

Your Village Newsletter

Issue 65



Cover illustration by Colin Mason, Oxborough ©

Foulton - Gooderstone - Oxborough

Bodney - Diddington - Cockley Cley

Little Cressingham & Threxton

Great Cressingham

Hilborough

June / July 2021



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Signpost - Issue 65

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fouldennorfolk.org/signpost/

I'm delighted that we can now deliver Signpost to your doors again... It seems astonishing that the last time that we did so was at the end of September, last year.

That brings me to an.....

important question

for all readers... Do you actually want a paper copy? If you don't, then we can save some money on printing costs.

If you have no need for a printed copy, please do tell your local Signpost contact or myself.

In anticipation, many thanks.

'Wildlife at Beck Springs' may continue in future editions, but sadly I have to report that the mute swans have flown away after predators attacked their nest and eggs. **Ed.**

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For Advertisements

Charges Per Issue:

Whole page £14, back cover £16, 1/2 page (landscape) £7.

Copy should be in MS Word or JPEG formats, please.

Contact: signposteditor@btinternet.com

OXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Simon Willies
Vice Chair: Linda Buckingham
Members: Graham Allison, Ian Monson, Bernie Chapman
Clerk: Susan Hernandez 07900 587825
Website: oxborough-pc.wixsite.com/website
Meeting dates: All starting at 7.30pm:
14 July 2021 \ 15 Sept 2021 \ 17 Nov 2021 \ 19 Jan 2022
The Village Green is available for hire (terms & conditions apply).
Please contact the Parish Clerk for details and fees.

COCKLEY CLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Sir Samuel Roberts Bt.
Vice Chair: Mr Jim Mullenger.
Members: Mr Steve Mumford, Ms Karina Eagle.
Mr David Johnson. Ms Donna Smith

Parish Clerk: Sir Samuel Roberts Bt.
Cockley Cley Hall,
Cockley Cley, Swaffham,
PE37 8AG Tel.01760 721 308

Next meeting: Date: TBA, 7.00pm, subject to
COVID-19 restrictions.
Website: cockleycleyparishcouncil.wordpress.com

GREAT CRESSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Michael Halls
Vice-Chair: Marcus Rutterford
Members: Victoria Rutterford, Kate Forsythe, Peter Heath,
Ed Kittell, Sally Blundell
Clerk Hannah Scott
Homestead, Farm Common Road ,Ashill IP25 7BA
07900 265 493 / 01760 440439
Website: www.impulse-music.co.uk/greatCressingham
Next meetings: TBA.

FOULDEN PARISH COUNCIL

- Chair:** Stephen Parker.
Vice Chair: Jayne Winterbone
Members: Stephen (Billy) Pye, Neil West, Richard Cooper, Marianne Christian.
There is 1 casual vacancy: please contact the Clerk, if you would like to be co-opted.
Parish Clerk: Claire Prentice, Tel: 07591 220390
Email: fouldenpc@gmail.com
Next meeting: Monday 5th July and 13th September at 7.00pm.
Check for confirmation of the details.
Website: www.fouldennorfolk.org

GOODERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

- Chair:** Andrew Boughen
Vice Chair: Ann Melhuish
Members: Martin Belton, Judy Chandler, Kate Faro Wood, Lucy Mason Closs, Vince Martin.
Clerk: Judith Taylor. Tel: 01366 500722.
email: gooderstonepc@gmail.com
Website: gooderstonepc.wixsite.com/gooderstonepc
Next meeting: Normally: second Monday every two months:

Monday 12th July, 7.00 pm, physical meeting, venue TBC.
(Monday 13th September, TBC).
(Monday 8th November, TBC).

Gooderstone Community Facebook Page:
search for Gooderstone Community Group.

HILBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Andrew Steward. Tel: 01760 756247
Members: Mrs. Sharan Newnham, Ms. Sarah Mennell.
Carol Cox, Claire Bowes, Henry Sands,
Steve Gornall
Clerk: Judith Taylor Tel: 01366 500722.
hilboroughparishclerk@gmail.com

Next Meetings:

From 2021 the Council will meet 4 times during the year at 7.00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Mills Memorial Hall, Westgate Street, Hilborough. The next meetings are to be: 20th July, 21st September and 16th November.
(Subject to Covid-19 advice).

Website:

hilboroughpc.wixsite.com/hilboroughpc/hilborough-parish-council

LITTLE CRESSINGHAM & THREXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Tony Abel.
Mob: 07836 338100 Email: tony@abelhomes.co.uk
Vice Chair: Tim Leonard Tel: 01953 882739
Members: Ashton Austin, Martin Kay, Chris Cannon.
Clerk: Melanie Cousins. Tel: 07840 814417.
lcparishclerk@gmail.com
Website: lcparishclerk.wixsite.com/lcressinghamthrexton
Next Meeting: TBA
Venue, time and date to be confirmed.

STANTA (Training Area):

Details of military training activities are available from the Parish Council website quoted above. New information is now available for February.

VILLAGE NEWS & WHAT'S ON

HILBOROUGH VILLAGE NEWS

MOBILE LIBRARY: Tuesdays every 4 weeks:

Date	Village	Location	Time
22nd Jun	Hilborough	Swan Pub	10:20 – 10:30
22nd Jun	Hilborough	12 Westgate Street	10:35 – 10:45
20th Jul	Hilborough	Swan Pub	10:20 – 10:30
20th Jul	Hilborough	12 Westgate Street	10:35 – 10:45

- You will be required to wear a face covering when you visit the mobile library

- You will only be able to visit on your own, or one adult with 2 children, to reduce the number of people inside at once

- Please remember to bring your library card with you

- We will ask you for your contact details for 'test and trace' purposes

- Hand sanitiser will be available for use on the way in and out and surfaces that are commonly touched will be regularly wiped down

- Returned items will be quarantined for up to 72 hour

Please be aware that it may run a little late due to limiting the number of people on the mobile library throughout the day.

The local libraries are now open as normal with the following opening hours:

Kings Lynn

- o Monday: 10am-6pm
- o Tuesday: 10am-6pm
- o Wednesday: 10am-6pm
- o Thursday: 10am-6pm
- o Friday: 10am-6pm
- o Saturday: 10am-4pm
- o Sunday: Closed

Swaffham

- o Monday: Closed
- o Tuesday: 10am-5pm

P.T.O.

The Signpost

- o Wednesday: Closed
- o Thursday: 10am-6pm
- o Friday: 10am-1pm
- o Saturday 10am-1pm
- o Sunday: Closed

Downham Market

- o Monday: Closed
- o Tuesday: 10am-6pm
- o Wednesday: 10am-6pm
- o Thursday: 10am-6pm
- o Friday: 10am-6pm
- o Saturday 1-4pm
- o Sunday: Closed

HILBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL: Hall Bookings: The hall is available for functions, parties, activities. Capacity 120 persons: Rates £12.00 per hour. Please contact Clare Gornall on 01760 756 561 or Gerald Gray on 01760 756338, GeraldGray@tiscali.co.uk

MAKE and MARDLE: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
£2.50 per session to include tea and coffee.

All crafts and all skill levels - beginners welcome. Location takes place at each others homes. Contact: Jayne Bowes 07880 318 160

HILBOROUGH VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS

Hilborough Village now has two forms of Village Communications. The aim is to provide residents with the means of sharing local news, events alerts, updates and general items of chosen or interest to Hilborough villagers. If you would like to be included in this initiative you can do so via:

- (1) Facebook – Via your Facebook page search for Hilborough Village Community News and click the 'join request' button; OR
- (2) Email –Hilboroughvillagenews@gmail.com to be included in future mailing.

(Please contact Sarah on 07974 955175 / 01760 756126 if you have any questions or difficulties in joining).

FOULDEN EVENTS & NEWS

Foulden Common.

On the south side of the common, at the west end, a boardwalk was installed by English Nature using voluntary labour. This was done many years ago and recently fell into disrepair and the rotten boards were removed to avoid accidents. The boardwalk goes through some of the most interesting and picturesque parts of the common. I am pleased to report that Stephen Parker has bought £500 of timber to reinstate the boardwalk so that it will be accessible during wet conditions. He hopes to get the work done soon and we can then all enjoy this most attractive part of the common.

Thanks and appreciation to Stephen.

David Stancombe

The share scheme is going well and everyone in the Village has got a copy of the application form. Those further afield are also taking part, so we do not stand alone!

Applications have been requested from deepest Africa and even Australia - its amazing to know so many people would like to have another pint in the White Hart!

The application to Plunketts has been re-submitted as we missed out last time to other pub teams.

We are still waiting for the Planning Committee to send up their "white smoke" in rejection of the latest application. Our bid is still on the table so we wait and see in eager anticipation.

If you want to take part, all the info is on the web page.

Supplied by Stephen Ward

The Foulden Players are to present Aladdin this Christmas 2021 Dates to be announced. (Covid allowing)

We are looking for a Sound person who is Computer literate. No experience required - training will be given. We are also looking for anyone who can sing and enjoys amateur theatrics. 12 years and upwards. **Contact Rose: 01366 328152**

COCKLEY CLEY EVENTS & NEWS

1st Swaffham Scouts meets every week during term time at the Old Icen Village, Cockley Cley. We run Beavers (6-8 yr olds), Cubs (8-10 1/2 yr olds) and Scouts (10 1/2 - 14 yr olds) for boys and girls. We provide a range of different indoor and outdoor activities to engage and challenge young people, encouraging them to have fun, make new friends and develop new skills. Please contact our group leader, Kirsten, if you would like more information: kirsten.stibbon@gmail.com.

OXBOROUGH EVENTS & NEWS

Wednesday. Every week.

Fish & Chip Van On the Pound between 6.30pm and 7.00pm.
(May remain longer depending on the volume of customers).

Oxborough Website

‘The Oxborough Voice’ website exists in addition to the ‘Oxborough Village Hub’ Facebook page. Simply put the following into your browser’s search/URL field: **oxborough.org.uk**.

Oxborough Village Hall Activities

Monday evening – Yoga

Tuesday afternoon – Dog Club

Wednesday CafeOx at 11.00am - and Aerobics 5-6pm

Thursday afternoon – Table Tennis

Friday evening – Yoga

Please note: most of the above activities are currently full but let us know via the website if you are interested. The table tennis club may have vacancies.

The Village Hall now has Wi-Fi available: login details are available at the Hall. There will also be a new website dedicated to the Village Hall, with a link from The Oxborough Voice, which should be operational by the time that you read this.

GREAT CRESSINGHAM NEWS

Great Cressingham Defibrillator Charity.

The Great Cressingham Defibrillator Charity would like to say “massive congratulations” to all the winners of The Great Cressingham Defibrillator Charity Monthly Prize Draw.

Secondly, here’s a massive thank you to everyone that entered. This has helped us raise over £170 for upkeep.

If you wish to carry on supporting us please can you send your £12 to us via Cheque or Bank transfer by 28/05/21 for first draw on 01/06/21.

Please message for bank details or address. New players are always welcome. Contact details are via Facebook orgcdefibrillatorcharity@gmail.com.

Great Cressingham Parish Council Meeting 25.05.21

Various streetlights that haven’t been working have been reported and fixed

Village Sign - Has been removed for repairs -we are awaiting quotes to get this repaired

Highways are now looking at putting white gates at the entrances to the Village – Waterend / Watton Road and Chalk Hill.

Church - it was brought to our attention that they are in financial difficulty, a parishioner has loaned them £500.00 to keep the church open for the next 6 months – but Kate will keep us updated and is trying to sort some fundraising events out

Litter Pickers – The Parish Council have donated £200.00 toward equipment – which after their hard work is money well spent!

Bulbs – the litter Picking group is looking at planting more bulbs in the village August/September time the PC have also donated £50.00 towards buying the bulbs

Accounts have all been agreed and signed and ready to go to internal auditors – available if anyone wants to view them

Rotten post at the Allotments/Village green – has been reported and will be fixed as soon as possible

Rotten bench on the VG is being dealt with

Planning for The Street and Priory Drove – No objections to

either

If anyone has anything they need to bring to our attention, we are always here ... please contact Hannah on 07900 265493 or hscott@acbacon.co.uk

Great Cressingham Litter Pickers

At the beginning of this year, myself & my wife Donna decided to do our bit for the community and do some litter picking around our village of Great Cressingham. Litter seems to be an endemic problem within society all over the world these days and anything we can do to help reduce it can only make our world a better place. We quickly realised that spending a few hours litter picking wasn't going to scratch the surface of it though. I put some feelers out on our village Facebook page for a few extra helpers and was quite frankly amazed by the response from other passionate villagers all keen to give up their time to make a difference to the village we all call home. I quickly had a group of around 15 wonderful people, some of whom already did some litter picking.

As mentioned by the "Editor" in the previous edition of Signpost, Breckland Council are keen to support community litter picking projects and can under normal circumstances supply equipment to use. But unfortunately, due to the pandemic and keeping all equipment sanitized, they are currently unable to supply equipment. They do however supply us with green bin bags for our use that they will collect from a central location. So I approached our local Parish Council for funding and with thanks to them, we were soon armed with litter pickers, gloves, hi-viz vests and bag hoops. So we set a date in January and went picking.

We decided to make our litter picking a monthly event to try and keep on top of it, as we found that it very quickly, often literally within a few hours, begins to return. At the time of writing this, we have had 3 litter picking weekends now and between us we have to date managed to collect 162 bags of litter, just from within Great Cressingham and have reported numerous sites of Fly-Tipping with things such as Sofa's, Fridges, around 15 car tyres, car batteries and loads of general builders waste, that have all been removed. Once you go looking for it, it's quite frankly shocking how much there is laying around the verges and under the hedges. It's also incredible how long some of this litter has been laying around

for. I'm sure we've all seen in the media that plastics & tin cans etc. can take decades, hundreds, even thousands of years to decompose. To prove it, my wife found 2 tin cans under a hedge. One can, albeit a bit battered, has a best before date of Dec '92 making it 29 years old and the other can, with an older style of ring pull, was in near perfect condition and I have been able to date it back to the mid 1980's, meaning this can has been laying as litter under a hedge for at least 35 years, and apart from the print being a little faded, the can showed no sign of decomposing whatsoever.

Several of our litter picking group are so keen that we go out litter picking in between our organised monthly picks, Unfortunately there is no shortage of litter to be found. I would highly encourage other local communities to organise group litter picking events, if you don't already do so. You will be helping to save the environment, protect wildlife, give something back to your community and make the world a better place. What's not to like?

For help, I would suggest contacting Breckland Council at Environmental.Services@breckland.gov.uk or maybe speak to your local Parish Council for support. You can report Fly-Tipping via the Breckland Council website and from experience, they usually remove it within a day or so... so thanks very much to Breckland Council for this. There are also some great Apps to report Fly-Tipping such as ClearWaste and FixMyStreet. If you'd like to help, you can contact me through the Great Cressingham Facebook page, or contact Hannah Scott (Parish Clerk) and she can put you in contact with me.

Peter Heath

Events: Christer... Or Eastmas Celebration!

In Great Cressingham during the Pandemic, we have probably come away from it having been less affected than many in towns and cities elsewhere in the UK, but even so several people in the village have been infected with the virus.

The reaction amongst our community to the Pandemic has been positive, with support provided from both agencies within and without Great Cressingham. As the organiser of the Village Response Group, volunteers all, it renews one's faith in community, and I believe we have cause to be both relieved, and grateful for our relative good fortune.

Cont.d overleaf.

The Signpost

With the virus hopefully now in decline, and vaccination proving a triumph, for which we, as a Nation should feel justifiably proud,

The organisations of our village are coming together to organise a village event, proposed for September or October, so we can all 'meet again' safely, at a celebration, involving music and actual Community fun. The details will be published nearer the time, and its going to be free... though there might be a Fish & Chip van, which you can frequent, at your own expense. But, apart from us all actually re-discovering social interaction by then, you might be wondering about the title of this article?

Well, as you have read this far, you deserve an answer. The idea for the title is based on the fact that, as a community, we have now missed one Christmas, and two Easters, so why not combine the two events in one do'. It won't make up for missed times with friends and relatives since March 2020, but it's something for us all.

So watch for the news in Signpost and in leaflet drops. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Peter Heath

GREAT CRESSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Recent changes in Covid-19 restrictions have meant that the activities detailed below are able to resume.

Taekwondo classes Wednesday evenings from 6pm – 8pm. For further information please contact John Fowler on 07894 312693
Akhandha Yoga with Anjali on Tuesday evenings. For further information and to book a place please contact Anjali on 07825 726730

Normal activities may be able to resume later this year as restrictions on social gatherings ease, so provisional bookings for the rest of 2021 and for next year are now being accepted.

The Hall is an excellent venue available for hire at reasonable rates; spacious hall, stage, tables and chairs, recently modernised kitchen facilities, lighting and PA system, and parking.

For further details contact Sally Lovick on 01760 756 433

Or visit: greatcressinghamvillagehall.co.uk

GOODERSTONE VILLAGE NEWS

Every Wednesday at around 3pm: fresh fish delivered to your door by John Skelly who is available on 01502 583 164.

Also every Wednesday: a mobile fish-and-chips van is at Elm Place from c4:30pm to 5pm and at Walnut Place from c5pm to 5:20pm.

Parish Council Announcements

Chairman of the Parish Council:

Andrew Boughen has been Chairman of the council for the past few years and before that served as a Councillor. Following his recent resignation, however, this is to say many thanks to Andrew for his loyal and dedicated service to Gooderstone Parish Council which has been much appreciated. Lucy Closs-Mason will take over as Chair.

Playing Field:

The new play equipment has been installed but there are a few minor adjustments to be made before it will be fully safe and usable. The opening celebration is still on course for early summer.

Kate Faro-Wood

[I was asked to publish the following 'thank you' again when Signpost became available in 'hard copy' once more, and do so now, with my sincere condolences, Ed.]

Thank you from Frances Ellington

Mrs Frances Ellington, Sonia and Thomas sincerely thank all those who have helped them through their loss of David Ellington on 20th November last. They extend special thanks to the lady who did CPR and helped so much at the time and also to all those who sent gifts, cards; helped with shopping and for all the love shown by friends and neighbours.



The Churchside Federation

Gooderstone & Mundford CofE Primary Academies

The beginning of the Summer Term has been a busy one for the Churchside Federation. We have fully embraced our theme of 'Kings and Queens' and even extended it to learn about 'Castles' too. We have discovered interesting facts about Kings and Queens from the past and have thought about the laws we might enforce if we were to reign the kingdom. We have drawn and painted portraits of royalty, and have some exciting trips planned in the next few weeks to Gressenhall and Sandringham to further our understanding.

After May half term, our theme will be 'A Passport to the World' and we are excited to learn more about other countries and national traditions. We will study in preparation for this summer's Olympics and think about what it might be like to go to school in the different countries around the world.



Proverbs 22:6- *'Train a child in the way they should go and when they are old they shall not depart from it'*



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
HILBOROUGH, MUNDFORD AND OXBOROUGH GROUPS
CHURCH SERVICES: MAY/JUNE/JULY 2021

Due to COVID restrictions, some Sunday church services are not taking place *in situ*, until later in the year or are only taking place once or twice a month. There will, however, be ZOOM meetings each Sunday with the Venerable Linda Lubbe and/or the Reverend Hilary de Lyon. Any Church changes will be identified with an Asterisk and in Italics. Face coverings and two metre spacings are still advised during church services.

Please note that the Reverend Hilary de Lyon's last Sunday working with our Groups will be: Sunday 27th June.

Abbreviations:

HC Holy Communion MP Morning Prayer

EP Evening Prayer EW Evening Worship

**Asterisk next to Church - Change to Service*

**** Services marked with three asterisks may be cancelled*

JUNE

Sunday 6th June

Oxborough	0930 MP	Reverend Hilary de Lyon
Foulden	1100 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Cranwich	3 pm EP	Yvonne Westgate
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe/ Reverend Hilary de Lyon

Sunday 13th June

Lt Cressingham	0930 MP	Reverend Linda Lubbe
Mundford	0945 MP	Reverend Hilary de Lyon
Gooderstone	1100 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe/ Reverend Hilary de Lyon

The Signpost

Sunday 20th June

Ickburgh	0800 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Bodney	0930 MP	Reverend Hilary de Lyon
Gt Cressingham	1100 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe/ Reverend Hilary de Lyon

Sunday 27th June

Didlington	0930 HC	Reverend Kit Chalcraft
Mundford	0945 HC	Reverend Hilary de Lyon
Hilborough	1100 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Ickburgh	1115 MP	Judy Gallop
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe/ Reverend Hilary de Lyon

JULY

Sunday 4th July

Oxborough	0930 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Foulden	1100 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Cranwich	3 pm EP	Yvonne Westgate
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe

Sunday 11th July

Lt Cressingham	0930 MP	Tony Powell Churchwarden
Mundford	0945 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Cockley Cley	1100 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe

Sunday 18th July

Ickburgh	0800 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Bodney	0930 MP	Henry Sands Churchwarden
Gooderstone	1100 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe

Sunday 25th July

Didlington	0930 HC	Reverend Kit Chalcraft
Mundford	0945 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Gt Cressingham	1100 MP	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Ickburgh	1115 MP	Judy Gallop, Churchwarden
ZOOM Meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe

AUGUST

Sunday 1st August

Oxborough	0930 MP	Julie Wood Churchwarden
Hilborough	1100 HC	Venerable Linda Lubbe
Cranwich	3 pm EP	Yvonne Westgate, Churchwarden
ZOOM meeting	5 pm EP	Venerable Linda Lubbe



The Hive at Great Cressingham

As we gradually come out of the pandemic, we have been able to start up programmes of activity at the newly formed The Hive in the old Methodist Chapel on Chalk Hill. Our first set of events ran during the national Mental Health Awareness Week and was called Breathing Space.

This was followed by an activities weekend based around Pentecost.

To find out more, visit our Facebook page:
/GreatCressinghamHive or email thehiveplace@gmail.com.

JUNE REFLECTIONS 2021



The weather has been very unpredictable, but we are definitely moving towards Summer. Perhaps this Summer will be more enjoyable than last year. The atmosphere certainly feels a little more normal.

Some courses and meetings are still held via zoom, but there are some gatherings returning to a modified normality. As the local police message said when restrictions were relaxed in early April, let us enjoy our new freedoms, but do so responsibly. We must remember that no interaction is risk free, and keep up our efforts.

It is quite exciting to see local pubs and coffee shops serving customers in outside spaces. I drove past two pubs on the day after they re-opened and was aware of the air of celebration as people gathered together at a safe distance, for the first time in months.

Schools, too, are open, and the children are enjoying being back together and being with their teachers, although they are operating under restrictions.

A very happy, celebratory wedding was held at Cockley Cley at the end of April, and many people are making enquiries about future wedding dates. There are many couples who have had to postpone weddings planned for 2020, and their joy at being able to go ahead is great.

We have become aware of how much we need social interaction. Some things can be done alone, but almost every activity is better shared with friends and family. We are made to be social beings.

As we begin to gather again, inevitably we will be reminded that some of our friends and loved ones are not with us. We need to be sensitive and supportive towards those who have suffered personal losses.

In general, people are considerate and responsible and we can look forward to a bright future, by the grace of God.

Rev. Linda Lubbe

FROM OUR MP

It has been a very busy Spring and with the positive move to ease COVID restrictions, the hospitality industry is once again opening up – great to join other diners enjoying the sunshine at Brown's Cafe, Mundford and the Bedingfeld Arms, Oxborough. Students have been back in the classroom for a number of weeks now and more and more staff are returning to the office, I am therefore very pleased to see that Norfolk County Council has secured £700,000 to pilot a Rural Mobility Fund in the Swaffham area and surrounding villages. I supported the bid and working with Norfolk County Councillor Ed Colman highlighted the need to address rural transport issues. Some villages only have a bus service once a week with students struggling to take part in after school clubs, attend further education or maintain a part-time job. The elderly may feel isolated and can struggle to access medical provision due to a lack of available transportation. This funding is extremely welcome and will be a real boost to our rural communities with many areas planning events for the summer. I popped into the White Hart Pub in Swaffham to discuss with landlords Kurt and Laura Oliver their plans for the coming months, both are keen to attract visitors to the town and offer residents activities during the school holidays.

Also very positive news is that the government's commitment for thousands more police officers across England and Wales is well on target with 109 new recruits in Norfolk. Everyone appreciates the value of local policing and the relationships that are built with communities. More police on the streets, fighting crime and protecting the vulnerable are what the public want and the new officers in the county will be a tremendous boost to Norfolk Constabulary.

The UK is a nation of animal lovers and was the first country in the world to pass legislation to protect animals in 1822, and we have achieved remarkable things in this area ever since. However, we want to go further, setting new higher ambitions which continue the tradition of protecting animals in the UK and abroad. The government has set out its Action Plan for Animal Welfare for this Parliament and beyond. The key proposals as follows:

Sentience and Enforcement

Landmark Sentience Bill will recognise and enshrine animal sentience in law, and will create an expert committee on animal sentience to report on government decisions, holding Ministers accountable to Parliament for animal welfare in policy making, in a targeted and proportionate way. In

addition support for more legislation to improve enforcement – such as the use of penalty notices.

International Trade and Advocacy

Ensure our high animal welfare standards are not compromised and use the UK's position as a global leader for international advocacy on animal welfare. Legislation will be introduced to ban the import of hunting trophies from endangered animals broad, to ban the import and export of detached shark fins, and to stop the advertising and sale here of unacceptable animal attractions abroad.

Farm Animals

As part of protecting and enhancing the welfare of farm animals bring an end to the export of live animals for slaughter and fattening. The government will support livestock farmers financially via the 'Animal Health and Welfare Pathway'. Further reforms in this area include introducing effective powers to tackle 'livestock worrying' and considering other improvements to welfare on the farm.

Pets and Sporting Animals

Bring forward legislation to tackle the trade in puppy smuggling and introduce compulsory cat microchipping. Cross-Government taskforce will crack down on pet theft and will also take forward wider reforms such as the licensing of animal sanctuaries, as well as consider improvements for racing greyhounds and for equine identification.

Wild Animals

Keeping primates as pets will be prohibited by law, and the government will consider further legislation for a close season for hares whilst cracking down on the illegal practice of hare coursing. Will improve standards for zoos, including in relation to their conservation activities.

The coronavirus outbreak has underlined the importance of animals in our lives. From the companionship provided by our pets, to the importance of a secure food supply chain founded upon high-welfare farming, to conserving and protecting wild animals, animal welfare has never been more important. Now we have left the EU and our Transition Period has ended we have the opportunity to go further than ever in protecting our animals. In areas that were previously under the jurisdiction of EU law we can now more freely make our own reforms and fulfil our manifesto commitments on animal welfare.

For further details on the policy go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/action-plan-for-animal-welfare>

Liz Truss

A TOMB FIT FOR A KING by Peggy-Dorothea Smith

St. John the Evangelist in Oxborough contains a startling sight for an English parish church, a pair of Italian Renaissance-style terracotta tombs. Built for the Bedingfeld family c1520 – c1535 they are not completely unique in England, for there are at least six others, all in East Anglia, but the Bedingfeld tombs are the finest example you will see outside of continental Europe. Little is factually known about them, in some cases it is not even certain who their occupants are, but with a bit of detective work I have managed to piece together some of their story, and if it wasn't for Michelangelo's broken nose, they might very well not have been here at all!

When Henry VIII came to the throne in 1509, he was eager to show that he was as sophisticated and grand as any European king, he was also a great Italophile. Shortly after his accession, the celebrated Italian sculptor Pietro Torrigiano arrived at court, he had been banished from Florence for breaking Michelangelo's nose in an altercation and had been wandering Europe creating masterpieces for various rulers. Henry VIII commissioned him to create some magnificent terracotta busts and to build the grandest tomb and altar England had ever seen, to house the remains of his parents, Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. This great Italian-style monument began a trend amongst Henry's courtiers. Cardinal Wolsey commissioned another renowned Florentine, Giovanni da Maiano, to decorate Hampton Court with terracotta elements, and to design him an even more elaborate tomb than that of Henry VII. Meanwhile, Henry VIII was planning his own tomb with Torrigiano.

Henry's courtiers were desperate for the new Italian look and England was soon flooded with Italian artists to fulfil this demand. Layer Marney in Essex was one such house that employed terracotta workers to enhance its red brick construction. Sadly, the 1st Baron Marney died before his house was completed, and his heir shortly after him — Sir Edmund Bedingfeld happened to be married to Lord Marney's daughter, Grace. Sir Edmund's parents, Sir Edmund and Lady Margaret, had died some years earlier,

The Signpost

leaving instructions for a chapel to be built as their place of rest, alongside the Parish Church at Oxborough. The younger Sir Edmund was also an executor of the Marney wills, and it seems it was he who commissioned terracotta tombs to be constructed for both his parents and the Marneys. The designs on all the surviving tombs show they were created by the same workshop, though it is impossible to say who they were made by, for they left no signatures, only their fingerprints in the clay. They may have been built by English workers who had picked up the skills from the Italians, though I feel that with a flood of itinerate Italian terracotta workers in the country, there would have been many looking for employment once the larger projects were finished. Intended to reflect the grandeur of Henry VII's tomb, these cheaper terracotta extravaganzas would have been skilfully painted and gilded. The Bedingfeld tombs would have originally been adorned with effigies of their occupants, as can still be seen on the Layer Marney tombs. The other tombs that survive can all be found in Norfolk, and my research shows that all their occupants had family connections or associations with the Bedingfelds.

By the 1530s Henry VIII had famously fallen out of love with all things Italian. It is possible that there were more Tudor terracotta tombs built, but protestant fervour encouraged the destruction of such catholic showiness, and there is evidence of some being reduced to fragments, it is a miracle that these few have survived for us to marvel at today.

Whilst researching this article I was interested to discover that upon Cardinal Wolsey's demise Henry VIII requisitioned the cardinal's tomb, putting his own design aside as Wolsey's was far grander. The tomb was in kit form, a great black sarcophagus to surmount a richly decorated altar. This knowledge astounded me, for it is well known that Henry VIII's body lies in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, untombed. Apparently, none of Henry's children cared enough to have the tomb constructed and it lay in the bowels of Windsor for generations. The Commonwealth sold off whatever was of value, leaving the black marble sarcophagus almost forgotten. In 1805 George III found a good use for it, he felt it was a sarcophagus fit for a hero and presented it to entomb the

body of Norfolk's own Horatio Viscount Nelson. So, thanks to Michelangelo's broken nose, the Bedingfelds and Lord Nelson lay at rest in tombs fit for a king.

If you would like to learn more about the Oxborough tombs there is a more extensive article on my website www.peggydot.com

APPEAL: Great Cressingham Church – St. Michael.

Services have resumed and it is wonderful to see the church back to life. We are now open on Saturdays and Sundays and from June – September 7 days a week.

This ethereal building holds hidden treasures and secrets as well as breath taking design and architecture. Inside, flooded with light, its 15th Century glass and late medieval figure brasses, dating back to 1497 are unexpected treasures. A Priest's doorway, a blocked leper's window, Jacobean panelling and late-Medieval poppy-head bench ends give a peak into the churches history.

Sadly, like many others we have had a tough time this past year, COVID has dealt a considerable financial blow and we now need donations and support more than ever. The church has a wonderful group of volunteers that have maintain it and its grounds and plan to hold fundraising events once the lockdown rules are relaxed but...

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FROM LITTLE CRESSINGHAM

Hello everyone,

I hope you're all well at the time of reading this.

Wow..... haven't things been mad since I last wrote? Hasn't it been difficult to figure out what you can and cannot do as far as Covid regulations are concerned? Especially if you intended to fly off to sunnier climes in June. Trying to figure out if the traffic light system affects your foreign travel arrangements is a nightmare, what with extra testing there and back, possibly self-isolating for 10 days on your return. It makes you wonder if it's all worth it doesn't it?

We're opening our B&B on the 17th May and we are jumping through hoops to make sure we're ready.

We've decided it's prudent at this time to only let one room per night. It's going to make the sanitising a lot easier. We've almost forgotten how to run the business, what with getting up most mornings at 6.00am to prepare for breakfasts. That's going to be hard.

Our next job over the weekend before opening is the big swimming pool clean up and getting it up to heat, just in case anyone is mad enough to want a swim, considering the weather we've had.

Hasn't it been cold and really rubbish weather...? Full sunshine and 4-6 degrees. Even the dogs have taken one look at the weather and turned around and gone back to their beds. Can't say I blame them.

The NoMowMay thing has been hard to obey as the lawns look so unkempt and scruffy. Hopefully the bees have made the most of it. At the time of writing this we are being swamped with those pesky St. Mark's flies that hover lazily around and destroy the lawns with their larvae, eating the grass roots!

Also we have a healthy family of rats in the garden under one of the many sheds. I put a humane trap out for them with a good, old dollop of peanut butter inside and yet they managed to consume it without getting caught. Too clever for us mere mortals!

We decided to re-clad one of the sheds and inside curled up were 7 baby voles. We gently re-located them and they were

happily scurrying around no worse the wear. So I didn't feel too guilty.

We have quite a few large holes around the garden, which look too big for rats, so I'm thinking probably rabbits. The dogs are always ramming their noses down as far as they'll go, but nothing has been unearthed.

The amount of different breeds of birds that are pairing up for the breeding season has amazed us this year. Costing a fortune in bird feed, but it's all worth it, isn't it?

The military have been pushing the boundaries recently with flyovers by Osprey aircraft, passing over our houses at no more than a 100' sometimes. We are on the edge of the Battle area, so we learn to live with it, but sometimes they go over the top and I really wonder about the way our house is being affected. It shakes to the core when they pass over!

I trust by the end of the summer that hopefully we have returned to the 'new' normal and be able to hug and greet family and friends as we used to and with that I wish you all a safe and sunny time ahead.

Chris Cannon

Extract from 'The People's Journal' - 3 Dec 1887

Little Cressingham

A MAN WORRIED BY A DONKEY. — An old man named Girling. Aged 80 years, employed on the Thrextan Farm of J.T. Millis, Esq., as a shepherd has met with a very serious accident. He was proceeding home to Great Cressingham, when in the road, known as Green Lane, he slipped and fell. The donkey he had led fell upon him, and the reins becoming entangled the animal began to worry the old man. One of his ears was nearly bitten off, his face very much scratched, and he was otherwise injured. Some men at a distance hearing the old man's cries, ran to his assistance, succeeded in extracting him from his perilous condition, and took him home. He now lies in a precarious condition.

Supplied by Barry Crowe

Norfolk Chronicle 27 August 1904

An alarming report was circulated on Tuesday that had occurred in the parish of Little Cressingham. near Swaffham. It was ascertained that a man and woman, accompanied by three children, arrived from Bradford on the 12th inst., and stayed in a cottage belonging a labourer. One of the children shortly afterwards developed symptoms which were diagnosed by the assistant to a neighbouring doctor to be those of small pox. The local authorities appear to have acted with commendable promptitude in dealing with the case. The child was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital. The cottage at which the outbreak occurred was put in quarantine, measures were taken to disinfect the premises, and, in fact, everything was done to prevent the spread of the disease. Owing to these precautions there is perhaps little likelihood of further outbreak: and what also tells in favour of this view is the fact that the cottage wherein the disease was first observed is itself sufficiently isolated to be practically out of harm's way. Further, there is the reassuring knowledge that Swaffham is a comparatively well vaccinated district: consequently the chances are strongly against any extensive spread of infection. There is nothing to indicate that the disease originated at Cressingham; in all probability it was one of those imported cases which are occasionally reported. But wherever it had its origin, it only shows how necessary it is to be constantly prepared to cope with small-pox; and in this case the authorities are entitled the highest praise for the manner in which they have acted.

Nov 1904

SWAFFHAM: A meeting of the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee was held on Monday, presided over by Mr. Young. Dr. Foster reported that, in conjunction with Dr. Allen, he had given certificates of fitness to leave to the patients, and that the cottage at Little Cressingham had been thoroughly disinfected. The Medical Officers' bill for attendance during the outbreak was produced, amounting to £48.17s; and the bill for the nurses £42.5s.9d.

Article supplied by Barry Crowe

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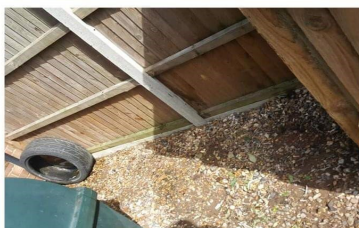


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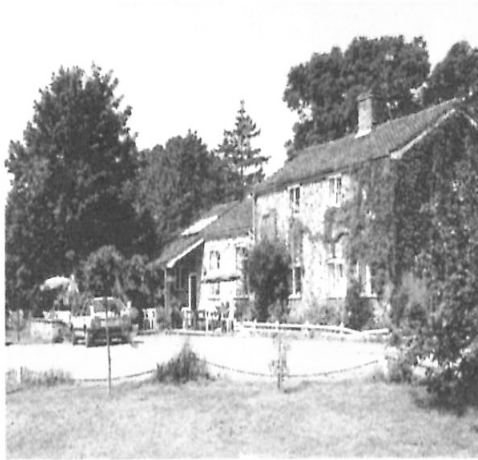
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Food is served 11.30am to 2pm and 5.30pm to 10pm (Sunday 11.30am to 2.30pm and 5pm to 9.30pm)

New En Suite Accommodation

The Olde Windmill Inn has completed the construction of eight superior large Queen Double Rooms which can be booked for single, double or family occupation. Each bedroom is furnished to a very high standard, with en-suite bathrooms, built in wardrobes and tea and coffee making facilities, hair dryers, remote control TV and free local telephone calls, plus broadband access. Why not go online to www.oldewindmillinn.co.uk to download a brochure or make a booking.

Traditional Roast Sunday Lunch at the Mill – The Antidote to Carveries

Treat yourself to a country portion of roast beef or Sunday roast or a bit of both, with a choice of 5 vegetables, deep dish apple pie or gateau & coffee for only £10.95.

Alternatively order just the main course for £8.15. Remember we offer choice and country portions at competitive prices – so order your meal from the bar (or at your table for bookings) and our staff will deliver your food at the table.

Meet in the Middle – Mardle at the Mill

Six private meeting/dining rooms are available at the mill

Catering for 6 to 60 people The Windmill is the ideal venue for small wedding receptions, funeral teas,, 'all-day' conferences, meetings, private family parties & birthdays, product promotions and interview rooms. No room hire is charged when a food and beverage spread is ordered.

5* Start Happy Hour

Enjoy a 10% discount off all drinks on weekdays,
Monday – Friday, from 11am – 12noon and 4pm -7pm.

60s Plus Lunchtime Discount

Enjoy our senior citizens (60 Years) 10% discount off all meals displayed on specials board and main pub menu on Monday – Friday lunch times from 11.30am – 2pm

Country Music – Sing, Say and Play

Tuesday night is country night. In the Old Bar from 8pm to late. Buskers welcome – no entry charge

Location, Location, Location

THE OLDE WINDMILL INN, Water End, Great Cressingham
Twixt Watton and Swaffham IP25 6NN

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