

The Grundisburgh and District News

Spring
2023
FREE

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COUNTY WIDE CALL TO ACTION

Thirty three people attended the inaugural meeting of the 'East Suffolk Planning Alliance' in Grundisburgh on 4 February. This included representatives from 14 parish councils from villages as far apart as Middleton and Trimley to explain why, based on their experiences, they are dissatisfied with the way current planning issues are handled in this part of Suffolk.



They cited cases where planning decisions seemed perverse and to favour developments, even though there was strong local opposition based on published planning guidelines. It was felt that small villages were particularly vulnerable to the tactics of some developers and that it was necessary for everyone to act decisively if our rural environment is to be protected and achieve the 'Greenest County' accolade sought by Suffolk County Council.

Changes afoot

There was considerable support for Michael Gove's statement to Parliament in December when he said: "I will retain a method for calculating local housing need figures, but consult on changes. I do believe that the plan-making process for housing has to start with a

number. This number should, however, be an advisory starting point, a guide that is not mandatory. It will be up to local authorities, working with their communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built, taking into account what should be protected in each area—be that our precious Green Belt or national parks, the character of an area or heritage assets. It will also be up to them to increase the proportion of affordable housing if they wish."

"My changes will instruct the Planning Inspectorate that they should no longer override sensible local decision making, which is sensitive to and reflects local constraints and concerns. Overall this amounts to a rebalancing of the relationship between local councils and the Planning Inspectorate, and will give local communities a greater say in what is built in their neighbourhood."

The key words were seen as"working with their communities".... and it was felt there was therefore a moral obligation on parish councils to grasp nettles if there was a particular application or issue on which parishioners felt strongly and that 'apathy was not an option'.

The meeting agreed that an alliance of interested parties should be formed to collate views and to challenge



Art for Cure page 12

assumptions where it was felt democracy was at risk.

A steering group has now emerged and produced a draft 'mission statement' for the new alliance: "to serve the local communities of East Suffolk by working to place local communities at the heart of local planning decisions."

Next steps

Letters will be sent to all parish councils in East Suffolk, to East Suffolk Council and to Mr Gove explaining the objectives of the alliance and to garner support from concerned parties. Another meeting is planned for March.

Richard Watkinson

Practising parkour page 11.



Playtime in the hall page 17



Colourful creations page 10



March

Monday 6
Propagating plants for free with Geoff Hodge
 Otley & District Gardening Club Otley VH 7:30pm
 Contact
 issywizzy58@gmail.com

Thursday 16
Craft Group
 Gr PR 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
 Contact 735517.

Saturday 18
Quiz Supper
 Ipswich Choral Society
 Gr VH PBE 7:00 pm Contact
 258943

Tuesday 21
Medieval Churches of Ipswich - Martin Tuffs
 Grundisburgh Local History Society Gr PR 7:30 pm
 Contact geoff@caryer.co.uk

Friday 24
Pop-Up Bar
 Bredfield VH 6.00 -10:30 pm
 Contact bredfieldvillagehall.org.uk/news.html

April

Monday 3
Bee keeping with Dan Everett
 Otley & District Gardening Club Otley VH 7:30 pm
 Contact
 issywizzy58@gmail.com

Saturday 15
Car Boot, Cake & Plant Sale
 Dallinghoo Village Hall IP13 OJX 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Contact 737700

Tuesday 18
Be Careful where you dig at St Marys
 Grundisburgh Local History Society talk 7:30 pm GrPR.
 Contact 738108

Friday 21
Pop-Up Bar
 Bredfield Village Hall 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm Contact
 www.bredfieldvillagehall.org.uk/news.html

Saturday 22
Bealings Plant Sale
 BVH 10.00 am - 12.00 noon
 Contact caroline_saunders@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 27
Craft Group
 Gr PR 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
 Contact 735517

Sunday 30
Bomb Group Museum open
 11 am - 4 pm. Debach Airfield
 Contact
 493bgdebach@email.com

May

Monday 1
Orchard Planting with Sue Sharman of Swanns Nursery
 Otley & District Gardening Club, VH 7:30 pm Contact
 issywizzy58@gmail.com

Sunday 7
Crown It - Free Family Festival
 Gr VH 2:00 pm – 11:00 pm
 Contact events@gnvh.co.uk

Sunday 7
NGS Open Gardens
 Grundisburgh House & Finndale House, Grundisburgh IP13 6UD 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Contact https://ngs.org.uk/

Thursday 18
Craft Group
Gr PR 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Contact 735517

Friday 19
Pop-Up Bar
 Bredfield Village Hall 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm Contact www.bredfieldvillagehall.org.uk

Monday 22
Trip to Elton Hall
 Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society PBE
 Contact catherine@laxton-

interiors.co.uk or 735228

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28
Open Gardens & Annual Plant sale
 Otley & District Gardening Club Otley VH 2:00 pm
 Contact
 issywizzy58@gmail.com

Sunday 28
Bomb Group Museum open and road run
 Debach Airfield 11am Contact
 493bgdebach@email.com

June

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11
Hidden Gardens
 Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society
 2:00 - 6:00pm. Contact
 catherine@laxton-interiors.co.uk

Thursday 15
Craft Group
 Gr PR 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
 Contact 735517

Friday 16
Pop-Up Bar
 Bredfield Village Hall 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm Contact www.bredfieldvillagehall.org.uk/

Friday 23 & Saturday 24
GADS Spring Play
 Gr VH 7.30pm PBE: Contact
 grundisburghdram.com

Key to abbreviations
 Gr Grundisburgh
 PBE Pre booking essential
 PR Parish Rooms
 VH Village Hall

Brief details of events can be sent to up to a year in advance to diary@grunews.com.

These will go into the on-line version on our website (www.grundisburghnews.org.uk) shortly after receipt.

This can help organisers of events avoid clashes of dates.

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Car boot plus

A car boot sale, combined with a plant and cake sale, is being held at Dallinghoo Village Hall on Sunday 15 April. This runs from 10am to 1pm, with setting up from 9.30am. Pitches cost £10, and prior booking and payment is essential. Payment should be made to: <https://justgiving.com/campaign/dallinghoochurch>. Queries to 01473 737700.

Quiz & supper

A quiz supper is being held at Grundisburgh Village Hall on 18 March to support the Ipswich Choral Society. This starts at 7pm, with doors opening at 6.40pm. There will be filled jacket potatoes, dessert and quiz rounds to suit everyone, even youngsters, plus cash bar and raffle. Tickets are £12 from Anna Cordon on 01473 258943.

Gardens opening for NGS

Finndale House and our neighbours in Grundisburgh House are opening for the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) on Sunday 7 May. This will be between 11am and 5pm. Refreshments will be served at Finndale (raising funds for Dementia UK).

I am hoping that there will be plenty of blossom and colourful tulips. Tickets can be purchased in advance through the NGS website or on the day.

Catherine Laxton 01473 735228, catherine@laxton-interiors.co.uk

New hall birthday celebration

Join the party at Grundisburgh's new village hall to celebrate our first birthday! We've had a tremendous first 12 months and want to celebrate our first full year of operation. There will be wine and nibbles as well as

a presentation to show people what has happened in the hall as well as our hopes and plans for the future.

The date is Wednesday 3 May, start time 7.30pm.

Bryan Laxton

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society events for 2023 got underway with a trip to Chippenham Park in February. On 22 May we are off to Elton Park for a tour of the house and private gardens and in September make a return visit to Hyde Hall. Details are on our website or contact Catherine Laxton.

Hidden Gardens takes place over the weekend of 10/11 June. Anyone in the three villages interested in opening their gardens please contact Catherine. This event brings hundreds of visitors over the weekend and is a major fund raiser for our major event - the Village Show on Saturday 15 July. The enormous marquee will house the show entries and our Summer Dance. Class lists are available on our website and paper copies can be found in Williams Stores; further information will soon appear on the web.

Local groups or individuals who would like to have a stand or stall on the showground should contact Dave Dring, (who has kindly agreed to take charge of our events on the playing field).

We are delighted to announce that Tom Newman of Summer Isle Films has joined our other major supporter - Homestyle Windows. These are both local companies with a long association with the show and we look forward to working with them. Tom comes on board to expand our use of and

presence on social media, working with our sponsors and advertisers, helping to generate more interest and attract more visitors to our fantastic show.

Companies or individuals interested in sponsorship or advertising in the show schedule, or on the showground, should contact Georgie Keates.

We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers or new members of the committee; if you would like more details on how you can help please contact me.

At our last AGM we agreed to use our small financial surplus to help local good causes. Following a discussion with the church it was agreed to make donations to Bags of Food, Warm Spaces and the Lunch Club. The society was pleased to be able to continue supporting the local community.

Martin Cripps, Chairman,
Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho
Horticultural Society 01473 738997

E-mail contacts
chairman@grundisburgh.show
catherine@laxton-interiors.com
georgiekeates@hotmail.com
davedring06@gmail.com

New season for Debach museum

The 93rd Bomb Group Museum on Debach Airfield will be opening this year on the last Sunday of the month, from April to September. Opening hours are from 11am to 4pm, with free entry and free parking. Find us at the entrance to Clopton Commercial Park on the B1078 (IP13 6QT)

The museum is privately owned, run by volunteers and is dedicated to the memory of the 3,000 USAAF personnel who were stationed at Debach

from 1942 to 1945. Highlights include the control tower, fire station, two bomb shelters, B17 Flying Fortress engine, motorized workshop truck, a Bofors anti-aircraft gun; Willys and Ford Jeep motor pool workshop display; 18 WW2 military vehicles (which are joined by up to 60 more on the vehicle run days. These take place on farm tracks and public roads.

If you have not been before, you will be surprised how much there is to see: it can take two hours or more to look around. We have a visitor centre with refreshments, and camping is available (plus caravans). We also have limited opening on Wednesdays by appointment.

Richard Taylor,
493bgdebach@gmail.com

Help needed with refreshments

Richard Taylor is urgently seeking two or three people to serve light refreshments at the Bomb Group Museum at Debach Airfield on the six Sundays that it will be open during the summer season. This will involve tea, coffee, cakes, etc. The museum is open from 11am to 4pm. Anyone interested is asked to contact him on 07850 078 432 or email 493bgdebach@gmail.com

Plant sale returns

The popular Bealings Plant Sale is being relaunched on Saturday 22 April. This takes place at Bealings Village Hall, from 10am to 12noon, with profits going to the two village churches. There will be a raffle with some excellent prizes, a large selection of reasonably-priced homegrown plants, a children's forest school activity hub, refreshments and much more. The new organiser is Caroline Saunders caroline_saunders@hotmail.co.uk

Easter in the Carlford Benefice

With nine beautiful churches in our group, we are able to spread our Holy Week and Easter services around the area and we hope many in our local community will want to join in.

Details of all the services will be available nearer the time, both on the church noticeboards and on the benefice website <https://www.carlfordchurches.org/> For now here are some highlights of what we can all look forward to in Holy Week:

On Monday 3 April there will be a one day Children's Holiday Club in Otley Village Hall for children aged 7-11. On Maundy Thursday evening (6 April) in Clopton Church, we will be holding a Christian Seder meal and recalling the

story of Passover as we prepare to remember the events of Christ's Passion. Good Friday (7 April) will be remembered with a Messy Church Special for all ages at 10am in Grundisburgh Church and a quiet reflective service in Hasketon at 2pm.

I am currently trying to rustle up enthusiasm for a sunrise service somewhere at 6.30am on Easter Sunday, so we'll have to see how persuasive I can be! At more sociable hours of the morning, celebration services will be held across the villages and many are likely to include chocolate egg hunts for the children!

For more information about these or any of our activities please email: Contact@carlfordchurches.org or call: 01473 735183

Rev'd Katrina Dykes, Rector of The Carlford Benefice

Wanted: Photos of old school for local history society

Do you have photos taken in and around the Old School building in Grundisburgh before it was converted to housing?

Grundisburgh Local History Society is looking for more photos and memories of the school when it was on The Green, beside the church. These will help create a talk, and possibly a magazine article, covering the history of the school from 1875 to 1989 when it moved to its present site off Alice Driver Road. All photos can be returned.

The society's next talk - on 21 March - is about the medieval churches of Ipswich. This is being given by Martin Tuffs, an Ipswich Tourist Guide. 'Be Careful where you dig at St Mary's' is by churchwarden Robert Fletcher who was

involved in the dig in the churchyard before the extension (for the toilets) was agreed.

The meetings, which are held in Grundisburgh's parish rooms (opposite The Olde Forge Stores) start at 7.30pm. They are free to members of the history society and £4 to other people. No booking is needed. Membership costs £24 a year and can be arranged at the meetings.

We are just finalizing summer visits, so will publicise these when we can.

The history society archive holds a collection of copies of Grundisburgh News, from the first issue published in May 1981. Suggestions on how these could be made available to view within the village would be welcome.

Geoff Caryer, The Chestnuts, Rose Hill, Grundisburgh IP13 6TG, 01473 738108, geoff@caryer.co.uk

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Call 01394 380200 or email staudrysclub@btconnect.com for more information regarding membership.

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CROWN IT!

Grundisburgh's celebrations to mark the King's coronation on Sunday 7 May start at 11am with a service on The Green (if fine) or in St Mary's Church (if not).

Then the village hall is the venue for a wide range of entertainment. The hall's events team aims to build on the 2022 formula for their 2023 edition.

Crown it! is a free entry family festival which at kicks off at 1pm with The Big Lunch when everyone is invited to bring their picnic. The bar will run until 10.30pm with quality drinks at affordable prices.

Attractions will include:

- * BBQ from 5pm to 8pm
- * Ceilidh 5pm to 7pm
- * Larkside, local rock band, from 8pm
- * Crown making competition
- * Raffle, tombola, quiz
- * Children's games and entertainer
- * Teas, coffees, cakes, ices

We'd love to feature more local acts singers, comedians, snake charmers ... please apply by email to events@gnvh.co.uk.

Our aim is to offer a free entry family festival to our local community, aiming just to cover the costs. The parish council has voted to support the event with a generous

financial contribution to help with some of the biggest costs. This takes some of the risk out of committing to a lot of cost without having any idea how many people will come and join in. We hope loads of people will come and enjoy themselves and spend some money to make sure we can cover our costs, but we don't insist that people have to buy our food and drink.

What we need, apart from local people turning up and enjoying themselves, is for volunteers to help for a few hours in a wide variety of roles. Please email me at events@gnvh.co.uk.

If you would like to perform, or have an idea you could make happen or a stall you would like to run please let us know. Last June's Jubile'Ve It! saw a great turnout to witness Grundisburgh's Got Talent and to dance to Larkside.

We would love local businesses to offer prizes, big or small, and encourage everyone to come up with something for the tombola! All contributions gratefully received!

David Keates, Grundisburgh Village Hall Trustee and hall events person, 01473 738459, dejkeates@internet.com



Old water pipes causing chaos!

The repeated repairs to the Victorian asbestos water main on the B1079 between Hasketon and Grundisburgh have resulted in disruptions and diversions for many of us. It prompted me to write to Peter Simpson, CEO of Anglian Water. Our MP Dr Dan Poulter followed up my letter with one of his own. Mr Simpson replied in part as follows:

"I would like to assure you that the local team fully acknowledge the situation and are working on solutions. They are in the process of trying to secure funding to renew the section of main that has the most failures; that being 500 meters of 8" AC on the B1079."

"This scheme will need to be assessed against other similar schemes within the 5-year asset management period (AMP). When it comes to investing in a project, we look at the issue, its impact to our customers and the environment and a decision is then made based on the facts. Part of the process involves looking at various solutions, together with the associated costs and impacts related to each potential solution. This ensures we are using our customers' money efficiently and for the best use, based on a cost versus reward basis."

I plan to write to the CEO each time this critical water pipe bursts and has to be repaired, causing us major inconvenience.

We hope that Anglian Water lives up to its logo!



Peter Kendall

Wanted - someone to take on the role of distribution coordinator for The News. It's not a time consuming role. To find out what's involved please contact Peter Kendall who has been doing the job temporarily. 01473 738267. peter@peterkendall.com

The Grundisburgh News invites anyone with ideas on how our magazine could be improved - and anyone who just fancies a glass of wine with us - to our annual general meeting on

Friday 24 March

Start time 7pm. Venue Grundisburgh Parish Rooms, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA (opposite The Dog)



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Do you hear the people sing ?

If so its probably the men from Offbeat! Choir at their Tuesday rehearsal in Grundisburgh Village Hall. In 2022, ten years after the formation of her successful ladies' choir Upbeat!, Carol McConnell-Theobald decided to launch a men's choir, initially with just a handful of members. The choir has now grown to over 20, many with no prior experience, and has undertaken several public performances.

They are currently rehearsing to perform with Upbeat! at their summer concert in July.

Why not give it a try? – come along any Tuesday (in term time) for a free taster session. Our subs are very reasonable at £25 per half term. If you think it's not for you or that you don't have the talent – here is what some of the current members have said :

"I have always enjoyed music and fancied the idea of being involved in some way in the making of music. However

having no talent or aptitude for playing an instrument, unable to read music, and not possessing a particularly good singing voice I never did anything about it. So when the email arrived from Carol proposing the idea of a male choir in Grundisburgh I got in touch.

"A year later I am so glad I did. No audition, no pressure, good fun at the rehearsals and a nice bunch of blokes somehow producing songs deemed good enough to perform in public. All down to Carol of course who trains, cajoles, organises and stretches our belief and abilities." GB

"It's a joy to see Carol's endless enthusiasm in turning a disparate group of men into a choir! It's also great fun to be part of such a friendly group." BL

"The joy and humour is to be experienced." CW

"It's great to see, or rather hear, people, some of whom have little or no musical training, coming together

under Carol's expert guidance to make music!" GS

"Carol is an inspired teacher of singing and her Tuesday evening singing lessons, held at our wonderful new village hall, are always very well attended, even when there is important sport on the TV!

Come rain, come hail or snow, Carol's lessons are always much enjoyed and much appreciated. We enjoy a broad repertoire, there is something for everyone, something to suit all tastes.

"There is always laughter and 'jovial banter' at our rehearsals. . . Some of us are quite mature in age, if not always mature in our behaviour, but Carol maintains excellent control in a professional and jovial manner and 'gets the best out of us!' We are amazed to find that we can sing, and we can even create a sound that is pleasant to listen to! Do come and join us. " GP

If you'd like more information just email offbeatmenschoir@gmail.com

Words and photos: Jean Ellinor

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A Tribute to Ronald Blythe November 1923 – 14 January 2023

The much-loved writer Ronald Blythe celebrated his 100th birthday last November in the house where the artist John Nash and his wife had lived in the Stour valley. He had moved there from his cottage in Debach.

In the sixties he was asked by Penguin Books to write a detailed account of East Anglian rural life and he chose nearby Charsfield as his inspiration, recording the complete diversity of the inhabitants' lives in great detail, incorporating this with local history. It was a portrait of a vanishing world without him realising it. He named this village Akenfeld.



After this was successfully published in 1967 Ronald Blythe was approached by the Suffolk-born film director Peter Hall, writing the storyline encompassing the farming year just before the First World War, using non-professional local villagers and located in and around Charsfield. The 'actors' were not told the whole story so when it premiered in 1975 at the Ipswich Odeon, there was not a dry eye in the house! The accompanying music was written by Michael Tippett. This film made Ronald's name famous.

Born in Acton in Suffolk, Ronald Blythe's 'university' was working in Colchester reference library, and encouraged by Christine Nash to become a writer, he wrote 'The Year by The Sea' and involved himself in the artistic life of the Aldeburgh Festival. Many books, articles and writing for Church publications followed throughout his long life. His wonderful writing came out of his deeply watchful philosophical perception of life and nature. A service to commemorate his life is being held in Bury St Edmunds Cathedral on 1 March.

Carrie Herries



Filming Akenfeld, with Ronald Blythe (left) as the rector.



On Saturday, 11 February, 55 people took part in a meeting to discuss forming the Grundisburgh Film Club, see some films clips on the new cinema screen, give their feedback, and have some tea and cake!

The village hall already has a general licence for showing films, but an additional one is required for each individual film shown. My research suggests that the umbrella licence, issued by the Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC) would suit our proposed film club. This would allow unlimited use of thousands of DVDs and downloads throughout the year for a single yearly fee, currently £288 including VAT.

Audience members completed feedback forms detailing their preferred times/days of future showings, and favourite categories of films. There was generally an enthusiastic response to setting up the Grundisburgh Film Club and I have volunteered to explore the next steps.

Next steps: I will discuss hiring fees for the village hall with Brian Laxton, chair of the trustees, together with how the club could set up a suitable account for yearly subscriptions. This will give us an idea of how many club members we will need to cover the licence cost and hall hire fees for a year.

Rosie Venn is happy for me to hold 'sign up' sessions at Williams Stores on Saturday 11 and Saturday 18 March, from 10-12, for people to join the club.

Finally, a big thank you to Brenda Garrett, Jenny Taylor, Lynda Bridges, and Katherine Allen who made cakes, served teas and cleared the kitchen; to Robbie Silk who set up the chairs and tables; Mick Taylor who helped to clear them away; to Will Barber who helped me make the projection system work and to all the 55 people who came to show their interest.

Peter Kendall
temporary film club secretary
peter@peterkendall.com
01473 738267

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NEWS FROM GRUNDISBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The autumn term ended with a range of Christmas plays, carol concerts and a visit to St Marys Church to participate in 'Christmas Unwrapped'. These events were a fantastic way to bring the school community together and helped further develop our pupils' confidence when performing in front of an audience.

Our Year 6 children enjoyed taking part in 'Bikeability' - a 4-day course enabling children to develop their confidence when cycling on roads and which will further help them as they become more independent. Alongside this, we welcomed PC Rachael Partridge and Andy from East Suffolk Council: they spoke about road safety and gave out a number of hi-vis vests to pupils.

Activities such as 'Bikeability', our range of extracurricular activities and commitment to outdoor learning, plus promoting a healthy lifestyle all contributed to the school being awarded the GOLD school games mark.

We recently hosted a workshop whereby parents came in and worked alongside their child. Using the theme of 'Suffolk', children had the opportunity to make and test the strength of a bridge; make a Raedwald mask; paint in the style of Gainsborough and make a

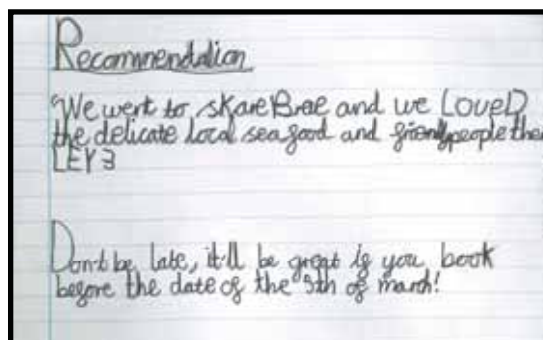
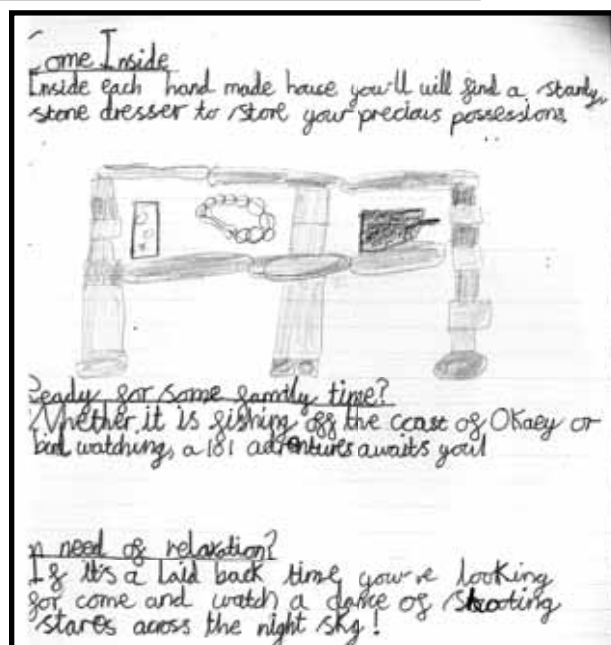
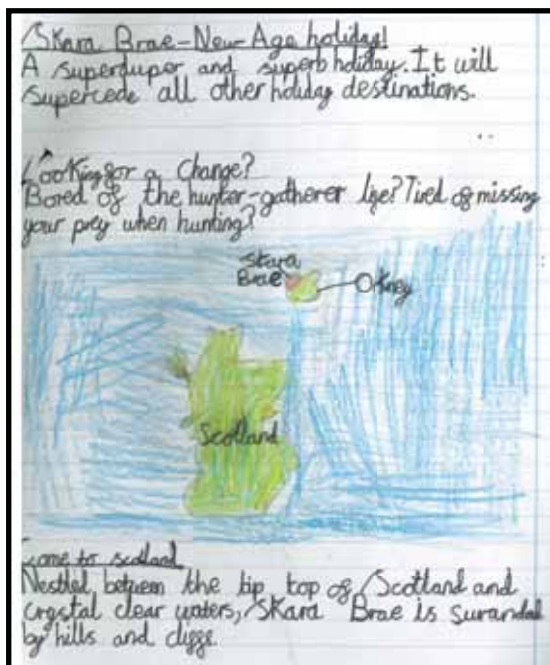
collage of beach huts - like the famous ones at Southwold. We are looking forward to engaging in World Book Day and British Science Week and I hope to be sharing with you some of our learning in the Summer issue of Grundisburgh & District News.

Adam Wilson, Headteacher

We are looking for two new co-opted governors. Do you feel you have the skills, knowledge or experience that could benefit a small primary school?

We are looking for those interested in education and in contributing to the development of the school; has sufficient time to be able to attend meetings (two termly meetings and at least one termly committee meeting) and to visit the school when required; can offer a particular skill set relevant to school life and is willing to attend relevant training - some of which may take place during the day or in the evenings.

If you are interested and would like to know more, then please contact Mrs Debbie Standing, Chair of Governors at debbie.standing@grundisburgh.suffolk.sch.uk or me on 01473 735281; or email admin@grundisburgh.suffolk.sch.uk.



Above: one Y3 pupil's imaginative production of a travel brochure inviting Stone Age man to holiday at Skara Brae on Orkney - complete with a TripAdvisor entry!

Left: Mother and pupil at workshop event

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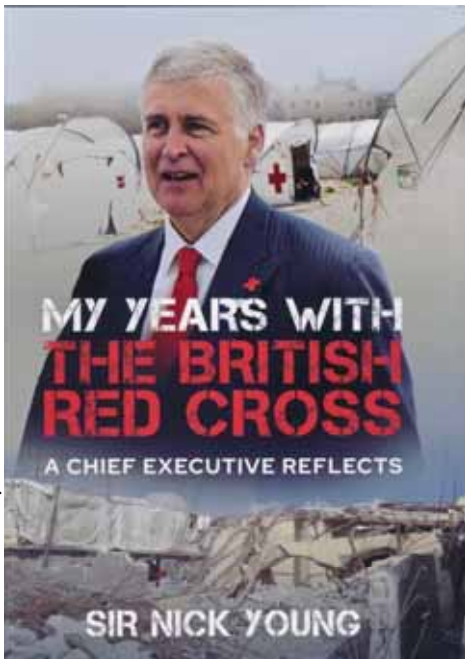
The personal memoir by Bredfield resident, Sir Nick Young, about his years leading the British Red Cross, was launched at a special evening at Bredfield Village Hall in December. Anne Henderson questioned him about his life and his experiences.

The Red Cross from the inside

The memoir is one of a kind because it's unusual to have such a vivid, inside story of an organisation known across the world for its work "to meet the needs of vulnerable people in times of crisis".

As Sir Nick Young says in the conclusion of this powerful personal memoir:

"The Red Cross meant more to me than anything else in life, apart from my beloved wife and family, and leaving it was hard. It was not a job, or a succession of days in the office, as I have tried to show, but a vocation, and a privileged one at that, in which you get a chance to work with passionate and caring people, making a



difference in lives across the planet and engaging with some of the most difficult and devastating issues of our time". He continues: "The volunteers and staff of the British Red Cross had shown me nothing but friendship, and loyal and talented support, for thirteen years as their Chief Executive, and it is to them that I owe my gratitude for putting up with me all that time, and even occasionally agreeing with

what I did and wanted them to do. I enjoyed (pretty much) every minute of it.

Together we turned a bit of a basket case, deep in a crisis of confidence and financial control, into one of the most successful and admired charities in the country, ready to take on any crisis or emergency, secure in the knowledge that it would do its best and do it well. As it has continued to do, across the world or around the corner, even during the recent difficult times of pandemic and lockdown."

Highly recommended for a fascinating read!

Peter Kendall

The book is available at £25 from Amazon, or the publisher at <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/My-Years-with-the-British-Red-Cross-Hardback/p/22057>

All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated by Nick to the British Red Cross.

Living History project

Bredfield residents will shortly have a unique opportunity to build, brick by brick, a living history of their community. The "We live here: Bredfield" project is the brainchild of Julie Crabb who, with her husband, moved full-time into Aster Cottage on Caters Road three years ago. Julie wants to initiate engagement from the Bredfield community to build a

record of the people, buildings and events that mark out this prize-winning village - on a timeline back from today to as far as it's possible to go!

To start with, she is inviting everyone in the village to hunt out one photograph (digital or hard-copy) of their home as it was in the year in which they first moved in. And to partner that image with a picture of what their home is like in 2023 - so as to create a "before-and-after" sequence. Contributors are also invited to write a few lines about their experience of moving in - and of life since.

Over time, Julie hopes to build up a complete picture (literally) of Bredfield's residents and their homes, past and present, and to display the result in as many effective ways as technology will permit.

This could, perhaps, be in an online presentation, which can be added to as more stories come to light. Or as physical pop-up displays in the village hall which can then be refreshed over time. Julie has no fixed views on just how the Bredfield story could be developed and she would welcome all suggestions!

The News will certainly be keen to participate, as will The Lantern, and we look forward to hearing more from Julie in the next few weeks.

To contact her, please call her on 07941 359644 or email welivehere.bredfield@gmail.com

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Rooms in the garden

Readers may remember that in 2017 we carried a story about Sam Clark, ex-Royal Marine, who was running a tree surgeon business in this area. Well, things have moved on: he has sold that operation (which is now Evolution Trees Ltd.) after finding it was producing more paperwork than he wanted!

After a period of working as a tower crane erector in London, (he has no fear of heights), Sam decided that there was a niche in the market for high-end, custom-built, wooden garden rooms, either built and 100% erected by him and his business partner Tom Wake - who just happens to be his wife's brother - or as a DIY project, if that's what the client wants. Each enquiry requires a detailed quote as the design of the room is determined by the

client to meet their particular requirements, specifications and site limitations. The 'room' could, in fact, be a garden office, a summer-house, games room, sun lounge, studio or.....whatever!

An innovative feature is the use of ground screws as foundations for the rooms. These are, in effect, miniature piles which are screwed into the ground and upon which the buildings sit firm and level, no matter what the terrain is like. No need for trench digging in the mud or masses of concrete being poured into deep footings. Where electricity, plumbing or air conditioning is required, Sam and Tom can call on the services of experts in their field, as they would also for complex window solutions.

The rooms' bases and other structural parts are prepared at their barn in Otley and then



Below: a recently completed project. Left Sam holding a ground screw with (above) Tom preparing timber at Otley.



transported to the client's site, together with other components like cladding or insulation. Sometimes planning issues can be tricky and Sam has a local expert to advise him and clients so that possibly expensive mistakes are avoided.

Words Richard Watkinson, photos Linda Plant

Corinne's colours on canvas - and wood

Corinne's paintings are certainly different; unique, in fact. As you can see, they are not photographic nor direct representations of people or landscapes: they are more a physical manifestation of what Corinne is thinking or feeling at the moment her brush meets canvas.

Covid had a profound effect on Corinne's health and the lockdowns resurrected some rather dark moments in her early life. She had been given a set of paints and, as part of a therapeutic process, she started 'painting her feelings' and putting these abstractions on to paper. Friends urged her to continue and develop her work and over the last three years that's exactly what she has done. When I visited her studio in Grundisburgh, there was obviously a lot of work in progress as Corinne rarely completes a painting in one hit.

As time has passed, her intuitive style has evolved and one can see the progression of ideas in front of you. All her works are titled so that the viewer is given a starting point for understanding the works' themes. Corinne said that often children see the point before adults do - one eight year old saying: "You paint your emotions, don't you". Optimism seemed to me to be the dominant sense prevailing, rather than any hark-back to darker days. In fact, Corinne



said that the most important thing to her is the joy in the actual process of painting: she relishes being in "my painting bubble". Nature and the outdoor environment influence her greatly and she found spending time at White House Farm, Hasketon, highly rewarding.

Corinne has been exhibiting her work at various local galleries, the next one being at The Craft House, Thoroughfare, Woodbridge between 15 and 21 March and she hopes to exhibit at the Helmingham Artisan Market in May. Some of her paintings are currently available for sale at the Barn Cafe, Hasketon and at Suffolk Sense in Wickham Market.

Alongside her canvases, she is producing attractive silver jewelry - delicate pendants and earrings which incorporate miniatures of her most popular pictures. And a range of stationery may follow.

Words Richard Watkinson, photos Linda Plant

MOONS WOOD - FUN FOR DOGS AND CHILDREN

Moons Wood is a beautiful six acre, managed woodland (mainly ash) site in Burgh. On the west is Larks Stream and Moons Meadow. To the east



are wild flowers and grassland. The site is available for bookings (on line) for a variety of activities including those for dogs, picnics and wild camping.

Dog active activities include parkour walks, agility and skill development. Parkour involves different movements on and around obstacles which is low impact, high energy exercise (for adults as well as



dogs!). It is an excellent way of developing your bond with your dog. This all takes place under the shady canopy of Moons Wood which makes it an ideal spot for spring and summer sun, with dogs able to finish off with a refreshing

splash in the river Lark. All the activities are led by Mel Gurdon who is a Level 1 and 2 qualified parkour instructor.

Moons Wood can also be booked for picnics. It is an ideal place for quiet relaxation and family fun, offering a real opportunity to get away from Wi-Fi and for families to rekindle imaginative play. There is plenty of wildlife to spot too. Picnic tables and a fire pit for toasting marshmallows or crumpets are provided as well as access to fresh water. The wood can be booked for up to twelve people and two dogs. There is parking a short walk away for up to three cars.

If you would like a longer stay in a place of calm respite to re-engage with the natural world, then the wood is also available for wild camping. Bring your own camping gear and stay for up to two nights. A compost toilet, fire pit (portable/disposable barbecues not allowed) and fresh water are provided. This activity can be booked for family or adult groups of up to 12 people with up to two dogs. However, dogs are not essential!

In offering a very special place for these activities, Mel Gurdon has been motivated by her own love of wildlife and her belief in the impact that being outdoors with nature has on mental health and self-esteem. She feels lucky to have the space which she would like to share with others who need peace and calm to get away from things. For children and teenagers especially she sees the positive impact of learning to play in nature and rediscovering their imagination away from screens and devices, and how this is able to improve self-esteem.

For more details, photographs and bookings please contact info@moonswood.co.uk

Words: Rosemary Kneebone



Mel and her van outside Grange Farm shop

Mel and her van 'Boudicca' encouraging waste reduction

The 'Just One Bottle' campaign is a national initiative to encourage people to start with small changes that help care for the environment and reduce waste. What better way to do that locally than visit Mel Menhams' mobile shop on alternate Fridays at Grange Farm, Hasketon!

Mel stocks a range of store cupboard staples, some organic and all ethically sourced and traceable. For example, the organic almonds she sells are grown by small communities in Spain, rather than in huge plantations further afield. It's amazing how much is packed into her van, Boudicca, including oats, pasta, dried fruit and nuts, and a comprehensive selection of environmentally friendly household cleaning products.

All you need to do is take along containers, which can be filled with as much or as little as you like. You can buy in any quantity and smaller amounts are fine. I came away with a tub of oats and another with a mix of nuts. The goods are competitively priced and compare well with equivalent supermarket products.

Mel started her business five years ago when she spotted a gap in the market for a mobile shop of this kind. She said there was just nothing else out there at the time. A former teacher, her inspiration to change career and promote this way of sustainable shopping came from watching David Attenborough's 'Blue Planet' series, which highlighted the calamitous destruction of our planet caused by plastic pollution.

With her Year 2 class of the time, Mel also watched the film 'Moana', its story set among the environmentally fragile nations of the South Pacific region. She decided she wanted to take small steps to reduce her own use of plastic and to give others the opportunity to do so too.

If you would like to browse ahead the items for sale, you can visit Mel's website at www.cupboardlove.shop where there is a comprehensive list available. Mel will next be at Grange Farm Shop on Friday 3 March and fortnightly thereafter. She's also at Woodbridge Market on Thursdays and Framlingham Market on Tuesdays.

Words and photo: Noelle Hunt

Profile: Belinda Gray

Bredfield resident and founder of Art for Cure charity

Belinda Gray moved to Bredfield some 22 years ago, after living in West London - but there had been links with Suffolk from childhood, staying with grandparents in Southwold.

She initially trained as a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital and later became a palliative care nurse in West London which included caring for cancer patients and those dying of AIDS.

After moving to Suffolk and inheriting a large garden, Belinda decided she needed to know how to look after it. So retraining in horticulture followed – at Otley College and the Chelsea School of Gardening. This led to the start of a garden business named The Grower run in her walled, Victorian kitchen garden where she ran classes on vegetable growing. She also wrote regular articles for magazines on growing and eating vegetables, and related foodie topics.

Art for Cure began after Belinda developed breast

cancer aged 46 and, with her medical background she could see many ways in which women going through treatment could be supported further. The first Art for Cure exhibition was held in 2013 at her home in Bredfield with many well known local artists agreeing to give half the money from sales to the cause. This raised over £100,000 which inspired her to set up the charity .

In subsequent years exhibitions were held at Glemham Hall, Somerleyton, Bankside Gallery next to Tate Modern and Ballroom Arts in Aldeburgh, and during Covid online. This year Helmingham Hall is to be the stunning new venue over the bank holiday weekend (29 April – 1 May). Paintings and contemporary ceramics will be displayed inside the hall for the three days while the sculptures will be on view in the park, where they will remain throughout the summer. The exhibition will open with a dazzling Private View on Friday 28 April (all tickets available through the website www.artforcure.org.uk).

Since Belinda launched Art for Cure, more than £1.1million has been raised for this a non-profit, all volunteer charity. She keeps a close eye on where the money goes and every penny raised is declared on the website.

Sponsors are always sought for exhibitions so all the money from sales goes direct to the work of the charity. This time she is very grateful that Birketts and JM Finn have come on board. She is also extremely grateful to the Tollemache family for allowing the use of historic Helmingham Hall.

Her husband Alex who works in shipping is very supportive

of the charity, and joined Belinda on the 350km sponsored bike ride in south India in November, where 17 riders participated after many postponements and raised over £50k for the charity. In 2018 similar event cycling from Vietnam to Cambodia with over 40 riders had raised £135k.

Belinda is currently recruiting volunteers to work in a variety of fun and exciting roles at the Helmingham exhibition and in the sculpture gardens over the summer – anyone interested should contact her

on belinda@artforcure.org.uk

Words Nicola Hobbs,
photos supplied



Above: Belinda and her husband Alex at the end of their gruelling 350km fund raising bike ride in southern India.
Right: A few of the works of art which will displayed inside Helmingham Hall or outside in the park.



Profile: Will Longe

Hasketon resident, farm shop manager and clearer of mines

When Will Longe took over the Grange Farm Shop in Hasketon, it was a return to his roots after a career which had taken him to many of the world's trouble spots and war zones.

Will grew up on Grange Farm, which has been in the family for generations and which his father still farms today. After university, Will wasn't sure which direction to go in but soon ended up working with a charity called the Halo Trust, which mainly deals with the clearance of land mines once conflicts have finished. You may have seen pictures of Princess Diana walking through a clearance zone in Angola wearing a Halo Trust protective vest.

This work saw Will living in countries such as Cambodia, Central African Republic, Congo, Mozambique, the Lebanese border with Israel and other former conflict zones. Some of the time, Will would train local people in the skills of mine clearance but he also spent a lot of time 'on the tools', directly clearing mines.

The tools of this particular trade mainly comprise metal detectors and gardening implements, such as trowels, to scrape away soil once a mine is detected. The mines then need to be destroyed once discovered. It is too dangerous to move them in case they go off. Instead, a small explosive charge is placed next to the mine and detonated, causing the mine to explode in the process.

The charity also has a number of ex-military 'flail' machines which move across ground with rapidly rotating sets of chains which smack the ground and explode buried mines.

After leaving the charity in 2006, Will carried on with the

mine clearance work in another organisation which he set up which operated for a few years. This organisation undertook other tasks, such as disarming defeated war lords who had lost conflicts within Libya after the fall of Colonel Gaddafi in 2011.

Will married Annabel, with whom he now has two children, in 2012. The life he had been leading was far from ideal for someone becoming a family man. So he left the world of mine clearance and attempted to settle into the far more mundane world of selling environmentally friendly food packaging.

In 2019, Richard and Alison Youngman were coming to the end of their time with the highly regarded Grange Farm Shop and Will and Annabel took it on at that point. They wanted to continue the model of selling high quality food and drink products, sourced from local producers where possible.

The following year, of course, Covid struck. There were concerns about being able to source supplies but the local producers were loyal to their nearby retailers and Grange Farm Shop managed to receive good supplies of most things. As lockdown rules caused more people to work – and eat – at home, food shops were busier than ever, while restaurants and sandwich shops took a corresponding hit.

A team of volunteers took deliveries to vulnerable people who were unable to travel to the shop. The shop also offered a pre-order and collect service, which Will and Annabel have continued to offer after the pandemic.

There have been other challenges too. Brexit has impacted some of their suppliers for whom importing



Will and Annabel in Grange Farm shop.

products or certain materials has become more complicated. The sudden surge of inflation across the world has put pressure on prices and margins.

Nevertheless, the shop intends to keep evolving and Will is always on the look out for interesting new locally produced products to stock.

Trying to run a successful farm shop can be a bit of a minefield, but mercifully not of the kind he encountered in his former life!

Words and top photo
Paul Whittingham
Other photos supplied



Photo top: Will and Halo Trust colleague in a crater in Cambodia, after destroying ammunition.

Above: Disarmament programme in Angola.

Left: Halo Trust mine clearer in Ukraine. Photo credit: Halo Trust/The Guardian

Grange Farm Shop has collecting tines to raise money for Halo Trust.

ROAD SAFETY AND SPEEDING CONCERNS

With support from the East Suffolk Road Safety Partnership, volunteers from SAVID member villages were active during Road Safety Week in November. They demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated speedwatch and SID (speed indicator device) activities on shared routes through our villages.

Priorities for the next year include planning similar activities, recording and publicising the outcomes and researching the possible purchase of a solar powered SID as well as responding to the range of concerns brought to the meetings by the SAVID village reps.

We now have membership from ten villages: Charsfield, Great and Little Bealings, Grundisburgh, Martlesham, Playford, Rushmere St Andrew, Swilland and Witnesham, and Tuddenham St Martin.

We have said goodbye to David Chenery, Suffolk Highways Road Safety officer, who is retiring and whose support to SAVID since its launch in 2015 has been very much appreciated. We were also very sad to hear the news of the death of Ted Herrington, an active SAVID member whose contribution to road safety matters for Playford will be missed.

Our next meetings will be held on 6 April and 1 June. Meetings are held via zoom and commence at 6.30pm. Visitors are welcome – to join please contact our Secretary Tracy Herrington at suffolksavid@gmail.com. Further information is available on our website <http://savid safervillag. onesuffolk.net>

Pauline Procter, SAVID Chair, paulineprocter@btinternet.com

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Elizabeth J Christian	Janice A Gilbert
Jonathan C Cottrell	Alistair J Turk
Joanna M Crowe	David J Twissell
Ruth Darton	Gillian E M Twissell
David I Stanford (Conductor)	

Rung fully muffled with the tenor open at backstroke for the late Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Thursday 8th September 2022.
A number of local residents including the Churchwardens, Doris Main and Jenny Schurr, listened to the ringing in the churchyard.

Clopton Bell Ringers Commemorative Board

On the death of Queen Elizabeth II the bell ringers rang the bells at Clopton specifically to mark the occasion. Ringing for past royal events is recorded on commemorative boards in ringing rooms across the country and, given the significance of this particular royal event, a commemorative board was commissioned for Clopton ringing room.

The board, pictured above, references the bells being fully muffled with the tenor open at back stroke. This is explained by the fact that a bell rotates both clockwise and then anticlockwise with the clapper striking the bell each time. Each strike represents a particular position of the rope as experienced by the person ringing the bell and the two positions are described as hand-strokes and back-strokes. Either or both sides of the clapper may be fitted with a leather pad or muffle which softens the sound of the bell at one or both strokes.

For funerals and other sombre occasions, bells are sometimes muffled on one stroke giving a sequence of alternating loud and soft ringing. The only time bells are likely to be muffled on both strokes is on the death of a monarch. When bells are fully muffled with the heaviest tenor bell being muffled at only one stroke it creates a sound of a tolling bell against a background of soft ringing.

To hear what it sounds like try a link to a video recording of the ringing which was put on the Clopton village facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/jeremy.stannard.94/videos/606255247658380?idorvanity=1288586794651640> If you wish to learn more or would like to see bell ringers in action or you wish to learn to ring then contact me by email. davidstanford@btinternet.com

Words and photo: David Stanford



Above, from left to right: Fi Woods, Jo Tickle, Paul Jennings, Teresa Jennings, Elaine Levinson and Steve Levinson. Left: Paul Jennings after giving the traditional 'Address to the Haggis'.



Tuddenham celebrates Burns Night

On Saturday 28 January Tuddenham held its biennial Burns Supper which was a sellout. Monica Pipe organised the catering, Holly Hollier decorated the hall and I organised the dancing – a great team effort.

MC Paul Jennings opened the proceedings and Scott Punton said the Selkirk Grace. Guests were served Cock a Leekie soup and then the Haggis was brought in accompanied by Piper Andy Offord. Scott addressed the haggis which was then served with the usual Neeps & Tatties. This was followed by Topsy Laird pudding. The usual speeches followed with The Immortal Memory by Paul, The Toast to the Lassies by Steve Levinson and Reply to the Laddies by Jo Tickle.

After the meal there was a singalong of Scottish songs – including the popular 'Ye canna shove yer Granny off a

bus' followed by country dancing. The night ended with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne. The event raised over £500 for village hall funds.

Words & photos: Jean Ellinor

Playing field project update

Tuddenham Playing Field project followed a public meeting to discuss ways in which the playing field and adjacent play area could be more beneficial to the village.

Funding was obtained from East Suffolk Council's Play Space Fund for the first phase to install accessible play equipment. This was completed last autumn and whilst the winter weather has not been conducive to outdoor play, it has already been used by local children. Thanks to Councillors Jim Bird and David Lugo (and their various helpers) for all their hard work.

The second phase of the project is to build a garden and seating area at the edge of the playing field where people can sit, relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Jim and David have cleared back the undergrowth to make space and funding has been secured from ESC Communities Enabling Fund and from ESC Community Partnerships for this project. A bench has been donated by a



Above: Kaiya enjoying the new accessible roundabout. Photo Katie Jones.

resident, and Cathy Watson and Sandy Burn have been working on a planting plan. Work started in February and will hopefully be completed by April (weather permitting) in time for our Coronation celebrations in May. Funding has also been obtained for a new sign which will be installed in the spring.

Jean Ellinor

Coronation celebrations

Tuddenham will be celebrating the King's coronation by holding a family fun day and a barbecue on Sunday 7 May. More details will follow nearer the time, but if anyone is interested in helping please contact Jean (785682) or Monica (784545).

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Grundisburgh Guides reporting

Last term saw us very busy; we attended Grundisburgh Remembrance Parade, and made various Christmas decorations. The girls have been working hard towards the theme badges of Guides Take Action and Guides Express Myself.

We are looking forward to the spring evenings where we will be celebrating Thinking Day and Mothering Sunday, with an overnight camp. So if there are any young girls aged between 10 and 14 who wish to join us and have lots of fun, then contact the Guide Leader, Jo Saagi on 07885 265074. We now meet at the Scout Hut on Tuesday evenings.

News from the Scouts

After enjoying the Christmas holidays all sections of our Scout group started back in January by taking part in a fantastic game put together by Stuart and Mike. It was like 'Mission Impossible' and 'Jumanji', and consisted of laser lights, a maze, tunnels, climbing over various items and a swing bridge. Great fun for everyone!

Beavers had 'Burns Night' with Scottish songs, and learning your 'Promise'. After half-term we will be making creative pancakes, havng skills and badge nights, visiting the Police Museum, making Mother's Day gifts, having an Easter egg hunt - and then it will be Easter holidays.

Below: Grundisburgh Scouts at Remembrance Day parade.



Cubs had investitures, creative cooking and astronomy, will be having a night hike with a sleepover, artist badge, secret agent night, knots, quiz and going Ten Pin bowling before the Easter holidays.

Scouts had surprise cooking, indoor and outdoor games, menu planning, knots, and will be taking part in the district cooking competition, creating Mother's Day gifts and then swimming and chips in Ipswich.

Explorers had 'Who Am I' and 'Cluedo', and a jelly baby evening; after half-term they will be doing backwoods cooking, Fynn Valley Got Talent, indoor archery, murder mystery night, 'Shoot and Slide' at Martlesham with Swarm Explorers and a possible cycle camp with Kesgrave Scouts.

All sections will be attending Mother's Day Parade in March at St. Mary's Church. The archery training is going very well and our team will be in the national finals in May.

A date for your diary - Sunday 25 June - our popular Duck Race is back on the Village Green - stalls open 12.30pm, the race starts at 3pm.

Pat Ross, Group Secretary,
01473 73535

Two new recruits have told The News what they feel about becoming members. Eliza comments that "*Scouts has been one of the best experiences in my life. It has built my confidence and pushed my limits. We do fun hikes, sometimes to Hasketon or*

Little Bealings and Playford. Occasionally we stay over at Hasketon hall for the night. We have also been on exhilarating outings".

Amelie says: "*I joined only recently but I went on an educational trip to the Police HQ in Martlesham where we looked at uniforms and weapons. We do exciting sports such as archery and tomahawk throwing. We go on adventure camps and have cosy camp fires - sometimes even roast marshmallows. Yum!*"

Spending CIL money

Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council recently conducted a public consultation on how residents would like the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure

Levy (CIL) of a little under £70,000 spent - the money was derived from two recent property developments approved in Grundisburgh. This exercise generated 95 responses and an initial appraisal has identified around 100 different suggestions from residents. These will now be further analysed and an action plan developed: this will be publicised in a few weeks' time.

In addition to the Neighbourhood CIL funds passed to the parish council, the major portion of CIL payments received from developers are retained by East Suffolk Council. However, the the parish council is reviewing the suggestions they have received to see if any might qualify for these additional district council funds.

Geoff Caryer



Since October Grundisburgh's 'Parish Pantry has become 'Bags of Food'. This was to insure that everyone who needed extra support from our community was able to access this help.

Every week a team of volunteers from collect, pack and give out bags of food. These contain some basic food items including bread and cereal plus a few lunch items and two complete meals. The bags can be made up for a family or for an individual. Since October we have given out 134 bags.

The project has been supported by donations from village organisations, carol singing, individual donations and people who like to give monthly. We are very grateful for each and every donation which will enable this project to continue to help. So to individuals or groups that have given money we say a massive thank you. If you would like to donate there are forms at the back of church or get in touch with the bagsoffood@carlfordchurches.org.

To anyone who needs some assistance in the coming months please register for a weekly bag at the same email address. If you know of someone who could benefit you can apply on their behalf. Thank you to everyone.

Bags of Food Team

Baby and toddlers meeting up in Grundisburgh Village Hall

The Baby and Toddler group meets in every Tuesday during term time and welcomes parents and carers to drop in at any time from 1:15 to 2:45 pm. It is organised by Carlford curate Rev Gail Minter, assisted by a group of volunteers.

The day I called in Sue was on the door with a friendly greeting. I had thought I might feel out of place as my toddler days are long gone; however I was quickly reassured by the number of grandparents present! There are several volunteers who are grandparents too.

What a lovely environment Grundisburgh's new village hall is for toddlers! There is plenty of room for them to move around and the sun was streaming in. There is a separate baby area for younger children.

For the older children various different play activities had been set up before they arrived: dressing up, crafting, a nature table, a car race track, a home area - and much more. Each session ends with storytime.

Volunteers explained that the older toddlers were the original 'lockdown babies' who had become used to playing on their own but were now being encouraged to socialise and

interact with other children. The children were very focused on their play but one, Hattie, told me that she liked everything about the group. She also showed me a little dance that she had been practising. Coco said that she particularly liked dressing up.

St Mary's Church offers both the group and refreshments free of charge but welcomes donations to support running costs. Everyone is welcome, with several parents coming from outside the village. For parents and carers it is a chance to socialise and offer help and support to each other. And as one mum said it was nice to sit down and for someone else to make her a cup of tea!

Words & photos
Rosemary Kneebone



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TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

Time to get walking again! Why not join Grundisburgh's monthly walk. We start from The Green at 2pm on the second Sunday of the month for a gentle walk lasting about two hours. All are welcome and there is no charge. Further details from Geoff on 738108 or email geoff@caryer.co.uk

If you are looking to walk further afield, 'Walking in Suffolk' <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk> has many walks to download and print, free. It also lists books of walks, and details of walking groups in the county.

John Harris (who maintains the website) says "There is so much walking information on the web but it can be difficult to find. Walking in Suffolk (part of the Walking in

England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you. With walks from half a mile long to 12 miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!"

Bowling for fun

This is the year we are going to have a great bowls season in Grundisburgh. We will be having an open day plus free BBQ and a chance to try your skill. Club members will be on hand to help you try this very fun, social game. All we ask is that you wear flat shoes to help protect the green.

We hope to have a fun day on a

Sunday either in May or June so watch out for the flyers.

Membership is £30 per season - which runs from April to September - on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Members are welcome to play anytime so long as the green isn't being treated. We are situated behind the Dog car park and if you require any further information please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Clark, Club Secretary,
kevclark9@googlemail.com

Grundisburgh Tennis Club

We are a hardy bunch at Grundisburgh Tennis Club and many of our members have been taking advantage of dry, sunny weather to enjoy a game of tennis. Our winter league players have continued to compete, playing regular matches at home and away.

As well as our own members, we have welcomed players from another local club this winter as their own courts were seriously affected by flooding before Christmas. All our courts can be booked by non-members if there is availability. To book a court please go to: www.grundisburghtennis.co.uk

We are now preparing for the start of a new season and our LTA accredited coach, Carl Douglas, will be offering a variety of coaching opportunities in the spring, catering for juniors and adults, beginners, improvers and intermediates. Both individual and group coaching are available. For information contact: clubspark.lta.org.uk/CarlDouglasCoaching Look out for great offers on annual memberships from the beginning of April!

Anne Lee

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Raising funds for volunteering trip

Hi, I'm Hannah and I am 17 and studying for my A Levels at Farlingaye High School. In July, I will be going to Kenya on a 4-week volunteering trip with Camps International, a social enterprise which organises volunteering trips for young people. I will be taking part in a variety of community, environmental and wildlife projects such as building classrooms, constructing water pumps, clearing and recycling plastic and deworming livestock.

I have been busy fundraising over the last 18 months and raised over £3,000 of the £4,000 needed to cover the costs of the trip (nearly half of which goes into the local community in Kenya to pay for materials etc needed to undertake the projects). So far, I have had a stall at last year's village show, done two car boots, a Christmas craft market, helped my neighbours doing various tasks and have a part-time job at Dobbies. I also have an Easyfundraising page and a GoFundMe page.

Corporate sponsorship of my official Camps International t-shirt is another way I can fundraise so if you have a business and would like to help volunteering work in Kenya please email me at katherinebaird@sky.com. To help me reach my target and support volunteering work in Kenya you can either scan the QR code or go



to www.gofundme.com and search Hannah Baird. Both will take you to my "Hannah's volunteer work in Kenya" page where you can make a donation. This is an amazing opportunity and I am really excited to be going to Kenya. Thank you for your support.

Hannah Baird

Raising funds for guide dogs

My son Austin who is 10 years old in year 5 of Grundisburgh primary school and I are walking the Peddars Way over three days of the Easter weekend. It's a 79km (49mile) hike and quite an undertaking for a 10 year (as well as myself!).



He is doing it to raise money for guide dogs for the blind after his grandfather recently lost his sight. A justgiving page set up which can be accessed via a link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/glyn-hewitt>

Glyn Hewitt, 07737 414093
gdbh@msn.com

Thanks from Hallo Cards

This year Hallo Cards raised £724.00 for EACH from the sales of our Christmas cards. Once again we would like to thank the generosity of Grange Farm Shop, Williams Stores and Woodbridge Charity Christmas Card shop for selling the cards for no profit. And of course a huge thanks to all who sent out Hallo Cards last Christmas.

Rupert & Carrie Herries

News chairman

Our chairman Tony Fryatt has had to stand down for health reasons. We miss his wise counsel and his good humour. We are in the process of appointing a new chairman.

Editor

About The News

www.grundisburghnews.org.uk

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community magazine produced by volunteers. 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 editor@grunews.com, Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA. All issues are included on our website www.grundisburghnews.org.uk. Information can be supplied to us on paper or email.

Photos can be sent as JPGs (but not embedded in Word documents) or as prints. If prints are to be returned, please include an addressed envelope.

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ADVERTISING RATES

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1/8 page (w.92mm x h. 66mm) £50
1/4 page (w.92mm x h.136mm or w.190 x h.66mm) £110

Booking a run of four entitles advertisers to a 10% discount, provided payment is made within 30 days of invoice date. Single adverts must be paid for in advance.

All advertisers will receive a copy of The News in which their advert first appears.

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 3 May to Peter Kendall , 01473 738267, adverts@grunews.com. Earlier booking is recommended as space is limited.

PANTO TIME: GADS ACTORS RETURN TO STAGE CINDERELLA

After a gap of three years, the GADS panto has made a welcome return! Over the last weekend in January, three performances of Cinderella were played out in front of packed audiences, the last one being sold out. It really was fantastic to see so many people come along to watch.

We have had to adapt to the new surroundings and I think all who saw the shows would agree that we did pretty well! Congratulations to co-directors Charlotte Crown and Joel Tatham, who both did a great job in getting the cast and crew through the first panto in the new hall.

With warmer and brighter weather hopefully around the corner, we'll soon start rehearsing our spring play, which will take place on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 June this year. These shows include a ploughmans supper in the ticket price and, once again, tickets will be available online at grundisburghamdram.com and via QR code. Look out for posters around the village and



in the next issue of the News for further details. Anybody interested in joining GADS in any capacity, please feel free to contact me. We meet at the village hall on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.



Ian Frost,

Photos by Peter Kendall; taken at the dress rehearsal with combined cast and crew below:

