

# *Fynn - Lark News*

NOVEMBER 2020



The dawn of New-Normal, 18 October 2020 - *Marian Hedgley*

## **EDUCATION – a Covid-induced reflection**

Education is good. It is the key to so much. It is the pathway to human fulfilment, mental, physical, spiritual. Yes, as a lucky beneficiary of an 11+ academic education and after 50 years in teaching I am four-square behind all that.

But – and you could see that “but” coming! – it is one of those things that we have tended to take for granted. One of the consequences of Covid is we have been made aware of much that we had come to take as an entitlement, or as an integral, sacrosanct part of modern living. In recent months, for many young people, education has been snatched away, made less accessible or shrunk. The consequences have been dramatic: home-schooling, parents unable to get to work, separation from friends, mental distress, panic as a lack of preparation for exams. We have all

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

realised that such education is not a guaranteed “given”

Perhaps this is the time, by way of minor consolation, to remember how far education has come in the last 150 years. It was only the Forster Education Act of 1870 which made access to education universal and compulsory, even if just up to the age of 13, and then just the 3 “r”s - reading, writing and ‘rithmetic. It is that anniversary which has inspired this article. In 1800 around 40% of males and 60% of females were illiterate. Rural counties such as Suffolk were particularly backward. Education for many was simply learning a job, either on the land, in the factory or in the home. The broadening of knowledge was not part of it. The church did provide Sunday Schools, but, naturally, the church had its own idea of what a curriculum should be. They and Board Schools were the main providers of education for ordinary folk.



*Bealings School 1913*

The next leap forward came within the lifetime of anyone now over 76 – the Butler Education Act of 1944. That extended education provision even further and paved the way for the elaborate system we know today, including higher education access for numbers that would have been unthinkable 100 years ago.

So, in just 150 years we have made huge strides in educating the whole population. We now cannot imagine life without education. It is salutary to remember that it was not always thus, and that we should rightly treasure what has been built up over those 150 years, and value what it has brought to each and every one of us. That is why the pain of its loss because of Covid restrictions has been so acute. We had come to consider education as a human right.

It has been a broader reminder of what was locally felt when the authorities tried to close down Bealings School. The local community responded and the school was saved.\* Neither that school, nor the broad access that so many of us enjoy, or have enjoyed, to educational opportunities, in so many ways, at so many levels, should be taken as absolute and permanent. They have to be paid for, worked for and cherished, by governments, by society, by us.

And a technological footnote: Where on earth would we have been without all that on-line access to information and knowledge, and zoom lessons? That, at least, has been a consolation. How much more difficult it would have been without it.

*\*A History of Little Bealings School, by Jim Pawsey, was published in 2012. It tracks the history of the school back to its origins. Copies are still available from the school.*

*Norman Porter*

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## **REMINDER TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS**

Christmas is coming! ..... may we remind all contributors that the next edition will be combined to cover December & January.

*Deadline & publication dates are on pg.36*

Advertisers are reminded that the December/January issue will be the final edition of the year. We are very grateful to our advertisers for their invaluable and continued support which enables us to deliver this magazine free to every household in our 4 villages.

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

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### **EDITORIAL NOTICE**

This is the first year that our Magazine has been based on the geographical entity of the Fynn-Lark Valley, rather than on the old four-parish Benefice of Great and Little Bealings, Playford and Culpho. The old Benefice has broken up, and each of our four churches has a new allegiance. That which previously bound us together as an administrative entity has gone and it remains to be seen whether the geographical entity will sustain those previous historical ties. Each of the four parishes, with its new allegiance, will be turning towards a new partner, in terms particularly of church activities, but also in terms of more secular activities. That is inevitable, if the new links are to flourish. Whether that is compatible with the role of this current

magazine remains to be seen. After the experience of this first year, parish representatives will need to discuss prospects for the future, so a meeting will be arranged some time in November, with the outcome of that meeting to appear in our final December/January issue of this year.

### **A GOOD-NEWS STORY**

Here is a really good story to cheer everyone up in these difficult times.

I was off on my annual trip into Woodbridge to get my flu jab when the car began to bump along ominously. A car stopped to tell me - (Bit of a miracle to come across a talking car!) that I'd got a puncture. Of course. The lady driver then invited me to follow her and said she would sort it out for me. I followed her.

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Naturally – me being a bit of a chatterbox – we got chatting, and discovered that we were both farmer’s daughters – my rescuer even knew the place where I had been born, together with the name of the person who had bought my parents’ farm. Small world! Reassuring too.

Anyway - after just ten minutes or so my puncture was sorted. I told the lady she was an angel – in my eyes she was. She simply replied: “No I’m not. I’m a traffic cop – 30 years in the force.”

This is a story that cries out to be shared. We hear of so many tales of human unpleasantness nowadays – and the police take so much battering and criticism – that my faith both in human nature and in the kindness of the police was restored. We need a few more like her. Thank you to a wonderful lady. Your kindness needs to be more widely known.

And it turned out that the puncture had been caused by a chunk of Stanley knife in my tyre. It didn’t have a chance. But so quickly sorted – a kind of modern miracle. Don’t you agree?

*Margaret Martin. Great Bealings*

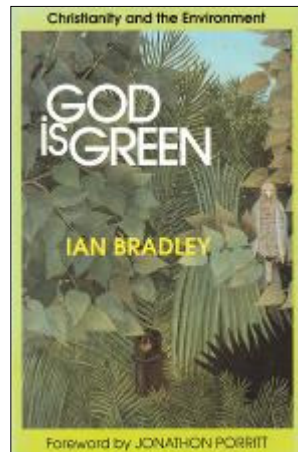
## NATURE NOTES

### GOD IS GREEN

Last month’s notes went macro-cosmic, with reference to Sir David Attenborough’s TV programme warning us about planetary extinction. Staying on the soapbox, this piece is on the same lines, having been prompted by an item in a Sunday paper entitled “Outdoor worship can bring us closer to our faith.” That rang several bells, not least because, for some months, the only services we had been able to hold in Great Bealings Church had been outside. To some that

may have seemed like a semi-desperate alternative, arrived at only because we were banned from holding services inside. Bu, in fact, there is something equally uplifting in being outside in communion with the natural world as there is inside, surrounded by beautiful man-made treasures.

The newspaper article was by a man called Ian Bradley, so I looked him up, and found that all of thirty years ago, he had written a book, with foreword by ecological activist Jonathan Porritt, entitled *God is Green*. So – thanks to the efficiency of Amazon and related booksellers, I was able to source a copy and read it, all within a week.



If you struggle with finding relevance in contemporary religious practice, this book might refocus your thinking on the link between the whole of the natural world and religious practice. If your perception of Christianity is of a religion that is pre-occupied with sin, salvation, redemption – all thoroughly mankind-based – anthropocentric – then do read this book. It brings together the human need for meaning in our lives, together with our ever more desperate concerns for

preserving a planet that is fit for all species to inhabit and co-exist.

Most of us have within ourselves some sort of religious dimension, even though it may well struggle to find a meaningful outlet. Most of us have similarly been affected by concerns, and increasingly so, about the future of our planet. In this little book -even though written 30 years ago – the two come powerfully together.

*Norman Porter*

bruised cheek or anything else that was in the way of this missile, but that was childhood and we soon learnt how to perfect our technique.

I have since learnt that conkers can be used as a moth deterrent, hand or laundry soap (look online), a dye and can even be fed to horses and cattle, but now I just collect a bowlful and admire the wonderful horse chestnut seed, and dream of my youth.

*Jackie Ransome*

## **CONKERS**

Nothing better on a beautiful sunny October day than a walk in the sunshine and then to find a horse chestnut tree with wonderful, shiny ebony hued conkers strewn underneath. Perfect.

When we were children and went for a healthy walk in the countryside (we did not know then that it was healthy to walk – just thought it was fun) and found a conker tree. We went ‘great’ and filled every available space with them, pockets, hats, jumpers full and even down the front of our anoraks giving us big bellies, never mind the earwigs or ladybirds that we gathered up with the conkers.

Once we were home it was a race to find Dad’s (and it would have been Dad’s) bradawl or drill to make a centre hole. Locate some string in the garden shed or the ‘messy’ drawer (we all had those) and threading through the conker making sure that the knot was big enough so that the conker didn’t fly across room on first bash.

There was nothing quite like thwacking a friend’s conker to smithereens, hitting face, hands and anything else that got in the way. We loved it. Shame that Health and Safety has changed this fun time. There might have been a black eye, a

## **HISTORY CORNER**

### **OLD-TIME HARVESTS**

Our Harvest festivals are now all past. Celebrated, but with more difficulty than usual. Last year around this time we dug into the archives to find memories of Harvest Festivals as they used to be – a focal point for most people in a rural village to come together to celebrate harvest home. This year, fired by a combination of memories brought back by historical pictures of harvests and childhood memories of harvest fields and the smell of fresh cut corn in the nostrils, we’ll take the older generations back down that same memory lane, try to show the younger ones how it all worked, what hard work it was, but what collective fun, and ultimate sense of fulfilment for all concerned. There is a whole glossary of words to describe it: scything, reaping, binders, binder sails, sheaves, stooks, haystacks, threshing, traction engines, rabbiting stick etc. The size of the binder cut was about a sixth of some of those huge combines which seem to be able to clear a field in a couple of hours, with all the grain pouring into trucks running alongside, rather than, piled up in sheaves, then stooks, then stacks, waiting to be threshed at a later date. No wonder the whole village celebrated mightily at the Harvest Festival. If I



*The sequence: Cutting (binder),  
Stooking, Stacking, and Thresh-  
ing,*

remember correctly the winter term in schools started a week or so later than it does now, so as to enable the whole family, and in the distant past, effectively most of the village, to work in the harvest fields at bringing in the crops.

It may be nostalgia, it may be Covid-weariness, but somehow, as I write this up, I seem to sense a greater purposefulness about life in those times – a purposefulness under-pinned by demanding and challenging hard work, indoors and outdoors, much of it physical, but with satisfaction at the end of it.

Nowadays, when so much work is now computer-based, that kind of satisfaction is more difficult to achieve, but it's still out there, in our gardens, in our local environments, and even in our homes – once we've hoisted ourselves up from the armchair, away from the computer or mobile phone screen.

And now – ironically, back to the computer, and a bit more history-writing. Hypocrite!

*Norman Porter*



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## GRANDDAD'S MEDAL

*in response to last month's article on Dad's Army*

In March 2020, I was contacted by the secretary of the Martlesham Heath Aviation Society who forwarded an email he had received from a lady who lived in N Kent. I had some years previously given a couple of lectures to the society which must somehow have found their way on to the internet and assume that that was how she had found my name. It spoke of a medal which she believed belonged to my grandfather Albert Bettell.

Some 30 years earlier, the lady's brother-in-law found the medal whilst gardening at his house in Blackfen, Sidcup, Kent. He tried to trace a descendant at the time but, in pre-internet days, had to give up and so put the medal away. He said that the area where they lived had been badly bombed by doodlebugs during the Second World War and that the medal may have come from a bombed-out house. It was completely black when it came out of the ground and looked like it had been in a fire. When he and his wife later moved to Bexleyheath, they brought it with them.

The gentleman was doing some work in his garage when the medal fell out of a drawer. He contacted his sister-in-law who he knew was interested in genealogy. Although the medal was very badly corroded, it was possible to identify

it as a 1914-19 Victory medal. The name AW Bettell can just be made out on the rim although all other details cannot be read. The lady kindly did some painstaking research and concluded that the medal must have been awarded to my grandfather.

My grandfather, one of 10 children, was a rather stern Victorian man who never enjoyed good health. He lived in Welling, Kent with my grandmother and his brother George who came to live with them after his wife died. In the 1950s, as a small child, I spent summer holidays with them, and I recall that both men occasionally talked of the hell of the First World War; both had been gassed. My father, my grandparents' son, was killed in his 30s at Falaise, N France in August 1944, some 5 months after I was born so I never knew him. Neither my grandmother, her other child, my aunt, nor my mother ever got over their loss. There was so much sorrow for so many at the time.

How my grandfather's award came to be in a garden in a house in Sidcup I will never know because my grandparents never lived there, as far as I know. But as I hold it in my hand many memories come flooding back. The medal means a great deal to me and I am sincerely grateful to the 2 kind people who have taken so much trouble to search me out and to send it to me.

*Mike Bettell*

### **To ALL Residents**

Christmas is looking bleak for some, so I am trying to find out what interest there is in a CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

Should it be possible within the rules & Guidelines I think it would be great to celebrate somehow!

So, if you are interested please can you just drop me a line either:

By phone – 07753903056 (voice or text)

Email – [jos@x10k.com](mailto:jos@x10k.com)

All I want to know now is if I (with help from the church) put on a celebration would you come? Are you keen?

God bless all

*Jos Saunders*



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## **PLANT SALE 2021 – A RALLYING CALL**

So much is up in the air because of fluctuating Covid restrictions. It seems that we shall not be clear of this virus for many months yet. We have to be realistic, and cautious.

That does not however mean that we should shelve all plans for a Plant Sale next year. It does look unlikely that such a sale could take place inside, in the Village Hall, as usually happens. The serving of refreshments, together with the crowding together of people indoors, in a restricted place, make this an unlikely proposition.

The great outdoors remains. Not only that, but the value of gardening therapy in these difficult times must not be underestimated, nor the value of home-produced vegetables and flowers. All the more reason to give a focus to such activities and to encourage gardeners to prepare as usual this autumn and next spring.

Another incentive is that all the prizes from last year's raffle remain undistributed and unclaimed. The tickets were printed but never used. We shall have to get a new batch printed, because of the date, but there is an incentive to hold the Raffle, thanks to previous efforts of Faith and Toby Chapman.

We will do our best to find an outdoor space where plants can be sold. That may entail extending the period when this can happen, so as to thin out the hoped-for crowds, and to make it easier to respect such distancing measures as are still in place. But that should be possible.

**PLEASE PREPARE PLANTS AS USUAL, ON THE BASIS THAT WE HOPE TO HAVE A MECHANISM AND OCCASION FOR BUYING ANDS SELLING PLANTS NEXT YEAR.**

**WITH EASTER DAY ON 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, THE BEST DATE SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING WEEKEND - 17<sup>TH</sup>/18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, OR POSSIBLY THE WEEKEND AFTER THAT.**

The Annual Plant Sale brings our villages together and is a tradition that should not be lightly abandoned. Let's come together to make it happen – somewhere, somehow – as long as we can do it safely and legally.

Please direct your reactions, support, queries, worries to: Norman Porter:  
[nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk)

### **Money raised for EACH**

As a result of the Annual Bealings Plant Sale being cancelled this year I put plants I had raised at the end of my drive for people to help themselves to, with the option of making a donation to charity, I would like to thank everybody who donated money to East Anglian's Children's Hospices between us we raised £58.

*Sue Foster*

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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

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## PARISH COUNCIL

Summarised notes of the parish council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### RESIGNATION

Charles Barrington said that he was sorry to confirm that Paul Norris had resigned from the Parish Council in September with immediate effect. He paid tribute to PN's contribution to the PC over the years with his extensive knowledge of the building trade which will be sorely missed.

### PLANNING APPLICATION

**DC/20/3754/FUL – Regency House, Lower Street – Proposed alterations and single storey extension**

It was resolved to support the application, with regard to the extension of the garage space and its conversion to a home office, but to object to the application's delineation of the red line which should be changed to correctly show the current area of residential use and exclude the meadowland on the opposite side of the river, which should not be part of the residential curtilage.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH ESC RE ROSERY BARN

Martin Cripps summarised the recent letter to ESC together with their response. Unless there is future evidence that the Barn is being used for residential purposes, there is no further action for the PC to take.

### PROCESS FOR RECRUITING NEW COUNCILLORS

The Clerk advised Cllrs that after Anthony Sheppard has formally resigned, she will notify ESC of the two resignations. The Cllrs will be removed from the Register of Interests which will trigger a process by which a notice is posted and circulated inviting residents to call for an Election. If

insufficient requests are made, the PC is free to advertise the vacancies and co-opt two replacement Cllrs. If there are more than two applications, a panel will be convened for a selection process.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18th November 2020 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

The new chapter in the life of St Mary's has opened. The legal process confirming the setting up of our new Benefice and partnership with St Mary's, Woodbridge drags on, but the working relationship is now in full swing. Father Nigel Prior chaired his first meeting of the PCC in mid-October, and then our Annual Meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>. He had previously joined in, together with his wife, Liz, the Ride and Stride event which took some thirty local people on a 6-mile walk around the four churches of the old Benefice. Our new Rector is really getting to know us, and to understand our plans and pre-occupations. We are also looking at ways of ensuring that there is good connectivity between the two PCCs, to maximise mutual understanding. A series of recitals is being held before Christmas, each recital being staged in both churches, and mutually compatible plans for Carol services are being looked at, as are our communications systems.



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## LOOKING BACK

### HARVEST FESTIVAL 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

This was the first service at which we were able to welcome Father Nigel Prior as our new Priest-in-Charge. Covid-precautions were in full evidence, including the latest tracing app, prominently accessible on entry. Given all the anti-Covid seating requirements, we were close to capacity, and harvest was duly celebrated with gifts of produce, from gardens and hedgerows, all duly exchanged for donations at the end of the service. We are not deprived of music. Although no singing is allowed, we have CDs of best-loved hymns, sung by superb choirs, and these can be played as appropriate, with or without masked humming.

### PRESENTATIONS

A small PCC delegation called on John and Mary Hare at their home in Woodbridge to thank them for their support to St Mary's during a lengthy interregnum. A book token and flowers were presented as tokens of warmest gratitude for all that they had done to sustain and keep the congregation together during challenging times. During the period that the church had been closed they had loyally kept the faith alive by celebrating communion in an otherwise empty church.



A presentation of a book token was similarly made to Jane Hartley to thank her for her loyal service to the church as regular organist.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### FUTURE SERVICES

We have two services in November: our regular **All-age communion service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November** – please be aware of the experimental starting time of 9.30 a.m. – and our **Village Remembrance Service on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.50 a.m.** This service will begin with an act of remembrance by the War Memorial, timed to coincide with the national 11.00 a.m. moment of silence, to be followed by a brief service inside the church. We do urge as many villagers as feel able to join us on this occasion, regardless of religious affiliation. There are 16 names on our War Memorial, so many fatalities for one small village. In this, the 75<sup>th</sup> year after the end of WW2 we shall think briefly, but specifically, about our only casualty in that war: Edward Charles (Jack)(Ginger) Porter, who grew up in a house on Boot Street



Looking further ahead, our first Christmas in the new Benefice will be more complex, and a programme is still being thought through. There is the possibility of a programme to include two services: a Crib Service in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, and a First Communion of Christmas

mid-evening. That should cover the generations. Those who prefer the full Midnight Mass or an actual Christmas Day Service will, of course, be welcomed in St Mary's, Woodbridge.

### **PCC MEETINGS**

The second "actual" PCC meeting of the year took place in the church on October 6<sup>th</sup>. After such a long period of lock-down and with our new Priest at last in place there was much to discuss. The main points emerging were:

- We need to appoint a new architect, not least to oversee the next Quinquennial inspection, theoretically due 2020.

- The time and timing of Christmas Services has still to be decided.

- The (postponed) Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – before publication of this Magazine.

- We need to find an additional church warden.

- New storage space is needed in the vestry for vestments. A set of these is needed.

- We need to appoint representatives to sit on the Woodbridge PCC and discuss how best to promote future working relationships for our United Benefice. Communications also need to be discussed.

- Anti-Covid precautions seem to be working well.

- Plans for re-organising the space and pews at the back will await the appointment of the new architect.

- We will take steps to ensure proper management of the Car Park extension.

- Warmest thanks to the churchyard Work Party. All tasks were completed in just one morning.

- Presentations had been made to John and Mary Hare (see item above), and Jane Hartley.

- Cheques totalling £230 had been sent to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, after Ride and Stride Saturday – with thanks to all sponsors.

- The Treasurer reported a significant drop in income, owing to the cancellation of services and events.

- There was a good possibility of a series of pre-Christmas recitals – see "Friends".

- There was much more to do if we were to improve our credentials as an eco-church.

- Plans for a Plant Sale in 2021 were pending – see separate item

### **CHURCHYARD**

We are enormously grateful to the dozen willing workers who turned up on the morning of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to clear up the churchyard and prepare it for winter. All this without even the incentive of coffee or ploughman's lunch – banned by Covid precautions. Between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. the whole churchyard was cleared and strimmed, and hedges trimmed, just in time to beat the wind and the rain. Thank you so much to everyone involved – we really are proud of the commitment and efforts of our volunteers. And, despite all the current restrictions, find mutual motivation in one another's company.

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

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

### **MUSIC IN ST MARY'S**

We at last have positive news of an event. A series of events even. Taking our cue from what has been possible at Snape Maltings, and responding to an inquiry from violinist and regular concert-giver, Rose Hinton, we are delighted to announce a mini-series of pre-Christmas recitals Each recital will be given twice, firstly on the Saturday at 4.00 p.m. in Gt Bealings Church, and then, the next day at 3.00 p.m. in St Mary's Church, Woodbridge. These will take place on the weekends of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> November 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December and December 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>.



Rose and her cello-playing partner, Jonathan, will be performing a programme including music by Beethoven, Mozart and Bach on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December. Readers may remember that earlier in the year they performed at a Valentine concert in St Mary's Church.

Once the rest of the programme is

confirmed, all due publicity will be made available. Each concert is likely to be for about an hour, without interval or refreshments. Entry is likely to be by donation @ a suggested level of £10, with any extra going to a local charity. Recital-goers will have to sign up in advance to book seats, because of Covid-limitations, and programmes will be available by email when the booking is made.

Performers and concert-goers alike, are hungry for live music, performers the more so as livelihoods are disappearing, so we are keeping fingers tightly crossed that this appetite for such music will be gently satisfied by our provision of such music in our two churches.

#### **OPEN GARDENS 2021**

It is hoped to resuscitate plans for opening gardens some time in the early summer of 2021. An outdoor event is less likely to be affected by Covid regulations. Charles Barrington has once again kindly offered The Lodge garden as a venue for a final gathering.

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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

---

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is continuing to hold remote meetings using Zoom and met on 5 October. The public can attend remotely and participate as usual during the Public Participation Session of each meeting.

The issues considered were:

### PLANNING

**DC/20/3514/FUL | Change of Use of a Vacant Public House to Residential Use: Admirals Head Inn Sandy Lane Little Bealings Suffolk IP13 6LW**

It was resolved to object to this application as contrary to policy: SCLP8.1 precludes change of use applications for Assets of Community Value, and as the owners had marketed the property for sale but had not shown that the Admirals Head was not commercially viable, and as it had been successful in the past and, like other local pubs in the area, could be viable. A decision by ESC is expected around 3 November.

**DC/20/3387/FUL: Erection of a two-storey dwelling and formation of vehicular access to Martlesham Road: Bealings Holt Martlesham Road**

This application has been approved by ESC.

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL DIVISION BOUNDARY REVISION CONSULTATION

The proposals placed the parish in a Woodbridge ward, rather than a more rural Grundisburgh and Wickham Market ward. It was agreed to contact neighbouring parishes similarly affected, with a view to making a collective, as well as individual, response to the consultation. A response will be decided at the meeting on 9 November.

## FINANCE - EXPENDITURE

The following expenditure was agreed: Insurance premium - £154.28 and website hosting fee: £60.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 9 November and will use Zoom. (This is a change from the previously advertised date of 2 November.) Joining details are included on the Agenda which will be published here: <https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/pc-agenda-list/>

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  
01473 610088*

*Email: [littlebealingspc@btinternet.com](mailto:littlebealingspc@btinternet.com)*

*Website: <https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/>*

## ALL SAINTS

### CHURCHWARDEN'S UPDATE

Dear all, Services continue to take place in person on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and we hope to see more of you at our beloved church, especially our new electoral roll members who were kind enough to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

### Well attended Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on October 15<sup>th</sup>

The APCM meeting is generally held in the Spring, but like many Church and community activities, it was postponed due to the Covid virus. However, it gave Tony and me a great sense of pride in the work of the PCC in 2019, and all the people across the Benefice who continue

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## **PIANO TUITION**

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- ◆ *Music theory*
- ◆ *GCSE practical music*
- ◆ *Wanting to play for pleasure?*

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situation resolves*



to volunteer their time. We are grateful to Rev Gary Jones for sharing the achievements of the Church in 2019 with our in-person and zoom audience. We are working on getting Wi-Fi into the Church so that we can host zoom services and activities in Little Bealings in future.

Tony and I were also gratified to be re-elected as churchwardens for another 1-year term. Our thanks to our proposer and seconder, Peter Kidd and Francis Mutimer respectively, and to the many parishioners who have supported us all year long.

### **THREE VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON THE PCC**

We would like to thank PCC members Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend and Claire Connick who have agreed to continue and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jane Hartley who has stepped down, We look forward to Jane continuing her service to the Church as our organist and we hope that there will be music and singing once again as we look forward to the Christmas season. We would also like to welcome three new members of the PCC: Francis Mutimer, Jackie Taylor, and John Wittgreffe and we have room for one more PCC member if anyone is interested!

### **PCC OFFICERS ELECTED**

Following the review of the 2019 Report and Finances, we held a PCC meeting to elect our officers who will serve a one-year term:

Vice Chairperson	Claire Connick
Secretary	Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend
Treasurer	Corinne Jarvis-Fear
Electoral Roll Officer	Jackie Taylor
Village Hall Committee Representative	Gary Jones
Deanery Synod	Tony Fear
All Saints Tearoom Treasurer	Francis Mutimer
Safeguarding Officer	John Wittgreffe

### **NEW BENEFICE**

We are still awaiting the draft proposal for the creation of our new Benefice with Kesgrave and Playford from the Church Commissioners, but in the meantime, we continue to welcome the ministry of Rev. Robin Spittle, who will be our Priest-in-charge, and Rev. Gary Jones, who will be the local minister for Little Bealings and Playford. Gary has already spent a lot of time getting to know us and we hope you have had a chance to meet him.

### **COMMUNITY HUB**

Tony and I are very happy to see that we can continue to serve the community by allowing the Church to be let out for regular and one-time hirers at very reasonable rates. Of course, we have Covid-19 safety measures in place and we now have toasty warm heating and running water too! If you or anyone you know would like to find out more, please contact me on 07810 355511 or [corinnejarvis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:corinnejarvis@hotmail.co.uk) to see if we can accommodate you.

We also hope to re-open the Tearoom soon, so please stay tuned for more details! AS always, we look forward to seeing you in Church or on our weekly zoom services run from All Saints Kesgrave.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON – SAVE THE DATES!**

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Outdoor Carol Service in the Churchyard with guest choir  
Christmas Eve at 4.00 p.m.  
Zoom Crib Service  
With every blessing,

*Corinne Jarvis-Fear*



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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

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## CHURCH LIGHTS

This is a reminder to everyone that I am now able to accept requests to have the Church Lights put on. It is a lovely gesture for a birthday, anniversary or in memory of someone etc.

lights to: Veronica Bunbury, Church Corner Cottage, Church Lane, Playford

Telephone 01473 623366 email: [vronxbunbury@gmail.com](mailto:vronxbunbury@gmail.com).

If unable to contact Veronica please contact Colin Hedgley.

## CHRISTMAS FLOODLIGHTS – request for sponsorship

It is beginning to look as if we may have a rather subdued Christmas, but the Church will be lit up by the floodlights every evening over the Christmas period, as they always have been at this time.

Hopefully, this might help restore a feeling of some sort of normality and so might I ask everyone to consider sponsoring a night or part of an evening. The lights will be on every evening from Christmas Eve until Tuesday, 5th January 2021 (Twelfth Night or Epiphany Eve) inclusive. You may choose to sponsor a particular night or just throw some money into the pot for the whole period. Please put any donations through my letterbox clearly stating name of donor and which evening, if there is one in particular you would like to sponsor. *Veronica Bunbury*

Please make requests to sponsor the

## CHURCH NOTES.

Services at Playford Church will continue as before with Covid Restrictions in place. We know it's not ideal but we are where we are. If you have any suggestions for improvements that are within the rules please let us know.

Sunday 8th November. Combined Remembrance Service at Little Bealings Church at 1015.

Wednesday 11th November at 1045, Playford Church. A short Service to include two minutes silence.

December's services will be a challenge. It looks as if Covid Restrictions will be in place for some time yet. We will inform you via this medium once we have firmed up our proposals.

*Churchwarden*

## PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### SCHEDULED MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The next meeting of Playford Parish Council will take place on

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November in Playford Church at 7.00 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome but please advise the clerk 24 hrs before the meeting if you would like to attend so that a space can be reserved for you.

Please wear a face mask as you enter the Church as COVID-19 restrictions will apply.

*Marian Hedgley, Parish Clerk Tel: 01473 738468*

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



## Playford Memory Box Exhibition

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Playford Village Hall**

**10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Please join us for a socially distanced exhibition at Playford Village Hall to showcase the contributions we have received to the Playford Memory Box.

The exhibition will be conditional upon Government COVID-19 restrictions so please check the website for the most up to date information.

***[www.playfordmemorybox.life](http://www.playfordmemorybox.life)***

This project is being supported with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund:



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## PLAYFORD MEMORY BOX – AN UPDATE

Firstly, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Playford Memory Box so far. The Box aims to capture a snapshot of village life during 2020 and we have received some wonderful letters, pictures and voice recordings from all ages reflecting a range of topics including home schooling, work life, life events and of course the lovely natural surroundings of the Village.

We have recently been fortunate to receive a small amount of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund too which is helping towards an exhibition and the continuation of activities.

We would still very much welcome additional story contributions, so if you live in Playford and would like to share your thoughts about life in these unusual times, please see the website [www.playfordmemorybox.life](http://www.playfordmemorybox.life) for more information and details about how to contribute. Alternatively please drop me an email me at

[john@chroniclestories.co.uk](mailto:john@chroniclestories.co.uk) or call 07752 191710 and I would be happy to talk it through.

We hope that the project is a novel way to capture the mood of the Village in letters, pictures and voices for future generations to reflect back upon these times - as well as something positive to do during this time of social distancing and restrictions on daily life. Ultimately, the Memory Box will be preserved as part of the heritage of the Village and will be donated to the Suffolk Archives.

*John Royle*

## PLAYFORD PEOPLE IN *THE TIMES*

Last month *The Times* ran a series on Black British History extracted from David Olusoga's new book *Black and British*. Excerpt number four was on the slave trade and included a large copy of Benjamin Haydon's famous and very detailed painting of the World Anti-Slavery Convention that was held in London in 1840.



The picture accompanying this text is an extract from it and shows three Playford people centre stage at this international event. It is of course Thomas Clarkson who is addressing the 500 delegates, but few would be aware that to his right is his daughter-in-law Mary Clarkson and her nine-year-old son young Thomas III.

Clarkson, then 80, was elected President of the event. At this point in his life he had become the father-figure of the abolitionist movement and was now in great demand by leaders of anti-slavery movements in America. He continued with this work until he died in 1846 but in Playford he was seen principally as a farmer where, with the help of a bailiff, he



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farmed the 350-acre Playford Hall Farm that stretched from New Buildings to the Warren. Apart from the little money that he earned from his writing; it was the farm that supported him financially in his political goals.

It was Clarkson's insistence that his grandson attend 'that he may be initiated in the good cause...'. Clarkson's only son Thomas II had married his brother John's third daughter so that Mary was not only his daughter-in-law but also his niece. Three years before the convention her husband, a London solicitor, had been killed when thrown from his gig while travelling with a lady 'not of good character'. Mary and her young son took shelter at Playford Hall for the next six years until in 1843 she married the Playford curate Willoughby Dickinson, the family of three becoming the first occupants of the new vicarage that was put up just two years later. The Dickinsons had promised Catherine, Thomas Clarkson's widow, that they would remain in Playford while she was alive and, the year after her death in 1856, they moved briefly to Martlesham and then to Wolferton on the Sandringham estate but chose to be buried back in Playford close to the Clarkson graves.

Mary's son, Thomas III, was 14 when he and his mother moved from The Hall to the vicarage and it is therefore from the vicarage that he first attended Rugby School and later Trinity College, Cambridge, where like his father he read law. It was during his school or university holidays when he was back in the village that he became attracted to a Sarah Bloomfield, daughter of a market gardener who lived in the single bedroomed half of Church Corner Cottage

close by the vicarage gate. In 1855 the two ran away to London and married without informing his grandmother on whose death the following year they moved into Playford Hall. Thomas, an only child, had inherited everything in his grandparents' wills but the money was not to last. According to village gossip he drank and squandered his inheritance such that within the space of a very few years he was destitute. In 1867 the contents of The Hall were seized and sold by auction. The couple ran away again this time to St Helier where after five years Thomas died at the young age of 41. A brief announcement was placed in the *Ipswich Journal*, his body brought back to Playford where his funeral was a very subdued affair. At some point Sarah found her own way back to Suffolk where she lived on for another 14 years and where she is recorded in Aldeburgh as a housekeeper and lady's companion. Legally married but never accepted by the Clarkson family, she is buried in Campsea Ashe apart from her husband. Her grave is marked by an expensively carved headstone which, because of its cost, can only have been placed there by her in-laws the Dickinsons.

*Brian Seward*

## **BINKY & CO.**

Binky was very confused. He had been reading about lockdowns. He wasn't sure whether he was in one, two or three or in circuit breaker, or fuse trip or complete shutdown. Or was it falls down or up and down. He did start to wonder if he was in complete breakdown. Anyway, he thought the best thing to do was to consult his NHS App. He turned on his smart phone, which by the way wasn't all that smart

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because it couldn't tell him when his wife's birthday was, he always got it wrong. He invariably got her birthday, their wedding anniversary and the day he signed her up for Dignitas completely muddled.

However, his NHS app seemed to be telling him he was in Medium. However, when he stood outside on his lawn he was in High. What happens between his front door and his lawn he wasn't really clear. Then he suddenly realised, if he was now in High, on his lawn, he could not go to a Medium, which was inside his house. What on earth could he do without breaking the law and more importantly where would he sleep tonight?

Food would not be a problem. The 'Greasy Spoon' in town was still serving take away from the window in the gent's toilet and their sausage and chips were to die for. In fact, last year two people did die from salmonella after eating their chicken and chips. No, it was a question of where would he sleep? Then he remembered the old sleeping bag in the disused shed at the bottom of the garden. That would be great, sheer luxury!

Meanwhile he had better let his darling wife, Indigo, know what has happened.

Binky used his mobile to phone her. It rang, he got through. "Hello darling, it's Binky" he said in a jolly sort of voice. "I'm not interested" and the phone was slammed down. Oh well thought Binky she is probably very busy arranging her tarts for the sailors. She was a good pastry cook. Binky went down to the 'Greasy Spoon' and got into the queue. When he got to the front he shouted through the gent's window "Sausage and chips with tomato sauce please". "Sauce bottle hanging on the chain" came the reply. Binky looked down at his feet which seemed to be glued to a sticky red liquid on the grass below the window. "Just the sausage and chips then" he said lamely. He liked this café because they always provided a plastic fork with each take-away meal. Of course, it always shattered at the first stabbing even if it was a stab at a greasy fat chip. But it was the thought that was important. Binky knew class when he saw it. He sauntered back to his shed sat down and in the light of his mobile phone ate his sausage and chips minus tomato sauce. He then clambered into his sleeping bag. These are such strange times thought Binky. Yes, and there's worse to come, said a little voice in his head.

People keep asking

"Is Covid-19 really that serious?"

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Casinos and churches are closed

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the same thing

It is probably pretty serious

Notice from the  
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*Thank you*

---

## CULPHO

### PARISH COUNCILLOR

John Lapsley, 1 Abbey Farm Barn, Culpho

Ips 738008

### PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Margaret Gornall, Flintstone Cottage, Dallinghoo Road, Wickham Market

01728 747605

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## ST. BOTOLPH'S

### APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH PERSONNEL 2020/2021

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 having been postponed in April due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The meeting saw the following appointments confirmed for the year ending May 2021.

Churchwarden            Richard Garnham

Treasurer                 Richard Pepper

Secretary - *Vacant*

Electoral Roll Officer   Margaret Gornall  
20/21

Safeguarding Officer   Christine Pearce

P.C.C. Members

Guy Hartfall, Rosemary Hartfall and  
Judith Bignell-Pepper

Vice-Chair, Richard Garnham, thanked all members for their support throughout the year. Richard pointed out that it had been a difficult year, and although not ideal, the Church remained closed until parishioners and visitors could be welcomed in safety. He was, however, hopeful that, if restrictions allowed, the Church would be able to hold a Christmas Service.

Richard expressed his gratitude for the financial and tangible help which had been so readily given by church members

and residents. He also offered thanks to our Organist, Maurice Jones and his wife Gina. Unfortunately, the proposed concerts organised through Chris Pearce under the auspices of Culpho-Music remain cancelled but hopefully 2021 will bring better news with some wonderful events proposed. We shall keep everyone informed when this becomes possible.

Thanks, were also conveyed to Guy, who stepped down as Treasurer and Churchwarden but, who will remain, as he has done for so many years, an integral part of the Parochial Church Council. The post of Treasurer to St Botolph's Culpho will be undertaken by Richard Pepper with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020. Secretary, Margaret Gornall, has after fifteen years, formally retired as Secretary and P.C.C. member. However, she will continue to offer support into the New Year when hopefully a replacement will be found.

The APCM for 2021 will take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### FLOWER ROTA 2021

Despite this year being so extraordinary we will distribute the flower rota for next year to those who so willingly provide flowers throughout the year and for which we are most grateful.

*Margaret Gornall*



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## CHURCH NEWS

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### REORGANISATION OF THE BENEFICE

The Church Commissioners have at last produced a draft Scheme relating to the dissolution of the former Benefice and the creation of new partnerships, with which readers should by now be well acquainted. Notices relating to these changes will be posted in all four churches. Alternatively, copies may be obtained from Parish Secretaries.

A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected at the church and details of the draft Scheme may also be seen on the C of E website: **[www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation)**

Anyone may make representations for or against all or any part of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) preferably by email or by post to reach the Case Officer below no later than midnight on 14 December 2020.

Further details concerning the process for making a representation are accessible in the full notice.

Case Officer: James Davidson-Brett

Tel: 01403 581025

Email address: [james.davidson-brett@churchofengland.org](mailto:james.davidson-brett@churchofengland.org)

### SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

#### GREAT BEALINGS

**All-age Communion. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 9.30 a.m.**

*Please note the earlier time.*

**Remembrance Service on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.50 a.m.** Meet at the War Memorial. The remembrance ceremony will be followed by a short service of remembrance inside the church.

#### LITTLE BEALINGS AND PLAYFORD

**Remembrance Day** A joint service on **November 8<sup>th</sup>** at Little Bealings starting at 10.15 a.m. There will also be a short service at Playford on **November 11<sup>th</sup>** at 10.45 a.m. to include the 2 minutes silence.

#### LITTLE BEALINGS

**Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Family Communion at 10.00 a.m.

#### CULPHO

Remains closed for all services.

## WORD FROM THE STUDY

Remember, remember the fifth of November. For me, I can hardly forget it, as it was my mam's birthday, and as the saying goes, you only forget once!

November, in the life of the Church becomes the season of remembrance. We begin the month with All Saints Day, followed by All Souls Day, Remembrance Sunday, St Andrew's Day and then, of course, Christ the King. Each one of these festivals is important. The Remembrance Day is when we remember those who fell in war defending our freedom. This year is the turn of Little Bealings at 10.15 a.m. on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November and at Playford at 10.45 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> when there will be a brief service to mark the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

This year's commemorations will be somewhat different due to the virus and social distancing and restriction on numbers. However, we can all play our part by just pausing for a moment either on the Sunday or Remembrance Day itself, to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Jesus said "Greater love hath no man, than to lay down his life for his friends".

As the autumn leaves begin to fall and the seasons change, and yes, the clocks go back, it reminds us that as in life, situations change, but our focus on our daily lives should remain the same. The hymn; Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy; sums it up perfectly, though we are facing things that are out of our control, God ultimately remains in charge.

When we pause for a moment, in spite of the many difficulties we face at the moment, the blessings we receive at God's hand, far outnumber the negative ones in our lives.

If I look back on my ministry over the last

year, I can look at it through two lenses. One will see stars, the other will see mud. You could say that the mud has been the restrictions that have been placed on us, or do I look through the stars and see what a real privilege and a blessing it is to be the local minister of two beautiful villages, and ultimately, serving the people in these communities. Yes, definitely the second one!

Though our services on a Sunday are restricted by no singing, it still offers us the opportunity to take some time out of our busy lives, to come spend some time in quiet or to join in the worship. Everybody is most welcome to our service on the second Sunday at Playford, and the fourth Sunday at Little Bealings, both services start at 10.00 a.m.

As from the middle of November, we will be starting a mid-week service of Holy Communion at Little Bealings and Playford; building and developing opportunities for worship and spiritual reflection. The first service will be at **11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at Little Bealings** and **25<sup>th</sup> November at Playford**. This will be a service lasting 30 minutes.

I would love the opportunity to meet people. If you would like a visit (social distancing of course), I will be pleased to see you, and it doesn't have to be a Church matter. Tea, one sugar please!

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the weeks and months ahead.

Stay safe. God bless you all.

*Reverend Gary Jones*





## DECEMBER - JANUARY 2021 NEWS

Contributions for the December - January 2021 News to be submitted by:

**5.00 pm Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November.**

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

### 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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