

Village Link

Issue 176



Lousy Bush is awarded Local Nature Reserve status

June - July 2021

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Simon Dear - Editor

David D'Ath - Treasurer, David Fryatt - Distribution

e-mail us at: villagelink@zoho.com

ISSUE 176

June - July 2021

EDITORIAL

As restrictions are cautiously lifted and things continue to open up apace, there are more events happening around our villages, as you will pleasantly see in this issue. If you are planning an event, please let the Village Link know, and we will happily add it to our 'Dates for Your Diary'.

We always welcome your wonderful letters. It is especially heart-warming to receive kind words of thanks recognising others for their excellent support or service, and we will always try to include them with appropriate prominence on our pages. So, if you know of anyone who deserves special mention, please let the Village Link know about it.

Judging from the amount of material submitted for this issue, interest in the Village Link is growing. Maybe you'd like to be involved. If you would feel you could help in any capacity - as a novice or seasoned expert - whether it be that you are seeking a new outlet for your creativity, wish to help with fund-raising, want to join our distribution team, or are just enthusiastic about supporting our local community, please get in touch.

- Simon Dear, Editor

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PUBLICATION DATE ISSUE 177.....31st July 2021

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Women's Institute

Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund

Parish Council

Wrestlingworth History Society

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Dates for Your Diary

June

- 2nd Open Garden at The Old Rectory, Church Lane from 2-5pm, in aid of the British Red Cross
- 5th Coffee Morning at Eyeworth Village Hall from 10:30am-12pm, in aid of All Saints
- 22nd Women's Institute Evening Tea (previously referred to as Garden Party on 15th June) in Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall (garden at rear) at 7:30pm.
- 24th Open Garden - Beck House, Water End from 10:30am - 4:30pm, in aid of the British Red Cross
- 26th Wrestlingworth Goodwill Family Quiz, on Zoom at 7.30pm

July

- 3rd Afternoon Tea at Eyeworth Village Hall, from 2.30pm-4pm, in aid of All Saints
- 12th Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting to be held in the Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall at 7pm
- 15th Wrestlingworth History Society guided tour of the new North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin at 6:30pm
- 20th Women's Institute talk by Colin Hill "Dancing with Diana", Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall at 7:30pm
- 25th Open Garden at Beck House, Water End from 2-5pm, in aid of the British Red Cross

Please do check dates and times with organisers, as they may be subject to change. We want to include all relevant events but do rely on your input; if you don't tell us, we might not know about your event. So, please email your diary dates to villagelink@zoho.com.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Brook Farm 94 High Street

At the Parish Council's May meeting nearly 30 residents attended a Zoom presentation by the new owner of Brook Farm 94 High Street and the land immediately behind. Various potential layouts for houses on the site were shown, together with early thoughts on land management to the rear. The Parish Council understands that a planning application will be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) in due course. This is when residents will have the chance to formally give their views to the planning authority.

Lousy Bush Nature Reserve

We are delighted to announce that Lousy Bush has been officially recognised by CBC as a Local Nature Reserve. Eleven years after the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group started work to transform the local gravel pit, recognition has finally been achieved. Many people have worked hard to develop the site for wildlife but particular thanks must go to Patrick Humphrey and Ian Woiwod for completing the required technical documentation for the application to Natural England. Recognition by CBC was the final step and has brought to fruition an aspiration in both the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. This designation gives Lousy Bush more security in the future and carries weight when grants for improvements are sought.

Lousy Bush can be reached via either by the footpath off Water End (closest to the Chequers) or from Sutton Hill. The cover photo was taken from the footpath from Water End. There is an interpretation board outside the reserve and interesting birds and other wildlife can be seen from the Faulkner Hide and in the two ponds.

If you are interested in getting involved in the ongoing management of the reserve, please get in touch with Robin Barratt
www.PWWG.org.uk

Litter

Once again the Parish Council has been asked to take action on the considerable amount of litter on both our streets and on footpaths in open countryside. We have no powers to prevent litter being dropped but we ask you to have pride in our attractive parish and take your litter home. Please also respect crops growing in the fields as you exercise your dogs.

Children's Play Area

Work to replace the safety matting in the play area is now complete. Financial constraints have meant that the matting under the slide cannot be renewed this year.

Parish Council Meetings

The May meeting was a virtual meeting held on Zoom. Draft minutes of that meeting can be found on the Parish Council website www.wrestlingworth&cockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk

The next meeting on Monday 12th July will be an “in person” meeting in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm as we come out of the government’s Covid lockdown measures. Covid guidelines current at the date of the meeting will be in place to ensure that it is a safe space for both councillors and residents attending.

Vacancy

The Parish Council, which meets six times a year, is looking to fill the vacancy of Parish Councillor by co-optation. Are you interested? If so, please contact the Clerk, Catherine Dear via email on wrestlingworthch@gmail.com or phone 01767 631383 before 18th June.

WI PHOENIX RISES FROM THE ASHES!



Because of the copy date I have had to pre-empt this , but I am reporting it anyway.

“Following over a year of closure the 25th May saw our AGM held in the Memorial Hall (suitably socially distanced and masked) when President Sheila Brown led us forward for a year and members gave their reflections on the Covid-19 Lockdown. Members showed how they relieved the boredom in many ways and I, as usual, spent a lot of time reading, writing ‘My Covid Diary’ and entering short story competitions.”

Although we haven’t been meeting, each member was pleased to receive a bunch of daffodils and some Hot Cross Buns for Easter, the committee has ‘Zoom-ed’ and our programme has been organised. So here goes -

22nd June – Evening Tea (previously referred to as Garden Party on 15th June) in the garden area behind the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

Thereafter Meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall as usual on the **3rd Tuesday of the month and at the NEW time of 7.30 pm.**

20th July – Colin Hill “Dancing with Diana”
(My time as a Close Protection Officer with the Royal Family)

17th August – Milena Kavrakova “Learning to play the cello in a Communist Country.”
(An Open Meeting open to non-members)

21st September – Paul Gillions talking on the RNLI

Shortly we will be producing our Programme Cards and you will see what else we have in store for you. Please feel confident enough to come out again and join us – we will look after you and new members will be welcome. I hope that none of you have had to contend with tragedy during the pandemic. Wrestlingworth is known for its community spirit to let’s get it started again!

- Carolyn Driver

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS

HUGE PETITION PRESENTED TO CBC TO FIGHT CLOSURE OF WRESTLINGWORTH AND DUNTON SCHOOLS

Local residents have presented a petition to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to fight the proposed closure of schools in Dunton and Wrestlingworth.



Last October we highlighted how an investigation into S106 funds CBC receives from developers revealed Central Beds Council was considering shutting 'Outstanding' schools in Dunton and Wrestlingworth and demanding children relocate to a much larger school to be built on a huge new housing development in Biggleswade.

We recently drew attention to how concerned residents had launched a public petition to save the two village schools.

In the course of just a few weeks the petition gained 780 signatures. This number equates to more than 60% of the adult population of the two villages, a remarkable number.

And in recent weeks, the organisers of the petition spoke eloquently at CBC's Children's Services scrutiny committee to present the petition and give councillors a flavour of the strength of local feeling on the matter.

Adam also spoke at the meeting to pay tribute to those who got the petition going and to highlight what a strong mandate it gives to the defence of these schools. He reminded council officers they would be well-advised to reconsider their plans while they still have time.

The Council has admitted it will announce a public consultation on its plans in June. These consultations have become exceptionally unpopular in recent years as the Council has gained a reputation for

consulting on what it has already decided it wants and then making few changes regardless of what residents say.

Elsewhere in Central Bedfordshire, the Council's Schools for the Future scheme has hit the buffers with large parts of the programme heavily delayed. At Fulbrook Middle school, concerns have been raised after initial plans approved by the school were later slimmed down in favour of a cheaper solution with reduced facilities. Meanwhile at Aspley Guise Lower School, there are worries the Council is ignoring government guidance in its failure to provide specialist rooms for children with special educational needs, demonstrating despite CBC's much-voiced commitment to improving such facilities through this project, it has no real intention of doing anything about it.

*- Cllr Adam Zerny and Cllr Tracey Wye
Independent Central Bedfordshire
Councillors for Wrestlingworth,
Cockayne Hatley and Potton*

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

In 2000, the Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council installed defibrillators in both villages. The locations of these can be found in the Emergency section of the 'Handy Phone Numbers' page as well as on the inside back cover of this issue. Take a look now to familiarise yourself with the location.

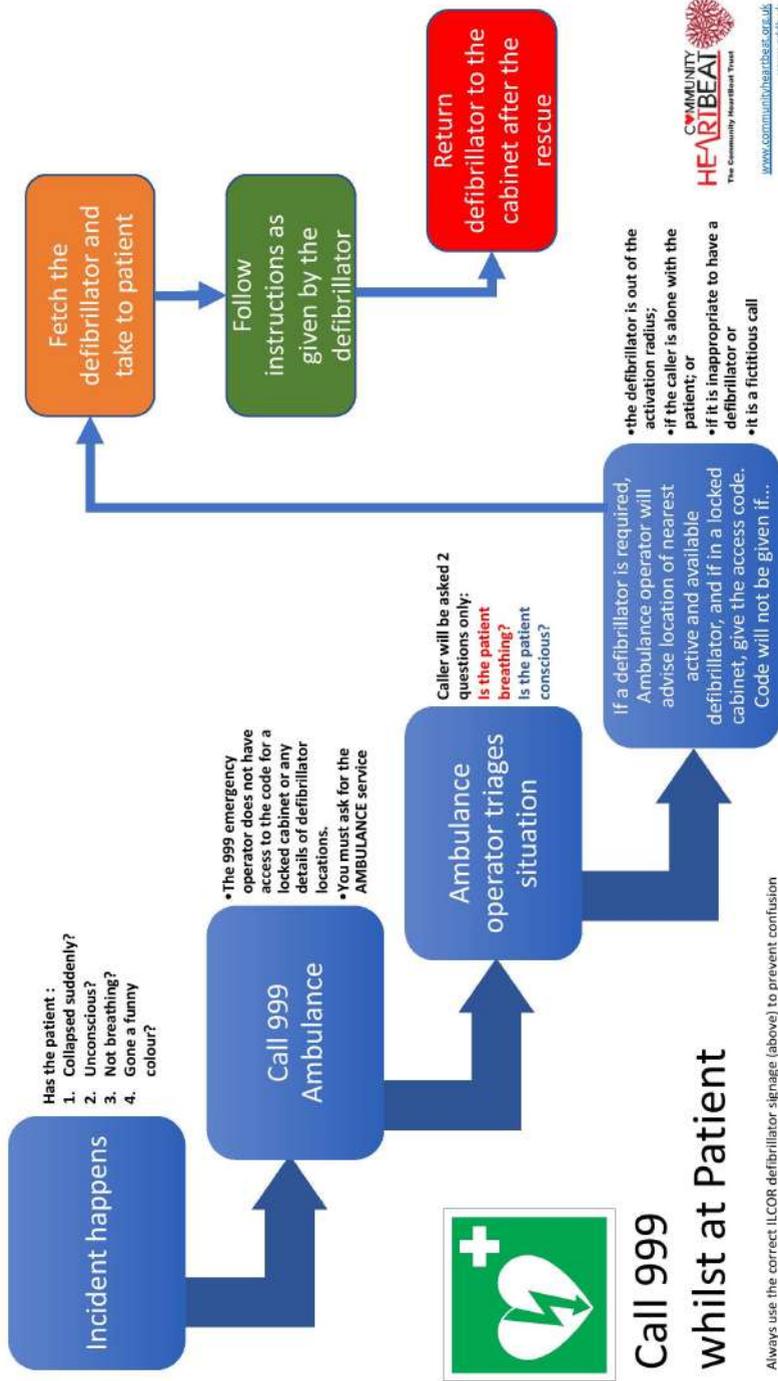
The defib. cabinets are locked and can only be opened with a code that is given out by the Ambulance service once your emergency call has been triaged. So it is important that you

**** CALL 999 WHILST AT THE PATIENT ****

The full procedure for using and activating the defibrillators is on the facing page.

The Parish Council regularly checks each defibs to ensure they are always ready for use, and partners with the Community Heartbeat Trust to ensure the whole procedure works smoothly.

PROCEDURE FOR ACTIVATING OUR DEFIBRILLATORS





Whoever you are, you are welcome here!

St Peter's exists to serve the village of Wrestlingworth and the wider local community. Our regular congregation is made up of people of all stages of life and we hope to provide something for everybody. You are very welcome to join us at a service, reach out to us if you have a pastoral need or make contact if you would like to discuss holding a christening, wedding or another special service at the church.

Good News!

St Peter's is open once again for services. During June and July, our service schedule will be as follows:

Sunday June 6th: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday June 13th: Online Benefice Zoom Service at 10am

Sunday June 20th: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday June 27th: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday July 4th: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday July 11th: Online Benefice Zoom Service at 10am

Sunday July 18th: Morning Worship at 11am

Sunday July 25th: Holy Communion at 11am

All services in church will also be streamed on Zoom. For the zoom links, please visit www.dwe.org.uk

Open Church

St Peter's is currently open every Sunday from 12:30pm until 4pm for private prayer and reflection.

South Aisle Repairs

By the time you read this the repairs to the South Aisle will be almost finished, after a long delay caused by the pandemic. Some of the work is making good the damage from when the temporary roof cover failed, but we are taking the opportunity to carry out other restoration work in this part of the church, including a fresh coat of paint.

Our next big project will be the repairs on the turret which had to be put on hold when the roof was stolen. We are currently working on potential costs, then grant applications and fundraising can commence.

St Peter's is grateful for the ongoing support received from the village and beyond, which enables us to take care of the fabric of our beautiful church. The church is open every Sunday between 12:30pm and 4pm. We invite you to pop in and admire the South Aisle and also enjoy some time for private prayer and reflection in this ancient building.

A Church for the Future

We are currently seeking to find out how the local community would like to engage with St Peter's in the future. If you have a few minutes to complete an online survey, we would value your input. Please visit **www.dwe.org.uk/survey** to share your views and ideas!

Ways to keep in touch with St Peter's

Our Notice board outside church

Our web site: www.dwe.org.uk

Facebook – Follow 'DWE Benefice'

Matt Phillips, Priest-in-Charge

01767 512122 matt@dwe.org.uk

Karen Nurse, Church Warden

01767 631487 karen.nurse@btinternet.com



Whoever you are, you are welcome here!

All Saint's exists to serve the village of Eyeworth and the wider local community. Our regular congregation is made up of people of all stages of life and we hope to provide something for everybody. You are very welcome to join us at a service, reach out to us if you have a pastoral need or make contact if you would like to discuss holding a christening, wedding or another special service at the church.

Services in June and July

During June and July, our service schedule is as follows:

Sunday June 6th 2021: Holy Communion Service at 3pm

Sunday June 13th: Online Benefice Zoom Service at 10am

Sunday June 27th: All-Age Family Worship at 3pm

Sunday July 4th: Holy Communion Service at 3pm

Sunday July 11th: Online Benefice Zoom Service at 10am

Sunday July 25th: All-Age Family Worship at 3pm

To find the links for Benefice Zoom services, please visit:
www.dwe.org.uk

Upcoming Events

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th June

10.30am - 12pm

Eyeworth Village Hall / grounds

Raffle

Cakes

In aid of All Saints

(in compliance with latest government Covid guidance)

AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 3rd July

Afternoon Tea

2.30pm - 4pm

Eyeworth Village Hall / grounds

Raffle

In aid of All Saints

(in compliance with latest government Covid guidance)

Save the date:

HARVEST SALE AND COFFEE MORNING: 25th September 2021

A Church for the Future

We are currently seeking to find out how the local community would like to engage with All Saints in the future. If you have a few minutes to complete an online survey, we would value your input. Please visit www.dwe.org.uk/survey to share your views and ideas!

Contact Us

Matt Phillips, Priest-in-Charge

01767 512122 matt@dwe.org.uk

Wendy Robinson, Church Warden

01767 631283

WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Hello from all on the Goodwill Committee.

We currently have a vibrant, enthusiastic committee with a great breadth of ability which bodes well for the continuation of our support in the community.

Our shopping and prescription service has been exceptionally well run and staffed by volunteers and well received by villagers. We now seem to be emerging from the need to offer this service although please ask if you still require it.

We have continued through lockdown with our popular online family quizzes and will be holding our next one via Zoom on **Saturday 26th June at 7.30pm**. Please join us if you can for a fun evening.

Following on from our successful children's scavenger hunt, we will be holding another one during May half-term week. Please look out for posters and on Facebook for details.

Fundraising to support the work of all UK charities, including the Goodwill, has been hard over the last year, but all the small amounts we raise soon add up so if you can support us please do. Any donations to the Wrestlingworth Goodwill and offers of support are hugely appreciated and gratefully received.

Please follow us and like us on Facebook 'The Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund' and on Instagram 'wrestlingworthgoodwillfund'

The Goodwill Fund aims to support people of all ages living in the four villages. We have wish to support young adults entering higher education, apprenticeships, college and university. Our 18+ Education and Training Resource Award can be applied for to give financial support towards learning materials/equipment. If this could be of help to you, please contact the Goodwill via email and ask for an application. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday 17th September 2021.

Best wishes

- Anna Hines

wrestlingworthgoodwillfund@gmail.com

WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL

The trustees are looking forward to having our hall re-opened to the public and we hope that if you can hold an event, you will choose us. As advised in previous Village Link articles, we are COVID-19 secure. We have handwashing facilities and sanitiser. The hall is big enough to operate one way systems and has plenty of space for social distancing!

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) have advised the following:

Step 3: 17 May

- Controlled indoors events up to 50% capacity.
- Hospitality settings will be in accordance with the rule of 6 so community cafes, coffee mornings and social clubs can take place.
- Film shows, plays, concerts and sports matches can take place subject to social distancing.
- Indoor sports activities, including exercise classes, table tennis and badminton can take place.
- Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions, funerals and wakes. Christenings and Bar Mitzvahs are allowed.
- Organised outdoor entertainment can take place.
- The rule of six will be abolished for outdoor gatherings, replaced with a limit of 30 people.

Step 4: 21 June

- All legal limits on social contact are removed. Outdoor events with more than 30 people can take place.
- Dancing is permitted.
- Restrictions on numbers at weddings and funerals are abolished.

As always, we will continue to monitor guidance. If you want further information then please ring our secretary Edwina Parker on 01767 631066 or email wrestlingworthmemorialhall@gmail.com.

www.wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk/memorial-hall

SUPPORT YOUR OPEN GARDENS IN WRESTLINGWORTH

All in aid of the British
Red Cross



Wednesday 2 June - The Old Rectory Open Garden

The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Sandy SG19 2EU

Open: 2.00pm - 5.00pm.

Price: £5 per adult, children under 12 free. Teas & Plant stall

Four acre garden full of colour and interest. The owner has a free style of gardening sensitive to nature and wildlife. Beds overflow with tulips, alliums, bearded iris, peonies, poppies, geraniums, roses, and much more. Beautiful mature trees and many more planted in the last 32 years including a large selection of betulas. Gravel gardens, box hedging and wild flower meadows with a new natural pond dug four years ago. Some areas difficult for wheelchairs.

Directions: Turn off Wrestlingworth High Street into Church Lane; directions to the house will be signed.

Parking will be in Church Lane, the nearby village hall or the field next door.

By kind permission of: Mrs Josephine Hoy

Thursday 24 June - Beck House Open Garden

Beck House, Water End, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2HA

Open: 10.30 am - 4.30 pm

Price £5.00 per adult, children under 12 free. Please note no refreshments available on this date but seating provided for those wishing to bring their own

Beck House Open Garden will also be open on:

Sunday 25th July 2.00pm - 5.00pm - Teas available

Sunday 1st August 10.30 - 4.30 pm - Teas available

Two acre garden created from scratch over the last 32 years by present owners, with much colour and variety. Formal and informal areas divided by hornbeam and yew hedges and shrub borders. Topiary shapes, yew avenue, circular dahlia garden, box parterre with English roses, herbaceous borders. White garden, courtyard garden, herb garden and vegetable garden. Hot colours garden in late summer. Tulips and other bulbs in spring. Rose and clematis pergola walk. New areas of planting in the last two years. Woodland garden started in 2019. Some gravel paths, steps and slopes, but mostly wheelchair accessible. Outside WC available.

Directions: Turn into Water End opposite No.s 8 and 10 High Street.

Parking in field in front of house.

DOG WALKERS

This is an appeal to all dog walkers old and new. We are truly blessed with the network of footpaths that surround our villages where we can walk our dogs. Can I please ask that if your dog is loose and you see another dog walker that has their dog on a lead, please recall your dog and put it on the lead until you are close enough to enquire whether it's OK for the dogs to say hello or to be let off the lead. There are many reasons why that other dog may be on the lead so please respect the owner and protect their dog and please DON'T send your dog over to ask the other owner if it's OK to play.

Thank You.

- Sarah Burgoine



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COCKAYNE HATLEY

Rector Rev. Alex Wheatley

Services

2nd Sunday of the month at 9am - Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month at 6pm - Evensong

<https://www.pottonparishchurch.org.uk/>

WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY TO VISIT NEW MUSEUM

For the first time since our visit to Caldecote Church two years ago, the History Society is planning a trip away for its July meeting, which, subject to Covid restrictions being lifted, will be held at the newly-completed North Herts Museum in Hitchin.



Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Curator and Heritage Access Officer, will give a guided tour of the exciting venue at the Old Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin on Thursday 15th July at 6.30pm.

The North Herts Museum covers the history of a wide area from Hitchin, through Letchworth, Baldock and Royston and the surrounding villages with a wealth of historic materials and information. To get a taste, why not visit their website and view their picture gallery of some incredible old photos. The web address for the museum is www.northhertsmuseum.org.

It also helps to have an idea of numbers of attendees so we can let the museum know in advance (also if you need help with transport), so please visit the website www.wrestlingworth-hs.org and click on the 'Contact' tab if you are planning to join us.

Presentation in 2021

We are so pleased to get our History Society meetings up and running again. With the recent May presentation on 'Wallis Simpson and the Year of Three Kings' being successfully run via Zoom we have gained new viewers and we hope they will continue to attend our future meetings.

Our meetings for the rest of the year are:

16th September - Pamela Birch from the Bedfordshire Archives

18th November - To be confirmed

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

THE FOUR VILLAGES ARTS COMPETITION RESULTS



Over January through April Wendy Baker has been kindly organising a fun arts competition on the Facebook group ‘The Four Villages Arts Competition’ to keep our spirits up through lockdown. The Short Story competition ran in March and the Poetry competition in April.

The entries were all very original, entertaining and thought-provoking. Well done everyone who entered & congratulations to the winners! And thank you again, Wendy, for your inspiration.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION (MARCH) RESULTS

Judge - Nick da Costa

1st Sarah Burgoine - ‘An Only Child’

“There are deep currents to this story and it’s quite a challenging read - in a good way. Mystery, loss, retribution are all here.” - Nick da Costa

POETRY COMPETITION (APRIL) RESULTS

Judge - Simon Dear

1st Nicola Adkins - ‘This County is Flat’

“Nicola captures the essence of rural living exceptionally well and with great humour. I love that skylarks “celebrate” in their song and can almost see the barley’s “rhythmic rippling”. There is much of local interest in Nicola’s poem – who can tire of our spectacular sunsets (that quickly adorn Facebook whenever they occur), sensitivity to our rural locale and its environmental perils, and an awareness of the seasons unfolding around us.” - Simon Dear

We hope to print Nicola’s poem in a later issue of Village Link.

Winning Short Story by Sarah Burgoine

“AN ONLY CHILD”

As I descended the small winding staircase for what I knew would be the last time, I carefully sidestepped the centre of the creaky sixth step and then, through habit routinely counted the remaining fifteen steps to the bottom. Then I cautiously crossed the weathered, paint flaked floor of the dark and dingy hallway until I neared the big heavy oak door. How many times had I got this far, moving silently, hardly daring to breathe, only to find the door was locked and the heavy metal key was out of my reach yet again? This time was different..... I seemed to hold my breath for an eternity, though in reality it was only for a few seconds and then I passed easily through the narrow gap left by the partially open door and out into the fresh spring morning, I expected to be grabbed by my hair, to be hauled back upstairs, to be starved as punishment for trying to escape but nothing happened.

I had dreamt of the beautiful and delicate scented blossoms that now appeared around my head and my eyes feasted on the site before me. As my gaze lingered, I turned slightly as my attention was caught by a beautiful woodpecker flitting between the trees, searching for grubs and insects and appearing to shimmer with the sun on his bright green and red feathers. Oh how I had missed the simple but beautiful things that make up our lives and that we all too often take for granted.

Then there it was, my little red car, exactly where I had left it in such a panic nearly 5 years ago. I looked inside and saw on the passenger seat, the crumpled teenage magazine I had bought that day and two empty crisp packets. My pink furry jacket still lay on the back seat with my black leather school bag and my mobile phone covered in jazzy stickers, all seemingly untouched for so long but representing to me a life that deep in my heart I knew had gone for ever.

I cast one long lingering look back to the house, which from the outside looked so unassuming, peaceful and beautiful. Hiding behind that façade it hid the wickedness, pain and despair that had gone on within it. At last I slowly turned away and found myself travelling along the road towards the pretty little market town of Lochnabur. It all looked so familiar and unchanged by time, so comforting to my tortured soul.

As I approached the Lochnabur Police station I felt a deep seated uneasiness and then an tightening feeling of panic overwhelmed me. The tall glass fronted building that loomed in front of me, seemed to say ”come in, look inside we are welcoming to all, come in and let us solve your problems”. I hesitated, was I ready? Was this the time? No not yet.

I then turned right along Fortescue road. On and on along the tiny winding

lane looking for the sharp right hand turn I knew would eventually come into sight and suddenly there it was.

I saw the familiar sign “Primrose Cottage” together with an arrow pointing along a little dirt track almost obscured by overhanging willow trees. As the house crept into view through the branches and greenery I could see it looked just as I remembered. It was well cared for, neat and tidy and it lived up to its name with a front lawn covered in tiny beautiful delicate primrose flowers. The yellow front door was ajar and I went in. The kettle was still warm and there was a comforting smell of strong coffee and freshly baked bread and I knew my father would be somewhere nearby. Then I spotted him through the window, sitting on my mother’s favourite garden swing seat. He appeared to be staring way off into the distance beyond the trees but was almost certainly just lost in his own thoughts. He seemed to sense someone was near as I saw his body tense and he turned with his gaze appearing to sweep over me. The glazed blank look I saw in his previously beautiful piercing blue eyes painfully told me of the cruel loss of sight he had suffered. Now was not the time, there would be a time but for now I slipped quietly away.

As I followed the route that I had taken many a time on my way to school I smiled with the thoughts of all the happy times that had made up the seemingly idyllic life I had enjoyed. So unaware at the time of the darkness that the future would hold.

Then, there it was in no time at all, the beautiful tiny Saxon Church with the sun streaming through the stained glass windows producing a myriad of colours that danced through and around the church. The round tower rose tall and proud as it seemed to look down and survey the stones of many a person gone before. Some remembered with love, but most were so sadly forgotten for ever. I drifted from one headstone to another until I stopped suddenly, the air seeming to disappear from around me and an eerie silence was enveloping me.

There it was. The headstone read “In loving memory of a dear wife and mother Isobel Iris, Always loved”. I felt the emotions rising from deep within me and tried to stop them from overwhelming me. There was such great sorrow when I thought of the time that had been so cruelly taken from us and anger that I hadn’t been there for her when she needed me and she hadn’t been there for me when my need was so frantic and desperate. What future had we lost? I had known deep down in my heart, for these past five years that this was where I would find her.

My gaze drifted around hesitating and then moving on and there it was, a white marble stone with primroses carved into the top and it simply said Elizabeth. I was filled with a deep and overwhelming sadness, this confirmed what I already knew but it was still difficult to accept. I was looking at a

memorial stone for the vivacious and shining star that had been Elizabeth.

After spending time sitting quietly in the calm and tranquil church yard, I gathered my thoughts. Yes now was the time and I returned slowly to the police station. I held the clues to what had happened in the old house and I needed to seek justice for Elizabeth and to lay my mother's soul to rest peacefully. She had died in a car crash without ever finding out what had happened to her beloved child and daughter Elizabeth.

As I reached the Police Station I didn't hesitate. The door wasn't open but that didn't stop me. I found myself in the offices of the crime unit and there was Elizabeth's photo on the wall surrounded by pictures of possible suspects that could be linked to her disappearance and there it was, "his" picture next to a map of the local area. I carefully manoeuvred all three pictures together so that when the officer returned he would be able to easily interpret the link between Elizabeth, the Stranger and The Old House. Then I knew they would visit a house that no one had ever found and there they would find the wasted body of the seemingly friendly and amicable man who had stolen Elizabeth, starved her, stolen her life and her future. They would also find there, the wasted fragile body of the young Elizabeth. Then and only then would I be free and my death would cease to haunt me, my friends and my beloved family.

- *Elizabeth*

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support whilst I have spent the last six months in and out of hospital. The Goodwill Fund for their flowers and collecting medicines for both me and my wife. The Church community and vicar Matt Phillips who is always ready to chat. The offers of support from all of our neighbours and friends - especially Olive Walker and her family and Lesley May for always being there when we needed them, Pat and Mary Humphries, not forgetting Brian Aulty and Julie and Bob Moore for looking after Jack when necessary.

I continue to slowly improve, taking each day as it comes and I look forward to meeting all the other dog walkers when I can, at last, take Jack for his evening walk.

- *John Jarvis*

TRIAL AND ERROR COOKING BY GORDON BLUE (ASSISTED BY EGON RONNIE)

JACKET POTATOES WITH BACON, LEEKS, & BREAD SAUCE, WITH CHEESE (Serves two people)

Ingredients:-

- 2 potatoes to be oven-baked
- 2 slices of bacon
- 1 medium to large leek, chopped
- 1 slice of chunky bread
- 1 generous knife of butter or margarine
- Dash of sunflower oil
- Salt and black pepper to season (optional)
- Half a pint of milk
- 80g (approx.) of cheese.

Method

Put the potatoes into a roasting tin, choosing whatever size of potato which suits you. Before cooking use a knife to score them deeply with a cross. This will not only help them cook more quickly but it will help you find out when they are ready for serving. Simply run the same knife down one of the cuts you have made and if it comes out easily then you know they are ready. I oven-baked them on a high heat, testing them occasionally with a knife to see how they were getting on. But two very large potatoes take about an hour in my oven.

While the potatoes are cooking make the topping. I did this in the microwave and ingredients used below are optional. Firstly, I cut up the bacon into bite size pieces. Use more than two slices if desired. Microwave in sunflower oil for a couple of minutes. Then add the chopped leek and microwave for about four to five further minutes. Then add the cheese, which can be either grated or cut into small pieces. It does not really matter how you do this as it will soon melt anyway.

Then make the bread sauce. Cut up the slice of bread into bite size chunks, with or without the crust and place into a Pyrex jug. Then add the butter or margarine. Next season it, if desired and then finally add the milk. Give it a few moments to soak into the bread before microwaving for about two minutes. If the end result is a bit too runny then after giving it a good stir, microwave for a further two minutes. However, if it has dried out, then add a little more milk. The aim is to make the end product stiff, but pourable.

When ready pour the mixture over the leek, cheese and bacon mixture and stir it all in together. Finally, pour it equally over each cooked jacket potato and eat it!

Egon Ronnie comments:-

I found this recipe rather deceptive Gordon, as when you first put the jacket potato on your plate and the topping either on top of it, or next to it, there doesn't seem to be much of it. But as you pull the potato apart and mix in the filling you suddenly find there's lots of it to eat. That's even before you have to decide if you are going to eat the skin or not!

IMPORTANT ADVICE ON USING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The Countryside Alliance says the key things to remember when using a public right of way are as follows:

- Respect social distancing
- Don't pass through farmyards, gardens or close to people's homes
- Do use designated footpaths, don't trample on farmers fields where crops are grown
- Avoid gates, but if you can't, sanitise before and after using them
- Avoid fields with livestock
- Keep your dog on a lead and under control
- Remember to take your litter home with you
- Keep to the designated footpath - not sticking to them can result in damage to fields



EMPEROR AND ICON

Ian Woiwod of the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group uncovers the enigmatic Purple Emperor butterfly



Parish
Walking &
Wildlife
Group

If there's one British butterfly that has true iconic status it is the Purple Emperor. For not only is it a large, stunningly attractive butterfly, until recently known only from a few ancient woods in southern England, but also because of its secretive habits spent mostly high among the woodland canopy, it has always been



difficult to find and study. In Victorian times, the Emperor was seen as a worthy quarry, and there were professional collectors who could earn good money selling such a rarity to wealthy collectors. Fortunately, today the camera has replaced the net, but there is still a dedicated army of naturalists so obsessed with this magnificent species that it is unique in having its own blog, *'The Purple Empire'*, two WhatsApp groups, and is the subject of three books.

It is only males that have the iridescent purple sheen that gives this species its name. This purple colouration is subtle, as it is created by diffraction, and it comes and goes as the wings are viewed at different angles. Males are known for their aggressive territorial behaviour, and will even attack and drive off birds that enter their defended area. The females are much more secretive as they go about their important role of egg-laying on the Sallow bushes that are their caterpillars' food supply.

Possibly as a result of climate change, Emperors have recently spread

and colonised nearly all the larger woods of Bedfordshire, including our local Potton Wood and nearby Gamlingay Wood in Cambridgeshire.

This time of year is consequently a great chance to see one locally. The last week in June and the first two weeks in July are the peak flight times. Look out for a large dark butterfly soaring over the treetops. The males will occasionally come down to feed, but not on flowers like most butterflies. Their rather unsavoury taste is for rotting animal flesh, or worse still, fox or similar poo, as in this photo from its best Bedfordshire site, Chicksands Wood.



As far as I know, a Purple Emperor has only once been found actually in the Parish when this dead specimen was spotted in our garden by my wife just as I was about to tread on it. So anything is possible. Keep your eyes peeled and let me know of any success in seeing one locally.



IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE: The PWWG have started walking again! By the time you read this we will have done our first walk for a very long time; a new walk called “The Wrestlingworth Wheel”. Don’t worry if you missed it, it will be back! For June and July walks please check:
www.pwwg.org.uk

A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH, A PERSONAL VIEW – PART 5

By Brian Buck

We start this section of the walk, having passed through a grassy field from Hatley Road to where it comes out at Church Farm in Potton Road, right next to what was a bungalow on your left, which was initially in the process of being renovated when I started my walks. But then subsequently it was sold and converted into a house. The field you have just walked through is a grassy field, known locally as ‘Butchers Knolls’ which, as Village Link editor Simon Dear suggests, is a good example of ‘Ridge and Furrow’. I am very grateful to him for pointing this out to me. ‘Ridge and Furrow’ is an archaeological pattern of ridges (Medieval Latin *sliones*) and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages, typical of the open field system. It is also known as rig (or rigg) and furrow, mostly in the North East of England and in Scotland. I also wonder if the ‘Butchers Knolls’ field was years ago once owned by the butchers in Butchers Lane and used for cattle grazing?

To continue on the walk, turn right on Potton Road and cross over the road onto the path, immediately passing Church Farm, now on your right. Soon and at the point Potton Road swings away to the right, you see a sign to Mill End on your left, just past the red ‘dog poo’ bin, which shouldn’t be mistaken for a letter box! Turn left into Mill End here. Initially it seems that you might be walking into someone’s private property and I suppose that you are. But keep left and this delightful tree-lined track will soon take you past some lovely houses, on your right, before it narrows into a single track path, still tree lined.

At this point my eyes wandered into the garden of the last house, where I saw a lovely looking monument which looks comparable to some of those in the local graveyard. On one of my walks, I asked the owners about this statue and as it was holding a sheaf of wheat, they believed it to be the goddess Diana. But after further investigation it appears more likely to be either the goddess Flora, the goddess of flowers and of the season of spring, or the goddess Ceres, who was the goddess of agriculture and grain. Diana was the goddess of wild animals and the hunt.

But on with the walk and soon you encounter a quick change of scenery. From being in a pleasantly enclosed area, with the trees and bushes either side of you almost forming an archway in parts, which is very tranquil in



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Sally Birrell	Catering Advisor	01767 631375 or 07974 572302 sallylouiseb12@gmail.com
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ORGANISATION	CONTACT NAME	PHONE
St. John the Baptist's Church Cockayne Hatley	Rev Alex Wheatley - Rector Christine Armistead - P.C.C. & Church Warden Barbara Bell - Friends of St. Johns	01767 764062 01767 260809 01767 631567
Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth & Dunton Churches	Revd. Matt Phillips - Priest in charge Karen Nurse - Church Warden (St. Peters) Wendy Robinson - Church Warden (All Saints)	01767 512122 01767 631487 01767 631283
Church and Poor's Fund	Liz Teague	01767 631628
Parish Council	Robin Barratt - 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
Central Beds Council	Adam Zerny Tracey Wye	01767 261319 01767 261319
Wrestlingworth Lower School	Nancy Sheehan - Head Teacher Abi Chipperfield - Friends Co-chair Kelly Whitfield - Friends Co-chair	01767 631249 07949 831993 07834 614613
Women's Institute	Lesley May	01767 631259
Conservative Association	Doreen Gurney	01767 680395
Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund	Sarah Burgoine Margret Pantry - Doctor/Hospital Transport	01767 631415 01767 631548
Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall	Jim Hawkins - Chair Edwina Parker - Bookings	01767 631736 01767 631066
Eyeworth Village Hall	Wendy Robinson - Bookings	01767 631283
Walking & Wildlife Group	Robin Barratt - Chair	01767 631418
History Society	Connie Walker - Coordinator	01767 631450
Badminton Club	Jim Hawkins	01767 631736
Ladies' Badminton Club	Jan Goodwin	01767 631282
The Chequers Public House	Dave and Carin Moore	01767 631818
Village Link	Simon Dear - Editor	01767 631383

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

Village defibrillator locations — Cockayne Hatley - opposite 21 Village Road
**** Call 999 whilst at Patient **** Wrestlingworth - Millennium Garden bus shelter

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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