

Spring
2021

The Grundisburgh and District News

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DALLINGHOO ▪ DEBACH ▪ GRUNDISBURGH ▪ HASKETON ▪ OTLEY ▪ PLAYFORD ▪ SWILLAND ▪ TUDDENHAM ▪ WITNESHAM

Still saying NO to Chapel Field

After the planning application for housing on Chapel Field Grundisburgh was received last autumn, the Parish Council submitted a 36 page objection opposing the plans. Its three appendices were written by residents with expert knowledge of traffic, transport and landscape/visual impact.

Their focus was on the reasons why the plans were unsafe, particularly in regard to the dangers to pedestrians, cyclists, children and vehicles on the narrow, surrounding roads. In addition, 351 individual objections were submitted to East Suffolk Council (ESC).

A Freedom of Information request revealed that an officer of ESC had suggested that details of the need to remove protected trees and hedgerows for road widening be removed from the site promoter's technical drawings, before being presented to a Government Inspector.

This resulted in an official complaint by the Parish Council to ESC and the county council. This was rejected. The Parish Council's request for a review of its complaint was also rejected. An application by an individual resident to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman is now being formulated.

Hopkins Homes have submitted revised plans, but none of the changes have

answered the original objections by the Parish Council or individual residents.

All objections need to be resubmitted quoting the two reference numbers - DC/20/3362/FUL and DC/20/3284/FUL as the developer submitted duplicate applications. Comments need to be posted to: Planning Dept, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ

or emailed to: PlanningPolicy@eastsoffolk.gov.uk to arrive by **8 March**, to be on the safe side even though various emails from ESC contain dates to 15 March.

Flyers warning of the need to respond and guidance on how to do so have been delivered to all homes in the village.

*Peter Kendall, Chair, Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council,
peter@peterkendall.com, 01473 738267*

New rector for Carlford churches

The Rev'd Katrina Dykes has been appointed as Rector in the Carlford Benefice, replacing Canon Rev'd Clare Sanders who retired last summer. Katrina will be moving from Hampshire where she is currently Priest in Charge of three villages, known as The Anna Benefice.

Katrina comes with much experience of working with children and young people, having been a youth worker and a school chaplain. She is married to Phil and they have two grown up sons and two Border Collies!

Katrina arrives in early May



and is looking forward to living in The Rectory in Grundisburgh.

The Carlford Benefice covers Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh, Clopton, Culpho, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley and Swilland.



Penny and Andrew Sunaway with their award for outstanding contribution to the community during the Covid pandemic presented by Deputy Lieutenant Col. Anthony Fairbanks-Weston TD CStJ DL VR. More information about this and about other awards for community service is included on page 12.

An open invitation to The News' annual general meeting on Friday 26 March, starting at 7.30pm.

Due to Covid regulations this will be on Zoom. Details of how to join the meeting will be shown on our website grundisburghnews.org.uk nearer the time. We always welcome hearing ideas and views about The News.

TAP CLASSES CONTINUE ONLINE

Although village halls are currently out of bounds, my tap classes have continued online throughout the pandemic. Those who had been regularly attending the sessions in Grundisburgh and Otley Village Halls, and in Ufford and Woodbridge, are continuing to make progress on Wednesday mornings via Zoom.

After getting enquiries about beginners' classes, I decided to start a new series of lessons for those who had never danced before. These are taking place on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm and last 40 minutes, with a cost of £3. No previous experience is needed, and it is not essential to have tap shoes, although participants will get more enjoyment from the classes with them as they progress.

Tap shoes are not expensive, are easily available to purchase online and the sizes correspond to normal outdoor shoes. I recommend that if you don't have tap shoes, any hard-soled shoes that you can make a noise with are fine (not trainers). If you do have tap shoes, make sure you are tapping on a suitable surface or board, as the metal taps can cause scuff marks on a polished floor!

New members are welcome to join either class. The Improvers class is at 10.30am every Wednesday and the Beginners class at 2.30pm on



Jo Streatfeld teaching at a fund raising event for Doctors Without Borders.

Tuesdays. To sign up or for more details see <http://woodbridgetapdance.weebly.com> or contact me.

Jill Streatfeld, 07778 746315

Upbeat! In Lockdown

It's a year since the members of Upbeat! ladies' choir were able to meet and sing together. But choir leader Carol McConnell-Theobald has been working hard to keep in touch with choir members.

There have been Zoom coffee mornings and social evenings, and in December Carol and the committee members delivered a Christmas Cyclamen plant to every member. Carol is currently running 'How to read music' sessions via Zoom for choir members.

Always upbeat, Carol and the committee are busy planning

their next annual Christmas concert at St Mary's for December 2021!

Jean Ellinor,
jean.ellinor007@btinternet.com

Tuddenham St Martin

Despite lockdown restrictions we were able to celebrate Christmas at St Martins. We set up a Christmas tree and an illuminated crib scene on Church Hill. We held a drive-in carol service in the club car park and a lovely outdoor carol service around the Christmas tree. We were also able to have socially distanced services in the church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

We are now looking forward to Easter – Rev. Charlotte has launched an Easter art competition. All submissions welcome. There are four age categories: 0-5, 5-8, 8-11 and 11+. Please paint, draw, photograph, make, or create something on the theme of

Easter. Take a photo and send it to Charlotte (vicar@wtandw.org.uk). Please send these in by 14 March. The winner in each category will have their design made into a card.

We are planning some outdoor Easter services and events - everyone is welcome.

Jean Ellinor,
jean.ellinor007@btinternet.com

Horticultural events

Grundisburgh, Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society is planning to hold its two major events this summer - provided government restrictions have been lifted in time. Hidden Gardens is due to take place over the weekend of 12 and 13 June, and the Village Show is planned for Saturday 10 July.

We are so looking forward to getting back to normal. Class lists for the show are on our website and printed copies can be found in Williams Stores and the Olde Forge Stores.

Hopefully this gives time to plan entries and we can look forward to seeing you on show day.

Please keep checking our website for information.

Martin Cripps,
chairman@
grundisburgh.show



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ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Otley and nearly 140 other parish councils, including Grundisburgh and Culpho, Great Bealings, Hasketon, Playford, Swilland and Tuddenham are considering introducing almost 500km of 'Quiet Lanes' across the county as part of the Suffolk Quiet Lanes Project.

These are small lanes with fewer than 1000 vehicle movements per day and regularly used by vulnerable road users such as children, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those on mobility scooters. Green signs will show which lanes hold this special status: the signs remind drivers they should 'expect' to find other road users in the road and that they should 'respect' their presence.



Getting the signs in place requires public consultation, which will be happening in the first half of 2021. The 'Suffolk Quiet Lanes Project' website (<https://sites.google.com/view/quietlanessuffolk>) gives full details of the project and a map showing all the proposed lanes. Highway code rule 218 sets out the requirements for drivers using these lanes. Quiet Lane designation aims to prioritise people over traffic in a similar way to 'Home Zone' schemes in towns and cities.

Quiet Lane designation does not restrict vehicle access, provide traffic calming measures or reduce speed limits. If these are required, then lobbying Suffolk Highways, local councillors, MPs, and central government is the way to get them.

Funding of the project is shared between parish councils, Suffolk County Council and, for parishes within their district, East Suffolk Council. Implementation should be completed by the end of 2021, so look out for the green signs!

Chris Taylor, Project Lead for Otley

Grundisburgh update

In December, a flyer informing residents of the quiet lanes project was distributed throughout the village, plus an electronic copy on Grundisburgh Google and information posted on Grundisburgh Facebook Group.

About 80 responses were received: none objected to the scheme in general. However a few issues were identified and details of these concerns were shared via email and Facebook.

On 11 January, the parish council agreed to request that the following be designated Quiet Lanes:

- Meeting Lane/ Chapel Road/Chapel Lane/ Half Moon Lane
- Elm Tree Farm Lane/Gull Lane
- Sandy Lane (lane in front of St. Mary's Church)
- Newton Hall Lane up to boundary with Swilland Parish (Swilland has requested their section)
- Grundisburgh Road between Park Road/Lower Road up to boundary with Great Bealings parish (Bealings has requested the section of road between the boundary and Boot Street).

Newton Hall Lane and Grundisburgh Road will not be progressed until the other parishes are ready to proceed.

For the lanes that get the go-ahead from Suffolk Highways, a statutory approvals process is necessary. As part of the process, a formal 'proposal to designate' notice has been published and distributed to all residents on the lanes concerned with a request to respond to Suffolk County Council before 15 March.

Responses, both in favour or against, can be emailed to george.firth@suffolk.gov.uk or posted to Disputes, Education & Employment Team, 5 Constantine Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DH.

Subject to successful completion of the process, signs will be installed.

A publicity campaign is also being planned to draw drivers' attention to the initiative.

Geoff Caryl, Project leader, Grundisburgh

Note: please look at the relevant parish council websites for more information or at the Quiet Lanes website (<https://sites.google.com/view/quietlanessuffolk>)

SAVID update

The work of SAVID (Safer Village Driving) continues via zoom meetings, with sufficient on-going support to enable Playford and Little Bealings to utilise the shared SID (speed indicator device). Several of the SAVID villages are taking part in the Quiet Lanes initiative.

At our next meeting we will be exploring how we might develop a shared approach through our Speedwatch activities and the Police towards the continued excessive speed of many drivers through our villages. See also the SAVID website (<https://savidsafervillage.onesuffolk.net>).

Pauline Procter SAVID Chair



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News Tributes

The Right Reverend Dr John Waine, KCVO, GCStJ, 1930 - December 2020

It has never been reported by national media nor does it get a mention in Wikipedia, that not only is there a Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, but there was also a Bishop of Grundisburgh. We all knew and loved said bishop, simply as "Bishop John" and translated him into the little known see of Grundisburgh, by affection.

John and Pat came to live in Grundisburgh in 1996, when he retired as Bishop of Chelmsford, but he began his life many miles away to the north west. He attended Prescott Grammar School, going on to Manchester University.

His call to ministry took him south to Ridley College Cambridge, but he returned to the north west for curacies in West Derby and Sutton; then incumbencies in Ditton, Southport and in Kirkby, all in Liverpool Diocese. He clearly was a man with great ability and in 1975 he was consecrated as a bishop by Donald Coggan and became Bishop of Stafford, a suffragan in the Diocese of Lichfield. His time there was short and three years later he was called to Suffolk, as the Diocesan Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

This is where many of us got to know him and love him. He had an extraordinary ability to remember people's names and



Bishop John receives his 90th birthday tribute cake. Photo by John Pollard, church warden at Ashbocking.

he took a keen interest in his clergy and people, as well as in Ipswich Town football club, of which he became a keen supporter. He moved from 4 Park Road, the Bishop's House in Ipswich to become Bishop of Chelmsford in 1986 and served there until he came to Grundisburgh. During this time he became Clerk to the Closet, the most senior cleric in the Queen's Household, a post he held until 1997.

Bishop John was active in retirement and enjoyed his trips to London to serve as a member of the Press Complaints Commission. He loved to travel and took the opportunities afforded to him as Prelate of the Order of St John, a post he held until 2017, to travel the world, visiting the work of the order all over the world. You could call that travelling "work", but John also loved to cruise and enjoyed many a visit overseas courtesy of a cruise liner.

A keen supporter of Ipswich Town, when it came to cricket, he supported Essex and was even known to have the scores from both football and cricket

reported to him when he left the pulpit at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. I always checked home fixtures with him, before asking him to do an 11am service!

In Grundisburgh and the Carlford parishes, John was hugely loved; sermons were always spot on and he didn't shy from controversial topics.

He was a gifted musician and when organists were not available, John would both play, preach and preside. At Hasketon, he would often limit the congregation to a beginning and ending hymn, in order to reduce the number of times he had to walk up and down the aisle!

His preferred service was the 8am at Grundisburgh and he was a faithful member of that congregation and at least once a month, often more, would preside at that communion service.

For his 90th birthday in June, a group from the benefice gathered at his home, suitably socially distanced to sing Happy Birthday and present him with a cake, such was the love and affection that he was held in.

In John and Pat's home there is a collection of owls - owls are known as a symbol of wisdom; John was a man of wisdom, wit and worship, his faith shaped him and he lived his faith out in service to his Lord. May he rest in peace.

Rev'd Canon Clare Sanders

Many tributes have been paid to Bishop John nationally and internationally. Links to some of these are given in the obituary section of our website.

Wendy Witt, 1935- January 2021

When my cousin Wendy decided to return to the UK after working in America for many years, I told her that Grundisburgh would be the ideal place for her to live. And so it turned out to be.

She bought a house off-plan in the last section of Gurdon Road and took every opportunity to get involved - with the horticultural society running the open gardens, taking photos and writing for Grundisburgh News, joining bridge and French conversation groups, entertaining visitors from France for the twinning group, even playing a pirate in a GADS panto. Soon she knew far more people than I did.

It was the Deben branch of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts) with which she got most deeply involved, starting as minutes secretary and going on to be its photographer and organising their UK visits programme.



She enjoyed their talks and several cultural holidays.

Wendy grew up in what was then Cumberland and after leaving university in Belfast (her mother's home area), worked for a few years in Paris and Monaco before moving to America and joined an advertising agency in New York. She married American photographer Bob Witt and it was after his death that she decided to return to England, by then in her early sixties.

Sadly later Alzheimer's slowly took hold of her life and she spent her last four years being well cared for in Woodbridge Lodge Care Home.

Nicola Hobbs

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Peter Brunning 1929 – December 2020

Born in Ipswich, Peter was brought up in the docks where his father Reg was a stevedore. After attending Landseer Secondary Modern Peter became an apprentice electrician with R & W Paul's grain merchants, studying for his electrical qualifications at Ipswich School of Technology. He did his National Service in the RAF, stationed in Cairo by the Suez Canal.



Peter moved to Grundisburgh with his second wife Phyl in the early 1970's when he returned to Paul's to take the post of Chief Electrical Engineer. Phyl became the local district nurse until she sadly died young in 1986. They briefly lived in Postmill Gardens before moving to the bungalow in Stoney Road, where Peter stayed until his death.

Later Peter met and married Irene when they were both deeply involved with The Samaritans, until she also was taken too early in 2010.

Peter participated fully in Grundisburgh life, both civic and church. He was a parish councillor for many years, a school governor, a lay chairman of the PCC, delivered the Grundisburgh News and much more.

During his time on the parish council, he led the group that managed to get the Victorian village school listed and converted into homes for the village elderly. He was the parish representative and trustee of the Parish Rooms and, as chairman of the property committee of St Marys', he oversaw the building of the church toilets (featured on page 6).

With Irene he helped start the very popular Lunch Club.

They were both keen singers and belonged to the Ipswich Choral Society as well as being key members of Grundisburgh's church choir.

Peter also did much voluntary work at Ipswich Hospital, winning 'Volunteer of the Year' award not so long ago.

He was a man who spent much of his life helping others and will be sadly missed by many.

Compiled from information supplied by Sue Matthews, one of Peter's step children, and Ann and Clive Willetts. Photo kindly provided by Ipswich Choral Society

Jane Hilliar – 1936 to December 2020

Jane was born and grew up in North London, although she spent the wartime with grandparents in Norfolk. She trained as a nurse in Tunbridge Wells and later became a health visitor working primarily at the Royal Free Hospital for many years.

Jane's first marriage was to Joseph Awad, who worked for the BBC World Service in its Arabic department initially as a presenter progressing to senior management. They had three children Anthony, Peter and Helen and lived also in North London. With Jane's love of East Anglia from family connections, they decided to buy a cottage in Burgh which they visited at weekends and holidays, becoming involved in village life.

When Joseph retired, they decided to relocate and bought a house in Grundisburgh. Jane continued to commute to London, still working at the Royal Free as she loved her job.

She soon became more involved in village life and joined various clubs, including the French and German conversation groups. This led on to joining the Framsdon French Twinning Group, and both Jane and Joseph enjoyed many trips to France and welcomed their hosts back to Grundisburgh.

When Jane retired in 1998, she threw herself even more into village activities, including becoming a helper at the Luncheon Club, a parish councillor, member of GADS



and the village show committee to name but a few! Jane still attended services in Burgh Church and became PCC secretary. Sadly, Joseph died in 2001 and Jane was

encouraged by friends to start travelling again. It was a few years later, on a cruise to the Amazon, that she met John and they married in Burgh Church in 2007. They had several years of travelling all over the world until, alas, Jane became ill and was cared for at home for the last few years of her life.

Jane will be remembered fondly by all who knew her, as a kind, compassionate lady, who loved life and people.

Monica Begg, with help from Jane's family. Photo taken by Peter Kendall at Janes' wedding to John

Joan Hepburn, 1931 - February 2021

The eldest of eight children, Joan spent most of her childhood in rural Norfolk. She left school at 14 and went into service working for Lord Musker at Shadwell Park.

Over the years she trained to be a cook and had spent nearly 70 years cooking for many people. This included the students at Bransons College in Playford where she and her husband John and daughter Caroline lived.

The family later moved to Meeting Lane in Grundisburgh and Joan served as cook at Grundisburgh Hall for over 40 years. She was very proud that among the people who enjoyed her food were members of the royal family.

She loved to feed people and was even cooking deserts for friends the day before she went into hospital.

Joan had been a member of Grundisburgh WI for some 60 years. Current committee member Carol Barker paid the following tribute:

"A unique character with strong opinions, Joan always called a spade a spade (which often raised a chuckle). She was caring, had a heart of gold and would always do what she could to help others.

"Joan was a superb cook and could always be relied on to supply us with cakes for those special events. She served on our committee for many years, helping in a variety of ways. Joan's popularity in the village was demonstrated on her



recent 90th birthday. She had so many cards that it took her two hours to open and read them all. We will miss her, our WI meetings will not be the same!"

Joan's daughter Caroline now lives in the United States with her husband 'D'but has come back for her funeral. Her children Maya and Miles were devoted to their grandmother and very sad not to be able to come too.

Nicola Hobbs with help from Caroline and Brenda Garrett

Photo taken by Peter Kendall at the WI's 100th birthday party.

A message to the village from Caroline

Mum had lived in Grundisburgh for over 40 years and she loved the village. She had made so many friends over the years that many of them were more like family. She turned 90 on 14 January and had a line of visitors throughout the day, waving at her through the window and dropping off cards. You all made her feel so special.

Thank you to all her friends that have taken her into their hearts over the years and been there for her, I truly appreciate all of you.

Long struggle to achieve more comfort for parishioners

In the early 2000's Grundisburgh Parochial Church Council established a Property Group chaired by Peter Brunning and supported by Rev Norman Davis to explore how additional facilities could be provided in St Mary's. The original plan was to create, on the north side of church, a meeting room, kitchen, toilets with an outside paved area. The estimated cost of £450,000 was felt to be out of our reach.

At this point the idea for an internal kitchen at the west end with an outside toilet facility were examined further and ultimately a faculty for the kitchen was approved. After the font was moved to the front of church the space was created for the coffee corner, a very welcome addition to the social facilities available to all users of the building.

The need to bring the facilities into the 21st century eventually led the PCC to agree to build an extension to include two toilets and a boiler room. This simply left the faculty to be obtained from the Diocese. But, oh dear, not at all straightforward. The Diocesan Advisory Committee and English Heritage were happy to tell us that they were unhappy with our numerous proposals but would never tell us what they disliked about them. The patience of the

Property Group under Peter's chairmanship was infinite.

Slowly, very slowly over the following years planning approval was obtained, historic buildings permission given but all subject to the granting of a 'faculty' from



the Diocese. Then we found that a bat had nested in the old boiler room. We needed a bat license, but another expert could not find any recent signs of bat activity, so no license needed. But it all took time, so much time.

A compulsory archaeological dig on the site found burials which then needed to be re-interred. Sounds straightforward, but cost the church another £30,000.

Until approval of the faculty was confirmed no realistic fund raising could begin

Then the unexpected happened: after discussion with Canon Rev. Clare Sanders, John Batchelor left St Mary's, among other village organisations, a legacy of £200,000. That allowed tenders to be sought immediately and a contract



seen inside the church is the glorious oak door which when opened leads into the new extension.

No date has yet been set for the formal opening, the first flush and the ceremonial hand washing. Watch this Space!

Words: Clive Willetts, Treasurer,
Photos Peter Kendall

signed with R&J Hogg. Work began at the end of 2019 and although progress has been hampered by the pandemic restrictions completion is expected by Easter 2021. The only obvious change to be

Photos from left: Outside view; New oak doorway leading to the extension; Original entrance from the north side.

Work well underway on Grundisburgh's new village hall



Digging the large hole for the 'attenuation tank'

Following receipt of our improved planning consent, we started work on the new village hall in early January with a hope of being able to finish by the end of the year. The local contractor, DAB was announced as our partner in this as they will not only be building the new hall but also buying and developing the existing hall site. They have agreed not to demolish the old hall until the new hall is ready for us to use.

There is a lot of work to be done this year, so do please follow our progress via the numerous photos on our website, Facebook group and Instagram page.

We worked really hard to obtain almost £50,000 of grants from various bodies in addition to the £200,000 promised by the National Lottery Community Fund. The aim is to make the new hall as sustainable as sensibly possible and we will be using an efficient air source heat pump to heat it. We are giving careful thought to solar panels and are likely to seek donations from the public to help fund this extra element- more news on this appeal in due course.

We are finalising a business plan to ensure the new hall runs smoothly and profitably from the outset and before long we will be talking to the previous users of the existing hall and the numerous other new groups who have expressed an interest in using the new hall. We aim to have a modern booking system in place to make it easier for everyone and we are looking at the likely booking prices at the moment.

A huge thanks goes to everyone (especially my fellow trustees) who worked so hard, over many years to raise funds and organise events to get us to this start on site which allows us finally to see the long held dream become reality.

Bryan Laxton, Chair, Village Hall Management Committee



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With your eyes on the road, it is easy to spot the home of The Knitters Attic at Bredfield, standing as it does immediately opposite the three-way Pump Corner junction. And what lies beyond the garden-hedge of 2 Peartree Cottage may well surprise you.

Negotiate the inquisitive goats and other livestock on your way in and, on a sunny day, you might come to a courtyard with an animated group of people calling themselves Knitting Bees, with either needles and/or cups of tea in their hands.

The Knitters Attic is fast becoming a Mecca for enthusiasts of the ancient arts of knitting and crocheting. 'Ancient' because the Egyptians knitted garments from cotton a thousand years ago and until relatively recently knitting was largely the preserve of men. The uptake by women boomed during Victoria's reign and was spurred on by WW1.

Perhaps surprisingly, knitting mechanically had been invented some 300 years earlier: the first knitting machine dates back to 1589, the brainchild of one William Lee of Nottinghamshire.

Today, knitters use a variety of materials: sheep's wool is, of course, common but synthetic yarns and even alpaca wool are much used. Sharon Cane, founder and owner of The Knitters Attic, sells them all - for this is a thriving walk-in and internet business, stocking what Sharon thinks is probably the widest range of yarns in Suffolk. To see it, go to her shop or website: theknittersattic.co.uk - it is quite impressive!

Set up seven years ago,

Sharon, who grew up in an adjacent village is well aware of what it takes to run a successful business.

She says: "The Knitters Attic is fulfilling one of my dreams and passions. I live, breathe, eat and sleep yarn and it was inevitable that my spirit would shine through. Being a Suffolk yarn-shop owner, especially in the very locality I was born and bred in, has ensured that many Suffolk dwellers have been inspired, encouraged and rewarded by producing bespoke items themselves, fulfilling a desire to enrich their own lives with the passion creativity brings".

Sharon welcomes enquiries about the best colours and textures to use for a particular application and during these times she is happy to offer a virtual shopping experience - via a smart video call - without customers having to leave the comfort of their armchairs. She is aware that if much time, energy and love is to be put into an item, it has to be right. No wonder that she was Highly Commended in the latest British Knitting and Crochet Awards for the Best Yarn Shop in the whole of South East England.

Not only does Sharon sell yarns, she also colours her own, using dyestuffs derived from her own garden produce. And she will resume her on-site classes in knitting, crochet, lace-knitting, felting, spinning and dyeing after lock-down.

Zoom sessions

For now, she is holding Zoom sessions and yarn crafters are very welcome to join in on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

For details as to how to join in or to find out more about the business, contact Sharon on 01394 547077 or email sharon@theknittersattic.co.uk.



The recent bush-fires in Australia caused a terrible loss of wildlife and Sharon and friends have been raising funds to help with the relief effort there: in fact she takes in abandoned animals at her home and looks after them

Above: Inside The Attic.
Below left: Sharon Cane.

until they can be returned to the wild. Clearly a lady with many strings to her bow.

Richard Watkinson

UPDATE ON THE LOCAL PUB SCENE

Like other businesses, our pubs will be taking advantage of the gradual relaxation on the lock-down rules as set out by the Prime Minister. It has been tough for all of them and once they reopen, don't forget the maxim: Use them or lose them!

The Moon and Mushroom at Swilland will be operating full table service for food and drink outside after 12 April and a full indoor service after 17 May. The current takeaway service will continue as many customers will want to carry on using this service - which has attracted many new patrons to the pub. For instance, one 86 year old lady now has a cooked dinner every Sunday and wants to carry on doing so!

The Grundisburgh Dog will resume serving in its heated outside marquee after 12 April if the weather continues to improve and will go to a full service indoors after 17 May. Meanwhile, their pizza and burger takeaway service carries on for as long as it's wanted. Details will appear on their website and social media.

What's happening at the Fountain? The Tuddenham Fountain may be closed but it's not quiet. It's a hive of activity! A number of vans and workmen have been spotted in the pub car park. What's going on? You'll see when they reopen....

Jemima at The Turks Head said that they will be opening their outside terrace for customers from 14 April and are looking forward to meeting all their friends again. They will serve indoors again just as soon as they are allowed to - people are already booking for meals as from 17 May. Their Thursday to Sunday takeaways will continue until at least April. Work will also be starting on their eight-bedroomed barn-style hotel on site, together with more dining space and a much enlarged kitchen.

At the Otley White Hart, Lynda is keen to get back to normal as soon as the restrictions are eased: the community there has benefited enormously from the pub's activities and, hopefully, will do so again in the very near future. Their take-away service continues - for details see their Facebook page.

Richard Watkinson

ps The Deli at the Dog in Grundisburgh is maintaining its walk-in service and will also be offering its popular made-to-measure hampers for Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Learning Muscles at Otley and Winesham

During school closures this half term, we have been delivering all our lessons using Google Classroom. Each child at home is set daily tasks: lessons in reading, writing, maths and PE, and weekly lessons across the curriculum. The children have a mixture of live lessons, recorded videos and tasks set. All tasks are submitted for feedback from the class teacher.

Across all of these lessons, children are encouraged to use their 'learning muscles'. As part of our renewed vision last academic year, we introduced the system based on Guy Claxton's 'Building Learning Powers'. This aims to encourage children to develop their behaviours for learning that will last them a lifetime. These key facets and expectations have been paired alliteratively with animals: Curious Crocodile, Independent Iguana, Motivated Monkey, Responsible Rhino, Teamwork Tiger and Persevering Penguin.

We expect..... learning muscles

Curious Crocodile



We expect questions as we wonder about the world around us and clarify our thinking.

Responsible Rhino



We expect everyone to take ownership of learning, belongings and behaviour choices.

Persevering Penguin



We believe in growth mindset so expect learners to keep trying, even when it is tricky.

Motivated Monkey



We expect learners to be keen to challenge themselves and show enthusiasm.

Teamwork Tiger



We expect collaboration in order to challenge and support each other to maximise learning.

Independent Iguana



We expect learners to solve problems using resources and being organised.

If the class teacher believes that a child has excelled in any of these learning muscles, they are awarded with a badge which they can wear with pride, in our celebration assembly each Friday. This fits with our vision statement to create resilient learners and celebrate their achievements so they perform to the best of their abilities, whether they are in school or not.

Michaela Harris, Executive Headteacher

The Great 38 spread a little happiness

In this unprecedented time, pupils at Charsfield Primary School have been looking at how they can make a difference in the community and improve mental health and wellbeing of themselves and others around them. For a small school of just 38 pupils, they have made an incredible difference to the lives of many others this term. Here are just a few of the things that the school has been involved in at the end of last term.

The school was delighted to be able to support the Lighthouse Women's Aid in Ipswich with their reverse Advent calendar appeal. Pupils and their families generously donated gifts and essentials throughout the beginning of Advent, to help families that are less fortunate than themselves through a particularly challenging time in their lives. Debbie, the Fundraising and

Training Administrator from Lighthouse Women's Aid, ran a virtual assembly for the children to explain how their thoughtfulness will help.

Secondly as part of the 'Suffolk says thanks' campaign, the school has furthered their links with Handford House Nursing Home set up during the summer lockdown. The pupils had discussed the campaign, 'Cards for Kindness', an initiative which aims to reduce loneliness in our care homes by encouraging members of the community to send a card to a local care home. The Handford House residents had



kindly sent the pupils a handmade Christmas card and the children reciprocated with great enthusiasm creating a wonderful collection of Christmas drawings made into a large book full of festive wishes (pictured right above).

Mrs Foster, who is a teaching assistant at the school and the lead for Mental Health and Wellbeing, said "The staff are so proud of



how the children have thrown themselves into this task, and how much thought they gave about the people it was going to, with a genuine desire to bring happiness to other people that they don't even know. We look forward to continuing links with this nursing home in 2021."

The school has been delighted to be able to raise lots of money for various charities this half term, particularly when so many people have found this year financially challenging.

Pupils and staff dressed up in spots and stripes for Children in Need, designed and sold their own Christmas cards to raise money for the Salvation Army and finally donned their festive jumpers for the Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on 11 December. In total, the school raised £150 for these charities.

PTA show the way

In true "the show must go on spirit," the PTA stepped in to fund a virtual showing of Cinderella for the pupils as they were not able to attend the Wolsey Theatre Panto. This was made all the more special by the staff surprising them by dressing up as characters from the story, and then being ushers showing them to their seats and issuing them with popcorn. Even Father Christmas upped his game this year to reward the pupils and 'went virtual' and sent the pupils an incredibly special video message and a small gift each.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Surprise in-house panto: Charsfield staff as Cinderella characters.

Head of School, Mrs Amie Reeve said, "Charsfield Primary School have certainly shown that a bit of thought and kindness can make such a difference to so many people lives, in what will certainly be a Christmas to remember for a very long time to come."

Sadly, for the start of the Spring Term, the school has had to move to online learning for the majority of our pupils, using Google Classroom. Teachers are running daily online lessons with pupils, as well as setting independent tasks across all the subjects (not just Maths and English!). Feedback from parents and pupils has been really positive and many of our children were disappointed not to be able to return to the classroom because of the 3rd national lockdown. We hope to see our pupils return to "normal" learning very soon.

In the meantime, the school is still open for some pupils, so if you would like to find out more about us, please do call 01473 737347 or look at our website www.charsfieldprimaryschool.org.uk

Mrs Reeve, Head of School

FOGS AT THE NORTH POLE

We had a very busy and exciting second half of autumn term at Grundisburgh Primary School as all our children took part in our whole school 'Race to the North Pole' fund raiser. The Friends of Grundisburgh School (FOGS) organised this fun event in which our children counted the miles they had completed during their daily exercise activity - in their PE lessons or at home on their bikes, space-hoppers, scooters or whatever else they could travel on as part of achieving the whole school goal of 2,600 miles to the North Pole before Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored this event and the Christmas Raffle, both organised by the amazing FOGS. Despite these strange and difficult times, FOGS have remained incredibly active and positive with their fundraising on behalf of our school.

They have adapted and managed to run events despite the Covid-19 restrictions and raised an unbelievable total of over £3,500 throughout the autumn term! I cannot thank them enough for the support they offer us: they give their time, expertise, commitment and enthusiasm, with greatest of good humour, and their support really makes a huge difference to us all at



Grundisburgh. Towards the end of term, the children enjoyed decorating their class Christmas trees which were lit up and displayed in the window of every class for the parents to also enjoy our Christmas tree festival. The children (and staff) thoroughly embraced the festive spirit and the event really started the Christmas season off well for us all. The children's Christmas parties took place during the last week of term along with their Christmas film afternoon, with popcorn and Christmas gift of a book, kindly organized and sponsored again, by FOGS.

Last term saw the start of our monthly e-safety newsletter for parents. It has proved to be an informative and helpful addition that is helping to keep us all up to date with current social media and games that our children may be playing and offering tips and strategies to help them to use them safely. Parents are invited to let the school office know if there are any e-safety areas they would like to know more about, and we then aim to include some information about these in future monthly e-safety issues. Unfortunately, the Spring term did not start as expected and presented our whole community with another period of lockdown to negotiate.

However, by working together and helping each other we are navigating this period calmly: all our teachers have been in school, supporting our children and each other to the very best of our ability whilst keeping a smile on our faces. Our values of respect, kindness and gratitude come to the fore in these times and help us to appreciate the beauty of where we live and the help from those that care for us.

Thank you to all our community for their continued support of both our children and our school. Your help is very much appreciated by us all here at Grundisburgh Primary School.

Sue Marks, Headteacher

Late news ...

FOGS members are excited to announce that they have been awarded a grant of £1500 from the Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham Carlford & Fynn Valley Community Partnership Environmental Grant Scheme which is aimed at enabling environmental care within the local community.

An application was made in December 2020 for outdoor learning equipment to support our Creating Safe Spaces Campaign which is raising money to create, expand and enhance the outdoor learning potential of the school and grounds of



Grundisburgh Primary School, Suffolk. Trees and other outdoor features will be planted near the existing woodland.

The benefits of being outdoors in green space are scientifically proven to improve mental and physical wellbeing and with our children in another lockdown, the area being created is going to be of utmost importance for our children and the school, so we are thrilled that we were awarded the full amount!

Emma James, Chair FOGS

The News welcomes contributions from schools in our catchment area.
Contact Richard Watkinson,
richardwatkinson7@gmail.com
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Lighting up Grundisburgh

Many of us put up lights at Christmas to create some festive cheer. Few of us, however, take the task as seriously as Chris and Lucy Shemmings. The photo above shows an extraordinary effort to shine some light into a Christmas characterised by Covid restrictions and cancelled gatherings.

The summer is when the Shemmings usually create a palette of colour for the neighbourhood, being keen gardeners and participants in Grundisburgh's Hidden Gardens. Chris only got the gardening bug four years ago but has since attended garden shows at Hampton Court and the NEC to find plants to nurture at home.

The gardening bug (no, not aphids) has led to his family's company, Homestyle UK Windows, becoming the main sponsor of the Grundisburgh Village Show.

Prior to joining the family business, Chris was a professional drummer, playing with various bands around the country and a drum instructor at Planet Music and local high schools. He now has to make do with drumming with the likes of me in our local band now called The Lark Side (formerly Elliott's Remedy).

Lucy's interests are as colourful, conferring fame upon her in the 1990s. She was taught how to cook by her father, a chef, and at the age of only 13, she applied to the BBC programme 'Junior Masterchef'. She was accepted into the competition - and won! Loyd Grossman was the main judge and awarded the trophy to Lucy.

Lucy was a chef at Ufford Park, where she met Chris who was also working in the kitchen at that time. Lucy retrained and is now an advanced paramedic.

Perhaps the real star of the household is their son Ted, now in Year 2 at Grundisburgh Primary. He could claim, with good reason, to be the curator of the little known 'Grundisburgh Natural History Museum'. Over the last few years he has collected literally hundreds of exhibits, including ammonites and other fossils, skulls and bones, shells, preserved spiders and insects, all of which are neatly arranged in special display shelves in the house.

Like most children, Ted is home schooling with remote learning; his Mum and Dad are full of praise for the efforts made by the teachers at Grundisburgh Primary School to ensure the continuity of education despite the current restrictions. Perhaps Ted's love of natural history and his Mum's experience in TV will come together in the future. After all, David Attenborough will surely retire one day...

Paul Whittingham

Photo of the Shemmings' house in Orchard End, Grundisburgh, taken by Chris.

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A FAMILY HISTORY STARTING IN GRUNDISBURGH

When a pandemic swept the world in 2020, I found myself with records of my family history, my mother's stories of her English and Canadian ancestors, and plenty of time on my hands.

I have organized this information into a book, *The Cottons of Grundisburgh*, for my family and anyone interested in our English Cotton heritage.

During the middle of the 1800s, several Cotton families lived among the 800 residents of Grundisburgh. The 1881 Census indicates that Cottons comprised almost 8% of the population of Grundisburgh. Yet the 1911 Census reveals that Cotton inhabitants were less than half that.

Emigration

The Cottons of Grundisburgh tells the story of nearly 300 members of this lineage – who they were, their families, their occupations, and when and where they moved. It narrates the compelling stories of those Cottons who emigrated to the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

My book poses many unanswered questions, such as “What prompted Charles Cotton to buy a 1902 Benz, the first petrol-powered automobile in Grundisburgh?” and “How did George Cotton react when arriving in Chicago from Grundisburgh, and encountering 40-story skyscrapers in a city of 3,000,000 people?”



I hope to visit Grundisburgh this year, once it's safe to travel, to continue my research and walk the same roads as my Cotton ancestors. I would enjoy meeting any Cotton relatives, no matter how distant, and seeing the houses where his forbears lived.

My wife Nancy and I have a passion for travel, having been to six continents and are considering a trip to the seventh. We live in Asheville, North Carolina and have five children and ten grandchildren.

I hope *The Cottons of Grundisburgh* will be useful



Left: Bob Rietz on his travels - here walking the Camino pilgrimage trail in Spain.

Above: Charles Cotton in his 1902 Benz which was Grundisburgh's first car.

both as a genealogy research book and as a Cotton family history book, while simultaneously entertaining readers who are searching for an enjoyable overview of 250 years of English and American history. The book

contains over 30 photos, several family trees and timelines of selected eras. It is available through Facebook (Cotton of Grundisburgh), Amazon and the publisher (store.BookBaby.com).

Bob Rietz, dbactuary@hotmail.com

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Awards for community support during the pandemic

Awards have been made by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston, and the High Sheriff, Bridget McIntyre, to recognise exceptional service and support to those in their community during the pandemic.

Recent recipients include Colin Grimwood, Minister at the Baptist Church in Grundisburgh and the Rev Mark Cresswell of St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh. Their nominations were made by East Suffolk Council. Among the supportive activities for which they were chosen was the food bank they run jointly.

Mark told The News that he was surprised and honoured to get the award. "Grundisburgh is such a lovely place to live and the food bank and facebook group are very much a team effort with many kind contributions coming in. The facebook group had over 100 offers of help within hours - a testament to the kindness of people across the village".

Sentiments echoed by Colin who added "It is lovely to be appreciated but I feel it has all been just a part of my work for the Lord and the community. So many people have done so much to support others in the village and really they all deserve an award!"

Pop up Pantry

The food bank - called the Pop Up Parish Pantry - re-opened at half term and will be operating until early April in St Mary's Church. A selection of basic foods are available in the church porch for those that need them and people are encouraged to help themselves.

Another local recipient is Archdeacon Sally Gaze who lives in Otley and heads up the Lightwave Project which is based at Otley College. She is Archdeacon for Rural Ministry and her nomination for the award came from the High Sheriff of Suffolk, Bridget McIntyre.

Last autumn Otley Village Stores was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit (see photo on page 1) Their nomination came from one of Lady Euston's Deputy Lieutenants, Anthony Fairbanks Weston TD DL who made the presentation to Penny and Andrew Sunaway.

We have reproduced the citation here to illustrate the very many ways in which support was provided to the community .

Citation for Lord Lieutenant's Covid 19 Certificate of Merit

"I should like to nominate Otley Village Store for the award of a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit for their outstanding contribution to the Community in Suffolk.

Throughout the last 8 months Otley Village Store has not missed a single day; the shop has been open 7 days a week and the Post Office has remained on full service 6 days a week. Penny and Andrew understand the importance of being able to send food, comfort parcels and letters and to have the ability to send online shopping returns, together with the ability to access banking and bill payments.

It has been their aim to maintain a safe, efficient village shop and post office, where people feel comfortable to do their shopping, taking away some of the fear and anxiety caused by Covid 19 by using strict social distancing and stringent hygiene protocols, whilst still maintaining a welcoming atmosphere.

During the early stages of the virus they had to travel to Booker Cash and Carry every day at 6am to top up their weekly Booker delivery to maintain stock on the shelves as their customer footfall increased hugely. By using local suppliers they also managed to offer a continuous supply of fresh meat, fruit, vegetables, bread and flour!

Their papergirl, Kate, also greatly extended her paper round to include the vulnerable who used to collect their papers from the shop.

The shop has remained at the centre of the village providing help and information to the community and surrounding villages. They have created an Otley Village Store Facebook page full of updates, information and a forum for people to interact. They have run quizzes, competitions, craft suggestions and posted items for sale and needed. The aim of the Facebook page has been to try and combat some of the loneliness and isolation many people have felt through lockdown, it has also helped Penny and Andrew to put villagers in touch with the village volunteer Covid helpline and sort out problems.

During the last 8 months problems faced by the lonely and isolated have become increasingly more pronounced, finding someone to talk to after bereavement, or getting the dog to the vet are all roles that the small but dedicated team at Otley Village Store has undertaken

Through social media they have been able to link to other surrounding villages and hugely extend their food home delivery service for those self-isolating and shielding. Customers are able to email, message, text and WhatsApp their orders to the shop as well as phoning them in. The shop now delivers to over 30 households with an army of volunteer drivers from the village. In order to fulfil all the orders, they have taken on a new member of staff to help pick and pack orders and have also extended the service to offer collect by car.

With the popularity of gardening taking off at the beginning of lockdown the shop quickly sold out of their home grown plants and those from their usual suppliers, so they formed an alliance with Otley Rural College to sell the bedding plants grown by the students prior to lockdown, the aim has been to raise some funds for the NHS and they will continue the

partnership into next year with the students. They managed to keep a continuous supply of compost thanks to their local supplier and, as no one could get hold of seeds to grow, they instigated a seed swap outside the shop where envelopes or packets of seeds could be donated/swapped or taken for free prior to the Otley Virtual Flower Show. They held a flower show competition on Facebook covering 8 categories, for old and young, novice and accomplished gardeners, ranging from windowsill growing to complete garden makeovers. They had 135 photo entries and everyone could interact with the photos online.

The shop has always had a strong connection to the 1st Otley Scouts supporting them with fundraising and joining forces on the annual village litter pick. Their main fundraising event of the year is the Scout Hog Roast; sadly, this has had to be postponed so Penny and Andrew have been raising funds to send them on their next camp in the new year.

Having been put forward by customers, Otley Stores was awarded a BBC Radio Suffolk 'making a difference' award. Throughout the pandemic, Penny and Andrew and the team at Otley Village Store has sought to maintain an air of 'keep calm and carry on' for all their customers, to offer support, kindness, reliability and a comprehensive product range in these difficult times.

Otley Post Office was also awarded the 'Local Hero' award for the 'East of England' in June 2020 for 'service to the community going above and beyond the call of duty'.

Most important of all, Penny and Andrew have just wanted to keep going as normal and to offer some stability to the community, even continuing events such as the Macmillan Cake Sale (under an awning outside in the rain!) and keeping everyone Covid-safe.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Supporting families

Hello, my name is Ali and I am proud to say I'm a Home-Start in Suffolk volunteer.

I have lived in our village for over 25 years, where my husband and I have brought up our three children (now grown up all in their 30s) and love being a granny to our granddaughter and grandson.

So how did I become a volunteer for Home-Start in Suffolk you may ask. Well, my journey began over five years ago when visiting an event in Grundisburgh. Home-Start in Suffolk was hosting a stand and wanted to find out more. After a friendly chat and having learned more about what Home-Start does to support families in our county I knew I wanted to be involved.

I was invited for an interview followed by a full training program and from there my volunteer journey began. Five years on and what an interesting and rewarding journey it has been! I have met some incredible families, all unique, but all needing support and a friend; someone you can rely on, whether visiting or calling to ask; "how are you feeling?", "how's your week been?", and to generally be someone to be there just for them offering emotional and practical support.

By providing that listening ear, the extra pair of hands, that friendship – whether it's that hour on the phone or a three hour home visit, the positive impact on a family can be amazing. For me, it's knowing I have made a difference. To be told that the family feel they have made a friend during a time when life is particularly difficult for them, is what makes volunteering so special to me.

In 2020 the pandemic arrived and at Home-Start in Suffolk we have had a huge increase in families needing support in these challenging times. But



the team rose to the challenge, quickly adapted to meet demand and has continued supporting families throughout. Home visits have been temporarily replaced with online and telephone support, but I have still been introduced to some fabulous families and from the feedback received they all enjoy their calls and feel more confident and able to cope as a result of the support they received. It has been different but still enjoyable and very rewarding.

Home-Start in Suffolk staff teams offer all volunteers support and they are always just a phone call away if I have any concerns or questions. I really feel like I am part of the team.

So if you're reading this and feel you could offer some time to become a volunteer for Home-Start then please email jean@homestartinsuffolk.org to find out more.

Or if you live in Suffolk, have a child under the age of 12 and feel you could benefit from Home-Start support, please get in touch on 01473 621104 or visit

Help with pets

I have been doing animal rescue for 40 years, and have been neutering feral cats on local farms for 20 years. Recently I secured funding to neuter, microchip, and worm and flea any cats over five months old, and have set up accounts with 11 vets. We are now neutering over 100 cats a week.

Animed, part of the CVS group which is the largest pet food distributor in Europe, is now on board. We get given nine pallets of pet food three times a year to support the animal charities we already help.

Since Covid, we have been able to link up with the heads

of two schools who contacted families struggling financially, and we have been able to get the pet food to them. Apart from it helping the families, it stops animals being abandoned which is especially important as all the large rescue places are now closed and not taking any animals in.

I have teamed up with Kitty Kat Rescue in Stowmarket, which is still taking in cats and kittens that people cannot keep, and we have the funds to pay for any vet treatment they might need.

Georgina can be contacted on animalreliefneutering1@gmail.com, 07907 122888.

Accident Rescue Service

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) is a voluntary emergency medical charity, operating in Suffolk and its border areas. Our volunteer clinicians offer specialist assistance at serious or life threatening medical incidents.

Since we started in 1972 we have helped treat thousands of patients and saved countless lives. SARS volunteers are specialists in prehospital care and include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. They carry equipment and drugs not normally found on frontline ambulances and can undertake advanced procedures at the scene of an incident, which are not normally possible outside the hospital environment.

Our charity receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary fundraising to maintain its activity. The

clinicians give up their time and provide their skills without charge. This 'donation' of time equates to many hundreds-of-thousands of pounds each year, and the benefit that SARS clinicians can bring to a patient in terms of life-saving interventions, relief from pain and quicker recovery times is immeasurable.

The last year has been a really challenging time but the amazing SARS volunteer clinicians gave over 6,000 hours of advanced prehospital medical care throughout Suffolk in 2020. They were called out to over 100 locations across the county including callouts in this area - all of this during a pandemic! And 2021 looks set to be another busy year, with SARS responders being mobilised to 72 incidents in January alone!

SARS is also helping combat the pandemic with charity volunteer and retired responder, Dr Andy Mason currently vaccinating staff at the West Suffolk Hospital. Andy is very keen to continue vaccinating in the local community after the initial programme at the West Suffolk Hospital has been completed.

There are many ways you can also get involved and help support SARS this year. Please take a look on the SARS website www.sars999.org.uk or why not sign up to the SARS 999 Lottery? For as little as £1 a week you could win up to £25,000 while helping save local lives. We are always keen to hear from you so please get in touch via email admin@sars999.org.uk or phone 01359 244186.



National census due soon

The decennial census is almost upon us. Households across the country will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing

and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

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BREDFIELD BOWLS CLUB

It is very difficult to predict how the 2021 season at Bredfield Bowls Club will pan out, but I thought readers might like to hear of the exciting things we were able to achieve in 2020.

Our biggest accomplishment was to have installed an automatic watering system for the green, and we would like to thank Greenkeeper Ltd for their excellent work, plus all the helpers, volunteers and sponsors who contributed in any way. We would particularly like to thank

Debach Enterprises and Maritime Transport for their sponsorships of our Saturday tournaments, which we hope (Covid permitting) to hold again this year. The system saves our greenkeepers many hours of manual watering, plus is much more efficient at saving water.

We have also refurbished the toilets thanks to a grant from East Suffolk Council last year, and would like to thank Adnams brewers for their grant to enable us to finish this off with new floor coverings.

We are always looking for new members, and welcome people to come and have a go at our open day in April: if we are able to hold the event it will be on Saturday 24 April, starting at 2pm. No equipment is needed but flat shoes should be worn.

Bowls is one of the few sports that can be enjoyed equally by men and women, old and young, and members can play at league level or just friendlies for the not so competitive. Please get in touch with me for more details if interested.

Words and photos Julie Kemp, 07939 243306



Mark Kemp and Peter Hollands

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New play area for Grundisburgh

Grundisburgh Playing Field Committee is working closely with Andrew Jolliffe, our local Communities Officer at East Suffolk Council in planning the installation of new play equipment. Taking into account the excellent response from the community regarding their preferences, the committee is awaiting the final quote and design from the playground manufacturer.

Applications for funding are underway and the committee is pleased to have been successful with monies secured from the Play Space Fund and Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council for which we are most grateful. Once the final design and quote are to hand these will be released to the public so hopefully they can get involved in fund raising with us.

Richard Garnham, Chairman, Grundisburgh Playing Field Management Committee, rickgarnham@hotmail.com

Andrew Jolliffe welcomes hearing from village organisations in our area and can be contacted at East Suffolk Council on 01394 444660, andrew.jolliffe@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Update from the Scouts

Grundisburgh Scouts are unable to meet due to the pandemic, but our textile bin in the playing field car park is open for business. It is emptied roughly every two weeks and clean clothing, shoes, bed linen and towels can be deposited there, tied in plastic bags. Please DO NOT leave duvets, pillows, rugs or soiled rags. Since the group first started the scheme ten years ago, we have raised over £8000 towards the cost of the much needed replacement scout hut.

We hope to hold ZOOM meetings with our members until we can get back together again in the near future. Take care.

Pat Ross, Scout Group Secretary, 01473 735352

More help is wanted

.... with the production of The News. In particular we need more people to follow up and write stories - about people or places in any of our 18 villages. Also one or two people who could chase up information when we are close to going to press. If you could help, please contact Nicola Hobbs or Richard Watkinson - see panel to right



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About The News

www.grundisburghnews.org.uk

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community magazine produced by volunteers. In normal times, around 3,000 copies are distributed to homes and a range of central locations in Grundisburgh and 17 other villages (as listed below the banner on the front page). Four issues a year are published.

Contributions, comments and ideas are welcomed: Send to Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, editor@grunews.com. All issues are included on our website www.grundisburghnews.org.uk. Information can be supplied on paper or email.

If emailed, the *topic* of the article should be shown in the *subject box*. Photos can be sent as JPGs (but not embedded in Word documents) or as prints.

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ADVERTISING RATES

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1/8 page (w.92mm x h. 66mm)
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1/4 page (w.92mm x h.136mm or w.190 x h.66mm)
£110

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Local organisations advertising fund raising events are charged at half the normal rate.

A small charge is made for originating artwork.

Adverts for next issue to be sent by 5 May to Peter Knights, Garden House, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6UB or adverts@grunews.com. 01473 735887. Earlier booking is recommended as space is limited.



Culpho's Lockdown Carols.

During a year like no other some things remain firmly in place, one of those being the Christmas Carol Service at St Botolph Church, Culpho.

Ipswich Choral Society had been invited to sing the carols for the service, so on Saturday 19 December members of the choir supported by their Music Director Robin Walker, arrived smiling and wrapped-up warm to rehearse in the church. Lockdown has left choirs unable to meet and sing together, so to be invited to indulge in some 'live' singing for the first time since March, albeit in 'COVID formation', was simply a joy.

On the following day the COVID-shaped service was led by James Hall, attended by our Patron, Lord Cranworth and a small congregation. Our Church Warden, Richard Garnham, had set out the church for the safety of all, and Christobel Garnham's beautiful windowsill decoration with tea lights provided some very welcome sparkle.

Although still very cold, the choir and congregation finished the service outside, with the final carol and a traditional Christmas farewell 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. It was a particular pleasure to greet our newest neighbours and their children, who were able to join us at a safe distance and enjoy the sound of Christmas almost on their doorstep.

In these difficult times one thing is certain, nothing will take away the joy of Christmas or the need to make and enjoy music together.

*Chris Pearce, Culpho resident
and chair of Ipswich Choral Society*



Grundisburgh sings by torchlight



Thanks to Covid, Grundisburgh's annual carol service was held on the village green instead of inside St. Mary's church. Luckily it was a fine evening and the green was filled with self distancing singers carrying their own form of illumination.

The service was led by Colin Grimwood and Mark Cresswell, and the carols accompanied by church organist John Cooper, supported by the church choir.



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