

# Downs Benefice Parish Magazine

Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton,  
Sparsholt with Lainston  
Wherwell



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June and July 2020  
Issue 495

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Dear Friends,

The Rectory, Littleton

*‘And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that no-one went hungry.’*  
(Acts 4: 33-4)



The day of Pentecost this year falls on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. The following Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, we will celebrate Trinity Sunday. Usually in our Christian lives, we anticipate gathering together on both these auspicious occasions *‘in one place’* (Acts 2: 1) just as those first disciples gathered around the Apostles as the Holy Spirit came upon them *‘like a rushing wind or tongues of fire.’* (Acts 2: 2-4).

Yet this year, as we journey beyond Easter through VE Day and May into June and July, our country remains in Coronavirus

Lockdown.

As I write, Prime Minister Johnston, mercifully back at work following his own acute experience of the disease, has just announced that, whilst there will be some easing of restrictions, our church doors will remain closed and public gatherings the stuff of dreams. Our summer is taking on an unprecedented shape. No village fêtes, no weddings, no parties, no shared meals and celebrations. No corporate prayer in church, and no sacred sanctuary for the bereaved as funerals remain restricted to small groups of next of kin at crematoria and around the graveside only.

Despite all this, our Christian community has been hard at work, re-imagining church and proving that, though our beautiful *buildings* remain closed our church is very much open, pouring out the love of Christ just as that first urgent action of the Holy Spirit upon the frightened Apostles. *‘After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.’* (Acts 4: 31) Many of us are caring for people in remarkable and generous ways during this time, living out the generosity of God in sharing what we have so that no-one goes hungry, just as the disciples did at that first Pentecost. *‘Every day they continued with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.’* (Acts 2:46-7)

Then as now, our spiritual revelation is that everything we have comes first from God. We must find ways to lay down our human desire to accumulate riches for ourselves and learn to share what we have. This outward shift towards people we might not even know influences all aspects of our daily lives. We are finding a renewed deepening of relationships with neighbours and communities as the joy of giving releases us from selfishness into the light of God’s generous love. Yet the message from Acts of the Apostles’ first actions in the Holy Spirit speaks into both fuelling the *outward* material needs of those around them as well as their *inward* spiritual needs. So, a question. Are you praying for the people around you as much as helping them with their shopping? If not, would you commit to praying for them? For God’s grace is powerful in us that others do not go spiritually hungry too!

During these difficult times, we have a remarkable opportunity to unite as a church in prayer so that our family, friends and neighbours will come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ for themselves. And, as we pray for those we love and come to know the hope and love and joy of Jesus, we are building the apostolic body of Christ, the *real* church, so that there will be abundant life in faith after the restrictions of Lockdown have faded.

Yours, in shared joy of Christ's love,

**Jax.**

*Revd Jax Machin, Rector of The Downs Benefice*

## Prayer

For the Spirit of Peace that calms our minds and stills our lives,  
We give You thanks.

For the Spirit of Love that touches our hearts and reaches out,  
We give You thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our souls and gives us faith,  
We give You thanks.

For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace for this your church,  
We give You thanks.

Your Spirit, the generosity of God in our hearts and our lives,  
Is alive through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Amen.



*Bryan Harris - Bluebells in Crab Wood*



*Robin's nest in Littleton garden shed*

**The COVID-19 Symptom Study** app has been developed by the health science company.



Zoe. 3,678,104 participants have downloaded the app and are using it to report regularly on their health, making it the largest public science project of its kind anywhere in the world. App data is being analysed in collaboration with King's College London researchers. The app helps the NHS and contributes to the

advancement of vital research on COVID-19. By combining your reports with software algorithms, we are able to predict who has the virus and so track COVID infections across the UK. Please download and start reporting. [covid.joinzoe.com/](https://www.covid.joinzoe.com/)

## From the General Editor of the Parish Magazine

Welcome to this on-line summer *Lockdown* issue of the Downs magazine. At the time of writing, the whole country, with the exception of an heroic band of essential workers, has been in an unprecedented state of lockdown for the past two months. Unfortunately, this led to our April & May issue (which was printed) not being distributed - for which our apologies. However, the Editorial Committee members all felt it important to carry on and produce a magazine, to chronicle some of the events of the Spring of 2020 and the effects on our community. Since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, life for all has been very different and difficult, as we have tried to come to terms with Covid-19 and the restrictions to the freedom that we had previously taken for granted. In addition to the very real threat from the virus itself, the closure of churches, businesses and schools and the prohibition from meeting friends and family has undoubtedly taken its toll on the whole country's economic and emotional wellbeing. However, knowing that many planned church and social events would not now be taking place, we decided to send out an invitation to our on-line readers for additional copy. And the results of all this latent creativity are presented for you to enjoy now.

The reaction of all our villages to Coronavirus has been wonderful. The minute lockdown was announced, voluntary groups sprang into action through WhatsApp, Facebook, email and telephone; younger residents offering help to neighbours to make sure that no one was without essential supplies of food and medicines. Across the Downs Benefice literally hundreds of households have been helped in this way and with it, the assurance that *community* really does still exist, despite the ultra-busy lives so many lead.

Most of us in these parishes are fortunate to live in spacious accommodation, with easy access to safe outside spaces. And we have all had silver lining moments: For the Bayford Family it has been the safe arrival of a new grandson, and the pleasure of watching others of their family taking part in an on-line Easter Day service from their church in Woking. The staff at The Fox have been providing an excellent home delivery service, of both meals and groceries, "keeping us at home and well fed, their staff employed and ensuring we have our pub for the future". The Fox has provided a large number of free meals to health care workers and their families and volunteers from a cycling club have been assisting with the deliveries.

Speaking personally, I have been grateful for the connectivity provided by the internet – to be able to see friends and family through WhatsApp, Zoom and Houseparty; to be able to view plays and art exhibitions streamed free into my home; and my weekly on-line singing practices, chaotic and hilarious (imagine 30+ women all singing together with different internet speeds!), but so good for keeping in touch. And receiving the unexpected gift of beautiful, healthy plants from the Hairy Pots Plants people on my doorstep (see page 19) – such an encouraging example of initiative and generosity, giving hope for life post-Covid-19.

Barbara Kingston  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020



## Readings, Meditation and Study

### June and July 2020

Details of Sunday readings for the main service (including the Gospel) are given here for your study and meditation in preparation for Sunday Worship.

<b><i>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June</i></b> <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	<b><i>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July</i></b> <b>The Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 9)
Isaiah 40: 12-17; 27-end	Zechariah 9: 9-12
Acts 4: 32-37	Romans 7: 15-25a
Matthew 28: 16-20	Matthew 11: 16-19; 25-end
<b><i>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June</i></b> <b>The First Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 6)	<b><i>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July</i></b> <b>The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 10)
Exodus 19: 2-8a	Isaiah 55: 10-13
Romans 5: 1-8	Romans 8: 1-11
Matthew 9:35 – 10:8	Matthew 13: 1-9; 18-23
<b><i>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June</i></b> <b>The Second Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 7)	<b><i>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July</i></b> <b>The Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 11)
Jeremiah 20: 7-13	Wisdom 12: 13; 16-19
Romans 6: 1b-11	Romans 8: 12-25
Matthew 10: 24-39	Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-43
<b><i>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June</i></b> <b>The Third Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 8)	<b><i>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July</i></b> <b>The Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b> (Proper 12)
Jeremiah 28: 5-9	1 Kings 3: 5-12
Romans 6: 12-end	Romans 8: 26-39
Matthew 10: 40-end	Matthew 13: 31-33; 44-52

# From the Church Records

March & April 2020

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name (s)</i>
<b>Chilbolton</b>		
Burial Service	14/4/20	John St Ledger
Service and Cremation	6/5/20	Dudley Taylor
<b>Crawley</b>		
Burial Service	6/5/20	Evelyn Critchell
<b>Littleton</b>		
Service and Cremation	4/3/20	Michael Fear
Interment of Ashes	11/3/20	Beryl Hillier
Burial Service	26/3/20	June Jenkins
Burial Service	1/5/20	Brenda Parker
Service and Cremation	4/5/20	David Astley
<b>Sparsholt</b>		
Service and Cremation	16/4/20	Norris Fuller
<b>Wherwell</b>		



## Trinity Sunday Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June



*Following the guidance from the Prime Minister on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Revd Jax has decided, very sadly, to formally cancel the Trinity Sunday open-air service and Benefice picnic due to have taken place at Northwood Park on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Revd Jax writes, "We are all very disappointed as this is a much-loved opportunity for our Benefice to join together at the Lord's Table and to share a delicious fellowship meal in spectacular surroundings." Revd Jax continues, "I am exploring the idea of creating a pre-recorded video service, incorporating all the guests we had invited to take part in our service, and aim to be able to post this on our website."*

## Castleigh Young Engineers Stay-at-Home Project



*Exhibition at Alexandra Palace,*

Several readers will be aware of the Young Engineers - 8 of them between 10 and 17yrs and based in Crawley. Using a fully equipped machine shop they are taught how to use the machines and then make sophisticated models - but not now, because of the dreaded virus!

I normally teach the youngsters on a one-to-one basis and they come to my workshop once or twice a week for 90 mins sessions, obviously outlawed by Prime Ministerial Edict. We needed a replacement: The EYE Stay-at-Home Project. Given about 500 wooden coffee stirrers, cutters, superglue, sandpaper and safety glasses, what can you make on your kitchen table?

Six members decided to take on the challenge and then an ex EYE joined, and then brothers and sisters ... it snowballed and we now have 11 active enthusiasts. They all live in the area from Eastleigh to Crawley to Alresford and several live in Winchester.

I start them off and then help them on a regular basis using Facebook Messenger. I give about 14 sessions of 40 mins each week. I have a tablet set up on a music stand looking down onto my kitchen worktop so I can see everything the Young Engineers do, and they can see and hear me. Some of these enthusiasts are of primary school age, one, Mimi, is only 9 and her sister is 11. To help them, I make what they are making so that I can demonstrate in real time. Demonstrating as I would in my workshop isn't possible so that is why I make exactly what they are creating.



*Toby's Swallow (just started)*

How's it going? **Brilliantly!**

Zoe from Crawley - an old hand - created an Easter Tableau. Some churchgoers will have seen a photo of it over the Easter period, while Zahra is making a ship - which might be transmogrified into Noah's Ark!! All the younger ones made a small boat to learn how to handle the sticks and have moved on to a crane, two dolls houses, Swallow and Amazon of Arthur Ransome fame, and a quite complex boat which will take ages to complete.

The Young Engineers promise that they will arrange an exhibition in the parish when we all go back to normal, so please don't hold your breath!

Oh yes - everyone asks - the current team is made up of 7 young ladies and 4 lads. Don't let anyone tell you that Engineering is just for men!!

*Patrick Hendra*



## Loving Lockdown

I regard myself as a privileged person. Being retired, I am not worried about losing my income. I live in a house with several rooms, have a garden, easy access to the countryside and a good broadband connection.

Though in a “vulnerable” group I am reasonably fit. I am also white, a woman, not obese, and have blood group O, all of which attributes seem to protect me against the worst effects of this virus

When I realised, in the middle of March, that I would need to self-isolate, I was not too worried. I have lived alone for the last 13 years and am comfortable in my own company. My first reaction after it started, was one of immense relief. I discovered that I had been constantly living in a hurry, creating deadlines for myself and panicking when I didn't meet them. Now each day I wake up with a sense of time stretching before me, completely empty for me to fill exactly as I please.



*Sparsholt elephant*

I soon discovered that the internet was a-wash with new initiatives for the stuck-at-home. My major occupation before the virus was singing. Last month I signed up to a project organised by The Sixteen, to sing a performance of “O Radiant Dawn” by James MacMillan. The rehearsal included an interactive interview with Sir James, after which we were to record a video of ourselves singing our part and send it in to them. After a few bum efforts, including one video which was going well until my cat provided a perfectly timed obbligate, I did succeed in uploading my part, which, if have done it right, will be spliced together with hundreds of others and eventually published on Youtube. Their last project attracted over 700 singers from around the world.



*Rural bell ringers*

My next revelation was the countryside. I am definitely an indoor person, walking mostly for health reasons. However, the wonderful weather lured me out, and I have been

*Continued on page 13*

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*Crab Wood dragon*

Investigating local fields two or three times a week. At first, I took my headphones with me in order to listen to Radio 4, but after a day or two I abandoned them and became fully immersed in the landscape around me. I felt almost as I had at the age of 11 or 12, exploring the woods and making tree houses next door to our house in the New Forest. Now I took my camera with me and found a graphics programme which would allow me to paint over my photographs and add a bit of fantasy to shots of fields and woodland in Sparsholt.

Some surprising things came to mind!

My abiding memory of this period will be one of creativity, both within myself, in my neighbourhood, and in country, if not worldwide. Everyone is communicating inventively with everyone else in all

sorts of ways. So much help has been offered, and I only wish I could do more to reciprocate. We will survive Corona virus and my hope is that this communication and creativity will continue and grow in times to come.

*Caroline Hayes*



*Forest deer*

## The Triumphs of Old Age

Protecting "the frail elderly" has become one of the mantras of the government's policy machine in enforcing the lockdown during the corona pandemic. Yet one of the most striking aspects of the strange times in which we live has been hearing of the extraordinary feats of courage of the very old. Strangely, this seems to have come as a surprise to one spokesman for the Royal College of Psychiatrists as he expressed his astonishment at the mental and emotional resilience of older people during the pandemic!

The spirited Captain, now Honorary Colonel, Tom Moore raising millions for the NHS with his great marathon round his garden with his walking frame, just short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday has inspired the nation.

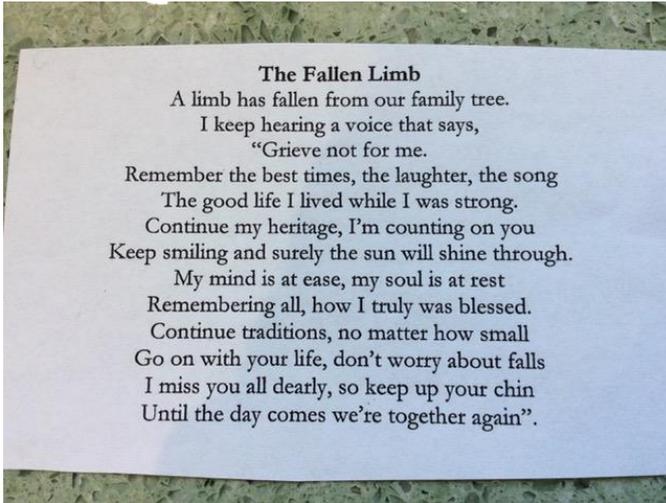
Then there was 90-year-old Margaret Payne climbing the equivalent of the Highland mountain Suilven on her stairs and 91-year old Rhythwyn Evans, a Welsh farmer, walking 91 laps around the outside of his bungalow. Then there was the triumphant smile of 106-year-old Connie Titchen on her recovery as she emerged from the Covid-19 ward of her local hospital. And most moving, the tremendous spirit of love and dedication which inspired Margaret Tapley, an 84-year-old health care assistant, to carry on working until the 10<sup>th</sup> April when Covid-19, "prowling like a hungry lion" struck her down. Her grandson said "The spirit that we all saw and felt lives on in us". "Greater love hath no man than this..."

Then on 30<sup>th</sup> April a 72-year-old man, Graham Walters from Leicester, claimed the world record for the oldest person to row across the Atlantic solo. Arriving in Antigua after 3 months at sea, in the boat he had crafted himself in his own back yard, and enduring inescapable self-isolation, he declared "It's like I've been in a bubble and have now woken up in an alternative universe", much stranger than anything he had encountered during his epic voyage.

We cannot all rise to these heights of achievement but there have been countless hidden acts of generosity and heroism in our own parish by older people, often in self isolation, known only to themselves or their family, friends or neighbours.

This reservoir of strength, courage, experience and good will which the coronavirus has spotlighted has long been the mainstay of our parishes. As those lucky enough to have a job slowly return to work and the younger volunteers begin to get on with their lives, there will be a greater need for those who are fit to help those who cannot cope for whatever reason by themselves. Our age group, the so-called "frail elderly" should, like the Hon. Colonel Tom, pick up our walking frames and resist any further attempts to curb our freedoms. We need to get on with the work we were set on earth to do.

*Margaret Harris*



### **The Fallen Limb**

A limb has fallen from our family tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says,  
"Grieve not for me.  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin  
Until the day comes we're together again".

## **Nature's Freedom**

I sit relaxing in my hut while reading my book,  
Totally immersed in nature in every direction I look,  
My surround is silent except for the song of the birds,  
I'm encouraged to write and catch this moment in the richness of words.

There's the gentlest breeze just moving young leaves,  
It brings a welcoming coolness which can only please,  
The perfume from lily of the valley is wafted my way,  
I watch the delicate flowers, enwrapped in green as they gently sway.

A sound floats down as two swans fly overhead,  
Necks and legs extended, like aerial ballerinas to the skies they're wed,  
Rhythmic wings beat with their magical sound,  
As to the water meadows their journey is bound

A bumble bee joins me while in my hut,  
It briefly rests on the cover of my book, now shut,  
Most delicate legs and a body soft as down,  
Eager to continue his quest, hoping pollen will be found.

My garden is tiny but overflows with sights, smells and sounds,  
Ablaze with colours, nature's palette has no bounds,  
I don't feel trapped, restricted or confined,  
But open to appreciate all of nature's riches entwined.



*Image by Krzysztof Niewolny*

*Sheila North*

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## **Seasonal Gardening Tips from our new gardening expert.**

We often water the lawn with an oscillating sprinkler for several hours during the week in a dry summer. This is incredibly wasteful of water and actually is very inefficient. The reason the lawn starts to suffer in the summer is not due to dryness at the root system - even in a hot summer. It is in fact high temperature dormancy which affects the buds of the grass which are located at ground level. If the air temperature increases in the day above 23°C for two consecutive days or more the lawn will go into a dormancy mode, which means that it will not absorb water, but still will lose water from the leaves by the process of transpiration.

This is the exciting bit now, if you wish to keep a green lawn and there is not a hosepipe ban, you could use your oscillating sprinkler for 10 minutes every four days during a heatwave. What this will do is to cool the buds down which will break the dormancy. It only uses 10 minutes of water and will have the same effect as watering the lawn for two hours - which is very common. Watering for long periods on the lawn wastes approximately 80% of our precious processed water and really will not serve any function. The root system of a grass plant is so efficient it can cope in dry weather, it must however not go into dormancy and therefore watering for 10 minutes every four days will prevent this occurring in a heatwave.

Another very interesting observation is that if you mulch your shrubs and trees, it is very important to wet the soil first and then apply the mulch. This prevents a natural process of water seeping up from soil into the mulch material. Never a problem if you are mulching in the winter of course, but if you do mulch around plants in the summer, just make sure you put a small amount of water on the soil (30 seconds will do) before adding the mulch

The period of the third week of July to the end of August is an ideal time to complete the annual pruning of your hedges. Very often this task is completed in the spring or autumn/winter, which is less efficient in controlling growth of the hedge.

If you prune hedges with a hedge trimmer or hand shears during July and August, the hormones in the plant will prevent future growth of the hedge for at least nine months. It is all down to light levels which affect hormones, these are fairly consistent each year. If you prune outside of this period the light levels affect vegetative growth and you will get much longer shoots to cut possibly twice a year.

Please do remember when cutting hedges (or shrubs) to check for nesting birds. It is illegal to disturb nesting birds and these could be still nesting in July and August.

*Ray Broughton*

*Ray is a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture and was Head of Horticulture at Sparsholt College for 12 years.*



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## Plants for People



Our Plants for People project came about when we found ourselves, a wholesale grower in lockdown, with a nursery full of plants that were ready for sale but nowhere to sell them. Our customers (Garden Centres, RHS, National Trust, English Heritage and The Eden Project etc) were all closed. Operating with a skeleton crew, the project was an alternative idea to creating one enormous compost heap. With our community volunteers we

arranged a delivery of plants to an agreed central location, for them to distribute to each individual household with a short note from us. This explained that the plants needed a new home and advised that, with no obligation, they could, if they so wished, make a contribution to our small business to help cover the plant costs. We have been overwhelmed by your responses, contributions, and the moments of happiness that you told us that our plants have brought so thank you all so much. We are not out of the woods financially but are in a much better position than we feared we might be.

We would like to thank all the hundreds of volunteers who safely delivered the plants in their local communities, as well as our hero volunteer drivers and nursery helpers who have put in so much work to support our thinly stretched nursery team. We could not have done it without you all.

Between us, we delivered 87,575 plants to about 14,500 local households, that is over £480,000 of plants (retail value) in just 4 weeks. We will never regret doing what we did. In a really difficult situation, it has been a fabulously rewarding experience in so many ways.

Thank you all and take care,

*from all the team at Kirton Farm Nurseries Ltd, home of The Hairy Pot Plant Company.*

## Green leaves were sprouting

“Oh yes, sir,” she said, “we can deliver any of our usual line of goods - bedding plants, fertilizer, weed-killer, bird food, anything you like – well within reason.”

“Well, that sounds very encouraging,” I said. “It’s very enterprising of you. I hope you’ve got the delivery side tied up. Our local pub is excellent at sending out Sunday roast lunches, they arrive on the dot at one o’clock with enormous Yorkshire puddings.”

“If you order any goods this afternoon, they will be delivered to your porch by 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. And we have a special offer. Any order over £30 we will include a surprise gift for you.”

“A surprise gift! That’s more than I expected. Any surprise will be an excitement in these days of lockdown.”

“I can’t tell you exactly what it is,” she said, “and if I knew I’m not supposed to let the cat out of the bag, but I’m sure it’ll be attractive and sweetly scented.”

“Sounds intriguing,” I said. “I’ll be all agog tomorrow morning. Thank you for your help.”

Sure enough, the door-bell rang about elevenses-time and I found a box of assorted plants and goods in the porch. I took it round the back and unpacked it in the pleasant spring sunshine. Indeed, all the items ordered were there, and an unordered large pot with a few green shoots showing. A label gave details of it, but unfortunately it was in a language unknown to me. Should I put it in the herbaceous border and give us all a surprise later in the summer? But I decided it would be wiser to plant it down the bottom near the compost heap. Spring and lockdown moved on into summer and lockdown. The herbaceous border gave initial great promise, but the Great Drought blighted that and one day I wandered disconsolately down the bottom.

The green shoots had shot with a vengeance. There was a monstrous mound of writhing tendrils which seemed to increase as I watched, and had already overcome my compost heap. Whatever was this cuckoo which I had admitted to my nest? I rushed inside and phoned the nursery. The phone took a while to reply. Eventually a breathless female replied with a tired listless voice; it might have been the girl I had spoken to earlier.

“Yes,” she admitted, “we have had one or two complaints. We’re trying to find a weed-killer which will handle it, but so far no luck,” she sighed.

“Disgraceful,” I shouted at her. “Have you found its name and where it came from?”

“Yes, a big consignment came from China – somewhere called Wuhan. Have you heard of it?”

*MGL 22/4/20*

## **Winchester Churches Nightshelter**

Winchester Churches Nightshelter would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. We appreciate that these are difficult times for many people and yet our supporters have continued to reach out and find ways to offer help to the Nightshelter.

We remain open 24 hours a day so that all our current residents can stay on site and be at ‘home’. This has only been possible thanks to our loyal and dedicated staff and volunteers who have chosen not to stay at home so that our residents can. Everyone has adapted well to the changes and residents are appreciating having somewhere welcoming and supportive to spend lockdown.

Our vital support services have continued thanks to all our staff who are still coming on site. Our counselling and psychotherapy have been carried out via video call and we continue to make contact via telephone with former residents to check that they are safe and well and offer them support.

Our additional opening hours have meant increased staff and resource costs. A big thank you to everyone who participated on our Hop for the Homeless event over the Easter weekend which raised over £2,000 to help cover some of these costs. How we tackle the future remains uncertain but our residents will continue to be at the centre of our chosen approach and it is likely that we will continue to be a 24 hour home for many weeks to come.

*Continued overleaf*

At a time when our homes have become so important we are asking people to donate a good night's sleep if they are able to. A donation of £10 will cover the cost of a bed for the night along with a home-cooked dinner, breakfast and toiletries. You can donate by texting NIGHTSHELTER and £10 to 70085 or visit [www.wcns.org.uk](http://www.wcns.org.uk) to discover how to donate online or via cheque.

Thank you for your continued support, together we really do change lives.

## Discovering the local neighbourhood during lockdown!



With unseasonably warm spring weather, getting out for our permitted hour's walk each day during lockdown has provided the opportunity to appreciate my local surroundings more closely than usual. There are not just rainbows and bears appearing in numerous windows!

Initially it felt very eerie to wander around Harestock in the middle of the day. The roads were quiet, no children's play could be heard across the nearby houses from the school's playground. Instead, a symphony of birdsong was no longer competing with the hum of traffic and other everyday activities. Even the sky seemed a stronger blue.

The verges have been wearing the colours of spring. The trees and bushes showing off their varied blossoms – cherry,

magnolia, blackthorn and more lately the whites and purples of lilac. I have probably become more attuned to the sequencing of nature's renewal than in recent years. Too often I have been rushing through the neighbourhood on the way to somewhere else and passed small patches of ground without giving them much more than a second's glance. Now, by walking along the streets and pathways I've discovered just how many small patches of 'no-man's land' there are, neither maintained by property owners or infrequently by council services. Being left as semi-wild corners, they have been alive with daffodils, primroses, clusters of bluebells or fresh nettles while birds raid them for nesting materials. Trees have been unfurling themselves into full leaf. The pink or white candle-like blossoms of horse chestnuts have followed. I wonder if out of sight, back garden meadows are being created or vegetable patches prepared?



*Continued overleaf*

It is not only the joy of seeing spring bringing everything to life, but the walks also provide the chance to notice the different architectural styles around the area, whether older properties or recent new builds. I have become more conscious of how people have modified or extended their homes. In those streets where the housing has been largely uniformed in style, people have gradually put their own stamp on their homes. Sometimes these changes are subtle, other cases more dramatic. There are more solar panels installed than I had realised.

On the edge of the neighbourhood the development of Kings Barton is progressing. Unfortunately, the styles and materials being used are resulting in an unrelenting, homogenised appearance that does not enhance the approach to the city from this direction. A greater variety of brick type and finishes would soften the visual impact of this city-changing development.



My walks around the local streets over the last few weeks have not left me with many more nooks and crannies to explore, apart from having avoided the narrow alley ways for social distancing reasons. By trying to vary the routes for my walks, I increasingly appreciate how the character of the area has been slowly but surely changing, both seasonally and for the longer term.

Go out for an hour and make the most of these strange times!

*David Tozer*

*David also runs his own travel blog website [www.venturingnearandfar.com/](http://www.venturingnearandfar.com/).*



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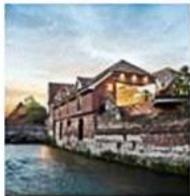
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## **Lifeline - You will never know when you will need it until is too late**

Lifeline was pioneered in Winchester more than 25 years ago. It consists of a light weight unintrusive necklace around your throat that is never taken off. It connects permanently by radio to a small base station near your BT 'phone. The base station is mains powered but contains a battery so that the system still works even when the mains supply is down.

**What does it do?** A user has a problem so he/she presses the button on the necklace. The base station leaps into noisy action and in a minute or so a friendly voice booms out very loudly asking you by name whether you are alright? If you don't reply the Lifeline operator will think the worst and call the Emergency Services. If the Lifeline user is *compos mentis* the operator will talk to you and brief the neighbours who have already agreed to help. No neighbours available—call the Ambulance!

When the emergency services arrive, they need a key. No problem for Lifeliners. They all have key safes at their front doors and Lifeline knows the code to open the key safe. This information is radioed to the Ambulance crew. If the Emergency folk had not been able to get into your property they would have to call the Police and ask them to break in the door. Too Slow and Too Expensive.

Is all this electronic wizardry just over the top? **Sadly not**

Not all that long ago, a wonderful elderly lady in Crawley, a 50+ year resident, fell at the foot of her stairs and busted her hip. The phone was only a few feet away but in agony it took her **5 hrs.** to grab the phone and call a neighbour.

An old family friend lived alone in North Walls. One morning, he enjoyed a shower over his bath and then fell. He was discovered by his cleaning lady **48hrs** later. He survived only because the shower water was warm and kept on flowing. He was hospitalised but died 6 months later. I could recount several other horror stories like this but I will desist.

### **PLEASE HAVE LIFELINE IF YOU LIVE ON YOUR OWN.**

It costs £175.63 for a year's freedom of mind. You will need a key safe. They cost around £20 but professional installation could cost a lot more. Fear not! Any marginally competent DIYer can fit one in minutes.

If you can't find a helpful amateur and you live locally, please give me a call and I will help. Phone 776314

**"Oh this is all over the top---my health is fine and I don't need this sort of rubbish".** I've heard it again and again. Frequently too late. **RIP.**

*Patrick Hendra  
Crawley*

I have no financial connection with Lifeline except that I am a heartfelt customer and enthusiast over many years. Why---that's another story!

## Around the Parishes - Crawley

### Crawley in bloom



Writing in early May, if there's one visible positive to the current awful situation, it's been the proliferation of wildflowers around the village as normal grass cutting schedules have ceased. Having more time at home has meant the ability, and need, to explore familiar places and it's been very rewarding. Getting the kids out for daily exercise has led to some amazing discoveries on our doorstep. The best example of this is the village playground. It's currently home to fifteen white helleborines *Cephalanthera damasonium*, an orchid species usually found in old beechwoods. With no mowing since early April these plants have taken



their chance and look magnificent. Hopefully we can make space for these rare plants when things return to normal.

The churchyard of St. Mary's also looks spectacular right now. The grass is studded with lilac, yellow, blue and white, as spikes of bugle, buttercups, speedwells and the scarce meadow saxifrage make an appearance: this is the only spot for this last species in the whole village. Churchyards are important places for wildlife, their grasslands having usually been present for centuries and not subject to fertilisation. This importance is recognised nationally by the [Caring for God's Acre](#) project *Around the parishes - Crawley continued*

which seeks to promote churchyards and burial grounds as hotspots for biodiversity. A tiny verge by the village pond has been left unmown and two bee orchids have appeared. Maybe they've always been there, awaiting their moment? By mid-June they should look stunning. Grass mowing is of course necessary for maintaining sight lines for road users and pedestrians, and many meadow plant species are in fact reliant on regular grass mowing. However, the current lack of mowing has highlighted just how important some verges and other village grassy areas are for wildlife. Maybe these areas don't need to be mown quite so often, or at all in some cases? Isn't having wildflowers (and insects, and birds) more important than tidiness? We are in the midst of a crisis in the natural world. Biodiversity is disappearing fast and every opportunity to encourage wildlife can make a difference.

As the changes from lockdown have shown, it doesn't take much for wildlife to flourish and that makes the job of encouraging it easy. Plantlife, the UK's leading plant charity, has recently issued [The Good Verge Guide](#). It's full of advice on how wild plants can be encouraged within our verge estate and provides practical management tips for ensuring maximum benefit. In summary, if verges can be cut in spring and then left until late summer, with cuttings removed, this will ensure the best outcome for wild plants and all the creatures that depend on them. I know that fellow villagers have really enjoyed seeing wildflowers around the village. It's obvious that people respond positively to biodiversity – it makes them feel better – so how about using this situation as an example of how things could be, and make our shared spaces and gardens havens for wildlife?

*Tristan Norton*

## New Bench for Crawley



Crawley Parish Council was very pleased to install a new bench in the War Memorial Garden to commemorate 75 years since the Second World War ended in Europe. The Parish Council would like to thank Winchester City Council for funding the installation which hopefully will be enjoyed by everyone for many years to come. On the morning of VE Day 75, two minutes of silence were observed at 11am before the bench was blessed by the Revd Jax. The bench was officially opened by Mrs Shelia Andrews who as young girl remembers VE Day in the

village.

*Peter Deehan, Chairman, Crawley Parish Council*

## Memories of VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945

### ***Felicité Coulson remembers:***

My family lived in Southsea and I was evacuated in 1940, aged 3 to the Rectory in the village of Buriton, near Petersfield, along with about 12 other children aged 18 months – 9 years. We had one teacher called Miss Harrison who was 24 but we children thought she was VERY old!



*Their beautiful brand new clothes!*

At home again, a big village street party was organised in June/July. What a party!

....Food! There had been nothing quite like it for several years. Food rationing was still on, but amazing what 'the street' managed to produce that afternoon. I still remember the excitement.

I learnt through the years, and still don't leave any food on my plate. Nor do I put my clothes on the floor. Clothing coupons were very precious for several more years.

The WRVS ran a clothing exchange and the children were all given brand new clothes for the party which had been included in a consignment of clothes received from America. I still remember the pretty dresses my sister and I were given.

*Continued overleaf*

***Peggie Kelley remembers:***

With a shout of joy I went outside  
To share the news with others.  
But in that sleepy little village of Stedham, Nr Midhurst, in Sussex where I lived  
I didn't see another soul for hours!  
As the days went on a torch light parade was planned.  
We all took part – through the village street  
On to the common with ringing bells and waving flags, we sang and danced the night  
away.  
Now all would be well in the world, full of hope  
- And my brother would be coming home



***John Mitchell remembers:***

John was 3 years old when the war started and all his family lived in Fulham. In 1940 his grandmother's house was bombed. Fortunately she was in the shelter at the time. A house was found for her in Hanworth, Middlesex and John was sent to live with her. In 1944 he moved back to Fulham and at the end of the war street parties were held for everyone to celebrate. His memories of the time were of how happy he was as he had one party in Fulham and was then invited back to Hanworth for another party!

There were plenty of jellies, cakes and sandwiches at both parties. Considering that rationing was still in place, it was quite wonderful how all the food was put together. The streets were decorated with flags and bunting.

***Janet Cranmer remembers:***

The date was Janet's 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday and she remembers going outside seeing the tables out in the street beautifully decorated and with so much food and thinking this was a rather big birthday party.

Activities including apple bobbing.

The cakes and bread had been delivered by the baker in his basket. The milkman came to the party and did magic tricks.

The coleman arrived with his horse-drawn cart and gave the children rides on his horses decorated with beautifully polished brasses.



## COG (Crawley Online Gardening)

A WhatsApp group for Crawley gardeners was set up on 29 March, just as Coronaria was taking root. It was inspired by a brief item in Helen Yemm's Saturday Telegraph gardening column. It seemed such a good idea, to share our plants, gardens, information, and local knowledge online as we could not experience the reality of visiting each other's gardens.

We have since then exchanged many plants and seeds, helped with the identification of mystery problems such as leaf cutter damage to an olive tree, where to find frog spawn, compost, bird food, mulch and vegetables as plants or seeds...which local firms can deliver their garden plants and products, and when the first House Martin was spotted in our village. Some of us have also discovered how to use WhatsApp (with the aid of a grandchild or two) for the first time!

If you would like to join in, you will need to download 'Whatsapp' (free) to your smart phone, then e mail Christianne Williams on [cstrubbe@btinternet.com](mailto:cstrubbe@btinternet.com) to ask to be added... and please give her your mobile number.

Details of local suppliers of gardening products that Cog users have shared online follows below....though as we go to press plant nurseries are due to open shortly.

1. Apsley Farm near Andover for garden soil improver mulch and fertilizer:  
[www.facebook.com/apsleyfarms/videos/244017889981271](https://www.facebook.com/apsleyfarms/videos/244017889981271) or call 01264 554433, they deliver within 30 miles of Andover.
2. Brambridge Park nursery will deliver compost etc.
3. Choice Plants, at Timsbury will deliver plants.
4. Cobbs (The Good Life) farm shop, Headbourne Worthy. Plants and compost.
5. George Beckett near Otterbourne will deliver plants, compost etc.:  
[www.georgebeckett.co.uk](http://www.georgebeckett.co.uk)
6. Longstock Nursery (at the farm shop), you collect plants, compost etc.
7. Robinson and Son for vegetables seed
8. Seeds of Italy: [seedsofitaly.com](http://seedsofitaly.com) .

On line gardening advice is available from many sources. Try the Royal Horticultural Society at [RHS.org.uk](http://RHS.org.uk). The 'Advice' pages offer useful information on 'What To Do Now', and for the 'No Dig' school of vegetable growing, try Charles Dowding's website, or the [biodynamic.org.uk](http://biodynamic.org.uk) Gardening Club pages.

Thank you to everyone for all the generous and interesting contributions, good luck and I do hope all will enjoy sharing more, including any surplus produce!

*Christianne Williams and Patricia Elkington*



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*The Bennett family enjoy one of the many social distanced tea parties in Crawley*



*The Bears enjoy a VE Day tea party with a pot of Crawley honey at Ash Tree Cottage*

## Lockdown Quiz



Since we started Lockdown we (the Bolger family) decided to have some fun on a Wednesday night at 8:30pm. We have about 18 to 20 teams turn up every week, but some people like to play for fun (and not officially enter), which is all good. The main purpose is not to find the best brains in the village but to do something different, to get away from the news and have fun for an hour. There are only 20 questions (so don't worry it is not a marathon) and every

week we like to do something completely different to keep the teams on their toes. For example, we recently did an observation round and a buildings round. We aim to keep going until the lockdown restrictions are lifted. We hope everyone is enjoying it?

*Rupert Bolger*



## The Easter Bunny comes to Crawley

At Easter, the Easter Bunny was out and about hiding 38 eggs around the village. The Easter bunny had 40 eggs but the 2 helpers agreed to help hide the eggs if they could have one each! In the picture a lucky young person has found one of the eggs. The Easter bunny is happy to say that only one egg was missed, but that was also given to children playing football at the time. Thanks for all those who joined in!

*Rupert Bolger*

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## Around the Parishes - Littleton

### Littleton Help Scheme

The system put in place in mid-March is working well. So far, after seven weeks, 157 requests for help have been processed by our LINKERS and our 46 generous HELPERS have ensured that the need is met to the requester's satisfaction. The *Littleton Covid-19 help* WhatsApp group, led by Kate Chappell, also continues to give stalwart support to the community.

All seven LINKERS have indicated that they will continue in that role until at least the 30<sup>th</sup> June (review 24<sup>th</sup> June).

Should you need help with grocery shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting mail etc, please ring the LINKER on the number below to register the help you need.

	THE LINKERS	01962
Monday	Dorothy & Peter Highfield	889426
Tuesday	Frances & Colin Martin	883525
Wednesday	Jane & David Clark	884658
Thursday	Gillian & John Maskill	881151
Friday	Patsy & Terry Rath	884271
Saturday	Peggy & Tony Ormston	883682
Sunday	Eryl & Clive Thompsett	885039

Once the LINKER receives your request, they will contact one of the people who has volunteered to help – our HELPERS. The LINKER will then give the HELPER your name, address and telephone number so that they can support you. I am sure that the whole community is grateful for the support of our LINKERS and HELPERS and also the *Littleton Covid-19 help* group. Thank you, Team.

*Clive Thompsett. 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020*

### St Catherine's Social Events

We had a really interesting programme planned for 2020 but, sadly, the first five events (Safari Photography talk, Salome String Quartet, Music and Manet, Open Gardens and Safari Supper) have all had to be postponed, perhaps until later this year, but more likely into 2021. Should any be able to be held on a new 2020 date, we will communicate by flyer.

We are still hoping to hold our Autumn Bazaar on 10th October and Faith and the Arts VI in October; more news on these in the August-September issue of the parish magazine.

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## Littleton & Harestock Show

Dear Friends,

I am very sorry to have to tell you that, because of the uncertainties surrounding the Coronavirus situation, we have decided to cancel this year's Littleton & Harestock Show. In order to move beyond planning the show, into execution of the plans, we need firm commitments from a large number of participants that they will support the show. At the moment very few people can offer this with any level of certainty because of the constraints we are all under with the Coronavirus. We do not expect the situation to improve by the end of June, by when we must start to implement the plans. Therefore, we think it is best to stop now rather than carry on in hope and risk a disaster.



My most sincere thanks to all the people who have brought the show this far. We have done exceptionally well this year with the planning and made good progress with some new ideas. I am confident that much of the work can be reused next year. I look forward to regrouping in January for what I am sure will be a successful 2021 show. For those of you who read the Hampshire Chronicle, I should explain that the April 16<sup>th</sup> edition, which announced that the show was going ahead, was a reporting error. I have written to the journalist concerned and there is a corrected version, explaining that the show has been cancelled, in the April 23<sup>rd</sup> edition.

Best wishes *Tony Ormston Chairman, Littleton & Harestock Show Society.*

### Complete this A to Z of words - some consonants are being naughty – too close together! (Covid19!)

A\_str\_\_t\_\_ B\_tch\_\_ C\_\_rtl\_\_g D\_\_rkn\_\_s Endl\_\_\_ F\_e\_ght G\_\_  
mbled

H\_a\_\_nly Inkl\_\_\_ J\_ngl\_\_ K\_ttl\_ Lyr\_\_\_ I M\_ddl\_\_\_me N\_stl\_\_\_ Ospr\_  
\_ Psych\_\_\_s Quicks\_\_\_\_\_r R\_stl\_\_\_n\_\_\_ S\_\_\_tch Thr\_\_\_b\_\_\_ Undr\_\_\_s

V\_ntr\_c\_\_ Wr\_stl\_s Xyl\_p\_\_e Z\_\_hyr

**Answers on page 39**

## **Parish Council News**

### **Littleton Village Design Statement Refresh:**

Littleton and Harestock Parish Council are currently preparing to refresh the 2009 Littleton Village Design Statement which will be put forward for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in the Winchester and District Local Plan 2038.

The Parish Council will hold a workshop later in the year, but prior to that would welcome any comments and contributions regarding planning or the Village Design Statement to be used as input for the workshop. Please email the Parish Clerk at [littleton.harestockpc@btconnect.com](mailto:littleton.harestockpc@btconnect.com).

The 2009 Littleton Village Design Statement is available on the Parish Council website: [www.littletonandharestockparishcouncil.org.uk/littleton-village-design-statement/](http://www.littletonandharestockparishcouncil.org.uk/littleton-village-design-statement/)

The Winchester and District Local Plan adopted in March 2013 is available at [www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1-joint-core-strategy-adopted-march-2013-local-plan-review-2006/local-plan-part-1-joint-core-strategy-adopted-2013](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1-joint-core-strategy-adopted-march-2013-local-plan-review-2006/local-plan-part-1-joint-core-strategy-adopted-2013)

### **Parish Councillor Vacancies:**

We have two Parish Councillor vacancies. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the local community, and having an input in local decisions, then we would be delighted if you would like to apply.

For more details on any Parish Council matters please contact the Parish Clerk at [littleton.harestockpc@btconnect.com](mailto:littleton.harestockpc@btconnect.com) or telephone 01962 886507 during office hours of 9-12:30 weekdays. [www.littletonandharestockparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.littletonandharestockparishcouncil.org.uk/)



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## Littleton Pre-school

At this time, we would usually be telling you all about the fun and exciting adventures we have been having. We would be telling you what is growing in our Pre-school garden, or how we have watched the wildlife area at the top of the Rec spring back into life and measured the plants as they grow taller than us. We would be excitedly sharing our creative activities, particularly how we have been using natural materials found on our expeditions around the Rec, how we have learnt about cause and effect when we mix paint colours together, and experiment with flour, or enjoy some baking.



*Emily's rainbow*

Sadly though, we like everyone else, are staying at home in order to protect ourselves, our loved ones and the wider community. This is a strange experience, something that very few of us have ever lived through and will form part of history lessons of the future. Whilst we really, really miss seeing the children at Pre-school, we are very proud of the way they have coped with the changes and we have worked on ways that we can stay in touch.

We have embraced technology (which has been a real learning curve for us practitioners) and love engaging with the children through circle time and other activities via Facebook Live. We have even had Zoom get togethers, enabling the children to see and chat to their friends. We use Tapestry in Pre-school to record and track children's development and this has been a real benefit over the past few weeks, not only enabling us to see what the children have been doing at home, but also as a way of recording the children's lives during the pandemic, something they will be able to keep as a lasting memory, perhaps even to show their own children and grandchildren.

The Summer term is usually full of lots of adventures for our children, who will leave us to start school in September. We are certain that all of our children will make the transition to Year R confidently and full of resilience, even if we don't get to share these last few weeks of Pre-school with them. From the first day they join us we encourage them to grow individually, develop at their own pace and be ready to take each step forward with enthusiasm and joy.



*Rowan's butterflies*

*Continued on page 39*



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*Around the parishes - Littleton continued*

When we are at Pre-school, we embrace activities with gusto and we can certainly see that this enthusiasm has continued into activities at home during these past few weeks. We have been learning all about nature and the environment during lockdown and these wonderful pictures created at home are just some examples of the amazing creative freedom that our children enjoy.

We are looking forward to the time when we can be out and about again on the Rec and we can say hello to our friends within the wider community. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well.

*The children and staff of Littleton Pre-school  
Tel: 07765 916006; info@littletonpreschool.com*



**Answers to Complete the A to Z quiz on page 34**

Abstraction Batches Chortling Darkness Endless Freight Gamble Heavenly

Inkling Jangle Kettle Lyrical Muddlesome Nestling Osprey Psychosis  
Quicksilver

Restlessness Stretch Threadbare Undress Ventricle Wrestles Xylophone Zephyr



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1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">SAND</div>	2 $\frac{\text{MAN}}{\text{BOARD}}$	3 $\frac{\text{STAND}}{\text{I}}$	4 R E A D I N G
5 $\frac{\text{WEAR}}{\text{LONG}}$	6 R ROADS A D S	7 ↓ T O W N	8 CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
9 L E V E L	10 o M.D. P.H.D. B.S.	11 KNEE LIGHTS	12 $\frac{\text{III I}}{\text{OO}}$
13 CHAIR	14 DICE DICE	15 H O C O T ↓	16 GROUND F E E T F E E T F E E T F E E T F E E T
17 $\frac{\text{MIND}}{\text{MATTER}}$	18 HE'S/HIMSELF	19 E C N A L G	20 D E A T H / L I F E
21 $\frac{\text{G.I.}}{\text{C C C C}}$	22 — PROGRAM	23 R E V E R S E D C	24 Y O U J U S T M E

Answers on page 47

*Thanks to Jan Shaw for supplying this quiz and the one on page 34*

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## Around the Parishes - Sparsholt

### Rainbows and Bibles

As one of the Foundation Governors of Sparsholt Primary School, I get sent lots of emails from the Diocesan Education Service as well as the School about ideas for Worship. Early in Lockdown, Mrs Gwilliam copied me on a note written by two of the pupils in her class which included the following:

We thought it would be a **great idea** to draw, paint or colour a **RAINBOW**. Many people across the UK are drawing and painting **rainbows** to symbolise **HOPE**.

Wouldn't it be great if when we walked around our villages there were bright, beautiful and brilliant rainbows on the windows of our houses?

The child in me felt I had to take part so here is my Rainbow of Hope in my kitchen window.



Many people in Sparsholt have made rainbows and lots of them are currently decorating the Village Telephone Box.

This week, the Diocese sent the following:

**Looking to the Rainbow** : Many families are displaying a Rainbow in their windows – the Biblical symbol of Hope. At the Launch of #Faith at Home last week, The Bluecoat School in Birmingham's song that was created during lockdown was shown. This can be seen at [worshipforeveryone.com/looking-to-the-rainbow](http://worshipforeveryone.com/looking-to-the-rainbow).

I found the words so moving, I hope you think so too:



### Looking to the Rainbow

Words and Music by Becky Drake

#### Verse 1

We used to be together each day  
Working in our classrooms and then going  
out to play

We used to meet to sing and to pray  
And gathered for assembly to kick off the  
day

But now the new rule  
Means school's changed  
We don't know when we'll meet again

#### Chorus

*But even though we're in lockdown  
We won't be knocked down  
'Cause we're still a family  
And we're looking to the rainbow  
Because we all know  
There is hope for you and me  
A new day will come!*

*Continued overleaf*



## **News from Sparsholt Village shop**



These are challenging times for us all as we try to adhere to the government's 'Stay at Home, Save the NHS, Save Lives' campaign. It's pretty straightforward but, several weeks after initial imposition, it's hard to maintain. How do we look after ourselves, how do we feed ourselves...?

The Sparsholt Village Shop and Post Office are working really hard to help Sparsholt and neighbouring villages to do just that. Janette and Fiona and their team of volunteers are opening the shop 6 days a week and the Post Office 5 days a week offering fresh vegetables, meat, general provisions, chocolate (very important!) and hardware as well as postal and financial services. The village is being very supportive and the feedback has been fantastic. The shop is really proving its worth at the very

heart of our community. Long-time customers continue to be very supportive and we are attracting some customers who have not shopped with us before. Welcome - it's very good to see you!

We are trying to keep stock levels up although there have been, and are, some challenges. We are travelling many miles, though, to many suppliers to keep the shelves filled with all the things our customers need. We try to keep prices very competitive and still use locally produced items where we can.

We have had to change our way of working in order to keep our staff and our customers safe and so social distancing is the order of the day. Basically, we've moved the shop outside under a new shelter – thank you to Pete and Nigel. Customers queue at least 2 metres apart (although it's fair to say that some people are better at this than others !!!) and then we ask that the customers don't touch any of the goods - Janette and Fiona and their team serve them, fetching whatever goods they need – so everyone stays safe. Thank you for your patience.

This is working well as the weather is (mainly!) good, but we will have to look at how we work if the current restrictions carry on into the winter.

If you fancy volunteering or helping, please do speak with Janette. We have a wonderful band of volunteers but there is always room for a few new team members.

If you are a regular shopper with us, thank you. If you haven't shopped with us, come along, we have some wonderful things, you might be surprised!

**STAY SAFE**

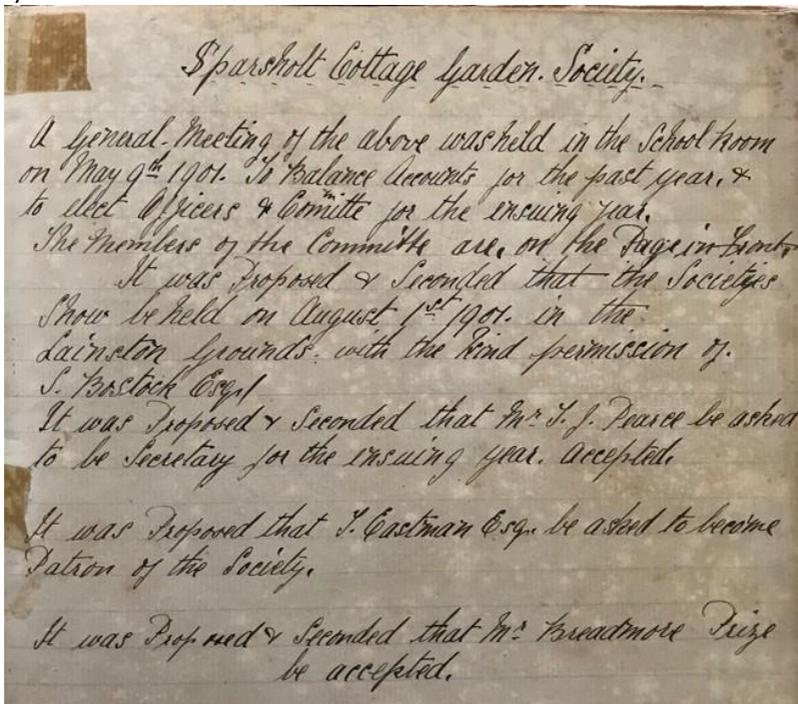
*Alastair Barron*

## Just a Minute - Gardening

I have recently come into possession of a number of documents of potential historical interest to readers of this magazine. I thought it would be good to make the information more readily available in the form of photographs and extracts from (rather than full transcription of) the documents.

The first items to catch my eye were four rather battered journals that turned out to be books recording the minutes of societies running during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; seeing the change in handwriting has been a revelation as I discovered that beautiful script isn't necessarily easier to read.

The first journal records the evolution of the 'Sparsholt Cottage Garden Society' in May 1901 (meeting in the school room) into the Sparsholt, Littleton and Crawley Horticultural Society (meeting in The Deane House) in Dec 1923:



A Committee meeting of The Sparsholt, Littleton & Crawley, Hort. Society was held at The Deane House Sparsholt on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1925

Present. S.W. Camley Esq. in the Chair  
General Committee Members, Levington Hooker, Hall, Simpson, Godden, Wickens, Meredith, Wark, Edwards, Collis, Cooper, Daniels, Lewis, Merwood,

The minutes of the General meeting were read  
It was then decided to have one Vice president for each Parish, and revert back to the old custom of having Patrons instead of Vice presidents,  
Revision of the Rules were then referred to, and it was proposed and carried that a Sub Committee consisting of three members should meet for that purpose  
Proposed by Mr Hooker & Seconded by Mr Meredith  
That S.W. Camley Esq., J.C. Robertson Esq., Mr C. Simpson be elected, as the Sub committee, carried

The organisation seemed to be thriving in 1901 with a Patron, President, Vice President & Treasurer, Secretary and eight committee members. Although it wasn't in the strongest financial health having spent £21 17s 4d and received £21 9s 1d, leaving the Treasurer out of pocket to the tune of 8s 3d. It doesn't sound much but £21 in 1901 is equivalent to £2,600 today and the Treasurer is owed £50.

It was agreed that the Annual Flower Show should take place on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1901 in the grounds of Lainston House owned at the time by the society's patron Mr S Bostock Esq.

However, all did not go well at that event. Despite the committee having "arranged with Gentlemen to superintend the Sports", a letter was received after the event from Mr S Bostock Esq. "complaining about the Roundabouts Etc that was engaged at the Annual Show. Also, a certain neglect of the Committee to carry out their duties, to the

Show. Also, the removal of Certain Table Decorations by the public owned by Mrs Bostock.” The Secretary duly wrote to apologise (a copy of the letter is included in the minutes) but the problems didn’t end there. “all prize winners in Class 2 be asked to please refund the money that was given in Prizes over the recognised amount”. Further when it came to the Show’s finances it was “found that the expenditure was much in excess (excess) to the receipts”. On further examination the deficit was found to be £4 (£500 in today’s money).

Not much then happened until 1910 when a meeting took place to create the Sparsholt, Lainston & Littleton Cottage Horticultural Society. In 1911 this was expanded to include Weeke Without. By 1912 the flower show had taken on more of a Sports day with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for 13 different events. The top prize was 10/- (about £50 in today’s money), for 1 Mile Flat race. The Bun and Treacle race for boys under 14 and the Thread Needle race for Girls under 14 (with small boy to thread needle) sound intriguing and the winners could each have won 1/6d (about £7.50 today).

And so the minutes continue until January 1915 when it is decided “that the Show be postponed for this year owing to the unsettled state of the country”. It was four years later before the committee met again.

*John Little*

**Answers to “Interpret the following” on page 40**

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Sandbox                   | 13 High chair              |
| 2 Man overboard             | 14 Double dice             |
| 3 I understand              | 15 Touch down              |
| 4 Reading between the lines | 16 Six foot under          |
| 5 Long underwear            | 17 Mind over matter        |
| 6 Crossroads                | 18 He's beside himself     |
| 7 Down town                 | 19 Glance backwards        |
| 8 Tricycle                  | 20 Life after death        |
| 9 Uneven                    | 21 GI overseas             |
| 10 Degrees under zero       | 22 Space program           |
| 11 Neon lights              | 23 See through blouse      |
| 12 Circles under eyes       | 24 Just between you and me |

## To book the Village Halls in the five Parishes contact:

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Crawley Village Hall	Fatima Mitchell	01962 776563
Littleton Church Room	Barbara Kingston	01962 880903
Littleton Memorial Hall	Katie Burnell	01962 888419
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