

The Sexton's Wheel

Issue 204

The magazine for Long Stratton & Wacton



**to everyone in
Long Stratton
and Wacton**

January 2021

Long Stratton Village Hall - Booking information



The hall can be booked as follows:

- Via our Facebook page, search for 'Long Stratton Village Hall'
- Via our website www.longstrattonvillagehall.org.uk
- Email us at longstrattonvillagehall@outlook.com
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- Hire rates from as little as £7.50 per hour



Wacton Village Hall - Booking information

The meeting room has seating for 22, suitable for small functions. The main hall has a semi-sprung floor with capacity for 80 seated or 120 standing. There is a fully equipped kitchen and a full complement of tables and chairs. All areas are accessible for wheelchairs, there is a baby changing station. Hourly rates are £6 and £10 respectively or £13 for the hire of the whole hall. Christine Goreham 01508 530823 or Wacton.VH@outlook.com

Church Contacts

St Mary's / St Michael's & All Saints'	Revd. Heather Wilcox rev.heather@btconnect.com	01508 530238
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Church Parish Office

The Parish Office situated at The Rectory, 8 Flowerpot Lane, is currently not staffed, but we are available for enquiries at anytime. Please ring the doorbell (by the front door) or ring 01508 530238 for all enquiries.

If you know anyone who is unwell or would benefit from a call from a member of our Ministry Team, please contact Revd' Heather Wilcox 01508 530238

Long Stratton Town Council, The Pavilion, Manor Road, Long Stratton

Usual office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 1pm and by appointment at other times.

Tel: Clerk Becky Buck 01508 530524 E-mail: clerk@longstrattoncouncil.info

The Editors reserve the right to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. While every effort is made to ensure that the contents of the magazine are accurate, no responsibility can be taken for errors and omissions. The material printed does not necessarily represent the views of the magazine committee and no recommendation of products or services is implied. While the committee take reasonable care when accepting advertisements for publication, it cannot accept responsibility for any unsatisfactory transactions. Errors and omissions excepted.



Well, here we are at the start of another new year and no doubt most of us are wondering what it has in store for us. Sometimes it is best that we don't know what lies ahead.

A shorter edition this month due to Christmas and New Year but no doubt there will be lots to report in February.

February will see a new person putting together the Sexton's Wheel as after 11 years Linda is retiring - see page 5.

An interesting article on page 6 regarding prisoners of war in Long Stratton - expect there are lots of you out there who never knew about this!

The Sexton's Wheel Team

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GOODBYE LINDA - HELLO IAN...

Having produced the magazine for over 11 years this is my last edition as I am now retiring. When I began it was a steep learning curve for me as I had not been involved very much in design work. Thanks to a work colleague, where I used to work for several years, who gave me lots of help and advice and the rest I just picked up as I went along. I have enjoyed my time putting together the magazine and trying to think of new ideas. It has, at times, been a challenge especially as you approach printing deadline. The biggest challenge has probably been this year with Coronavirus, not really knowing if we would be able to deliver but apart from one month thanks to all our deliverers the magazine did go out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support over the years from advertisers, regular contributors and of course the distributors and deliverers. Without any of these there would not be a monthly magazine.

My successor is Ian Hetherington, who many of you may know. Ian has helped me out a couple of times when I have been on holiday. I'm sure you will give him the same support as you have given me over the years. Contact details for The Sexton's Wheel will remain unchanged.

Ian will also be overseeing the distributors and deliverers of the magazine, so if there is a month you cannot do or you can't do it anymore please do contact him. Ann Lorne will still be sorting out the magazines once printed and distributing them.

THANK YOU FROM THE LIONS

Having been unable to do any of our usual fund-raising activities since last March because of the Covid-19 pandemic we were pleased that the Co-op allowed us to have our Christmas collecting point outside their exit door.

On behalf of our Lions Club members, I thank through the pages of the Sexton's Wheel all those kind people who dropped money into our collecting bin. Raising almost £400 has put a smile back on the faces of our members who manned the table in unpleasant cold and damp conditions.

It was an unusual experience to have all our collectors and contributors wearing face masks and I am sure we all hoped the Merry Christmases were audible through them. It is good to know we will be able to make our usual Christmas donations.

Roy Woodhouse, Secretary

PRISONER OF WAR IN LONG STRATTON

This is another article I was going to do for the May Sexton's Wheel to mark V.E. day.

This is the story of an Italian gentleman who was a prisoner of war in the camp on Ipswich Road where TG Scaffolding now is.

He was a soldier in the Italian army serving in North Africa during World War II. In January 1941 during the first British offensive he was captured in an attack on Tobruk by British and Australian troops who overran the Italian army in just two days.

He was marched through the desert with other captured soldiers and imprisoned in a camp at Tobruk. It had been built by the Italians to hold any prisoners they took. It is documented that up to 40,000 prisoners were captured at this time and squeezed into a small space, hungry, tired, thirsty and anxious to be transferred somewhere safe. The prisoners weren't treated very well – the Australian soldiers were taking their money and personal belongings – when some of the prisoners attempted to search for food supplies, which they knew the Italian army officers had hidden in the camp, they were fired upon and killed.



Eventually the prisoners were moved to a larger camp in Ismalia where conditions were much better. Later they were shipped out from Suez, some to Australia and our gentleman to Camp Zonderwater, Pretoria, South Africa. Provision had been made for 90,000 men, the biggest allied P.O.W. camp in World War II. To start with they were

housed in tents which proved to be dangerous in the storms which raged in that area. Some men were killed by lightning conducted down the central metal tent pole. The prisoners then began to build barracks, schools, workshops and medical facilities.

The prisoners were then asked to volunteer to go to England as labour was needed to work on the land. They weren't keen to go as they knew England wasn't very warm so no one volunteered. The prisoners were starved until some put up their hands and volunteered including our gentleman. The journey to England wasn't without dangers as the seas were rife with German U-boats.



Our gentleman arrived in Cardiff and from there went to a camp in Sheffield. He was then transferred to a camp in Redgrave, Suffolk and then to Long Stratton. Here they had to build their own camp accommodation to provide warmth and comfort against the elements. Our gentleman had lots of carpentry skills so was very much involved in building the hut which housed 70 P.O.W.'s. They also built a kitchen. Now they had plenty of food as they were to work on the land. There were two chefs in the camp who were the brothers Pacelli, who made lots of pasta.

Some of the prisoners were given bikes so they could get to their places of work. So they built a bike shed to keep them in. Our gentleman was sent to work on a farm at Starston.

When the Italians changed sides in the war the prisoners were given more freedom but were still needed to work on the land. Our gentleman was now allowed to live on the farm at Starston but every Saturday he cycled to Long Stratton from Starston to visit the camp. He didn't have any cash but was given tokens that he could use in the camp canteen.

Before the war ended he went to live on a farm with five other P.O.W.'s at Great Ashfield. The Italian prisoners were not repatriated until 1946. Our gentleman returned to his village in Italy and got married.

Southern Italy was quite a poor area so when a friend got in touch to say he was coming home to Italy and was leaving his worker's post our gentleman decided he would travel to England. He left six months after his baby daughter was born and went back to work at the farm in Starston who provided a cottage to go with the job. He was joined by his wife and daughter in September 1954. The family has lived in Norfolk ever since.

My thanks to the daughter of the Italian gentleman who has given me all this information. I would like to add that the Italian gentleman is now 100 years old and still living in the district.

After the Italians left the Long Stratton camp it housed German prisoners of war. I've been in contact with some local people who have memories of the P.O.W.'s.

One farmer applied to have the P.O.W.'s work on his farm. He had 10 to 12 men to help with the sugar beet harvest. As soon as they arrived the chef who came with them would go round behind the barn, light a fire and make them pots of very strong coffee and cook pasta for lunch.

A friend remembers the Italian P.O.W.'s marching from the camp through the street. They wore brown uniforms with a red circle on the back. The Italian soldiers had many skills – my friend had a coat and hat made by one of them – it was brown with a velvet collar and a velvet cap.

Someone who lived on a farm near the camp used to have the swill bins from the camp and used the swill to feed his pigs. He said the winter of 1947 was very bad and a nearby lane was blocked. The German P.O.W.'s dug out the lane so the lorries could pick up the milk churns from the local farms.

contd on page 9

**Come and join
us for.....**



The next **Messy Church** is on
Saturday 30th January
from 9am until 10.45am

Messy Church continues to meet through Facebook, with crafts uploaded in the week before Messy Church and then on the day, the story and worship are delivered through livestreaming and everyone is encouraged to upload pictures of their crafts



Long Stratton Messy Church

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He also says the Italian P.O.W.'s used to make toys for the village children. My cousin had a crocodile on wheels that was made for her – I had it once she had outgrown it – it was such a simple pull-along toy but was brilliantly made – it swung from side to side as I pulled it along behind me. Another friend remembers he had a ring made out of Perspex with a green stone in it – it had been made by an Italian P.O.W..

Another friend remembers her dad and his friend used to pick up the P.O.W.'s from the camp in the morning and take them to farms in their lorry so they could work on the farm. She also remembers that the P.O.W.'s dug out Chequers Road in 1947 in the bad snow fall.

Since the end of the war the site has been used for lots of things. It was the Rural District Council offices until they moved to Hill House, Pulham. There were at least three buildings on the site, an office, workshop, canteen and storage. There were petrol pumps there for the bin lorries which were based there. When the offices went to Hill House it became the housing depot.

In 1983 South Norfolk District Council [as Rural District Council had become] applied to move the housing depot from where it was on the A140 to Swan Lane. People nearby objected as did the High School and Middle School because of the extra traffic that would be on Swan Lane. My friend Val and I biked up to the depot mornings and evenings for several days counting bin lorries and vans in and out to see the traffic flow. The Parish Council also objected. Didn't stop the move though.

The site has been used by other people – A Plant for one – not certain who else but it is now TG Scaffolding.

If anyone has any more memories or information about the camp please contact me through The Sexton's Wheel e-mail address – see inside back cover.

I would like to thank Linda who is retiring from the Church office and the production of the magazine. Over the last ten years she has typed up my articles for The Sexton's Wheel. I think she has done over 40 for me. I shall miss her. I hope she has a long and happy retirement.

Judith Baker

SEXTON'S WHEEL DELIVERER NEEDED

We are looking for someone to help us with delivering the Sexton's Wheel each month. There are two areas which could either be covered by one or two people.

The two areas we need to cover are Queen's Court and then up the hill as far as the red brick semi-detached house including the alleyways as you go up the hill - 41 magazines, the other area is the Maple Park estate on Swan Lane next to the council offices - 50 magazines.

If you feel you can do this please contact Ian on 07518 207494.



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Hope you all had a happy Christmas and New Year.

The Council are looking forward to 2021 with renewed energy. 2020 was a challenging year which saw cancellation of community events and a new way of working for all. It also saw a community supporting each other, something that as normality returns slowly but surely, will hopefully be here to stay.

The Council have been successful in obtaining a grant from Norfolk Community Foundation of £1000 which the Council will match fund to continue their support of Long Stratton Foodbank and the Community Food Table until 31st March 2021. The Government has predicted that by this point the Country can go back to a sense of normality, however no one has a crystal ball so we will adapt to what is required to ensure we are still doing what we can to support parishioners of Long Stratton.

Staying positive for a brilliant 2021, the Council will be turning their attention to putting on a fantastic summer event to commemorate VE day, if you would like to be involved then please get in contact.

I am also pleased to announce that at the time of writing, Swan Lane toilets are due to be handed to the Council imminently, if there are any problems please call me on 01508 530524.

The Pavilion remains closed at this time, this is constantly under review and I will keep you all updated as to when we are reopening and available for hire.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for Santa's visit to Long Stratton. There are 500 gifts to hand out to children and all involved are really looking forward to bringing some festive cheer. The Council would like to thank Santa and his elves and all volunteers that are involved. We would also like to thank in advance everyone that attends and observes the Covid19 measures that we have in place. We would also like to thank the Co-op for donating £100 towards this event.

Finally, I would like to ask everyone to continue to check on your neighbours, friends and family. South Norfolk support hub is still operating and is there if you require any help, physically and mentally. If you need to report anything to me, please contact me on becky.buck@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk

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Becky



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Moving on

Hallelujah!! We're out of 2020 and moving on to 2021. What a year that was. None of us imagined when we started the new decade that we would face all the trials and troubles that we have faced in the past twelve months. I think we can all pat ourselves on the back and say "well done".

At the start of the new year when I worked in the civil service we had a thing called a JAR. No, I don't mean a pint down the pub it was a Job Appraisal Review. We did a review of our past year and looked forward to the year ahead. This is a practice I have continued since leaving the service and I think it helps me to see where I am and where I'm going. The things we looked at when at work were how well we performed and what factors influenced the performance we achieved. Looking ahead we set targets to push ourselves to achieve more and maybe to refocus on targets not fully met!

As a Christian I have to look back at not only my achievements as a human being but also where I am in my journey through life with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The last year has not been easy in either aspect. Not being able to meet up with my fellow Christians at Church has meant that I have had to find other ways to worship my God. There have been challenges but I have enjoyed being involved with the YouTube services and being able to contribute with my guitar playing.

So that was past and what can I look forward to moving on into the new year? Hopefully being able to meet together more and enjoy good fellowship but also to be able to encourage others to keep walking along that pathway with Jesus.

If you sit down and review your past year try not to look at just the disappointments and problems of the virus but try to see the positives and where it could have been God either caring for you personally or Him working through someone else to show you that He does care.

I have been uplifted often by a word or phrase from the bible and particularly the Psalms. I leave you with this thought from Psalm 23 - *'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me.'*

God Bless you

Steve Adcock (Reader, St Mary's Church)

**Thank
you!**

We would like to say thank you very much to the person who kindly picked up a letter to Lapland and popped it in the letterbox, my husband looked up and down the road to find it but could not, then we had a phone call from one of Santa's elves to say that the letter had arrived but one of the reindeer had chewed the cheque up, but all got sorted and we know one little girl will be very happy.

Barbara Aldrich

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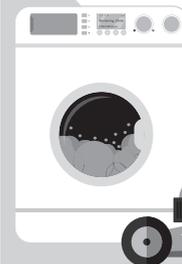


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Happy New Year to all of you!

The month of January arrives! The month when we promise ourselves resolutions and yet at the same speed break them! Is that a problem I ask myself? I look back over the years and see if my broken resolutions have harmed anyone else or myself. Like most others, I want to happily say 'Indeed not!' That leads nicely to the topic of the month - Alcohol.

Dry January run by Alcohol Change UK, is practised by approximately 4 million people in the UK which is an impressive number. After a month or so of festivities and moreover through the pandemic, alcohol consumption may have gone up. January is the month we take stock of this and make that massive decision to take a break from alcohol or possibly re-evaluate our relationship with alcohol. Why do we have to? What harm can drinking pose? Is there a safe limit to drinking? Several questions run through my mind.

Let's look at the facts: Taken from a leading UK charity, Alcohol change UK.

In England in 2018/19, there were 1.26 million hospital admissions related to alcohol consumption (7.4% of all hospital admissions), 8% higher than the previous year. In the same period there were 358,000 admissions where the main reason was due to alcohol, 19% higher than ten years previously. Hospital admissions due to alcoholic liver disease in England have increased by 61% in the last 10 years.

Alcohol-specific deaths made up 9.6% of all deaths in the 40-44 age group in the UK in 2018. Alcohol-specific death rates were highest among 60-64 year-old females and 55-59 year-old males.

Alcohol is a causal factor in more than 60 medical conditions, including: mouth, throat, stomach, liver and breast cancers; high blood pressure, cirrhosis of the liver; and depression.

The facts are quite worrying and it is important that we drink safely and avoid the possibility of alcohol controlling our lives. The safe number at this moment in time is 14 units for men and women. Health benefits of safe drinking have been mentioned from time to time in the medical literature. The British Heart foundation says 'not more than 5 units a week in women above 55 years of age may have some health benefits.'

I am adding links of resources that make interesting reading and I also hope they will be life changing and life-saving.

1. <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/>
2. <https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/support/healthy-living/healthy-eating/alcohol>
3. <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-alcohol/2020>

Let's stay safe! The Covid19 virus continues to rampage however alcohol misuse has left its toll over the years and may this 2021 be the turning point. Let's start the change in South Norfolk, a change that sweeps the country.

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Long Stratton Rainbows

The last few months have proved a challenge for our Rainbow unit and the leaders involved.

We now have a very small group of girls at Rainbows but they have been amazing, by turning up to face to face or online with zoom meeting each week, with enthusiasm and excitement.

Some of the things we have worked on are exploring outside, walking on stilts, throwing and catching. We have played adapted games to socially distance like traffic lights. We have shared stories, enjoyed edible crafts as well as halloween and Christmas crafts. At some of our online zoom meetings we had guests like Rivers rodents and reptiles-who shared some amazing creatures and facts with us.

We have done scavenger hunts, colouring, crafting and more recently art attacks with household items to make a poppy for Remembrance, Big Ben for Parliament week and a Christmas tree.

As you can see we have continued to enjoy Rainbow activities and guiding most weeks since September. We are following strict guidance from Girlguiding and the National Youth Association in accordance with local government covid restrictions with leaders wearing masks, risk assessments and regular cleaning.

So we are looking for some new girls to join the pack and have spaces as of January 2021.

Rainbows are the youngest section in girlguiding for girls aged 5-7. With their own badges to gain, uniform and books. Long Stratton Rainbows try to work on practical skills, badges and more importantly fun and friendships. If you have a daughter and would like to find out more please visit girlguidinguk and register your daughter as interested in joining and a leader will be in touch.

Hawk Owl

COMMUNITY FOOD TABLE

SAT 16th January 10:45am-12pm

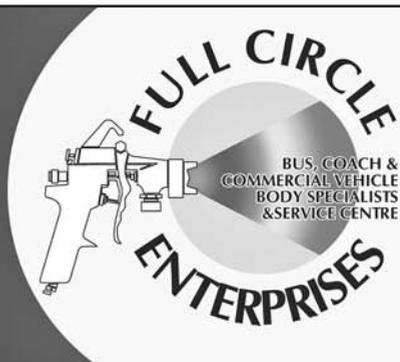
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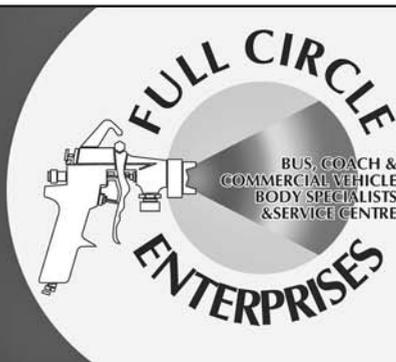
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LOCAL WALK..... DECEMBER



The morning did not seem promising. Mist enveloped the five of us who gathered at the car park but as we walked down Edges Lane, leaving Long



Stratton behind, the day took on a strange beauty. The soft mist clung to the fields and we walked in a charmed circle with the horizon just 100 yards away in all directions. We could just see the pale disc of the sun but it could not pierce the cloud.

Just before taking the footpath to Morningthorpe we passed the old farmhouse where someone had just arrived to feed the hens and geese, the only other living creatures we saw all the morning. On reaching the road we turned right towards Fritton but before getting there, turned left to cross a field on a footpath, followed by a series of field edge paths. Trees loomed out of the mist.

We commented with sadness on the way hedges are cut back nowadays, the branches simply ripped away leaving horrible gashes. Once this was a skilled job for farm workers and the shrubs were treated with respect. However, some places had been spared and we were intrigued by some hazel trees in one hedge that were already bearing catkins, many with a teardrop of ice on the tip. "Winter meets Spring" was the poetic comment.

At St Catherine's Church we noticed an ancient bier standing abandoned outside. What a shame this piece of social history could not be better looked after. We passed through the charming lych gate and turned right to go through the little village of Fritton. A full stream was running in front of the lovely old houses. The last one before the common was a delightful thatched cottage called "Three Nags Cottage". Colin told us that it used to be a pub and he remembered having a drink there as a young man. Outside was the stump of the post that once bore the pub sign, but whether it was of horses or three old beldames I couldn't say!



Sheep were grazing on the common and as we watched, the sun almost broke through and their woolly coats were outlined with a shining white glow. It was eerily beautiful. We turned right here and followed the road back to Edges Lane and the last mile to Long Stratton. It was a slightly longer walk than

usual but very satisfying and a complete delight.

Why not join us on Monday 4th January. We meet in the Long Stratton car park at 10am ready for a 4 mile (approx) walk. Everyone welcome.



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LONG STRATTON & DISTRICT WI

You can depend on the W.I to put on a good Christmas party meeting for their members. Unfortunately this year there were no fun games, quizzes, seasonal crafts, working together to decorate our tree in St. Mary's Church, a celebration lunch out or an ample buffet on the meeting night.

Even so we have celebrated with members through telephone calls, a surprise present, cards and a tree for the Church's village trail. All our members were invited to contribute to decorating the tree which you may have seen in our President's front garden in Flowerpot Lane.

We are looking forward to getting back to near normal in 2021.

Wishing all our readers a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR and if you would like more information about Long Stratton & District W.I. please contact the Secretary on 01508 531154.



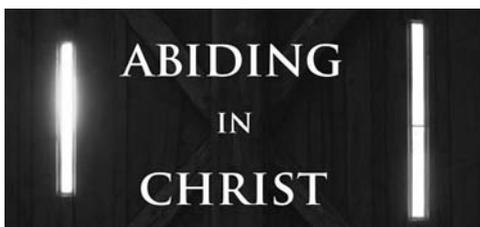
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.



There will be a Youtube service on Sunday 24th January at 3pm.

WACTON HISTORY

Men on Wacton's Roll of Honour

by Robert Maidstone

This month we look at:

FREDERICK WILLIAM WALKER

Royal Army Medical Corps, service number unknown

Frederick William Walker was born in Sculthorpe in 1892 and came with his family to Wacton in 1909 into Buttles Lane. Frederick married Ellen, or Helen, Caroline Squires of Stratton in 1910. They had two daughters and in the Census of 1911 Frederick was listed as a navvy for the Great Eastern Railway company. They moved to the Common and then the Green where in 1918 and 1919 Frederick was an NM absent voter, in Naval or Military service. Although the Wacton Roll of Honour shows Frederick as serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps I can find no reference to his service, however this is not surprising as he could have been registered under the regiment he was providing medical services for and the Roll of Honour does not give his regiment. Frederick and Ellen ceased registering to vote at Wacton Green in 1922. (144w)

SIDNEY GEORGE SNELLING

Private 6753, Norfolk Regiment

Sidney George was baptised at Wacton on 12th December 1886, the second but first surviving son of Frank James and Annie Snelling. The Snellings lived in Wilderness Farmhouse, Wacton.

In April 1911 when the Census is taken Sidney, giving his birth place as Wacton, is recorded as a clerk in the grain trade and living in Marylebone, London with a wife, Maud Lilian and daughter Annie, both born at Moulton, Norfolk. The marriage between Sidney Snelling and Maud Smith is registered during the quarter to September 1911 at Marylebone.

Sidney Snelling's name is included on the Roll of Honour in Wacton Church as serving in the Norfolk Regiment, but I can find no positive link between the several Snellings of that regiment and 'our Sidney', however a Sidney George Snelling joined the Royal Fusiliers, a regiment that recruited mainly from London, where he was living in 1911. Sadly only the Medal Card survives with no details of his enlistment or service.

In his father's will dated 30th December 1916 his father leaves a farm, known as Hill Farm in Fornsett St Peter and Tharston, to be held in trust and let, the rent is to be payable to Sidney George Snelling. After Sidney's death the rent goes to his wife and after her death the farm is to be sold and monies divided between any children. Whatever Sidney's faults were it seems his father did have some consideration for the wife and children. Sidney's father, Frank, died in July 1918.

It appears Sidney and Maud split up, as when his brother Jack Gowing died in 1932 Sidney attended the funeral, alone, but flowers were from 'Sidney and Gertie'.

Sidney died on 19th May 1954 at 2 Royal Terrace Lowestoft where he was living with Gertrude Mary Bested according to his will. (296w)

ARTHUR SELF

Sergeant 8878, 2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment

Arthur Self was born on 10th December 1891 at Forncett St Mary. He was the second son of John and Emma, nee Wright. Between 1895 and 1901 the family moved to Denton then to Starston by 1910. From 1907 to 1915 his father was tenant of Wacton Hall farm, living at the Hall between 1913 and 1915.

By 1911 Arthur had left home and was at Sobram Barracks, Colchester. His medal record shows he entered the war on 8th November 1914 with the West Yorkshire Regiment. Thereafter there is little readily available information about Arthur. He is included on the Wacton Roll of Honour.

He was still alive when his father died in March 1924 as Emma, the widow, and Arthur, a commission agent, were executors of the will. (137w)

[If anyone has further information about any of these men, or would like details of the family I can be contacted at robertwmaidstone@gmail.com]

Long Stratton Library

Long Stratton Library is back open!

We have the following temporary opening hours:

Monday 10am-1pm

Thursday 2-6pm

Saturday 10am-1pm

We have made changes in the branch to ensure everyone's safety, and you can browse and borrow books from the adult and children's areas, use our public PCs, pick up Select and Collect books and pick up Grab and Go bags for children.

For further information, and to access our Telephone Support Service, call (01603) 774777.

LONG STRATTON YOUTH CAFE

Youth Cafe is now closed until further notice, as soon as we have any updates on when we can safely open up again we will let you know.

***We hope you all had a good Christmas, despite Covid-19,
and we wish you all a happy New Year.***

Mat, Wil, Tina, Doug and Joanna.



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1st Long Stratton Scout Group

At the end of November, many of our young people took part in an event called Festive Box-Jam



- which was full of fun activities run by Norfolk Scouts for everyone to join in with from home. We turned this into a Festive Sleepover by making ourselves winter dens and added sessions for our young people to link up together online.



There were so many activities on offer over the weekend including some super entertainment such as magic shows, discos, a science show and a meet the reindeer session. There were plenty of Christmassy activities including creative crafts and yummy recipes, as well as challenges and outdoor activities. It was a really fun weekend for all who took part, and got us all in the mood for Christmas!



Our Beavers and Cubs finished off their term by creating some beautiful collage Christmas Cards to drop off to the residents of our local Care Homes, and took part in a super fun Family Christmas Quiz! The Scouts had great fun with a Guess the Christmas Present Challenge before a Christmas Movies Quiz, and the Explorers finished the term by cooking mince pies.

Our young people and their families have collectively completed an amazing 1,170 miles walking and cycling, and raised just over £1,000 in 4 weeks for the Scouts #RaceRoundTheWorld Campaign - supporting Scout Groups around the UK who may be facing financial difficulties as a result of the COVID pandemic. THANK YOU to all our supporters who donated, and WELL DONE to our amazing young people for all their super efforts with this challenge - we are so proud of them all!



If you want to find out more about getting involved, either as a young person or adult volunteer, then please email pta.



thurston@tiscali.co.uk or message us via our Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/1stlongstrattonscoutgroup

Peter Thurston, Group Scout Leader

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- The ECFS can be accessed from across Norfolk and here in the South District, our staff work from two bases, Long Stratton and Diss, out in the community and we also provide support to families by telephone and other digital tools.
- All ECFS bases have been closed during the Covid lockdown but we can now offer self-weigh appointments-booked through your health visitor on the Just One Norfolk number 0344 300 123 and outdoor sessions-booked with your allocated Family Support Practitioner through the ECFS.
- The ECFS is sharing activity ideas via our Facebook pages including photos of home learning activities, The Summer Cook-a-long and The Giant Wiggle video clips at www.facebook.com/ECFSouth

www.norfolk.gov.uk/earlychildhood

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2nd Long Stratton Brownies

On one of our November Zoom Brownie meetings our District Commissioner, Helen, presented Tawny Owl, Dawn, with her 30 years' service award and certificate. An amazing WELL DONE to Tawny Owl from all the

Brownies and Guiders.

During our Zoom meetings we have been working on our Take Action Theme award by doing some Unit Meeting Activities (UMAs) including paper bunting decorated with positive messages and paper chains decorated with small acts of kindness showing how one good turn leads to another. One week we celebrated 'UK Parliament Week' with a quiz, game and activities around 'It starts with You' badge. We also had a Christmas Fun Night, wearing our Christmas jumpers, with games including making a newspaper Christmas tree and scratch art snowman.

In December we finished our term with a face-to-face meeting when we made edible Christmas crackers and Ruslana and Amelia were enrolled. We were also very pleased to present Sophie with her Gold award. Sophie has gained all six Brownie themes including achieving her collecting, baking, grow your own, mindfulness, aviation, charities and inventing interest badges. She re-made her promise and taught the Brownies how to make a Friendship bracelet. Well done Sophie on being our second Brownie to gain the highest Brownie award possible. We wish Sophie and a few of our other Brownies well on their move up to Guides.



The Brownies and Guiders wish all readers 'A Happy and Healthy New Year'.

Brown Owl, Josie



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WACTON VILLAGE NEWS

Wacton Parish Council

Wacton Parish Council are now meeting again via Zoom and parishioners are welcome to join any meeting by contacting the clerk via email in advance on wactonparish@yahoo.com - The next meeting is on **Wednesday 6th January at 7pm.**

We are currently looking at replacing the multi-play equipment on the Green, as alas we have had to remove the old kit due to its age.

Email: wactonparish@yahoo.com

Chairman: Calvin Goreham

Clerk: Alan Arber - wactonparish@yahoo.com

Wacton Footcare

The next session of Wacton Footcare will be Monday 11th January and everyone will already have their appointments booked for this date.

However, should anyone still require an appointment please contact Clare (Footcare Specialist) to arrange this --- tel. no. 07785 295358

For further information or to cancel an appointment please call Rita --- 01508 218407

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

WACTON COFFEE MORNINGS

Hello everyone – Rita and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year – we can only hope that this one will be better for us all!

We will restart our coffee mornings as soon as we are told it is safe for us to do so. In the meanwhile we hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Please get in touch if you would like a chat on the phone to relieve the boredom.

Caroline (01508 530111) and Rita (01508 218407)

All Saints' Church, Wacton

Our Church is now open again for Church services two Sundays a month.

For January services are as follows:

3rd January	9.30am	Holy Communion
17th January	6.30pm	Taize Style Worship

The Church will be open for private prayer only on Thursdays.

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CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY

St Mary's Church

3rd	11.00 am	All Age Worship
10th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
17th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
24th	11.00 am	All Age Holy Communion
31st	11.00 am	Holy Communion

St Mary's is open for individual prayer every Wednesday - 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 8.30pm. Morning Prayer is also said every Monday morning at 8.30am. Everyone welcome whilst observing social distancing.

St Michael's Church

10th	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
24th	8.30 am	Holy Communion

There are Church services available at St Mary's and All Saints' on Sundays when there are no services at St Michael's. Everyone is welcome.

St Michael's will be open for private prayer every Tuesday - 8.30am to 4pm

All Saints' Church

3rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion
17th	6.30 pm	Taize Style Worship

There are Church services available at St Mary's and St Michael's on Sundays when there are no services at All Saints'. Everyone is welcome.

All Saints' will be open for private prayer every Thursday - 8.30am to 4pm

Congregational Church

3rd	10.45 am	Family Service with Holy Communion	Rev Ian Jones
10th	10.45 am	Family Service	Steve Adcock
17th	10.45 am	Family Service	Pastor Malcolm Simpkin
24th	10.45 am	Family Service	Dr Rolfe King
31st	10.45 am	Family Service	Rev Ian Jones

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Diane Kilbourn and Matilda [Tilly] Langford Earlham Crematorium

Vitoriana Luis and Terry Parkhouse St Mary's Church

Weddings

We offer our congratulations to Scott Wiseman and Megan Wilcox who were married at St Mary's Church.

THE SEXTON'S WHEEL

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Images: Any pictures you may have to accompany editorial would be welcome. Please send these as jpgs not embedded in a word document.

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Market Place: Advertise items for sale or wanted for £5 per item per issue. maximum 30 words. This is not for commercial items but private adverts only. There is a maximum selling price of £500 for goods and the editorial team reserve the right to refuse any advert they feel unsuitable. The Sexton's Wheel will not be held responsible or enter into correspondence for any transactions between the buyer and seller. No logos or pictures

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