9 June'. And with that, any thoughts of fully celebrating the fall of Japan fizzled to an end.

Brian Seward

VE DAY 2020

I was very pleased to throw an idea out there that we all picnic on our drives etc and with the help of Ollie and Roland who provide music and the residents of Church Lane we had a great afternoon it was hard but the village community pulled it off Well done Playford. *Gina Corani*



PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL SCHEDULED MEETING 1ST July 2020

As announced last month, our next scheduled Parish Council meeting should be held on **Wednesday 1st July at 7pm** in Playford Village Hall but because of ongoing COVID 19 restrictions we cannot yet confirm whether we will be able to go ahead with this meeting. Please check our website, notice board or contact the clerk (details below) for further information nearer the time.

We will also send a notice around on the Bealings/Playford googlemail circulation as soon as we can confirm either way.

Marian Hedgley, Parish Clerk Tel: 01473 738468

Email: playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk

YOUR CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PLAYFORD 'LOCKDOWN' MEMORY BOX!

In these unprecedented times, we would like to try to capture the thoughts and feelings of Village residents during the current lockdown.

There are probably people locally who are recording their own diaries, as well as organisations like the Suffolk Archives who are asking for individual contributions, but I thought it would be interesting to try and do something as a local village community.

The idea is for people to send in a photo and a short audio recording (max 2 mins) describing their thoughts on a particular aspect of life during the lockdown. I have started to create a rough list of ideas to help people who might need a prompt (see below), but people would be welcome to put forward ideas of their own. Be creative! People could do as many as they want (within reason!) and I would hope it's something we could encourage the kids to get involved with.

Recordings/photos could be done with a smartphone or I could arrange for an audio recorder to be provided should people want to borrow one. Alternatively, I would be happy to schedule a recorded 'Zoom' call for those with the software.

I will compile as many of the donations as I can into a Village Memory Box that we would exhibit at the next Village event, sometime in the future, or perhaps organise an exhibition in the Church or Village Hall.

If people were happy with the content, we could also donate a copy to the local village archives and maybe share the content on a local website subject to consent by people of course (we could anonymise names if required).

It seemed like an innovative way to capture the mood for future generations to understand these times - as well as a fun activity that can be done during this time of social distancing.

Please contact me if you would like to be involved or if you require further information. My email is included below.

We would like to receive submissions by 26th June.

Thanks in advance,

*John Royle
T: 07752 191710
jroyle@btinternet.com*

Topic Ideas:

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BINKY AND CO

Binky was not enjoying lockdown. He was now bored after five weeks of living with his wonderful wife, Indigo who so kindly gave him a list of jobs for the day that invariably ended in him making a right hash of it all and the repair just being added to the next day's list.

The sewing machine table was a case in point. Mrs S had set her mind and not inconsequential talents to making lockdown face masks. All Binky had to do was make a small table to put her 1938 Singer sewing machine on and she would be in business. Well he managed a top and four legs. But it wobbled. So he cut one leg down just a touch. It still wobbled. And so it went on. By the time it stopped wobbling the top was only eight inches off the ground. Apparently this is not conducive to good sewing. So Mrs S was forced to put the machine onto the small kitchen table. Which wobbled. But her patience was exhausted and she wanted to get on.

Her material of choice was in direct contravention of Government guidelines but Mrs S didn't think much of governments anyway (hands up those that do- Ah, I thought so, the usual suspects).

Anyway she decided on using a few pair of Binky's Y- front underpants. Now this wouldn't have been so bad, it just depends which part of the fabric you have at the front. Need I go further?

Mrs S chose the front of course. (Is your mind now racing, dear reader?) With the back portion cut off the waistband elastic formed the securing method. I say securing in the loosest sense of the word.

However Mrs S was proud of her make do and mend policy and felt sure it would soon catch on.

However, on testing the fit on Binky, she

soon discovered that the elastic only held the mask in place if the elastic went round Binky's head. Binky was therefore left sightless. This necessitated, (lateral thinking here), the cutting of two eyeholes into the fabric. The fit was now perfect. Dear reader, is your mind still picturing all this? Then I will continue.

The next day it was Binky's first foray into the never to be forgotten experience of supermarket shopping. He was well briefed as they say. Two metres apart, no coughing or sneezing. One way system round the aisles and all that. Oh yes Binky was primed.

Binky need not have worried about two metres. As soon as the good ladies of the town saw him in his Y mask, the two metres became a natural ten. The word pervert crossed a few lips I can tell you. Anyway in the front door went Binky, shopping list in hand and past the security man who did nothing in case he was accused of being Yphobic. He followed the arrows down each aisle which were strangely empty of other shoppers who by now were keeping to an ultra-safe distance of twenty metres. The checkout girl was absolutely terrified of this apparition in front of her. She was later diagnosed as having PTSD and was given six weeks leave on full pay with the added promise that she would never be required to work in the men's clothing department. It was later confirmed that she was suffering from PTMBD (Post Traumatic Men's Briefs Disorder).

But Binky was delighted that he had navigated the shopping expedition so well. He loaded up the car and drove home. It was great, Binky reported. Hardly anyone in the supermarket and I was escorted home by two police cars. Job done.

CULPHO

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ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH

UPDATE ON CHURCH MATTERS.

As the Fynn-Lark news goes to press we are still unclear as to when Churches will properly open. We have information that from the 4th July there should be some lifting of the current restrictions and the Church will be open for quiet reflection and 'small' weddings. Clearly the social distancing will need to be observed, but more importantly, the Government are reviewing their advice daily and in line with known 'infection' rates. Whilst we will need to observe the guidance offered, there seems some hope that the Church will once again be open, albeit in a limited format. Services however seem to be something which may not happen until much later in the year.

Additionally, whilst we were able to complete the revised Electoral Roll (having complied with the rules prior to lockdown) we have still not been able to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which has meant that all Parochial Church Council members have been required to remain in office until the annual meeting can be held and elections to the roll of Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod Representative can take place. This is where the Accounts and Proceedings for 2019 are presented. Hopefully, this will take place as soon as restrictions are lifted, and people can be admitted to Church safely. We shall keep

everyone informed but think it is reasonable to assume Churches will be some considerable time before they are fully functioning without restrictions.

The Historic Churches Cycle ride and stride is still scheduled to go ahead on the 12th September and help will be needed in welcoming and recording visitors. We have plenty of time to make that provision if the timing is right and the event goes ahead. Again, we shall keep everyone informed.

Meanwhile, the Churchwardens are still visiting the Church weekly to check on any required maintenance etc. The grass is growing and may start to look a little unkempt in the next few weeks, however, Churchwarden Richard will make the decision to cut the grass when it is safe and deemed essential to do so.

In respect of Musical events, P.C.C. member, Christine Pearce, of necessity, took the decision to cancel all musical events for 2020, has notified all those who kindly bought tickets and we look forward to CulphoMusic 2021 bringing some welcome enjoyment back to the Church when it is safe to do so. Chris will get in contact when appropriate to do so.

Finally, we are still in Interregnum and await the appointment of a new Priest for the Carlford Benefice, but cannot let this moment pass without offering our sincere gratitude and thanks to Reverend Canon Clare Sanders of St. Mary's Church,

Grundisburgh for all the help and support so willingly offered whilst we have been without a Priest and during our move to join the Carlford Benefice. Clare will officially retire on the 31st May but has the Bishop's Permission to Officiate after this date; until her move to Shropshire or a new Incumbent is found. Her Ministry and pastoral care throughout her fifteen years in Grundisburgh, have been most generous with many selfless acts of kindness and support being witnessed by so many. Without doubt the Benefice and the community she has served so well, will not be the same without her. Therefore, on behalf of Churchwardens Richard and Guy and all associated with St. Botolph's at Culpho, may we wish her and husband Mark all good wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

Margaret Gornall
Secretary

Culpho: Rev. Clare Sanders will be retiring shortly -we assume that the contact number remains 01473 735183

Great Bealings: Rev Dr John Hare. john.hare6@gmail.com or 01394 387151

CHURCH NEWS

Diocesan regulations relating to access to churches continues to evolve, but slowly. Sadly, almost all our churches remain closed until further notice, but designated Priests are allowed to celebrate communion, alone, on behalf of their congregations, and designated officers may enter to carry out inspections. All churchyards remain open, however, so walking around them can be included as part of permitted daily exercise. The Church of England has been doing its best to create virtual and streamed services, while local priests remain accessible to those seeking supportive reassurance, but muffled messages suggest that the return of services open to full congregations may not be permitted until the end of the year.



JULY - AUGUST 2020 NEWS

Contributions for the July/August 2020 News to be submitted by:

5.00 pm Tuesday, 23rd June.

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 4th July.**

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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