

Reaching Out

During this unusual time it has become very important to reach out and connect with people, perhaps through Zoom, email, or phone calls. Chance meetings when on a walk have an added significance. Yet, perhaps like many Christians, being able, on such occasions, to share my faith with someone is something I still find awkward.

This is why it was sad to hear of the death of John Wright who had no qualms about taking every opportunity to talk of his faith with anyone he chanced to meet, and this aspect of 'reaching out' led me on a train of thought, the first stop on which was my memory of an old lady I knew in Aldeburgh when I was growing up.

Miss Percy-Smith was the epitome of the 'little old lady'. In her younger days she had been a children's author. Very bent, dressed in an old-fashioned black hat and coat that had seen better days, she held a weekly bible study for the teenage boys of the town. It was popular and well attended. Mind you, this might have had something to do with the fact that much of her sitting room was taken up by a full-size billiard table, on which the boys could play for the rest of the evening. As she confided to me on one occasion, 'I know they come for the billiards - but you never know!'

The unknown result of 'reaching out' in this way led me to think of Mrs. C. F. Alexander, whose hymn 'Once in Royal David's City' was the subject of the word search in the last 'Eleven Says'. She is something of a heroine of mine. Cecil Frances was born in Dublin; her father, Major John Humphreys, was from Norfolk and became land-agent to the 4th Earl of Wicklow and then the Marquess of Abercorn.

In 1850 she married William Alexander, an Anglican clergyman who was later Bishop of Derry and Archbishop of Armagh. She began writing verse as a child and by the 1840s was already well known as a hymn writer. John Betjeman, in his book 'Sweet Songs of Zion', tells the story that she wrote her three most famous hymns because her godsons complained that learning the catechism for confirmation was difficult and boring.

Her verses illustrated the clauses of the Creed: 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth' became 'All things bright and beautiful...the Lord God made them all'; the phrase 'was incarnate of the Virgin Mary' was transformed into 'Once in Royal David's City'; and 'He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried' became 'There is a green hill far away'. She could express profound ideas in simple words, and these and other verses were published under her maiden name in 1848 as 'Hymns for Little Children'.

Eighteen of her hymns appeared in 'A Supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern' in 1889, where 'All things bright and beautiful' included the verse 'The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, God made them, high or lowly, and ordered their estate.' This was omitted in later editions.

Other hymns faded out of use as times changed. For example, another hymn for the young, 'Within the churchyard, side by side, are many long, low graves...', contains the verse 'They do not hear when the great bell is ringing overhead; they cannot rise and come to church with us, for they are dead.'

Rather direct and stark for today's taste, but then, when she wrote it there were few young children who did not know someone - parent, sibling or friend - who had died, and the hymn does end with the reminder: 'And Christians only fall asleep to wake again in Heav'n'.



Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander

The revised A & M of 1950 still contained 14 hymns by her, including her magnificent poetic version of the ancient Irish prayer 'St. Patrick's Breastplate', which she wrote in 1889 as the request of the Dean of the Chapel Royal at Dublin Castle. He later explained, 'I sent her a carefully collated copy of the best prose translations...Within a week she sent me that version'. She picked up the rhythm and language of this long prayer but introduced some wonderful imagery.

As a child my particular favourite was: 'His bursting from the spicèd tomb, His riding up the heavenly way, His coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today.' It sounded so much more exciting than the usual wording of resurrection and ascension. The hymn can still be found, much shortened, in our current hymnbook, Hymns Old and New. Only five hymns by Mrs. Alexander have been retained, though, including the three most famous ones.

Yet, in her way, Mrs. Alexander has reached out further than most of us could ever hope to. What carol service does not begin with a darkened church and a solo voice beginning 'Once in Royal David's City'? How many people around the globe, of different faiths and none, begin their Christmas with the choir of King's College singing those words, brought to them by radio, television or streaming? Could she have imagined such a way to share her faith? And 'All things bright and beautiful' has become the vehicle for many people to express joy or sadness at particular times of their lives - baptisms, weddings, funerals - as well as a hymn for people of all ages to celebrate the beauty of the world.

It is generally agreed that the past year has given many of us a chance to step back from hectic activity and appreciate nature, so perhaps we should make it our 'theme song' for 2021 when attention is turning to the natural world, pollution, and climate change. We could do no better than to reach out in her words: 'He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who hath made all things well.'

Mary Fewster

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What's On in Rockland Benefice in February and March

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

I'd like to begin by offering our deepest thanks to everyone who took part in the Advent Windows, gave generously to Norwich Night Shelter and supported our services and groups in December. Thank you too for all the cards and encouragement we received in our first Christmas in the Rockland Benefice. It's hard to believe that we've been here for almost a year!

Care, listening and support - Helen, Mandy and I are here to help, and if you'd like to talk to us, or have a particular need, please call us. If you'd like a cake or a freshly cooked meal bringing round, this can be arranged! We are also praying in our village churches throughout the week at regular times. Please let us know if there's anything or anyone you'd like us to pray for.

Lent Course - Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** (February 17th) and we will be holding an online service at 7.30pm to mark this. I am delighted that the **Group Lent Course** will start at 7.30pm the following evening. This year, we're looking at Christ's journey from his Wilderness experience to the Cross over five Thursdays, involving prayer, art and discussion:

February 18th - In the beginning: Baptism and Wilderness

February 25th - Confrontation.

March 4th - Transfiguration

March 11th - Entering the Passion.

March 18th - It is Finished: Good Friday

Each session will be led by your local clergy. Please contact us for further details.

Open Churches - Our churches continue to be open for private prayer daily between 10am and dusk. These ancient places provide peaceful surroundings where we can gather our thoughts, feelings and offer all that concerns us in prayer. Please wear a mask (unless you are exempt) and follow the safety notices to keep everyone safe.

Sunday Worship - Each week a new service video that can be watched at anytime will be published on YouTube, which can be found on Helen Garrard's channel, on Rockland Churches FaceBook and postings on parish websites. Please let us know if you'd like to join our contact list or having trouble finding the link.

Every Sunday there will be a live service via Zoom at 10am. It's an opportunity to meet up, share prayers and news and to sing along to well-known hymns. You can join these services by using the link or codes below

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82930631172?
pwd=S2p6Y3VaRTNBcDJIMjZYMjRsRkpmdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82930631172?pwd=S2p6Y3VaRTNBcDJIMjZYMjRsRkpmdz09)

Meeting ID: 829 3063 1172

Passcode: 268765

If you or anyone you know isn't online, please phone us for information on how to join Zoom meetings and services by phone. We are happy to send out printed service booklets that can be used at home. You're welcome to have a chat with us about any other ways we can support your spiritual needs.

At the time of writing (in early January), it's hard to predict when changes will make extending our activities possible. Despite the positive experience of new ways we've found to worship, the suspension of face to face Sunday services has been a painful experience. We have acted to protect the NHS and local communities, but we look forward to being able to re-open safely and consistently when the national and regional situation is substantially improved. We will provide updates on parish websites, Rockland Churches Face Book, posters and by e-mail.

Art Café - Art Café is a friendly gathering that meets via Zoom most Wednesdays mornings. We look at works of arts or artists and discuss everything that inspires and intrigues us. No previous art experience is needed - we are all learning all the time! Please contact Nick for your copy of *Barn Owl*, the monthly arts and spirituality mailing that includes the Café programme.

With best wishes, Revd. Nick

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Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

to all who have so generously bought pictures and made donations to **Bergh Apton Church** and **Sanyu Babies Home**.

Your support has persuaded me to add another Charity to the recipients, **Franciscan Aid**, and to extend the life of the website.

More of you can now acquire a special, unique work for your walls whilst helping those in need.

Do go to this website, choose a favourite AND, why not, buy one or let me know which you like best (for my own interest).

For more information on any of these Charities, do contact me AND please forward the website address to any who might be remotely interested!

Cycling In Winter

The breeze on my face, the wind through my hair,

The sun 'neath the trees looking strangely bare,

The green of the grass, the hue of the sky,

The hedgerows asleep as I cycle by.

The rabbits, the ravens, the rooks and the crows,

Where they're all going nobody knows.

The rivers, the ditches, muddy puddles galore,

The swoop of the seagulls, hawks and much more.

If I glance at the bank with a little more care

I see snowdrops and aconites nestling there,

Whilst crocus and primrose are ready to rise

And give all the world a marvellous surprise.

I say to myself life's a wonderful book

If only we make the effort to look.

Thank you, dear God, for making all this:

Whilst riding my bike it's impossible to miss.

Kath Ricketts





Thurton Benefice Update

Church Opening - At the time of writing we have just entered another national lockdown. The churches are still open every day for private prayer and Services in church are still permitted. We will be continuing with a service of Holy Communion at 10am each Sunday as per the rota on the back page of this issue. However, with the need to be cautious and reduce the risk of contact as much as possible, the service will be much shortened with the focus on the Sacrament rather than the Word. As a consequence, there will be no sermon, only one reading and short intercessions with the service lasting for approx. 30 minutes. All are still welcome to attend, but please only do so if you are comfortable with being with others in a public building, taking full account of your personal situation, health and that of your household. All precautions are in place, including social distancing, hand sanitiser, face coverings and no shared material, but there will always be a risk which we ask you to consider before attending.

On Sunday evenings at 4pm we will be having Evening Prayer on 'zoom' with a homily and the opportunity for discussion on the readings/theme for the day. If you would like to join us, please email Revd Cate: cate.a.turner@btinternet.com and she will send you details on how to join. If you do not use zoom, it is possible to 'phone in' on a landline or mobile to join the service; again, contact Cate for details.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter -Services are listed on the back page rota and whilst they are the intention they are, of course, subject to change depending on the rules and guidelines in place at the time. We also hope to have an online Lent Course and you should find more details elsewhere in this issue.

Finances - Both the parish churches and the Diocese have been severely affected by the reduced number of services and not being able to organise fundraising events during the year. I have, however, been humbled by the extremely generous response to my gentle pleas for continued financial support and I am delighted and amazed to be able to report that the Thurton Benefice actually increased its contribution of Parish Share to the Diocese by over £2,000 compared to 2019, contributing over £60,000 of our £64,500 allocation.

At a time when the majority of benefices are falling well short of the cost of Mission and Ministry, that is a truly remarkable result. It is impossible for me to thank everyone individually, but I am so very grateful to everyone from across our communities who have been so generous.

Melanie and I have once again been blessed by a huge number of cards, gifts and good wishes over the Christmas period. It was not just Amazon leaving parcels in the Rectory porch! Thank you to everyone for your kindness.

Finally, thank you for all you are doing to support the Church and our communities. We are still in very uncertain times and we must all be willing to adapt to changing circumstances. The clergy of the benefice are always available to offer support so please contact us on:

Revd Chris Ellis: 01508 484174
Revd Cate Turner: 01508 484026

Fr Chris.

Stop Press: Whilst the Rota is in place for as and when it is possible to hold physical services, we will be having services on 'Zoom' at 10am until this is possible. Please email Chris or Cate (email addresses on the back page) for the link to join us.

Another Canterbury Tale - The cat that got the cream!

Hilarious moment when Tiger, the cathedral cat, drinks the Dean of Canterbury's milk while he live streams morning prayers

A cheeky cathedral cat stole the show when he decided to tuck into the Dean of Canterbury's milk while he was live streaming morning prayers.

In the live stream, Tiger is seen sauntering behind the Dean before leaping up onto a chair.



Glancing at the camera to make sure he is the centre of attention, the cat then steps onto the table and makes a beeline for the milk jug.

Spotting his chance, Tiger then starts sticking his paws into the milk jug and licking them.

As he indulges in the white stuff Dr Robert Willis told viewers about the gospel of St Mark. Then, noticing the furry visitor, the Dean gave him an affectionate stroke and said: 'Sorry, we've acquired a friend this morning.'

Canterbury Cathedral tweeted the video with the caption: 'Join Dean Robert - and Tiger - for today's morning prayer from the gardens of Canterbury Cathedral.'

Tiger lives in the kitchen garden where he takes a 'keen interest' in watching maintenance and plants and vegetables being planted. He'll also sit and stare at the fish in the pond but is so gentle that he 'never tries to catch anything'.

Small birds and chickens are also known to sit next to him without fear.

It's not the first time the Dean has been upstaged by one of the four Canterbury Cathedral cats. Another time Tiger's nephew, Leo, disappeared under the Dean's robes during a morning prayer sermon.

'The first of my Hymns is in Hymns Ancient and Modern...', the Dean continues, apparently oblivious to the visitor.



From the Registers

BAPTISMS

MARRIAGES

19/12/2020 Russell De BEER and Felicity BERTRAM

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

27/11/20 Monica Rose HORNE (81)

11/12/20 Peter NURNEY

18/12/20 Cynthia (Betty) KLEEMAN (93) Waveney

18/12/20 John Leslie Fitzwalter WRIGHT

21/12/20 Sylvia Jean FALGATE (73)

04/01/21 Terry Clifford ONG

03/01/21 Joan HOWARD (88)

12/01/21 Monica Maud BENNETT (87)

22/01/21 Stephanie Verna CROME (70)

Bergh Apton

Rockland St Mary

Framingham Pigot

Ashby St Mary

Kirby Bedon

Ashby St Mary

Kirby Bedon

Rockland St Mary

Claxton

Bergh Apton

Blue tooth speakers!

The clergy now have speakers that can play choirs singing hymns and music in services when we are not allowed to sing.

When they are using mobile phones in services they are not texting friends and family, they are just making the speakers work!

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas.

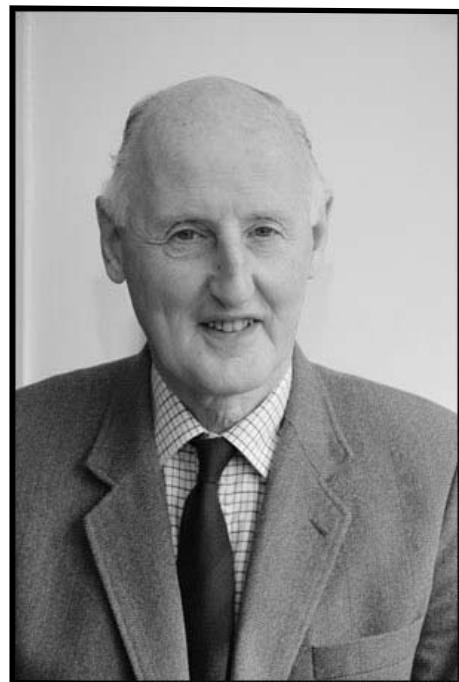
Jesus is described in the Bible as the **Light of the World**, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.

Forty	Days	Baby	Boy
Public	Appearance	Mary	Jewish
Mothers	Temple	Jesus	Purified
Present	Lord	Festival	Presentation

Light	F O R T Y B A B B Y B U I
World	C E E M I I W M A O R I O
Candlemas	A N S O F F I C I E D Y A U
Simeon	N O I T A T N E S E R P M
Nunc	D E T H I D S I C I E U I
Dimittis	L M T E S V R N Y F V B R
Office	E I I R L I A O E I E L E
Evening	M S M S C R W L L R N I Y
Prayer	A I I J A N P E T U I C A
West	S Y D E E M U S J P N E R
	S L P R E S E N T W G R P
	M P E T S W U L I G H T E
	A D L R O W P S Y A D Y P

John Wright: A Unique Evangelist With Infectious Enthusiasm



John Wright slipped away quietly and peacefully late on Sunday 29th November 2020, having lived locally for over 50 years with his wife Sue. He lived a very full and adventurous life and was internationally known in business and as an evangelist, teacher and encourager of daily witnessing the Christian faith. Kevin Gotts reports.

John was a businessman trained at the Harvard Business School, had been a Director of Reckitt & Colman Food Division and had founded a Merchant Bank in Norwich in obedience to God's Holy Spirit. He also started the St Matthews Housing Association providing accommodation for the homeless.

John came from a family who, since the eighteenth century, had produced missionaries and businessmen in every generation. As a bachelor of 32 and a regular churchgoer, John had a dramatic conversion experience. This was the prelude to a period of tribulation balanced by many great blessings. Businesses collapsed, he went through a desert experience of two years unemployment, he had cancer and finally the undeserved humiliation of prison. Throughout these trials and afflictions John's sense of humour never left him.

He also founded the Branch Press and was a prolific author of dozens of inspiring books. He had been a Lay Reader for 40 years; a member of the College of Evangelists and an International Director of the Full Gospel Businessmen of whom the Archbishop of York has said, 'We need more men like them.'

Alex de Bunsen said, "We shall miss seeing John Wright's lanky figure walking round the lanes of Kirby Bedon stopping to talk to both friends and strangers to tell his wondrous stories. He was a passionate family man and the children (Francis, Jemimah, David, James and John), and grandchildren were frequent visitors swelling the congregation of St Andrew's church enormously. John loved his garden, cutting bouquets to give to anyone he thought needed cheering."

"John was a committed Christian, a good raconteur, would frequently attend our local Men's Mardle and always looking for opportunities to share his witness and the good news that Jesus loved us so much that he died for us, that we can be forgiven all our sins. This was John at his best. He will be missed," reflects David Fairbourn. His renowned passion was for church members to be born of the Holy Spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit and learning to walk as Jesus walked, doing the things that Jesus did, seeking and using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

"For me, Jonny was always encouraging and supportive, praying for me before services which was much appreciated and when I wrote the Leader for Eleven Says he was one of the few who would telephone to say how much he enjoyed the article, God Bless," said Rev Mandy Ansell.

Canon Ivan Bailey continues, "I was John's parish priest, and he was a faithful parishioner. For him, every occasion for good or ill was a cause for rejoicing. Visiting at a tough time for John and unbeknown to him I was at a low point and thoroughly dejected. Because of his very infectious enthusiasm I left elated. He had done for me far more than I could have done for him."

"His encounters of engaging with others must have amounted to thousands. Who knows the impact that this had; the seeds that were sown and the flowers that came to bloom? Many will remember him with gratitude and affection, as a unique evangelist. I praise God."

South Yare Wildlife Group

SYWG supports the Bergh Apton Conservation Trust's Chet Valley B-Line project. The B-Line is keen to promote the establishment of hedges as wildlife corridors and as habitat for pollinators such as bees and hoverflies. One place suggested for a new hedge by Tony Kerry of Bussey Bridge Farm was a 220m field boundary which runs towards the River Chet, and a hedge here would create a corridor linking farmland to the north to the riverine habitats.

When the proposed hedge site was checked a partially buried wire rabbit fence was found under a mat of grass and nettle. This looked like it was going to be a major obstacle to planting a hedge but Tony Kerry saved the day by using his digger to clear the fence and prepare a clean planting surface.

On Friday 18th December a thousand hedging plants arrived from the Woodland Trust, a mix of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Rowan, Hazel, Dogwood, Goat Willow and Dog Rose, which will provide flowers at different times during the spring and early summer.

A call was put out for volunteers and on Saturday 19th December, ten willing people turned up. Work started at 10 am, planting four plants to the metre in two staggered rows. By 2pm, a little more than half was completed so it was clear it would not be finished that day.

Further calls to volunteers resulted in eight adults and three children on the Sunday with sunshine and still conditions. The youngsters soon became expert at putting the guards around the plants. It was good to see them taking a keen interest and playing a role.

The B-Line Project seeks to focus people's attention on what they can do to help pollinators and other wildlife. One way is to plant hedges and to improve the way they are managed. The Government has recently announced in the Agricultural Transition document that they will be bringing in payments for Enhanced Hedge Management in 2022. This scheme will precede the start of the Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) that are planned to be phased in from 2024. We look forward to seeing the details of the schemes.

There are lots of other ways of helping pollinators. Plantlife has a campaign called 'No Mow May' for instance, which encourages people to let wild flowers flower in lawns and verges. They have calculated how much nectar this provides and how many bees a square metre of an average lawn can support if lawns are cut on a three or four weekly cycle instead of each week.

See the Chet Valley B-Line Facebook page for more information and Plantlife's website: www.plantlife.org.uk/uk. You can also download SYWG's Wild Patch leaflets with many tips from www.southyarewildlifegroup.org.

Finally, a big thank you to Tony Kerry for preparing the site, and the Woodland Trust for donating the plants, stakes and guards, and to all those who helped plant the hedge so close to Christmas.



www.southyarewildlifegroup.org



Beck minus bridge

In the heavy rains just after Christmas a footpath bridge between Bramerton and Yelverton was washed away.



The editor is stood next to it 75m downstream!
John Everett

Rain

Drip, drip, drip goes the rain

Splashing on the window pane

Like a pattern on the glass

Glistens, now the storm has passed.

Gently now, dripping, dropping

Splashing, splashing, almost stopping

Drying up now, by and by

There'll be a rainbow in the sky.

Phyllis Christina Samuel



Plant Pots

Sanyu Babies Home is an orphanage in Kampala Uganda that the Group supports. In 2020 we raised £2,518 from plant sales and donations at Applebee.



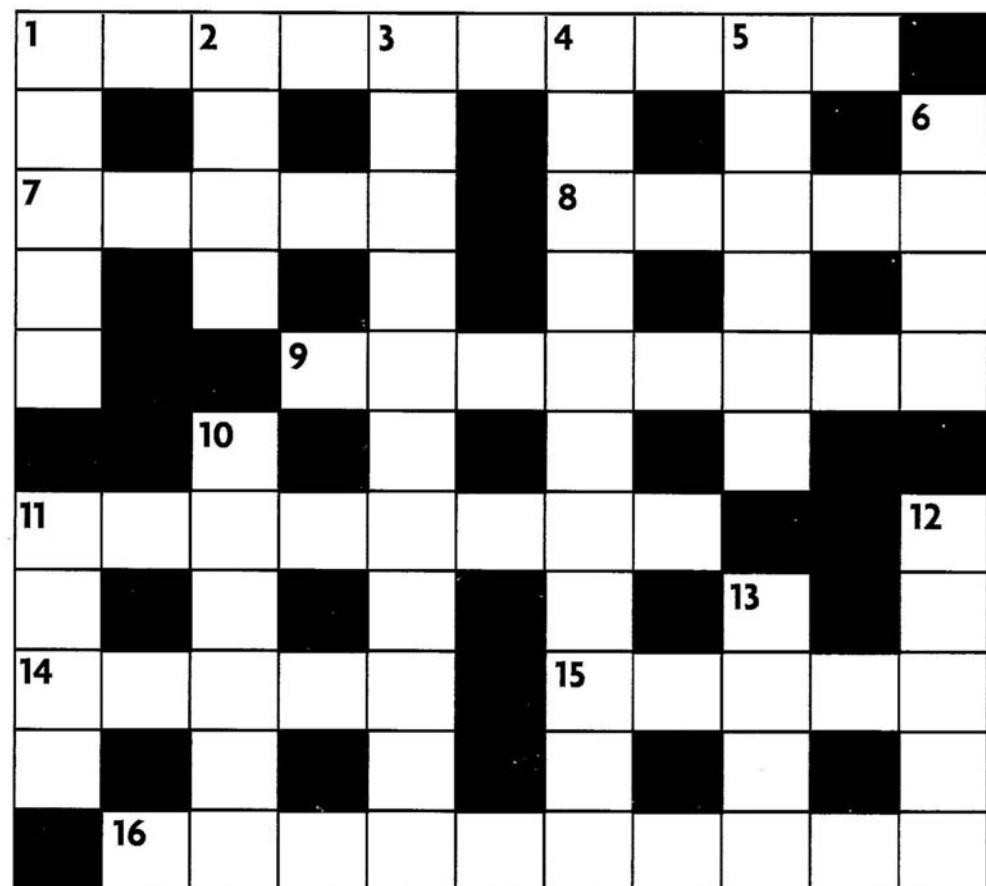
If you have any medium or large sized plant pots around 7 inch diameter or above that you do not want they would be really useful.

They can be left near our house so you do not need to break Covid rules or bring them later in the year when we have been vaccinated.

Very many thanks to everyone who has supported Sanyu.

Ruth Everett
Applebee, Rockland St Mary, 538231

Gardeners Crossword



ACROSS

1. Genus of the exotic bird of paradise plant (10)
7. Said of a 'green' plant (particularly vegetables) where the main, flattened, organs of photosynthesis and transpiration are most prominent (5)
8. Common name for a small flying insect, such as a gnat (5)
9. The main ingredient in the traditional soup borscht (8)
11. Begonias which flower over a long period in summer (8)
14. Extreme north and south, as in the cultivars Agapanthus '... Ice' and Lupin '... Princess' (5)
15. The bugle genus (5)
16. Eurasian roses (*Rosa eglanteria*), having prickly stems, fragrant leaves, pink flowers and red hips (9)

DOWN

1. The willow genus (5)
2. Harvest, unmix a pear! (anag) (4)
3. The Himalayan honeysuckle genus (11)
4. Specimen of *Solanum lycopersicum*, grown for its fruits (6,5)
5. The bromeliad 'Friendship Plant' (*Billbergia nutans*) is also known as ... oats (6)
6. The Americans refer to 9 Across as this (4)
10. You could be said to be doing this when scraping mud off your boots! (6)
11. One 'pinches out', or 'does it in the bud'! (4)
12. Non-venomous snake, *Natrix natrix*, with a yellow collar; native to Europe (5)
13. To dig the soil is to lift a clod and to ... it (4)

ANSWERS can be found at the bottom of Page 11.

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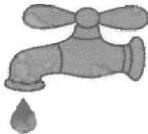
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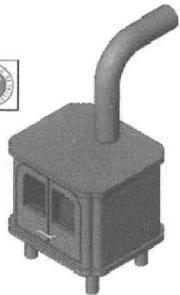
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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Alpington and Yelverton Community Emergency Plan

Support during lockdown

If you are self-isolating or shielding in the current lockdown and need help with picking up essential shopping or prescriptions, the volunteers who helped out during the first lockdown are ready to help - just contact the volunteer for your area of the villages.

If you have lost the card with your volunteer's contact details, please contact either of the coordinators for the Community Emergency Plan: Louise Taylor (492599), Sue Stacey (491185).

Alpington and Yelverton Village Pond Project

In previous issues we reported on the Parish Council's Village Pond Restoration Project; a lot of work has been completed since then.

In September, the sludge and mud that had built up over the years and had slowly been choking the life from the Pond, was dug out. It looked pretty dramatic when the work was completed and we could see just how big and deep the Pond was when originally excavated. At the time we thought it would be Spring before the Pond would fill up with water. Luckily a small team of volunteers cleared some dead trees from the island and tidied up the vegetation on the banks at the end of September because from October it rained and rained, quickly refilling the Pond.

In December volunteers planted a mix of native hedging plants including hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, gelder rose, dog rose and holly, to fill in the gaps in the surrounding hedge. It's hoped that this mix of plants will attract a variety of insects and birds as well as looking attractive. The Pond is now full of water and some ducks and moorhens have returned to reclaim their home.



Parish Councillor Vacancy

After almost 15 years serving the community and with a legacy of projects and improvements across the Parish, Kevin Gotts retired as Parish Councillor at the end of 2020. This means that there is now a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are a resident of Alpington or Yelverton and are interested in joining the Council please contact the Parish Clerk: clerk.alpington@gmail.com. For an informal conversation on what we do and how much time this entails, please speak with one of the Councillors or ask the Clerk to arrange for one of us to call you.

Alpington with Yelverton Parish Council

Bramerton

Bramerton Village Hall New Facility

The village hall has received the generous donation of a high quality Stiga table tennis table from Claire Mackintosh, who has family in the village. Claire also donated a complete set of bats, balls and a net. The difficulties of delivering the large table were overcome by the help of Mark from Alpha Construction, a building firm based in Bramerton, who kindly lent his time and his van to collect it.

When times return to normal, the table tennis table will provide villagers with a fun and sociable way to keep fit. It is hoped that before too long, it will be possible for villagers to hire the table tennis table either privately or at one of our games events.

Once restrictions are lifted, the table will be available for hire by calling Alison on 01508 537014. The hall costs just £6 an hour to hire. Games Nights, once they resume, are free to all villagers.

Thank you again to everyone who donated and delivered our lovely new village facility

Bramerton Village Festive Trail

On December 13th Bramerton held its first ever Festive Trail.

Thirty properties in the village were decorated and adorned to create a beautiful and uplifting trail around the village. Walkers were treated to a variety of festive sights which showcased the creativity and imagination of Bramerton residents. On the street there were glowing lights, decorated trees, a manger in a BT phone box and a beautifully curated Olde Curiosity Shoppe.



As trailers ambled towards the river, they found a host of wooden reindeer, a gingerbread house (with sweeties!), a boat sleigh and a canoeing Santa. Every display was different, and every single one brought some much-needed cheer to the village.

Thank you to all the people who took the time to decorate their homes for this event; it would not have been such a success without such a collective show of enthusiasm. Thanks also go to the many walkers who came along with some Christmas cheer to take part despite the cold weather. After such a long and lonely year it was lovely to see so many friendly faces on the streets of our village.

The event raised £230 for Village Hall funds. The money raised will go towards refurbishing the hall in the coming year.

Village News

Claxton

News from St. Andrew's Church and Claxton

We were grateful for a dry and relatively mild day on Sunday 8th November when we held our out-door Remembrance Service. About thirty people, socially distanced in the churchyard, joined our Act of Remembrance. Everyone appreciated that government restrictions allowed us to mark this occasion.

Sadly, we were only able to hold one service in December and our planned outdoor Christmas morning service had to be cancelled.

Our Advent Window Trail proved popular, with 27 households volunteering to decorate and illuminate a window in their home. Our oldest window decorator was 96 and, with many families taking part, the youngest less than a year.

Two further bonus windows were added to the trail during December and, in the church porch, the nativity scene was displayed in a stable specially made by Kenny Clare.

Illuminated, complete with a star above the porch, it received many positive comments.

The nativity figures were purchased thanks to a bequest from the late Adrian Gunson. The final addition to the trail was the large Christmas tree outside the village hall.



It was good to see people of all ages using the trail maps and walking around the village looking at the windows. Alongside the window trail many people had created their own home-made garden decorations. This led to the appearance of The Grinch, a large snowman and a wooden Christmas tree to mention but a few.

On the Saturday before Christmas we offered take away hot punch and mince pies outside the village hall. This meant we were able to sing carols accompanied by Paul Carter on the saxophone. As a result of all our efforts we raised £198 for St. Martin's Night Shelter and £148 for St. Andrew's Church. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Our Village Hall Committee are delighted that the re-decoration of the hall is finally underway. We look forward to seeing it when it has been completed and more importantly, inviting the community to use the hall again.

As soon as regulations allow we look forward to resuming community events and regular services.

Rockland St Mary with Hellington

Bin collection calendars

Please be aware that bin calendars are not being provided to individual residents this year because collection dates remain, on the whole, unchanged.

To keep up-to-date with waste collection dates, visit the South Norfolk Council website. Once you are registered or if you log in to your property, your next waste collection dates are displayed for rubbish, recycling, and garden waste. There is also the option to print your individual bin calendar directly from the webpage.

This new system of using live data is especially useful should any of the waste services be affected by bad weather during the winter period, as residents can be quickly updated on any date changes for collections.

Residents who do have access to the internet can contact the Depot's customer care team on 01508 533830 to confirm their collection dates or have a printed calendar sent to their property.

New sign entering Rockland from Hellington

The Parish Council is pleased to have been able to arrange for the worn-out road sign at the border of Hellington and Rockland to be replaced.

The new sign was installed by the Highways Department in November and we hope you will agree that it is a big improvement on the previous sign.

Improvements to footpath access opposite the Post Office

In December, the Highways Department completed work to the verge opposite the Post Office, installing a footpath and railings to make access easier and safer for residents.

This matter was raised by a resident at the Parish Council's first drop-in session. We were pleased to be able to take this on board and make the improvements, and we would like to continue with the drop-in sessions in the future when restrictions allow.

Parish Council meetings

We will continue to hold Parish Council meetings online for the foreseeable future, using the Zoom meeting facility. Meetings are open to parishioners and details on how to join can be found on the meeting agenda, which is posted on the Parish Council website and also the village noticeboards.

Covid-19 vaccinations

As the nation moves forward with the vaccination programme, parishioners are asked to note that they will be contacted by their GP surgery when eligible to be invited to receive the vaccination.

(Continued on page 10)

Village News

(Continued from page 9)

Hellington and Rockland St Mary Community Reserve

Au revoir and Thank You

We recently moved to Cornwall and regret not being able to catch up with lots of friends before we left. We had thought about this for a few years, to be near our wider family, to help re-establish a successful studio and, hopefully, to build a new house.

We had only been in the village for twenty five years, (mere newcomers!), brought up our three children there and thoroughly enjoyed the community, the surroundings and the good spirit of local life.

Philip has stood down as Chair of the Community Action Group although we hope to attend some future Rook Rambles and Bosselen. We will miss The Gardening Club and Environmental Action Group. We also stepped down as Chair and Secretary of Hellington and Rockland St Mary Community Reserve.

However, we were delighted that the committee was able to appoint Ian Sturgess as acting Chair, and Jane Yeates and Tamlyn Francis have agreed to fulfil the role of secretary. Jane Paterson and Debbie Frosdick continue their excellent work as treasurer, membership secretary and officers of the 200 Club.

I am sure that with the support of the community, the reserve will continue to be enjoyed and offer solace and therapy in these difficult times.

Hatty and Philip Halstead

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Surlingham

Local Celebrity - Clive Evans wins the 2020 Norfolk Hero Award

Clive Evans was nominated as a finalist in the 2020 Norfolk Hero Awards for his work supporting charities offering end-of-life care. On Friday 11th December he was crowned the winner and went to the cathedral to collect his award from the Lord Lieutenant.



Clive, a full time carer, is passionate about the provision of end-of-life care. Since retiring he has enjoyed being able to volunteer more and his sole aim is to help raise funds and awareness for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice Appeal.

As an ambassador for the Hospice he manages bucket collections, gives talks, organises golf days and coordinates collection tins in the wider community.

Two years ago, Clive and his wife Alexandra were invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party in honour of their long term charity work.

He truly believes that everyone should have the best possible end-of-life care and that the people of Norfolk and Waveney should have a new specialist hospice. He reaches far beyond the funds he raises, and is a kind, loyal, altruistic friend who is a true Charity Hero.

He works tirelessly to benefit others and the countless hours of volunteering for Priscilla Bacon Hospice sit alongside his responsibilities as a husband, father, and son of two elderly and unwell parents who do not live locally.

In addition to this, he is a lynchpin for his local community; he publishes the village magazine, helps coordinate the village website and acts as a Lay Reader. He also provides IT support for elderly members of the community and is the contact on an emergency call button for an elderly widow who has no family, which can lead to calls day and night.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, he was an integral part of a team of volunteers who took responsibility for assisting the elderly members of their village. The volunteers coordinated the shopping requirements and collection of prescriptions for those who were unable to do it for themselves due to shielding.

Clive is indeed a local hero and, along with his wife Alex, is very proud and honoured to have received this award.

Village News

Thurton

The Plastic People of Plastic Town - Stephen Gibling

Size: (195x156)
ISBN: 9781838751166
Cat: Children's /Teenage Fiction & True Stories
Price: £5.99 1 \$8.99
Extent: 48
Format: Paperback
Rights: Pegasus Publishers
Territory: World
Imprint: Nightingale Books



About the book

This delightful story is a topical, fun journey aimed at children that care about the Earth. It highlights what's good and what's not so good about the plastic items that we all use every day. Without things made from plastic our world would be a much different place. The fun characters in the story show us that it's not the plastic products that are at fault. It's how they're used and where and how they are disposed that is the problem. It also highlights a very simple solution when people take responsibility and sort out the mess. Being the first in a series, the story will give the reader an insight into how a slight change in behaviour will help everyone.

About the author

This is my first outing into writing a children's book. I've always enjoyed casually writing poems and monologues for my own enjoyment.

As time progressed, I began writing poems for others to use as messages or in their personal cards.

Theatre is a love of mine and in the past, I have thoroughly enjoyed writing short scripts for a local theatre group, some of which were performed. Now I've evolved into writing short stories and children's books. This is something I've found to be very enjoyable because deep down, I'm a kid at heart, but then again aren't we all!

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Parish Council News

Obstructions placed on the verge of the highway - Important Reminder

There have been instances when road users have been endangered by obstructions on the verge of the highway. The placement of posts, stones, wooden blocks, etc impede road users when they need to take urgent action to avoid traffic.

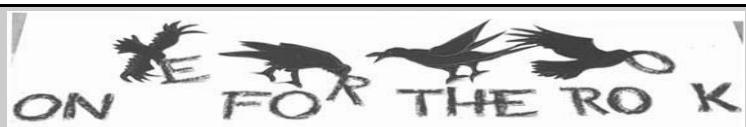


Guidance from Norfolk County Council confirms that the verge forms part of the Highway and under the Highways Act, the Highway must not be obstructed, and must always remain available for Highway users.

In the event of accident and injury, and if the obstructions are deemed to be the cause, there is the possibility that legal action could be taken against the property owner to recover damages. Norfolk County Council will investigate if complaints are received.

If an obstruction is causing a problem the Parish Council would always recommend parishioners speak to the property owner in the first instance.

However, any obstruction or damage to highways can easily be reported on the NCC Highways web site: www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem



One for the Rook (O4tR)
(*The out of the ordinary is right under your nose*)

**SCRIPT READ THROUGH - 13 March 2021
CANCELLED**

Plans are evolving for the 2021 BACAT "Masque" and the event is taking on a very different hue, moving us into new territory, an unexpected journey. We are optimistic that O4tR will come to life this year. Watch this Space

If you would like to know more, please contact Christopher Meynell, [\(c.m.meynell@gmail.com](mailto:c.m.meynell@gmail.com) (01508 558440)

ANSWERS to crossword on Page 6

ACROSS

1 Strelitzia 7 Leafy 8 Midge 9 Beetroot 11 Nonstops 14 Polar
15 Ajuga 16 Eglantines

DOWN

1 Salix 2 Reap 3 Leycesteria 4 Tomato plant 5 Indoor 6 Beet
10 Unclog 11 Nips 12 Grass 13 Turn



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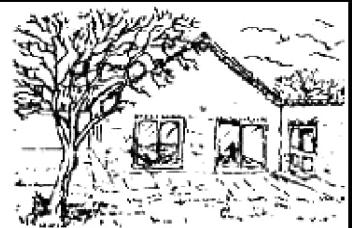
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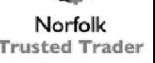
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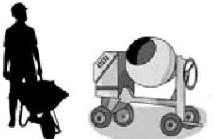
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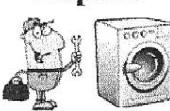
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Ashby and Thurton - Main hall with kitchen facilities and/or committee room available for private hire per hour, day or half day. Discounted rates for regular contract bookings. Ideal for meeting groups and social activities. Please contact Laura Vaissiere, telephone: 01508 480773 or email: ashbythurtonvillagehall@gmail.com.

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Bramerton - Main hall and separate kitchen area available for hire. Charge is £6 per hour, minimum hire 2 hours. Daily rate on request. Car park. Please contact in first instance Alison Lamont on 01508 537041 or Jane Wheeldon on 01508 538279.

Claxton & Carleton St Peter - Spacious, fully equipped hall. Ideal for functions and regular users. Disabled facilities. Fully fitted kitchen. Large car park. Bar available on request. £8 per hour or by session. Contact Jo Bissonnet, 484081 or Sarah Carter, 480555.

Rockland St Mary - Margaret Mack Hall available evenings and weekends for private parties, meetings and social activities. Rates per hour or per day. Contact after 4pm please, either Debs Sayles, 01508 537077, email: deborah.sayles8@gmail.com or Daphne Howlett, 01508 538553.

Rockland St Mary - The Parish Room is available for hire. With kitchen facilities it is ideal for social functions, parties, clubs and meetings. Our hire rates are extremely reasonable. Please contact Jayne Regan, 01508 538087.

Christmas Quiz Answers

Well, how many did you manage to guess? As outlined in last issue, some clues were cryptic, some hard and some were easy! See answers below, including hints for some of the less obvious clues . . .

1	Untidy up above	Messiah [Mess-higher]
2	Kill	Sleigh [Sounds like]
3	Baby's bed has its annual overhaul	Crib Service
4	Metallic merchandising	Tinsel
5	Top of the bill	Star
6	Herbal Honey-maker	Baby [Bay-bee]
7	Tedious ringer	Bauble [Bore-bell]
8	Much pondered grape juice	Mulled wine
9	Illumines	Lights
10	Medals and honours	Decorations
11	...on the ridiculous?	Virgin ['Verging']
12	Precipitation costs a lot	Reindeer [Rain-dear]
13	Liz's soft fruit	Queen's speech [Queen's-peach]
14	It was dark when acceleration divided force	Midnight mass [M = f/a]
15	Not male	Snowman ['s no man]
16	Evolved see no evil...	3 wise men [From 3 wise monkeys]
17	25 letter alphabet	Noel [No L]
18	Pugilistic occasion	Boxing Day
19	No time like it	Present
20	Equitable ecstasy	Fairy [Fair-E {slang for ecstasy tablet}]
21	Would they vote for it?	Turkeys
22	Let them eat it	Cake
23	Fine cut flans	Mince Pies
24	7 th letter works it out	Jesus [G-sus]
25	Give someone their cards	Sack



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	7 th Feb 2 nd Before Lent Green	14 th Feb Sunday before Lent Green	17 th Feb Ash Wednesday Purple	21 st Feb Lent 1 Purple	28 th Feb Lent 2 Purple	7 th March Lent 3 Purple	14 th March Mothering Sunday Rose	21 st March Passion Sunday Purple	28 th March Palm Sunday Red	1 st April Maundy Thursday White	3 rd April Easter Eve Gold	4 th April Easter Day Gold
Ashby	10.00 HC						10.00 HC					
Bergh Apton		10.00 HC						10.00 HC				10.00 HC
Bramerton	SEE	PAGE 3										
Carleton St Peter	SEE	PAGE 3										
Claxton	SEE	PAGE 3										
Fram. Pigot					10.00 HC					19.00 HC with stripping of the Altar, followed by The Watch		
Kirby Bedon	SEE	PAGE 3										
Rockland St Mary	SEE	PAGE 3										
Surlingham	SEE	PAGE 3										
Thurton			19.00 HC			10.00 HC					20.00 Easter Vigil	
Yelverton				10.00 HC					10.00 HC			

SERVICES SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: February & March 2021

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
07/02/21	Proverbs 8.1,22-31	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14	2 Before Lent
14/02/21	2 Kings 2.1-12	2 Corinthians 4.3-61	Mark 9.2-9	Next before Lent
17/02/21	Joel 2.1-2,12-17	2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	Ash Wednesday
21/02/21	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-22	Mark 1.9-15	1 st Sunday of Lent
28/02/21	Genesis 17.1-7,15,16	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8.31-38	2 nd Sunday of Lent
07/03/21	Exodus 20.1-17	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	John 2.13-22	3 rd Sunday of Lent
14/07/21	Exodus 2.1-10	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	Luke 2.33-35	Mothering Sunday
21/03/21	Jeremiah 31.31-34	Hebrews 5.5-10	John 12.20-33	Passiontide begins
28/03/21	Psalm 118.1-2,19-24		Mark 11.1-11	Palm Sunday

Please note: At Holy Communion, where only two readings are used, the first reading will usually be the Epistle, and the second will always be the Gospel reading. At other services where two readings are used, the first will usually be the Old Testament reading, and the second can be either the Epistle or the Gospel readings.



WINTER DAY
by David Prince of Bramerton

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