



APRIL 2020

Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford

NEWSLETTER

USEFUL CONTACTS

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS ~ Sue Stannard	01449 767752
CHURCH WARDENS ~ Ken Goudy ~ Michael Churchill	01449 673648 01449 768869
Wetheringsett VC Primary School	01449 766215
Headteacher ~ Mrs Hookway	Chair of Governors ~ Jo Pitt
PARISH TREE WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
TOWNLANDS TRUST~	
PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
RSPCA Suffolk East & Ipswich branch~ Ian Hendry	01449 767747
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE Reporting, Information or Enquiries	101
MENDLESHAM HEALTH CENTRE	01449 767722

Editor contact: Cally Buch 01449 766417

wetheringsettnews@gmail.com

Deadline for copy 15th of every month.

Typed announcements by email only. pdf or word doc. preferably please.

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Any contributions from the village community are welcomed.

The newsletter is for the community and serves to inform and give news and the occasional interesting fact or two. Editor reserves the right to amend pieces due to space restrictions. If pieces for inclusion are not formatted, Editor reserves the right to amend as best fits the edition. Views expressed within are not necessarily those of the editor and contributions are made from various sources.

Invoice / advert queries please contact Clare Rogers 01728 861382

Distribution is organised by Eddie and Sue Payne 01449 767794

Welcome to the April issue of your newsletter

Lots of lovely things about Aprilnow officially Spring time, with all the glorious colours that that brings, and we have the warmer weather and Easter to look forward to.

Sadly, this year it's all over shadowed by the pandemic we are having to face. However, it has been incredibly uplifting to see and hear about how so many people are going out of their way to offer help to others. We are told there is worse to come - but it seems the worst of times is bringing out the best in us.



This month's newsletter has lots of 'newsy' bits to read and, regrettably, notice of many cancellations. 'Dates for your Diary' is on p. 5 and news about progress on the Village Hall on pages 2 & 3. Need some help to amuse yourself or your children as you 'isolate' or 'distance' yourself? Take a look at all the free things available from the library. (p.26)

Enjoy your Easter, stay well, and cherish the time with your families.

Cally (Editor)



A heartfelt Thank You to all our 'front-liners' who always do a fantastic job and are now carrying the heaviest burden in this fight. We must follow advice in order to support them and to help prevent them being overcome. Without them we are all lost.

Mendlesham Health Centre and Coronavirus

After contacting the Health Centre for information regarding any operational changes in the surgery, they provided the following statement:

"As advice is changing daily regarding the current situation you are best to direct your readers to the surgery website

<https://mendleshamhealthcentre.co.uk/>

for any information as the Practice will be updating this with any changes"

Wetheringsett Village Hall ...



Wetheringsett Village Hall is
100 this year

..... The future

Since the last newsletter a small group of villagers have been working with the Parish Council to take forward the plan to “spruce up” the Village Hall ahead of any longer term plans for renovation/ replacement.

To secure funding for the long term plans, we will need to demonstrate that the Village Hall is an asset valued by the parish. If it is rarely used, this will call into question whether or not it is needed. To put it simply, if we don't use it, we lose it. So the aim of the “spruce up” is to make the Village Hall a useable venue in the short term.



our support is needed!

If we want an improved facility in the future we need to make full use of the hall now — in order to justify applications for any grants towards building costs

We have been impressed by the willingness of the school and members of the community to help, so we need volunteers for:

See opposite

Your Village Hall



Needs You!

**Information correct at time of
going to print**

Phase one, Redecorating the Village Hall

Materials and equipment have been secured and two local residents, Vicky and Jamie Dreher, have agreed to manage the redecoration project.

Dates for Phase one :

Friday 3rd April (10 – 4), to clear the Hall in readiness for redecoration.

Monday 6th April (10 – 4), preparation of surfaces in readiness for redecoration

Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th April (10 – 4) painting.

If you can help in any way (including making refreshments) on any date please contact Vicky as soon as possible on **0773 1801307**.

The next step will be sanding and varnishing the floor and improving the lighting. If you would like to join the working party on the Village Hall please contact

Councillor Charles Harvey (Chair of the Parish Council)

**PS keep the date 17th May
free for an afternoon
celebration tea.**

Your Village Hall



Needs You!

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Dates for the Diary

April

Wed 1st	All Fools day
Friday 3rd	Village Hall clear-up! (see p. 3)
Monday 6th	Village Hall preparation for painting
Tuesday 7th	Village Hall - Painting!
Wed 8th	Village Hall - Painting!
Thursday 9th	Village Hall - Painting!
Friday 10th	Good Friday
Sunday 12th	Easter
Monday 13th	Easter Monday
Thursday 16th	No Library Van today
Thursday 16th	Orchards East Survey - meeting (see p.22)

1st April - All Fools' Day

If you are in the current 'vulnerable age group' you may well remember one of the most famous jokes played on the British public of all time.

In 1957 Panorama televised a short 'documentary' about a particularly bountiful crop of spaghetti in Switzerland, showing spaghetti being picked from spaghetti trees!



When viewers contacted the programme to ask how they could grow their own spaghetti trees, they were reportedly told to stick some spaghetti in a tin of chopped tomatoes and hope for the best!

Easter Bunny Jokes to make you smile!

Why didn't the bunny hop?

No bunny knows.

What does the Easter Bunny say when it burps?

"Eggs-cuse me!"

Why did the Easter Bunny join the gym?

To get lots of Eggs-ercise





News @ WetheringsettCofEPrimary

What a difference a month makes!
Last month we were looking forward with optimism to joining community events. This month is all about developing learning away from the school site as families prepare for the impact of COVID-19, the corona virus.

We are well prepared at Wetheringsett C of E Primary. With the help and support of Mark Allen, EdintheCloud and the skills of our teaching team over the past week we have created our Classrooms in the Cloud.

Although this week is a test to prepare us for remote learning, we see the use of personalised e-learning as a great way to enhance our broad and personalised curriculum.

With less than 30 children in our school, we can really spend time ensuring that each child has the learning experience they need, whether that is in our lovely rural school, or at their kitchen table during the coming weeks.



What did the Easter Bunny say to the carrot?
"It's been nice gnawing you!"

News @ Wetheringsett CofE Primary

Mr Williams, our KS2 teacher, believes passionately in this way of learning; 'This type of learning is the future for education. It provides the transparency of traditional work-book style learning, with the fluidity of online collaborative learning, often seen in other more progressive education systems abroad.

It is environmentally friendly, personalised for each child, and I believe that it is a better preparation for our students' futures, compared to traditional learning techniques as it puts the impetus on them to curate their own learning experience, and to utilise the breadth of online resources.'

The current pandemic has brought difficulties to schools and the wider communities but we rise to the challenge and will continue to offer the best education for our pupils.

Mrs Hookway, Headteacher



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You can also email -

georgiebullock12345@gmail.com



A 21st Century phone box.....



Work to complete the refurbishment of the village phone box at the bottom of Hockey Hill / Church Lane has now been completed - with the installation of a USB charging port inside the kiosk.



The use of mobile phones has seen telephone kiosks across the UK fall into disuse - and the rise of another very 21st century problem: the flat mobile phone battery.



The charging port has been installed in the phone box to enable anyone travelling through the village and finding themselves with a flat phone battery to be able to insert a cable into the port and charge their phone - making our village phone box fit for the 21st century.



Stained glass kites made by Key Stage 2 children from Wetheringsett Primary School last summer have also now been suspended inside the box, together with a panel displaying information about the village cycle loop and associated village history.



Stop for a look next time you walk past the kiosk - you can even charge your phone while you're at it...



What do you call an Easter Egg from Outer space?
An Egg-stra-terrestrial!



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Residents' Viewpoint

Vandalism at Blacksmiths Green!!

In reply ..

“Contrary to your writers view that the mistletoe was doing no harm, in fact the truth is quite the opposite. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that lives off nutrients and water from its host tree significantly harming it over time. In the case of an apple tree, the fruit becomes small and damaged and the tree becomes weak and more likely to blow over in a high wind.



I know of three apple trees at Blacksmith Green, one in the grounds of the chicken farm, which was previously the orchard for Meadow Farm, and two opposite Meadow Farm set back from the road with a wide grass verge. If this land is privately owned, the owner may want to protect the apple tree which fruits well in the autumn.

If mistletoe is just cut back to the tree, being a parasite it may well grow back. To be sure that this won't happen the branch of the tree will have to be cut off below the base of the mistletoe. This is what could have happened especially as it is pruning time, and was not just a case of vandalism.

Of course mistletoe is a valuable source of food for wildlife especially the white berries in winter time. However, if it's an apple tree you could argue the fact that the fruit, whether on the tree or rotting on the ground, is also a valuable source of food for wildlife.

Either way, making sure the tree stays healthy does seem an important factor. There are after all quite a lot of trees in the area that are not fruit trees that host mistletoe.”

Sally Mckenna

**Please send any comments you wish to share or air to
wetheringsettnews@gmail.com**

All viewpoints are respected although publication is at the Editor's discretion.
Defamatory statements or content that negatively refers to others will not be published.

A big THANK YOU to Wetheringsett's drivers

Like many people in our village, I use the roads not only by car but also on foot or by bike. Our narrow and winding rural roads can be scary places at times, especially when you're trying to keep an eye out for the potholes, puddles and pheasants - as well as passing vehicles.

The week before last I had a pretty hair-raising encounter with a passing van. As I stumbled out of the van's path, my trainer disappearing into a mud-filled pit while other parts of me became intimate with a pocket of blackthorn, what struck me most - after the ire had passed - was how often I don't end up in this situation, how many people in our village don't drive like that driver. More often that not when a car sees me at the side of the road walking, cycling or being dragged along by my crazy dog the driver will slow down, give me plenty of space, sometimes even a friendly wave back.

We can all have lapses in concentration. As a driver myself, the incident was a timely reminder of just how frightening it can be when a vehicle passes you at close speed. It also increased my resolve to wear bright or luminescent clothing whenever I am out walking or cycling (I don't always remember to do this and, as a driver, I appreciate how much easier it makes it to see more vulnerable road users).

I suspect there will always be the odd person happy to drive along without heed to village speed limits, let alone Highway Code requirements to drive carefully and slowly when approaching pedestrians on narrow rural roads. I'm not writing this for that driver (I am not really sure how you get that person to change how they drive). I am writing this to say thank you to all those drivers in our parish who do drive with consideration for other more vulnerable road users. Thank you. It is a pleasure to share the roads with you.

A Wetheringsett Resident



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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report on meeting held 2 March 2020

Coronavirus – the Parish Council will do all it can to help any resident unable to leave their home during this difficult time. Councillors contact telephone numbers and email addresses are listed in the magazine – please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are in need of help.

Village Hall – some refurbishment work will be taking place over the next few months pending a decision regarding a new hall. Refurbishment will include inside redecoration, overhaul of the wooden floor and improvements to lighting as well as some other minor repairs. The Parish Council is grateful to a number of volunteers who have come forward to help with the work.

Neighbourhood Plan – members were pleased to hear that a neighbourhood plan was progressing. With the aid of grant funding consultants will be appointed to help the group through the process and permission would need to be granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the designated area of the plan – it was proposed this was the parish boundary as delineated on the ordnance survey map. Members thanked the Working Group for their report and the work they were doing on behalf of the parish.

A140 Diversions – County Cllr Stringer reported should there be a need for any diversions due to closure of the A140 these would be southbound through Mickfield and northbound through Mendlesham Green.

Road signs – it was reported that a number of damaged highway road-signs had not been replaced, particularly along the A140. The meeting was reminded that any highway issues involving damaged or missing road signs, pot holes, overhanging vegetation or obscured road signs could be reported to Suffolk CC Highways by parishioners via the website reporting tool as follows:

You can report problems easily online using our

[Highways Reporting Tool](#).

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 April 2020, 7pm at the Village Hall

All Welcome to attend

South Hartismere Benefice: April Newsletter

Business as usual ?



At the time of writing spring is here at last, bringing hope of some warmth and sunshine after a long and difficult winter; but we are also in the grip of the Coronavirus and it has continued to dominate the headlines, and will do so for some time. Some reports have resulted in creating a sense

of panic, and there has been a confusing amount of information to try and make sense of.

As I write, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have published this statement: 'Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold. But this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. Far from it. Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support. Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it.'

The South Hartismere churches will continue our prayer and practical support of the communities we serve, and will be setting up telephone trees to keep in touch with those who are isolated.

Our churches will be open for private prayer, and I will be making prayer resources available for people to use at home, and will also share daily reflections by email and on Facebook. If you are feeling isolated and anxious, please call me for a chat, prayer or practical support 01379 678064

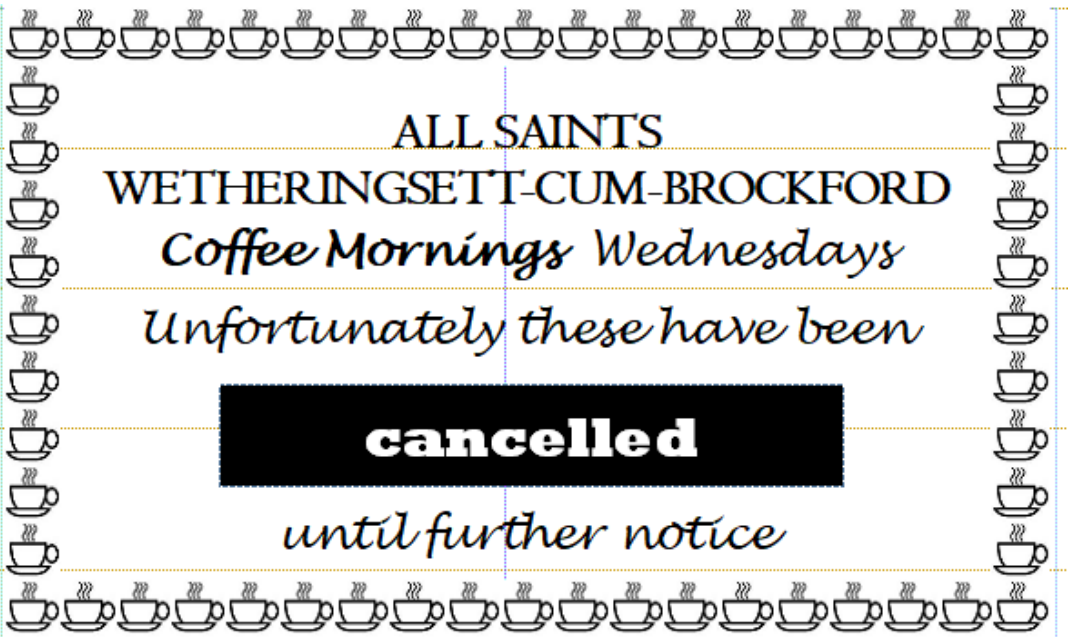
Prayer

Loving God,
We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus.
When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones,
give us your strength and courage.
When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.
Give wisdom to those in authority,
and may our community work together for the good of all.
We give thanks for those who care for others
and ask you to bless them in all they do. Amen

Blessings, *Julia*

In loving memory:

Betty Cunningham, Peter Gray, Gislingham,
Valerie Mowles, Yaxley



ALL SAINTS
WETHERINGSETT-CUM-BROCKFORD

Coffee Mornings Wednesdays

Unfortunately these have been

cancelled

until further notice

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE

To our schools and families:

Food, Fun and Family Friendly!

You will have heard that our usual services and activities in church are cancelled, and this includes Messy Church and our Café services.

However, you can still see me in school, and I will be leaving Messy church ideas at school.

We will put out a weekly email to families, and if you would like to access this, email me on rev.julialall@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHartismereChurches/>

EYE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Every 1st Friday of the month

Bowls Club

10:30–12:30

MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO

Everyone welcome – so
along

at Eye

ALL
please come

Please remember we
keep the group going

rely on your support to

We also have

Thai Chi, resident re-

Suspended until further notice

Eye Cancer Support Group

Mendlesham Medical Group

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If you wish to register to have online access you will need to ask at our reception desks for the registration form and have recent photo ID with you.

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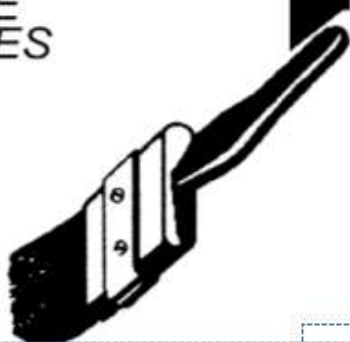
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News from High Suffolk Rotary *See Facebook for more!*

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STRANGE TIMES...

These are difficult times for all of us.

"Flu" has always been one of those illnesses that we take for granted, but which has always been quite dangerous, especially to those with pre-existing chest and heart complaints. To put current events into context, the World Health Organization estimates that "normal" flu kills up to 650,000 people worldwide each year. And the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than World War I.

It's easy to be despondent and think how bad things are – but... in reality, we've never been in better shape to deal with the health implications of the current outbreak. We live in a much better world than 100 years ago, we know a lot more about how to look after people with illness, and (in Europe at least) healthcare no longer depends on how much money you have.

As usual, Rotarians across the world will be doing what they can to help those who suffer the most, not only to deal with illness, but to provide even more basic needs – such as safe drinking water and sanitation.

A VISIT TO INDIA

Over the last 10 years or more, several Rotary clubs in this area have donated funds to a local charity, the Friends of the Banyan Tree (FoBT) which supports the work of charities improving the lives of indigenous (tribal) peoples in India. Recently, one of our members visited India and re-established links with a previously supported project.

The RCHS connection with FoBT goes back to 2013, when the club raised substantial funds for the charity with the help of our European partner clubs. The money raised helped pay for the building of a new community centre in Idirjar, Kerala, to be used for educational and social purposes. Last year the club also donated money to help with flood relief. Other clubs in Suffolk have also made substantial contributions over the years, notably Woodbridge Rotary Club who recently paid for new hand washing, kitchen and internal fittings.

In February, Rotarian Chris and his wife Anita were on holiday in India and took the opportunity to re-visit Idirjar. They were able to observe (and join!) classes for local children in subjects from English to Physics, as well as seeing a visiting doctor providing treatment for local people in the centre. Chris and Anita also donated an LED digital projector which will find a good deal of educational use by the charity (the charity will need to provide a screen and stand for use with the projector – if any individual or group like to help towards the cost of these, please contact the club).

DO YOU USE AMAZON?

If so, did you know that you can help raise funds for High Suffolk Rotary in the process? Just go to smile.amazon.co.uk and follow the instructions – search for Rotary Club of High Suffolk Trust Fund.

Contact us if you need help.





Spring Tour 2020

Coming to the Village Hall on

Saturday May 2nd with the play entitled **'Red Skies'**

The play features two of Suffolk's most famous residents — George Orwell, who took his name from the River Orwell, and Arthur Ransome, who was resident on it. The play poses the question - what would have happened if these two people had met.

Tickets £10 available from 01449 766670

A modest bar is available as usual



Update from Eastern Angles:

Red Skies Tour - Currently still scheduled for Wetheringsett

Eastern Angles has today (**17 March**) taken the decision to cancel the Red Skies tour up to and including 18 April. We will be reviewing the rest of the tour dates in due course. Your safety, the safety of our staff, actors, freelancers and volunteers is our utmost concern.

We ask that you wait 48 hours before contacting the Eastern Angles box office. We will endeavour to call you before that time to notify you and arrange a refund a credit to your account or a donation. Please be aware if you have booked with a local box office, they handle their own ticketing exchanges and refunds and you need to contact them directly.

We would encourage you, where possible, to consider donating all or part of your ticket cost to the village hall, the local venue, theatre or community space; some of these venues simply can't run without your support.

Please check nearer the time - <https://easternangles.co.uk/news/covid-19-update>



Survey of Wetheringsett's Orchards

Can you help?

- Do you have an old orchard or any veteran fruit trees?
- Have you planted a new orchard?
- Would you be able to help complete a survey to identify existing orchards in Wetheringsett?

Orchards East is an environmental and cultural project to survey and record orchard sites across the East of England. The project will support research into the environmental and economic benefits of historic orchards, as well as help to create new ones for the enjoyment of local communities.

A group of volunteers will be surveying and recording existing orchards in Wetheringsett to help support the project. For the purposes of the survey, an orchard is defined as *'five or more trees no more than 20m apart from crown edge to crown edge'* – but we would also love to hear from anyone who has any old fruit trees in their garden, as these might have been part of an orchard in the past. Traditional orchards include apple, pear, cherry, plum, damson and cobnut trees.

The group will be meeting on the evening of Thursday 16th April to go through how to complete the surveys and arrange to try and view the 50 sites in the village identified by Orchard East (as well as see if there are any others not yet known to the project).

If you would like to get involved, or can let us know about any trees or orchards you'd be happy for us to survey, please contact Cathy Smith on cathy.whisper@btinternet.com or 01728 861324.



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The Cedars Pool - Keep Swimming! STOP PRESS: Stop the Virus.



There is a daily Government bulletin about the Virus; at the moment the Parish Council Emergency Office does not have any specific plans as we are a diverse community and the best advice for those under 70 as well as those 'aged' is to keep fit so that the body can fight any infection.

We are not planning to close the Cedars Swimming Pool, although swimmers do so at their own risk, as swimming is a good way to keep fit. Obviously, we ask those with cough or cold not to come to the pool

The colder weather should not stop people swimming to keep fit in an enjoyable way. We still try to keep the water at about 80 degrees, and have finished draft proofing the roof, so that the air temperature remains warmer, even on a cold windy day.

We do not charge to swim, as we like to see the pool being used to useful effect. So please keep swimming: we do not like the warm water being idle!

AJA Contact: tonyalston@hotmail.com



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Friends of Debenham Library

All library buildings closed indefinitely from the end of **Friday 20 March**. The mobile library service and home library service are also suspended. You can return books and other loan items using the returns box outside. Don't worry about fines—there won't be any.

Did you know....?

At home you can download music (**Freegal**), audio books (**Overdrive and Borrowbox**) and ebooks (**Overdrive**) all free using your library card, and watch free films with **Kanopy**.
Go to the **Suffolk Libraries website** for details.

Library Cinema

We had to cancel our film showing of **Official Secrets** in March, for that familiar virus-related reason, and our next film on Friday 15th May is very unlikely to go ahead. However our future dates of 11th September and 20th November may go ahead.

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/libraries/debenham-library

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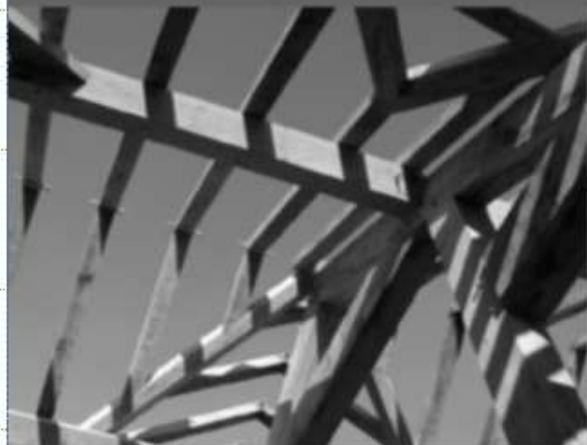
Looking for a spare room or caravan from Saturday 25 July to Saturday 8 August for one or two leaders on the Wetheringsett Summer Church Camp. Would be out all day from 8am-10:30pm. Happy to pay around £100 a week

Please contact Oli Watson 07964 0883 oliver.watson.ow@gmail.com

**Notice of Winding Up:
Wetheringsett Community Trust**

Wetheringsett Community Trust, the charity established to develop a children's play area in the Parish of Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford, has been wound up. The trustees resolved to wind up the charity in late 2019 in light of the successful establishment of the play area and subsequent transfer of all the charity's remaining assets to Wetheringsett Parish Council, on condition such funds be held on trust for the maintenance of the play area. The play area will continue to be managed and maintained by Wetheringsett Parish Council. The Charity Commission has now formally registered the winding up and the charity has ceased to exist.

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Snippets from the Village History

Parish Council Minutes: 1894 - 1954

Parish Council meetings were mainly held in the School Room in the evening, and on occasions were also held in the Mission Room in Wetherup and in the Rectory. **Here are some further excerpts:**

June 1948

The Rector outlined suggested arrangements for the War Memorial Service. The British Legion to be asked to take the parade and be responsible for mustering. The proceedings to commence at the War Memorial with dedicatory Prayers followed by the unveiling by Sqn Leader Thurston. The Rector reported that roadworks connected with the Memorial were in hand and that the curbing stone was being installed at an approximate cost of £15.

August 1952

The correspondence relating to the proposed closure of Wetheringsett Churchyard was submitted, but owing to the absence of the Rector, the matter was adjourned.

So - what happened ?

Mr Palfrey enquired whether the telephone at present in Brockford Station building could be made available to the general public.

So now the question, was the telephone in Brockford Station building ever made available to the general public? - does anyone know?

March 1954

The Clerk was instructed to draw the attention of the Highways Committee to the state of the 3 level crossings in the parish and to press that they be put in a good state of repair as soon as possible.

One last entry from the Parish Council for next month's newsletter and then we shall move on to other extracts from the Village History

Taken from 'A Village History of Wetheringsett cum Brockford' compiled and first published 1981. The above extracts were added (by Maureen Withey), to the edition published in 2002

*Parish Council minutes on the Coronation Celebrations of
1953 to follow in next issue*

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7J	Wetheringsett	Wetherup St	1430 – 1445
7K	Wetheringsett	Park Green	1450 – 1505

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2020: April 16th

Coronavirus update:

The mobile library service has been suspended until further notice.

The Home Library Service has been suspended until further notice.

This was correct at time of going to print – please check for up to date information on:-

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobiles-home/>



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ClIr Mrs Ann Arnold	broadoaksuffolk@googlemail.com	01449 767781
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ClIr David Brown	daveandjanetbrown@gmail.com	01449 766151
<u>Parish Clerk:</u> Mrs Lynne Cockerton	lynnecockerton@btopenworld.com	01728 862001
<u>County & District Councillor:</u> ClIr Andrew Stringer		01449 780339
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