

ELEVEN SAYS

JUNE /
JULY 2020

ISSUE 283

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

To bee or not to bee.....

Melanie and I celebrate our 5th anniversary in the Thurton Benefice in June and it was not long after arriving to a large, country Rectory garden that I decided to act on a dream I had nurtured for many years - to become a beekeeper. It was perfect, given that we have a 'master' beekeeper in the Bramerton Group.

Being someone whose watchwords are 'action now' it was, of course, three years before I actually signed up for one of John Everett's excellent beekeeping courses for beginners. A thoroughly enjoyable experience where I learned so much about the fascinating world of the bee and the magical and mysterious workings of the beehive. This was wonderful! I completed the course and received my certificate and in the following months devoured numerous books on the subject before finally taking delivery of my first beehive - a gift from my wife for Christmas 2018.

I was ready and fully prepared when John called in one warm Spring evening with my first colony. Appropriately suited and booted and with smoker in hand I lifted the lid and dived in. This was when the problems began.....

I soon discovered that bees do not do what the books tell you. Perhaps they cannot read?

Bees live in an amazing world of their own; a single bee is of little significance (well, except when it stings you - then it has quite an impact) but collectively the colony works as an extremely efficient community.

In a beehive, the female of the species is dominant. The Queen is King, so to speak, and all the bees with an important role - cleaning, processing and storing food, looking after the young, protecting the hive and foraging for food are girls. The boys hang around eating food and looking for a mate. They are so superfluous that at the end of the summer most of them are killed off or driven from the hive because they are a bit of a waste of space and will eat the precious winter stores of food.

Left to their own devices, bees can live a happy life. Building up the colony, storing food for the winter, splitting the colony to create a new colony and expand the species (swarming) and generally live an efficient if, for each bee, a short life. The individual is nothing, the colony is a force to be reckoned with.

Into this efficient eco system steps man. In the hive we try to recreate the hole in the tree where the bees would naturally live; we try our best to stop them splitting the colony and expanding their number; on a regular basis we take the roof off and rummage uninvited in the rooms of their home, and to add a final insult we steal all their winter stores of food - the product of all their hard work over the summer months. Is it any wonder they do not want to play ball with us?

The problem is that the beekeeper is fighting against nature and not surprisingly nature usually wins. At the end of my first summer, the colony had struggled to reach its potential 50,000 bee population, had swarmed once, produced precisely no honey for me to harvest and had cost me a small fortune in sugar syrup to feed the colony and give it the best chance of surviving the winter (which by some miracle it did).



Seeing my lack of beekeeping self-esteem, Melanie bought me a book by the television and radio presenter Bill Turnbull, himself a keen, but inept beekeeper. The title said it all: 'The Bad Beekeepers Club'. I read the book, laughing at his mishaps and realised that here was a kindred spirit. I took solace in the fact that it is ok to be keen but inept. More importantly he gave me an insight I had not considered before - there is no such thing as a master beekeeper. (John Everett may disagree with me here.....). My dictionary defines a 'master' as "a person who commands or controls ... who has complete knowledge of an art". I rest my case.

The truth is that it is the bee who is master, not the beekeeper. The bee has a genetic knowledge that ensures it knows everything that it needs to do for the good of the colony and the beekeeper cannot compare. As a consequence of this revelation, beekeeping has become much more enjoyable for me; I can accept my constant failures safe in the knowledge that I am not supposed to be perfect.

On reflection, I accepted this as a priest and a Christian many years ago. The Christian life is one where we must accept - indeed embrace - our failings and weaknesses for by doing so we approach the One who is the Master. In common with beekeeping, we cannot grow as Christians by sitting indoors reading books (even the Bible!). We have to step outside, lift off the lid and dive in in the sure and certain knowledge that we will make mistakes, we will get it wrong at times. But through those mistakes we learn, we grow, we adjust and we draw closer to God.

At the end of June we welcome Cate Turner and her family to the Thurton Benefice as our new Curate. She will be here for between three and four years to continue to grow into her calling to the priesthood and I have been trusted to be her Training Incumbent. Cate is also a beekeeper so I suspect she will soon realise my many failings as a beekeeper and a priest and I hope those failings will be an encouragement, not a disappointment.....

Yours in Christ

Fr Chris

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La Belle Heather SRH

HAIR STYLIST

Following the lockdown due to the coronavirus, I have decided to call it a day and close my salon. I would like to thank all my clients for their support and custom over the years (some for 50 years!!). I feel I have been very lucky to have found so many friends within my work.

I would like to wish you all good health and the very best for the future.

Heather Lewin

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The Mystery Of The Missing Vicar

How do you lose a vicar? Before you rush to offer your helpful suggestions, let me clarify. The one I'm talking about lived 450 years ago in Surlingham. But you will not find him on the list of incumbents in the church guide book.

The accepted account of events goes something like this. In 1583, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, James Greene had been vicar of Surlingham for 26 years when he made his will, which still survives. After his death, he was succeeded as vicar the following year by Robert Peachie. But the parish register of the time has a different story.



It tells us that "Sir James Greene, vicar of Surlingham, was buried" there on the 12th October 1574, nine years *before* he made his will! The register has been kept meticulously, with everything recorded in due date order, so if it is right, can it enlighten us further about the mysterious ten year gap?

First, in February 1576, "Francis son of Robert Umfrye was buried". Robert Umfrye? Who is he? How sad that his son has died. A year later, a happier occasion: "Johnson of Robert Umfrye, vicar, was baptised". How lovely. But vicar? What vicar? All is revealed seven years later. Just before the next incumbent, Robert Peachie, began his 55-year ministry in May 1584, the last entry reads: "Sir Robert Umfrye, vicar of Surlingham, was buried the 25th April".

Now we know the identity of the forgotten vicar from 1574 to 1584. His son John was 21 when he married Margaret Dowsey at Blofield in 1598. Was one of their descendants the TV and radio presenter John Humphrys? If he were a contestant on Mastermind, the programme he currently hosts, might he choose as his specialist subject "The Vicars of Surlingham in the Reign of Elizabeth I"?

John Glynn, April 2020

Just a snippet from a book in preparation by John and Christine Glynn on Surlingham in the Middle Ages (1066 to 1600). Don't let any more vicars go missing in the meantime . . .

Lockdown retirement

Little did I know that when I decided to retire at the end of March 2020, the world would be in a right muddle. All plans were off, including a family holiday to celebrate this event. The start of lockdown and the seriousness of the situation soon became apparent, even though none of us had any real idea of what was coming.

Following the Prime Minister's address on 10th May it looks like this situation will continue for much longer than anyone could have anticipated, so what next?

Rosalind and I decided that we would use our daily exercise allowance to see what our local area had to offer. We have covered many miles on cycle and foot. Wildlife seems more obvious due to the lack of human activity. We have been very fortunate to see many things of beauty such as the bluebells in several woods, the cuckoo at Carleton St Peter and the red kite which flew over our heads at Hardley.

Hardley Staithe



A walk along the river from Hardley Staithe to the mill and Cantley was wonderful. It also gave us the chance to see one of the Peregrines which are nesting on the factory - you can look at them on the you tube site which has a webcam feature. www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFjLIheKb0g

We are, of course, very fortunate that we live in a rural location and have a lot of freedom compared with those living in cities who must really be struggling, especially those in flats or without a garden. Also those of a certain age in isolation or being shielded must be finding life a struggle at times.

On the back road from Thurton to Ashby St Mary



We have seen more people than usual walking and cycling and it has been a great pleasure to say "hello" to those we meet, from a suitable distance of course.

The churches may all be closed, thus denying people the chance to seek peace at the greatest time of need since World War 2, but the church community is still alive. Churches across the UK got together to sing a song of blessing and you can enjoy this online if you have a suitable device. www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=PUtlI3mNj5U&feature=emb_logo

This blessing states that God is for us, yes He is for us. We are in a time of great difficulty and you might wonder where God is in all of this. Humanity has caused much grief and distress over the centuries and we cannot blame our God for this. He is for us and is knocking on the door. If we will just open the door and let Him in, He will come in to our lives to give us hope.

God promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you,

Make His face to shine upon you,

Be gracious unto you and give you peace

Chris Limbach

Ashby & Thurton WI
 First Thursday each month at 7.30pm
Alpington, BA & Yelverton TWIG
 First Wednesday each month at
 7.30pm

Rockland St Mary WI
 Second Tuesday each month at
 7.30pm
Surlingham WI
 First Thursday each month at 7.30pm

Rockland St Mary & District WI - Formed in April 1920 (Part 3)

From the early 1920s our WI continued to flourish and even during the war it did not stop the meetings although I expect a few were missed from time to time. When the Margaret Mack Room was damaged by the V2 rocket which fell on the field behind the school the meetings were transferred to The Normans, The Old Hall and The Reading Room (ie the Parish Room) while repairs were carried out to the Room.

The format of the meetings has changed little over the years with speakers, demonstrations, or entertainment as the main part of the evening. Members take turns to make and serve the refreshments, and the short business time deals mainly with our activities outside the meetings, eg. Organising Outings, visits, craft group, scrabble sessions, book club, and a bit of fundraising to keep ourselves viable.

Our yearly subscription is divided between our own WI, the Norfolk Federation WI and the National WI, the greater part being retained by our WI. Should any large expenditure be needed, any proposal made by the Committee has to be voted on by the members who would need to give their approval.

Sadly it has taken an unseen enemy to stop our meetings (This coronavirus, Covid 19) but I am pleased to say that all our members are in good health and staying in contact with each other. When life returns to "normal" we will again have our meetings and resurrect the events we hoped to have this year.

Daphne Howlett

Friends

If nobody gave us a helping hand
 And nobody seemed to care,
 If the prizes of life all went to the strong
 And nobody gave us a share,
 If nobody had the time to give
 A thought to you and me,
 And we had to struggle as best we could
 What a hopeless world 'twould be.
 Lending a hand to help the weak
 Can lighten another's load,
 Giving our best with a willing heart
 Can brighten a lonely road,
 'Tis on something to live for, someone to love,
 That the purpose of life depends,
 And there's nothing to equal the gladness and joy
 Of making and keeping friends.

Anne Aizlewood



Good Friday Cycle Pilgrimage 2020

As the usual pilgrimage on foot was cancelled this year, Rosalind and I decided that we would use our exercise allowance to cycle round all 11 churches in our group to show solidarity.

We stopped briefly outside each church gate to sing a verse of a suitable hymn and say prayers, both for the people of that community and also for those people in the greater world community.



Even though it was a very strange experience, we felt we wanted to share the love of God with those around us. These people probably didn't even know we were there, but our God is able to do things we cannot even imagine.

May the Lord bless you in the coming days and weeks.

Chris and Rosalind Limbach

Word Search for Gardeners

This word search comprises words associated with allotment gardening.

The words listed may be read across, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

ALLOTMENTS	A L L O T M E N T S
WAITING	S E S L O O T S E E
LIST	T W X T S O I L R R
ACTS	I T A E C L B O L U
ENCLOSURES	B N A I R A D H T S
EXERCISE	B E N P T C D E N O
FRUIT	A R L E L I N A L
HENS	R O G O R D N S N C
MOVEMENT	T E T I U R F G E N
PLOT	V M O V E M E N T E
RABBITS	
RENT	
ROD	
SOIL	
TENANT	
TOOLS	
VEGETABLES	





From the Registers

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

26/03/20	Paul Leonard COAN (70)	Thurton
27/03/20	Marie LUMSDALE (103)	Kirby Bedon
08/04/20	Angela Elizabeth BISHOP (77)	Thurton
15/04/20	Gerald George James CHILVERS (80)	Kirby Bedon
21/04/20	Julian Robert Lawson COE (62)	Bramerton
27/04/20	Rosemary Evelyn WOOD (75)	Bergh Apton
28/04/20	Dorothy Mollie POWELL (101)	Rockland St Mary
29/04/20	Edgar John HODDY (64)	Ashby St Mary
05/05/20	Gladys May ELLIS (95)	Claxton

Gladys May ELLIS - 19/01/1925 - 18/04/2020

Gladys was born in Ashill on 19th January, 1925. She was well known by many in our local villages having lived in a number of them over the years, making many friends.

While serving in the WRENS, Gladys was stationed in the Orkney Isles during WWII. After the war she met and married George Ellis and they settled down in Surlingham where they lived happily for many years.

When George, a well known local builder, retired, they moved into a new house and soon became involved in village activities in Bramerton. They joined the Bowls Club and became members of the Village Hall Committee. George was one the 6 members of the "building gang" who helped to plan and build Bramerton Village hall which was opened in 1989.

Many years later they moved to Yelverton for a short while before a final move into an annex that their only son Robert, also a builder, had built onto his own property in Claxton.

Gladys and George were very proud of and much loved by their two grandchildren, Colin (who sadly died a few years ago) and Lorraine, son and daughter of Robert and his wife Susan. They were also very proud of their much loved great grandson, Thomas, the son of Lorraine and her husband Nick.

There was a private family cremation and a memorial service will be held at a later date when safe to do so.



The Church of England has launched a free phone line called **Daily Hope**. It's available 24 hours a day and offers four options:

- ❖ a message from the Archbishop,
- ❖ a talk on a different well-known hymn every day,
- ❖ some much-loved hymns, or prayers
- ❖ advice about the current pandemic.

It's open to anyone, but we especially hope it will offer hope and support to many who have no internet access (it's estimated that 2.5 million people aged 75 and over in the UK have never been online). Please would you pass on the freephone number **0800 804 8044** to any friend or neighbour you feel would wish to hear about it. We can also print and laminate copies if you need them for noticeboards or to display in windows.

I hope you find Daily Hope helpful.

Best wishes, Rev Nick



What's On in Rockland Benefice

Since the uncertain times of the previous *Eleven Says*, church life has settled into a new routine. Prayer is offered daily for our villages by Helen, myself and other church members. Weekly worship takes place in two main ways:

- ❖ **Sunday service.** This is usually a fifteen-minute video, linked to the Rockland Churches Face Book page and posted on Sundays on village websites. (May I add how grateful we are to the web hosts for posting church news and keeping us all informed during this challenging period). This video link, together with an accompanying service booklet and sometimes a Biblical reflection, is also shared by e-mail to members of our circulation list. Please contact us if you wish to join the contact list, or if you know anyone who isn't online and would like to receive the service booklet.
- ❖ **Happy Hour.** Our live meeting via Zoom takes place in the comfort of your home **every Sunday at 5pm**. It's a time when we can greet each other, share worship, prayer and fun - hence the new name! Invitations are sent out to everyone on our mailing list and we're happy to welcome people who e-mail or phone us as well. Like all Zoom meetings, it's possible to join in an ordinary phone. Please ring us (01508 538014) for more details.

Our church buildings remained closed to visitors, but in each parish a designated person goes in regularly to check its safety and security and to pray for the community. You may sometimes hear the bell rung as a sign of this continuing activity.



These are some of the elements of church life at this time, but what we'd really like to say is that **We Are Here!** Our main role is to listen, to chat, to pray and support you through these times. We're here for the small things and the big things, to help make sense of life, to grieve and to find hope. We're here to support your spiritual journey in times when faith is severely challenged or awakened. Spiritual health is just as important as our physical health. You are welcome to contact us.

Rev Nick and Rev Helen Garrard

CHRISTIAN AID -A big thank you to everyone who supported last month's Christian Aid Week. If you didn't find the opportunity to make a donation, it's not too late! Christian Aid's **Emergency Coronavirus Appeal** is still running, and we can help prevent the spread of this virus among some of the world's poorest people. For more information, please visit their website: www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal. You can also make a donation by telephone (020 7523 2492) or post it to Rockland Rectory for forwarding.

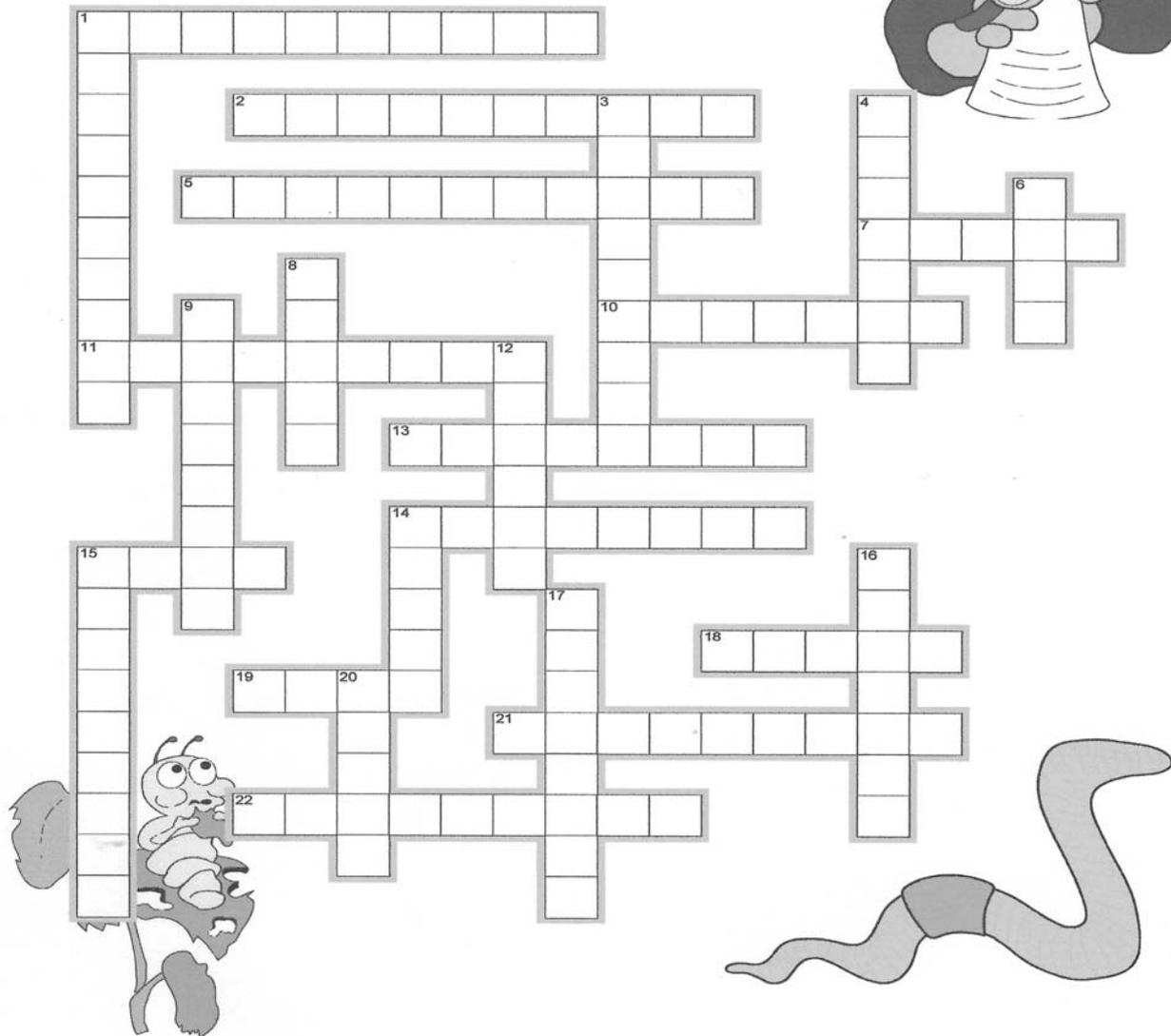
Paul Scarff, Christian Aid's Norwich Area Treasurer, has compiled a recipe book with plenty of local help to raise money. Paul has set up a just giving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paul-scarff>

If anyone wants an electronic copy of the book, if they make a donation and then email me at the address included in the just giving page, I will send them an electronic copy as soon as possible (printed copies will follow once we are back to normal!).'

The Grimacing Gardener

Every gardener finds himself or herself in a pickle, a jam, or even some hot water from time to time. If you've ever found yourself grimacing as a gardener, you'll have little trouble with this crossword... Or not?

Check your knowledge of all sorts of gardening plights and pestilence as you complete this puzzle.



Across

1. Overuse can lead to runoff that damages surface waters
2. Small pits on tubers indicate this disease (2 words.)
5. Noisy unwanted reptile
7. Too much or too little of this is a common problem.
10. Plant with edible, tart stalks but poisonous leaves
11. Overuse of this class of weedkiller can injure plants
13. Fungus that infects corn plants
14. Shield-shaped insect that gives off an unpleasant odor when crushed (2 words)
15. Insect-eating underground dwellers
18. Used to suppress weeds, but too much can cause rot
19. This type of soil drains slowly and can cause root damage
21. Showy springtime problem
22. Rash-causing weed (2 words.)

Down

1. Disease that causes scorched-looking new leaves
3. A thick type of unwanted grass
3. Type of caterpillar that cuts off seedlings just above the ground
6. Animal that grazes, leaving damaged woody plants, roses, fruits and vegetables
8. Prickly plant or shrub
9. Winged annoyance, especially around fresh fruit (2 words.)
12. Ugly nocturnal insect that feeds on tender new growth
14. Type of soil that often does not retain water or nutrients
15. Umbrella-shaped fungi
16. Nocturnal animal that loves sweet corn and strawberries
17. Non-native plant type that spreads on its own
20. Prolific insect that sucks the sap from stems and leaves

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Latest News

Community Website Launched

A new website www.alpingtonwithyelverton.com has recently been launched to help communicate relevant news and important information to the community in response to the pandemic. Developed initially by the Parish Council, the intention is to expand into a full community website.

With added support from across the two villages, future content can include:

- ❖ Details of current events
- ❖ Details and facts about the local school, thatched pub, historic church, successful football teams, village hall, recreation areas and play area.
- ❖ News and links to local groups and organisations
- ❖ A history of the villages

Please take a look at www.alpingtonwithyelverton.com to ensure you are kept up to date, please enter your email address to follow blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Bergh Apton

Saturday 13 June 2020

Excitement postponed!

BACAT is producing another Special Event

Because of Covid19

**One for the Rook
will NOT take place in 2020**

Please watch this space for future date announcements and invitations to take part.

For information please contact:
c.m.meynell@gmail.com



Bramerton

Allotments available

Now is an excellent time to think about growing your own fresh fruit and vegetables. Working on your garden or an allotment counts as your daily exercise. The parish council has a number allotments in Hill House Road available for a modest rent.



For more details please contact the parish clerk, either by email at bramertonpc@outlook.com or telephone 01508 494635.

Bramerton continued . . .

Bramerton Parish Council

Bramerton Parish Council successfully held its first official virtual meeting on 11th May, the Annual Parish Council Meeting. In light of the Covid-19 situation, the Parish Council will continue to hold its meetings via the Zoom virtual platform until further notice. Details of meetings, minutes and agendas are available on the Bramerton Village website, www.bramertonvillage.org

If you would like to 'attend' a meeting please contact the Parish Clerk (telephone: 01508 494635) who will be able to provide a link to enable access

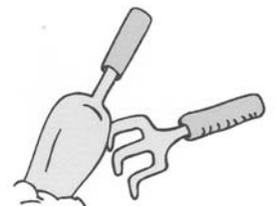
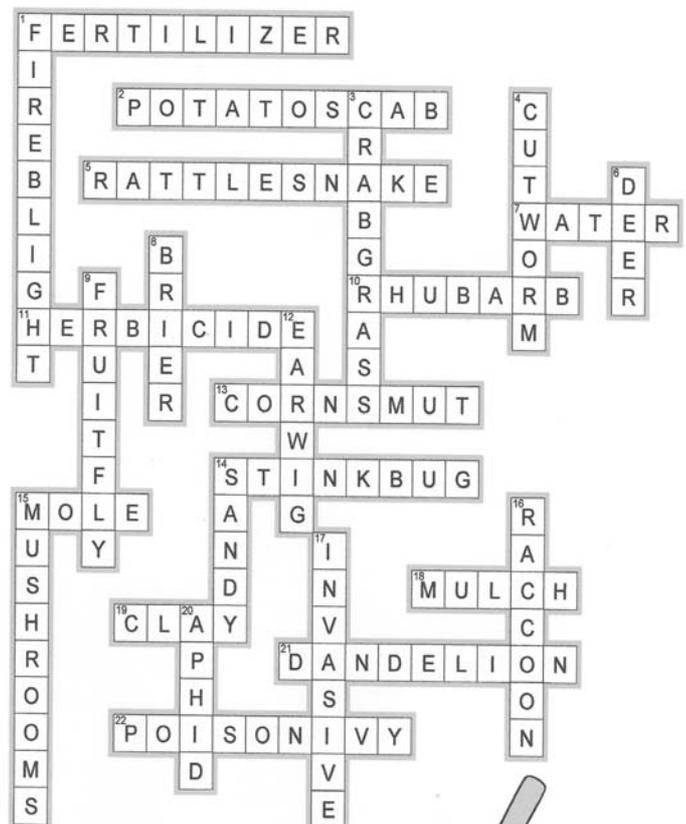
We warmly welcome our new councillor, Marcel Pfrang.

We have been made aware of an increased number of dog excrement bags being abandoned around the parish. Please may we request that these bags are disposed of in the correct manner, the dog bin positioned on The Common continues to be emptied on a regular basis.

Stay safe and well.

Bramerton Parish Council

Answers to The Grimacing Gardener Crossword which is on Page 6

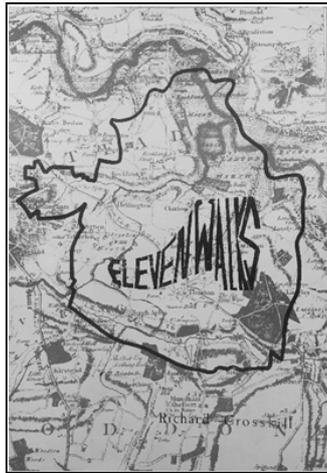


Village News

Eleven Good Walks

In these interesting times when, as I write, the Lock-Down may be coming to an end, we will all still need to maintain some form of "social distancing" and do something to keep fit. What better way is there to do that than find good walks on the footpaths and bridleways around the parishes of the Bramerton Group?

Help is at hand to take you there, in the form of walks published nearly forty years ago by Richard Crosskill of Bramerton in a booklet titled "Eleven Walks" (see the photo of the cover) with a foreword by Michael Stedman, then Team Rector and Rural Dean of Loddon.



Each walk included a commentary on the route to be followed and Richard's rather excellent hand-drawn map. In the intervening years, changes on the ground including gates and stiles that have both appeared and disappeared have made it necessary to edit the written notes but the maps are still very much up to the mark and easy to follow.

In this edition of Eleven Says (if the Editor can find room) you'll find one of Richard's walks. Others will follow in future issues. So get out there and enjoy the great countryside that we are all lucky enough to share!

Remember, as you go, to protect the land, wildlife and the interests of the people who own the land you're walking across: *keep to the footpaths, take care not to damage crops, guard against risks of fire, keep dogs under control, leave no litter and leave all gates as you found them (the farmer may have left a gate open to give his stock access to water).*

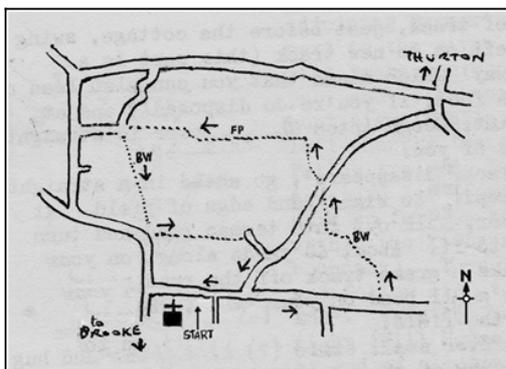
Finally, I can't resist the temptation to include (below) a Limerick that came to me as I prepared the text for Walk 10 that starts at the George and Dragon in Thurton. Can you, as you walk these routes, come up with more, relevant to the places on Richard Crosskill's maps?

A Footpath Ode

There was a young lady from Thurton
Whose 'Eleven Walks' went for a Burton
Near The George, on Walk Ten,
She fell into a fen

And I think she's still there, but not certain.

WALK 1 BERGH APTON 3 ¼ miles



START: Bergh Apton Church, NR15 1BX.

Park in Church Field, immediately to the East of the church. *Having closed the field gate*, turn right and walk east towards Loddon. Pass Gravel Pit Lane on your right, White Heath Road on your left and Sunnyside (at the red telephone box, now a library) on your right.

Opposite Holly Lodge Barn, take the Bridleway (which means that you can also ride or lead a horse along it if you're so disposed!) on your left. After 150 yards it curves round to the left. Here the official bridleway becomes indistinct so, unless you can follow it, keep to the field edge on your right. Soon after the western limit of the Chet Valley vineyard (on your left) the track swings right and passes through a hedge into a green loke.

Cross over White Heath Road onto the footpath immediately opposite. Go slightly uphill past a small copse on your left to reach a 'T' junction. Turn left. At this point, the tower of Bergh Apton Church will be way over to your left. This is Longlands Lane - a putative Roman road from *Ventalcenorum* (Caistor St Edmund) to the river Chet at Loddon (or, perhaps, to the Yare at Hardley Cross) and thence to *Gariononum*, the Roman fortress at Burgh Castle).

At end of this broad track, just before you reach Dodger's Lane at a small cottage, turn left onto a bridleway. Bergh Apton Church tower is now straight ahead of you.

Your route passes through a hedgerow at a gate and then runs parallel to the wooden railed fence and private driveway (on your right) to reach Church Road. Turn left and then, after about 40 yards and at a deep pond, take the footpath off to your left.

Pass another deep pond on your right and pass through a hedge (there may be a stile here). Now hug the hedgerow on your right, keeping to the headland. At the far end of the field you reach a gravel track.

Turn right and you will get to White Heath Road, opposite a newly-thatched cottage. Turn right and, at the junction with School Road, turn right again.

This will bring you back to Church Field on your left.

Rockland St Mary

RSM History

Hello fellow residents of Rockland St Mary, this is an appeal for your help with gathering information to support a history project I'm researching on the evolution of the Rockland St Mary community and its relationship with Rockland Staithe. My project is part of the Norfolk County Council - Hidden Heritage Programme.

To support this work I'm interested to hear of any old local documents, publications, correspondence, newspaper articles, flyers, photos/postcards, maps that might help consolidate and support my understanding of our local history for use within the report. Please email me on jsay8@icloud.com or call me on 01508 537077 if you have any of the above items you'd be happy to share.

Thanks in advance for your help with this research project.

John Sayles

Village News

Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council

Prescriptions - As I submit this, I am not sure of course by the time this is published, exactly what the situation will be. However, I would like to say a BIG BIG thank you to all the volunteers who gave their names to me to assist with the collection of prescriptions and shopping. In the early days it was very hectic, but things soon settled down and a good system is now in place. Until Rockland Surgery is opened again I hope to keep this system going. If at anytime you or you know of someone who needs a prescription collected contact me on 01508 537025.

Zoom Meetings - Our April and May meetings have been held via Zoom. The Agenda is posted on the website and notice boards and you can join the meeting by logging in. This facility will continue until the Parish Council receives further guidance from the Government. Any information received will be posted on the website: www.rocklandstmarywithhellington-pc.gov.uk

Newsletter - The Spring newsletter from the Parish Council has been posted on the website and also displayed on the notice boards. Some hard copies have been made available at the Post Office. If you have not read it or would like a hard copy please let me know.

Monica Armstrong - Clerk to Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council.

Email: parishclerk@rocklandstmarywithhellington-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01508 537025.

Rockland St Mary School photo dated 1955!

Well, how many of these youngsters, pictured here with the Head Master, Mr Bullock, did you recognise in the last issue?



Top row: Billy Warman, John Yallop, Peter R Carr, Maureen Jordan, Brenda Turner, Margaret Webster, Morgan Hubbard, Michael Dack,

Second row: Michael Thrower, Lorna Blazer, Sylvia Blazer, Marian Jordan, Janet Preston, Jennifer Blazer, Laurence Flynn.

Third row: Kathleen Webster, Joan Carr, Wendy Mason, Anne Vincent, Veronica Stone, Daphne Green

Front row: David Freeman, Gerald Moon, Noel Parke

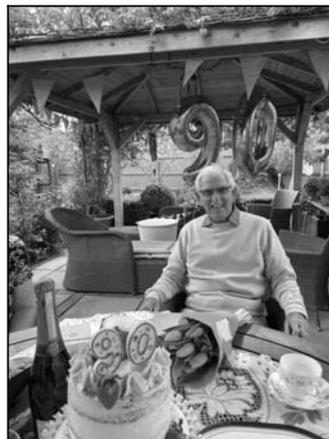
Rockland St Mary continued . . .

A very unusual but very happy 90th birthday celebration!

Ron Reynolds of Rockland St Mary celebrated a very happy 90th birthday even though it probably wasn't quite how he might have wished. Due to the current situation, with everyone isolating and social distancing, his birthday was certainly enjoyed in a very unique way!

Ron and his wife Twin have lived in Rockland for over 50 years and their next door neighbours and long time friends, Pearl and Paddy Flynn, and their daughter Louise, arranged a very special day for them both as they have no family living locally.

Pearl and Paddy's garden was decorated with bunting and balloons, and under a covered pagoda the table was set with a delicious Afternoon Tea from Teles Patisserie, Surlingham, and a big decorated cake made by Holly's Cakes. Even though friends and neighbours sat at a distance from each other they all ensured that Ron's special day was a very happy event and one he will certainly remember!



Birthday boy, Ron, with his special birthday cake.



A very happy Twin and Ron enjoying his special day.

Community spirit is as strong as ever as Rockland St Mary and Surlingham villagers celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day



Village News

Community spirit is as strong as ever

Rockland St Mary revealed its excellent community spirit as neighbours with their families got "in the mood" for the Bank Holiday on Friday May 8th 2020 by commemorating and celebrating the freedom we can enjoy today because of Victory in Europe 75 years ago.

The majority of houses in the village had either found or created bunting and flags to decorate their houses and front gardens. At 3 o'clock, undaunted by a few spots of rain, with bunting and flags flying and war-time music playing, including Vera Lynn songs, neighbours sat in their front gardens with drinks, cake, picnics and BBQs.



The sunshine returned and glasses were raised to those who passed by on their daily exercise, including extra road users due to a traffic diversion.



It was a thoroughly convivial and enjoyable occasion bringing everyone of all ages together, who, because of the circumstances at present, had the time, to pause, to chat and to make such a simple idea of a "socially distant" street party come together in a spirit of fellowship and fun to commemorate an important day in our nation's history.

Thanks to Natalie Liversidge for the initial idea and Kristina Black for the posters. Words and photos by Mandy Ansell, Monica Armstrong and Sharon Black



These two pictures are of Surlingham villagers celebrating VE Day in 1945.

The photographs were sent to Andrew Ringwood by a relative of someone connected to Surlingham Garage (before Kevin) called Braybrookes. Information was received from Edward Shread



VE Day 2020 - All dressed up and "in the mood". Some of the many Surlingham villagers who celebrated this special day. Good fun was had by all even though social distancing!





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Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council



Clerk needed for September 2020

In view of the impending retirement of the current post holder applications are invited for the post of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Rockland St Mary and Hellington are small villages situated in south Norfolk. The Parish Council is looking to appoint a reliable, personable and self-motivated person with good written and IT skills. A knowledge of local government procedures would be an advantage but not essential as training will be made available to the successful candidate.

The post is offered as a home working post; the current contract is for 26 hours per month. The hourly rate will be in line with the National pay scales and according to experience.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Arrange, publicise and attend 11 Parish Council meetings each year and one Annual Parish Meeting including preparation of agendas and taking minutes of the meetings
- Arrange, publicise and attend two Rockland Broad Management Committee meetings including the preparation of agendas and taking minutes of the meetings
- Attend to administrative tasks including maintaining paper and electronic files and the Parish Council website, annual review of all parish policies, dealing with correspondence and enquiries, managing the part-time village caretaker's duties, and overseeing the maintenance of Parish Council assets
- Manage and report on the Parish Council's finances and prepare the accounts for annual audit
- Advise and support seven Councillors
- Liaise with District and County Councillors (and other organisations as needed)
- To undertake training as and when required
- Other duties as determined by the Parish Council.

To apply for the post please email your CV and a covering letter by June 15th 2020 to:
Kate Bevington, Chair of Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council:
katebevington@rocklandstmarywithhellington-pc.gov.uk

If you would like further information about the post or an informal discussion, please call the Chair on 01508 538 987

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 1st July 2020

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VE Day Reflection by Hannah Limbach

On the 8th of May we marked 75 years since VE Day, or victory in Europe. On that day in 1945, six years of war came to an end (with peace being declared worldwide in September) and people took to the streets to celebrate and mourn together, the future finally looking brighter. I cannot imagine the relief and the joy of that day.

It's a time to remember all who gave their lives, all who were injured in body and mind, all on the front line and all working on home soil. We remember all who have served since and think of all who serve now. As we reflect on the sacrifices of many that led to victory in the second world war, we think of the battle we are facing now, and all those working on a different kind of front line. We look to the day when we can celebrate and be back together. I am so excited for that day. Thinking about this reminded me of Ecclesiastes 3:

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

We have an amazing God who is with us in all of these times, I pray that you will feel him close to you today.

I wrote this reflection for the church I'm working for in Preston. I have learnt a lot in the past few weeks as we adapt to live-streaming services from our homes, recording videos and spending much more time on the phone. It has been wonderful to be part of such a generous church, supporting the community through our food bank and the local hospital with pastoral care. Though I miss the open countryside of Norfolk, I have discovered some beautiful parts of Preston in which I can forget I'm in a city!

It has never been easier to investigate church. As we're not able to meet together, lots of churches are putting services and other content online and I encourage you to have a look! Our own rector Rev. Chris Ellis is emailing out weekly thoughts, please get in touch with him or your local church if you would like to receive those.

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: June and July 2020

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
07/06/20	Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31	2 Corinthians 13.11-13	Matthew 28.16-20	Trinity Sunday
14/06/20	Genesis 18.1-15 [21.1-7]	Romans 5.1-8	Matthew 9.35-10.8 [9-23]	1 st Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	Exodus 19.2-8a			
21/06/20	Genesis 21.8-21	Romans 6.1b-11	Matthew 10.24-39	2 nd Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	Jeremiah 20.7-13			
28/06/20	Genesis 22.1-14	Romans 6.12-23	Matthew 10.40-42	3 rd Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	Jeremiah 28.5-9			
05/07/20	Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Romans 7.15-25a	Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30	4 th Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	Zechariah 9.9-12			
12/07/20	Genesis 25.19-34	Romans 8.1-11	Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	5 th Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	Isaiah 55.10-13			
19/07/20	Genesis 28.10-19a	Romans 8.12-25	Matthew 13.24-30,36-43	6 th Sun after Trinity
<i>Or</i>	Wisdom of Solomon 12.13,16-19			
<i>or</i>	Isaiah 44.6-8			
26/07/20	Genesis 29.15-28	Romans 8.26-39	Matthew 13.31-33,44-52	7 th Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	1 Kings 3.5-12			
02/08/20	Genesis 32.22-31	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21	8 th Sun after Trinity
<i>or</i>	Isaiah 55.1-5			

Please note:

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

Following the Church of England's guide lines there will be no formal services until further notice.

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