



JANUARY 2021

CONTACT

EAST HARLING – WEST HARLING – BRIDGHAM
ROUDHAM - LARLING – BRETtenham

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The electronic version of the magazine which we hope many of you can enjoy is now on the Bridgham Parish Council Website on the Roudham & Larling web site and on the Harling Council website under the News page.

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HARLING BENEFICE



Priest in charge: Benefice in vacancy

Ministry team: Rev'd Caryll Brown
Rev'd Varlie Sheldrake

01953 7who 17451
01953 717404

Both members of our Ministry team are now officially retired and work on a voluntary and part time basis; they both hold the Bishop's Permission to Officiate at Services within this Diocese.

East with West Harling, Bridgham with Roudham, Larling and Brettenham

Arrangements for January 2021

We regret that some services and events over the Christmas period had to be cancelled however the Midnight Mass in East Harling did go ahead, led by the Bishop of Thetford, and was much enjoyed by those who were able to attend. As we enter this New Year with numbers of covid-19 infections rising rapidly and with strict regulations looking to continue, it is impossible to predict whether or not Church buildings will be able to remain open for either private prayer or for communal worship services on Sundays during January.

Whilst this uncertainty continues you are advised to contact the appropriate Church Warden to find out if the church you wish to visit is open either for private prayer or for a Service. Currently this applies only to East Harling Church. No Services will be held in Bridgham Church, Brettenham Church or Larling Church during January 2021.

You are asked always to inform one of the Wardens in advance if you intend to come to a Service so that appropriate seating can be arranged.

This applies to everyone including regular worshippers and for each occasion!

Church Wardens' contact numbers for up to date details:

East Harling 01953 717128 or 07890102392

Bridgham 01953 717686 or 01953 717980

Larling 01953 717254

Brettenham 01842 755319

The buildings may be closed but the CHURCH, that is its people, is still very much alive and we offer our help to any who need it in the form of prayer for individuals, a listening ear or advice.

We have regular meetings on **ZOOM** for:

Morning Prayer on Monday at 10.00am and Evening Prayer on Friday at 5.00pm.

The ID numbers and passwords required to join these meetings are subject to change so if you would like to join us please call either Caryll or Varlie for the current numbers (telephone numbers see above).

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Wednesdays 7.15pm Fellowship and Bible Study.

Saturdays 9.30am Prayers: All comers are welcome. .

ID numbers and Passwords for these two meetings are available from Stuart 01953 714900

It is possible to join the Zoom meetings by telephone if you do not have internet access.

Just dial 02034 815240 and use the relevant meeting ID and password when prompted.

Other Suggestions for Worship

The Norwich Diocese offers **Sunday Hope**, a weekly podcast which you can download onto your mobile phone or listen to for free by phoning 01603 537577

Daily Hope is a daily podcast from the Church of England. Phone free 0800 804 8044

Sundays:

8.10am Morning Worship BBC Radio 4

9.00am onwards Weekly Service on Facebook or YouTube (Church of England)

1.15pm Songs of Praise BBC One (check times – they occasionally are changed).

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OCCASIONAL SERVICES:

Weddings and Baptisms: Please contact Rev'd Caryll Brown (01953 717451) with any enquiries.

Funerals: During lockdown funerals have taken place either at the graveside or in a crematorium. It is now possible to hold small funerals in church but numbers attending the service are limited, currently to a maximum of 15, and depending on the layout and size of the church. Social distancing has to be observed and no singing is currently permitted although music can be played.

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**EAST HARLING CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING
AND CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT**

THANK YOU to all those who braved the weather and toured the village to sing **Carols** in the run-up to Christmas. They were very much appreciated.

Thanks too to those who organised the **Treasure Hunt** around Harling. Well Done to the 18 winners!!

Both of these events were jointly organised by the churches in East Harling.

A PRAYER FOR NEW YEAR 2021



God of all time,
help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves
and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

Creator of all life,
help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant,
every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts
with thanks
and looking forward
to blessings yet to come.

Amen!

FLOODLIGHTING

JANUARY 2021

1st **Richard ADAMS:** Always close in our hearts and thoughts. With much love from Carole, Caroline and Alix.

5th Treasured memories of **Arthur SHELDRAKE** a much loved husband and father; still sadly missed.

15th In loving memory of **Joyce BIDDULPH** who is in our thoughts each and every day, Ann and Angela.

Requests to sponsor the floodlighting of East Harling Church are still accepted and should be posted/delivered in writing to:

The Rev'd Varlie Sheldrake,
12 Kemps Barns, East Harling. NR16 2TS

Please make sure your requests include the date and add your name and contact number in case of any queries. Donation of minimum £5/night should be enclosed. Cash preferred, please, during the current situation.

A big THANK YOU to those who have continued to sponsor the Floodlighting of East Harling Church.



Curate's Corner

As I write this column, towards the end of December 2020, I'm smiling at a comment posted on social media:

'I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one leaves!'

There can't be many who aren't glad that 2020 is now over! What a year, as Varlie commented last month, 'a year like no other any of us has experienced.'

Now we are on the threshold of 2021 and all of us have such hopes and expectations for a better future... We are all united in **HOPE**... a hope that, soon, we will be able to gather with our friends and loved ones, to share in each other's lives again... to celebrate good times and to comfort and hug one another in times of sadness. The most basic human needs of touch and interaction, which we have all taken for granted in the past, are now precious treasure which we all yearn for.

On 6th January, the Church celebrates **Epiphany** – the time when, traditionally, the Wise Men finally arrived with their gifts for the infant Jesus, having followed the star for many months from distant lands. The word **Epiphany** means 'sudden insight or understanding'. The Bible tells us that when they knelt before the Christ-child they suddenly realised he was no earthly king, but truly the Son of God! As they each presented priceless and precious gifts to Jesus, they were clearly aware of the privilege it was to share in such a truly historic and special moment. Could they have just gone home afterwards as though nothing had changed? Surely not. What they had seen and experienced must, in some way, have changed their lives forever, for they had been touched by the divine. Their original plan had been to return via Jerusalem so that they could tell Herod where the baby was, so that he too could go to worship him. After they left Jesus, God revealed to them, in a dream, that Herod wanted to harm the baby; and so, the Bible tells us, they returned home by another route.



Surely, we too have all been changed by the events of 2020 – floods, bush fires, earthquakes and Covid-19 which is ravaging the world. Thousands of families have been bereaved, homes and jobs have been lost. How can we, even here in rural Norfolk, not have been changed by the events of the last 10 months?

Some would say that 2020 was a catastrophe. But in many ways, and often, in the bleakest of moments God's face has been revealed in the love, kindness, compassion and selflessness of others. In our own communities we have witnessed and experienced loving concern from neighbours we probably barely knew before. We have found new ways of showing one another that we care. We have all missed gathering together, we have all learned where our true treasure lies. Just like the Wise Men who had their 'epiphany' when they met with Jesus, we have come to understand what is most important in life.

As we step forward into 2021 our 'route' will surely be different as we travel into a 'post-covid' world and embrace a new way of living. Hopefully the love, kindness and compassion we have experienced will be a firm foundation to build on.

Jesus is the 'Light of the World' and he is waiting to lead us into this New Year – a year when we can be glad to draw close to and even hug our loved ones again – maybe even Party!

*Wishing you every blessing for a Happy, Healthy & Safe New Year
Love & prayers from Caryl and all of us in the local churches.*



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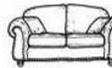
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- * TOOLS OR BOOKS TO HELP EARN A LIVING
- * PAYMENTS TO RELIEVE SICKNESS
- * ADAPTIONS TO THE HOME FOR THE DISABLED
- * INVALID CHAIRS

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A FULL APPLICATION WILL BE NEEDED AND ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE AND ARE LOOKED AT ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS

EAST HARLING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

WHAT EXACTLY IS IT:

GENEROUS GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE OF HARLING IN NEED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS:

- * FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
- * UNIFORM AND CLOTHING FOR STUDENTS IN NEED
- * BOOKS AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
- * EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

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A FULL APPLICATION WILL BE NEEDED AND ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE AND ARE LOOKED AT ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS

Norfolk Winter Support Offer

Norfolk County Council, alongside local councils across Norfolk, is aiming to support as many residents as possible this winter to access financial and other support if they are facing hardship.

We know for many people this winter will be challenging for a variety of reasons, and there will be a lot of people who will need help with things like paying the bills and buying food, and many people who have never needed help before. To make sure people can access help and support where they need it this winter, we have implemented the Norfolk Winter Support Offer and we need your help to make sure we reach as many people as possible.

Where you work with a family or resident in Norfolk, who is currently suffering from hardship and unsure how to pay their bills, keep warm and buy food, we are asking that you help them apply to the support offer. You can do this with them online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport using a simple form.

Help is also available to those suffering hardship because they are having to self-isolate or support their child or vulnerable family members to self-isolate.

To help you understand the support that is available, here is a quick summary:

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS) already provides hardship support to Norfolk residents, and this offer is being extended to reach more people where needed, over the winter period. The offer uses an additional government grant that is primarily aimed at families with children.

Initially the two-week provision includes

- Morrisons food boxes
- Additional support with household essentials like nappies, formula milk and cleaning products
- Paypoint top ups for gas and electricity
- Daily living allowance for living expenses and household bills where needed.

Week three onwards

- Support with things like broadband and help to get online
- Additional support with household items such as washing machines and fridges
- If further food and essential support is needed after the initial two-week period, then this will be implemented by NAS for as long as is required.

Pink Orange – Ingredients boxes

Some families will already have heard about this offer because they will have been contacted by their allocated worker.

Pink Orange will provide ingredients boxes including recipe guides to targeted families across Norfolk, NAS are able to refer to Pink Orange as part of their wrap around support offer. You just need to make one referral to NAS and they will do the rest.

Free School Meals vouchers

All schools and educational establishments in Norfolk will have received communication about ensuring that all children who are eligible are signed up for free school meals (the means tested pupil premium element and not the universal free school meals that all children in reception to the end of year 3 are entitled to).

Schools are then able to provide a link and code for EdenRed which is the chosen provider of supermarket vouchers to the value of £15 per child per week, for two weeks over Christmas and a Week at February half term - these vouchers can be used at all main UK supermarkets.

If you are working with a family who you think may be eligible for free school meals, who are not currently receiving them, please encourage them to speak to their children's education provider or support them in that conversation where needed.

Children who are home schooled and may be entitled are to complete the Norfolk Assistance Scheme form and will be supported to access EdenRed by NAS.

Self-isolation support

Some residents are also entitled to a self-isolation support payment of £500. To help someone apply for this, or to find out more please check the NCC website.

Please make sure that you help us to reach as many families in Norfolk with this offer of support, so that together we can keep Norfolk residents safe, resilient and well this winter.

Thank you

[Norfolk Winter Covid Support Scheme - Norfolk County Council](#)

LOCKDOWN SUPPORT

As we now find ourselves in Tier Four, the Parish Council wants to remind you all that the helpline is still open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm for residents who have a positive Covid result or have been advised to self-isolate.

Please call 07936 305 761 if you need help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, or just a friendly chat. We have volunteers who are here to help.

Please do pass this information onto friends or family who may need some extra help.

Please stay at home to protect others 

Best wishes and here's to a
Happy and a Healthy 2021

Kate



EAST HARLING COMMUNITY GARDEN



Welcome to the East Harling Community Garden information corner. Updates will appear in Contact on a regular basis and we look forward to seeing many of you at the garden in 2021. You will find the garden at the entrance to the Children's Poplars Play area, opposite Peppers Tea Shop.

The Garden was established in October 2020 on a neglected and overgrown corner of the village after members of the Parish Council and volunteers cleared away the overgrown bushes and years of rubbish.

The Parish Clerk, Kate Filby, suggested the area could be used as a Community Garden and the challenge was taken up by Cllr Liz Mould and East Harling resident, Rachel Robb, together with a small group of keen residents, despite the restrictions in 2020 of Covid-19.

A request was made for volunteers and donations of plants and materials to start the garden. Contact readers, Residents and local businesses rallied round and provided bulbs, plants, trees, materials and funds to make a bug house, raised beds, compost area, bird boxes and hedgehog houses and a trellis area for climbing plants.

The aim of the garden is to regenerate the area, encourage wildlife such as bees, bugs, butterflies, hedgehogs, birds, as well as provide a colourful and peaceful area for residents to enjoy through just visiting or volunteering their time here to help maintain the garden area, encouraging a sense of ownership and shared learning. It provides an opportunity to meet new people and help improve mental and physical wellbeing.

Children are encouraged to visit, help, learn and explore

If you would like to help in any way please contact us using the East Harling Community Garden Face Book page, catch up with us on site or contact Liz on 07941546814 or Rachel on 717530 for more information

THE GARDEN IN JANUARY

More than most months January gardening is very weather determined. Over recent years long very cold spells have become less common, while prolonged wet periods are becoming the norm. Walking on the soil when it is waterlogged can cause excessive compaction which makes it harder for air and water to get through the top layer (look at the affect the pigs have on the Lopham Road and by the Fiveways junction stopping the rain from soaking in and causing excessive run-off and loss of soil from the fields).

If the soil is reasonably dry and frost free there are many jobs that can usefully be carried out this month, and especially if lockdown continues as gardening is a good form of exercise!

Shrubs and young trees - After the strong winds of the autumn these may have rocked about, and need the soil firming around them, and possibly staking. It is a good time to tidy up and remove dead and damaged wood.

Deciduous hedges can be cut hard to encourage new growth before the birds start nesting towards the end of February .

Dahlias. If you dug and stored your dahlia tubers these should be checked and use a fungicide if needed.

Potatoes. If you have space in a cool room to spread out some seed potatoes, they have been in the garden centres since before Christmas (far too early!) it is worth buying a few to have a better choice of varieties. Cardboard egg boxes/ trays are ideal for spreading them out. Don't leave them in their plastic bags, and certainly not in the dark. First and second earlies don't need chitting (leaving in warm light position until short sturdy shoots appear). Planting under fleece in a cold greenhouse in late February is about right, don't plant them outdoors until mid-March onwards.

Bulbs Bring last pots of Hyacinths and other bulbs indoors to force early flowering – don't subject to excessive heat or over water or they will stretch and become leggy. Lilies can be planted indoors for an early display under glass or in the house.

House plants Remove faded flowers and leaves. Do not over water. Give plenty of light, but don't leave behind curtains at night, even with double glazing it can get very cold.

Fruit Trees Continue winter pruning (not cherries, apricots, peaches or plums which are subject to fungal diseases if open wounds are left).

Holes in Lawns - Has anyone got any tips for stopping my young puppy from digging huge holes in the lawn? ¼ wheaten terrier (born to dig), ½ border collie (know I shouldn't), ¼ saluki (but I will do it anyway)! Please – get in touch via the Editor!

Good Gardening

Kevin

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EAST HARLING GARDENING CLUB.

First the existing Gardening Club Committee would like to wish all members-

A GREAT BIG HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR

We are all hoping that 2021 will bring good news regarding the pandemic and we can all start to look forward to a safe and normal life.



As informed last December via Contact and Posters, our Chair Lady will be standing down with effect from March 2021.

We hope someone will be willing to take on this very worthwhile role otherwise the Club is in danger of closing. The Club commenced many year ago and it would be a very sad day for a village like East Harling not to have a gardening club particularly as it has always had such a wonderful show of fruit, flowers and vegetables each year; that would be sadly missed.

If there is anyone reading this who is willing to give approximately two hours a month please contact Jenny on the number given below. The present standing committee would all be willing to help in way.

For further information please call Jenny on 01953717911.

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTION IT IS STILL UNLIKELY THAT THE CLUB WILL REOPEN UNTIL AFTER MARCH 2021 AT THE EARLIEST. IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER CHANGE OR NEWS PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR POSTERS OR IN CONTACT.

Keep smiling everyone

Still singing!

There is no stopping Thetford Singers from singing even if rehearsals have changed somewhat this year. Experimenting with the possibilities of 'singing together' by zoom have been a revelation. Musical Director Chris Parsons has led the way from his home with the accompanist assisting from her home and members singing in their homes. But it works! It even means a previous member has re-joined the choir from her home in France!

So much new material has been added to the choir's repertoire from folk songs to ballads to Christmas songs, traditional, jazzy and the more unusual, all to be performed as a choir in the future. Singing together, even by zoom, is certainly good for well-being and an evening of the week that the members all look forward to!

The second half of rehearsals has been a social time of sharing 'desert isolation discs' by the members, quizzes and sharing favourite Christmas carols. This has proved to be a great way of getting to know each other as well as educational and fun!

So, as we look ahead to 2021, rehearsals will continue in this fashion at present! Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 730pm-930pm on Wednesday evenings.

New members are always welcome. if you are interested in having a taste of singing on zoom or joining us in person at some point in 2021 please contact TS secretary at hilarylevan1@gmail.com

The State of the UK's Birds 2020

*Fiona Burns, Senior Conservation Scientist, RSPB.
Please follow the above link for the full report.*

For over twenty years, the State of the UK's Birds (SUKB) report has been a comprehensive snapshot of how birds are doing in the UK, and its Overseas Territories and Crown dependencies. Thanks to the data collected by thousands of volunteers, across many surveys, we're able to provide an overview for nearly all of the UK's regularly occurring species. This is the first SUKB since 2017 and the first time we've shown differences across the four UK countries. You can find out how corncrakes are doing in Scotland and learn that Antrim Hills are one of the most important areas in Northern Ireland for upland species such as hen harrier and merlin.

Overall numbers

The report also highlights new figures estimating that there are 83 million pairs of native breeding birds in the UK. Comparison with previously published figures, indicates that there are now **19 million fewer pairs of native breeding birds in the UK compared to the late 1960s**. Because the numbers of some species have increased, wren being one example having grown by 6.5 million pairs, the scale of the numbers actually lost is much bigger, at some 43 million pairs overall. House sparrows have been hit the hardest.

Birds by habitat

The latest results for breeding birds in farmland, woodland, wetland, seabirds and wintering waterbirds come from the [Wild Bird Indicators](#). In conjunction with other well-monitored groups such as butterflies and bats, these indicators are used as a proxy for the overall state of biodiversity in the UK and to track progress towards national and international targets.

Farmland birds are continuing to decline and the farmland bird indicator is currently at 45% of its 1970 value, despite widespread uptake of agri-environment schemes. Some specialist farmland birds are amongst our fastest declining species, such as turtle doves and grey partridges. Five of the species in the indicator – grey partridge, turtle dove, starling, tree sparrow and corn bunting – have fallen to less than 20% of their 1970 numbers.

Birds in the woodland bird indicator have also continued to decrease on average. Willow tits, our second fastest declining widespread bird, have dropped by 94% since 1970. Because of these low numbers, monitoring this species has become increasingly difficult - which prompted the launch of a [targeted UK-wide survey last year](#) to estimate numbers.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an essential role in bird monitoring in the UK, by donating their time and expertise. The data they collect are vital for conservation, advocacy and policy development. Thank you to all those involved. If you'd like to help out, whether that's waking up early to record breeding birds or looking out of your kitchen window to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, **see page 20** of this magazine or go online to www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

The Big Garden Bird Watch weekend is 29th 31st January. Once complete send your results sheet to FREEPOST RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH or go online to the website using the code BH30.

*Grateful thanks to RSPB for permission to print this -
Editor*

THE LOVELL FAMILY MEMORIALS IN EAST HARLING CHURCH – with thanks to David King



The squirrel depicted in the tracery at the top of the East Window has always fascinated me. All the Lovell tombs have squirrels on them. The photo enlarged showed the squirrel was holding a golden nut and had deliciously hairy feet! I think it dates to around the 1520's.

The Lovell family first came to East Harling when Sir Thomas Lovell, K. G. bought the Manor and Advowson (right to appoint clergy) of East Harling from the Bedingfield family. He had supported Henry VII and the Lancastrian faction during the wars of the Roses. On 12 October 1485 he was created Chancellor of the Exchequer for life. In the parliament summoned for 7 November 1485 Thomas Lovell was chosen for Northamptonshire, and on 8 November 1485 he was elected speaker. He headed the commons on 10 December 1485, when they requested the king to marry Elizabeth of York, to whom he subsequently lent £500 on the security of her plate (around 570,000 today). For his prowess at the battle of Stoke in 1487, he was knighted and became esquire of the body to Henry VII, with a pension. He served the country under both Henry VII and Henry VIII as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1503. He used his wealth to build East Harling Hall. His portrait in a relief made by Torrigiano hung over the gatehouse of the Hall several copies were made and one still hangs in the Church today. He died in 1524 and by his will he left the Harling property to his nephew "cosyn" Francis Lovell, 2nd son of Sir Gregory Lovell of Barton Bendish, who married Ann, daughter of George Ashfield of Harefield in Middlesex. This Sir Francis Lovell died at East Harling on Jan. 21st. 1550 and is buried here. His tomb is on the North side of the Chancel, but there is no inscription on it. This is thought to be because he would not have been allowed the inscription he wanted so decided to have none! (This was due to the change in religious practice following the reformation). He was also an important figure at the Court employed by the Crown in administrative service to



Henry VIII. It is this Sir Francis Lovell whose wife Anne Ashby daughter of George Ashby of Harefield was the subject of the portrait known as "Lady with Squirrel and Starling" painted by Hans Holbein thought to be made in celebration of the birth of their son Thomas in around 1526. The research by David King which led to this identification was published in various press releases in 2004 and in The Apollo magazine issue of May 1st 2004. The painting now hangs in the National Gallery.

The Estates passed to Francis Lovell's son Sir Thomas Lovell, who married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Philip Paris of Linton, Cambridgeshire. They are also buried here and theirs is the tomb on the opposite side of the Sanctuary with the inscription, "Here lieth buried Syr Thomas Lovel, Knyght, and Dame Elizabeth his Wyfe whiche lived together in Godly Mariage 29 years, and hadde Yssue, 9 sonnes and 6 daughters, the sayd Sir Thomas decessed in the year of our Lord God 1567, the 23 of March, and Dame Elizabeth decessed in the year of our Lord God, 1591, the last of Marche." "Pray God to join their soules together in Heaven."

Sir Thomas was succeeded by his son, also Thomas, who married Alice daughter of Sir John Huddlestone of Sawston in Cambridgeshire. They are buried in the Lady Chapel in a highly decorated tomb. Sir Thomas is in armour with his Crest, a bundle of peacock's feathers, at his feet, the Lady Alice lies by his side her feet resting against a saracen's scalp said to be the crest of her father. The inscription is as follows:-

Here lyeth buried Sir Thomas Lovell, Knighte, and Dame Alice his Wife, Daughter of Sir John Huddleston, Knighte He died the 12th day of December 1604 in the yeare of his age 64. And she died the first day of September 1602, in the yeare of her age 64. They had yssue 5 Sonnes and 3 Daughters, whereof 2 Sonnes and 1 Daughter died in their infancie. 3 Sonnes, viz., Sir Francys Lovell, Knighte, Charles Lovell, and William Lovell, Esquires overlived them, and 2 daughters were maryed in their lifetime, Viz., Katherine, first to Sir Thomas Knyet of Buckenham Castell Knighte, secondly to Edwarde Springe, and thirdly to Edwarde Downes, Esquires And Elinor to Edwarde Waldegrave, sonne and heir apparant of Charles Waldegrave of Stanninghall, Esquire.

It so happened that none of the 3 sons referred to in the inscription had any children to succeed them. John Lovell, it appears, found he could not afford to keep up the Estate which his half-brother Gregory had done his best to encumber, and prevailed upon his son John, who was living at New Buckenham when Blomefield wrote his history in 1736, to join with him in the Sale. After having been in the Lovell family for 200 years the Manor, Advowson, Hall and Lands were purchased by a Mr. Thomas Wright who had spent a considerable time in India and probably made a fortune there. - *Editor*

Lydia & David Turner

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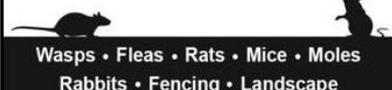
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Advent & Christmas thoughts and Ramblings from Brettenham

The past festive season of celebration has seen many changes. These Covid restrictions have all been implemented for our benefit. We must all follow them and remember that we need to keep each and every-one of us safe and well in order that we hopefully can be together again in fellowship & friendship.

Sadly, having no festive or other services here at Brettenham, for the time being, Peter and I thought we would like to celebrate The First Christmas Procession at Norwich Cathedral, if we were fortunate enough to be able to reserve seats.

The festive mood began when we were entertained by the Cawston Band who played a selection of carols and festive tunes whilst we all sat in the Bentley Showroom at the Maids Head Hotel prior to a delightful Christmas themed lunch, a real treat as I did not have to cook!

We then made our way to the Cathedral, which was operating a very strict Covid policy. It made us realise how lucky we were to have obtained tickets as very few people were able to attend due to the restrictions, when in the past the beautiful building would have been full of people singing and praising and rejoicing.

The service began with the clergy and choir moving through the Cathedral whilst all the congregation held lit candles. This created quite an atmosphere and of course celebrated the birth of Jesus and the hope that the Christ-child brings in the promise of the redemption of all people.

Towards the end of the service, The Dean of Norwich – The Very Revd Jane Hedges brought baby Jesus to the manger and as can be seen from the photograph below, there sat the Cathedral cat, who I understand as soon as the organ begins to play, rushes into the building from wherever he has been in hiding and takes his place, quite often near a heating vent or as can be seen, due to the hay being in place for the tableau, prime spot for the stable. Many people attending took photos after the service and it did add a light touch during these difficult times.



From the photograph opposite, which was taken on Saturday 26th December from the largest of the two bridges in the village, you can see how the river Thet has burst its bank and the low-lying fields close to the Church and the smaller bridge have been flooded. The water across the road has been quite deep and all

drivers are having to be very careful as the current can be felt whilst trying to drive through the area. A flood like this is not recommended for cars but the farm traffic needs to negotiate it as the stock need to be fed and cared for.

Approximately 66mm of rain fell over the 22nd & 23rd December which amounts to about 280 tons per acre, I find this quite incredible when you think that we have no idea how much moisture each cloud may contain and yet once on the ground it can have such devastating consequences when homes and other buildings are flooded, and the general agricultural areas are completely sodden with animals in some cases unable to find shelter.

As the year ends, let us all hope and pray that 2021 will be a healthier and safer year for us all and that we may be able to be together again in fellowship and friendship as we congregate and celebrate the wonders of the earth and all that it means to each one of us.

Take care, keep safe and all good wishes to you all from Brettenham. *Peter & Mary Wright*



Brettenham Bridge showing the River Thet rushing through following the heavy rainfall 26 December 2020

BIG C AND USED STAMPS

Last year was horrendous for us all and we can only look forward to hopefully brighter times in 2021. Whatever the Covid 19 virus has done, it does not stop the suffering of cancer victims. Those of you who have saved up your used postage stamps for the Norfolk 'BIG C' Cancer Charity over the past few years are sincerely thanked for helping towards raising funds for this worthwhile cause. The charity supports cancer sufferers and their families within Norfolk, so you are truly helping a local charity. Please cut them from the envelopes with a fair margin of paper remaining so as not to damage the stamps. With charity donations suffering through lockdowns etc. it is ever more important to get whatever help we can for our local charities.

Collection points have been available over the past few years at East Harling Post Office as well as the village store at Kenninghall, and thanks are expressed to the owners of same for allowing this facility.

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Only include those that land, not those flying over. Count the most birds you see at any one time – otherwise you could count the same bird twice.
- Submit your results by **15 February 2021**. Go to our website at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch, and using the code **BH30**, tell us what you saw. Remember even if you saw nothing, it still counts. The more results we receive, the better the picture we will have.

By submitting your results online, you're helping us spend more on saving nature. However, if you are unable to do so, you can print a copy of this form, complete and return it by post. Put it in an envelope and simply write **FREEPOST RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH** on the front. Please ensure only this wording appears on the return envelope. This is a short address, but rest assured it'll reach us.

Name of bird	Most seen at one time
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Other birds	<input type="text"/>

Discover more: rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

The survey results will be announced on our website in April. Don't forget to share how you got on **#BigGardenBirdwatch**

Let's keep in touch – on your terms

Thank you for caring about nature. We're determined to do all we can to save it. You're a very important part of that which is why we'd love to let you know about the conservation, campaigning, research and fundraising work that we're doing.

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Your details will be kept safe and secure, only used by us, or those who work for us, and will not be shared with anyone else. To understand our supporters better we combine and analyse the information you provide; with what we know about how you've helped us; and other external sources of data. This helps us to decide what communications will be of interest to you and save the resources we have available for our conservation work. We also use this information to run our charity's operations, e.g. if you place an order or make a donation, we'll need your details to process those.

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How many people took part? Adults Children

If you didn't do the Big Garden Birdwatch at home, where did you do it?

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Please let us know your results by **15 February 2021**.

Submit your results online at: rspb.org.uk/birdwatch using the code **BH30**. It is quick, easy and the savings made on postage and processing costs, help us spend more on conservation.

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BWMNAM0101

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