

LOCAL LYNX

BALE - BINHAM - COCKTHORPE - FIELD DALLING
GUNTHORPE - LANGHAM - MORSTON
SAXLINGHAM - SHARRINGTON - STIFFKEY

ISSUE 135

December 2020
- January 2021



Season's Greetings to all our readers

Lynx villages will be lighting up the benefice to share goodwill and hope for 2021

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WHAT'S ON

VH = village hall

On going to print, the mobile library run by Norfolk County Council is currently suspended due to Covid -19 regulations.

REGULARS

1st & 3rd Saturdays in month **Langham** Coffee Mornings, VH 10am -12noon (VH currently closed at time of going to press)

CURRENT REGULARS

Wednesdays **Langham** Mobile Post Office VH 9.10-10am.



From 2nd December, please check your villages for updated information about decorations and events.

DID YOU KNOW...

You can also access Lynx 135 via:

www.binhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk
www.friendsofbinhampriory.weebly.com

Field Dalling & Saxlingham
Villagers' Hall website: fdands.org
Langham Village Homepage & facebook
www.morstonparishcouncil.co.uk
www.sharrington.org.uk
Stiffkey Village facebook page

Fakenham, Holt & Wells Libraries facebook posts

Local Lynx is a non-profit-making community newspaper for the ten villages of the benefice.

We welcome articles, drawings, photos, poetry and advertisements for publication from all ages but the editor reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. A **maximum of 400** words is recommended. Please contact your local rep on their email or phone number listed under your own village heading.

All submissions must go through the village rep.

For general information: lynxeditor@pobox.com.

Deadlines for submissions to reps are: 6 January, 6 March, 6 May, 6 July, 6 September & 6 November

Newsletter and Website Advertising

For enquiries about advertising in Local Lynx, contact Sally Metcalfe: sallymetcalfe@btinternet.com

Rates for advertising (pre-paid) are:

One column x 62 mm (1/8 page): £72 for six issues.

One-off ads: £14.

Small Ads Panel on the back page:

Available for individuals and businesses

providing local services. Cost: £36 for six issues.

And please don't forget....

Lynx 135 and all back issues are permanently available on our website at www.locallynx.co.uk. The website now has an **Ads Directory**, an **'In More Detail'** page and a **'Local Charities'** page to cover relevant articles in greater depth. (Paper copies of website articles are always available from Roberta on 01263 740188.)

BLAKENEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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The Butlands, Wells next the Sea 01328 713044
Priest in Residence, Father William Wells (the house behind the church).

BLAKENEY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: The Rev'd Cliff Shanganya,
Email: CliffShanganya@methodist.org.uk
Samantha Parfitt, Steward/Pioneer Rural Church
Planter.sammi.1980@live.co.uk 01263 711824

DEANERY NEWS

Richard Lawry, Rural Dean, and Will Warren, Assistant Rural Dean, would like to invite you to a meeting of the Holt and Repps Deanery Synod, on Zoom, at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th January 2021.

DUNCAN BAKER M.P.

N. Norfolk Conservative Assoc: 01692 558458
www.duncanbaker.org.uk

JEROME MAYHEW M.P.

Broadland Conservative Assoc: 01603 865763
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Church Services for Bale and Stiffkey Benefice for December 2020 and January 2021

HC=Holy Communion. CFS=Church Family Service. MP=Morning Prayer. BCP=Book of Common Prayer CW- Common Worship

Parish	6 th December	13 th December	20 th December	25 th December Christmas Day	27 th December
Bale	9.30am MP	9.30am HC	6.00pm Lessons and Carols		At Langham
Field Dalling		11.00am CFS	11.00am Lessons and Carols	10.00am Christmas Communion	At Langham
Saxlingham		At Field Dalling	4.00pm Lessons and Carols	At Field Dalling	At Langham
Gunthorpe		11.00am MP	4.30pm Silent Meditation	11.00am HC	At Langham
Sharrington	9.30am MP BCP	9.30am MP CW		9.30am HC	At Langham
Binham	11.00am HC		11.00am MP	10.30am MP	At Langham
Morston	9.30am HC BCP		9.30am MP BCP	9.30am MP BCP	At Langham
Langham		9.30am MP BCP	At Stiffkey		10.30am HC Group Service
Stiffkey		At Langham	3.00pm Christingle		At Langham

Parish	3 rd January	10 th January	17 th January	24 th January	31 st January
Bale	9.30am MP	9.30am HC			At Morston
Field Dalling		11.00am CFS	At Saxlingham	11.00am MP BCP	At Morston
Saxlingham		At Field Dalling	11.00am HC	At Field Dalling	At Morston
Gunthorpe		11.00am MP	4.30pm Silent Meditation		At Morston
Sharrington		9.30am MP CW	9.30am MP BCP	9.30am HC	At Morston
Binham	11.00am HC	3.30pm Epiphany service with the Richeldis Singers	11.00am MP		At Morston
Morston	9.30am HC BCP		9.30am MP BCP		10.30am HC Group Service
Langham	9.30am MP BCP	9.30am MP BCP	At Stiffkey		At Morston
Stiffkey	At Langham	At Langham	9.30am HC		At Morston

Additional services:*

19th December: Sharrington, 4.30pm. Lantern Procession. 5.00pm. Carols.

21st December: Binham, 6.30pm. Carols and readings with the Icení Choir.

23rd December: Morston, 4.30pm. Lessons and Carols.

24th December: Field Dalling, 4.00pm. Crib service.

24th December: Langham, 4.00pm. Carol service.

Zoom services 5pm 1st Sunday of each month, contact iannewton46@gmail.com/ 01328 830947

*Please note that there may be last minute changes to services.



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

The solemn Season of Advent is upon us. Death. Judgement. Heaven. Hell. Having been brought to our knees (poor old knees!) we are raised by the ultimate gentleman's hands to enjoy and celebrate His Birthday. Celebrations require Preparation. Polish the glasses. Get the cups and saucers on the table; make the scones, bake the cake (I buy them...), make the sandwiches (I can manage that...). And welcome one's guests. We are welcome in God's great economy. We are welcome as members of His family, we are made incorporate in the mystical Body of Christ. And then we have our duties: to serve God, honour the Queen, take care of any in need; and to ensure that justice and mercy are executed in this Land; and that care and tenderness are what is normal in every hostel, hospice, hospital, school, prison, business, research laboratory, Everywhere.

We can assist by active involvement. We can assist by prayer from our armchairs. We must not stop. Thank God. Ask Him. Be open. Never close. And all shall be well, and very

well. And we shall be saved. And we shall be raised – incorruptible.

What a life and what a challenge! May I wish you a thoughtful Advent and a glorious Christmas. My churches which are your churches shall never close. The Church of England is open for business.

Psalm 150 (Book of Common Prayer)

O praise God in his holiness : praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him in his noble acts : praise him according to his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him in the sound of the trumpet : praise him upon the lute and harp.

4 Praise him in the cymbals and dances : praise him upon the strings and pipe.

5 Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals : praise him upon the loud cymbals.

6 Let every thing that hath breath : praise the Lord.

Yours very truly, Ian Whittle

The Rectory, Langham 01328 830246

LOOKING AFTER LOCAL LYNX

- covers 10 villages in North Norfolk
- published every other month
- voluntarily produced by village members
- currently distributed to 1,000 households
- estimated readership 2,000 plus 800+ on-line readers at www.locallynx.co.uk

Local Lynx is a not-for-profit community newspaper, supported technically by parish councils, PCCs and, of course, our brilliant advertisers. Sometimes this covers our costs, but at others, we fall short.

Although our overall financial position is still healthy, we need to make up the shortfall. So we are turning to you, our readers, for a little help. Firstly, if you run a local business or service, please consider advertising. Secondly, we know that you value your Local Lynx and, if you would like to help ensure its long-term future, then please think about making a small donation. Six pounds a year would be £1 per issue; ten pounds a year would be a round sum, but please give whatever you feel is appropriate.

Our bank details for making a direct BACS transfer are below or you may donate by cash or cheque. Please email lynxeditor@pobox.com to arrange this.

Lynx Internet Banking and Standing Orders
Account number: 6500 4288 Sort code: 09-01-54

With special thanks to our individual donors. *Ed.*

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' NEWS

...from Dr. Marie Strong

Starting with a reminder of normal life...

Fostering Locally

Norfolk Fostering Service is looking for local foster carers for local children.

A stable and loving home can make an incredible difference to a child or young person, while also being an enlightening and rewarding experience for the foster carer. Carers are needed for children of all ages. The Council welcomes people from all sorts of backgrounds to care for our children and young people in different ways. They need someone who meets their particular needs and these differ greatly – so children and carers are matched very carefully. Some carers still work full or part-time while fostering mainly as respite carers. Some welcome the children and young people into their homes to live with them all the time, while for others it might just be a weekend a month; some are emergency carers we can call on if we need them. Foster carers are paid an allowance which is dependent on experience and training. "We would like to hear from the optimistic, adventurous and positive individuals who can offer a child meaningful support. Text FOSTERING 287222."

Clear Face Masks

Good news - NHS and care workers are to be given clear face masks so helping communication with people with conditions such as hearing loss, autism and dementia. The masks are see-through and have an anti-fogging barrier ensuring face and mouth always visible to aid communication. Social care providers will have access to the masks through a new pilot system.

Rough sleepers helped to keep safe this winter

The government has announced support to give local areas the tools and funding they need to protect people from life-threatening cold weather and the risks posed by

COMMUNITY NEWS

LIGHTING UP THE BENEFICE

...from the editor

As many of our villages are thinking about adding seasonal lights to windows, churchyards and greens throughout the benefice this year to celebrate community goodwill and hope, I find I am suddenly touching a memory from nearly 50 years ago.

In 1969 I was in my last year of high school in New York City when a most wonderful Indian woman came to teach us history. Quietly spoken Miss Catherine Peters always wore a sari and, before every lesson, she would light a candle on her desk and say "it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." Thus her amazing lessons would begin.

Isn't that what we are now all striving to do by lighting up the long dark evenings over Christmas and the new year?

As with any new thought that pops into my head, I immediately 'Googled' the quote to find out who first said it.

As a child of the 60s, I had remembered it as John F Kennedy, but some say it was Confucius. And there's the Bible with variations such as, "*Cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*" Romans 13.12. and "*Let light shine out of darkness,*" 2 Corinthians 4.6. U.S. politician Adlai Stevenson used it in a memorial speech to Eleanor Roosevelt in 1962, "*She would rather light a candle than curse the darkness, and her glow has warmed the world.*" It has also been the symbol of Amnesty International since the early 1960s.

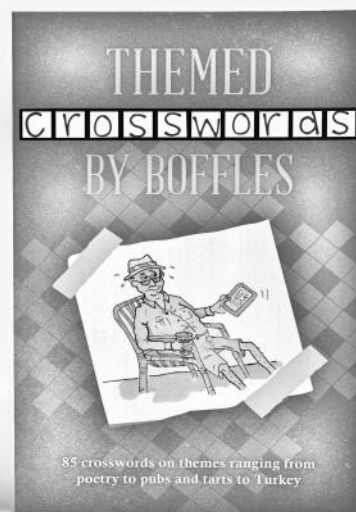
Well, I will be putting a candle (battery-operated!) in our upstairs workshop window this Christmas as my message of hope and goodwill to all those who pass by Morston quay. And I will certainly delight in visiting all our villages to feel the warmth of their lights. Stay safe.

RH (Ed.)

Themed Crosswords

by Boffles

85 Puzzles for Idle Hands



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coronavirus. It includes a £10 million Cold Weather Fund to support councils get rough sleepers off the streets during the winter and an additional £2 million for faith and community groups to help them provide secure accommodation for rough sleepers.

Apply for a Kickstart Scheme Grant

I am told it's worth looking again at the government's guidance for employers looking to create job placements for young people - Kickstart Scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-employers-apply-for-a-kickstart-scheme-grant-kickstart-gateway> provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment. Employers can apply for funding as part of the scheme.

Covid-19 Information

Guidance and instructions change rapidly and are becoming more localised. Check for updates via the official and updated websites: www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus. This includes the effect on local services as well as the latest regulations for Norfolk and reference to many if not all of the government schemes. www.gov.uk/coronavirus. All the government schemes are to be found on this site. www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

Please keep remembering those without access to a laptop, etc. If you spot something which might be of value or interest to such a person consider asking if they would like a copy.

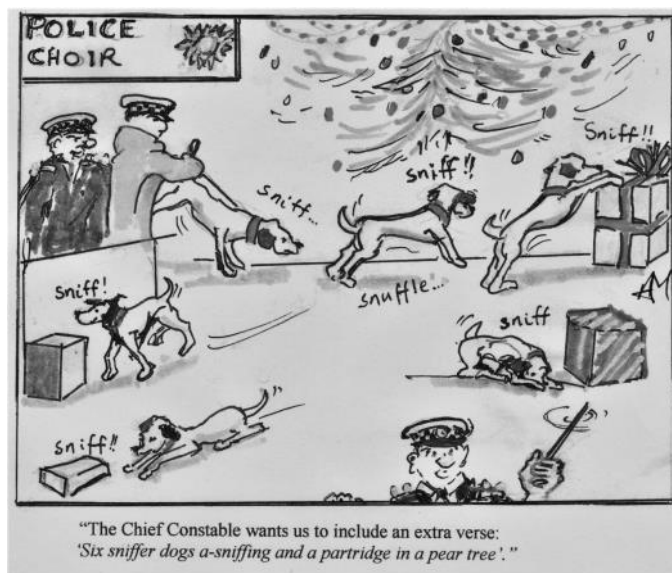
Finally I would like to acknowledge the many good works which continue to take place throughout our division – sometimes without a recipient knowing who performed the good deed. Take care.

Dr. Marie Strong

...from Steffan Aquarone

Unitary Authorities

The issue of devolution and unitaries has now largely passed - Norfolk's council leaders did not agree on the right



"The Chief Constable wants us to include an extra verse:
'Six sniffer dogs a-sniffing and a partridge in a pear tree'."

course of action (although there was cross-party alignment on one side of the debate) and it looks like the government has now kicked the whole issue into the long grass for us here in Norfolk.

The future of electricity could be local

As it stands, somewhere with a reasonably sized roof and solar panels could use the power generated for their own purposes but would then have to sell the excess to the grid for around 5p per kWh (compared to the average of 14p per kWh paid by householders).

The Local Electricity Bill currently making its way through Parliament would change this. It would give electricity generators, such as a local community centre or landowner, the right to become local suppliers i.e. - sell their energy directly to local people - and make it financially viable to do so.

This change would allow local community schemes to recoup the costs of renewable energy installation more quickly and provide cheaper rates for the local community. Everyone should have the right to buy their electricity from a source that is cheap, local and renewable and this initiative will provide real rewards for communities and businesses alike. A win-win situation!

Steffan

County Councillors' contact details:

Dr Marie Strong: County Councillor Wells Division (Glaven, Priory and Walsingham Parishes)

marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk or 07920 286 597

Steffan Aquarone: County Councillor Melton Constable Division (incl. Bale and Gunthorpe Parishes) steffanaquarone@gmail.com or 07879 451608

BINHAM MEMORIAL HALL

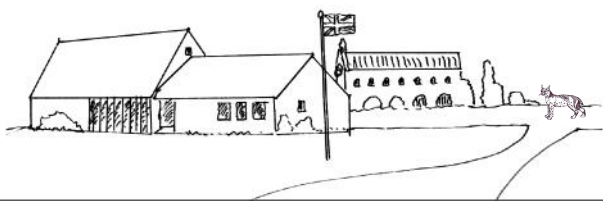
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BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING

The title quotation comes from Isaiah 43. The relevant section is "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

These are words that have given me great comfort during lockdown. For over fifty years, I have celebrated the Communion service every Sunday, written a sermon during the week, met and chatted with people in the congregations that I have grown to love and respect. Then suddenly in March...with serious vulnerabilities in the family, Jo and I became (and still are) a 'bubble', which seriously constrains our own liberty.

Our lives changed, like yours have. My spiritual life changed as well, deepening, forcing me to rely less on myself and more on God. In the quiet, the silence. Just Him

and me. In that silence I found something else. I found you. I was not alone but integrated in the Body of Christ, His Church. We may not meet – but that happens to so many Christians throughout the world – yet we are still part of each other in Christ. In the Lord's Prayer there are no mentions of 'I' or 'Me'; just 'us'. So as we pray we are held in our souls by all those others, here and throughout the world, who pray with us. We are not alone.

In Jesus, heaven and earth met. (Isn't that mind-blowing!). Man and God together. As his Body on earth, we all share that with Him. In Him, we pray to the Father together. Pleased be assured that Jo and I pray for you daily, as we have done since the beginning of March. Please pray for each other and for us. We may not meet but commending each other to God (and taking a bit of time over it) may perhaps be the 'new thing' that God is doing amongst his Church as we lift those close to his heart – each other, the distressed, the lonely, the unloved – into his presence. Helping them physically and financially where we can, loving them as the Beloved of God.

God Bless you and keep you, *Tim and Jo Fawcett*

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD PROJECT

The project is aiming to reach as many young people as possible with a North Norfolk postcode either directly, through schools or via their parents, grandparents or carers. These are tough times for young people, so we are offering free careers advice and help with stress and anxiety.

We understand that some young people would rather have private support outside school, so we are very happy to be available at weekends or in the evening if daytime is difficult.

Sessions can be via Zoom/MS Teams/phone/email or face to face (where restrictions and safety allows) and you can have more time with us if you need extra help.

If you're aged 15-19 (or up to 25 for young people with additional needs) we can offer you confidential sessions to support you with:

- **Choosing a career and identifying the qualifications you will need**
- **Deciding on courses and where you want to attend**
- **Overcoming anxiety or lack of confidence to move forward**
- **Coping with change**

For more information you can speak to a teacher about making contact or you can contact us direct at Gillian@lolastaffordconsulting.co.uk 07305649956 or find us on Facebook @lolastaffordconsulting for Norfolk County Council.

HOME FROM HOME

Becoming a host family for overseas students

Every year, thousands of school age overseas students are educated at independent schools across the UK. When their school closes for half term holidays and exeat weekends, they need a great host family who will provide a home away from home.

Pippa's Guardians has been providing high quality Guardianship services to international students for over 20 years and understand the value of a good home and how a host family can positively impact on a student's wellbeing.

The families we look for are welcoming and interested in other cultures. Having children of similar ages helps but isn't the most important thing as we have many successful host families who have no children, younger children or indeed older children who have left home. Internet access is very important and each student will need their own bedroom with a desk or somewhere quiet for homework. Being part of a family and experiencing day-to-day family life enhances students' study and plays a part in improving their English language.

As well as receiving a generous payment, becoming a Pippa's Guardians host family is a wonderful experience; providing the opportunity to really make a difference to a student whilst they are studying here in the UK, in many cases a very long way from home.

For children of host families it can be really exciting and interesting getting to know other children who have had very different life experiences to them. For families where children have grown up and left home, it is a chance to enjoy the fun and companionship of having younger people in the home once again.

Our students come from all over the world. It is a marvellous and interesting way to learn about the cultures, traditions and daily life of young people and their families from countries very different to our own. Many of our host families form lifelong friendships with our students and their families and stay in touch even after they have left school for university.

The half term holidays fall in October, February and May. Exeat weekends take place up to 6 times a year and are usually for 2 or 3 nights each time. Most students travel back home for the long holidays in the summer, at Christmas and at Easter. Our local Area Managers look after our students during term time and are close by to support you whilst your student is staying in your home.

For further information contact: laura@pippasguardians.co.uk or visit our website www.pippasguardians.co.uk (See cover details)



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LIBRARIES UPDATE

All public libraries in Norfolk are now temporarily closed due to the lockdown. Further info here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries>.

Readers can still place requests online ready for collecting when libraries reopen. The library catalogue is available here: <https://norfolk.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME?HOMEPRMS=GENPARAMS>.

In the meantime, the library online offering continues -

What's on - Norfolk Libraries online

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/whats-on>

Ebooks, emagazines and eaudio

Ebooks and eaudio can be accessed here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/find-an-item/ebooks-and-eaudio>.

WEA WELLS BRANCH

What Next?

You don't need us to tell you that these are extraordinary times - locally, nationally and internationally! In the case of WEA Wells Branch not only did Covid scupper the second half of our spring term programme, it also prevented us from running any face-to-face courses in Wells during the autumn term of 2020. However there were lectures and courses available online, some of them free (to WEA members) and some of them 'paid for'. We mentioned the free weekly members' lectures in an earlier article: these will continue until the end of the year at least and they are usually on a Tuesday afternoon at 5.00pm. To access them you need to be a WEA member, which costs £15 a year (go to www.wea.org.uk/get-involved/membership to find out more about membership and sign up). You'll also need to be able to use Zoom, a technique that many of us will have perfected during lockdown no doubt!

An increasing number of 'paid for courses' are also available and they cover a wide range of subject matter. The best way to find out about them is to look at the Eastern Region website. They've pulled together a selection of courses from across the region and nationally, if you go to www.wea.org.uk/eastern/browse-courses-eastern-region you'll be able to see what's on offer. The list is updated weekly and at the time of writing (at the beginning of Lockdown 2) there are 27 on offer, among them courses on Irish poetry, cartoon drawing for absolute beginners, British drama, costume making and folk music. There are also quite a lot of 'Pathway' courses on aspects of supporting adult and children's education, including such things as

mentoring and helping with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), which may be of interest.

At the moment it's impossible to predict what will happen so far as Covid-19 is concerned but we do earnestly hope that some sort of normality will have returned by next September and that we will be able to offer face-to-face courses and day schools as normal in the autumn term of 2021. In the meantime we hope that you all keep well and keep safe and that we'll be able to welcome you back to the Wells Branch before too long.

FARMING UPDATE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose

With the words "it can't be as bad as last year" ringing in my ears, here are a few stats to sum up the last few weeks: average annual rainfall here is around 670mm; rainfall recorded from 23 September to 31 October (5.5 weeks) was 224mm; the number of 'dry' days in that period was 4, none of which were consecutive. That is over an inch more than we had during the same period last year and less than half the number of dry days. All in all it makes drilling our crucial winter wheat and barley very tricky.

Fortunately, being once bitten and twice shy can have its uses. In order to avoid a similar scenario to last year where we had scarcely begun drilling when rain halted progress, we started a couple of weeks earlier on 14 September and managed to sow nearly 50% of our allotted area before the rain began. The conditions were virtually perfect with warm, moist soil and nice weather overhead. The phrase 'well sown, half grown' is broadly accurate and these crops have generally managed to withstand the subsequent deluge of the past weeks. Since then we have had to muddle in the remaining area as best we can during the few dry spells but it is likely yields will be affected in the long run, as many seeds will not grow in the waterlogged soil.

Even discounting this 'abnormal' weather the general pattern is cooler, wetter weather as we head into winter, so why not start even earlier and sow 100% before the rain? The trouble is crops can get *too* far ahead. If we were to sow cereals in, say, mid-August, there is a chance that the crop would be so thick come spring time it would collapse under its own weight and fall over ("lodging"). Also, the longer it is growing the more susceptible it is to infestation by aphids, which spread barley yellow dwarf virus, as well as diseases such as rust and septoria, which can severely limit yield or increase fungicide costs. A balance must therefore be struck between getting the crop in well but not so early that it costs yield further down the line.

We've had nearly three years of erratic weather,

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heralded by the 'Beast from the East' back in early 2018, which makes the balancing act much harder. Is this climate change manifesting itself? Given the vast timescales involved perhaps it is a little early to draw conclusions but I'm sure if my grandfather were still alive, he'd tell me farming was always like this. The more things change, the more they stay the same!

Jonathan Darby Albanwise Farm Manager

BALE

Contact: Maggie Thomas 01328 822481

maggie2403@icloud.com

BALE VILLAGE NEWS

The villagers of Bale are missing the monthly get-together for fish and chips in the village hall. The absence of 'Christmas fish and chips' is particularly mourned as the lights, table decorations, crackers and plenty of BYO wine marked the beginning of Christmas proper. The lack of the Old Year's Night celebrations is a further loss. This special night when Alastair and Paul, ably assisted by Victoria and Martin, serve up a superb three-course supper followed by fun and games and the customary fizz at midnight has been a highlight of the festive season in Bale.

To compensate for the lack of these events, we would like everyone to add a bit of sparkle to the village this year in the form of Christmas trees, lights, and decorations. Use your imagination to bring some Christmas cheer to your windows, gardens and gates to light up these dark days.



A Christmas tree will be erected outside the village hall at the beginning of December and the village hall committee would welcome helpers in groups of no more than six to come along to decorate it on the weekend of the 5th/6th December. You are invited to decorate the tree with home-made or recycled decorations on a 'Nature' theme but nothing of value, please, as Norfolk gales are likely to carry them off. Creative Baleites are already spraying pinecones, acorns and berries with gold and silver paint. If you are talented enough to produce birds, fruit or flowers, too, don't hold back.

The village has been greatly saddened by the loss of Jane Maude-Roxby, known to us all as Geeta. Unable to join the family in All Saints Church for the funeral, friends in Bale lined the road to pay their last respects. We send our condolences to Richard and to Hannah and family.

We also mourn the loss of Paula Moore's father, Les

King, who passed peacefully away on the 18th October. He will be remembered for his wonderful singing voice, having stepped in to perform 'Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar' with very little notice one Christmas. We will miss his sense of humour.

On a happier note, we welcome three new households to our community. Julia and David Bridge have moved into Hall Farm House; Becky and Tristan Withey into Sunflower Cottage; Fiona Neilson and Lewis Allman into The Granary. We wish them happy times in our lovely village and look forward to seeing them over the Christmas period and at village events when life returns to something like normal.

Maggie Thomas

JANE MAUDE-ROXBY



Jane Maude-Roxby (Geeta) died on Thursday 24th September at home in Sharrington Road, Bale. She had spent three periods in hospital following a fall in the spring when she broke her leg but was determined to return home to be with her family and her dogs.

Born Rosemary Jane Lyle, she grew up in Somerset at Barrington Court, the first country house to be acquired by the National Trust. As soon as she was able to, she moved to London and worked as a secretary at the Royal Ballet school at a time when Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell were pupils there. She was one of the first women to work in television at Rediffusion and later ATV. She joined the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, as costume and wardrobe mistress and it was there that she met and married the actor, Roddy Maude-Roxby.

Having moved to Bale at the end of the 1970s she renovated Clipstreet Farm and made a substantial, beautiful garden filled with roses.

Always a supporter of the arts, she was involved in the setting up of the Wells Centre and regularly hosted visiting performers, musicians and poets. She continued to support small shows and concerts in Norfolk churches, and local exhibitions and craft fairs until the end of her life.

For the past 30 years she lived with the renowned Holt antique dealer and ceramics expert Richard Scott whom she married in 2014 after his first wife, Judy, had passed away.

She loved painting and was part of the Biscuit Club, a small group of painters taught by Dick Leigh. She co-hosted exhibitions of and ran printmaking workshops with Judy Scott. Her favourite painters were Vuillard, Bonnard, Morandi and Winifred Nicholson.

Very active in the village as a member of the village hall committee, she was famed for her huge drunken trifles and Eton Mess and the provision of mince pies and mulled wine at the church carol service. She ran the cake stall at the Bale fete for over 30 years.

Glamorous, strong-willed and vocal in her opinions, she was also kind and generous. She had a good eye for design and a love of sponge-ware china and quirky, often flawed, china figurines. It was Geeta who coined the term Crackpot Scott of the chip shop in Holt.

She loved Norfolk, its ancient churches, the migrating geese, its flat landscape, good soil for gardening, seal trips, fish and chips, Easter egg hunts and Christmas.

Hannah Letts

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WILD BALE

Birds of Bale

The swallows have all flown and the Icelandic pink-footed geese and the redwing are here. As winter takes a hold and the mild autumn weather is a distant memory, our birds fight to survive Norfolk's winter gales and frosts. Passerines, the smaller members of our avian world, are concentrated in and around the trees and shrubs in our gardens: goldfinch, blue tits and blackbirds feasting on the plethora of bird feeders during the short, cold days. In our own garden we have recorded 86 species of birds over the last few years, including a few surprise visitors in the form of woodcock, hawfinch, crossbill and waxwing (*photo right*).



I have recorded 108 species in the parish of Bale while walking Louie around the village. Some, such as wigeon, sandwich tern, greenshank and short-eared owl, have been spotted flying towards the coast. Rarer visitors include the yellow-browed warbler and great grey shrike. I have also recorded water rail, turtle dove, ring ouzel and common tern over the last two years which makes me wonder how many species occur in the village but go unseen.

The fortunes of birds in Bale have been mixed during 2020. On the plus side, spotted flycatchers bred successfully in the village for the first time in seven years; hobbies were seen regularly over the village, presumably nesting in the vicinity, and our common garden birds generally had a good breeding season with bullfinch and green woodpecker (*photo left*) faring particularly well.



House martins and swallows had an excellent season with a mixed post-breeding flock of 80 birds flying over the village in early autumn. Unfortunately, no quail were heard calling in Bale this year and some of the migrant warblers suffered losses during the wetter periods of the summer.

Birds we see and hear every day give us a sense of permanence at a time of change and are of immense benefit to our mental well-being during times of stress and anxiety. It is worth taking a few moments every day to watch our garden birds as they persevere in their struggle to survive.

Paul Laurie



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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BALE

Despite our best efforts, during the recent months of Covid-19 we have been unable to maintain the usual schedule of Sunday Holy Communion services. Many of the local clergy who are "officially" retired are in the age group that must take special care and are therefore unavailable to us. Outside of full lock-down, we are holding a Matins service on the first Sunday of each month and Holy Communion on the second Sunday. No singing is allowed at present but we can enjoy listening to recorded hymns as part of the service. Unless expressly forbidden the church building will remain unlocked during each day for anyone who would like to visit for private prayer.

As in every other area of life, Christmas at All Saints Bale will be different this year. The Carol Service will take place as usual on the Sunday before Christmas at 6pm but, assuming that it will still be considered unsafe to sing, we will again use recordings to make us feel in the festive spirit and intersperse these with the traditional bible readings.

We do hope that as many as possible will attend. We will be able to accommodate families/groups safely in alternate pews and will have all necessary precautions in place. This service is traditionally a wonderful bringing-together of the Bale community and it is to be hoped that we can produce some of that Christmas spirit despite the conditions!

On Christmas day there will sadly be no service in Bale. Once the local schedule of services has been published we will post the location of the nearest Holy Communion and Family Services on the church noticeboard and in the porch.

We look forward to resuming normal service as soon as possible.
Paula Moore

HUNDRED CLUB DRAW RESULTS

We are continuing to hold the draw despite fish and chips not being possible at the moment.

September 2020

Sybil Nash £25
Emily Postan £10
Dan Moore £5
Maria Postan £5

October 2020

Carlotta Newbury £25
Evan Turnbull £10
Chris Broughton £5
Katie Jewitt £5

BALE BOOK GROUP

Having been forced to 'meet' online at the bi-monthly meetings of our book group, we were very excited to be able to meet in person outside Bale village hall after lockdown. This was a temporary reprieve: the 'Rule of Six' having been introduced before our next meeting so we were soon back online struggling with phones, tablets and

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laptops, trying not to talk over each other and, in my case, trying to prevent Daisy the dog interrupting proceedings.

How marvellous, then, that we managed to have such a lively discussion on Martin Moore's choice of book, 'Home Fire' by Kamila Shamsie. Some liked the book, some were less enthusiastic but all agreed that it was a fascinating insight into the lives of young British Muslims and a troubling vision of how radicalisation can impact on an ordinary family.

We currently have a space available in our book group. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact Maggie Thomas on maggie2403@icloud.com or 01328 822481. I am not sure when we will next meet in person but we are keeping the group alive online until then. *MT*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The perfect ginger cake

If you happen to walk past our cottage on Sharrington Road, chances are you'll see me in the kitchen with my nose in a cookbook. I don't know quite why, but I'm fascinated by the when and the why of food as well as the what and the how. This was an interest I shared with my lovely friend, Geeta, and we would frequently swap cookbooks, exchanging ideas and opinions. The recipe I want to share with you is one I shared with Geeta shortly before the accident that led to her hospitalisation. It's from a series of articles by Felicity Cloake called "How to make the perfect ...". I love that series not only because it's very well written but also because she takes you through other writers' variations of the dish in question and weighs up the pros and cons of different combinations of ingredients or methods before settling on her particular preference. So, this recipe is for "the perfect ginger cake".

Geeta joyfully likened the experience of eating it to a depth charge exploding in her mouth: something she wholeheartedly approved of, in a ginger cake at least.

For a 20cm cake tin you will need:

100g unsalted butter (plus a little for greasing the tin); 100g dark muscovado sugar; 175g self-raising flour; 4 tsp ground ginger; 175g golden syrup; 3 tbs ginger wine (although I used syrup from a jar of stem ginger); a walnut-sized piece of fresh ginger, peeled and grated; 150g candied ginger, chopped; 2 eggs
Once you have made the cake batter, bake it at 160 C for 50 to 60 minutes, depending on how your oven behaves.

BALE PAINTING GROUP

The Bale Painting Group suspended meetings at the onset of the Covid-19 restrictions. It was hoped that the group could restart in September but worsening infection

rates and the introduction of the 'Rule of Six' put paid to our plans. The current rise in cases does not bode well for reconvening any time soon. We are looking at March 2021 as a possible start date but that is obviously open to change.

In the meantime, we are using space at home to paint and to keep the ideas flowing. You may be inspired by Grayson Perry's super series originally shown on Channel 4, now showing on All4. Sky Arts (available on Freeview) has been running a portrait-painting competition which may be of interest, too.

Looking forward to seeing you all again when we can meet safely. Keep painting, if you can! *Peter Jones*

BALE VILLAGE WHATSAPP GROUP

Keeping in touch

The Bale Village WhatsApp Group grew out of the Covid-19 WhatsApp Group, set up by Alastair Macorkindale to enable Bale villagers to keep in touch during lockdown. It has become an excellent way of finding out what is going on in the village, discovering if you are the only one to have a power cut or the only one not to have had your bin emptied! More exciting interchanges have included information about the village hall Christmas tree and what sort of new lights we will need to purchase.

If you live in Bale and would like to join the village WhatsApp Group, please contact me on 01328 822481 or email maggie2403@icloud.com with your mobile number and I will pass it on to Alastair. *Maggie Thomas*

A BALE RECIPE

(for a happy Christmas)

1 cup water, 1 cup sugar,
4 large eggs, 1 cup flour, 8oz nuts,
2 cups dried fruit, 1 tsp salt,
1 tsp baking soda, 1 bottle malt whisky,
Juice 1 lemon



Sample the whisky to check quality. Take a large bowl. (Whisky can be drunk by the level cupful). Try it. Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup butter in large fluffy bowl. Make sure the whisky is still OK. Cry another cup. Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the dried fruit.

Mix on the turner. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry loose with a drowscriver. Sample whisky to check tonstisticity. Next sift two cups of salt or something.

Check the whisky. Now sift the lemon juice and strain the nuts. Add one tablespoon. Grease the oven. Turn the take tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Check the whisky. Go to bed.



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BINHAM

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BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

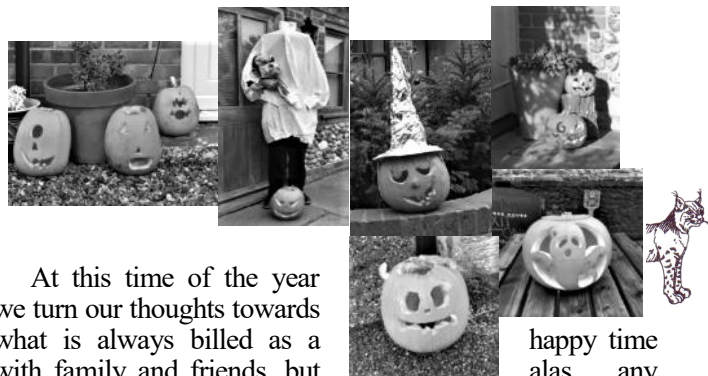
On a beautiful autumn day, I sit down to reflect on what has been happening in the village since September. The Parish Council meets on November 9th, having planned a face to face meeting in the Memorial Hall, we will meet via Zoom, and this may well be the case for the foreseeable future.

But, the recent wind and rain seems to have blown in some unwanted news, namely the national lockdown during November. Despite the government having set various parameters and guidance as to what we should be doing to keep the Covid-19 infection levels under control, the infection rate has increased. The threat is that the NHS will be overwhelmed again.

Whatever happens, there is now an even greater need to be vigilant as Covid-19 cases rise rapidly across the whole of the UK. Here in North Norfolk these remain low, but everyone should recognise the need for another lockdown and act accordingly.

The NNDC leader has outlined what it all means for North Norfolk <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2020/november/statement-from-our-leader/> and demonstrates that the district council is committed to looking out for all those who live, work and visit the area.


Continuing on the weather theme, the wind and rain provided a spooky backdrop to the many Halloween pumpkin lanterns in the village.



At this time of the year we turn our thoughts towards what is always billed as a with family and friends, but such preparations for the Christmas holidays will need to be tailored to fit in with the ever changing Covid guidelines. Most of the village plans are on hold, although conversations are ongoing as to what is possible within the guidelines. The good news is a Christmas tree festooned with its lights will be erected on the Village green. There is, however, a challenge out via the regular coronavirus letter for children to think about making some Christmas tree decorations and adults to put up Christmas lights throughout the village. The idea is to generate some cheer to an otherwise uncertain festive season.

In the meantime, Parish Council work continues to ensure that COVID guidelines and additional information are circulated via regular update letters to all village residents, the Parish notice boards, the Memorial Hall website and Facebook (www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk) and Parish Council (<https://binhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>).

Observant drivers/walkers through and around the village will notice that there are a number of houses up for



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sale, under offer or sold. This signals to me that we will soon be welcoming new families to the village. At the same time there is much activity around the Broadland development to prepare houses that have been sold and or awaiting occupation. The development is beginning to bed down into its surroundings. The roads are fully signposted so there should not be any more mix ups with deliveries or post going astray.

A number of planning applications to upgrade, extend or refurbish houses some listed have been received by NNDC and passed on to the PC for comment. The PC planning group will consider, take advice and visit the sites where necessary and feedback to NNDC.

We are pleased to say that there have been some improvements to the drains in the village, including recent work around the Priory Church North door entrance to unblock a silted-up drain that after recent torrential downpours, water has caused water to flood inside as far as the organ.

The PC will be asked to agree arrangements for a dog bin to be sited in the vicinity of the Priory Church and Ruins at the next meeting, having consulted the PCC. Of course, permission will be sought from Norfolk Archaeological Trust and English Heritage as to the siting of the bin. This is an attempt to persuade dog walkers to pick up their dog mess and place in a suitable bag and bin it and not just leave it where it suits.

With respect to Christmas celebrations, notices will appear in the village and on websites in due course as nothing is currently available or confirmed. So, please watch out for these as everything is on hold at the moment.

The year has been unbelievably challenging for everyone no matter how old or young. The benefit as I see it is that the entire village has been vigilant about making sure we are safe and well. By doing this we have contributed to ensuring the low rates of Covid-19 infection remain just that, to protect ourselves, others and Norfolk with an emphasis until Christmas at least on staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

As PC chair, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all those who have provided and delivered lunches, letters, treats for the children, pumpkins, assisted those whom have needed help with shopping and collecting prescriptions and also those who been part of the Covid-19 secure cleaning rota in the Priory Church which has meant it has remained open for individual prayer and Sunday services since July.

I send my very best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year. *Elizabeth S Brady, Chair Binham PC*

BINHAM PRIORY CHURCH

There will be no services in the church until after 2nd December.

At the time of going to press, if and when there may be services during December, and especially during the Christmas week, is uncertain. Details, when known, will be placed on the websites and local posters.

During all this period the Church will be open for individual private prayer each day from 11am to 2pm and during the Christmas week 10am to 3pm.

Please observe Covid precautions, social distancing and log in to the Track and Trace QR code immediately inside the north door.

BINHAM VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

The end of this extraordinary year is nearly here and we all at the Hall wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and have our fingers crossed that 2021 will be, perhaps, a bit more normal.

The playground equipment remains closed and we are doing our very best to try and make sure we can open it safely once the November lockdown is over. We know that other playgrounds have been open and understand everyone's frustration that ours has not. Our insurance company is doing it's best with very limited staff but is being extremely slow and careful at getting back to us with some sort of definitive answer so we are erring on the side of caution. Details will be posted on the website and the facebook page when we know more.

The Hall now has its own QR code. If you have the NHS Track and Trace app then you can check in using the code. Do use it if you can.

Don't forget you can also access the Local Lynx via www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk, too.

Obviously it's been a limited year in terms of lovely things we have done but a highlight was the Village Show in September which was wonderful.

Our lovely hall is a wonderful place to hold a special event so roll on 2021!

Mary Hunt

THE FRIENDS OF BINHAM PRIORY

Christmas approaches fast but during these difficult times none of us can be certain exactly how we will be spending this special holiday this year. However your celebrations pan out, we wish you happiness and we send our hopes for a joyful and healthy New Year.

We are ever hopeful of a return to some kind of normality soon and we look forward to seeing our members and friends in the not too distant future.

At FoBP, we have managed to keep our socially

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distanced committee busy with continuing plans for future events and worthwhile projects to support our ancient Binham Priory church building.

We have also kept our website live with changing photographs of Binham and the different activities which have kept our village spirits up in 2020. We are always pleased to receive contributions and welcome your event and web content suggestions.

You can contact us by emailing friendsofbinhampriory@gmail.com or via our website, friendsofbinhampriory.weebly.com. For now, though, please accept our very best wishes for the festive season and please follow all guidelines to keep yourselves and others safe.

Carolyn Raymond

BINHAM ART GROUP

The Group has been meeting whenever it has been allowed. We started with outside sessions when the weather was kind, at places such as the Priory, Morston, Glandford and Binham village. As the weather turned colder and wetter we retreated to the marquees and then inside at the Chequers. We owe Sarah and Simon our deepest thanks as it means that we have been able to keep the Group painting during these troubled times.

Now that we are into another lockdown we have to look at other ways of keeping in touch and encouraging our members to paint. To do this we have a private group on Facebook where members can chat and post their pictures so that others can offer their critiques.

Our next 'big' event is going to be a virtual Christmas Exhibition which will showcase some of the pictures we have painted during lockdowns. The exhibition will open on our website on the 11th December, when you will be able to view the paintings, which will be available for sale. This will be a great opportunity to buy some fine original

paintings, created by local artists, that make amazing Christmas presents www.binhamartgroup.weebly.com.

We still have the gallery at the Chequers where the pictures are for sale, but this is only open when the pub is allowed to reopen. We are extremely grateful to Sarah and Simon for creating this facility, as it means we have sold three more pictures during the break in lockdown.

The group wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas. Keep well, safe and cheerful.

John Hill

HINDRINGHAM AND BINHAM OPEN CIRCLE

Hello everyone. I write this as we go into the second lockdown and I just wanted to wish you and yours well, and stay safe.

As I said in the latest Open Circle email I have now sent donations of £200 on your behalf our three local hospices. At least our funds can be doing some good. Amanda and I held our own version of Open Circle when we skyped last Thursday! Sorry no one else joined us; will try again in November. It was nice to catch up with her and we both had seen other members over the last few weeks. I was looking forward to the rag rugging lady! Hope we can book her and our other speakers again soon.

Best wishes, Sue Elkins, Secretary

"LYRICS IN LOCKDOWN"

Recent months have proved to be a difficult time for us all.

Adjusting to a new way of life, with relationships and mental health for many under immense strain; many people have been at a loss, not knowing how to spend all this newfound time!

Just before the initial lockdown in March, my friend Walter and I had our first gig as a new duo, 'BOOGZ' at the Birdcage in Norwich.

The night had such a lovely, intimate atmosphere and being so well received by the audience made us feel that all our hard work had paid off.

We had lots of ideas and plans after this, which unfortunately came to a standstill when the Coronavirus took hold, lockdown was announced, and the future of our new venture was put on hold.

Gigs were out of the question; however, we knew we had to do something!

continued on page 18



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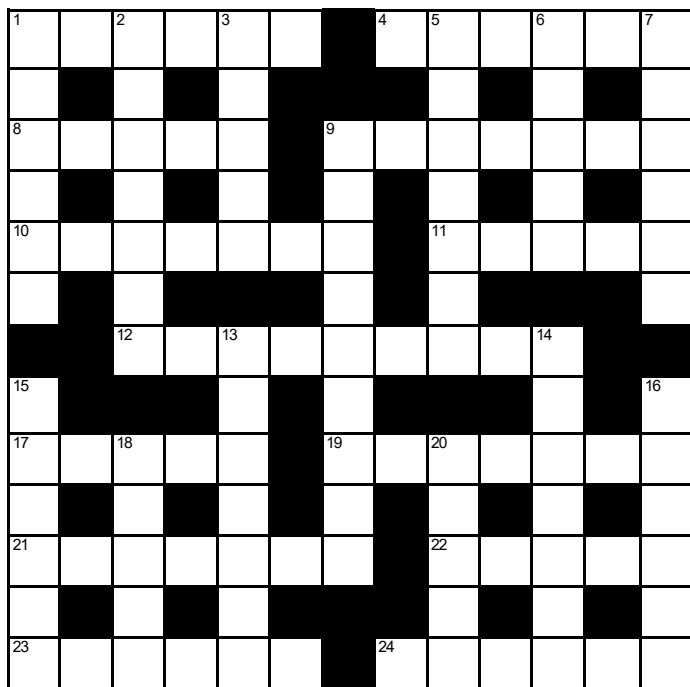


CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGES

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

by Bob (answers on p 31)

A special version for these difficult times!



Across

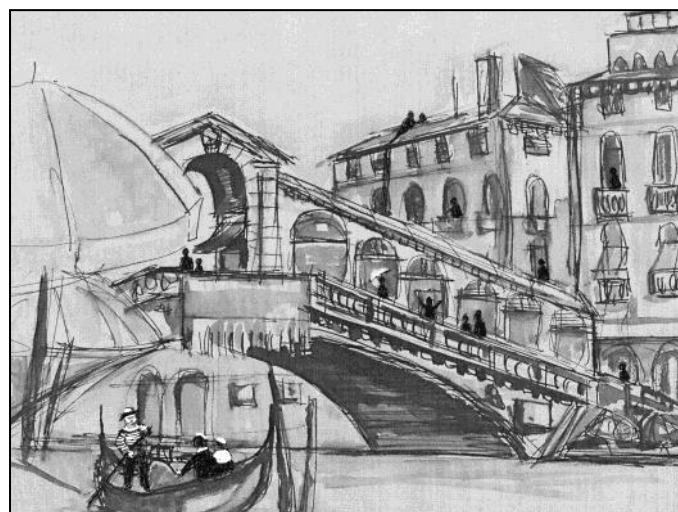
1. Dapper tree (6)
4. Wonder at this comic books series (6)
8. Some veg' ends turned over in this deserted place(5)
9.and this traveller lives somewhere similar (7)
10. Rio Dave modified ducks (7)
11. Bring the start of lease to its end to give support to the artist (5)
12. Sufferers from 3,6 down may need this attention (9)
17. River-banker was getting warmer but was beheaded (5)
18. Just one change in tiny creatures causes the spread of 3,6 down (7)
21. Code-breaking genius takes in compass point and is changing direction (7)
22. As lute is returned with its end cut off we arrive at a city in Oklahoma (5)
23. Add your name again - or give up! (6)
24. It sounds like someone's after her, but she is innocent (6)

Down

1. Bess and Alan share a leather shoe (6)
2. Grot war led to the development of a poisonous weed (7)
- 3,6 Six from Rome, surrounded by fish, and the same number followed by a short Russian, are making so many ill! (5,5)
5. The tale about an Olympian (7)
7. Like a cloud wandering without company (6)
9. Holding up the wall and marching proudly (9)
13. Being paid, making a piece of jewellery around the beginning of November (7)
14. Name for a cat? That makes me laugh! (7)
15. Victim of 3,6 down may need who?(6)
16. Two directions to the headland lead to freedom (6)
18. Stage acts - good ones deserve others (5)
20. Order the dog to collect it! (5)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

by Bob (answers on p 31)



In my last visit to Venice, just before the lock-down, I found a quiet spot by the Rialto bridge to make a quick sketch. After a bit of lunch and a doze I went back to see if I could add to my drawing and found the place buzzing with people. How many figures did I have to put in? (Answer = 15)



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

by Samphire (answers on page 31)

1. What colour is angelica?
2. What happens in a vortex?
3. To which section of an orchestra does a tuba belong?
4. In which sporting event does the winning team move backwards?
5. What is a fandango?
6. After 7 which is the next highest prime number?
7. What is a carillon?
8. On map what places are joined by a contour?
9. Which of Shakespeare's plays involves a pound of flesh?
10. What size of bottle is a magnum?

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGES

WORDSEARCH: 2020 MEMORIES



Can you find:

ANTIBAC CLAPPING COVID CYCLING FAMILY FUNDRAISING GARDENING GROWYOUROWN
HANDWASH ISOLATION LOCKDOWN MASK NHS RAINBOW RULEOFSIX SHIELDING
STAYATHOME WALKING

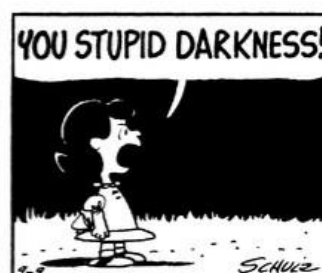
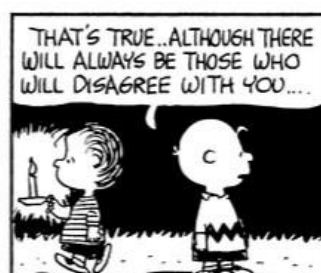
LOCKDOWN LYNX

(self-isolating locations p31)

Local Lynx is following government guidelines and keeping a low profile this Christmas. There are 20 places to find him but please keep 2 metres away at all times. *RH*

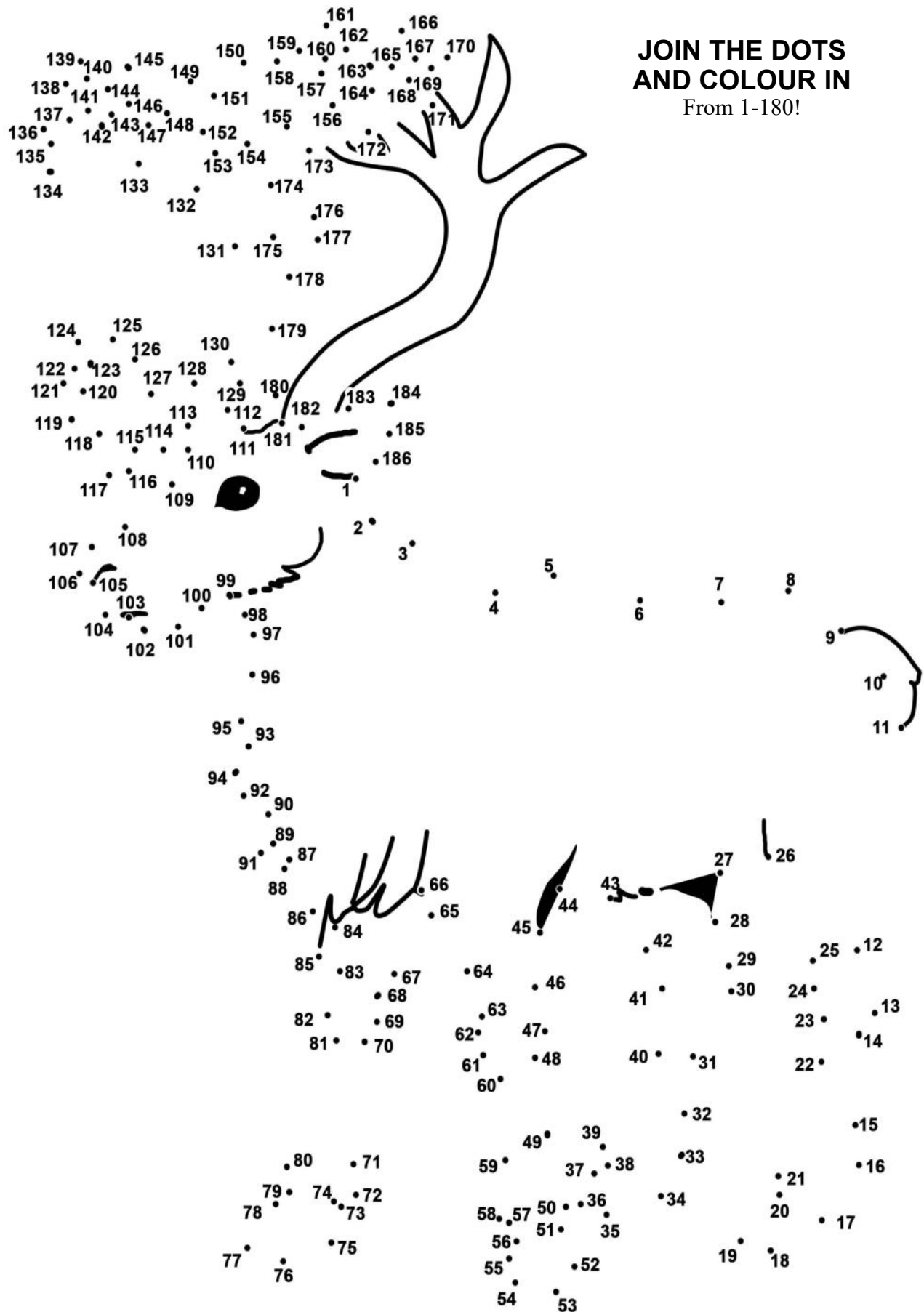


Look out for our Langham School stars throughout this issue highlighting our villages' plans to celebrate the season and support community causes. And if you would like to join in, please contact your village rep, parish council or parochial church council.



©Charles Schulz, 1965

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGES

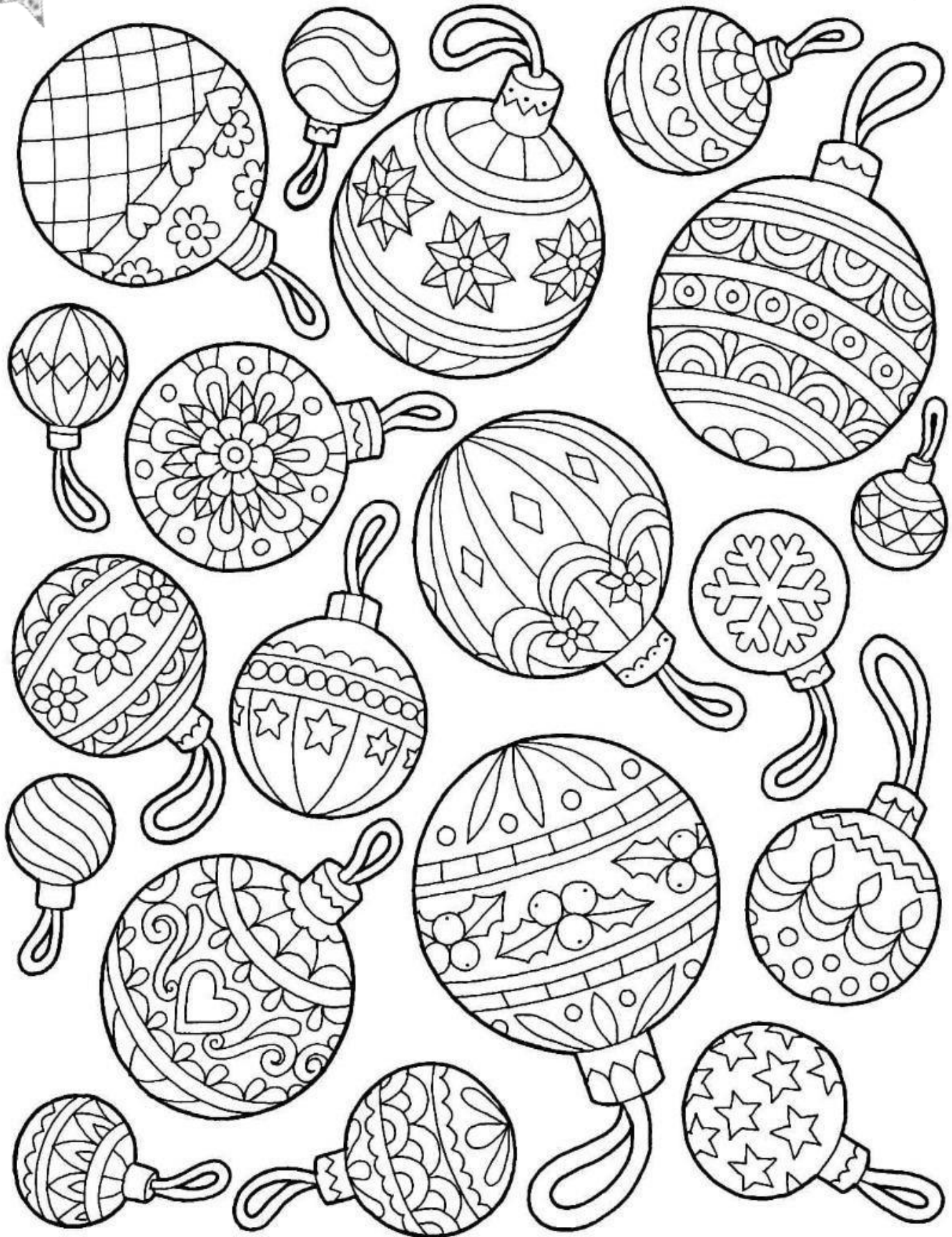




CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGES



Or something a little more detailed to colour in at leisure – one for the adults too?!



continued from page 13

Music is a really crucial part of both mine and guitarist Walter's lives, so having this as an outlet, particularly during these tough times, has been a real saviour and given us a feeling of hope. So, you might ask... what did we do about it? We decided to write an album of course!

To begin with, we went through the process of rehearsing over Zoom (everyone's new friend/meeting place). This proved rather difficult... with both of us "freezing" mid interesting facial expressions as we tried to play and sing over a crackly line. Let's just say, Zoom is not the best rehearsal space!

Once the lockdown restrictions eased, we were able to meet in person to continue writing and soon after, began recording our album at a studio in Norwich.

Prior to the current four-week lockdown, Walter and I recorded a little home video of one of the songs off the album 'Just Friends' - which we originally wrote together back in music college some years ago.

We had made plans to do a photoshoot in November with a local photographer on Wells beach but unfortunately, our "dressing up" session has been postponed for now.

If you'd like to take a look at our home video, please do so by searching on Youtube: 'BOOGZ Just Friends', Facebook, 'BOOGZ' or on Instagram @boogz_music.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"And now there remain faith, hope and charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity."

COCKTHORPE

Contact: Maurice Matthews 01328 830350
maurice.matthews@peppard.net

REMEMBERING



I Miss Your Smile.

I love the farming and country life, I feel honoured to see the wide blue skies of Norfolk, but Covid-19 has put the whole of our natural life in peril.

Remembrance Sunday seemed to be so much more poignant this year with the silent isolation. I decorated a poppy tree in the small

but lovely church of Cockthorpe. It gave me time to reflect on what people are doing to try and keep people they don't know safe and well. We must all look after each other by obeying the lockdown rules, then maybe we can have Christmas with our loved ones, and I can have the thing I miss most; the wonderful, beautiful smiles of my grandchildren. *Juliet Case*



The church will be wide open to all visitors and walkers passing by. Come Christmas, a tree and floral decorations will be added. Please visit at any time. *MM*

FIELD DALLING

Contact: Julie Wiltshire
julie_wilson75@hotmail.com

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Despite the lockdown, both churches are open for private prayer and reflection at any time - you are very welcome to use them as a sacred space in any way you

wish. We will continue to offer an Evensong by Zoom on the first Sunday of the month at 5pm, and, if the current lockdown is extended, will hold them weekly as we have been doing in November, also at 5pm. These services have contained some exciting surprises; we have particularly enjoyed welcoming up to a dozen friends and family from North Carolina recently! You will be very welcome, as you always are in church.

Please contact Ian Newton on 03128 830947 or at iannewton46@gmail.com if you need further details of how to take part.

We have been very sorry that many activities have been curtailed but we did enjoy some healthy mornings of strenuous activity giving the old churchyard its annual trim. With help from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, we are encouraging wildflowers to grow and next year will be cutting paths to make access easier whilst leaving areas identified by the Trust more natural.

Ian Newton

And as we prepare for what may be a different Christmas, please join us for:

Advent Group

Yes! This will begin on Monday 30th November from 4.45pm - 6pm, and it will continue on Mondays 7th, 14th and 21st of December.

No! Not around our kitchen table, but with the help of Zoom. As ever, all welcome to join this thoughtful discussion group. Bring your own tea and cake!

Fiona fionanewton46@gmail.com 01328 830 947

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This is allowed to continue - and so will do so, physically spaced properly. Friday 11th December at 4pm, Manor Farm Cottage, 67 Langham Road.

Fiona fionanewton46@gmail.com 01328 830 947

DEFIBRILLATOR

Great news that the defibrillator is now installed at the Villagers' Hall on the outside of the porch. Should it be required, instructions on its use can be found within the case. Remember to take a mobile as you will need to phone for the access code. Well done to all those who helped get this organised.



CHRISTMAS CHEER

To help bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to the village, just a suggestion that perhaps we could all decorate or light up a window with a Christmas theme for passers by to see, or some lights in the garden.

In addition, we hope to have a Christmas tree outside the Villagers' Hall this year.

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200 CLUB

September winners: £50 Carol Wood, £25 Ginny Kirby, £15 Jennie Lane.

October Winners: £50 Jeannette Moir, £25 Herbert Burton, £15 June Back.

November Winners: £50 Shirley Bugg, £25 Clare Burnett-Hall, £15 Jennie Lane.

Thank you to all those who have already paid for next year's subscriptions, and a polite reminder to those who are still to pay.

After doing the 200 Club for the last 9 years, Steve and Susie are retiring from the 200 Club Office as of October 2021, so we are looking for any volunteers to take this over as it raises vital funds. Please get in touch if you are willing to take it on!

GUNTHORPE

Contact: John Blakeley 01263 861008

jbconsult@btinternet.com

www.gunthorpefriends.co.uk

FOGPC

50/50 Club Draw Results

September		October	
Ali Lomax	£20	Myfi Everett	£20
Donald Burton	£15	Mike Whyman	£15
James Bent	£5	John Clark	£5
Hazel Hammond	£5	Fiona Flint	£5
Julian Hammond	£5	Ed White	£5
John Rush	£5	John Corney	£5
Tom Elwell	£5	Lin Dufour	£5



The even tighter Covid-19 restrictions announced by the Prime Minister on 22nd September followed by the national lockdown of early November have removed any chance of holding monthly coffee mornings or the Christmas party for the foreseeable future. However as previously announced, the monthly draws have and will continue, with an independent person making the draw, and the results for the September and October draws are given above. The December draw will be an enhanced one with prizes totalling £100. Thanks to us now having 138 members (a record) monthly prize money will increase by £5 from November onwards.

As a reminder it costs just £1 per month (payable in advance for the year to May 2021) to join and you can get your subscriptions, and more, back if you are lucky enough to win a prize. Importantly the 50:50 Club has contributed

over £1,100 to the "Friends" funds as we finish this subscription year. With events such as the Friends July BBQ having to be cancelled this is an important contribution to maintaining the Friends income.

Payments can also include your "Friends" membership of a minimum of £5 per annum (or part of a year). BACS payments can be made as detailed below, but please inform John Blakeley (e-mail: jbconsult@btinternet.com) if you pay by BACS (date and amount) so that records can be kept up to date and you do not miss the chance to participate in your first qualifying draw. The Friends membership and any other donation, but not the 50:50 Club subscriptions, can be Gift Aided and if you have not already completed a form we would be most grateful if you could consider doing this – provided you are and remain a taxpayer of course.

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To again quote the motto of a somewhat larger lottery can we remind you that "you have to be in it to win it!"

Myfi Everett & John Blakeley

ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

The annual Norfolk Churches Trust bicycle ride took place on Saturday, the 12th of September. Saint Mary's, is delighted and immensely grateful to report that Ben Williamson pedalled to no less than thirty churches or chapels for us. He raised £205. Half of it, plus gift aid, will provide much needed support for our church. Half will go to the Norfolk Churches Trust central funds. The Trust has provided substantial help for repairs to Saint Mary's in the past. Ben and his family have done this bike ride each September for Gunthorpe for several years now, in honour of the wonderful and greatly loved Fred Morley brother of Ben's grandmother Cissy Williamson. Thank you Ben, more than we can say.

The annual harvest festival service took place in Saint Mary's Gunthorpe on Sunday the 11th October. It was taken by the Rector (supported by his dogs!). There was a fine display of fruit and vegetables of all sorts, mostly grown in the village, not least in the highly productive Hall gardens; and parishioners provided a large amount of additional dry foods. It all went afterwards to the Holt Youth Project. For those of you who do not know it, this is a very fine enterprise. For many years it has been providing help of all sorts to the young of the area, many of whom are by no means without needs and support. Many gave very generously, including some parishioners who no longer live in the village. The church and all of us are hugely grateful.

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On Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, Roger Bland officiated at a short outdoor Service at the Village War Memorial. Ben Williamson, serving with the Royal Engineers, laid the wreath. A collection amongst attendees raised the sum of £140 to be donated to the Royal British Legion.

FRIENDS OF GUNTHORPE PARISH CHURCH

The Friends charity is surviving well on the back-burner of life in this coronavirus pandemic - thanks to John and Richard doing the collection and accounting, and the members both old and new continuing their financial contributions. There are no functions like the harvest supper, no meetings of committees or gatherings of 50/50 Clubs... but we very much look forward to the return of these in the future. It is a great sadness that Christmas is coming and it is looking like 'Gunthorpe Village Christmas' may not be celebrated with the usual gathering - yet another tradition we will miss!

It leaves me thinking of what meaningful traditions I cling to from my childhood family Christmases. My Grandmother, then my Mother and now I (when our family is gathered for Christmas) read at the table after dinner - to the assembled group of all ages - this article "Yes Virginia There Is A Santa Claus". On the rare Christmas in my adult life when I have not been able to return 'home' for Christmas, I confess, I have read it myself. I know it is a bit 'schmaltzy', as many such traditions are! Her letter, printed in The New York Sun in 1897, read:

Dear Editor, I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth - is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West 95th Street

The editor, Francis P. Church, printed his response to Virginia in The Sun:

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry and no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming

down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not; but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

[From The New York Sun, September 21, 1897]

Virginia grew up to become a very modern woman with a PhD in Education, who founded her own school and died at the age of 81 in 1971. She contributes to my Christmas in a splendid way each year.

I hope the joy of the season finds a way to shine through for you all and send my very best wishes!

Marie Denholm, Friends chairman



GUNTHORPE & BALE CHRISTMAS TREES



Gunthorpe and Bale PC have agreed to donate £100 to each village towards purchase of a Christmas tree and lights to decorate a central position in each village. In return, the PC would like both villages to make provision for collecting items to be donated to a local foodbank, say for the first 2 weeks in December - a waterproof box underneath each tree which could be emptied on a daily basis and then taken to the foodbank once a week was suggested.

VILLAGE INSTITUTE NEWS

As I write this short article at the beginning of November we have information from East Anglian Air Ambulance that our defibrillator has arrived at the warehouse from America on the 2nd November. So hopefully we will soon have possession of it, and by the time this Lynx is available to read it should be ready to use and attached to the Institute wall.

In the future one of the team from the EAAA hope to run demonstration / training classes on its use in the Hall for small groups. The freedom to do that will be dependant on

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10 Station Road Holt alisoncourtney3@gmail.com

the Covid rules of course. In the meantime once installed we are looking into ways of passing on information about the equipment and its use around the village - probably a mixture of internet and a flyer.

It's a great pity we have not been able to have our Christmas party this year together with the 50/50 club. Let us hope social events will spring into life in 2021. May the festive period find us all well and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year. *Tony Dufour and the Committee*

Gunthorpe has sadly and unexpectedly lost two of its long-term residents in the last two months.

NORMA PROUTON

We were deeply saddened to learn that Norma Prouton had died at home in Gunthorpe in the early hours of 21st September, surrounded by her devoted family who had been very involved in her final weeks of palliative nursing care. She had been diagnosed with cancer in early August and told it was incurable on 1 September - all less than two months before she died. She was 76 years old.



Norma was born on 9 November 1943 into a railway family living in a railway cottage in Hunwick Station near Bishop Auckland in County Durham. During her childhood the family made several moves following railway postings. She had an interesting education ranging from the local primary school to a private primary school in Hull (where she travelled aged 9, and unaccompanied by an adult, 20 miles each way by train and bus each day) followed by secondary education at a convent school and then Teacher Training in Deptford - where she and Ken met in 1965 during Rag Week at a combined College Valentine Dance in Dulwich. They married in 1967. Norma initially taught in Croydon before moving to Bromley in 1968 - where she taught at the Malcolm Infants' School, and where she and Ken lived until the mid 1990s.

Norma and Ken had holidayed in Briningham, and then had initially bought a holiday cottage in Hempstead near Holt so they knew this area well. They bought Holme Cottage in January 1994, and then moved to Gunthorpe full time in 1995 when Ken retired as a college lecturer. Norma carried on some teaching locally as a supply teacher. They both loved travel, gardening and DIY projects (buying a holiday home in the south of France needing lots of work). They were very active members of the Fakenham Town twinning arrangements with Olivet in France, and often entertained their counterparts here in Gunthorpe. Norma

maintained her northern links and heritage with her no nonsense, but calm and understanding approach and sense of humour.

Norma will be greatly missed by Ken, her children Helen, Bruce and Oliver and their families and by her many friends in Gunthorpe, Sharrington and Briningham, and indeed in many other parts of the UK and countries far and wide. We send our heartfelt condolences to them all.

RAY KELLY

Again we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Ray Kelly. Born on the outskirts of London on 19 October 1948, Ray chose the country life and moved to Norfolk with Jenny in the early 70s. After renovating cottages in Reepham and Wood Dalling he arrived in Gunthorpe in 1982 together with Jenny, Will, Tom, goats, dogs, cat and chickens to live in a caravan whilst carrying out the largest renovation to date, The Old Forge.



Ray's abiding interest was blues music and he played guitar in various bands from the age of 17. He joined other musicians to form The Boogaloos, a blues band well-known in Norfolk pubs and clubs.

He considered himself lucky to have been born at the birth of the welfare state and the NHS, and although a rare visitor to the doctor greatly appreciated the care of the Oncology department of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and palliative care nurse from Priscilla Bacon Lodge towards the end of his life.

Ray loved travelling and visited India often with Jenny, as well as annual trips to European capitals with a group of friends.

He enjoyed working with his partner Peter Marra on renovating houses for people in North Norfolk.

He died peacefully in Gunthorpe at The Old Forge on 10 October 2020. We offer our deepest condolences to Jenny and his family and his many friends in Norfolk.

WELCOME

We offer a very warm welcome to William (Will) Beeson who along with his children Jessica (19), George (17) and Jack (15) has moved into Bunns Cottage from Lower Bodham. Will is following his family traditions (since 1850) of potato farming and in his case marketing, and he is well known in this area. Jessica has just arrived at Durham University, sadly in time to be locked down as this article is being written, and is studying Geography. George and Jack are both in school at Greshams.

We hope that they will all be very happy in their new home in our eclectic and very sociable village.



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LANGHAM

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christinacooper27@googlemail.com

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sadly this cannot take place this year but I hope you will all save your unwanted presents, books, toys and anything else you feel will be appropriate, for a forthcoming event some time in 2021 when, it is to be hoped, we will be 'Covid Free'. Thank you all for your valuable past support.

Langham PCC

FUNDRAISING SALES IN LANGHAM

I have been asked when another sale will take place - I wish I knew is the answer. It is very unfortunate that our fundraising for Blood Cancers has now been on hold for many months but we cannot do anything.

I am aware that a lot of my regulars are missing the social aspect of our sales as well as grabbing a bargain or two but can only promise you all we shall do our best as soon as we are able.

In the meantime please take care of yourselves and try to enjoy Christmas. Keep safe and well, best wishes Maureen and Peter Dennis.



LIGHT UP LANGHAM



We are aiming to get as many residents in Langham to light up their houses in some way for the month of December.

You may have seen the posters around the village already, but we would love you to enter into the spirit of Christmas and join in the event.

This does not need to be a large flashy display, just some simple fairy lights in the window! You could put lights on a tree already in your front garden, along a fence or hedge, or just a small display inside on the windowsill, not forgetting of course the Christmas tree!

The choices are endless but will bring some cheer to these darker days and get us out walking to see the displays, even after the sun's gone down!

There are no prizes, just an idea that brings the village together as we sadly cannot have any of our usual Christmas events this year, and this is something that can be achieved even if we are still in lockdown!

Looking forward to seeing Langham in Lights!

TIME FOR A LAUGH!

Speak Up!

A husband said to his wife: "I think you are losing your hearing. Can you hear me?"

No reply. So he moved closer and again said: "I think you are losing your hearing. Can you hear me?"

Again, no reply. He moved closer, saying even louder: "Can you hear me? I'm worried you're losing your hearing". Still no reply.

So, standing right next to her, he bellowed: "I think you're going deaf - can you hear me?"

His wife replied: "I've said 'yes' four times!"

Patient: Doctor, I keep singing "Green green grass of home" - I think I have Tom Jones syndrome!

Doctor: It's not unusual.

Patient: Doctor, I've broken my arm in two places.

Doctor: Hmm, I'd advise you not to go back to either of those places then.

I went to the doctor and told him I'd swallowed a golf ball. The doctor said "yes, I can see it's gone down a fairway!"

"Daddy, I inherited my intelligence from you, didn't I?"

"That's right my clever girl!"

"That makes sense, because mummy has still got hers."

Why is Henry's wife covered in tooth marks? Because he's Tudor.

I have two boys, 5 and 6. We're no good at naming things in our house.

I waited an hour for my starter so I complained "It's not rocket salad".

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Lino and Carol Scalise. We hope you will be very happy living here in Langham.

Langham P.C.C.

COME AND CELEBRATE!

Carol Service at Langham Church with traditional carols and at the new time on Christmas Eve of 4pm.

Please look at posters beforehand as Covid-19 restrictions may necessitate changes.

All Welcome.

LANGHAM FACEBOOK PAGE

Did you know that the village has its own Facebook page? Why not 'Like'/Follow us at www.facebook.com/LanghamNorfolk

The page currently has 216 followers and welcomes contributions.

From photos of wildlife and scenes around the village for those who can't get out (or back in!), to reuniting people with their paddling pool and/or on-line packages, to bus timetable reminders, allotment availability, hiding 'Langham Rocks', to mid-air Spitfires, the village page is a great way to share village information. See you at <https://www.facebook.com/LanghamNorfolk>.

LANGHAM MOBILE POST OFFICE

Every Wednesday 09:10-10am, VH Car Park

Without fail, thanks to the Great Massingham Mobile Post Office, we continue to have a weekly mobile Post Office at the Village Hall every Wednesday between 9:10am and 10am.



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As well as Post Office services and supplies, there is also a small stock of supplies from the Massingham Stores - the on-board team say that if there is anything that they can add to the van to make your life a bit easier right now, please phone Massingham stores on 01485 520272 and they'll see what they can do to accommodate (within reason of course!). A big thank you to Ady and team for having visited us throughout all these months.

MORSTON

Contact: Jock Wingfield 01263 740431
jocelynwingfield@gmail.com

NCT BIKE RIDE



Peter and Pippa Sharp, Jane Temple, Susie Mitchell, Mary Athill and Anne Rolfe have raised £3,084.60 for the Norfolk Churches Trust. Half (plus gift-aid) comes back to All Saints Morston in due course. Thank you to all those who sponsored them.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sunday 1st November was All Saints Day and the Patronal Festival of Morston Church.

The church was looking as lovely as ever and the font was decorated with flowers in memory of loved ones.



During the service the names of loved ones were read out as prayers were said and then the service finished with a rousing rendition of 'For All the Saints'.

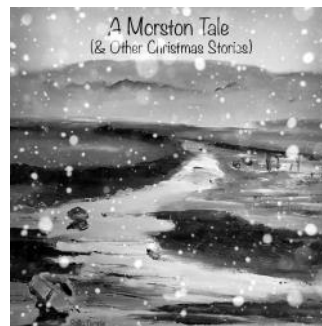


MORSTON LIGHTS

Stay alert! for a surge of lights in windows, on fences and in our churchyard this December.



CAROLS MAY BE BANNED BUT MORSTON GETS ITS OWN CHRISTMAS FESTIVE FAVOURITE



On 1st December 2020, residents, family and friends of Morston, north Norfolk, will be able to download and listen to their very own Christmas song, written by a local musician to celebrate life in the village during the festive period.

In these uncertain, unprecedented and changeable times we can at least appreciate that there are some things of which we can be quite sure – Christmas Day will fall on December 25th.

Usually, no Christmas Eve is complete until the voices of the Morston Carol Singers fill the village starry night-sky air as they entertain locals and guests while collecting money for the maintenance and repair of All Saints Church.

However, under current restrictions it is difficult to guarantee that this annual delight will be feasible (or even permitted) under COVID-19 guidelines.

As a form of alternative festive fare, Morston-based musician Charlie Darling, together with Sandra Morris, has written 'A Morston Tale' – an exclusive Christmas song for the village. Featuring vocals by Sandra's daughter Bethan and performed by Charlie's band 'Les Bicyclettes de Belsize', the song pictures the scene around Morston, over frosted fields with crystal snowflakes blanketing the marshes - while seal pups, March hares, tawny owls and more appear in the glow of the candles flickering in the church.

To accompany 'A Morston Tale', Charlie and Bethan have joined with artists 'The Dodman Snails' and 'The Merstona Orchestra' - conducted by D'Arby Stakes – to record an album of much-loved popular songs and traditional carols. The resulting collection of songs can be heard and downloaded from Bandcamp*: <https://lesbicyclettesdebelsize.bandcamp.com/album/a-morston-tale-other-christmas-stories> for just £10 - or pay more if you'd like to - with proceeds from sales going to Friends of

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Morston Church, a registered charity dedicated to raising funds for the maintenance and repair of All Saints Church, Morston, Norfolk <http://www.fmc.org.uk/>

**when you click on the link for 'A Morston Tale & Other Stories' you can choose to 'Buy Digital Album £10 GBP or more'. You can pay by card or Paypal. You will be sent the songs as MP3 files which you will be able to download to play on your computer or other digital music devices. You will be able to listen to each track three times before deciding to buy. Once purchased, you will also have the option of unlimited streaming of the album via the Bandcamp app.*

The album cover art is a gorgeous oil painting of the creek by the quayside from north Norfolk artist Sally Temple.

For more information, please contact:
charliedarling9@yahoo.co.uk or visit:

<https://lesbicyclettesdebelsize.bandcamp.com/>
A Morston Tale (& Other Christmas Stories), by Les Bicyclettes de Belsize, Bethan Morris, The Dodman Snails, Merstona Orchestra, Charlie Darling

BLAKENEY SEAL COUNTING 2020

News from the National Trust

Since 2001 the breeding grey seal colony at Blakeney Point has expanded beyond all expectations from just 25 pups born in 2001 to 3,399 in 2019. It is clear that it is



becoming increasingly difficult to carry out counts due to sheer numbers. This is causing issues in accuracy but more importantly disturbance to the seals and safety concerns for our staff.

Now is the time for us to do things differently. With the colony now so big it is questionable how important it is for us to count every single seal pup; what value is it to us and the seals themselves? When we count birds, for example the pink-footed geese that migrate to our shores each winter, we always count them to the nearest 10,000 and that is deemed acceptable and a good indication of the health of the species.

Counting the colony only provides a fairly basic amount of information so we are going to work with the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrew's University in Scotland to do more in-depth research into the colony which can then help to feed into our overall knowledge of grey seals specifically at Blakeney Point and why it's such an important habitat for them. We will observe their behaviour and gain a greater understanding of these marine animals. This fits well with Blakeney Point being part of a National Nature Reserve as these were originally set up as centres for learning and key places to study wildlife and ecology.

Going forward from this year our plan is to start counting the grey seal pups in just one specific part of the colony and use this as an indication of the size of the whole colony. We will count the newborn pups as normal but also the weaned pups that are identifiable as they have molted their white fur but are much smaller than the adults.

Chris Bielby, Countryside Manager for the Norfolk Coast says; "We're really excited to be working with SMRU and begin counting in a different way which will cause less disturbance to the colony. We hope to learn much more about the colony from this and share this with our visitors"

The SMRU are aiming to continue their aerial surveys every two years but unfortunately this years has been postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Hopefully it will resume in 2021 and we can get an accurate count and indication of the size of the grey seal colony at Blakeney Point. For more information on our work with SMRU and how we are counting, please visit the features section of our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blakeney-national-nature-reserve.

We know many will be keen to see the seals this winter but we ask that visitors to Blakeney Point please keep their distance as they are wild animals and can easily feel threatened.
Hannah Morgan

SAXLINGHAM

Contact: John Pridham 01328 831851
jcwpridham@gmail.com

SHEILA HARRIS



We are sad to announce the death of Sheila Harris whose funeral was held at St Margaret's on Wednesday 21st October.

Sheila moved to 10-11 School Rd, Saxlingham in the 1980s with her husband Peter, and her mother Becky and aunt Bella who lived next door. From the start they threw themselves into village life, particularly with regards to the

church. Peter became Treasurer of the PCC whilst Sheila played the organ, did beautiful flower arrangements, organised fundraising events and dedicated herself to the local community with great enthusiasm and boundless energy.

Born in Essex, Sheila became a teacher and Headmistress and her love of teaching continued during her retirement when she became a great support to Langham Village School. In recent years Peter and Sheila moved to Holt to be near their daughters, Mandy and Liz, and their many grandchildren. Sheila remained committed to helping others through her work at the Holt Deanery, the Holt Food Bank and many other organisations. However they both continued to worship at St Margaret's and Sheila continued playing the organ into her late 80s.

She was a much loved member of our village who dedicated her life to helping others and she will be greatly missed. It is an honour that she has chosen St Margaret's as her final resting place. She died at home after a short illness surrounded by her family at the age of 91. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter, Mandy, Liz and Christopher.

Caroline Robson

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

A note for your diaries - all being well and subject to confirmation - Carols by Candlelight 20th December. More details nearer the date.

A few of us enjoyed an informative Virtual Bat Evening recently when we were updated on the great progress made with this project. For those interested please see the following link for further details <https://batsinchurches.org.uk/projects/st-margaret-saxlingham/>.



WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS

We welcome two new households this month. At My Dalling, Field Dalling Road Sian Dawson and her husband Alastair McCrindle, who will be joined by Sian's father, Barry Dawson. They have moved from Rutland together with their spaniel Boboli.

At Your Dalling (next door) Michaela Sexton is accompanied by Goose and Evie, respectively a labrador and terrier. Having lived in Field Dalling some years ago, Michaela is in familiar territory.

We hope that they will all be very happy living in the village.

SHARRINGTON

Contact: Claire Dubbins 01263 862261

cdubbins@btinternet.com

www.sharrington.org.uk

NATURE NOTES

So autumn rolled around once again and winter is now upon us. As the years pass they seem to rattle by ever faster. The swallows have once again departed for warmer climes sadly taking the summer with them, their delightful chittering replaced by the cheerful cackles of the large skeins of pink footed geese arriving to spend the winter months with us. Overhead at this time of year, large groups of winter thrushes, redwings and fieldfares can regularly be seen migrating south and if you listen on clear, still nights you will hear the distinctive 'seeps' of the redwings as they migrate through the night. Wonderful!

Things for most of us have been pretty gloomy this year and it is always the natural world to which I turn to raise my spirits. I was intrigued therefore to learn recently that somebody had discovered a hoopoe at Wighton. The species has a very wide distribution across the world but is uncommonly found here. This particular individual probably arrived from Southern Europe. It is truly a remarkable looking bird. It has a long curved bill, is bright pink, has a crest like an open hand which can be raised at will and wings and tail zebra crossing black and white. It comically shuffles around on the ground on very short legs searching out worms and bugs. This one was unusually obliging and delighted photographers, including Brinton resident Gary Bishop.

This year for the first time in ages, the winds turned



easterly and brought with them waifs and strays from as far across as Siberia. Excitement grew as we were delighted by pallas's warblers, beautiful little sprites, bright green and yellow just three and a half inches long yet with their nearest breeding ground around 3000 miles away, along with other species from that region including yellow-browed warblers and two skulkers, raddes and dusky warblers.

Caught up in this bird fest were unprecedented numbers of red flanked bluetails. As a child, I remember looking in my book and hoping that one day I would get to see one of these beauties. They were exceptionally rare in Western Europe then but, fortunately, their range has expanded and numbers have increased in their Scandinavian breeding grounds. They are now annual in Norfolk, usually with just one bird being located. Superficially, they resemble a robin in shape and structure but robins don't really like them and, whenever they turn up, without exception give them a very hard time. They look exactly like their name, have lovely russet flanks and bright blue tails. Adult males, very seldom seen here, have blue upperparts and are very striking looking birds. This year, one Norfolk site hosted at least four of these delightful creatures.

More recently, excitement was raised by the arrival of a bird from the Middle East which has not been seen in this country for 40 years, a rufous-tailed scrub robin. This enigmatic bird turned up at Stiffkey and spent several days on the saltmarshes there and in a nearby field.



At the time of writing Holkham Park lake is hosting a lovely ring-necked duck which is native to North America. Birds are truly free spirits and know no boundaries.

If you would like to see stunning photographs of most of the species I have mentioned here, I can thoroughly recommend Steve Gantlett's excellent 'Cley Bird' site which includes all sorts of wildlife seen both near his home and further afield: <http://cleybirds.com/>

While walking at Holkham a young boy ran up to us. His eyes shone with excitement. 'There's a merlin perched here' he exclaimed. It was in fact a young peregrine but, when told, he remained equally delighted and was keen to learn the differences between the two falcons. If only there were more youngsters like him, more delighted by the wonders of the world he inhabits than with the 'blow 'em up' destructive games available on his mobile phone.

If nothing else, this ghastly pandemic has reminded us how fragile we are as a species and that we are all part of this wonderful and special planet which we need to learn to better cherish in order to sustain future generations of eager, bright-eyed children.

Chris Abrams

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CHURCH NOTES

Many of you will know that at All Saints Sharrington we have been involved in replacing many of our old well worn kneelers with smart up-to-date ones, some depicting patterns and others by special request, many worked by Brenda Young. The latest is the kneeler prepared by Teresa Parfitt in memory of Françoise Allenby who passed away three years ago. It depicts Françoise's love and commitment to her garden, growing flowers shrubs, bulbs and vegetables. In fact almost anything you care to name. Supported by Adrian and daughter Alexa, Revd Ian Whittle dedicated this kneeler at a Holy Communion service. It is now on show for all who visit our church.



On the 4th October we celebrated harvest festival at a service of Morning Prayer. It was quite different this year due to the current restrictions but it was decided to honour our ongoing commitment to the food bank and ask the congregation and indeed anyone else who felt the need to help, to bring their offerings to church and place them all around the font, which they did very generously. That



Sunday morning it was definitely a bumper bundle and that week it was all transported to Fakenham. So a massive thank you to everyone and keep up the good work. Obviously there was no coffee and cake afterwards but Pippa had made her usual harvest loaf which was cut up

and packed in bags for all to take home.

In September three cyclists took part in the annual Norfolk Churches Trust cycle ride, visiting other churches in the benefice and raising £265 for our parish church. The day also saw considerable numbers of cyclists from other parishes visiting our church, many of whom complimented us on keeping our church open and welcoming. *AMG*

FOOD BANK

Sharrington has been extraordinarily generous to the food bank since the beginning of lockdown. Our harvest festival donations which were displayed around the font of the church added up to an astonishing 40 kilos worth of food from our village to those who are less well off than ourselves.

As we approach what doesn't look like as if it is going to be a very merry Christmas for any of us, and especially for those for whom the last few months have brought particular

financial hardship, we have been concentrating on items that will bring a bit of Christmas cheer. To comply with the requirements of the collection centre in Fakenham we were to deliver any intended Christmas items by November 23rd in order for the volunteers to have time to sort and organise everything in time for distribution by Christmas.

Hopefully you have seen the posters around the village and have been able to donate what you can in the way of Christmas puddings, tins of biscuits, toiletries, mince pies, chocolates and other treats. All treats in any form will have been very much appreciated. *AS*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

In these uncertain times we can only hope that our Christmas celebrations can go ahead as we would wish. In a break from tradition we will be holding our Carol Service on Saturday 19th December. As usual we will be starting our lantern procession at the village hall at 4.30pm ready for the service in church at 5pm. You are of course welcome to sit in the warm church and wait if you don't feel like the walk.

We will be gathering again on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Lord and details of these and other services will be circulated nearer the time or please check on the notice board at the church gates or on the church Facebook page. *PEL*

VILLAGE HALL

After a rather lengthy and untimely hibernation, the hall reopened on 21st August when socially distanced members of the Noble Rotters wine club merrily clinked their glasses in celebration of their release from incarceration as they sipped their way along the Rhône Valley.

There had of course, been unbelievable preparations with endless perusal of ever changing guidelines. Risk assessments of the hall and for those wishing to enjoy its hospitality were made. Detailed special conditions of hire were drafted and hand sanitisers installed and, yes, much cleaning was done.

The Rotters were followed by a meeting of the parish council, the village hall AGM, an exercise class, a ballet class and a sewing group. It was almost as if there might be life over the horizon of the 'New Normal' after all.

But, just as smiley faces were becoming more common, so the confidence began to fade. The Rotters' tasting scheduled for the end of September was postponed and active enquiries for new bookings evaporated into the increasingly virus infected thin air.

As I write, the hall is about to be furloughed for yet another month.

No jolly Christmas Fayre. No raffle for a turkey treat so generously given each year by P&S Butchers. The already once postponed concert featuring the Strawbs which sold out months ago has had to be postponed again until September 2021.

Does that mean that members of the committee wander around with increasingly long faces. Not on your Nelly! In response to the exhortations from the Lynx editorial board, we plan to have a Christmas tree outside the hall and to light up some of the trees around the village. With a bit of luck and assuming Rudolph does not test positive, we also hope to host a 'switching on of the lights' with a little mulled wine.

Though the festive season this year may be somewhat out of the ordinary, we hope to get it off to a merry little start. *Roger Dubbins, Chair*





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CHRISTMAS TREES AND DECORATIONS

Long before trees and lights, evergreen boughs were brought into the house during the winter solstice to stave off evil spirits and illness.

By the sixteenth century, in Germany, this had developed into an evergreen tree being brought into the house and decorated with lit candles. A tradition they took with them to America where it was seen as a pagan practice and frowned upon by the puritans as late as 1840.

Oliver Cromwell didn't much like it either, in seventeenth century England, declaring it, along with carols, a "heathen tradition". It wasn't until 1846 when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were publicised as having a decorated Christmas tree that it became fashionable and acceptable to have a tree. Initially the tree would have been decorated with homemade ornaments and lit candles. The dangers of the tree catching fire meant buckets of water or sand were kept by the tree. Health and safety would have had apoplexy!

So when and where did those lights come from that no matter how tidily you put them away always end up a tangled mess when you open the box? During Christmas 1880 the inventor of the electric lightbulb, Thomas Edison, hung a string of lights outside his laboratory. But despite his friend Edward Johnson putting lights around his Christmas tree two years later, there was still a great mistrust of electricity.

Initially only the rich could afford electric lights for their tree and needed an electrician to fix them onto the tree. The lights were so hot they were just as dangerous as candles. And of course many homes had no electricity anyway so it wasn't until the middle of the twentieth century that lights became popular and affordable for more homes.

It was outside electric lights, in 1920s America, that everyone could firstly enjoy. Decorated Christmas trees and later whole dioramas were especially a crowd pleaser with tree lighting ceremonies at the White House and other prominent US landmarks. But it wasn't until the late 1950s that the UK followed suit by not only displaying trees but decorating their streets, initially in London, Birmingham, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Norwich.

Multicoloured light displays now appear across the country but no longer threaten the national grid with blackouts thanks to led lights. Healthy competition between homes is often a way of raising money for charity or has become a local tradition. The cheer these displays give us on dark winter nights encourages us to go out and marvel at the ingenuity and maybe glance up to the stars that supposedly gave Martin Luther in the sixteenth century, the idea of taking the light of a star inside for Christmas. AA

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Writing this as a second national lockdown begins it is hard to be cheerful in the run up to Christmas 2020. With the general mood of the country being downhearted the Lynx team thought about ways in which we could light up our corner of the country and encouraged by our editor came up with the idea of each village in the benefice doing its best to bring good cheer to one and all.

A flurry of ideas resulted in our deciding to do our best to bring the Christmas spirit alive with lights in trees and village landmarks and to start us off here our village hall committee has decided to install a Christmas tree by the hall



and either decorate or light up some of the other points in the village. The article by Anne Abrams gives a wonderful account of the history of Christmas trees and seasonal lights and decorations and should inspire us all to do our bit.

The hope is that if our houses could display some lights in their windows or in the trees, the lantern procession before the carol service on Saturday 19th December could pass along The Street and on to the church with festive lights along the way and on arrival. Of course much will depend on any further restrictions and weather conditions but it's food for thought and would be a good counterpoint to the general atmosphere around. An early evening stroll around the village would also be enhanced by our lighting displays throughout the Christmas season and do take a trip to the other villages to see how they are joining in the effort to bring a sparkle to Christmas.

We are all delighted that this Christmas issue of the Lynx is available to you as a printed copy and it is thanks as ever to the team of volunteers who will ensure its delivery. CD

STIFFKEY

Contact: Dr.Sally Vanson 01328 830560
dr.sallyvanson@gmail.com

GENERAL NEWS

Thank you very much to all who contributed to our last issue. As usual, feel free to suggest or contribute anything else of interest including poems, short stories, and recipes. Compared to some other villages we are very light on news and events. It would be lovely to have more updates on various projects – the village hall, the tennis court, the cricket club and the parish council. Anyone is free to contribute. I need your offerings by 5th of the month on alternate months (from January) although I am happy to receive them whenever it's easier for you. I have been taking news from the Facebook pages for the village and for local societies. If you do not want your news shared in The Local Lynx please let me know. Contact me at dr.sallyvanson@gmail.com. In the meantime may I wish everyone in the village a Happy, Healthy and Safe Christmas and New Year.

AN IDEA

Toby Sayers has suggested a community idea which has been forwarded to the parish council as well. He says:

"I am a Blakeney boy originally, but I have lived in Stiffkey for the last fourteen years with my wife and three children. Here is my idea for a footpath, that I feel would be hugely popular:-

When driving home to Stiffkey from work along the coast road from Morston, I love the countryside around the river valley between the Black Sheds and the village. I would consider it an area of outstanding natural beauty, but it always saddens me slightly that it is almost inaccessible for people on foot - unless they take their lives into their hands and walk along the edge of the road.

Every time I drive this piece of road I wonder if a footpath could be established, running down the side of the road from the bus shelter at Camping Hill to the farm access bridge at the bottom, then running along between the road and river to join up with the footpath that runs from Cockthorpe Common to Stiffkey marshes. This would create a multitude of circular walking routes and provide safe passage for walkers and bird watchers who like to view the

wildlife on the fen. It wouldn't have to be costly venture done with machines and hardcore, etc. It could be started by having permission given and a group of volunteers cutting a path through the undergrowth. I believe the volume of footfall would do the rest.

In the fourteen years I have lived in Stiffkey, I must have given directions to hundreds of walkers over the garden wall. Many ask; "Is there much more of the village to see beyond here"? I always tell them the Church is worth a look or inform them how they can get down to the marshes; but the majority seem slightly disappointed and head back into the village.

I truly believe a footpath through this beautiful piece of unique Norfolk countryside would be cherished by thousands of locals and visitors alike." Contact Toby at tobysayers@icloud.com.

A SEASONAL RECIPE

Whiskey Crumble Mince Pies

Pastry

plain flour 275g, plus extra for dusting, ground almonds 50g, golden caster sugar 100g, unsalted butter 200g cubed and chilled, 1 egg, 2 tbsp whole milk (optional)

Filling

Mincemeat 500g, stem ginger roughly chopped to make 2 tbsp, 1 orange zested, 50g dried cranberries, 50g glacé morello cherries roughly chopped, 3 tbsp whisky, 1 egg beaten, icing sugar to dust

Crumble

25g unsalted butter cubed and chilled, 50g oats, 25g plain flour, 20g golden caster sugar, 50g pecans finely chopped.

Method

1. Put all the ingredients for the pastry with a pinch of salt into a food processor and pulse until they come together as a dough, adding a little milk if it's not clumping. Put the dough onto a floured worksurface and form into a sausage shape. Cut off 1/3 for the lids, wrap and chill.

2. Divide the remaining 2/3 pastry into 12 equal pieces, roughly roll out each one and press them into the bottoms and sides of a 12-hole muffin tin. Chill.

3. Heat the oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Mix together the mincemeat, stem ginger, orange zest, cranberries, cherries and whisky. Divide the mixture equally between the mince pie cases. Roll out the remaining pastry onto a lightly floured worksurface and cut out different sized stars for the pastry lids. Chill these and the mince pies while you make the crumble.

4. Put the butter, oats and flour in a bowl, and rub together with your fingertips until you have a breadcrumb-like texture. Add the sugar followed by the pecans and mix together until just combined. Lightly sprinkle the crumble over the tops of the mince pies. Put the stars on top, overlapping some of them. Brush the mince pies with a little beaten egg and bake for 20 minutes or until the pastry is browned. Cool for 15 minutes before lifting out of the tin and dusting with icing sugar.

NORTH NORFOLK BOOK WORMS

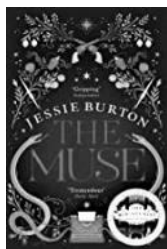
Our book for October was **The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain**. We generally enjoyed it although some thought the start was clunky and slow and others said it lost momentum threequarters of the way through. One member suggested that it is a book about missing the opportunities to be happy because society has told you that happiness isn't like that and you agree. The ending may be happy, if you lose most of your life repressing yourself, but what is left is

a bit pathetic.

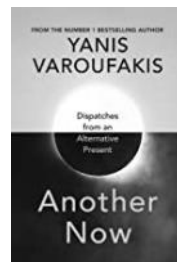
It's a tale about young Gustav who is a sorrowful fellow, with a father who died when he was a baby and a mother who hardly seems bothered about him. With a tiny flat and little money, he and his mother live a basic existence in 1940's Switzerland. When a young Jewish boy, Anton, moves to the area with his parents, he and Gustav begin a friendship that forms the core of the novel. The story moves into the past to explore the life of Gustav's parents before his father died, before moving on.

Rose Tremain has a wonderful writing style that is eloquent without ever being over-complicated or verbose. Her plots are multi-threaded with everything carefully but naturally woven together. Gustav is a rather pathetic soul, yet drawn in a way that elicits sympathy rather than ridicule. Anton is a perfect foil for his character, and the small cast surrounding them provide fitting support. The Gustav Sonata is a beautifully written melancholy tale.

Some of us also read **"Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man" by Mary Trump**. This is a revelatory, authoritative portrait of Donald J. Trump and the family that made him. Mary L. Trump, a trained clinical psychologist and Donald's only niece, shines a bright light on the dark history of their family in order to explain how her uncle became the man who now challenges the world's health, economic security and social fabric. The book has a varied tone. It doesn't have the political or economic detail of some of the other books on Trump available such as *Fire & Fury*, or *The Room: Where It Happened* (regardless of their slant on it): this is, for the most part, a more personal view - albeit one which acknowledges being excluded from the wider family after Fred Trump's controversial will.



We are currently meeting fortnightly on Zoom. Normally, the book club meets one evening a month in a member's home and thanks to one of our members we are again borrowing our books from Wells Library to reduce costs. November's book is **The Muse by Jessie Burton** who wrote the highly acclaimed *Miniaturist*. A couple of us are also reading **Another Now by Yanis Varoufakis**. We welcome members from nearby villages to enjoy our fortnightly Zoom meetings and later on, face to face evenings with wine and soft drinks and great conversations which lead to new topics and learning. We have vacancies for two more members so if you are interested please contact me. Dr.sallyvanson@gmail.com.



STIFFKEY VILLAGE FACEBOOK

Our 'virtual village green' now has 226 members, is followed daily and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/790563987749800/>

It's great to see it being used for community debates and for items for sale and wanted. We've enjoyed offers of a sour dough starter for those keen to make their own, quinces to get the quince jelly, sauce and membrillo ready for Christmas, updates from NNDC, dog illnesses, help to feed hungry children, items for sale, historic photos of the village and village families and more. Our page is slowly becoming a mine of useful information and of course the latest copy of *The Local Lynx* can be found there as well.



S.V

CHURCH NEWS

This year, despite the lockdown and the necessary restrictions to services etc., the time seems to have flown by and this report is for the last month of 2020 and the first of 2021. I should like to thank all those who have given of their time and help to keep our lovely church and churchyard tidy and clean and very welcoming for all our visitors who have come either to look for family connections, curiosity for the church or just to spend some quiet time in the building. We remained open for most of the year and with our Covid-19 precautions still in place are determined to keep available for those who wish to come.

As reported in the last Lynx there was no Remembrance service in the church but it was still planned to hold a gathering around the memorial on the 11th to remember the brave men of Stiffkey who took part in the two world wars and those in the Services since that time.

Following damage to one ash tree and the need for pruning and tidying of other trees in the churchyard, DGD Services carried out this work on a particularly wet and miserable Saturday in October. Many thanks to Derek and his team.

The services for Christmas have still to be confirmed due to the deepening Covid-19 crisis, but posters will be displayed around the village with information nearer the time.

In response to an article about the loss of our Nativity Scene, which was placed each year on the Knoll over Christmas, we have had a donation from a visitor with links to Stiffkey, towards the making of a new one. This will not be done in time for the 'Covid Christmas' of 2020 but hopefully put into operation very soon.

All those associated with St. Johns wish the villagers of Stiffkey a happy and peaceful Christmas and a safe and healthy new year. HH

STIFFKEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

With Christmas coming a ghost story seems appropriate and finally having time to contemplate on Stiffkey history again I turned my thoughts to the myth of the 'Screaming Cockle Woman of Stiffkey'. She was allegedly drowned when lost in fog when all the other cockle gatherers had gone home before the incoming tide. This story was recounted by a lady called Alice Cooper in 2006. The lost soul was named as Nancy. Alice says that her body was found the next day and she was buried in the local church yard. Tracking the burial is complicated as Nancy was a common nickname for a woman called Hannah or Ann. The thigh bone that I found on Blackknock in 2015 was not hers either as this belonged to a lady who had suffered violent cut blows on her death.

I have spent over 50 years listening to generations of stories regarding the sea-shore life of my marital family here at Stiffkey and never heard any mention of a screaming cockle woman. These women were always talked of with great respect and as having a good knowledge of what they were doing on the foreshore. I have spent many hours working out there myself and once you know your way about getting lost or cut off even in the dark or fog was not that easy.

Perhaps this is a story invented to ward off the inexperienced from reckless roaming where one could get caught out or to protect the livelihoods of those who relied on the cockle gathering to raise their families. Cockle harvesting was a common activity among fatherless

families. It could of course be story recounted for the gullible visitor invented for the amusement of the locals. Myths and tales often have a basis of truth so I would love to know something of Alice Cooper or of anyone who has heard this story from another source.

Geraldine Green for SLHG

STIFFKEY CRICKET CLUB

Stiffkey Cricket Club is an all-inclusive club playing matches on Sundays and a mixture of evenings. It is based at Stiffkey playing field, Hollow Lane, Stiffkey, NR23 1QQ and spectators are very welcome.

Looking ahead to the 2021 season the club is always on the lookout for new players. They are a sociable bunch who play for the love of the game and an excuse to play on a Sunday afternoon. They are a great example of village cricket and a club of people that love the game. Long may it continue. For more information find them on Twitter and on their Facebook page.

NEW TENNIS COURT

You may have heard or received a letter about the planned tennis court at Stiffkey Playing Field. With the aim of creating a recreational space for the whole community, the tennis court will be for the use of the village and act as a fundraiser for further development (by charging fees to the many visitors to Stiffkey). The aim is to raise £25,000 and £6,555 has already been donated including money from a visitor to the village who says "*saw your collection bucket and fund-raising appeal on a recent birdwatching trip (but had no cash). So, a belated online donation*". So, whether you have lived in the village all your life, are a recent resident, a second home-owner or a generous visitor please give generously to our crowdfunding page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stiffkeyplayingfield.

RESCUE WOODEN BOATS

It was lovely to see the article in the Fakenham Times about the huge artwork of the Lucy Lavers adorning the Maritime Heritage Centre at Stiffkey. The photographer Jack Lowe, 44, produced the eight-metre wide poster using an innovative technique on 52 sheets of paper and explained how he had to learn the process of pasting print onto walls, and how to make his own glue.

The corrugated walls caused him to spend two weeks preparing and stretching the 52 sheets of the mural after he had photographed the boat using a Victorian technique of photography on glass in 2017, as part of his ongoing Lifeboat Station Project.

Jack has been working on that project since 2015, aiming to photograph all 238 RNLI lifeboat stations and their crews in the UK and Ireland, using the same old-fashioned technique. Lockdown brought his project to a halt, so he found new ways of keeping the project alive through the pandemic. It allows the public to enjoy the photographs outdoors without having to go into the museum space.

To see more of Jack Lowe's lifeboat station photography, visit lifeboatstationproject.com. You can contact Nick and Chris who run Lucy Lavers on Rescue Wooden Boats' behalf to find out more on 07747 401222 or email wellsharbourtours@gmail.com.



THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Some villagers have been thinking ahead to Christmas which may be a very quiet affair this year with no large family groups allowed, and few festivities. We have had an idea from a resident in Morston, who suggests that with few Christmas activities on offer could we encourage a 'light up the village' (or similar) 'campaign'.

The Christmas period is going to feel a little subdued so it would be great if we can encourage everyone to do something - put lights outside their house/lights in a window/decorate a window - anything to spread the message of good cheer and togetherness. Just a thought - it would be particularly nice for the children in the villages. It's more of an idea that everyone decorates their own property although the Parish Council have been asked to get involved and there is a keenness to reinstate the nativity although funds and time may not allow. We are encouraging all villages in the Benefice to do something similar so we can have a drive, cycle or even walk round to enjoy everyone's efforts.



FOOD FOR CHILDREN

A small group of villagers have offered to help out if any families in the village are struggling to afford food. No child should go hungry. To access help please contact me dr.sallyvanson@gmail.com and I will get something organised for you. This is a very confidential offer and no one in need should feel embarrassed just because they are having an unlucky time in their life. It could happen to anyone.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

You can find out more about the Parish Council at www.stiffkeyvillage.org and members of the public are able to attend the 'open' part of any PC meeting. If you wish to contact the Parish Council for any reason you can do so via the Clerk - clerk@stiffkeyvillage.org.

RUFIOUS BUSH CHAT VISITS STIFFKEY

We enjoyed great excitement in Stiffkey on 18 and 19 October when birdwatchers descended to see a bird not seen in Britain for 40 years. The Rufous Bush Chat arrived, a sandy brown with a bright chestnut/orange rump, first spotted about 7.15am on the Saturday in a yew tree and then flying out over the water. Over two hundred birdwatchers came to see it, mainly locating themselves in the Harrison's stubble field.



Parking was a bit shambolic, especially down The Greenway, and some birders were a bit grumpy to see the crowds, but as one resident said "it was nice to see the bird being 'shot' in a good way."

Native to southern Spain, Africa, and the Balkans, the bird, also known as the Rufous Warbler or Rufous Bush Robin, was last spotted in Britain at Prawle Point in Devon in 1980 and is rarely seen in northern Europe.

Dick Filby, of Rare Bird Alert, said it "would have been heading for a tropical climate and went the wrong way." He said the last time the bird was seen was in 1998 in Jersey. Mr Filby said he hoped birdwatchers were wearing masks and keeping socially distanced as they enjoyed the view and Norfolk Police called on the birdwatchers to keep to Covid regulations.

Ch Supt Chris Balmer said: "People mainly arrived on their own but some started to gather in groups larger than six to be able to see the bird. This is a breach of the law. In the first

instance officers engaged, explained and encouraged people to leave but enforcement was an option, and we were ready to issue fixed penalty notices should people not comply."

The bird hung around for a few days and it was great to hear what a pleasure it brought to so many people.. AP

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

We are delighted to share two puzzles to continue our Christmas theme. How many differences can you find?



There are 10 differences in this family scene. Can you spot them?



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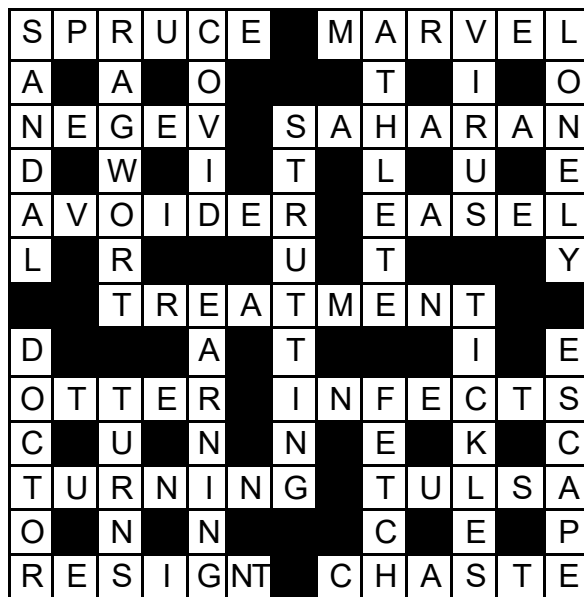
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CHRISTMAS PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

(From pages 14-17)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

There are 15 differences.

LOCKDOWN LYNX

There are 20 sightings of Lockdown Lynx on pages: 1(2), 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15(2), 16, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31(2) and 32(2).

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Green.
2. Everything swirls around.
3. Brass.
4. Tug of war.
5. Dance.
6. Eleven.
7. Set of bells.
8. Places of the same height.
9. The Merchant of Venice.
10. Holds two ordinary bottles.



LANGHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL NEWS

We have welcomed 17 new pupils into our Reception class this year: They have settled into school really well and are making great progress. They were particularly good at singing 'The Big Red Combine Harvester' in our Harvest Festival video. We have had to do things a little differently this year and so we produced Harvest videos in place of our usual Church service. We were still able to collect generous donations of food for the local Food Bank this year.

Usually this term, all the classes are out and about on team building days. This year we have not been able to do this but Jet Class had an amazing 'Den Building Day' on site. They had a campfire, built dens and played team games on the field. We have similar events planned for the other classes.

Over the summer break we had our Daily Mile track installed, which is fantastic. The children use it every day and challenge themselves to run, walk or jog a mile, which is eight times round the track. We worked hard to fundraise for this. We are very grateful to all the contributors: The Red Socks Charitable Trust, Norfolk Superhero, Wordingham Plant Hire, Avada Housing, The Friends of Langham Village School and many individual sponsors. The children love taking part in the Daily Mile and it has been shown to have a positive effect on alertness, mood and visual memory together with the physical fitness benefits. Children have said that it helps them concentrate better in class and makes them feel happier.

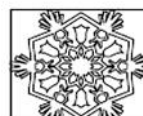


In place of our usual sports tournaments, we have had challenges set by the primary sports lead at Alderman Peel High School. There have been timed events and children have competed across the six cluster schools. Many of our children have received certificates for these fun challenges. How many star jumps can you do in one minute?

School continues to be a busy place; we now have 98 children. We have a new teaching assistant in Jet Class; Miss Price. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated staff team who have been working hard to make school feel as normal as possible in these difficult times. We have had to do things differently but school feels safe and everyone is happy to be back in business.

We are just beginning to think about our Christmas nativity play, which this year will take the form of a film. We have big decisions to make about casting Mary and Joseph; we may even have a real donkey!

Langham Village School: 'A place for fun, creativity, friendship, ambition and discovery.' *Polly Kossowicz - Head teacher.* For further information please visit our website www.langham.norfolk.co.uk or follow us on twitter @langhamvill.



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