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Issue 170



June-July 2020

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Simon Dear - Editor,

David D'Ath - Treasurer, David Fryatt - Distribution

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ISSUE 170

June-July 2020

### EDITORIAL

This edition comes two months further into the global crisis that unfolds to make our lives very difficult and the future uncertain, with practically all local events on hold. But there are reassuring signs of adapting to change, resilience, and acts of kindness and compassion as we adjust to living with COVID-19. Join me in looking forward to the day when the present restrictions are eased and we can celebrate village life together again.

On your local walks you may have noticed the many brightly-painted rocks that have mysteriously appeared, often in the strangest places. We share a few on the cover - "Wrestlingworth Rocks"! They certainly raise a welcomed smile. Thanks for sharing your expressions of hope and goodwill.

I extend a huge "Thank You" to David Fryatt for his editorship over the past five years, and for handing over the reins so competently. The committee is grateful for David's continued presence where he is now in charge of distribution and acting as Chair.

As ever, everyone, please keep safe and well.

*Simon Dear, Editor*

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## **Parish Council News**

The Parish Council held its first virtual meeting on Zoom on 11th May. The open forum was held as usual and one member of the public joined the meeting to raise an issue. Draft minutes of the meeting are posted on the parish council website

<https://wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk>

The next meeting will be on 13th July. If this needs to be another virtual meeting, notices will be posted in advance giving information on how to take part.

### **COVID-19**

The Parish Council would like to commend the Goodwill Fund and thank them for the great effort they are putting into supporting vulnerable residents during the lockdown. If you need help of any kind do make contact with them, either through their Facebook page or on 01767 631128.

News and updates on COVID-19 are being regularly posted on the Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Facebook page.

### **Speed Sensors**

Thanks to the tenacity of Cllr Nigel Dodgson we have new speed sensors in the High Street. Unlike the previous sensors these are very sensitive and record accurate speeds at a reasonable distance. Look out for the smiley green faces, they will even record your walking speed.

*There is no Diary Page in this edition but please do send us news of events in August and September in the hope that life may have returned to some sense of normality by then.*

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**The views contained in the articles within this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher or the members of the editorial committee.**



## **St Peter's Church, Wrestlingworth**

### **Services**

We are currently unable to open the church for services of any kind and St Peter's is closed to visitors. The PCC continues to be advised by the Church of England and the government. We look forward to the time when the lockdown is relaxed and we may worship together again.

### **St Peter's Outreach**

St Peter's has an outreach group, sending reflections and weekly prayers by email. Revd. Ian Friars streams a service on alternate Sundays lasting about 30 minutes. This is followed by Café Church, giving everyone a chance to chat while sharing a coffee remotely. Please contact Karen by phone or email if you would like to join our Outreach group.

**Everyone is welcome**

### **St Peter's News**

#### **Hugh Williams clocks out.**

Congratulations to Hugh from us all upon his retirement after 47 years of lovingly caring for St Peter's church clock.

When Hugh arrived in the village in 1971 he was frustrated to find that both the clock and the chimes had been turned off and so decided he would take on the challenge of getting it going again. He contacted Smith of Derby to service and restart the mechanism while Margaret Askem, churchwarden and parish councillor, paid for the clock face to be repainted. In 1973 Hugh began the weekly task of winding the clock and ensuring its accuracy, much to the appreciation of local residents. It became a job that he enjoyed for 47 years until his retirement this year.

In recognition of his retirement St Peter's had planned to thank Hugh and make a presentation in church on Easter Day. Unfortunately,

because of the lockdown, the service was not to be, and so on Easter morning two representatives of the congregation made a surprise visit to his house. Hugh was presented (at a distance!) with an outdoor garden clock as a token of our admiration and gratitude for his conscientious and loyal service.



Thanks to Smith of Derby, the church clock will continue to receive its annual maintenance, and thanks to Simon Dear who has taken over Hugh's role and responsibilities, we shall still be able to hear the clock chiming the hour.

Our sincere thanks to Hugh for his extraordinary commitment and tireless service to the church and the community. Enjoy your garden clock, Hugh!

If you would like to discuss a wedding, baptism or funeral, please contact Revd Carole Johnson on 01767 699934 email: [carolejohnston58@btinternet.com](mailto:carolejohnston58@btinternet.com)

You can also contact Karen Nurse (Church Warden) on 01767 631487 or email: [karen.nurse@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.nurse@btinternet.com)



## KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON



In September 2018 Wrestlingworth WI celebrated its 100th Anniversary. It has only closed down temporarily for 4 years during the War when it was thought best to contribute its time to the war effort. It has never closed since – until now. Our programme, see last issue, only waits the go-ahead for us all to continue as normal. Meanwhile we sit and wait.

Our WI logo is Inspiring Women and during the current lockdown I regret to say I have not done a lot to inspire. Considered ‘vulnerable’ because of our age, my husband and I have stayed indoors as requested and only been in our garden for fresh air.

In the wartime spirit I have boiled up chicken carcasses and made unmentionable soups from leftovers, the parsnip soup came out like porridge, and cooked and baked to keep us healthy with the food delivered by the Goodwill Fund and Woodview Farm Shop. I have written a weekly diary of events during the lockdown and how it affects the country as well as ourselves. In two years time it will read like science fiction.

I don’t have fancy gizmos on my computer but have managed to keep in touch with family in Yorkshire and Kent by phone and sending a newsletter to our grandchildren aged 6,5 and 4 as well as starting up a competition by posting them some runner bean seeds to grow. Whose will grow to two inches the quickest? Their Dads have joined in the fun by sending me regular updates in the style of BBC reportage!

I have re-read favourite books and chatted to my neighbours over the dustbins and look forward to thanking those in the community in person who have helped us, visiting Daniella and Veg at “Avanti” again and meeting up with my WI and Badminton friends. The nightmare of 2020 will eventually come to an end and the WI will rise again. Meanwhile watch this space and above all

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON!

*Carolyn Driver*



## **HELPING YOUR VILLAGE HELPING YOUR LOCAL PUB**

Following the Government announcement, although you cannot presently visit The Chequers, we want to help our community by offering a free delivery service to the villagers of Wrestlingworth. Surrounding villages at a small charge.

**We Are Now Serving Takeaway Sunday Lunches and Takeaway Beers and Wines**

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### **Traditional Fish & Chips**

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*Breaded Whitby Scampi & Steak Cut Chips*

### **Burger and Chips**

*6oz Homemade Beef Burger in a toasted Brioche Bun with Cheddar Cheese, Burger Relish and Steak Cut Chips*

### **Penang Curry**

*Penang Red Vegetable Curry accompanied with White Basmati Rice and Naan Bread v (gf without naan)*

### **Thai Green Curry**

*Thai Green Curry with White Basmati Rice and Naan Bread (gf without naan)*

### **Goan Vegetable Curry**

*Goan Vegetable Curry with White Basmati Rice and Naan Bread v (gf without naan)*

### **Chicken Tikka Masala**

*Chicken Tikka Masala with White Basmati Rice and Naan Bread v (gf without naan)*

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## Wrestlingworth History Society



The above scene of Wrestlingworth High Street, viewed north from the T-intersection around 1900, may look like an early experiment in social distancing, but it reveals that some characteristics of the village have not changed in a hundred years. It is one of the many historical photographs now viewable on the Wrestlingworth History Society web site.

<http://www.wrestlingworth-hs.org/>

Currently our regular programme of bi-monthly talks is on hold until the Coronavirus situation allows us again to resume. Please check our website for updates.

Local Independent Central Bedfordshire Councillors Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye's latest email newsletter is now available. It includes news of the successful public campaign to oppose the approval of planning applications using emergency powers, and a big thank-you to the Goodwill Fund and volunteers for their efforts with helping those who have been staying home during the COVID-19 crisis.

As always, the newsletter will include a round-up of up-and-coming local events. To get it directly, join the mailing list by emailing [adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk) or [traceywye@icloud.com](mailto:traceywye@icloud.com).

## **A Message from the Goodwill Fund**

In these strange and difficult times, the Goodwill Fund Committee would like to send its absolute best wishes to everyone in the villages of Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley, Eyeworth and Tadlow. We fervently hope that you and your nearest and dearest are keeping well and staying safe.

As some of you may know, we have started a shopping service for the elderly and vulnerable in our community who are self-isolating and are finding it extremely hard to get the essential supplies they need. Due to a very generous donation from an anonymous benefactor we have been able to get this service up and running quickly and they've also asked that we add in a small treat to the shopping as a bit of comfort. So, a big "Thank You" to our benefactor and I know from all the messages I've received how much our residents appreciate this service.

Requests are increasing and we would not have been able to make this work without the help of our volunteers. Some from the committee and some from villagers who have come forward to offer their time and assistance. On a personal note, I'd like to say a huge "Thank You" to everyone that has given up their time and shopped at supermarkets and other stores, split up the shopping into bags and then delivered it. It's been incredibly heart-warming to see this band of volunteers put themselves at risk for other people – often visiting multiple stores to get a much-needed item.

Another big worry for residents that can't get out is making sure that they get their medication in a timely manner – especially those of us who have repeat prescriptions. Please get in touch if you need help in getting your repeat prescription to the surgery. In an emergency, we can also pick up prescriptions from the surgery plus essential non-prescription items from Lloyds in Potton.

We are also very happy to announce a free give away of consumables for the hard-working families of Wrestlingworth, Tadlow, Cockayne Hatley and Eyeworth who are doing an amazing job in home schooling their children. Please email us with what you would like from the following list and add any other similar items that we may have missed:

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Due to the pandemic we have already cancelled some of our fund-raising events. The Village Fete looks in danger as well – at least in the style of previous years. So if you would like to support the Goodwill Fund in providing these much-needed services, please get in touch and we will give you details of how you can donate. We are also running an online raffle as a fund raiser and please see our Facebook page for details.

You can contact us at [wrestlingworthgoodwillfund@gmail.com](mailto:wrestlingworthgoodwillfund@gmail.com) and please pass these details on to neighbours or friends who may not have seen this article and would like to know more about the Fund or would benefit from some help.

On behalf of the Goodwill Fund Committee and myself, we hope you all stay safe and keep well.

*Brian Whitfield – Chair, Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund*

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## **PWWG News**

The Parish Walking & Wildlife Group organises regular monthly walks, on the third Sunday of the month, some of which are led by Ian Woiwod (who wrote our article in this issue). Walks have been suspended during the COVID-19 Lockdown, and, as this is written, we have no idea when they might start again. Visit the Group's website at [www.pwwg.org.uk](http://www.pwwg.org.uk) or its Facebook page for suggestions and details of walks you may take around this beautiful and wildlife-rich part of Bedfordshire. These are also the platforms where walks, once we are allowed to organise them again, will be advertised.



**Parish  
Walking &  
Wildlife  
Group**

## Bats about the Parish

*The Parish Walking & Wildlife Group's Ian Woiwod encourages us to appreciate our local flying mammals*

One of the least known groups of animals to be found in our parish are those cuddly little flying mammals known as bats. Well perhaps not everyone regards them as cuddly, particularly as they often get such a bad but unwarranted press (their fictional use in vampire stories, for example, and, no they do not get caught in your hair!). However, as the only true flying mammals they are certainly fascinating animals that deserve our respect, protection and more. They are often overlooked because they are largely nocturnal but can often be seen in our gardens on warm summer evenings as they start their night's foraging.

Of the 18 British and 12 Bedfordshire bat species 7 have been recorded in or immediately around the Parish. These are Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule, Serotine, Natterer's Bat, Brown Long-Eared Bat and Barbastelle. Undoubtedly the commonest and most usual to be seen in gardens is the small Common Pipistrelle, whereas the Barbastelle is regarded as a rare species that has been recorded in Potton Wood and almost certainly also forages in adjoining Cockayne Hatley Wood.

All British species of bat are insect feeders so, in winter, tend to hibernate in underground structures with cool constant temperatures such as tunnels and cellars. For the rest of the year they need to roost during the day, often in trees or buildings, and it is important that such sites are known and protected. So please report any you know of in the Parish. It is in fact illegal to disturb or destroy such sites.

We can help here by putting up bat roosting boxes in our gardens, like the one pictured here being used in bat studies. This contains a bat which has just been identified, weighed and measured in a long term study. The sponge plug with string has been placed in the



opening of the box to prevent the bat from flying. After 15 minutes, when it has settled, the plug is removed by pulling the string.

All British bats use echolocation to navigate or hunt for food. Their calls are usually pitched too high for us to hear naturally, but they can be heard and often identified using widely available bat detectors. Getting one of these is indeed a good starting point for developing a deeper interest in these creatures. One would think that, with the bat's sophisticated method for detecting prey, insects would not stand a chance. However a few have evolved amazing counter-measures. Some moths, on detecting the bats, sometimes fold their wings and drop out of the sky, others send sounds back to bats to warn that they are poisonous. Moths have also been shown to effectively jam the bats' echo-detecting signals. Recently it has also been suggested that the hairs on the bodies of some moths are arranged to absorb rather than reflect high-frequency sound, in effect making them invisible to the bats, and thereby inventing the stealth technology of modern military aeroplanes long before we did.



*Bats can be difficult to photograph in flight. The best that I've managed is this male Common Pipistrelle that was unusually active during the day in my Cockayne Hatley garden. It took many attempts.*

There has long been concern about the decline of bat populations as a result of habitat destruction, reduced insect populations and a variety of other causes. As a result they have strong legal protection and must only be handled by licenced experts. However, for anyone interested taking their knowledge further, there is very active bat group in Bedfordshire. For details go to: <http://www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk/>. This includes many useful facts about bats and relevant contact details.



*A closer look at the rare Potton Wood Barbastelle in the experienced gloved hand of a licenced bat researcher.*

*Photos courtesy of Bob Cornes, Bedfordshire Bat Group*



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## **Trial and error cooking by Gordon Blue (assisted by Egon Ronnie)**

### **YOGHURT FLATBREAD WITH CHEESE & BACON TOPPING (Serves 6 people)**

#### **Ingredients:-**

200 gm of unflavoured Greek yoghurt  
Self-raising flour (see below)  
Pinch of salt (optional)  
12 rashers of bacon (but see below)  
Approx 400 gm of grated cheese (but see below)  
Generous splash of olive oil

#### **Method :-**

Empty the yoghurt into a mixing bowl and mix in sufficient self-raising flour to form a dough, capable of being rolled, to be made. You will need to use quite a lot of flour. Next cut the dough into six separate parts and then roll each part until you have a thin circle.

Fry each part in a little olive oil, on a high heat, replenishing if necessary, until your flat bread starts to brown on both sides. This will only take a minute or two on each side. Then after each part is done sprinkle on some grated cheese. While this is cooling fry up the bacon and when ready put two rashers on each of the six flat breads you have made.

When this is done your yoghurt flat is ready to eat. Simply fold in half and eat it with your fingers. But have a tissue to hand, just in case!

#### **Egon Ronnie comments:-**

This recipe is good for quick snack and another advantage is that the flatbread can be frozen until you are ready to eat it. Furthermore, you can choose your own toppings. I'm not sure how the flatbread would taste if you used a fruit based yoghurt, but when I tried to use the plain yoghurt flatbread as a dessert, it didn't work too well, hence this more savoury recipe.

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<b>Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth &amp; Dunton Churches</b>	Karen Nurse - Church Warden (St. Peters) Wendy Robinson - Church Warden (All Saints)	01767 631487 01767 631283
<b>Church and Poor's Fund</b>	Liz Teague	01767 631628
<b>Parish Council</b>	Robin Barrat - Chair Sandra Williams - Vice Chair Nigel Dodgson James Kirkpatrick Frazer Dewey Kevin Puddephatt Catherine Dear - Clerk to Parish Council	01767 631418 01767 631269 01767 631643 01767 631767 01767 631746 07950 691905 01767 631383
<b>Central Beds Council</b>	Adam Zerny Tracey Wye	01767 261319 01767 261319
<b>Wrestlingworth Lower School</b>	Nancy Sheehan - Head Teacher Abi Chipperfield - Friends Co-chair Kelly Ottolangui - Friends Co-chair	01767 631249 07949 831993 07834 614613
<b>Women's Institute</b>	Lesley May	01767 631259
<b>Conservative Association</b>	Doreen Gurney	01767 680395
<b>Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund</b>	Brian Whitfield Margret Pantry - Doctor/Hospital Transport	01767 631128 01767 631548
<b>Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall</b>	Jim Hawkins - Chair June Cutchie - Bookings	01767 631736 01767 631795
<b>Eyeworth Village Hall</b>	Wendy Robinson - Bookings	01767 631283
<b>Walking &amp; Wildlife Group</b>	Robin Barrat - Chair	01767 631418
<b>History Society</b>	Connie Walker - Coordinator	01767 631450
<b>Badminton Club</b>	Jim Hawkins	01767 631736
<b>Ladies' Badminton Club</b>	Jan Goodwin	01767 631282
<b>Carpet Bowls</b>	Colin Dale	01767 631531
<b>The Chequers Public House</b>	Dave and Carin Moore	01767 631818
<b>Wrestlingworth Speedwatch</b>	Ken Ellis	01767 631394

### EMERGENCY (24 HOURS)

Police Contacts PC 5725 Sally Bonham & PCSO 4763 Ann Jeeves tel: 101  
 Potton Surgery 01767 260229 — 24/7 (electricity) 0800 783 8838 — Anglian Water 0800 145 145  
 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 07842 087395 or 0300 300 4439

### USEFUL NUMBERS

Potton Surgery (Appointments/requests)	01767 260340
Police (Control Room)	01234 841212
Samaritans	01234 211211
National Rail Enquiries	08457 484950
Central Bedfordshire Council Dog Warden	0300 300 8302

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