

ISSUE NUMBER 258

Winter  
2020  
**FREE**

# The Grundisburgh and District News

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**This edition of Grundisburgh News is coming out on-line only. With our publication date falling during the month-long lock down imposed to curtail the advance of COVID-19 we felt that its distribution could not be regarded as essential.**

**We also want to protect our distributors, some of whom come into the 'vulnerable' category.**

**We are aware that a number of our readers do not have access to the internet and apologise to them. We hope that friends and neighbours will pass on relevant information.**

**Advertisers who appear in this edition are being given free space in the next issue.**

**We hope that printed copies of the spring 2021 edition will be distributed widely at the end of February.**

## Internet go-slow

Will Barber, who is The News' IT advisor, has been getting more reports of unexpectedly slow internet connections in Grundisburgh recently. His recent conversation with an Open Reach engineer revealed two major issues:

\* Because of lockdown more people are working from home causing a huge demand on an ageing internet infrastructure which can't now cope. This is common to many other villages in rural areas, not just Grundisburgh.

\* Whilst we have 'fibre broadband', this only applies to the fibre optic cables running to the green cabinets on the side of our roads - but the connection from there to individual houses still consists of slow copper wires.

Suggested actions which might improve the situation include complaining to your Internet supplier about slow connection speeds. Unless enough people do this, there is no incentive for Open Reach to take action.

Keeping a record of Internet speeds from time to time using, for example, [www.speed.net](http://www.speed.net), will add weight to complaints.

## CHAPEL FIELD UPDATE

The application to build houses on Chapel Field in Grundisburgh has not yet been considered by the East Suffolk Council's Planning Committee. This is now expected to be in the new year.

Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council's very detailed objections to the application from Hopkins Homes were submitted to the district council in October.

The 36 page response, which can be seen on the parish council's website <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud>, includes comprehensive reports on the unsuitability of the access roads, and the impact on the environment. The document was prepared with the help of three locally based experts, who provided their services free.

The arguments are being backed up in a short video made by Bealings based company Summer Isle Films which will be widely available through social media shortly.

*Ann Willetts, chairman of Grundisburgh & Culpho's Planning sub committee*

Below: Breaking ground on the site of Grundisburgh's new village hall. This work is to prepare for the installation of water and electricity to the site. In the background is the old hall it is replacing. More information is included on page 5.



Journeys end: Gus Backhouse from Clopton Corner reaches Land's End after his 874 mile trek from John O'Groats, one of the much needed fund raising efforts for charities this year. See pages 8 and 9.



## NEWS DIARY

With the continuing pandemic, it's not possible to publish our normal diary in print. But we would be delighted if organisers of events they hope to be able to hold next year send provisional details which can go into The News Diary on line. This could help avoid clashes and give advance publicity. Also, please remember to notify us of cancellations and changes as events are confirmed.

Ian McIvor, [diary@grunews.com](mailto:diary@grunews.com)

## Horticultural plans

Grundisburgh Burgh and Culpho Horticultural Society held its annual general meeting on 23 October via Zoom, and all details, reports and copies of accounts can be seen on our website. The officers and committee members remain in place, except for Pat and Denis Sullivan, who have decided to retire. We thank them for their

efforts over the years and would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they can help in any way with next year's events. Please contact Sharon, our show secretary, on 01473 738997, [secretary@grundisburgh.show](mailto:secretary@grundisburgh.show)

We decided that we need to retain all our funds as next year is so uncertain. However, we have started planning for our major events: Hidden Gardens (12/13 June) and Village Show (10 July).

Various talks and visits are being planned, including a snowdrop visit in February and one to see tulips in April, all depending on the Covid 19 situation. Details will be included on our website when finalised. Visit [www.grundisburgh.show](http://www.grundisburgh.show).

Martin Cripps,  
[chairman@grundisburgh.show](mailto:chairman@grundisburgh.show)

## Keeping Upbeat!

At this time of year, we Ladies of Upbeat! choir should be busily rehearsing and making arrangements for our annual Christmas concert at St Mary's Church,

Grundisburgh – but unfortunately not this year!

However we are still doing what we can to continue the choir. Choir leader Carol has been providing tutorials via Zoom to teach those members who do not read music the basics of music reading and musical directions. Hopefully this will improve our performance and next year we will be back singing better than ever!

Jean Ellinor

## Advent windows

There will be a new take on the advent calendar in Burgh and Grundisburgh this Christmas. Starting on 1 December, a different window display will be 'opening' each day around the villages. These will then remain on view until the new year.

I will be publishing a flyer of all the locations in Grundisburgh which will be available on [carlfordChurches.org](http://carlfordChurches.org). Sally Butler is putting a list of the Burgh houses taking part in the village telephone box.

We hope people will enjoy walking round the villages to find them.

Rev'd Mark Cresswell,  
[mark@cresswell.onl](mailto:mark@cresswell.onl)

## Orders for Christmas

Once again Burgh will be raising funds for the Ipswich Night Shelter. But due to Covid we can't hold our usual soup lunch so are offering a range of festive goodies to order for collection before Christmas.

These include sweets, cakes, preserves and candle arrangements. Early ordering is recommended, email [sally@martinandally.co.uk](mailto:sally@martinandally.co.uk) for a copy of the list. Items will be available for collection on 19 December from a

gazebo on the front lawn of Larkshayes, Burgh, between 10.30 and 12 - or earlier by arrangement.

Sally Butler

## Christmas Hunt

Redfield is inviting its residents to make elves or any other Christmas related character or scene with a catchy festive name. There will be a competition for the best display and the best name. All entries have to be out on display for 1 December. The event will be raising money for Suffolk Mind.

## Drive-in carol services

As we are not able to sing inside at the moment, the Rev'd Charlotte Cook of Westerfield, Withesham and Tuddenham Benefice decided we would run some drive-in carol services. People will be able to sing in their cars and we can celebrate Christmas together in a different way. These will be taking place on:

5 December at the Swan at Westerfield at 4pm;  
12 December at the Fountain at Tuddenham at 4pm;  
19 December at Fynn Valley Golf Club at 4pm.

Jean Ellinor

## Songs of Love

Grundisburgh singer Charmian Wells has released a CD of 14 timeless songs in time for Christmas.



Titled 'Always with Love', the net cost of £10 will go to the Lighthouse Womens Aid Ipswich and the repair fund of

Grundisburgh Church. Copies are available from Williams Stores, Grundisburgh, and Grange Farm Shop, Hasketon,

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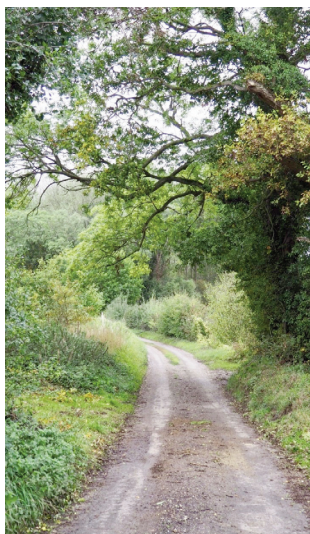


## A ghostly history to one of Burgh's roads - White Foot Lane

Nestled just off the B1079 and winding its way up to the crossroads at the heart of Burgh village; you would be forgiven for having missed White Foot Lane. However, with winter drawing in, and the nights growing longer for more things to go bump in, the story of this lane attracts more attention.

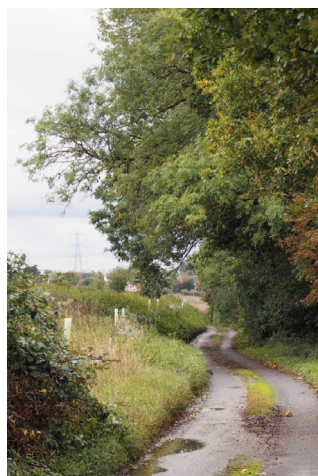
The origin of the lane's name are given to us in the writings of Lady E.C. Gurdon, in 1892. In the aptly named journal 'Folklore' Lady Gurdon writes about a lane avoided by the locals, and rarely traversed at night as it was haunted by the spectre of a white footed ghost. While Lady Gurdon may give some pause to traverse the lane alone at night, it is a tale more to pique the interest that satiate it.

A more complete history of the ghoulish story comes, not from Burgh, but from a tale



about neighbouring Clopton, where there a legend of St. Felix's treasure buried, suitably vaguely, near Clopton Hall.

The legend is that a monk and a dog were left as guardians to this buried treasure. Their fates were perhaps a little too intertwined, as soon they merged into a truly terrifying beast, an enormous white footed dog with a monk's head. This history, maintained by A. A. MacGregor's 1955 'The Ghost Book', tells us that this is where the name comes from.



How far this yarn spins into other local folklore is hard to decipher. St. Felix's treasure is certainly easy to conflate with the legend of the golden calf. A treasure supposedly buried in a field next to Burgh church, just a stone's throw from Clopton's own church. The giant dog is very common in local folklore; Black Shuck and the Galley Trot. For the superstitious the tales may well eerily intertwine; perhaps into a new yarn of their own.

Walking down White Foot Lane on a crisp morning, these stories seem sensibly farcical. They are an enjoyable reminder of the history that surrounds our countryside and villages. A history that gets slowly twisted over time and its retellings embellished, probably on cold winters' nights down the local pub. However, if you find yourself wandering home from a night at one such pub, it can take some courage to venture down White Foot Lane by yourself.

*Words and photos: Jack Cutmore*

## Community support from East Suffolk Council

Our Planning team is consulting about improvement to the walking and cycling infrastructure. The data will map areas of priority and build funding proposals for improvements. I would strongly recommend sharing

your views – it only takes two minutes. Responses can be online via the East Suffolk Council website or via the Customer Services helpline 03330 162 000.

### Grant scheme for environmental projects

For those who have an interest in the environment our local Community Partnership has launched a small grants scheme to help local groups start having a positive impact on the environment.

Grants up to £1,500 are available, and we're keen to see applications that involve the community. The deadline for applications is 14 December. For a copy of the application form please email communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Lots of Grundisburgh residents recently completed a questionnaire about new play equipment. Thank you for the responses. The results have been considered by Grundisburgh's Playing Field Management Committee and good progress is being made. Thank you to its members for their enthusiasm and engagement throughout. We will keep you posted when we have news to share.

*Andy Jolliffe, Communities Officer, East*

## End of an era

Many people have been saddened to see the 'for sale' sign up outside Williams Store on Grundisburgh Green. It has been a much loved village institution for so long.

The oldest part of the property dates back to the 15th Century and there has been a shop in the front part for many years. Ray and Joyce Williams took over in 1968, and in recent years it has been run by their youngest daughter Rosie, who also opened the Old Drapery coffee shop there.

Behind the shop is the seven bedroom grade II listed house. Details are on the Right Move and Prime Location websites.

Until the sale Rosie continues in business. The coffee shop has been open for takeouts during lockdown.

## BRIEFLY ...

A new service has been launched to support people recently diagnosed with cancer. The Cancer Care Navigators work alongside Ipswich and Colchester Hospitals and local GP surgeries to help people get the right help and support with all non medical needs. Helping patients access support for everything that cancer throws their way, the navigators can be contacted on weekdays between 9am and 5pm at Ipswich Hospital (cancercarenavigators@esneft.nhs.uk, 01473 702125.).

Nexus Fostering is a local fostering agency looking to recruit more foster carers, even amid the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. It has an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating and provides a full range of fostering placements - which include respite, short term, long term and more specialist placements for example parent and child and therapeutic fostering. By fostering a young person, people can work from home, and receive ongoing training and 24/7 support. For more information contact [www.nexusfostering.com/enquiries](http://www.nexusfostering.com/enquiries) or 01603 811118.

Woodbridge Tide Mill Museum has opened an online gift shop to help generate much needed funds (<https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/shop>). The mill is a



major supporter of work by local artists and a range of their work features on many of the gifts on sale there. It has also introduced a system for the Friends of Woodbridge Tide Mill Museum to order its stoneground flour online. It costs the charity about £5,000 a month to run the mill.





## Tuddenham Remembers

This year on Remembrance Sunday, as the usual church service could not go ahead due to COVID restrictions, church wardens Monica and Jim set up a temporary memorial on church hill as the focal point for our Act of Remembrance led by Reverend Charlotte. A number of villagers (suitably social distanced and masked) attended this moving event.

*Words and photo Jean Elinor*

## Grundisburgh Remembers

Due to Covid we were instructed that door to door collecting for the British Legion appeal could not be undertaken this year.

With help from my wife, Liz, I put together collecting tins, and boxes containing poppies, pins, crosses, etc and delivered them to Grundisburgh School, Grange Farm shop, The Barn Café, Old Forge Stores, Williams Store and The Dog.

I'm glad to say that it was possible to provide Grundisburgh School this year with a more interesting and 'child friendly,' variety of items made available by British Legion for schools.

Having collected everything back and undertaken the 'Count Up,' I'm pleased to advise that we have paid in, to the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal collection account at Lloyds Bank Woodbridge, the sum of £1,087.94. In addition, and separately, John Ager on behalf of the parish

council, has made donations to the British Legion in return for wreaths which have been laid elsewhere. These include the graves in Ipswich of former villagers of Grundisburgh who gave their lives for their country.

Having undertaken the role of British Legion Honorary Organiser for Grundisburgh for a number of years, I feel that the time has come for me to pass it on to someone younger, particularly as I have recently developed a mobility problem. I will, of course, provide ongoing induction, support etc.

One of the things that makes Grundisburgh such a great place to live is the extent to which people of all ages give of themselves in a voluntary capacity. So please do make contact with me if you might be interested, or if you know someone who might be.

*Graham Parker, 07889 778543  
graham@charity-fundraising.org.uk*



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## Grundisburgh Village Hall – improved layout and design

We are at an exciting stage in the new hall project as we are seeking to renew the planning consent for the new hall and taking the opportunity of making a few changes to improve the layout and design.

A copy of the plans submitted to East Suffolk are on our website (<https://www.grundisburghvillagehall.com/>) under 'Plans'. We have also commissioned works to supply both power and water to the new site in readiness for the main construction in the New Year.

We have been making more applications to a number of grant giving bodies and have received grants of over £30,000 towards the new hall. We have recently made more applications and await decisions on them. We have also added the village hall charity to the 'Amazon Smile' initiative where we get a small percentage of any spending people make on 'Smile Amazon' if you choose the Grundisburgh Village Hall to be the recipient. Please use this opportunity to give us money - at zero cost to you!

The trustees have been working hard recently to make the old village hall safe to reopen. This has involved a lot of work, including preparing a risk assessment and we have also produced new operating procedures for us, as well as new user requirements



A computer generated image to show what Grundisburgh's new village hall will look like.

(contained in Supplementary Hire Conditions) for anyone hiring the hall. However, the current lockdown means it is impractical to reopen the hall now, but we will be ready to do so as soon as we are allowed.

*Bryan Laxton, Chair, Village Hall Trustees*

## SCOUTING NEWS

The scout hut in Grundisburgh has undergone an excellent clean and maintenance with sanitizer equipment everywhere, ready for our group to start back after being given permission in mid-October.

Our cubs, scouts and explorers took advantage of this and met twice, with our first night back for the young beavers on 3 November. We had many excited new beavers enjoying themselves and looking forward to the next weekly meetings. Great shame as the next day we were told that from the 5th all Scout groups

were to stop. Let us hope all our four sections will meet again before Christmas.

Instead of the usual 'trick or treat' around Halloween, Stuart, our group scout leader, organised a 'ghost hunt' around the village for anyone to take part, finding coloured ghost posters with letters on and then having to make as many words as possible. The prize for most words will be free tickets including food for our next firework display – hopefully in 2021.

Many thanks to those who took part in the 'ghost hunt' game and to the kind people who displayed posters at their homes, we even had an upside-down 'New Zealand Ghost'.

Our latest venture is a village trail. Everyone is invited to have a go at solving the clues and help the famous Quacker Street detective Sherduck Holmes find the thief who stole the ducks Xmas presents. The trail is easily walked

around the village in two hours or less. Go to [www.grundisburghscouts.org.uk/the-daily-quack-news](http://www.grundisburghscouts.org.uk/the-daily-quack-news).

We have sadly missed our firework display this year and the Christmas card postal scheme has been cancelled by Ipswich and District Scouts.

The new textile bin seems to be working well but if full then leave textiles in waterproof bags at the side. Any problems please call us.

*Pat Ross, Group Secretary 01473 735352*

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## LOCAL ENTERPRISE

### Creating the perfect candle in Little Bealings

I have been making quality scented candles in small batches, from my kitchen table in Little Bealings for the past year, although I'll soon be moving to a new workshop in my garden, so will have a bit more space!

My experiments with candle making started in 2016 when I lived in London. I have always believed there is something special about the ritual of striking a match, lighting a candle, enjoying the flicker of the flame and letting the fragrance unfold. It helps connect me to an inner calm.

I had tried a few different brands and began noticing some quality issues – such as burning very quickly and leaving a build-up of soot around the glass, or the



of testing, I had developed a range of six candles with which I was happy, and was ready to launch Wildlight. I wanted to have full confidence in the product, before I offered it to others. In the same year I moved out of London back to my Suffolk roots, and started working on the business full time.

Each Wildlight fragrance is inspired by nature to promote wellbeing, and includes: Lavender and Bergamot, Warm Nutmeg & Clove, Sloe Berry, Dark Amber, Lime, Basil & Mandarin and Tobacco & Oakwood.

I remain meticulous about quality and the testing process to ensure every blend burns well and lasts as long as possible. How you care for a candle also affects this.

A couple of things can help; burning the candle for long enough that the wax melts towards the edge of the container, and trimming the wick between burns.

Quality ingredients are also important. Having experimented with different types of wax, I chose to use rapeseed wax. I really enjoy working with it – it burns cleanly, has a smooth, creamy texture, and it's also easy to clean up with hot soapy water.

I operate in an 'eco-conscious'

way and aim to minimise environmental impact where possible.

Rapeseed wax is made from crops grown locally in the UK and EU, closer to home than soy, with no impact on deforestation. Candles are made using renewable energy, and when it comes to candle packaging, there are no unnecessary cardboard boxes, plastic or cellophane. A refill service is also available locally.

Complimentary local

delivery is available, and if you'd like to see and smell the range, I can also arrange home visits, or you are welcome to visit me in my workshop (outside of lockdown).

The candles are available at Majestic Hare Apothecary in Wickham Market and Milli's Sewing Studio in Martlesham. I would love to hear from other local businesses who would like to stock Wildlight Candles

Anna Hart, 07432 594501,  
anna@wildlightcandles.co.uk  
Photos Steve Newton

### The Dog keeps going

Like everybody else, we are trying to get ready for the end of Lockdown 2 in December. What follows no-one knows yet so it is so difficult to plan with precision but we are determined to keep open in one way or another, depending on what the Government says. If we are allowed, we will continue the take-away service for pizzas, burgers and other dishes fresh from our kitchen. If we are permitted to sell alcohol to drink on the premises, we certainly intend to do so.

The Deli at The Dog will remain open four days a week - Wednesday to Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm for the sale of cheeses and other deli items, including pastries made by our chef daily.

For Christmas, we are offering an additional range of gift hampers to suit most pockets. You can make up your own list of delights: in addition to cheeses, you could add wine, beer, soft drinks, chocolates or anything else we sell over the counter. Hampers can be delivered locally for a modest charge. To order a hamper, visit the Deli or contact me on 01473 735267. Or order online from [www.grundisburghdogdeli.co.uk](http://www.grundisburghdogdeli.co.uk)

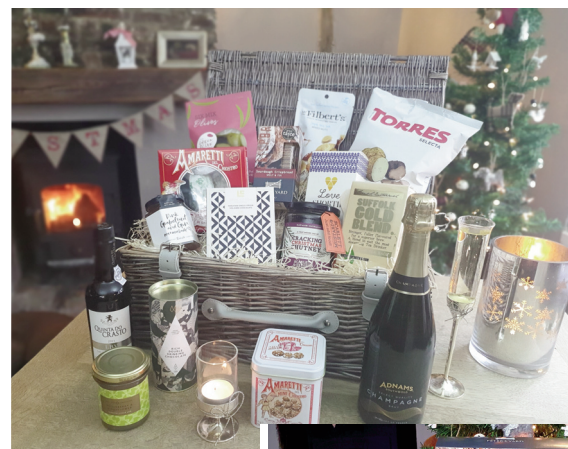
Eilir Rogers



fragrance wasn't very noticeable. And then there was the issue of tunnelling (this is when the wax doesn't melt to the edge of the container.)

This inspired me to start making my own candles. I only planned to make a few. I thought it would be easy, but soon realised it wasn't at all. I became hooked on mixing various types of wax, fragrance blends and wicks to achieve the perfect burn. I had a busy job in marketing at the time, and this process seemed to help me switch off. It was so frustrating but satisfying at the same time!

By 2019, after many failed candles and many more hours



Above: A suggestion for a Christmas hamper - but you can mix and match to your own requirements. Right: The Deli's suggestion for an 'any time of year' cheese hamper.





## LOCAL ENTERPRISE

### Yes, we have no bananas

What looks like a fairly standard, functional, building on a small industrial estate in Witnesham in fact holds quite a few surprises. And the operators of the business welcome personal visitors - almost 24/7 - as theirs is a line which calls for their physical presence from (very) early in the morning to well into the evening.

The Richards family have been in the fruit and vegetable trade since the 1960s when Dennis Richards had an apple orchard in Little Blakenham. Working alongside him, his son, Hugh, took the fruit up to Spitalfields Market in London and brought vegetables back for sale in Suffolk.

This is how it all started and, as the wholesale business began to take shape, they moved from Hintlesham to Witnesham in 2000.

#### Wholesale and retail

Today, the business, which is both a wholesale and retail operation, is in the capable hands of Hugh's son and daughter, Stephen and Sue. Stephen's children, Rhiannon and Owen, have been involved too so continuity is assured! In fact, it was Rhiannon who set up their successful home delivery service.

Lorries arrive at the site from early in the morning to late in the day bringing in temperature-controlled fruit and vegetables from all over the world - although the Richards do try to source as much produce as they can locally. Rapid turnover of produce ensures freshness and the fruit and vegetables I saw looked in prime condition.

Their wholesale delivery area extends right across the eastern half of Suffolk and Richards will deliver smaller quantities, including chilled produce, to personal customers in The News' area if required.



Photos clockwise from the top: Part of the retail area of the shop; inside the refrigerated store room; just some of the fresh produce for customers' selection; Sue and Stephen Richards.



For details, contact them at [office@richardsfruitveg.co.uk](mailto:office@richardsfruitveg.co.uk) or ring 01473 785982.

Personal callers at Witnesham may be as surprised as I was to see the range of groceries also on sale - jams, juices, confectionery, biscuits, milk - to mention a few - complementing the fruit and vegetables offered in retail quantities.

#### Starting the shop

Almost overnight at the first lockdown, Richards lost 70% of their business, although they were able to retain their care homes and farm shops customers. Faced with this, Richards took the initiative and started the shop side of the business and intend to continue with it post-Covid as it is certainly well placed, physically and commercially, to meet the needs of local residents.

This has been just one development arising from the pandemic, as has the upgrading of their refrigerated area where sensitive produce is kept at 6 degrees C.

I was also impressed with the fact that Richards have scrapped plastic bags - in favour of paper.

Richards is at Unit D, Hill Farm Business Park, Witnesham IP6 9EW with plenty of free parking. They are open from 6am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 6am to 12noon on Saturdays.

*words Richard Watkinson,  
photos Steve Newton*

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## raising money for good causes.....raising money for good causes.....

Despite the restrictions brought about by Covid, huge efforts are still being made to raise money for charities - who are now particularly in need of funds. Co-incidentally both the sponsored walks that Jenness Proctor writes about here raised funds to benefit the Alzheimer's Society.

### From John O'Groats to Land's End: a mere 1150 miles

Gus Backhouse of Clopton Corner is a 19 year old with a lot of guts. He really enjoys being outside so decided to walk from John O'Groats to Land's End to give himself the ultimate mental and physical challenge, have an adventure, and raise money for charity.

He chose the Alzheimer's Society partly because his Mum is a dementia researcher, and because Alzheimer's disease is so devastating for those with it and their families. Research and services are under-funded compared to other diseases and fundraising has greatly reduced due to COVID-19.

In order to fund himself Gus worked on a farm throughout the spring and early summer. He left this job near the end of July 2020 to start the walk. Gus bought the correct gear and planned the rough route by marking it out on OS maps. His only training was to do one 3k walk with his backpack on!

His parents were his support team. They visited him most weekends in their campervan to take fresh clothes and supplies. They tried to feed him up at these times as it was hard to eat enough calories to counteract the energy used. He was fuelled on Iron Bru, super noodles, Southern Comfort and porridge. His

mum walked the first week with him while he was walking on the A99 and A9.

Challenges included: walking in the rain and then getting into the tent wet; keeping motivated when it was bad weather and he felt hungry; having knee pain until he acquired some knee supports; getting blisters (from which he learnt that Vaseline helped to prevent them); and getting lost on Cross Fell. Although he had a solar panel battery pack for his phone there was often no sunshine, making communication difficult.

A few people offered Gus a lift but of course he could not accept. During the two months walking around 1150 miles Gus wore only one pair of trousers which were washed whenever possible. This was to keep the weight of what he had to carry down. Strangers were kind and offered showers, water top ups, phone charging, free nights at campsites, coffee and food. On one occasion someone generously bought him a new sleeping mat when his had split. Gus is keeping in contact with a few fellow-hikers he met en route.

Gus stayed in hostels, a static caravan, a hotel, Air B&Bs,

campsites, pub gardens and of course did some wild camping. Sometimes he didn't know where he would be sleeping at 5pm and would walk on until he found a suitable place. Some campsites were closed or not

taking tents due to COVID. As a result, his longest day was 31 miles.

When asked how different the reality was compared to how he imagined it beforehand, Gus said that it was better than expected, a real growing experience. He became a lot more confident talking to strangers, and asking for a place to camp in pub

gardens. He became more resilient and realized he could do anything he put his mind to. He learnt not to think about the whole walk each day but to focus on the next few miles. Last but not least – to have a good pair of walking boots.

To date Gus has raised £3,520. The fund-raising page is JustGiving Gus Backhouse .

### Three peaks challenge - in the wet

Grundisburgh resident Jo Lawrence decided to end her gruelling last year of treatment for Breast Cancer (of which she is now clear) by taking on a new challenge - The Yorkshire Three Peaks.

With the impact of COVID - 19 the original event in June was rescheduled to Saturday 5 September. The Alzheimer's Society is a charity very close to Jo's heart having seen two grandparents suffer the effects of the disease in their later years.

Jo was anxious about being fit enough to hike 24 miles

Photo above: Gus getting a good soaking at Edale, at the end of the Pennine Way. Left: Wild camping at Inveroran.

having missed a great deal of fitness training during her treatment. The teammates all committed to build up to a 20 mile walk prior to the event. Training walks took the team to Alton Water, Iken-Thorpeness, Grundisburgh-Wickham Market and Ipswich - Stowmarket. An accidental error on each walk was that the footpaths on the Ordnance Survey map did not always match up so a couple of extra miles were walked than planned! The team have memories of 6ft high stinging nettles, fields of livestock, and overgrown reeds. A very important reward at the end of each walk was a cool pint and a portion of chips .

The team trained between March and August so the weather could not have prepared them for what they faced at the peaks. On the morning of the event they were welcomed by rain and wind, rather different from the 28-33 degree temperatures they had trained in!

The 24 mile hike took them 13 hours through driving rain, hail and high winds. The usual jovial chat from training was a distant memory. Wearing waterproofs from head to toe meant chatting and supporting one another was virtually impossible.

Jo described the walk as the hardest but equally most rewarding experience ever. Very different from the muddy races she had run in the past. Her worst moments were at the start of the inclines looking up at each peak. Due to footpath closure the charity had reversed the usual peak route. The order of climbing was Ingleborough 723m, Whernside 736m and Pen-Y-Ghent 694m.

Jo recalled two clear moments of wanting to quit. At the start of Whernside faced with a peak of rocks and again right at the top of Pen-Y-Ghent when the weather was closing in and had completely fogged the top. It had felt like the end was insurmountable.

Conversely for many of the

*Continued on page 9*





## raising money for good causes.....raising money for good causes....



team the declines were their demons, although Jo loved coming down the peaks and over the steep rock climbs at the end of Pen-Y-Ghent

Having gone through the ordeal of cancer treatment and then take on yet another gruelling physical and mental challenge was no mean achievement.

Jo has raised £2,370 so far for Alzheimer's Research and

would like to thank the local community for their words of support and donations. Her Just Giving Link is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/yorkshirethreepeak> s2020-joannalawrence.

The team of six were Samantha Courtney of Barn Fitness, Grundisburgh, whose idea it was to enter a local team, Kerry Dring from, Culpho, Jo's friend who encouraged her to sign up, Karen Turner from Post Mill Gardens, Grundisburgh, Harriet Lawton whose family live in Debach and Sarah Rattle from Woodbridge, who also trains at Barn Fitness. The team raised around £5,000 while the grand total from the event was £130,448

Photo above: Jo at the bottom of Ingleborough.

Below: The very wet but delighted team at the finish.



## Baking cakes for cancer research

After running for around three weeks this autumn, Heather Langdon's virtual cake stall raised the grand total of £750 for Cancer Research UK. As well as cake purchases, this total includes cash donations of £163. All ingredients were also donated.

Around 50 people made at least one purchase and some had several buys. Around 75 cakes, 215 scones, 14 pies and a few other items were baked. Coffee and carrot cakes proved to be the most popular, closely followed by lemon drizzle.



This was the second of Heather's baking to order fund raisers this year.



Paul Skinner and one of SERV's liveried bikes.

## Visit from 'The Bloodrunners'

Customers of the Moving Plaice fish and chip van, which visits Grundisburgh Green on Tuesday evenings, were treated to a visit from a Blood Bike. Volunteers from SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, who are also known as 'The Bloodrunners', provide a free service transporting vital supplies to hospitals and other medical outlets round the clock. This includes blood products, medicines, medical equipment and donated human breast milk.

SERV, which stands for Service by Emergency Volunteers, is proud to have been awarded a Queen's Award Medal for Voluntary Service. Its volunteers are experienced motorcyclists and car drivers who are trained to a high standard, and mostly use their own vehicles, fuel and time. More information is shown on its website [www.servsc.org.uk](http://www.servsc.org.uk)

The visit was to thank customers for the contributions left in the pot at the van on its various stops - this includes Otley on Friday evenings. The money raised so far this year is £165.



The annual Macmillan coffee morning in Post Mill, Grundisburgh, took a very different form this year to cope with Covid, when pre-ordered cake deliveries took the place of their normal get together. Jean Marsh, Debbie Palmer and Wendy Sanders Pugh would like to give a big thank you to all who donated and helped us to raise a total of £437.



## SCHOOL REPORTS

### Otley and Winesham Primary Schools

Schools are not meant to be empty places; they lose their soul, their character and the very reason for their existence. It has not been an easy time for the last six months, with the schools' gates largely locked and the doors closed. It is not meant to be like that.

So it was with absolute delight that the schools reopened for all at the beginning of September, enabling the school community to re-establish itself as well as allowing face-to-face teaching to recommence which, by definition, has to be better than doing it virtually.

Despite concerns, there was nearly 100% attendance in the first days of term and the children have been magnificent in how they have adapted to the new normal. Each class is an individual bubble with different start times, break times, lunch times, end times and toilets. Staff socially distance, assemblies are held virtually with each class looking in whilst remaining in their own classroom. Hygiene is a top priority. The teachers and all school staff should be absolutely applauded in how they worked during the first lockdown. They were all superb.

Mrs Michaela Harris starts her third term as Executive Headteacher. She has certainly had a baptism of fire but has been extraordinary. Mrs Hannah Rigby joins as the new Deputy Executive Headteacher across the partnership and replaces the previous roles of a Head of School in each school, building the capacity in the Federation team.

During lockdown the schools and Federation have not stood still. They have been

'rebranded'. There is a new name – 'Otley and Winesham Partnership', a new logo developed (see below) a new website and a new mission statement (PASSION + PRIDE = PROGRESS)

The logo and mission statement can be seen proudly displayed on the flag outside each school. A new curriculum has been written and 'learning muscles' have been introduced.

The new normal is not ideal and hopefully will not last for ever but there is a lot Otley and Winesham primary schools can be very proud of. They are hoping to be able to celebrate Christmas as a community in a COVID secure way. More information is on the website or from the schools.

*Ian Liddell, Chair of Governors*

*Otley and Winesham Primary Schools are federated under a shared head teacher and a single governing body. The governing body oversees the strategic direction of both schools and is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds who are elected or co-opted and are representative of parents, staff and the local community.*

### Charsfield C of E Primary School

Everyone has settled back into school life here at Charsfield and it feels like we've never been away! There is a lovely atmosphere, as the children are working hard and having fun with their learning at the same time!

The staff and I have been determined to keep things as 'normal' as we possibly can and give our children plenty of exciting learning experiences. Feedback from parents has been very encouraging and positive, and I am pleased that



our children have adapted so well to the changes that we have made to our school day.

Our Reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils are learning about castles and they had fun dressing up as kings, queens and knights to act out a scene in our beautiful school grounds.

Years 3 and 4 are learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and have visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon village to find out more about life in that environment (photo below).



Years 5 and 6 are learning all about World War 2, how it started, and what it was like to be an evacuee, using the story 'Goodnight Mr Tom' to help bring it to life. We hope that the weather will be kind enough for us to be able to recreate an 'evacuee walk' around the village, complete with evacuee costumes, to help the children imagine what the children would have gone through all those years ago.

On Fridays, we are having Forest School lessons where the children learn new skills



Above and left: Forest School.

and become confident in the outdoor environment. All pupils take part in these sessions within their Covid-secure bubbles. We are lucky enough to be able to hold these sessions on our school site as the area is suitable with lots of trees and wooded areas. And we have a member of staff who is Forest School trained.

Every day, pupils have been taking part in the daily mile run which puts them in good stead for our whole-school cross-country run. This was held in the last week of term on the village recreation ground to enable all pupils to remain socially distant and within their bubbles. We used this as our virtual entry for the Suffolk Small Schools Games Competitions that we take part in throughout the year.

We are happy to continue to show around parents of all year groups who are looking for schooling in the area and would like to see our fantastic school in action. However, to meet current guidelines and to keep everyone safe, we are only admitting people with an appointment and visitors will be required to wear a mask, sanitise their hands regularly and remain socially distanced from others (however these are adapted as government criteria change so appointments are essential). Please see our website at [www.charsfieldprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.charsfieldprimaryschool.org.uk) or contact our school office on 01473 737347 to find out more.

*Mrs. Reeve, Head of School*



## SCHOOL REPORTS

### Grundisburgh Primary School

We all enjoyed a very happy first half of autumn term, here at Grundisburgh Primary school, with our children settling well to their new and rather different routines. It has been great to see the school come back to life and our children having the chance to learn and meet with friends, albeit under slightly different circumstances.

On our return to school all our children took part in a wellbeing programme of events to help them settle and refamiliarise themselves with being at school. There were also a couple of safety changes that had been actioned during the summer break with a new fence having been erected over the holidays which enclosed the children's play areas and classroom entrances. The fencing was actioned and funded by Suffolk County Council (SCC) following a full safeguarding and site risk assessment of the school carried out earlier in the year. The county also fully funded a complete upgrade of the security locks on all entrances to the school building. We are most grateful for all their advice and financial support.

Although we have not had the freedom of movement and contact we would normally expect within school, our teaching staff have been very creative and still managed to provide our children with some wonderful learning experiences throughout this half term.

Our whole school (Reception - Year 6) Autumn Art Showcase theme was taken from The National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' competition. This is a national competition where the gallery selects one of its glorious art works as a stimulus for schools to interpret as they wish. The work that's produced can then be submitted to the competition early next year with a summary outlining the

process the children followed in its production. The work our children have produced is wonderfully creative and will be on display both at school and in an online gallery which is being created to share with our parents before being submitted to the competition.



Our Year 6 dance project this term was also based on this theme and, following Zoom lessons with our dance teacher Sam and film expert Lewis, the children filmed their work and this, too, will be included in our online Autumn Showcase gallery for parents.

Several of our pupils took part in remote cricket and running events with football coming up this half term and children celebrated harvest by supporting our 'Bring a Tin to School' appeal to support the Parish Pantry. They also provided harvest-themed pictures to be shared at the Harvest Service at church. We enjoyed our usual Pumpkin Festival but, rather than children bringing their decorated pumpkins into school, this year they sent in photos of their spooky creations to share with their classmates.

We have a Wellbeing Week planned for the week running up to our non-uniform 'Children in Need Day', during which our teachers will be weaving wellbeing activities

such as outdoor school, mindfulness and Zoom yoga lessons from our yoga teacher Nicole, into our normal curriculum for the week.

At the beginning of Advent, we will be having a Christmas decoration week, part of which will be preparing for the school Christmas Tree Festival. This involves all our classes receiving a 4 ft (1.3m) Christmas tree with a string of white lights to decorate and stand in their classroom window to share with parents during the weeks before Christmas. We will also be having a Christmas lunch and jumper day, Christmas party and film afternoon near the end of term with popcorn and a small gift kindly provided by FOGS - all within our 'bubbles'.

As you can see from Emma's article below, FOGS have continued to provide their wonderful support to the school throughout this difficult time and have come up with ingenious fundraising schemes. We hope to have completed enough miles together to reach the North Pole by Christmas!

Thank you to all our staff, parents, governors and members of our local community for their continued support of both our children and our school. It is much appreciated by us all here at Grundisburgh primary school. Happy Christmas from us all!

*Mrs Sue Marks, Headteacher*

### News from FOGS

We are very conscious that these times are difficult for all of us. Since March our traditional methods of fundraising as a PTA have all but been taken away, leaving us with limited ways to raise much-needed funds for both our school children and the school itself to help them 'ride out this storm'.

For the second year, we are running the Grundisburgh Christmas Raffle and local businesses have been as

generous as ever. We have over 30 amazing prizes to be won. A book of tickets is just £5 and all proceeds go to this year's campaign 'Creating Safe Spaces' which aims to support and promote outside learning, to allow our children to thrive in the outdoors. Williams, The Dog Deli and Forge Stores have books. Or ring me on 01473 738469.

We have also set up an online donation page. If you would like to become a regular supporter of FOGS and help our children and the school by setting up a monthly donation or by making a one off payment, please visit: [www.peoplesfundraising.com/donations/creating-safe-spaces](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donations/creating-safe-spaces) Just £3 a month would make all the difference to our fundraising.

Following last year's successful Christmas film night, FOGS are looking to run another, but will do so with the school during the day in their existing bubbles. Popcorn and a gift from Father Christmas will be provided and there will be no charge for this event as FOGS feel that the children deserve a treat to celebrate the end of 2020!

The children are also actively fundraising this term with their 'Race to the North Pole', which will see them compete in their class bubbles to cover a distance of 2,620 miles in a virtual race to reach the North Pole before Christmas!

Children will be encouraged to walk, run, cycle, swim, scoot - whatever they can - working together, both in and out of school, to reach their goal. Everyone who participates will receive a certificate and a medal. To support the children in achieving their goal, please sponsor them by visiting [www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/race-to-the-north-pole](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/race-to-the-north-pole)

*Emma Dixon, Chair, FOGS*

*The News welcomes all contributions from schools in our catchment area. Please contact Richard Watkinson, [deputyeditor@grunews.com](mailto:deputyeditor@grunews.com), 01473 735540.*





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## Fair or fiasco? The 2020 A Level experience

With the first lockdown schools closed at the end of March, and GCSE and A Level exams were cancelled. I wondered how students in our area fared, after the five month wait to be told their outcomes?

A quick reminder of the timeline. OFQUAL announced that they had produced an algorithm which adjusted the assessments submitted by schools.

The results came out on 13 August amid nationwide complaints that students had been given disappointing results, with 39% of pupils' grades being downgraded from the school assessments. The following Monday, the Education Secretary announced that school assessments could be used instead of the algorithm.

Obviously we don't have official data on how our local students got on but I have heard personal stories from students and parents. This supports the national story. Like the curate's egg, it was good in parts\*.

A small minority were quite content with the result produced by the algorithm. Most, however, were disappointed, having expected higher grades. When the school assessments came out, most students were then satisfied with the outcome. But how were they affected by the two-stage process?

Reflecting again the national picture, some got their first choice place at university. Others, sadly, found that by the time that the school assessments came out, the places they wanted had been allocated to people who had obtained the grades on the algorithm basis.

Some have obtained a place at their second choice university and seem content with that. Others have deferred for a year so that they can go to their first choice next year or

decided not to go to university at all.

In more normal times, many students having a gap year would work for some months and then travel. The Covid pandemic has effectively limited their travel options and rising unemployment has meant that finding a job to do during the year is not as easy as it had been previously.

The Covid restrictions are frustrating the university experience for a number of students, particularly those in northern colleges. Undertaking virtual lectures through Zoom and being relatively confined to student accommodation is not quite the experience for which students were hoping.

With there already being talk of GCSEs being cancelled in Wales in 2021 and A Levels likely to be held three weeks later than normal, students and educators alike will be hoping that next year will be as smooth and fair as possible.

I would like to thank everyone who shared their experiences for this article.

Paul Whittingham

*\* Since March, many people have been doing online quizzes. So here is a potentially useful piece of trivia. The expression "Like the curate's egg, good in parts", comes from a cartoon in Punch magazine in 1895. The young curate had been served a bad egg by his bishop but being reluctant to give offence, said that parts of it were good.*

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## KEEPING CONNECTED THROUGH LOCKDOWN

The Country Dancing group which normally meets Monday 7.30pm in Grundisburgh Village Hall decided to meet on the Sports Field in early August, then again in September for a picnic and chat. This has helped to keep the group together so that hopefully when the hall can be used again there will be enough people interested in dancing.

In the meantime members were keeping fit by walking, cycling, and practising yoga. One member was continuing her tap-dancing via a weekly YouTube video. Gardening was a popular pastime and for some a new activity. Several members had grown their own vegetables with varying degrees of success. One family had grown chili plants



from seed and it became a competition to see who could grow the biggest. Also growing sunflowers and winning a local competition.

Others kept active by doing voluntary work to help neighbours who were not able to shop or helped with maintenance of the bowls green. Zoom meetings had become an important part of keeping up with family and friends and having meetings from home.

Garden coffee mornings and afternoon teas had become a popular way to meet up with a

few friends and neighbours. Time to take life at a slower pace and to reflect on life had been appreciated.

Everyone trying to turn a global tragedy and a time of anxiety into something more positive.

It was hoped that dancing would resume in October but now that the country is in a second lockdown this is not possible. Even when it is allowed, comprehensive Covid-19 guidelines will have to be adhered to. This means a considerable amount of organization in relation to Government regulations for

the re-opening of the village hall. For example ensuring that hand washing facilities and sanitizer are available. Lots of ventilation with doors and windows kept open. Masks to be worn except if eating or drinking. Dancing in couples and household bubbles only and no progression or moving on dances.

This crazy time in our history seems to have brought the best out of us. Our community has rallied round to support each other and keep contact in so many creative ways.

words Jenness Proctor,  
photo Steve Newton

## Baptist Chapel plans for Christmas

Christmas will be rather different this year for Grundisburgh Baptist Chapel, so we are adapting our events accordingly. We are planning an Advent thought for the day via You Tube Monday to Friday from 1 December to the 24th at 7pm each evening. You will be able to access it by Googling Grundisburgh Chapel YouTube.

As long as we are permitted to meet at chapel, we will have a Christmas service on 20 December at 10.45am, but we may have to listen to the carols being sung to us rather than joining in. At 4pm we are having an online Carol Service on YouTube where you can join in the singing to your heart's content, or just watch and listen. If you miss the set times for YouTube you can always watch them later, as they will stay on the web. If anyone needs any pastoral support, especially in these challenging days, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me

Colin Grimwood, 738856; mobile: 07979 120549; colin.grimwood12@hotmail.co.uk

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## NEWS TRIBUTES

### Gordon Howard Smith 1930 - September 2020

Gordon was born in Sale, Cheshire, and educated at Manchester Grammar School. Following National Service he read biology and chemistry at Aberystwyth University and took his first job with May and Baker researching tropical diseases of the gut.

He was living in digs in Hornchurch when he met Molly, a children's officer with Essex County Council. Molly had a flat opposite St Andrews Church and they both became very involved in the life of that church, taking part in a variety of parish activities. Molly says "Gordon was always willing to be involved". A committed Christian, Gordon once told his mother that he had discovered that just going to church was not enough.

Gordon and Molly married in 1956 and their two sons Hugo and Colin remember their father with deep affection as "happy and smiling, always willing to help, a true gentleman, a kind and gentle man generous in character with a wicked sense of humour".

Having been raised in an urban environment, and as an only child, Gordon thoroughly enjoyed visits to Molly's large rural family and determined that he too would become a country dweller one day. Thus after sometime in Ipswich, the family came to Hasketon's Shrubbery Farm in 1981 when Gordon became a farmer

producing naturally raised beef.

His active faith and his great love of traditional New Orleans Jazz combined to the benefit of Hasketon Church, when for 20 years he and



Molly hosted the summer jazz BBQ. The fame of this enterprise spread far and wide – great music and laughter (not to mention the food) and Gordon in his element, his delight a joy to behold. When Molly and Gordon reluctantly decided they were unable to continue hosting this annual treat it left a considerable gap in the summer social calendar of many people.

Along with his love of jazz, Gordon loved books and words. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the English language which his family found impressive - he was their 'spellcheck'! His love of books must have encouraged another of his fund raising efforts for the church - the May bank holiday book and plant sale.

Gordon's passing has left a

great gap in the lives of his family and many friends; they remember with love this smiling convivial man with an impish sense of humour - a true gentleman.

Madge Nicholas

*Gordon's sons have asked that copies of their tributes to their father at his funeral should be included in our special folder in Williams Stores. This we have been happy to do.*

### Brian Robinson 1934 – October 2020

Brian and his wife, Mary, spent 14 very happy years in Grundisburgh, before moving to Woodbridge for the last few years of his life.

Born in London in Shoe Lane, just off Fleet Street, where his parents had a pub, he was evacuated to Derby during the war. However, he was unhappy at the Christian Brothers school, where he was sent with his brother, and their parents brought both boys back to London, where they lived in the cellar of the pub for the rest of the war. Brian attended Mercers School in Holborn and then took an apprenticeship with Harland & Wolff in London, where he qualified as a marine engineer.

Mary said he loved his time in the Merchant Navy, travelling all over the world, working for various companies, including Canadian Pacific and Esso and ending up as Chief Engineer with Holder Brothers. In the seventies Brian came ashore and joined American Bureau of Shipping as a marine surveyor and stayed with them until he retired.

Mary and Brian met for the first time in Ireland, when Brian was on holidays there with his father. However,

their real romance began, when Mary came to live and work in London, and she met up with Brian again at a pub in Holborn. It was Noreen, Mary's flatmate and friend, who gave Brian her phone number and the rest is history, as they say.

Brian and Mary were married in April 1961 at Westminster Cathedral. They settled in Wanstead, East London and moved to Essex when Brian retired. After a short time, they realised Tillingham in Essex was not their cup of tea and moved to Grundisburgh.

Their big love was sailing and they had a boat on the Deben, until Brian's ill health stopped this. In Grundisburgh Brian was involved with many activities, including the bowls club, wine club, the French

twining group and the bridge club, which he ran very successfully for a number of years. He was also a church warden.

On a personal

note, I would like to say that Brian was an extremely kind and helpful person, full of humour and fun.

I love the story of his first heart attack: He and Mary were watching Black Adder on TV, when Brian had severe chest pains and Mary made him ring 999. They said they would send an ambulance straightaway, but Brian told them it wasn't necessary and he could drive himself to the hospital. And he wanted to wait until Black Adder finished, as he was enjoying it so much!

That was Brian. He never complained and he was always good-humoured and didn't want anyone to go to any trouble on his behalf.

Monica Begg





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## SPORTING STORIES

### Teamwork wins the day at Grundisburgh Tennis Club

The last few months have been busy at Grundisburgh Tennis Club with record numbers of people enjoying using our wonderful courts during our thriving club tennis sessions or for social play with family and friends. Our coach, Carl Douglas, has continued to run some great coaching courses and several teams have had success playing in local leagues.

There has also been lots of hard work going on to keep the courts maintained so that they will remain an asset in the village for years to come. Hedge trimming and clubhouse maintenance have been carried out thanks to the amazing efforts of volunteers



from the club. Chris Hendry, Ben Cook, Simon Page, Chris O'Shea, Julian Brook and Chris Lee spent many hours cutting, clearing and repairing and the members of the Wednesday evening men's session helped

to move cuttings in between games. Andrew Gilmour kindly took away and disposed of trimmings. A special mention should also go to Roger from Wonderpost compost in Hasketon who, despite having no links to the club, kindly loaned us his trailer so we could clear the site more quickly. The courts have also been professionally cleaned and treated for moss.

We would like to thank our neighbours for their patience and understanding while the work was carried out and the Parish Council and Playing Field Management Committee for its support. It has been a great team and community effort! Going forward, we will be able to keep hedges trimmed regularly as the club now has its own equipment.

The club has followed and will continue to follow all government and LTA guidance and advice on whether and how tennis can be played during the Covid-19 pandemic. For up to date information on this or to find out how you can become a member, use the courts as a guest or book some tennis coaching, please go to: [grundisburghtennis.co.uk](http://grundisburghtennis.co.uk).

Anne Lee



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## About The News

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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](mailto:editor@grunews.com). All issues are included on our website [www.grundisburghnews.org.uk](http://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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