

Telstar



Stowupland News

No 339
February 2021

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EDITOR'S NOTES

FEBRUARY 2021



May I wish a Happy New Year to all our readers in this first issue of 2021.

By the time you read this the rollout of the vaccine will be underway. As I understand it, at the time of writing, The Mix will be the vaccine hub for us here in Stowupland.

Hopefully, vaccination will see us being able to live a near normal life before too long, something I'm sure we all look forward to!

Please be aware of text scams where you are sent a message from someone (supposedly the NHS) and asked for your bankcard details to confirm your address for your vaccination. The NHS will never ask for your bank details or for money for your vaccination, so don't be taken in.

Last issue I asked for feedback on Telstar. Thank you to everyone who responded, it really helps us to move forwards. In a brief summary from those comments, it seems you prefer to keep the print version of Telstar rather than going online or to social media. Your favourite columns are unanimously towards the Parish Council column, it seems we all like to know what's going on in the village! Other mentionable columns were the Countryside Rambler and Down to Earth. It was also suggested that there might be more involvement from our schools, something I hope to be able to pursue when Coronavirus allows. Obviously, it is a difficult time for schools at the moment. Likewise, our sports clubs have had very disrupted seasons, but I do hope we will see reports in the future.

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the Christmas Tree Stars and to Karen Hamilton for providing a screen shot of our tree in situ from the Church video of the Christmas Tree Festival – see Sam's Chat. The Church in Stowmarket was looking very festive when I decorated our tree although not all the trees were up at the time. It was a pity the festival had to be cut even shorter than expected.

We have had some new contributions this month, thank you very much. If you think you would like to send in a recipe or write a book review, or anything else, please get in touch!

kay.telstar@gmail.com

Kay

Front cover photo from our Ace Photographer, Keith Hyland – thank you!

Please Note:

Garden waste bin collections have been suspended until further notice due to a number of bin collectors needing to isolate.

Check <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/collection-days/#GardenWasteCollections> for updated information.



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A

So, just who is it that pushes the Telstar through my letterbox?

Well, for people in Columbyne Close, Trinity Walk and Gipping Road, it's me: Keith Riches, born at 11 Columbyne Close in November 1951. Despite that start I am not a 100% Stowuplander. My parents moved a few months later to Newton Road, Stowmarket. Our next move was to live in Old Newton for a few years. In September 1957 I started school but after a few months we moved to Stowmarket and I went to Kingsmead Infants and on to Chilton Primary. In September 1963 I started at Stowmarket Secondary Modern.

Two months later, 11th November to be exact, we moved to 2 Trinity Walk. Living in Stowmarket all the schools were a few minutes' walk away. Now my school was a cycle ride away. Sadly, no Stowupland High School for a few more years. **I hated Stowupland!**

Apart from a six-year period (1976-1981) I have lived in Stowupland – **I love Stowupland!** Cycling became the norm – also including the years I worked. On Monday, 3rd April 1967, I started work in the Laboratory at Muntons (Muntons & Fisons in those days), based along the road to Needham Market. There was no link road for a few years, so I had a longish ride each day. Was it all the house moving in my childhood that influenced my time at Muntons – maybe? On Friday, 31st March 2017, I retired after 50 happy years there.

I cannot remember exactly when I started delivering Telstars to Columbyne Close and the houses opposite, but I think it was in the early 1990's.

In late March 2004 I moved to the other end of Trinity Walk. During that summer the hard-working Violet Calthorpe wanted to cut down her voluntary work and I offered to take on Telstar deliveries to Trinity Walk. Once I had retired, I mentioned to Sally Reeves, who was the Telstar delivery co-ordinator at the time, that I was available to cover for any deliverer. As it turned out I was asked if I could do Gipping Road deliveries as far as Mary Bloom's bungalow. I quickly said yes. Mentioning Mary, I wonder if she can remember a young teen with his bike and a sack often collecting roadside plants and leaves for rabbit food. I often saw her when collecting in the area of the farm and she always smiled and chatted if she was about.

Back to Telstar deliveries – weeks after doing the new delivery, whilst talking to Sally I learnt that she was delivering Telstars to the rest of Gipping Road (aka Gipping Back Lane) in her car. I offered to take on this as it was an extension of my Gipping Road delivery and for me it is a nice longer walk.

Last year during the first lockdown, there were no Telstars to deliver for a few months. I realised just how much I enjoyed it and was now

missing it. Like many I missed sitting on the sofa with a cuppa and reading Telstar. I missed the walks as I delivered Telstars. I missed the people I would normally meet at various times and the warmth and humour of the conversations I had. I hope that I can continue delivering Telstars for many more years.

Keith Riches

TWENTY-TWENTY VISION

What have you been doing during these challenging times [lockdown]? Keeping busy, staying healthy and safe, I hope. Have you found the time to do something new, different or something you have been putting off? Stepping out of comfort zones does not have to be frightening or disappointing. Let us be positive, a new interest or pursuit can be interesting and rewarding.

What have I been doing during the “lockdowns”? I have made the time to publish, with support from Jane, two new Inspector Molasba crime stories and have moved towards the writing of a poetry book for all ages. Below or adjacent, is one I wrote earlier. It may not be what you call a poem. I am sure you could do better!

So why not write a poem, or anything you find interesting, for a future publication of, “Telstar.”

THE TINY LITTLE SMALL BIRD

The tiny, little, small bird,
It flies across the sky.
If you should ask it, “Why so small?”
What would the bird reply?

Might it say? “I eat a lot,”
Or would it say? “I’m lazy.”
But surely that would make it **big**,
Those answers are just crazy.

The bird’s answers, they are sensible,
“I have a healthy diet.
I take a lot of exercise,
Perhaps we all should try it!”

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The East Suffolk Prostate Cancer Support Group has a vacancy for the position of Treasurer. The group has a large membership and meets bi-monthly at the Ipswich Hospital. It is administered by an active committee and supports its members and associated organisations. This is an unpaid position, but expenses are covered. Previous experienced would be preferable.

If you are interested in helping this very worthwhile group, please telephone Jeff Willmot on: 0793 6012 945.

COUNTRYSIDE RAMBLER

BRIAN WARD

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these worrying times. I can only hope in a few months' time we will all be looking forward to getting on with a near normal life. This virus is the main topic of conversation with us all at the moment. I try to look at things to brighten up my day; it may be a robin in the hedgerow or a snowdrop peeping out from its dormant slumber underground; even a bright frosty sunrise is welcome and brings a smile to my face at this time of year.

I look out of my window to see brave dog walkers in all weathers adhering to their daily ritual. Often the dog is well in front and looks back at its owner as if to say, "come on its lovely out here" or are they thinking, "hurry up so I can get back and have a treat in the warm"?

It has been one of those winters when you look out of the window to see an overcast, dreary sky threatening rain if it is not already doing so. I take my hat off to all those key workers who, on with their woolly hats, go forth daily to help keep us all safe, fed and well; people we take for granted are often the least praised, so let's thank them when we next encounter them.

Nature appears to be little affected by our human problem, but I believe we will definitely have fatter birds at the end of it all as it seems everyone is topping up their feeders more frequently this winter. I know we are only in January but look out for celandines and snowdrops, also early primroses and the early blossom of cherry plum. In no time at all the hares will be chasing each other and the rooks will be tidying their nests in preparation to lay their eggs in a couple of

months' time. I have noticed at one of the local heronries they are adding twigs to their already substantial nests. Herons nest early and for their size lay a relatively small pale blue egg, which hatches into what I can only describe as a mini dinosaur and only its mother can appreciate its beauty. The chicks soon grow and, even with feathers, appear all beak and gangly legs. They will stare at you with bright yellow eyes and point their long dagger like beaks in your direction and make indescribable noises; now is a good time to retreat and admire from a distance.



Most of the people who read this article know I am a keen wildlife photographer; I also enjoy general scenery shots of sunrises and sunsets which are taken locally. If you wish to view them go to Instagram, countryside rambler. I update them periodically depending where I go and what I see.

Before I close PLEASE, PLEASE all stay safe and well. Spring will soon be upon us with its freshness and blossom.



STOWMARKET WILDLIFE GROUP

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

GROUP NEWS

We had to cancel all our planned meetings to help to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We have planned meetings for 2021. We hope that circumstances will allow us to meet again, so we can share and enjoy our enthusiasm for the natural world around us.

25 November 2020 was the 15th anniversary of the establishing of the Stowmarket Group. We had planned to celebrate then, but have rescheduled the celebration in 2021.

PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2021

Wednesday 28 April - Hedgerows, herbs and medicines - Martin Sanford

Saturday 15 May - Tales of the river bank - Stowmarket river walk. To be confirmed

Wednesday 30 June - Wasps - Hawk Honey

Wednesday 22 September - Celebration 15

Wednesday 27 October - Bugs on the move - Ian Bedford

Wednesday 24 November - British owls - Zoe Smith

All talks held are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stowupland, IP14 4BQ

As we do not know what will happen in 2021, please check the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website nearer the time to confirm that events are actually taking place.

CONTACT

John Thompson - 01449 676471 - swtstowmarket@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

I had hoped the pandemic would have eased so that we could enjoy a full programme of events in 2021. However, our February celebration event is now postponed until September.



As we do not know what will happen in 2021, please check the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website nearer the time to confirm that events are actually taking place.

It has been good to hear that more and more people are visiting our reserves. Hopefully there will be a greater appreciation of the benefits of wildlife and perhaps encourage a greater support for the Trust

John Thompson

COMBS WOOD

My early April visit confirmed that larger numbers of people were spending time in the wood for exercise and to relieve the stress of lockdown. The extra people resulted in an increase in rubbish and a prolific number of lean-to dens, one taking two chainsaws and three hours to remove. The temptation to set fire to such dens was too great for them to be left. A tent was resident for a few nights, surprisingly left a relatively clean site on departure.

Chiffchaffs, the early migrants arrival had already established seven territories. Red Admiral and Speckled Wood butterflies were the first to be seen. Later in April the Cuckoo was calling in the wood and the wildflower display was at its finest. Two Long Eared Owls were seen, also a Nightingale heard singing near the pond but only stayed a few days. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen feeding young at the nest in late May

I did the dawn chorus on 5 May, enjoying forty minutes of superb bird song including a Tawny Owl and a Song Thrush with an appearance of a Sparrowhawk. High winds in June brought a few trees down, blocking some rides. Three young Sparrowhawks were announcing a noisy presence near their nest site.

The first appearance of Fritillary butterflies was in July, alongside three Purple Hairstreaks and two White Admirals. Both species I have not previously seen in the wood. Total species count was fourteen. Worth a mention was the unusual sighting of a Kingfisher darting up the centre ride. Come September the previous winter cut timber had still not been removed. It will have to remain as the wood is now too wet for vehicles. Our first volunteer work party in October saw eleven keen people on a wet day. The pond ride and the centre ride have been widened to increase light levels.

Keven Boyce

BONNY WOOD

We are just restarting volunteer work parties in Bonny Wood and will ensure that everyone is kept safe and that we fully comply with Covid-19 regulations applying at the time.

Dates as follows – Sundays - 10 January, 14 February, 14 March, 11 April

Work parties take place between 9am and 1pm. We will meet at the old fire next to the track just past the chicken farm, not Barking village hall for the time being. Please ring me on 07716 386911 if you are not sure where this is.

Peter Holborn

SUMMER IN THE HEART OF SUFFOLK

Our spectacular summer seemed to end so suddenly. Looking back the wonderful weather does seem to have helped much of our wildlife. Combs, Little Finborough and Battisford had a smattering of surprises, as well as the expected summer shows.

The prolonged periods without rain were problematical for gardeners, but insects appeared to thrive. The gardens were filled with the soothing hum of bees and hoverflies. The number of butterflies was good throughout the summer, with more Speckled Woods than in recent years. The colony of Small Heaths produced a second hatching in August; fewer were apparent than the earlier generation, but that may just be dependent on the weather and observation times. Ladybirds seem to have done well. Our native Two Spot and Seven Spot species were well represented as well as other native and non-native species including the invading harlequins. Many will have noticed that it was as good year for wasps, or a bad one depending on your view.

Linnet and Yellowhammer numbers in the area have increased, although sadly there seemed fewer Turtle Doves than usual. An unexpected visitor was a Lesser Whitethroat. One was seen in Jockey's Lane early in the summer, and another later in the year. Let's hope they liked the area, bred and come back next year. The Swallows bred quite successfully, with good numbers of adults and juveniles lining up on the wires in preparation for their long migration. Chiffchaffs and the tit species have also fledged in large numbers.

Wildflowers too performed well in the summer sunshine. Several of the orchids in Little Finborough churchyard had particularly fine flowering spikes.

In October, several Fieldfares were in the fields in Combs and Battisford, and a few were seen flying over Little Finborough. There were reports of large numbers of Redwings on the Suffolk coast too. On trips out, many of the winter visiting ducks were already to be seen, with the drakes in their breeding finery.

Winter will bring different things to see as the natural world continues to uplift our spirits.

Ken Mudd

CONTACT

John Thompson - 01449 676471 - swtstowmarket@gmail.com

MEMORY LANE

Does anyone remember this:

"Said to be taken in the 1930s of Jack Pryke and an unknown lady. Photo contributed to the Stowupland Local History Group's Facebook page by Cheryl Kay"



HOPEFUL HAPPENINGS!

In September I met a new friend. One (socially distanced) walk in Onehouse woods later, we realised that we shared a frustration with the slowness of politicians to act and a belief that it was individual people, working in local communities, that could make a real difference to looking after our planet. By the end of the walk an idea had formed and very soon **"Stowmarket Eco Future Group"** was born. The time was obviously right because in a little over three months we have 185 members on the Facebook group and 39 active members on WhatsApp. We have already linked with several other projects and groups in the town and are developing working together further. Terracycling collection of crisps packets has started, and saplings are being collected for tree planting. Two sister Facebook groups have been set up **"Stowmarket Plant Based Recipe Swap Site"** and **Stowmarket 5R Group** (Remember! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair) and local politicians are beginning to take more notice. It's all very encouraging and exciting and we'd love you to come and take a look for yourself. The aim of the fb groups is to swap ideas, educate and support each other in learning how to live in a way that loves our planet. You can also contact us by email stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com. Speaking personally, this group has helped me enormously during lockdown. Covid prevents us doing so much; it is good to be doing something positive and active towards the future. Stella Davis



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FREEMAN WOOD

Access Definitely Denied!!

As I let you know in the October Telstar, Suffolk County Council and Freeman Primary School had indicated they were planning to terminate the lease on the community woodland located at the end of the Freeman Primary School field (Freeman Wood) and close off the gates thus denying public access to the woodland. Since the article was published we have, unfortunately, received formal notice to terminate the lease from Thursday 7 January 2021 so by the time you read this article in January / February 2021 the gates will have been removed and access denied permanently.

We have received an explanation from the school as to why they are doing this. In their letter they said "Having established Forest Schools at Freeman over the past two years this is an area we would like to use more regularly. on several occasions when the children have gone to the woodlands, they have encountered dog mess, litter, gas canisters and alcohol cans all left by the community who have misused the woodlands. Drugs have also found stashed away on the site These were passed to the police by the member of the public who found them. Although there is clear signage that states priority use during the school day for Freeman and not to walk dogs through the woods. Unfortunately, a minority of people have chosen to ignore those signs and as a result the Forest Schools lead is reluctant to use the area for her weekly Forest Schools lessons. By taking the Community Woodland back as part of the school grounds we can fence off the area to avoid it being misused and to provide a cleaner and safer area for the children to use on a more frequent basis." So, it would seem that the actions of a minority of people means the rest of us are losing access to the woodland. It is such a shame such selfish people can have so much influence over the rest of us who chose to respect the rules.

Thank you to those of you who contacted the school, or me, after the last Telstar article to express your support for keeping the woodland open but I am afraid it seems to have been to no avail. Whilst we can understand why the school is unhappy with the current arrangements their way forward does, of course, ignore the fact that the vast majority of the community do follow the rules and we also spent a great deal of time and money planting and looking after the woodland. So, to go straight to closing the woodland, rather than looking for alternative arrangements to address the problems, seems rather unfair on the majority of us. However, the school were not prepared to explore alternatives so access to the woodland seems to have been lost for ever.

Thank you to all the volunteers and school children who helped create the wood and look after it over the past few years.

Stowupland Community Woodland Group will wind up shortly as there is no point running a woodland group without any woodland to look after! We will sell off our remaining tools and after paying any outstanding bills our remaining funds will be donated to the Woodland Trust who plant and manage woodland all over the UK.

Andrew Edwards
Chairman, Stowupland Community Woods.

FEBRUARY

As I sit and write, freezing fog is descending around my home and it really feels like winter. The good news is that February is the last winter month so, despite what the weather may bring, brighter days will soon be coming. There is rumour of another 'Beast from the East' and by the time you read this it may well have arrived! Our cover photo is a reminder that winter is still here. Some snow has fallen in the village and it seems plenty of people have been out and about to enjoy it. The snowman photo at the beacon was taken by Jon Johnson – thanks for sending it in!

Years ago, one of my work colleagues used to say, 'You can have your tea in daylight by St Valentine's day' and, true to her word, you can! It's always been something that I look forward to. I was going to write a piece about St Valentine, but the URC Minister has beaten me to it, so please take the time to read it. The poor soul came to a sticky end! (St. Valentine not the Minister)

Another joy of February is Pancake Day, which this year falls on February 16th. Of course, it represents far more than pancakes. The true name of the day is Shrove Tuesday, and it is traditionally a day when Christians used up their rich, fatty foods before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The day is also known as Mardi Gras which is French for 'Fat Tuesday'. Lent represents the time that Jesus was cast out into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights and was a time for fasting. Traditionally, Sundays were removed from this time period so Lent is actually 46 days in total. Not many of us actually fast throughout Lent but many of us give something up, like chocolate for instance.

February is also well known for being a short month, however, every four years we adjust our calendars by adding an extra day, twenty nine instead of the normal twenty eight days. This 'Leap' occurs on every year divisible by four. The next Leap Year will be in 2024. There is an old Irish tradition that says that ladies can propose to their beau on February 29th. This supposedly came about because St. Brigid is said to have asked St. Patrick to grant permission for women to propose to their sweethearts. Apparently, St. Patrick only wanted this to happen every seven years but St. Brigid talked him round to every four years, on Leap Day! If a man refuses the Leap Day proposal it is said that he must provide a gift. Some traditions say that he should give gloves so that the lady can hide her ringless finger!



LESLIE STEVENSON

Leslie Stevenson, who died at the age of 78 at Columbine Hall in November, was, under her maiden name of Leslie Geddes-Brown, the author of 22 books – mostly on house style, décor and gardening. Having started work as a cub reporter for a weekly newspaper in York at the age of 17, she was to become deputy arts editor of the Sunday Times and, later, deputy editor of Country Life magazine.

In 1993 she and her husband, Hew Stevenson, came to Stowupland and bought Columbine Hall. They set about a major restoration of the medieval house and its garden and parkland.

She and Hew rescued Suffolk's Invitation to View scheme when its council funding was withdrawn in 2003. The scheme, under which historic houses not normally open to the public offer guided tours to pre-booked visitors, now covers the whole of the UK.

Leslie took great pleasure in opening her garden under the Stowupland Open Gardens event for which she designed and wrote the brochure.

As many of you will know, very sadly we said goodbye to the most remarkable, special person - Leslie Geddes-Brown who died on the 19th November. We would like to thank all of you who sent such kind messages of support, we greatly appreciate them.

Leslie was a huge inspiration to me and the garden here at Columbine. Leslie alongside her husband Hew, made my dream of becoming a head gardener come true. I owe them both everything. I shall miss her terribly, but she will live on in the marvellous legacies she leaves behind - Columbine and the garden, her writing, her books and the wonderful memories I have.

DOWN TO EARTH **Kate Elliott**

February is a busy month. The days may be lengthening but they are all too short and there is much to do.

In the vegetable garden I dig and if the soil is dry enough you can sow broad beans and plant onion sets.

The polytunnel and greenhouse become the centre of activity, taking dahlias out of hibernation and sowing seeds. There is temptation to sow too much and almost everything that will eventually be planted outside is better left until March and April, but I have such an irresistible impulse to sow as much as I can.

Snowdrops are at their very best around the middle of this month - although this can vary by as much as a fortnight according to the weather.

I planted the snowdrops in our bog garden here at Columbine about twenty years

ago now. They have gradually been spreading by seed ever since - at about the rate of one inch a year - although every few years I do lift and divide a clump or two. Left to their own devices they will gradually carpet the entire area they occupy, with the rich, damp soil that they love, and some shade that also suits them.

However, the best way to speed up the spread of a clump of snowdrops is to lift them straight after flowering, divide up the mass of bulbs and replant them in smaller groups a few feet apart. Seed dispersal will mean that these clumps gradually meet, and repeated division every two to three years will quicken this process.

Carefully lift a clump with a fork, trying not to damage the roots too much, and tease out the bulbs individually or in small groups before replanting them. If planting in grass, leave an area of bare soil around each clump to help them establish.

I have planted snowdrops as 'dry' bulbs in autumn but without much success. It is much, much better to either buy them as plants or persuade someone you know to let you have a clump as they divide them. As long as they don't dry out too much until the foliage has died down, they are almost certain to survive and flower and gradually spread.

Snowdrops are good as a cut flower if you pick them with a longish stalk. The first tiny bunch in a vase on the kitchen table is a wonderfully hopeful moment and they have a surprisingly strong honey scent drawn out by the heat of a room. They also grow well in pots and are ideal for small terracotta pots. Use a general-purpose potting compost to plant a small clump in each pot. You can bring them indoors to make a lovely houseplant although the flowers will last longer outside in the cool.

The common snowdrop is *Galanthus nivalis* but with over 2,500 named varieties and over 350 different species and cultivars, there are plenty to choose from. So, join me in becoming a Galanthophile and be gripped by snowdropmania.

Most late-flowering shrubs, especially those which flower on stems they make this season, are best pruned at this time of year. Take your courage in both hands and have a really good go with the secateurs. You'll rarely do any damage, and generally a lot of good. Start now and continue whenever the weather is inviting, right up to the end of March.



Galanthus nivalis

Most buddleias, ceanothus, hardy fuchsias, hydrangea paniculata, santolina and tamarix can all be cut back really hard to leave no more than two or three buds on last year's growth. Once you have finished pruning, tidy up the soil around the plants and give them a good feed with a slow-release fertiliser.

Here are some more jobs you can be doing this month:

- Prune late-flowering clematis.
- Sow vegetables under cloches for early crops such as lettuce, carrots, radishes and spring onions.
- Chit seed potatoes.
- Ventilate the greenhouse at every opportunity - making sure you close it up again at night.
- Divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials and grasses to make vigorous new plants for next year.
- Feed fruit trees and bushes by sprinkling potash fertiliser around the base to encourage fruiting.
- Sow sweet-peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or sunny windowsill.

Until next month - happy gardening.

ODE TO CANINES MK 2 (BY REQUEST.)

There are now more dogs I've come to know,
Whose names I'll mention here below,
Hugo, Gus and Murphy mark 2
Have joined the list, and welcome too,
Billy, Meg and Max and Lucy
Have all appeared on village-walk duty,
Lila, Finn and good old Scruff
Are also doing their "doggy" stuff,
Making sure that their owners mix
To chat while the dogs all have their "fix"
Of socialising, friendly stuff,
No growling barking or getting rough
Richard and Ted the last two on this list,
I hope there's none that I have missed.
(Two new pups, I do not yet know, will make
this list continue to grow.).
Anon.



NOT REALLY ANOTHER BOOK REVIEW

Cathy's excellent piece in the last edition of Telstar spurred me to write about one of the books I have read recently. My aim had been to review a book given to me as a Christmas present but the only book I received was the Private Eye Annual. I highly recommend it as a book to pick up, read a few pages and have a smile and a chuckle. It can be thought provoking, especially articles about politicians and some members of the royal family but it is not a book that you would give up a whole day to read from cover to cover.

I prefer to read crime or mystery novels but for my review I'd like to recommend a book by an author whose books I first read some fifty years ago; at least that is what the front cover of the book suggests. Whilst the writing style and layout reminds me of books I read long ago, the topic of the book and much of the action in the storyline is bang up to date.

This really is a book to read from cover to cover. You will empathise with the characters. Although the action moves on at a slow pace to begin with, the reader is being lulled into a false sense of security. Then, realisation that they might be in danger hits the group trapped on the island. The life that they had taken for granted is no more.

At least they still have access to broadband, but this becomes the source of argument and frustration as they all want to use their various devices at the same time.

Lack of food then becomes a concern, and they are ill-equipped mentally to devise a plan to solve the problem. Living in Dorset, they had become totally accustomed to having everything provided for them. But now the friendship they have enjoyed is endangered and, rather than pull together and plan as a team, the group fragments.

The adventure is set in Lockdown; unsurprisingly the shortage of toilet paper is touched upon. Their concern about lack of food is temporarily set aside when they discover a large quantity of tinned corned beef, way past its best – in fact too old to have a best before date. Next, they come upon an injured goat. This seemed to be the answer to their lack of food but, rather than kill, cook and eat it, they decide to try to nurse it back to full health.

Clearly the group are ill-suited to life on an island with no access to food shopping or leisure pursuits other than Joe Wickes on a laptop. What many would see as an idyllic way to escape Hands, Face, Space and enjoy a self-sufficient, undisturbed Lockdown, this group could not cope with at all. But then their lives take a much more sinister turn when the ruined castle in which they have felt secure is discovered by a larger group.

I won't spoil your enjoyment of the book by giving away any details of how the adventure unfolds. You should get a copy and read it. The book is 'Five Go Absolutely Nowhere' by 'Enid Blyton'. I have a copy in quarantine should anyone wish to borrow it.

Keith Welham

RECIPES OF THE MONTH

Butternut Squash and Sweet Potato Soup

Serves 8-10 (I make half quantity)

500g Sweet Potatoes – peeled and diced

1 Butternut Squash peeled, deseeded and diced

1 tbsp clear Honey

1 tbsp Olive Oil

2 Onions roughly chopped

3 Garlic cloves crushed

1litre of Vegetable or Chicken Stock

1 tsp cinnamon and 1 tsp grated nutmeg

1. Oven 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Roast the butternut squash and sweet potato with a drizzle of olive oil and a tsp of clear honey, covering the vegetables and stirring from time to time. Should take 40-45 minutes until soft and starting to caramelise at the edges.
2. At the same time fry the onions in a large saucepan with 1 tbsp of olive oil until soft, then add the garlic, stock, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes.
3. When the sweet potatoes/butternut squash are ready add to the pan with the stock. Blend with a stick blender until smooth. Season to taste.

The original recipe also included 100 ml Double Cream but I do not think such a naughty ingredient is needed! Try it and see.

Mushroom and Leek Soup

A really easy soup – don't be put off by the colour!

Serves 4

50g/2oz Butter

2 Leeks chopped

3 Garlic cloves

300g/9oz Mushrooms

2-3 sprigs fresh Thyme, leaves only

600ml/1 pint Chicken or Vegetable Stock

1. Melt the butter in a large pan and gently cook the leeks and garlic for 4-5 minutes or until softened but not browned. Add the mushrooms and thyme and cook on high for 3-5 minutes until the mushrooms are softened and have released much of their water.
2. Pour over the stock and cook for 5 minutes.
3. Remove from the heat, pour into a food processor and blend until smooth. Alternatively, keep in the pan and use a stick blender to blitz until smooth.

Enjoy!

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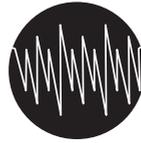
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DIARY DATES

The latest lockdown situation and rules means that once more the village hall is out-of-bounds and group activities in the village cannot resume yet, of course I hope that by the time you read this in February there will be some light at the end of the Covid tunnel.

The mobile library service is running and the times in Stowupland are as follows -

Tuesday 23rd February. 9.30 at Jubilee Court, 9.50 at The Green.

A good way that I have found of keeping in touch with neighbours and sharing information online about your village is to join Nextdoor.co.uk at <https://nextdoor.co.uk/> There are groups covering Stowupland and most nearby villages and towns. Members can post anything from lost pets to offers of help.

STOWUPLAND TRIM TRAIL PROJECT

“Trim Trail consists of a path or course with exercise equipment or obstacles installed along its length for exercising the human body to promote good health.”

*Stowupland Trim Trail Working Group will be holding a virtual meeting on **Thursday 18th February 2021** at 7.30pm via Zoom.*

Please join us for an update on the project and find out what is next.

If you have any further question or if you would like to join the meeting then please contact the Clerk who will share the meeting ID and password with you.

Claire Pizzey: parishclerkclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk

“half of British adults never do any exercise”

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Citizens Advice

www.midsuffolkcab.org.uk – 01449 676060
or 01449 676280 – 5 Milton Road South,
Stowmarket, IP14 1EZ

Doctor

Emergency – 999
NHS Direct – 111
Combs Ford – 01449 678333
Stowhealth – 01449 776000

Emergency Numbers

Power Cut – 0800 31 63 105
Gas Leak – 0800 111 999
Water Leak – 0800 771 881

Good Neighbour Scheme

HELPLINE: 07591 539621

Member of Parliament

Jo Churchill – jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk -
Constituency Office, 10 Hatter Street,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LZ – 01284 752311
House of Commons – 02072 198487
<https://www.jochurchill.org.uk/>

Mid Suffolk District Council

www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
Keith Welham – keith.welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk -
01449 673185

Police

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC 14443 Stefan Henriksen – Police Station,
Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1NJ
stefan.henriksen@suffolk.pnn.police.uk - Phone. 101

Samaritans – 116 123

Stowupland Village Website

www.stowupland.com

Parish Council Website

www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud

Suffolk County Council

www.suffolk.gov.uk
Gary Green – garygreen@suffolk.gov.uk
- 07545 423824

SCC – General Contact No. 0345 606 6067

Schools

Stowupland High School -
www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk - 01449 674827
Freeman Community/ Primary School -
www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk -01449 612067

PUZZLE PAGE

Find completed puzzles on page 45

CROSSWORD CLUES

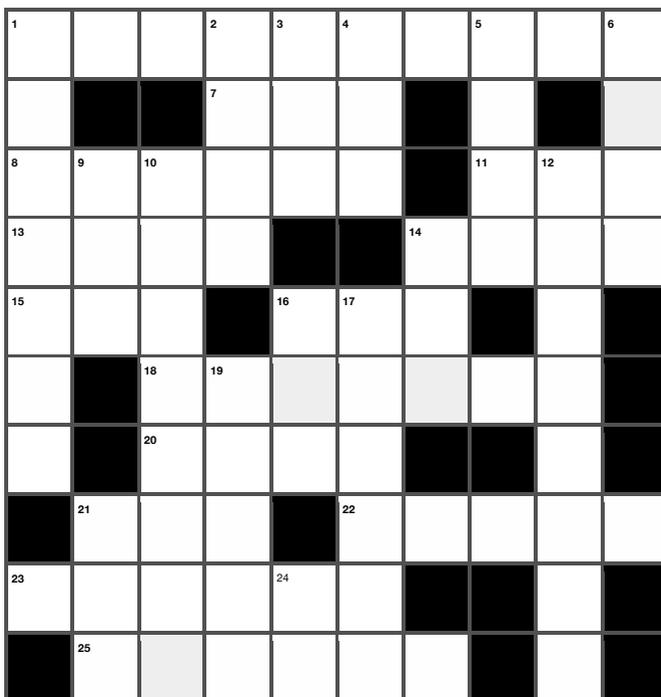
ACROSS.

1. Old medicine maker (10)
7. Marooned up a creek, this would help (3)
8. Part of life's vital fluid (6)
11. First name of an actress who played Auntie in a scarecrow series (3)
13. So many pictures come via this (4)
14. Old cap badge shape of Soviet soldiers (4)
15. A lack of space here caused a holy row at Christmas (3)
16. A tree's blood also gave the name to a gangster's weapon (3)
18. Artists in this area usually end up folding (7)
20. Another slang word for "face fungus" (4)
21. Take the first from a paving element for a workplace (3)
22. Amidst (5)
23. Lazy choirboys hate this service (6)
25. Calmness or to induce it (6)

DOWN.

1. To issue a larger dose of decibels (7)
2. You are meant to do this to a Caber (4)
3. Derogatory theatrical term (3)
4. Time period (3)
5. To make hard against (4)
6. We shall all remember this one (4)
9. "Strictly's" angel judge's Christian name (3)
10. Put words to a diagram (8)
12. First half of the name of one of the world's foremost art collections in England (8)
14. Tinned meat loses Bond's boss to become a resort (3)
16. Shortened female sibling (3)
17. State of shock or horror you may be in (6)
19. Take care foreign animal bites could make you become this (5)
21. First part of the name of a Mafia created resort in the U.S.A. (3)
24. An abbreviation you often see when online shopping for something you really want (2)

CROSSWORD



NEW YEAR QUIZ

Find answers on page 45

1. The Beckhams named their daughter after the writer of Victoria's favourite book. What is the book's title and what is the writer's name?
2. Which book came top of the Sunday Times best fiction for 2019?
3. In which year was Tate Modern opened?
4. Who lived with Vincent Van Gogh for 63 days in Arles, south of France?
5. Which of the Bronte Sisters wrote Tenant of Wildfell Hall?
6. Which of Charles Dicken's novels begins 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of foolishness'?
7. The opening line of which Jane Austen novel is 'It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a good wife'?
8. Which British artist painted The Fighting Temeraire?
9. Where are the following Art Galleries – The Met, MoMA, the Guggenheim?
10. Where was the British artist David Hockney born?
11. How many Famous Five Books did Enid Blyton write?

Rachel Eburne – rachel.eburne@midsexfolk.gov.uk -
01449 673311

MSDC General Contact No. 0300 1234000

Mobile Library - 07721 879855

Parish Council

Sally Reeves – Chairman - 01449 745739

– sallyreeves@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Keith Welham – Vice Chairman - 01449 673185

– keithwelham@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Philip Deal - 07957 623326

– philipdeal@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Laura Johnson - 07826 851030

– laurajohnson@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Paula Murton - 07906 677817

– paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Ray Studd - 01449 676606

– raystudd@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Jerry Voden - 01449 703717

– jerryvoden@stowuplandpc.co.uk

John Hayward - 01449 674717

– johnhayward@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Laura Beeson - 07918 808387

– laurabeeson@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council – Claire Pizzey

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk - 01449 677005

2 Broomspath Road, IP14 4DB

Parish Council Minutes of meetings and agendas are
available on the Parish Council Website

www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud

Vets

Cedarwood – 01449 676966

Stowe Vets – 01449 613130

Village Hall Bookings

Hugh Blanch – stowuplandvhbookings@gmail.com
- 01449 612156

Village Clubs

Baby and Toddler Group – Kelly Woolnough –
07776 206430

Book Group – Patricia Hodgkins – 01449 672127

Bowls Club – Graham Newman – 01359 240846

Community Events – Keith Welham – 01449 673185

Country and Western – Pat Murphy – 01449 677405

Dance Club – Mary Durham – 01449 672601

Local History Group – Jerry Voden – 07951 086383

Short Mat Bowls – Pam Fayers – 01449 770080

Sports and Social Club – Andy Parkin – 07796 274905

- www.stowupland-sports-and-social-club.co.uk

Stowupland Cricket Club -

www.stowuplandcricketclub.co.uk/

Stowupland Falcons Football Club -

stowuplandfalconsfc.co.uk

Stowupland Sports Centre –

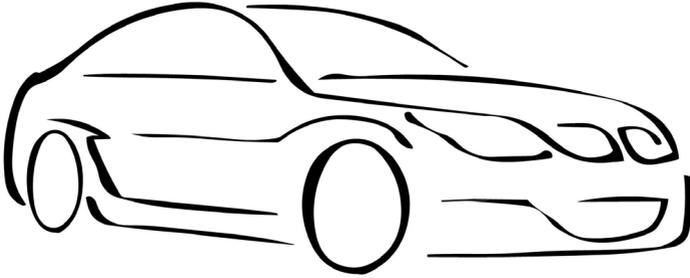
info@stowuplandsportscentre.co.uk - 01449 672531

Stowmarket Wildlife Group – John Thompson -

swtstowmarket@gmail.com - 01449 676471

W.I. – Judy Clarke – 01449 615386

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LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

With the help of local residents and others your Local History Group Committee is continuing to research Stowupland's Past. Your Chair and Local Recorder (me, Sandra W) is working on her annual Recorder's report for Suffolk Local History Council. I would like to thank everyone who shared with me their experiences of how the current pandemic affected their normal activities in 2020. Reading back through notes I made during the year reminded me of how quiet the roads were at first and how strange, even rude it felt to follow social distancing guidance. Now it feels uncomfortable to be within 2 m of anyone and wrong seeing someone's face without a mask. Last March I certainly felt that here in rural Suffolk we would soon be able to get on with normal life, how wrong I was. Please stay safe and your committee wishes everyone a Healthy New Year and heart felt wishes that we can find some way to resume social contacts soon.

Sandra Walker

The group has a programme of speakers in place for the first half of the year however it seems highly unlikely that we will be able to start again in February, keep up to date with the latest information on the group with Telstar, the village website, local noticeboards and the group's Facebook page.

The archaeologists have now left the Thorney Road site and the builders moved in. We hope to be able to bring you the results of the dig when they have been fully evaluated by Cotswold Archaeology. The results of the dig by Oxford Archaeology in 2017 ahead of phase 2 of the Bloor development can be read online at - <https://library.oxfordarchaeology.com/5008/>

The report is quite technical but if you don't want to go through the whole thing just read the introduction and conclusion.

Stowupland's Vicars Part 1

When Stowupland Church was founded in 1843 there was little money to pay a minister. At this time an incumbent's income came from several different sources, firstly there was the tithe originally paid by parishioners in kind as a tenth of the produce from the land but by this time had been commuted into a cash payment. There was also income from fees charged for officiating at marriages and funerals. More income could be obtained through the glebe, a piece of land that the vicar could either work himself or let out. There could also have been personal income or income from private teaching work and finally there was for the poorer clergy Queen Anne's Bounty a fund that was administered by the ecclesiastical commissioners. All these income streams were variable and there was a great difference between the poorest and the most well-off clergy. In 1851 Stowupland's vicar could expect around £100 pounds from tithe, fees, and the top-up from the bounty, this compares with a vicar's income of over £200 in Old Newton and some £380 in Stowmarket.

In Its early years the church saw a succession of incumbents come and

go, the small stipend, meant that most of the ministers were either at the beginning of their careers or had other income, added to this was the fact that there was no vicarage house so they would be required to find their own accommodation.

In the first couple of years the parish remained annexed to Stowmarket and Reverend Hollingsworth remained vicar until in 1845 Robert Willan Ashby Smith was appointed. Born in 1815 he was a London man his father being a doctor in Bloomsbury. He had gained his degree at Oxford being ordained in 1838. His first ministry was as curate of Christ Church Spitalfields London until 1844, this was followed by a short-lived curacy in Norfolk until 1845 when he was appointed to Holy Trinity Stowupland. There being no vicarage in the parish he found accommodation in Stowmarket. He was a bachelor, not marrying until later in life after he left the area. He also served as domestic chaplain to Lord Combermere. He served the parish until 1862 and thereafter did not continue as a parish priest but returned as a don to Oxford dying in 1871.

He was succeeded by Frederick Cookson. From Leeds where he was born in 1808. Cookson took his degree at Cambridge. Ordained as priest in 1833 his first positions were as curate in Yorkshire, Norfolk and Leicestershire parishes before coming to Suffolk, first as curate at Combs for 7 years before being appointed to Stowupland in 1862, in 1871 he was living at Hill House in the parish. His ministry here lasted 10 years until his death in 1872.

The lack of dedicated accommodation for a vicar with a family was no doubt a disincentive in attracting applicants for the position. In June 1873, the diocesan architect R. M. Phipson advertised for tenders to build a vicarage in Stowupland. A grant from the ecclesiastical commissioners of £289 no doubt went a long way in funding this.

It is doubtful if the Reverend Ayrton Chaplin whose short-lived term lasted just 2 years to 1874 was able to take advantage of this new home. He had taken work in Winchester, Cornwall and Surrey before he came to Stowupland. After this he did not have any further positions as a parish priest but spent some time as headmaster of schools in Stepney and Sussex before retiring to Little Baddow Essex. He enjoyed a long retirement not dying until 1930. A niece Edith married the notable Zionist and writer Israel Zangwill. Several members of his family were active in the women's suffrage movement and feminism. Another relation was the artist Michael Ayrton.

Stop Press

A few weeks ago, we heard from a lady who is researching history in Horham, she had come across a document at Suffolk Archive that related to the building of a hall house in Thorney. It is a building account for the demolition of the existing hall and rebuilding naming workmen involved and what they were paid. We are sure that this building was Thorney Hall which was situated just north of where Stowmarket station is today. The really exciting thing though is the date of the document – 1291! We hope to be able to give further details of this discovery in a future Telstar.

Neil Langridge

SAM'S CHAT

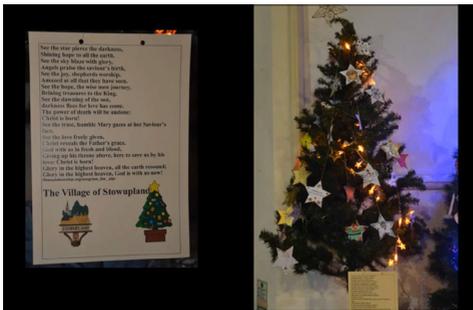
Hello,

I hope everyone is ok and not too sad in lockdown or ill with the coronavirus. We have not had it yet as we have stayed away from people a lot. We did still get to do a bit of fun things since the last lockdown.

Tier 3: when Suffolk was in tier 3 me, my sister and my mum went to Needham Market to do a walk for exercise and whilst we were walking, we saw some snowmen statue scarecrows, so we went and looked for more. We also did a virtual fairy trail at Needham Lake. We used an app called Love Explore which made it look like real fairies were flying around us.



Tier 4: This Christmas was different because of coronavirus as you should know, so that meant we couldn't see our grandparents. It was annoying when we got tier 4 as my family were going to see the Christmas trees at the church in Stowmarket on the day it started. We helped make some stars to put on the tree from the village and wanted to see them. We did watch a video, but it wasn't like it is in real life. I did see



one of my stars and one of mummy's. We normally do a tree quiz around the church so we couldn't do that either. We did go to see a Snow White pantomime in Ipswich on Christmas Eve just before tier 4 came. We also watched a carol service on zoom run by my sister's godparent Curate Paul, who used to be a cleric in Stowupland. Jessica was happy because her picture was on the cover of the last Telstar.

Tier 5: Now Suffolk is in tier 5 which means that more places are shut and one of those places are schools, so children have to work at home now which is annoying again because I was getting excited to see my friends. Then after one day of school tier 5 comes and then stops that chance to see my friends again, but it is for our safety. We also just started to have real karate lessons again and Jessica and I graded up a belt but now we are back doing it on zoom. At least we do still get to do the lessons.

I hope we don't stay in tier 5 for my birthday in March. My 10th birthday was just when the very first lockdown started, and it wasn't very good as we didn't know about zoom and stuff like we do now.

Bye, Sam

STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL

Exciting Plans And Help Needed

Stowupland Village Hall is located in the heart of our village and when COVID rules allow provides a wide variety of facilities and groups for us all. Everything from Bingo to Zumba, Mother and Toddlers Group to Country & Western Nights, or Wedding Receptions to Jumble Sales can be found in the Village Hall throughout the year. The Village Hall also owns the Sports and Social Club, Cricket and Football pitches and the Bowls Club.

The Village Hall was built in the 1940's and is starting to look its age in some ways. The roof keeps leaking and the layout is not ideal for all the modern day uses. The Bowls Club Pavilion is also reaching the end of its life and in desperate need of replacement. As a result, the trustees have decided to explore some exciting and ambitious plans to extend and remodel the Village Hall, Sports and Social Club and Bowls Club to improve the facilities we can offer to the local community whilst addressing these long-term maintenance issues. Plans are at an early stage but to give you some idea what we are thinking of they will include:

- A new Pavilion for the Bowls Club.
- New and expanded changing rooms for the Football and Cricket Clubs.
- More storage in the Village Hall for chairs, tables and clubs.
- Improved toilets and kitchen facilities.
- Improved bar for the Social Club and Village Hall.
- Redecorating and refurbishing the Village Hall and Social Club areas.
- New improved outdoor storage facilities for the Football and Cricket clubs replacing the current mixture of sheds and storage compound.
- Hopefully, if we can get the necessary agreements, completion of the Safely to Schools route filling in the missing link from the High School to the Primary School.

Things are at an early stage in all this work, and we will be consulting with all our users and local residents when we have some more definite plans, but in order to progress things we really need some more trustees. At present we have vacancies for a Treasurer and various other trustees and really need more people to help us take these exciting plans forward and run the Village Hall as well. To give you some idea what you would be letting yourself in for:

Treasurer. One of our Trustees is currently covering the role of Treasurer on a temporary basis but we really need a dedicated Treasurer to help us manage the finances of the Village Hall. You don't need to be an accountant to do this role just so long as you are OK with numbers. This is a vital role for the Village Hall so please do come forward if you think you can help. The commitment would be about 1 hour a week and one committee meeting a month (2 hours).

Trustees – Trustees need to attend one committee meeting a month lasting a couple of hours. Individual Trustees can volunteer to do additional work – such as helping with the redevelopment plans - however there is no requirement to do anything extra. So, if you can only spare a couple of hours a month for the meeting, we would still like to hear from you.

The Trustees meet on the second Monday in the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall – with suitable social distancing arrangements in place at present. If you are interested in getting involved why not come along to our next meeting to see what it is like, or if you would like to know more about the roles or the redevelopment plans call Andrew Edwards on 01449 677345 (evenings and weekends) or email him at andrewgedwards@icloud.com.

Please do volunteer if you can and help Stowupland Village Hall continue to provide a vital facility for the residents of Stowupland.

STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL

Job Vacancy

Due to the retirement of the current post holder Stowupland Village Hall has a vacancy for a part time Booking Secretary. The hours are 3 hours a week paid at £8.72 an hour (rising in April 2021 to £8.91) plus £2 a week to cover expenses as the post holder works from home. So, at present the total pay is £1,464.32 a year (rising to £1,493.96 in April) and there are also 4 weeks paid holiday a year. The hours are flexible so you can fit them round your other commitments.

Duties involve taking and managing all bookings for the Village Hall including dealing with phone calls and emails from potential and actual hirers, issuing invoices for hires, dealing with payments and repayments of hire fees and deposits, advising hirers of booking conditions, liaising with the Village Hall Trustees about bookings as necessary and when possible attending committee meetings once a month on a Monday evening for two hours. You will therefore ideally need access to a computer and telephone at home to undertake the duties but if you don't have these, and are interested, please let us know as we might be able to come to alternative arrangements.

The current post holder retires at the end of March so we would be looking for the new person to start in April with some time in March to handover from the current postholder.

If you are interested in the role, or would like to know more, please contact Andrew Edwards on 01449 677345 (evenings and weekends) or email him at andrewgedwards@icloud.com.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

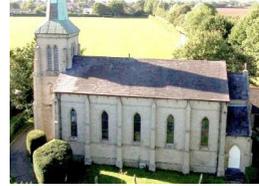
NEWS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STOWDPLAND

Vicar : Revd Brin Singleton Tel. 770921
Churchwardens : Mrs Ann Doubtfire Tel. 770363
: Mrs Sue Hayter Tel. 613710

Email: brinsingleton@btinternet.com

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2082/benefice/>



Dear Friends;

At the turning of the year the scriptures tell us 'There was a man sent from God... as a witness'. And we heard of John the Baptist's testimony to the true light come into the world in Jesus the Christ, full of grace and truth. In John's day society and nation were full of expectation at John's message of national moral and political renewal. His call from the place of the nation's birth in the wilderness, once again bought to mind a people chosen of God about to enter again the land promised of God. His call to the reform of the nation lit the liberation ambition of a small state become but one among many across Rome's brute Union of Nations. His call to such liberty was made to all society, each who would hear, to reform, to turn, to repent to believe and choose the good as God chose them for good.

The liberty John promised was not through hanging onto two coats, but giving one away to someone needy, not filling your own larder but another's who has need, not to take profit beyond what is due for yourself, not to exert force for your own advance. And all society, the people, were filled with expectation.

Which all sounds rather familiar and contemporary to us at this year's turning. In pandemic our hearts too have been opened to the needy, to neighbours, clothing and food, to support for livelihood's taken and lives taken, and to those we call on in our need, key workers, health workers, teachers, scientists and administrators we look give the testimony of our thanksgiving.

Not only do we see today John's call to the reform of social morality, but to national political life 'take back control' taken. We too through vaccination hope to take back control of our livings and lives, we are become witnesses full of expectation. The hope of a people, full of grace and truth, as those who in faith follow the one full of grace and truth. What then will be our testimony? Our sovereignty cautions us against taking our own advance at cost to others by our sovereign's testimony in her New Year Honours. And New Year celebrations have seen the likes of Captain Tom put first in our

minds in testimony against the darkness of the night Skies over the Capitol in light and firework display.

We are a people full of expectation, about to enter a land of promise. New Year's honours, sovereign Britain, common acts of compassion and kindness breaking out across society, vaccine and a people filled with expectation. Pray we may mark 2021 as a year to believe, to promote the good, vaccination and goodly society by our word, works and actions, so that we, you and I, believing, may each give our own testimony to the light of truth.

Let us be among those who believe in the Light, that amidst this world's darkness the light shines and is not overcome.

*Yours in Christ, Brin Singleton
Rector at Haughley with Wetherden & Stowupland*

A PRAYER:

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. Amen

PLEASE NOTE: All services may be subjected to change by government rules in force at that time.

Services in February 2021

7th Feb 9.30am Parish Communion

14th Feb 9.30am Worship for All

17th Feb **7.00pm Ash Wednesday Benefice Service at Wetherden**

21st Feb 9.30am Morning Prayer

28th Feb 9.30am - 10.30am Church Open for Private Prayer

Our own parish webpage AChurchNearYou-Stowupland is getting over 150 views a week, and across our three churches – Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland, over 400 of you take a look each week. So, we hope we will be able to get our plans online whatever our haste in the changes of these coming weeks.

AChurchNearYou – Stowupland
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2086/>

Mid Suffolk District Council

Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule 2021

December 2020							January 2021							February 2021							March 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April 2021							May 2021							June 2021							July 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3							1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
							31																				

August 2021							September 2021							October 2021							November 2021							
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
						1				1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						
30	31																											

-  Refuse (general rubbish) collection week
-  Recycling collection week
-  Collections following a bank holiday will be a day later than usual for the rest of the week
-  Please refer to the Christmas & New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2020/21

Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day

Waste Services

Web: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services

Email: recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)





U.R.C CHAPEL

NEWS

Minister: Revd Robert Sheard
Telephone 01449 678173

We had some very fulfilling services before Christmas, although very different and quite challenging for our speakers. No Carols were sung, which was very strange, but it was nice to be back having services again from the beginning of December even though it has all stopped again. We decided it was safest to cancel the service planned for 27 December due to the stricter lockdown. Services are suspended until further notice to support the Governments stay at home policy.

I do hope that you all managed to have a good Christmas making the best of the situation. I understand that the vaccine is due to start at The Mix on Monday 11 January so hopefully by the time you receive this magazine lots of you will have at least had one vaccine injection.

Our minister continues to stream the Sunday service, Communion and Coffee Mornings on Zoom. In addition to that, Pause for Prayer on a Thursday morning is also being streamed on Zoom. Please contact Anne Scarff on 01449 774792 if you would like the details to participate.

Joyce Gardiner

MINISTERS MESSAGE

John 3: 16

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. ”

Dear friends,

Over the last year things have been very different, and the way we have celebrated has had to be different too, not always being able to meet with friends or the people that we love, but we have been reminded how much we do love our loved ones. Even though we may still be apart we still can show that love, and February gives us a chance to do this.

February 14th is a day we can show how much we love someone. Many will send cards, chocolate, flowers, and gifts to show how much they love someone, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious

saint? And why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day and its patron saint is shrouded in mystery. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains a mixture of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient practice? Today, the Roman Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine all of whom were martyred. And parts of their bodies seem to be in many different Churches around the world.

One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young lady who may have been his jailor's daughter who visited him during his imprisonment. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' which is how many cards are still signed today. The truth behind the Valentine legends are murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and even a romantic figure, by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

However we view the stories of St Valentine, the stories all have the common theme of sacrifice and love running through them. This reminds us of the narrative of Christ's journey to the cross, the love of God to send his Son to be sacrificed for us on the Cross. God has intervened throughout human history, and this was the greatest. As a human race God has given us freewill to do and think what we want, but God is always there guiding and sustaining. God shows this and his Love by the sacrifice of his Son, just as St Valentine was prepared to sacrifice himself for the love of others, truly living in the way of Christ.

Robert

*Reverend Robert Sheard Minister of the Stowmarket group of Churches.
The group consists of Stowmarket, Debenham, Mendlesham, Haughley & Stowupland)*

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021



Both the December & January meetings were once again chaired by Cllr Welham in the Chairman's absence and they both opened with me as the token member of the public with 8 Councillors present at both meetings and were carried out on Zoom.

Council Report:

Once again there was no report from SCC and the District Council report can be found elsewhere in January's Telstar. Cllr Welham did note that the brown bin service has been suspended due to staff isolating either with, or having been in contact with, the coronavirus. Collections will concentrate on the black and green bin service.

Matters of Report:

Old Newton Parish Council's insurance company have agreed to cover the SID device whilst on loan to Stowupland with the Stowupland PC paying any excess should there be a claim. However, it was agreed not to use the device until after the lockdown. The new cemetery gates will be fitted in January and the work on the entrance onto Hunters Moon track should be completed by the same time. The new dog bin for footpath 3 has been ordered. MSDC have carried out some work on the Trinity Walk track; this will be completed when the ground is drier. The request for the Public Realm Team at MSDC to take over the running of the community orchard has been passed to them for consideration. Following checks, the PC website is now digitally compliant. The work on installing the trial length of wooden posts on Thorney Green has been completed. A new bench for The Green opposite Willow Wood has been ordered. New signage for the basketball area has also been ordered.

Public Forum:

Concerns were voiced about the state of the footpath along the track leading off Gipping Road towards Thradstones Meadow where contractors have been moving large lorries/excavation equipment using Gipping Road as a point of access; as well as vans that have been parked blocking the footpath all day and the subsequent mud that has been deposited on the highway.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan:

It was agreed that this is not an easy document to respond to but, as the PC are not happy with the way that MSDC have ignored Stowupland residents' views on what is best for the village, it was agreed to make a representation to MSDC and to offer to appear at any public hearing as necessary.

Proposed Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations:

At present there are various CIL rates and it is proposed that this would change to a new flat rate with additional Section 106 monies for specific infrastructure and planning commitments. After much discussion, it was agreed not to submit any comment.

New Car Park Arrangements at High School:

Despite SCC stating that the times that the new school car park to the rear of The Pippins can be used as set out in the meeting held last year, the Chairman of the PC who was present at that meeting, and disputed the times given by SCC, has drafted a response to them pointing out the discrepancy and requesting that parking should not commence before 8am as was originally stipulated, due to the adverse effect on residents. It was unanimously agreed that this letter should be sent to SCC. They also discussed the response to a consultation on a planning application for a new stand-alone block to provide 18 Key Stage 2 SEND places with associated additional car and cycle parking places at the High School. It was agreed that the same comments should be sent to the planning committee as were voiced at the pre-planning stage.

Stowupland Heritage Walk Leaflet:

Consideration was given to a suggestion to revamp two current leaflets into one new one to promote walks around the village. This could be funded from the DC locality budget and it was hoped that there were staff available at MSDC who could be asked to help set out a draft format and then to find out what the printing costs are likely to be. After much discussion it was decided that this leaflet should remain separate from a future leaflet on the trim trail as the customer base was likely to be completely different.

Cemetery and Churchyard: It was agreed that a small working group led by Cllr Reeves, should be set up in the New Year to investigate how much a chartered surveyor would charge to value a piece of land to extend the cemetery and whether the landowner would then be prepared to sell.

Finance and Policy: The members discussed and agreed to the recommendations to the amended terms of reference, the continuation of the direct debit and standing orders for the Stowmarket Church Charity and Anglian Water, and to provide a £3000 grant for Telstar for 2021-22.

Planning: No comment will be made in respect of a proposal for erection of a detached outbuilding and store to the rear of a property facing The Green.

Play Park: It was agreed to accept the quotation from Topgarden to clear the basketball area.

Bus Shelters: It was agreed to accept a quotation of £90 to clean all the bus shelters.

Clerk's Report: The Clerk reported that following her meeting with MSDC regarding the Trinity Walk path that as it had flooded again after the hoggin was put in place, the DC representative had agreed that the bottom part of the path should be surfaced and drained, and this should happen in February

Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Deal commented on the flooding by the Primary School and was advised that this has been reported to SCC.

Cllr Voden advised that his part of the village had suffered 5 or 6 power cuts resulting in a generator being brought in to supply power and he found that the contact numbers given on the 'fridge magnet SOS list' were still current.

Cllr Studd enquired whether any complaints had been made about the early starts made by contractors on the Linden Homes site in contravention of the stipulated start of 8am.

Cllr Hayward suggested that barriers could be put up on footpath 32 to slow down children cycling along the footpath. It was agreed that all suggestions are welcomed, but we need to have SCC Officers witness the problems first, once the schools are back.

Correspondence:

Amongst the correspondence received in December was a comment about dog poo, notification of next year's census, the additional street lighting for a limited period over Christmas and concerns about the students cycling at speed along footpath 32. Although the PCSO's have been requested to attend the site and prevent the cycling, their approach was to make contact with the school who in turn sent a letter to the parents. A police presence would have been preferable, but this particular footpath has a number of issues and it was agreed that 3 Cllrs will meet up and make a list of the issues at the beginning of the next school term and suggest solutions to SCC who have overall jurisdiction of the footpath. January correspondence included notification from the John Milton Academy Trust regarding the SEND units at Stowupland High School and Mendlesham Primary School. There were also comments from residents regarding moles on The Green, and vehicles blocking the footpath at the butchers during a football match on The Green. The Clerk is to respond to the resident about the moles and the football club will be contacted regarding the blocking of the footpath. MSDC had advised on the increase in the Community Caretaker Grant for litter picking. Suffolk Police also advised on their proposal for the policing element of the council tax which Cllr Studd has responded to in his private capacity.

Sandy Smith

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

Covid 19

Mid Suffolk is administering payments of grants to businesses forced to close or suffering a significant loss of income during the current lockdown period. The current assessment of additional costs since the start of the initial lockdown is £800k and income reduction currently stands at £1.3 million. Support from Central Government has so far totaled £2.2million. When shortfall in collection of council tax and business rates is also taken into account, the overall shortfall up to the end of December 2020 due to Covid 19 is estimated to be around £81k. This is likely to rise during the third lockdown period.

2020/2021 general fund expenditure

The predicted underspend on the revenue account is £848k, due largely to unfilled staff vacancies and delays in programmed projects. The capital account is also underspent due to delays in commencing projects and making programmed investments.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Covid 19 has impacted on the HRA; there has been an additional expenditure of £46k in PPE and a forecast £792k loss of rental income. The Government has not yet announced any financial support for HRAs so the deficit will need to be met from reserves. Overall, the HRA revenue account is predicted to be in surplus for 2020/21 due to delays in carrying out capital projects. The HRA capital account is predicted to be underspent by £12.5 million due largely to Covid 19 delaying a start of construction of council house new build projects.

2021/2022 Budget

Council Members have received an initial briefing on the draft budget for 2021/22. Once again, the Council is planning for a surplus at the end of next year following a likely underspend during the current year. It is proposed that Council Tax be increased by 1.66%, which is equivalent to 23p per month for a Band D property.

We continue to have concerns that inadequate staff resources are resulting in failure to deliver capital projects on time and delays in other work. This is despite plans to increase Council Tax and build up financial reserves.

The budget will be debated by Council on 23 February.

Council House rents

MSDC propose to increase rents by 1.5%, equivalent to an average increase of

£1.25 per week. There will be no increase in garage rents. Sheltered housing service charges are set to increase by £1 per week.

Refuse Vehicle Fuel

It is proposed that the Council's vehicle fleet will be transferred from fossil fuel diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) diesel, which is produced mainly from waste cooking oil. It is estimated that the councils' fleet of vehicles currently emits nearly 900 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This could be cut by 90%.

Councillor Keith Welham
keith.welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01449 673185

Councillor Rachel Eburne
rachel.eburne@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01449 673311



A SCAM TO WATCH FOR FROM WHICH?

A new twist on an old scam has emerged, in which fraudsters are using the pandemic as the perfect excuse to trick people into buying them Amazon gift cards.

We've already exposed the fake texts and calls about the COVID-19 vaccine, sent by criminals attempting to steal personal data and card detail, but now we've seen fraudsters hacking into email accounts and using coronavirus isolation as a hook to target victims.

We often hear from scam victims who received a seemingly innocent email from a friend, relative or work colleague only to discover that they were communicating with a fraudster all along.

Once an email account is hacked, criminals will try every trick in the book to make money, including sending emails to their contacts list.

A common tactic is to ask them to buy an Amazon gift card (more often than not, as a present for a "niece") offering a spurious reason as to why they can't purchase this themselves – and the pandemic has given scammers the perfect excuse.

How the gift card scam works

As the recipients are likely to trust the address of the sender, they assume the request is genuine and kindly agree to purchase the gift cards. Now the scammer can simply ask you to share the serial numbers so that they can cash them in.

Though the Amazon gift card scam is the one most commonly reported to Which?, be cautious of any message asking you to make a purchase or divulge personal data.

Dealing with emails from hacked accounts

Never answer an unsolicited email without making checks, even if it seems to be from a trusted source.

If you receive an email asking for personal data or any form of financial help, call that friend or family member on a trusted number and let them know their account may have been hacked.

They should then change their password immediately to secure the account and warn other contacts that they may have received a malicious message.

Setting up two-factor authentication will also make it much more difficult for anyone to hack their email account going forward.

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

Solutions for page 25

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A	P	O	T	H	E	C	A	R	Y
M			O	A	R		B		E
P	L	A	S	M	A		U	N	A
L	E	N	S			S	T	A	R
I	N	N		S	A	P		T	
F		O	R	I	G	A	M	I	
Y		T	A	S	H			O	
	L	A	B		A	M	O	N	G
M	A	T	I	N	S			A	
	S	E	D	A	T	E		L	

NEW YEAR QUIZ ANSWERS

1. To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee
2. The Thursday Murder Club Richard Osman
3. 2000
4. Paul Gaugin
5. Anne Bronte
6. A Tale of Two Cities
7. Pride and Prejudice
8. Joseph Mallord William Turner
9. New York, USA
10. Bradford, West Yorkshire
11. 21



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Diary Dates – Neil Langridge – neil@stowman.plus.com - 01449 616275
To let the village know the date and venue of your event contact Neil to be included in the diary dates.

Distribution Co-Ordinators – Keith and Cathy Welham – 01449 673185
Colin Vickridge and Keith Welham are our proofreaders and Jerry Voden chairs meetings of our team. The entire team are unpaid volunteers.

Telstar is distributed by a team of volunteers who deliver the magazine to over 1,100 homes in Stowupland. The magazine is produced every month, with the exception of December and January, which is a combined copy that gives our trusty team of volunteers a well-earned Christmas break!

Telstar is funded by grants from Stowupland Parish Council and Mid Suffolk District Council as well as income from business advertisers.

Telstar – for the community, by the community.

From the Telstar Committee

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Stay 2 metres apart. When you can't, make sure you wear a face covering.



Wear a face covering

Wear a face covering in any indoor public space. Children under 11, people who need to lip read, and people with other disabilities are exempt.



Wash your hands

Wash your hands regularly, with soap, for 20 seconds.



Get tested

Get tested if you have symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.



Isolate

If you or anyone in your bubble has symptoms, follow the guidance on self-isolation

Become a Covid-19 message cascader
www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19