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2020
FREE

The Grundisburgh and District News

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CHAPEL FIELD: DEEP CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY OF HOUSING PROPOSALS

Grundisburgh, a close community helping each other to get through lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic, was hit by the news at the beginning of May that Chapel Field had been included in the third version of the Suffolk Coastal (now East Suffolk) Local Plan.

East Suffolk Planning department, Suffolk County Council Highways and Hopkins Homes have increased the size of the site and propose to build 80 dwellings on the land, which is part of the Cranworth Estates.

How can SCC Highways consider Park Road a suitable access for 80 homes in 2020 when in 2006 they stated “*Any proposal to provide a village hall and small residential development with access taken from Park Road would not be supported by this authority, as the surrounding vehicular and pedestrian links to the site are inadequate to support the development. The road network leading to the site consists of narrow and single track roads with no pedestrian facilities this is unacceptable for such a development*”.

Since then the changes have been more traffic, bigger cars, more people and much more financial gain when agricultural land has a presumption in favour of residential development.

All the surrounding access roads are still single track with only passing places and no

footways. There is no direct footway to the village primary school and playgroup or to the historic village centre with village green, church, shop/post office, shop and pub.

Eighty properties are expected to generate at least 500 vehicle movements per day; the historic village centre is already congested and the single track country lanes just can't take that sort of increase.

One can understand why the community ask on what basis did Hopkins Homes invest so heavily on site investigations before knowing the outcome of the consultation?

We have quoted National Planning Policy in our objections as well as personal experience and common sense. Our conclusion is that no safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users and the wider village community: a view supported in a 650 signature petition.

The residents of Grundisburgh deserve to know why such a proposal is still being promoted by East Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council, Hopkins Homes and Cranworth Estates.

Grundisburgh does not need 80 more properties and particularly not on the ill-conceived Chapel Field site.

Ann Willetts, Chairman of Grundisburgh Parish Council Planning Sub Committee

Information about how comments can be made is included on page 3.



Above: A nightingale sings ... in White House Farm (p2)
Left: Distance camping in Grundisburgh (p12).
Top: A winner in Bredfield's scarecrow competition (p8).



Grundisburgh has had one piece of fabulous news - that a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund of £200,000 has been awarded towards the cost of the new village hall.

This is a major step forwards in terms of the finances for a new hall but it also gives us a visible 'seal of approval' when seeking other grants.

Applying for the grant was a long process of over a year from start to finish. It involved many months of background work and answering a series of detailed questions, which culminated in a 74 page application of 27,000 words submitted in December last year.

We heard the good news that we had received the final approval in early March and have since signed the legal Terms & Conditions.

Continued on page 13

NEWS DIARY

Usually our page 2 features The News Diary. But because of the current frequently changing situation over cancellations, we decided not to include it in the printed version this time.

Events that we are certain about are mentioned on the editorial pages.

The on-line version of the diary on our website will continue to be kept up to date - so long as diary editor Ian McIvor is kept up to date. He can be contacted on diary@grunews.com.

In future the details Ian collects will be used for the printed edition. If any organisers do not have access to email, they can supply a copy on paper to me at Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA and I will forward the information to Ian.

This change has been brought about by the former diary editor, Andrea Ockenden,

leaving the The News' area. We thank her for her help over the past two years.

Details can be supplied up to a year in advance. These will be included in the on line version to help organisers of events avoid clashes wherever possible.

It would be very helpful if the information could be supplied in a standard format, eg

Date

Name of event

Organised by/In aid of (if relevant)

Location

Time (12 hour clock)

If pre booking necessary

Contact - please include one phone number and one email address.

We look forward to normal practice being resumed as soon as possible.

Nicola Hobbs, 01473 738267,
editor@grunews.com

Update from White House Farm conservation project

The nature reserve at White House Farm, Hasketon, is open again to visitors. However, we are rescheduling the rest of this year's events and volunteer days featured in the last issue of The News to next year. Our new dates will be announced in the autumn.

The cattle have had a good calving season and there are now 10 calves in the herd, all but one being Red Poll. There was a surprise birth from one of the British Whites, named Cherry Blossom, who had not calved for seven years and the vet could find no evidence of a calf developing, even a few days before the birth.

Cherry Blossom gave birth to a healthy calf with the help of calving equipment and three assistants! The calf has beautiful mottled brown markings on a white background, being a Red Poll, British White cross.

Another surprise was a rare UK visitor at the nature reserve in mid-May. The tropical, fluting sounds of a Golden



Oriole resounded through the woodland over two days before it moved on, probably to its usual fen habitat with poplar plantations. There are thought to be up to 10 breeding pairs in the UK although the last time a successfully breeding pair were officially recorded was in 2009 at RSPB Lakenheath Fen.

Nightingales have returned to the nature reserve again and we have recorded three separate territories at the site this year. The photo on the front page is taken by Peter Oak.

Fifteen swift boxes were installed earlier in the year with the help of SOS Swifts group. We are currently playing recorded swift calls near the boxes in the hope of attracting evicted swifts or juvenile swifts who are identifying a site to nest in when they return next year. More details about SOS Swifts and the work it does do to raise awareness, increase nest box sites and undertake surveys can be found at the Suffolk Bird Group site.

White House Farm Nature Reserve, Hasketon, IP13 6JP can be visited daily 9 am to 6 pm during the open season (1 May to 30 September). Members are able to visit outside of these times and dates by prior arrangement.

Charlotte Daniel, 01394 382992, info@sinfieldtrust.org.uk, www.sinfieldtrust.org.uk



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Horticultural Society Update

Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society had to call off or delay this year's planned events. But it has organised a 'virtual' show with 25 classes and a closing date of 4 July for entries to be submitted (by photograph). The results will be posted on the new website recently designed for the society by Will Barber: www.grundisburgh.show on what would have been the date of the actual show - 11 July.

Depending on what is happening with the pandemic, we hope that Hidden Gardens can be re-instated in the late summer/early autumn. Many openers are keen to take part again, particularly those who have been able to spend more time than usual gardening. Organiser Catherine Laxton would be delighted to hear from people who have not opened before (01473 735228). Anyone signing up on our website will be kept up to date with the latest information, including our visits and talks.

Martin Cripps, chairman@grundisburgh.show, 01473 738997

START IPSWICH MOVING: New target for the Stop! campaigners

Following the success of the Stop! Ipswich Bypass campaign, the organisers have turned their attention to helping out with strategies for easing the traffic situation in Ipswich; funds left over from the bypass campaign will be channelled into this new venture. They have produced a list of potential improvements to try and resolve some of the traffic congestion. March 2020 saw the official launch of this new scheme.

A taskforce of 20 volunteers to help with the research started by using the results of the research already done into traffic in the town by the Stop! campaign. They published a manifesto calling for more work to be done on encouraging cycling and the use of public transport but Covid-19 has meant that public transport capacity will be severely depleted and so emphasis has been given to cycling and walking routes in the town.

The need to maintain social distancing has further hampered the use of footpaths as very few pavements are wide enough to allow a 2m distance. There is also very little segregated space for cyclists in Ipswich with only around 3-4 km of traffic-free routes, including those through parks.

Cycle routes

Nearly 150 routes across Suffolk have been eyed up as priorities for improvements to cycling over the next five years, costing well in excess of £80m.

A Suffolk County Council (SCC) cross-party taskforce has undertaken to look at this, highlighting those routes that have the potential for getting the greatest number of people out of their cars and onto bikes. Precise details of this scheme have not yet been confirmed but favourites are those that include the strategic routes to key services and places of work and education.

The campaign is also calling for Highways England to

speed up its work to ensure the Orwell Bridge is able to remain open during high winds, by reducing the speed of the traffic.

Only hours after the Stop! Campaign consultation results were announced, Highways England reported that it is very much hoping to have new measures in place to reduce bridge closures during high winds.

Central Suffolk and North Ipswich MP Dr Dan Poulter said at the end of the Stop! campaign, "It is vital that all parties now work together to find sensible, evidence-based and sustainable solutions to improving traffic flow over the Orwell Bridge at times of high winds and in our county town". He hopes to complement that work with being co-chair of the new taskforce.

Task force

SCC leader, Councillor Matthew Hicks stated earlier in the year that he is enlisting a task force to look at alternative options to ease traffic congestion – it is hoped that Start! Ipswich Moving can work with SCC to ensure changes are put in place.

Start Moving Ipswich has said they will be presenting a sustainable and forward thinking approach to SCC and the Transport Taskforce in the near future and will send out their proposals as soon as they are complete.

Marian Hedgley



Chapel Field

Continued from page 1

Grundisburgh residents who want to comment on the proposals for housing on Chapel Field have until 5pm on 10 July to get these in to East Suffolk District Council <https://suffolkcoastallocalplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/mainmodifications2020/viewCompoundDoc?docid+115586996>.

Grundisburgh & Culpho. Parish Council, with the help of a recently retired county planning officer, has sent strongly worded detailed objections. These highlight the failure of the Local Plan to take into account very limited pedestrian and vehicular access, the inevitable increase of traffic (at least 480 vehicle movements a day) and the unbearable pressure on our facilities.

These include overloading our primary school, playgroup and surgery. The parish council is working with a number of local people to increase awareness of the proposals. Posters and leaflets are being distributed.

Less traffic more speed

Just because we have been under lockdown, it doesn't mean we haven't been monitoring speeds in our villages.

For instance, the Speed Indicator Device (known as SID) in Grundisburgh is still working 24/7 and confirmed the national trend that, at the beginning of the period when traffic was much lighter, the drivers of those vehicles that were on the road did tend to drive faster, even at night, than before (45+ mph in a 30 zone was recorded at least once).

Less traffic but higher speeds have also been observed at Tuddenham. This outcome is disappointing especially as it has occurred during a period of increased use of our roads by walkers and cyclists.

SAVID - the group set up five years ago to improve safety on village roads - is proposing to hold its next meeting online on Wednesday 15 July. For details, visit their website: savidsafervillage.onesuffolk.net or the website of member villages (Burgh, Charsfield, Clopton, Grundisburgh, Tuddenham, Otley, Swilland and Witnesham, and both Bealings). Please contact them if you wish to raise local concerns.

Richard Watkinson,
Grundisburgh Speed Watch

Just before The News went to press Suffolk Police gave the thumbs-up for Community Speedwatchers to become active again.

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FAREWELL CLARE

Possibly her largest ever congregation said goodbye to Rev'd Canon Hilary Clare Sanders, universally known as Clare, on Sunday 31 May when she conducted an on-line Pentecost service from her home in Framlingham.

It's something of a commonplace to say that "she will be sadly missed" and "will be a hard act to follow" but in Clare's case it's wholly applicable. As rector responsible for the nine Carlford parishes with a population of nearly 4,000, she was 'always on the scene' comforting, advising, encouraging as needed when it mattered.

During the service, the Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, characterised her as "wise, insightful, perceptive, unflappable and always gave clear advice to those who sought it.". He was absolutely right - as many others will affirm.

"We will miss you but what will you miss?" I asked her. "People" was the immediate answer. Clare has little doubt it will be the relationships and friendships that she has developed with such a variety of people and the privilege of sharing their lives over the 15 happy years she has been here.

Clare treats all parishioners with courtesy and understanding, whether they are Christians or not. She has made many friends, sharing pain as well as laughter and is grateful for her "fabulous work colleagues and supportive churchwardens and PCCs".

A convinced Christian herself from an early age (her father was a priest in a deprived area of Dundee), she spent a year in St Louis, Missouri, USA, on a scholarship before

going to Hull University where she met her husband, Mark.

Trained as a teacher, her first job was at Great Yarmouth Grammar School, then at Haverhill. She was made a deaconess in 1985 and, following a change in the law, was ordained as one of the first women deacons two years later. She became a priest in 1994 and in 1999 was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Earl Soham, Ashfield and Creetingham - a part-time post as she had become a mother to her son, Tom.

She moved to Grundisburgh in 2005, wanting to see Tom through to the end of his schooling. Clare says it's

boundless energy and joyful spirit, showing great pastoral concern for so many. She has always been willing to roll up her sleeves and get things done and I admire her clarity of thought and practical wisdom as I have worked with her on various committees.

She will be greatly missed by many."

Among the things for which she will be remembered are the seven 'Cribfests' that she organised in Burgh and Grundisburgh. Clare has a passion for model nativity cribs and a collection of 70 in her wardrobe: this spurred her on to invite others to contribute over 200 more to what became very popular biannual public displays. One major participant was the

writer and broadcaster Libby Purves.

In 2016 Clare invited Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, to speak at that year's Cribfest - his address was recorded and was available online to a world-wide audience. Rowan was at college with Mark and has remained friends ever since.

And what will she do in retirement? Moving to a village in the South Shropshire Hills (not a million miles from the West Midlands from where Mark comes) they can indulge in their passion for hill walking with their dogs.

They have holidayed in

Scotland and England and can now do the same for Wales, exploring its hills and coast. Shropshire has welcomed a high proportion of refugees and Clare is attracted to doing voluntary work with them. Mental health is also an area that appeals to her so she will certainly not be idle in 'retirement'. An accomplished singer, Clare might well join a singing group - for relaxation of course.

We wish Clare, Mark and Tom all very the best.

Richard Watkinson

What happens now:

The benefice now enters a period of vacancy where we advertise for a new rector.

During this the parishes are under the care of their churchwardens but they are supported by the PCCs, the Ministry Team and our new Rural Dean Ven Annette Cooper. The lockdown has obviously made church life far from normal but we are continuing with looking after people as much as we can and with our online services each Sunday.

We also distribute an email newsletter each week which contains news, a reading and reflection with a favorite hymn. Details of both of these can be found on our website <https://carlfordchurches.org/>. We are very much looking forward to the post lockdown period but we realise what we can do might be restricted at first. We can still be contacted on the usual phone number: 01473 735183 or by email using the website.

Mark Cresswell



Top: Clare is presented - at a distance - with farewell gifts by St Mary's church warden Robert Fletcher.



Above left: Clare arriving at Westminster Abbey with Mark and Tom where she had been invited to preach. Right: Wearing the stole created by Heather Langdon.



challenging to run eight - nine with Culpho - parishes and she would normally work up to 60 hours a week: she said she will not miss the admin when retired!

One parishioner from Earl Soham said she "was wonderful and irreplaceable". A former Ashfield resident said "Clare embodies everything you would expect from a Christian minister to be: she treats everyone as human beings whether Christian or not".

Colin Grimwood, Baptist Minister at Grundisburgh said: "Clare has worked so hard in the villages here with

Long lost letters: from Dunkirk with love

Hasketon has been in the news recently - with an emotional story of a letter from Private Harry Cole that was finally delivered to family members 80 years after it was written on 26 May 1940. It was one of 50 written by men in the 1st Bn Suffolk Regiment, part of the British Expeditionary Force who were making their way to Dunkirk, to be evacuated.

Unfortunately for some of these brave men this was to be their last letter home. Sadly Harry was one of those; he died on 29 May, three days after writing to his mother. Incredibly these letters, which had all been passed by the censor, were abandoned in a post van.

Left in attic

They were subsequently picked up by a German officer who carried them home to Germany and left them in his attic for almost 30 years, before handing them over to the British Embassy in Bonn. From here they were sent back to the Suffolk Regiment headquarters in Bury St Edmunds, who in 1969 tried to re-deliver them to their intended recipients.

Sadly 41 were returned undelivered and remained in the Regiment's collection, now looked after by Suffolk Archives, Bury St Edmunds branch.

Fast forward 50 years, to spring 2019 when one of Suffolk Archives Community and Learning officers was looking for some letters for an exhibition. Another colleague completed digital scans and told me about one which she thought was addressed to someone in my village!

I knew the names on the War Memorial well from the research I had already done on World War 1 names and was about to start on the three from WW2. I spent the weekend researching Harry Cole and realised that he had a younger brother, Clemmie who might still live in the village. I then confirmed with

Clemmie that he was indeed a younger brother, and that Derek, two years his senior, was living in Grundisburgh. It was an emotional moment when I realised that we could possibly re-unite one of these letters with family members.

Harry's letter is full of love and warmth and longing to be back home, he reassures his mother not to worry about him...and concludes "...roll on when this do is over, so we can get back to rest, peace and quietness once again."

I feel it was a lucky coincidence that I lived in the same village, and was able to link the dots. The fact that Clemmie and Derek generously allowed their story to be told, has meant that we have been able to share the letters' existence with people all over the world, and we are hoping that more families can be re-united with their long lost letters.

The online exhibition, 'With love from Dunkirk', and the list of the 41 letters can be found on the Suffolk Archives website: <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/displays-online/with-love-from-dunkirk/>

I have worked for Suffolk Archives as an archive assistant since 2012, a job I love, dealing with the public's enquires on a daily basis; no day is ever the same and you never know what you're going to be asked.

The media attention has been extraordinary, and I rather reluctantly agreed to the interviews. Despite my 15 minutes of fame, I am now very happy to go back to back to my quiet life. Clemmie was a real star (doing three TV interviews and one radio). In getting to know him, I feel closer to Harry, despite never having met him. It has been a real privilege to have played a small part in this amazing story.

Heidi Hughes, Hasketon resident and Archives Assistant at Suffolk Archives



Top: Derek (left) and Clemmie Cole with a photograph of Harry in the garden in Hasketon where all seven of the Cole brothers grew up.
Left: Extract from the photo which was taken in India where Harry served prior to World War 2.
Above: The identity tags which were returned to the family.

Footnote: Four of the Cole sons served in the war, and all but Harry (who was the eldest and, says Derek, their mother's favourite) came home. There was a ten year age gap between Derek and Clemmie, and the youngest of the other brothers.

Clemmie has lived in the family home in Boulge Road, Hasketon, for many years and is still playing golf at Woodbridge three times a week. Derek is a long established resident of Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh where he is well known for his chickens and productive allotments nearby.

Both remember Harry with admiration, but with the large age gap and his army service overseas they did not know him well. Even so receiving the letter written 80 years before was an emotional experience for them both.

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NEWS TRIBUTES

Kenny Hazelwood, 1935 – 2020

Ken was born in Great Bealings. The outbreak of WW2 meant his childhood was shaped by the restrictions of rationing, the fear and trepidations of the time.

Ken started working, earning pocket money for tending local gardens. Proper work began at the market garden in Post Mill; a long time before it was built on, before starting at Notcutts in 1951.



He and Mary were married at Earl Soham Parish Church in 1959. They set up home in

Grundisburgh at 1 Rosehill Cottages and moved to Roseville in 1968, with children Robert, Brian, Susan and Norman.

From 1951 to December 1999 Ken worked for Notcutts: 48 years! He was recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society for his services to landscape gardening and worked at the Chelsea flower show for several years.

Although he did say after he had retired, that he hated doing all the work for a few days to have it bulldozed at the end!

All of us who lived in Grundisburgh knew Ken for his garden - at harvest time he grew the chrysanthemums for the harvest festival; but the garden was more than flowers – it was full of vegetables too, being self-sufficient throughout the year.

Ken's gardening skills earned him recognition at the Grundisburgh flower show, with cup wins on 11 occasions between 1986 and 2011 as the current records show. Ken would gladly offer advice on gardening matters and tended many gardens in Rosehill and The Street. He would stop and chat with anyone he met.

His wife Mary (parish council and bowls club) passed away in 2008, having been lovingly cared for by Ken. He regularly visited Mary's grave and chat with Clare (vicar) in the churchyard. They would talk about the weather, the garden and chew the cud. It was Ken who planted the original weeping willow on The Green, before it was destroyed by the 1987 hurricane and he planted the one that's there now.

Ken's roots were very much locally based - in the Suffolk countryside he loved and worked in throughout his life. He was not a great one for gallivanting around – his garden was his joy and delight.

Robert Hazelwood, son

Rita Mabel Dunnett, 1939 - 2020

Rita was the second daughter to Doris and Joe Dunnett, and a younger sister to Marilda. At home in their house at Pound Cottage, and

after the war, in one of Lord Cranworth's new cottages, South View on Park Road, Rita spent a very happy childhood, gaining her life-long love of gardening from her father Joe, head gardener at Grundisburgh Hall, having many friends in the village and getting up to all sorts of mischief at her grandparents' shop in Chapel Lane!

She was a pupil at Grundisburgh Primary School, before moving to Felixstowe Grammar School. From here she started work as a cashier at Barclays Woodbridge, and made many friends, who together with friends from Grundisburgh, remained close throughout her life.

In 1958 Rita met and fell in love with Robert Dunnett (no relation) of Last & Dunnett coal merchants of Little Bealings, and they later married in 1960 in Grundisburgh Church.

Robert's job took the newly married couple to Kettering in Northampton, where their son and daughter were born, but the family were regular visitors to Grundisburgh for holidays with Doris and Joe.

However, the pull of Suffolk was very strong, and when

Robert's job gave them the opportunity to move back, they relocated to Cavendish, and then later to Martlesham.

Rita rejoined the staff at Barclays Woodbridge and remained there until she retired. She spent many hours



in her garden and time with her many friends and family.

Rita had a very long and

brave battle with cancer over the past 30 years, but sadly finally lost it in March.

Despite living in Martlesham, Grundisburgh always held a special place in her heart.

Mark Dunnett (son)

Our tributes often have to be cut back because of lack of space but the full versions are shown on our website and in the folder in Williams Stores.

We heard of the sad death of Albert Usher, chairman of Grundisburgh Local History Society too late to include in this issue.Ed

RDA calls for help after virus closure

Riding for the Disabled (Woodbridge & District Group), based in Clopton, is a charity that provides therapy through horses to local disabled people, supported by a team of dedicated volunteers. In March, the group suspended all



activities until further notice in line with Government guidance to protect against coronavirus. This has meant a loss of income, in addition to which planned fundraising events have had to be cancelled.

The continued welfare of our 10 horses and ponies is paramount. We continue to pay our staff, who are essential to animal welfare, along with feed and veterinary bills, and other costs essential to ensure that we remain viable and can resume activities as soon as restrictions are lifted.

We are looking forward to taking the first steps towards resuming activities as soon as practicable, but we cannot do this before it is safe to do so. The horses and ponies in the meantime are enjoying the outdoor life, although one downside to the dry weather is that the grass doesn't grow so well and as a result the horses and ponies still need their diet supplemented with hay.

If you can support RDA (Woodbridge and District Group) please make a donation. Simply search 'rda woodbridge' and follow the link on our website, www.rdawoodbridge.org.uk.

Kevin Silburn, Group Secretary

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HEAD FOR HEIGHTS

After eight years experience in utility arboriculture I decided to set up my own tree surgery business in 2017. Its name, 'Tree Frog', came from wanting my business to stand out and become a brand that sticks in peoples' minds, hopefully becoming well known for quality work with trees.

We carry out all aspects of tree surgery from small pruning jobs through to large difficult dismantles. We also take on stump grinding and site clearance. What we most enjoy is making things look great - so a large crown reduction cut to the British Standard BS3998 is our favourite! The staff are all trained in all aspects of the job through City and Guilds NPTC.

At the start of the Covid lockdown, we stopped working, apart from providing quotes to our customers. We started again at the beginning of May, having updated our policies to comply with government guidelines - and are delighted to be back doing the job we love.

We have a great client base and rarely advertise as most of our work comes from recommendations. I believe if you communicate well from the initial enquiry through to doing a tidy job, word of mouth is always best!

Through social media we became ambassadors to Timberwolf in Stowmarket who are one of the leading manufacturers of machinery for our trade. This came through my love of photography - you can get some great shots doing this



Above: Felling a 40ft tall Spruce tree.

Left: Tom (right) with the other members of his Tree Frog team Curt James, Luke Jacques and Freddie Woolhouse-Rowton.

type of work! We share these images across Instagram (over 8k followers) and Facebook

The love of photography I think came from my father Steven. He was advertising manager for Grundisburgh & District News for several years in its early days, was involved in the production of village guides and was chairman of the horticultural society. The Steven Roberts Trophy for the best photo in the village show was presented by our family after his death in 2000.

I spent my childhood in Grundisburgh and now live in Witlesham.

Tom Roberts, Tree Frog Tree Services, 4 Jubys Hill, Witlesham IP6 9EN, 07808 110100, treefroguk@hotmail.com

Life after lockdown at The Dog

While some pubs have shut completely, The Dog at Grundisburgh has seized the opportunity of Covid-19 to keep serving its customers during lock-down - and after restrictions have been relaxed.

On-sales of alcohol have been unlawful but take-away drink permitted and customers have been bringing in their bottles, jugs and even milk containers to load up with 'Victoria' or whatever beer is on draught.

Many members of the community have appreciated the resourcefulness of the pub to provide a much-needed service while times were difficult. Charles and Eilir Rogers are most grateful for that support. The biggest

innovation has been the pop-up delicatessen set up within part of the restaurant area.

This brand-new venture has been hard work, particularly ordering, stocking, displaying and selling the range of genuine Italian pastas, sauces and olives, plus an expanding range of charcuterie and English artisan cheeses - East Anglian whenever possible.

A key feature of The Dog is that they have two excellent in-house chefs and they will be using this talent to make take-away home-made patisserie, with a seasonal bias and using as much local produce available at the time. Picnic hampers and afternoon teas will be on the menu!



Charles and Eilir are determined that the pub will continue to be a pub at the heart of the village with bar and restaurant, operating within the limits of the government's advice at the time. And, of course, that the deli will continue to bring delicious food products into

the village for the long-term.

Even before the resumption of full on-sales of alcohol, the deli was already up and running with refrigerated cabinets for fresh foods and with new shelving for dry goods, sauces and fruit juices.

And the very good news is that The Dog will be re-opening its bar on Saturday 4 July from 12 noon to 8pm (for drinks but not food).

Words Nicola Hobbs.,
selfie by Eilir Rogers

If you run a business
within our catchment
area why not tell us
about it:
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New arrivals in Bredfield

Simon and Faye Dickings came up with a great fundraising idea and something to entertain Bredfield during lockdown - a scarecrow competition. So for two weeks from 25 May, 35 scarecrows were dotted around the village - a windsurfer, a recycled robot, Freddie Mercury, a mermaid and a couple of horses were just some of the new visitors.

Residents and visitors to the village had great fun spotting all 35 and then deciding who to vote for. All the scarecrows can still be seen on <http://bredfield.onesuffolk.net/our-village/scarecrow-gallery>. There were two categories - under 16's and everyone else.

Not only were people voting but also donating to the National Emergencies Trust, which collaborates with charities and other bodies to raise and distribute money and support victims at the time of a domestic disaster.

Joint winners in the adult section were 'The Artist' at Caters Road (photo on page 1) and 'Freddie' at The Pumps'. The under 16 winner was 'The Horse & Jockey' at Church Farmhouse, The Street. The sum raised by late June was £1,271. Simon and Faye were delighted with the results and are hoping this might become an annual event in Bredfield.

Anne Henderson



BREDFIELD VILLAGE SHOP AND COVID

Bredfield Village Shop is a community enterprise, open six mornings a week, and run entirely by volunteers. It became clear that the restrictions on work and movement with the Covid-19 pandemic would have an effect on how the shop would operate.

The first decision made by the directors was that the shop should remain open for business. Special measures were put in place to protect the staff: a table was placed at the door of the shop, and one shop volunteer became a 'personal shopper' - this meant that customers would not be allowed into the shop, but instead could be met at the door and staff would collect the items needed, and hand the resulting basket of goods over to the customer, whilst maintaining a safe distance. The arrival of a new wireless card machine, which uses mobile phone technology, just as the lockdown started, proved to be a good

investment, allowing contactless card transactions to be performed at the door of the shop.

At the same time, a home delivery service was set up for those in the village who were self-isolating. This proved to be popular with those vulnerable households that were required to take extra precautions.

The first few days of the 'lockdown' proved to be demanding - queues formed outside the shop before opening, and the staff were kept busy, and sales were at an all time high. As with the larger stores, some things did run out - flour disappeared for example, but there were always toilet rolls and some form of pasta!

Since the first hectic days, things have calmed down and are now (almost) back to normal. The shelves have largely been restocked, and the shop is still busy, but the queues have largely gone. It has also proved the value of

Tuddenham in Lockdown

During these strange times the residents of Tuddenham have been very busy - with a number of ladies involved in a project, coordinated by Leigh Williamson and Alison Robinette, making laundry bags for NHS staff and carers. Cathy Watson and daughter Laura (photo right) have made several sets of scrubs for NHS staff.

On the social side, a weekly village quiz which has been well supported since it started in March.

The church has been floodlit every evening (not just at weekends as previously) to remind residents that whilst the building is closed, the church is very much 'open for business'.

Church members have been arranging Zoom coffee mornings so that people can keep in touch, posting Sunday services on the website and on Facebook, regularly telephoning people living alone and coordinating the collection of food donations for the FIND Foodbank.

Tuddenham book club meets once a month on Thursday afternoons. During Lockdown the meetings have continued via online zoom sessions. we are currently reading 'The Glass

Castle' by Jeanette Walls. If you like reading, are free on Thursday afternoon and would be interested in joining please contact me.

Our village community is very much alive and Thursday 'Clap for Carers' became a socially distanced social event!

Words and photos Jean Ellinor ,
jean.ellinor007@btinternet.com



community shops, like Bredfield, that can respond to challenges like Covid-19 and demonstrate the strength of community spirit

David Hepper, Bredfield Community Shop

Yoga on line

Andrew Beattie's yoga studio in Clopton (as featured in our last issue) is ready to roll as soon as restrictions are lifted but, in the meantime, Andrew is holding online yoga sessions on Monday mornings at 10.30. For details, ring Andrew on 07944891910 or go to www.yogasuffolk.com

Richard Watkinson

Upbeat! stays upbeat

Unfortunately the Upbeat! ladies have not been able to meet since March, however this has not stopped them getting together. Choir Leader Carol McConnell-Theobald has been hosting a weekly zoom session, with about 30 members participating, for singing, chat and the occasional quiz.



As not all members wish to, or have the technology, to join the Zoom meetings, Carol arranged for a summer plant to be delivered to each member with a short note sending Lockdown Best Wishes from the choir.

The Upbeat! Ladies have also been busy working on a project coordinated by Sarah Petts to produce a Lockdown Video of the choir singing "Beautiful Day" – look out for it on our website (www.upbeatladieschoir.co.uk) and on our Facebook page.

Words Jean Ellinor,
photo Anna Greenwood



Parish Pantry

I would like to thank all those who donated to Grundisburgh's Parish Pantry, which was set up by the Parish Church and Baptist Chapel to help those adversely affected financially by the Corona virus pandemic.

It has been steadily used over the weeks so far, giving support to needy families and individuals. We have also had some free deliveries from Fare Share which has been a great boost - the first delivery was brought by the army!

As the country gets back to work and the economy starts to pick up again we will begin to wind it down. But in the meantime, if you have lost business or employment during this time please feel free to use the pantry, which is located in the church porch.

Colin Grimwood 07979 120549.
colin.grimwood@hotmail.co.uk

Glastonbury comes to Grundisburgh



To mark what should have been the 50th anniversary of the music festival, Nigel Foan (right) and his wife Ann Wyatt mounted a mini festival for neighbours in their garden in The Street with John Richards, Beth Browes and friends. Photo courtesy Tania Browes.

Grundisburgh hits the headlines

Grundisburgh has received a lot of coverage in media during lockdown. This included a half page in East Anglian for the Symphony Orchestra's virtual concert and another for the handwashing device outside The Dog.

The device was created by Malcolm Cavanagh (left) inspired by the 'Tip tap' used in Africa by the charity Send a Cow. Younger members of the Cavanagh and Laxton families wrote and filmed a video on the importance of hand washing

The village centre even appeared as the backdrop on a TV weather forecast one evening.

A rash of teddy bears of all shapes, sizes and conditions appeared in windows facing the road. This had started in Rose Hill and rapidly spread throughout the village, encouraged by Anne Ledgley who felt it would entertain children of all ages on their daily walks. It got quite competitive with declarations of age (100 plus in one case) announced on the Grundisburgh Google message service.

VE Day was celebrated with a number of self distancing tea parties - and The News brought out a small on-line issue featuring these (which can be seen on our website)



Top: Screen grab from TV weather forecast;
Below: The rainbow on The Green;
Elizabeth Briley celebrates VE Day in splendid self isolating style;
Her bear Toby who moved around to different windows.



SCHOOL REPORTS

Yes, schools are open!

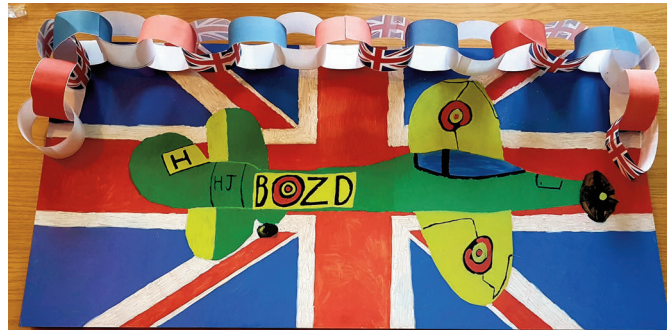
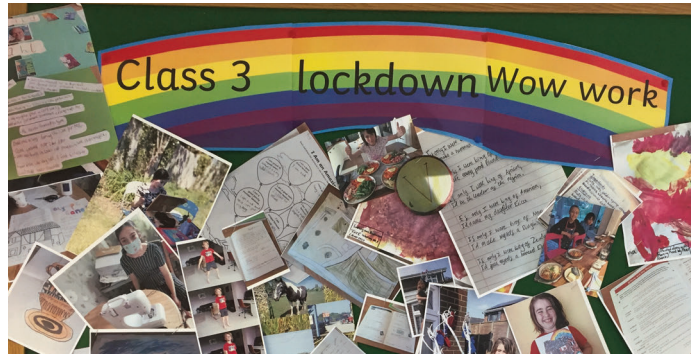
At Charsfield C of E Primary School, the pupils, with the support of their teachers, have been continuing their learning at home during this challenging time.

Each class has a "Wow Work" board in school. The aim is to fill the boards so that they are full to bursting with the children's achievements during this time. Even though the children haven't been in school, we have still managed to pack in lots of exciting



things for them to do at home with their families. Here are just a few of our highlights.

VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations: many of our pupils took the opportunity to learn about VE Day, there were some recipes from 1945 recreated, decorations galore and lots of tea parties on VE Day. We even had one pupil celebrate their birthday on this day with a delicious cream tea!



From the top:
Wow board;
VE Day poster;
Ancient Greek vase;
Picnic fare.

children have made their own obstacle courses, designed and made their own healthy snacks and have learned about the circulatory system.

Our youngest pupils have been learning about the seaside, our oceans and the animals that live there. As part of their work, the children have read many different books with a seaside/ocean theme such as The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. The children designed their own method for delivering the lunch so that the seagulls couldn't get it first! There were some

fabulous ideas!

In addition to all of this, we have been meeting regularly virtually via video conferencing. This has allowed pupils to see their friends and teachers, share their wonderful work and talk about what they've been up to. There have also been opportunities for teachers to create videos and resources to help the children with their learning. Some of these can be found on our website.

Our Forest School's area is looking fantastic with the addition of a pond, complete with new residents! The frogs have settled in to their new home, (many thanks to the kind family who gave them to us,) and we hope that the children will enjoy studying them during their weekly Forest School lessons.

On Monday 1 June, the school was able to re-open its doors to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as well as children of key workers.

I am delighted to report that the children have settled well into their new routine and that pupils at staying at home are still being supported with their learning by the school. We hold virtual meetings with the children and we are very much a part of their learning whilst at home.

Please do have a look at our website, which is always being updated with the exciting things we do at our wonderful school and with our home learning.

Mrs Anne Reeve, Head of School



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SCHOOL REPORTS

Grundisburgh Primary School

It has been a strange and difficult time for everyone over the last few months at Grundisburgh. Our school has been a very different place but has still maintained its caring and positive attitude.

Our staff have been amazing, working continuously throughout the whole period from school closure in March, demonstrating their unbelievable professionalism and care for our whole community. They have gone above and beyond to support our children's learning and wellbeing throughout and it is a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and thoughtful team of staff.

Children adapting quickly

Our children have been amazing, quickly adapting to a new way of accessing their learning and interacting with their teachers. Their parents have been outstanding; working from home, supporting their children's learning and dealing with unprecedented circumstances throughout.

We have continued to have our traditional 'Celebration Assemblies' each month, just in a slightly different format, with children sending in their photos and articles describing some of the wonderfully kind, creative and explorative adventures they have been undertaking at home. These have been shared with the

whole school on our learning platform and have helped us stay in touch with each other.

Since the part closure of school in March, our aim has been to provide as much



assistance and support to our community as possible, whether it be making available art and stationery packs to help children at home, adapting our learning platform to be as user friendly as possible or offering flexible childcare to all essential and front line key workers, including right through the holidays. Our staff have kept in regular contact with all our families to offer support and a chance to just catch up with each other.

As a small school, we are limited with staff and space. However, with careful and

considerate planning alongside the adaptability, professionalism and positivity of our staff and support of our governors, we have been able to fully accommodate the safe return to school of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as requested by the Government.

We have spaces for all children who wish to return to school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and in our key worker room, with at least three quarters of each of these year groups (in some cases nearly all in the class) back at school.

We have delivered training to staff and have many systems in place to promote the safety of staff children and parents, including creative use of space, zones for play, staggered start times, zoned pick up and drop off places, etc. We continue to fully support the learning and wellbeing of those children working at home, using our learning platform and with frequent phone calls to families.

It is a very special feeling to be part of the community that

is Grundisburgh Primary School. The values of tolerance, respect and kindness to all, that our school holds dear, define us and permeate everything we do. These values have guided our actions throughout these difficult times and will do so going forward as we continue to offer support, respect and kindness to all.

Sue Marks, headteacher, Grundisburgh Primary School

I spoke to a couple of pupils who said they were pleased to be in school but they were missing their friends - and their teachers! RW, Deputy editor



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SCOUTING NEWS

We were so looking forward to holding our Duck Race on 28 June, it would have been our 13th, but all scouting activities were cancelled from 16 March.

There was to be a large scout group parade at Rev Clare's last Mothering Sunday Service on 22 March, a great shame this opportunity was missed by six days. We send Clare, Mark and Tom our best wishes for the future and thanks for help and kindness over the years.

Our archery club had been practising hard for the National Finals in May, and the European Jamboree in Poland, for which our chosen scouts Annabel and Rosie had been busy fundraising, both events cancelled.

The cubs had met a few days before lockdown when they had a great time cooking creative pancakes.

Many cubs joined with others across the UK in 'Scouts Hike to the Moon' event in April where members and their families collectively walked more than 240,000 miles (the distance to the Moon) raising hundreds of thousands of pounds to support people who needed it most during the coronavirus crisis. As this took place during lockdown it was either done during the daily



Creative pancake making before lockdown. Photo Archie Adams. Below: Archie Adams' home camp.



exercise allowance or at home in the garden.

Lots of our cubs and scouts camped overnight on VE Day but due to social distancing this had to take place at each person's home. Some slept in tents, some in dens built either

inside or outside and one leader even slept in their summer house. No doubt we will have another of these camps soon as everyone enjoyed this one so much.

Our textile bin is overflowing, and we will let you know when there is room again..

Hopefully scout groups will be allowed to meet again in the autumn as we miss each other and our activities very much.

Pat Ross, Group Secretary, Grundisburgh Scouts, 01473 735352

News from GADS

In times of crisis, the often heard phrase is 'the show must go on'...sadly, this time, for Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society, it turned out to be pretty wide of the mark!

Due to the ongoing issues of lockdown and social distancing, we've had to cancel our spring play. It remains to be seen whether we'll be able to perform our pantomime in the new year.

With everything that's been happening, it doesn't mean GADS has been totally put on hold. We've been meeting up online and some of us have been using Zoom to record some old radio plays, including episodes of Flash Gordon. You can hear our efforts on our new website, grundisburghamdram.com

Just follow links from the menu to the our productions page, then to current and

future productions. You can also view a whole host of other plays available online. More information on how to get involved with GADS is included. The new website is being developed by GADS member, Brian Hunt. We're also hoping to use the site for online ticket sales, making tickets available to a wider range of people.

We are still on the lookout for a new storage area where we can keep props and pieces of set. If you have any space available that we could have reasonable access to, please get in touch with any GADS member or email our chair, Judith Bignell-Pepper on bignelljudith@gmail.com

We hope to be back treading the boards of the village hall very soon!

Ian Frost, ianfrost68@gmail.com,

and from the Baptist Chapel

We are hopeful that it will not be too long before we can hold (socially distant) services in Grundisburgh's chapel again, but in the meantime we are using the internet in a number of way, learning as we are going along. At present our Sunday services are conducted via Zoom, and if anyone would like to join in please get in touch.

We are also recording the messages and putting them on You Tube. You can access them through the chapel website (www.grundisburghchapel.org.uk) or directly through our channel on You Tube. We are thinking of doing live stream when we get back to chapel. We should have some Bible stories for the children to listen to, which again may be accessed via the website and You Tube soon.

We will put some activity sheets on the website to go with them. Please also see the website for our 'Corona Cogitations' – some thoughts related to the present crisis. If anyone is need of practical or pastoral support especially during this difficult time, please do contact me.

Colin Grimwood 07979 120549, colin.grimwood@hotmail.co.uk



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Progress on Grundsburgh's new village hall

continued from page 1

The final approval of the National Lottery to our application for a £200,000 grant towards the new village hall was received in March. This, together with the local fund raising we have undertaken so far (with so much help and generosity from the villagers) ensures that we will finally build a new hall for the village.

We already have substantial funds which are sitting in the bank from the planning agreement on Felgate Way a few years ago, plus the value of the existing hall site which has planning consent for two houses. We are now focussing on firming up the construction costs of the new hall (for which we have planning consent) and looking carefully at any funding shortfall that may pose, including ways to bridge any financial gap.

In the meantime a lot of progress has been made on various other fronts to ensure we can get ahead quickly and effectively with the development in due course. These include moving towards changing our status to the recommended option of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is a far better entity through which to build and then operate the new hall.

We have also started the process to register the existing hall site with the Land Registry to help with the sale of the site in due course. We have instigated a detailed site survey ahead of any building start and we are seeking quotes to provide three phase power to the site.

With Graham Parker's kind assistance we have made applications to 19 grant giving entities with a total request of £87,000. The individual requests range from £1,000 up to £25,000 with the average being around £5,000. The largest application has been received positively and the Garfield Weston Foundation have confirmed a grant of £25,000 towards the new hall.

Finally we have made our first application to HMRC for Gift Aid totalling just over £12,500, based on donations of just over £50,000 which we have received from the local fundraising efforts and match funding initiative.

The Village Hall Management Committee is confident that we can see a path to build a new village hall, although lots of hard work and a few hurdles lie ahead. We look forward to reporting on that progress in the not too distant future and to working with lots of people in the community to make the dream a reality.

Progress can be followed on www.grundisburghvillagehall.com

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those individuals who have put themselves out and helped tremendously towards the collective effort of getting us this far.

Bryan Laxton, Village Hall Chair

1950s tea dances return

Over 100 dancers got in the groove for the Swing-Jive & Rock 'n' Roll held on 1 March in Grundisburgh Village Hall. Tea and cakes were served and an amazing £722 raised for the new village hall. With match funding this will double.

Steve Newton organized the event with the help of others including Nigel Woodhouse and Teresa Bonello. A band of Grundisburgh residents served teas, took money on the door, or sold raffle tickets. Many others attending baked and donated a batch of cakes: a real community effort.

The hall was decorated with streams of Union Jack bunting and as soon as the music started everyone was transported back into the era.

Many dancers wore 40/50's style clothes and hairstyles - some with Victory rolls



In the groove in the current village hall.

characterized by voluminous curls giving the event an authentic atmosphere. It felt like being on a film set.

Nigel Woodhouse of Simply Swing was the DJ and played some old favourites which

included Bye Bye Paris, Dynamo, and Young and Beautiful. We will include information about local dance classes when they re-start.

*Words Jenness Proctor,
photo Steve Newton*

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Gardener's friend finds new pastures in local gardens

Hedgehog numbers have been decreasing over the past few years. This is for a variety of reasons including destruction of hedgerows, a vast increase in the use of pesticides destroying their food chain, the boxing in of gardens which stops roaming to find food. It is more nature friendly to plant hedges instead so that the hedgehogs can move underneath. Birds can also nest and find berries.

Another enemy is the badger as it is a predator and competes for the same food. These have been spotted in a Grundisburgh garden recently.

Two years ago Grundisburgh resident Shirley Dow (top photo) found a hedgehog which was unwell and, after ringing around, managed to get help from Poppy's Crèche, Forward Green, near Stowmarket. (Some of you may have seen their stall at last year's Village Show). Shirley was so impressed with their work she instantly volunteered.

This spring, with help from local people she released 37 hedgehogs; ten went into gardens down Half Moon Lane and Lower Road, Grundisburgh. The others to Great Bealings, Burgh, Hasketon, Otley and Melton.

Sadly, roadkill is another factor for their decline. So if you drive down these small country lanes please look out for wandering hedgehogs

searching for their next meal as many get run over.

Shirley took extra care looking after a rather obese hedgehog who was unable to roll into a ball, thereby making himself more vulnerable to prey. After a strict diet and encouragement to walk around the run he became fit enough to be released into the wild.

Hedgehogs can only be rehomed in the cooler evenings once the overnight temperature is above 5 degrees



water. Being lactose intolerant they cannot drink milk.

Another important aspect in caring for hedgehogs is to ensure there is a small gap or tunnel between gardens so that the hedgehog

can walk from garden to garden foraging for food. Males can walk up to two miles and females up to one mile, usually during the night, searching for slugs, snails, and even the occasional frog. They can live up to six years and



and their weight has increased to 750grams. When it is warmer they can be released with a weight of 500g. So late spring, early summer is an ideal time.

They are fed on either cat or dog biscuits placed in a shallow dish and most importantly a dish of fresh

can produce five or six young as many as three times a year - although not all survive.

Members of the local Upbeat! choir have been active in trying to find homes and assist in this valuable work. Karen and Noel cared for hedgehogs in boxes in their garages over the winter - thereby helping the crèche.

Shirley's daughter Jennie works at Suffolk Rural College, Otley. She too overwintered hedgehogs so that the students could acquire more knowledge and help to care for them. This also reduced the numbers which had to be looked after in the crèche.

Anyone would like to enquire about volunteering at Poppy's Crèche please telephone Anne on 01449 711724, who will be delighted to hear from you.

Jenness Proctor

Playing by the (changing) rules at Grundisburgh Tennis Club

It was a sad day when our lovely, freshly painted tennis courts had to close in March because of the pandemic - so we were delighted when the courts could reopen in May.

There were, however, strict guidelines from the government and the LTA about how play could resume. The middle net and the benches had to be removed, an online booking system set up and a new lock with pin code fitted.

We are keeping our members informed regularly about any new rules for ensuring the courts are used safely as things have been changing frequently. We are hoping that pre-booked club sessions will resume soon. Please check our website for updates.

To enable as many people as possible to enjoy the courts, the club has decided to offer very low membership fees for this year. It is wonderful to see so many renewing and new members take advantage of this great annual membership offer, which runs until 31 March 2021:

* £20 – Individuals (adults and seniors)

* £30 – Household (those living together – family, couple, group)

Our LTA accredited tennis coach, Carl Douglas, continues to offer Individual 1 to 1 or 'paired' (parent + 1 child or couple) based tennis lessons and is hoping to reintroduce some small group based coaching, including kids coaching, in the near future, subject to government and LTA guidelines.

For more information and updated guidelines go to: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/> Grundisburgh Tennis Club or grundisburghtennis.co.uk. Anyone unable to join via the internet can contact Sue Haddock on 01473 738872). For coaching enquiries go to: carl.douglas@talk21.com or text/call to 07553 966380.

Anne Lee

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Dinner and tea service, 1970s St Michael floral pattern. Good condition. Donation to charity. 07526 360956

Plants - The Send a Cow stalls in Ford House garden in Grundisburgh, have a wide range of plants, many kindly given by local gardeners. The highly scented perennial stock seedlings are now ready. Call by or ring 01473 738267.

It's free to advertise non commercial sales and wants here. Send brief details to the editor (and not advertising).

Community support during Covid

Thank you to anyone that has helped their community during this extremely challenging time. Without the kindness and action of these people the past few months would have been even more difficult for some of our most vulnerable residents. Both new and established groups have stepped up to the task, meaning those that have called out for help have been supported quickly and with compassion

There has also been plenty of informal help given amongst neighbours – shopping, prescription collections and a general check in have been most common across the entire district. These acts of neighbourly kindness have allowed us to focus on supporting the most vulnerable in our communities.

We're not finished yet, and I am eager to bring something positive out of this for the long term. Make sure you look out in newsletters, local social media pages and village notice boards for more information. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or ideas for community schemes that we can support.

Andy Jolliffe, Communities Officer, East Suffolk Council, 01394 444660, 07789 920487

News from The News

This issue was delayed by five weeks because of the uncertainty concerning Covid, and we hope to bring out the autumn issue as usual at the end of August.

The News team is now nearly back to full strength. Alison Knights has agreed to taken on the admin role, despite her busy job as a Human Resources Manager. Her husband Peter deals with our advertising and Stephen Cooper serves as chairman to give Terry Frost a break. Richard Watkinson acts as deputy editor and writes articles.

Website manager Ian McIvor also produces the on-line diary and event details should be emailed to him. The printed version on page 2 will normally be taken from the information collected by Ian. Details which cannot be supplied by email can be sent to Ford House and will be forwarded. In this issue we have omitted the printed diary because of the changing scene.

All contact details are included in the panel on the right.

We are always keen to recruit more people to have ideas, research and write up stories – anyone interested in getting involved please contact me. People who can be called on to check content for errors before publication are also welcomed.

Nicola Hobbs, editor@grunews.com

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: Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, editor@grunews.com. All issues are included on our website www.grundisburghnews.org.uk. Information can be supplied on paper or email. If emailed, the *topic* of the article should be shown in the *subject box*. Photos can be sent as JPGs (but not embedded in Word documents) or as prints.

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INSECTS IN A LOCKDOWN GARDEN

The spring and summer months of a normal year are a time to be out visiting the places in Suffolk where nature puts on its wonderful display: Minstere, Dunwich Heath, or any meadow where flowers come into bloom and butterflies roam. But, this hasn't been a normal year and those places often became off-limits.

So, time to turn attention to nature closer to home: to the insects and other small creatures in the garden. And, what delights are to be found there, if one moves slower and looks closer. Insects can be masters: of deception, of disguise and of dandyism!

The Deceivers

Don't those hoverflies look so much like wasps or bees? Yes, many do, and some much more than others. Look closely and patiently and one of the flies you may find in your garden might be the Bumblebee Hoverfly. Below is one imitating a Buff-tailed Bumblebee. It's lava thrive amongst the detritus found in that bee's nest. Not a bad piece of deception, eh? If you really want to look tough though, how about the deception of a Hornet!

The Disguisers

The kind of disguise I'm most impressed with is the kind of disguise that says: "I'm not really here – just a part of the wall or a tree trunk". Here is where the moths rule. Gardens around Grundisburgh may be visited by over 100 species of moth, yet we rarely see any. True, they're mostly out at night whilst we are asleep, but sometimes there is one to be found camouflaged on the wall of your house (blending in with the brickwork) or on a branch of a tree (looking like a twig).

The Dandies

Some insects are real dandies. These are ones that people usually like best: the Damselflies, the Ladybirds, the Butterflies. These insects really cheer up a dull lockdown day. Of course, their dandyism is not always there to make a beautiful impression, but often to make a threatening one. All that bright-red on the ladybird and the eyes on the Peacock butterfly are probably saying: "back off, I'm poisonous or could be dangerous!"

Of course, not all insects are deceivers, disguisers or dandies. Some can look quite boring. Others can be irritants: the caterpillars eating our growing cabbages; the wasps ruining your picnic! But, you can rest assured that, on balance, insects are good for us.



Bumblebee Hoverfly



Hornet Hoverfly



Streamer



Buff-tip



Peacock Butterfly



Seven-spot Ladybird

Indeed, essential for us: pollinating our flowers and vegetables; eating those aphids on our roses; providing food for the Robins we love; and so on. But sadly, as several scientific studies have shown, the number of insects in Britain is suffering a marked decline, and this will have an adverse impact on us all.

What is to be done? Well, lots globally; but also lots closer to home. While you're staying home and perhaps following Candide's advice to 'cultivate your garden', don't tend it too neatly and cosmetically. Leave space for those insects: the masters of deception, disguise and dandyism (and even the boring ones!).

Stewart Belfield

All photos taken by Stewart in the garden of 'Bumbles', Bredfield



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