

AUGUST 2021

CONTACT

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ROUDHAM – BRETtenham – LARLING

VILLAGE NEWS AND EVENTS

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The electronic version of the magazine which we hope many of you can enjoy is now on <https://bridghamparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/2020/10/09/contact-magazine/> for Bridgham
<https://roudhamandlarling-pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/2020/08/17/contact-magazine/> for Roudham and Larling and on the Harling Council website <https://www.harlingpc.info/> under the News page.

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HARLING BENEFICE



Priest in charge: Benefice in vacancy

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

01953 717451
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

Services in August 2021

We are now able to hold regular Sunday Services in Church.

As we 'open up' and enjoy more freedom

SLOWLY ~ STEADILY ~ SAFELY

is the advice we are following.

We ask those who attend our services to respect their fellow worshippers by

~ using the hand sanitiser provided

~ observing social distancing

~ and by wearing a face covering whilst indoors and during hymn singing.

Sunday 1 st August	9.45am	Holy Communion	East Harling Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bridgham Church
Sunday 8 th August	9.45am	Holy Communion	East Harling Church
Sunday 15 th August	9.45am	Holy Communion	East Harling Church
	10.30am	Service of the Word	Bridgham Church
	6.30pm	'Harling Praise' (joint Anglican/Methodist Service)	East Harling Church
Sunday 22 nd August	9.45am	Holy Communion	East Harling Church
Sunday 29 th August	9.45am	Holy Communion	East Harling Church

Weddings and Baptisms (Christenings):

All enquiries should be made to Rev'd Caryl Brown (01953 717451) please.

Funerals The undertaker or minister concerned will advise regarding the regulations in force at the time you

For the time being, all the Church buildings in the Benefice will remain closed apart from the provisions listed below:

East Harling Church will be opened for private, individual prayer each

Monday and Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm

and **Larling Church** will be open for private, individual prayer every day

10.00am to 4.00pm

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ZOOM meetings:

for **Morning Prayer on Monday at 10.00am and Evening Prayer on Friday at 5.00pm**. These sessions have been suspended for the summer months. The situation will be reviewed in the autumn.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group is suspended during August further news next month or from Stuart 01953 714900

METHODIST CHAPEL, WHITE HART STREET

SERVICES IN August

1st Mr Pat Mottram	6.30 pm
8th Mr Steve Aspinal	6.30 pm
15th Harling Praise (At Anglican Church)	6.30 pm
22nd Mr Jane Mottram	6.30 pm
29th Rev David Ely (communion service)	6.30 pm

(Covid regulations continue to apply)

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PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Welcomed into God's Family:

Atreus EASTER who was baptised on 30th May 2021 in East Harling Church.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Martyn DURRANT and Laura READY who were married on 29th May 2021 in East Harling Church.

Thomas PENNINGTON and Eleanor HARROD who were married in Brettenham Church on 25th June 2021.

FUNERALS

We send our condolences to the families and friends of:

Gwendolen Elenta SMITH whose funeral was held at East Harling Church on 7th May 2021 followed by cremation.

Richard SAMS whose funeral was held at East Harling Church on 14th May 2021 followed by interment in Harling cemetery.

Rhoda BURROWS whose funeral was held at East Harling Church on 7th June 2021 followed by interment in Harling cemetery.

George Arthur (Bill) SCILLITOE whose funeral was held at Riddlesworth Church on 21st July 2021 followed by interment in the churchyard.

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

AUGUST 2021

6th To celebrate the marriage of **Alexandra Adams** to **Nicholas Francis**. With much love, Mama.

23rd To celebrate the wedding anniversary of **Caroline (Adams) and Michael Hunt**. With much love, Mama.

Requests to sponsor the floodlighting of East Harling Church should be posted/delivered to: The Rev'd Varlie Sheldrake, 12 Kemp's Barns, East Harling. NR16 2TS
Please do not send requests by email.

Include the date and add your name and contact number in case of any queries. Donation of minimum £5/night should be enclosed.

Thank you to all who sponsor the floodlighting of East Harling Church



Community Cafe

SATURDAY 7th August
East Harling Church 10am-12.00 noon

We are back!

Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be served all morning. You will find a warm welcome, the opportunity to chat with neighbours and friends, to sample some delicious home-made cakes and browse the second hand book stall.



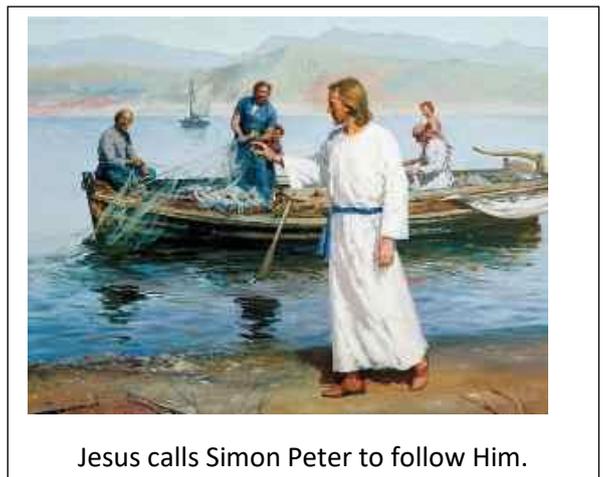
St Peter & St Paul, Apostles Together in Diversity

A couple of months ago we published an article about St Ethelbert, the patron saint of Larling Parish Church. This month we'll take a look at another two saints who are often celebrated together, Peter and Paul, the patron saints of East Harling Church. Their special day in the Church calendar is 29th June and the following article is based on a talk I gave in church to celebrate that day this year.

Since the early days these two men have been remembered together but they were very different from each other with different backgrounds and personalities and I can't help wondering what they would have thought in their lifetimes about being coupled together in the Church's calendar?

We first meet Peter in the Gospels, where at first he is called by his Jewish name of Simon; he was an ordinary sort of man and lived in the small town of Capernaum on the shores of Lake of Galilee, working as a fisherman with his father and brothers. He probably had only a basic education but he would have studied the scriptures. He comes across as practical, enthusiastic, fervent, but liable to jump in and say things without really understanding what he was saying. He'd probably listened to Jesus, who had come to live in Capernaum, teaching in the local synagogue and had been inspired by what he heard about the coming of the Kingdom of God. Then one day Jesus walked along the lake shore and called Simon to follow him and so he did, along with his brother and some friends, leaving their nets behind.

The Bible tells us about several events that happened to Simon as he travelled with Jesus. One such occasion explains how he gained his new name of Peter. It happened when Jesus and His disciples were travelling in the area around Caesarea Philippi, which was about 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, the Golan Heights region. It was a modern Roman town built by Herod the Great and was dedicated to the glory of the Roman Emperor. The town isn't there now, it was destroyed by an earthquake in the 3rd Century, but there is one striking feature that can still be seen – a rocky cliff face at the base of which is a cave from which flows a stream. The majority of the local inhabitants and others seeking spiritual truths, worshipped several pagan gods including the god Pan who they believed spent the winter in the underworld – Hades – accessed through the mouth of that cave – known even today as the 'Gates of Hell'. But people were curious to know about Jesus – his reputation as a teacher and a healer would have gone before him. So Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?'



Jesus calls Simon Peter to follow Him.

It was one of Jesus' difficult questions – but Simon jumped in and said, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!' It was a tremendous thing to declare.

Jesus then went on to reveal his purpose for Simon – 'You are Peter', He said, 'and on **THIS** rock I will build **MY** Church' – not like the rocky cliff face which had supported Caesarea and where false pagan gods were worshipped! There is of course a play on words here – the Greek word for stone is *petra* and *Petros* is Peter. In Aramaic, the language most of the Jews spoke, the name given to Simon was *Kepha* which again means stone.

Peter then on the basis of his confession was to be made the foundation, the bed rock of the new community of believers and followers of Jesus – the Church. We know that Peter was not always the firmest of rocks – he got things wrong and after Jesus' arrest he denied even knowing him. Peter had much to learn but his faith and love for his Lord, his recognition of who Jesus was, remained steadfast and he did indeed become the leader and the rock on which the young church was established.

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hdawno@hotmail.co.uk or 07939 615203.
 Find us on Facebook Who Let the Dads Out? Kenninghall. 17th July, 14th Aug, 11th Sept.



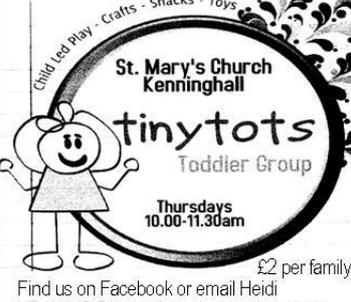
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St Peter & St Paul Continued from page 6

The Bible doesn't record Peter's final years but we do know that he had to face trials, beatings, persecution. Christian tradition tells us that he eventually went to Rome where he was martyred. by crucifixion during the reign of the Emperor Nero.

What about Paul? We don't meet him in the Bible until the Acts of the Apostles and there he also had a different name –Saul, which is in Hebrew but later he changed it to the Greek version of Paul. Let's not get confused – how many names have you?

He was born in Tarsus, a Roman city and port in the country we now know as Turkey; it was a large and important city, situated on the trade routes, and Paul would have come into contact with peoples from across the known world and he probably learned several languages – certainly he would have spoken Aramaic and could read Hebrew and would have known Greek and also some Latin.

He was a devout Jew, well educated and well versed in the Scriptures. Like his father he was a Pharisee, the strict Jewish sect, and his life would have been based on the rhythm of prayer and the observance of the religious festivals. He also had to work for a living and we know from his letters that he was a tent maker and he used his skill in that trade to support himself later in life during his missionary journeys.

As a young man Paul went to Jerusalem and studied under Gamaliel, the great rabbi teacher of the day, and while he was there Paul witnessed the stoning to death of Stephen, a young Christian deacon. This was in the early days of the Church and Stephen by proclaiming Jesus was charged with blasphemy.



Paul thoroughly approved of this sentence and went on to zealously do all he could to wipe out the followers of Jesus; but Jesus however had plans for him and whilst on the road to Damascus intending to persecute the Christians there, Paul had a miraculous experience in which he met the risen Jesus and realised the truth of what he had been denying. Paul

was a man of great zeal but he began by getting the whole thing upside down.

As he discovered he was fighting against God he was so ashamed of his actions that he gave up his whole life style and submitted himself to serve God for the rest of his life. He gave up everything – his previous understanding of his faith, his reputation, his position among the leading Pharisees, even his family – all as nothing, lost in comparison with being found by Jesus Christ. Because of Paul's example we have a special hope for even the most ardent opponents of the Church.

In the Book of Acts in the Bible we can read of his missionary journeys preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and bringing countless people to have Faith in Jesus. We can follow these journeys on a modern day map of the same area (see below).



Peter and Paul – two very different people – and each in their own way became pillars of the young Church which we inherit today. Each had their hearts changed by encountering Jesus and spent the rest of their lives convinced they had a message to proclaim, one which would be life changing and life affirming.

Of course they did not always agree especially along with other members of the church about how to accommodate non-Jews (Gentiles) into the church membership and you can read about some of their disagreements in Paul's letters. Their preaching and teaching, their witness to Jesus as Lord, led them into all kinds of dangers; beatings, imprisonment and ultimately, death.

It's believed they were both martyred in Rome round about AD 64 during the persecutions ordered by the Emperor Nero; Paul, being a Roman citizen, would have been beheaded but Peter, again according to tradition, was crucified.

These two Saints, unlikely companions, nevertheless give us role models in perseverance and in faith and trust in God; excellent 'examples' for us to follow! Read more about it in the New Testament Gospels and The Acts of the Apostles!!! V.S.

The Garden in August

Lawns keep mowing.

Wild areas and mini wild flower meadows

When out walking around the village fringes look at the wild flowers - those that are growing happily like the soil that we have. On the Lopham Road just past the houses is particularly rich, I counted 23 species in flower - more if you count the nettles, brambles and grasses.

I have just returned from the Ashdown Forest (not a million miles from here), and it was noticeable that some of the flowers were very different. Lesson - plant seeds that like your soil and leave mother nature to do the rest.

Shrubs Take semi-ripe cuttings (base of stems just hardening and turning brown)

Herb Cuttings A good time to take semi ripe cuttings of the woody herbs - thyme, sage rosemary etc

Hedges Cutting can continue .

Roses Keep dead heading repeat flowering varieties. Single flowering varieties can be left unpruned to set rosehips for autumn colour.

Annuals Keep bedding displays watered in warm weather - they generally don't have very extensive roots. In baskets and containers they need watering daily in warm weather, feed weekly with a high potassium feed eg tomato fertiliser

Perennials including Dahlias Keep deadheading unless you want to keep the seed heads for the birds.

Fruit Cut back summer fruits. Blackcurrants can be pruned hard, with next year's fruit being mainly on the new growth. Select a few new canes from each raspberry and tie to wires for next year's fruit, cut the rest down to the ground.

Look out for fungal disease on apples, pears and plums. Remove and bin any affected fruit to prevent spreading. Don't put affected fruit in your home compost heat - they are ok in the brown bin if you have one -

commercial composting is at a higher temperature than you can achieve,

Vegetables Lift second early potatoes as needed.

Put a couple of egg sized potatoes in large pots or old buckets with holes in the bottom, cover tubers with a thin layer of compost, and as the shoots appear keep topping up the compost. Keep watered and move somewhere frost free but light when it gets colder - should still provide a few small potatoes around Christmas.

If you have any seed left plant a few climbing French beans to grow through existing climbing beans - if the weather is kind you will get a few beans right through into late autumn.

Relaxation Most days you should be able to sit in the garden and drink your morning coffee and/or your evening glass of wine remember why gardens are so precious.

Good gardening

Kevin

Calling all residents and readers of the magazine Please write a piece for publication

As June (hopefully) heralds the start of more freedom, I would like to create some local articles by inviting readers to send in short notes of around 50 words or so to let us know how Covid-19 has affected one of the four following categories in your lives:

- 1. Your holiday plans for this year now that restrictions on travel seem to be easing.
- 2. Your homes – have you redecorated, done a bit of DIY or bought new furniture?
- 3. Your home-based exercise – have you redone your gardens? Taken up walking? Running? Cycling?
- 4. Have any significant relationships come out of lockdown?

It might be fun for our readers to have the chance to share what Covid-19 has done to you or for you! Please email the Editor at the usual CONTACT address.

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At present the weather is not quite so good for outdoor activities during the summer holidays so now may be the time for all budding artists to prepare their entry for the "Christmas Card Competition" Under the theme "Hoping for Hugs at Christmas".

Further details, on our facebook page- Friends of East Harling Church, Nextdoor Harling, posters around the village or via email; eastharlingchurchfriends@gmail.com

Royal British Legion: East Harling and District Branch

With great sadness and reluctance the Chairman (Robin Knowles) is officially requesting that the Branch go into abeyance. This is the result of financial difficulties, very low membership numbers, and the mass resignation of the Officers and Committee Members. It is hoped that the Branch Standard can be retained and paraded by Gary Yardley, previously the Vice Chairman and Standard Bearer. In the absence of the Branch he will become a national Legion member.

Thank you all for your support of this Royal British Legion Branch over the decades.
Branch Secretary Carole Adams



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News from the Beeches Care Home in East Harling

Our residents have had a busy month of crafts, quizzes and chocolate tasting. They also had a go at holding their own Scalextric F1 tournament and had great fun racing the cars around the track even if one or two cars went flying!

We have also had our first live entertainer in over a year! Residents got to enjoy a live Elvis impersonator who performed for our residents live in the garden. We all thought how nice it was to have something different and enjoyed singing and dancing along.



We will soon be welcoming other entertainers as well as Mr Dod who does chair-exercise with our residents.

On top of this we will be visited by East Harling Church who will be performing an outside service for our residents. Everybody here is very excited to be able to get make to some level of normality and is making the most of what they can.



The top 7 easy to grow plants for your garden

It's easy to be seduced by descriptions of plants in nursery catalogues and on the websites of plant suppliers. Who wouldn't be tempted by a plant that 'grows anywhere' and 'flowers all summer long'? In fact, such all-singing and all-dancing plants are as rare as hens' teeth, and even plants with a single one of such attributes are thin on the ground. But low maintenance plants do exist, and by carefully selecting hard-working plants, there should never be a dull moment in the border.

Many studies have shown the calming effects of being in green environments; it has even been shown to increase reading ability. Plants are also the solid foundation of the food chain... Where there are plants there is shelter and food for many creatures, they home in on it. If those plants are topped with a colourful explosion of flowers, fruits berries and seeds that will boost the wildlife in your garden even more.

Here are seven easy to grow plants that you can find in any garden centre and which we guarantee will be visited by lots of lovely pollinating insects if you plant them in a sunny, sheltered position. All (except the foxglove) are perennials – they keep coming back year after year. Each plant should take no more than 15 minutes a year to look after – a once a year prune and a bit of water in hot weather is all it takes.

One – Lavender



Brilliant for bees. Grows to about 60cm (2ft) tall and the same wide. They do well in dry, rubbish soil- just don't overwater them, as they do not like their feet in water. To look after it, just trim the ends of all the stems in early spring. RHS recommends *Lavendula angustifolia* "Hidcote".

Two – Marjoram

Great for bees; even better for butterflies. Grows to about 30cm (1 ft) tall and over time forms a clump. You might find it labelled Oregano. In spring, cut back all the stems that flowered the year before.

Three – Catmint

Often labelled Nepeta. It forms a low, loose mound of foliage about 45cm (1.5ft) high. Two common ones are Walker's Low, and Six Hills Giant. Let them flower in summer, then cut back to the base in July as they start to go straggly (you can be tough with your love!) and it will sprout again from the base.

Four – *Verbena bonariensis* – grows slender wiry stems with clusters of lilac flowers on top which butterflies love. Leave the flower heads once finished as Finches will eat the seeds. Those that fall to the ground will germinate and give you new plants. Prune to the base in early spring.

Five – Foxglove *Digitalis*

With tall flower spikes and purple, pink and white flowers. Remember, many Foxgloves are biennials – they germinate in year one, form a rosette of leaves, then flower in year two and die, but they will produce loads of tiny seeds for you to gather and scatter.

Six – *Helenium* with daisy flowers in flaming reds and yellows about 60cm (2ft) high, which will have the bees flocking. A common variety is Sahin's Early Flowerer, but any will do. Cut back last year's flowering stems in early spring. Water well in hot, dry weather.

Seven – Hardy Geraniums – they have mounds of lovely leaves about 30 – 45 cm (1.5 ft high) and hundreds of large simple flowers in shades of blue, purple and pink, perfect for bumble bees. Some varieties flower for weeks and weeks. Look for varieties such as *Geranium Rozanne*, which was voted RHS Chelsea Flower Show's 'Plant of the Centenary'. This long-flowering, hardy geranium is smothered with violet flowers from May until the first frosts. Although it will tolerate most soils that are not waterlogged, and will grow in either deep shade or blistering sun, it flowers most prolifically in good soil in part-shade.



Geranium x magnificentum, *Geranium sanguineum*. Just like catmints, most can be cut back hard straight after flowering and will happily grow back and probably flower again.

A few handy hints:-

Growing plants in pots is more challenging than in the ground. They need more watering, feeding and will not grow as strongly. If you can only grow plants in pots, go for it! If you can get plant's roots into the soil it will make life easier.

Avoid flowers with lots of rings of petals – they are called "doubles" and they often don't have the vital nectar and pollen that insects need.

Plant a tree! They are easier to grow than most plants. Buy them small which makes them cheaper and easier to get established. Choose carefully, make sure the final size will fit in your space. **See the article on page 16**

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Trees for small gardens

There is room in almost every garden for a tree to help turn around mankind's damage to the environment. Obviously if you are in a new house with a tiny garden you don't want to plant an oak tree that will last 1,000 years (probably 10 times as long as the house) and grow upwards of 100 feet (30 metres).

If space is very limited shrubs and indeed all plants have some beneficial effect on the environment. Walk around the village and look at what is growing in some of the more established gardens and you may be inspired, and also see many examples of the right tree in the wrong place! (You still want to be able to see out of your windows in a few years' time).

The best time to plant trees in the garden is late autumn to late winter when bare rooted (i.e. not in a pot) trees are available at a fraction of the price of pot grown ones. Plant when weather is reasonably mild so as not to dig frost into the soil.

A small selection of the many trees that can be grown: The variety name is important – for example *Catalpa bignoides* (Indian Bean) grows to about 60ft (20m) whereas *Catalpa bignoides nana* reaches only 10ft (3m). Generally the word nana in a plant name signifies dwarf. If in doubt ask the nursery/garden centre, and if they can't tell you go somewhere else. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) website is a mine of useful (and reliable) information.

Cornus Kouza height to 15 feet (6m) see July CONTACT for a picture of my half grown one.

Malus various- crab apple: generally up to 20 feet (7m) but often available on dwarf rootstock – see below.



The picture shows the crab apple *Malus Red Sentinel*. Other varieties are Butterball; Everest (red leaves and fruit); Golden Hornet (good for Jelly).

Cercis canadensis (Forest Pansy) pictured below,



and Cercis siliquastrum very slow growing 15ft (5m) (picture in CONTACT last month)

Cercis chinensis Avondale 10 ft (3m) elder including decorative lace-leaved red or green.

Sambucus nigra (elderberry). As well as the wild form we are all familiar with there are many ornamental varieties eg Green Lace, Golden Tower, Black Lace all of which have finely cut leaves in various colours generally growing to around 10ft (3m)

Sorbus aucuparia (rowan, mountain ash, witch tree) to 40ft(12m) but many smaller varieties now available with red or yellow berries.

Naturally slow growing dwarf conifers

Grafted weeping trees eg Goat or Kilmarnock willow. In general grafted weeping trees will fill out but not generally grow upwards (not to be confused with naturally occurring weeping trees like weeping birch and weeping willow!)

Some more exotic trees

Olive Oleus Europea (Buy UK grown stock to avoid importing diseases which are becoming a major problem in some parts of Europe.) Easily pruned and kept to a bush, mine flowers but so far haven't fruited, but who knows with global warming!

Fruit trees on dwarf rooting stock

Left to grow naturally an apple tree grown from a pip will grow to 15-20 feet (5-6m) and Cherries, pears and plums grow even higher. These trees look majestic in an old garden setting but are difficult to harvest and not practical for small gardens (or even commercial orchards nowadays). For this reason most fruit trees are now grafted onto rootstock (the roots of smaller growing related species), Apple rootstocks were developed from the early 20th century at the East Malling Research Station (rootstocks being M followed by a number. From about 1917 Malling collaborated with the John Innes Institute – then at Merton Park in Surrey to improve disease resistance giving rise to the Malling Merton Group (rootstocks being MM followed by a number.

Approximate ultimate sizes:

M27	5-7ft	1.5-2m
M9	6-9ft	1.8-2.5m
M26	7-10ft	2-3m

M116, MM106 & MM111 are 8-15ft, or 2.5-4.5m. It is therefore important to check the rootstock when buying a fruit tree. Details of rootstocks for other types of fruit trees are easy to find on line, or garden centres and nurseries will advise. (Beware some online nurseries will tell you the height after 10 years which may in some cases be substantially less than the ultimate height!).

I hope this short piece has wetted your appetite and inspired you to think again if you thought you couldn't plant a tree in "your small space". With a bit of research you should be able to find something suitable. For good advice and quality trees see <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trees> and an excellent source of good quality grown trees can be found at Hilliers Nurseries <https://www.hillier.co.uk/garden-and-home-ideas/trees-for-your-own-garden/> 16

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What do you consider to be ‘beautiful countryside’?

According to Natural England, thorny scrubs and floodplains should be seen as more beautiful than manicured fields.

Tony Juniper, chair of Natural England, which is the government’s adviser for the natural environment, has said a ‘cultural revolution’ is necessary to help people appreciate the beauty of a messy countryside. He strongly supports the increasing popularity of ‘rewilding’ projects which have become a popular way for land managers to give nature a chance. He believes that rewilding can help to heal degraded landscapes and provide better habitat for wildlife.

Tony Juniper has said that the “orderliness” of much of our British countryside, with neat stone walls, sheep-grazed fields and villages has often created “ecological deserts” for wildlife, who starve. “To ensure our future security, it will be necessary for us to let nature take back some control.”

A post-Brexit plan to reward farmers and other land managers for improving water quality and helping plants and wildlife is expected to replace the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy.

News from Brettenham

Where has this month gone? I really can’t believe that we are being encouraged to think about Autumn and next Spring. I am sure some of us, will have been tempted to purchase various flowers and bulbs that are catching our eyes in the numerous glossy garden publications & catalogues that seem to keep appearing through the post.

What a joy the gardens have been in the past few weeks, having benefited from the rain, but please no more, we have had enough. The sun needs to shine to bring warmth to encourage the buds to open, especially the more exotic species before they are pruned back to get into the greenhouse for protection over the winter period- not something I really look forward to doing.

The Church sadly, is still closed, except for exceptional circumstances and celebrations. This we had with a beautiful wedding held at the end of June. Although the day was rather cloudy, the afternoon proved to be a lovely one with the sun shining brightly through the stained-glass windows. It made the occasion even more special and was an added delight for the limited numbers that could be present. We offer our best wishes to the couple and wish them a long and happy marriage and of course it would be great to see them back in the village in the future.

Life on the farm has, as usual, been rather challenging. We had the period of hot weather when typically, no crops were fit enough to combine and then as the cereal and grass seed fields were ripening, down came the rain. Pennies from heaven as far as the sugar beet were concerned, as they were beginning to wilt a little more each day in the scorching heat but certainly very frustrating for the cereal harvest reapers. Just

remember it won’t be many weeks until the sugar beet Lorries are back on the roads and your journey to Bury St Edmunds will include noticing the processing plant back in action.

One day when combining was underway, unfortunately we had to have the fire service out to the farm to deal with a small fire on one of the fields, thankfully it was not major and with the bonus of the use of the water bowser on another field close by, the fire was soon extinguished and none of the crop lost. It makes you realise, once again, how the flints and machinery can soon become a ‘touch paper’ for incidents such as this and the power of the sun during the height of the summer months. Nature really is a wonder and something I am sure that we are not paying enough attention to - something we can all try to consider in these difficult and trying times as we start to ‘open up’ our worlds and the restrictions begin to be lifted.



Plant life has been of interest as well. Peter was able to come across this beautiful orchid in the lawn and we are delighted that the weed we mentioned last year – Common Cudweed is growing in the Church path, so keep looking when you visit, or you might even have noticed it growing in various other areas, we do hope so.

We were delighted that earlier in the season we had various nests of the curlew family hatch in different places across the farm and fingers crossed, we hope they will return in 2022. There have been several buzzards in the vicinity, which still make me stop, watch, and listen to them as well as red kites flying around the woods and fields.

It is hoped that we may be able to hold a harvest thanksgiving service in September. The day and date are to be confirmed, please watch this space for further details as it would be great to welcome you into the Church again.

The church will be open for the annual bike ride and the kettle may be on, should anyone wish to visit us, and I am delighted that all being well we will have some riders out in the county as well – A first for Brettenham for many years.

In the meantime, enjoy your gardens and any vegetables that you may have grown, and I hope the slugs will allow you to relax in the evenings, unless of course you are on a bug hunt!!

Take care and keep safe, all good wishes *Peter & Mary*



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What is wrong with the UK property market?
(With apologies Editor)

People say that one of the most stressful experiences is moving house. We had decided it was time to downsize as we were now pensioners and not getting any younger! We would leave our lovely old village home dating to around 1850 to another younger family and move into a more manageable property to live in in retirement. Well, little did we know when we put our house on the market in September 2017 what a traumatic journey we were embarking on.

After packing up our house contents and putting it all in the garage we were presented for sale. Keeping the house tidy and clean we endured around 15 viewings, with comments like "the garden is too small", "it's too close to the road", and "the drive is not big enough".

Finally in the Spring of 2018 we received an offer from a couple who apparently loved it. It was way below the asking price but our estate agent advised that as they were cash buyers we should accept. Then a house buyers survey was done, and following this they decided to pull out! We obtained a copy of the survey which had lots of ifs, buts and maybes, but nothing serious in it. The surveyor's final comment was that at 25k below the asking price it was a good buy! We now believe that while "Mrs" loved it at the time, "Mr" was undecided and he had not thought their offer would be accepted!

Some more viewings followed but were tailing off so we decided to give ourselves a break for Christmas, and were still dithering about whether to put it back on the market again when we met our now estate agent at Doctor Paul's funeral. He advised us to get on with it! It went back on the market in the spring of 2019. We had lots of viewings throughout 2019 but no offers. Then in early 2020 Covid struck and the Chancellor made his announcement regarding the stamp duty holiday and suddenly everything went bonkers!

More viewings, all covid secure, and finally another buyer this time in a chain of six others! It took over three months for our buyers to get their finances sorted and approval from their building society surveyor. Another home buyer surveyor followed, this one with damp meter and camera in hand sticking his meter into everything and pronouncing damp in places we were not even aware of! The buyers loved the house but did not like the responsibility to maintain it. They pulled out, the chain collapsed, leaving not just us but five other families back at square one!

At this point we had lost two buyers as a result of house buyer surveys carried out by surveyors, who because of the contentious blame/claim society we live in are unable to write sensible reports and seem to be more concerned to cover themselves by pointing out what *could* happen not what had happened.

We decided to commission our own structural engineer to come and carry out a proper thorough survey who did advise on some improvements, which we carried out. He also said that there was no reason why a house that had stood for over 150 years would not still be standing in another 100 years' time if properly maintained. We finally sold again in March of 2021 with the agreement that the sale would be completed by 30th June 2021, the deadline for extension of the stamp duty holiday. Meantime we had agreed to purchase our new house again with the proviso of being able to complete by end of June 2021. It was touch and go right to the end, we did think at one point we would be out on the street! However we exchanged *and* completed on 30th June and all our professional advisors worked their socks off to make it happen!

I don't doubt many others have suffered worse than this and the whole point is it is *not necessary*. We badly need a change in the law to the same as that adopted in Scotland. There, once you have made an offer that is accepted there is no going back on the sale contract. This leads to much more considered viewing and honest surveys being carried out *before* an offer is made, and is gives certainty for both buyer and seller. Ed

An Appeal to Everyone living and working in and around East Harling from the Beeches Care Home

BLACK SWAN
Care Group

Help our residents maintain their connection to their community.

This is a shout out to our local community, businesses and groups based in and around East Harling to show our residents that they are not alone and are still very much part of the community.

Every year we have an annual summer fete however due to covid we are unable to invite the public. This year's summer fete will be rainbow themed in honour of all the keyworkers that have done such an amazing job. We are asking you to show your support and love for our residents and all those keyworkers by creating a rainbow paper chain. These will need to be dropped off at The Beeches by Saturday the 14th of August where we will then join them all together and measure how far our love as a village can reach. We look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together!

The Beeches, 1 West Harling Road, East Harling, NR16 2NP 01953 717584

Some ideas of what your church is planning to help us all come together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and we see this as an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

Our local Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes! Your local church is planning some celebrations, and we want to give you advance notice of one Special Event

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**SS Peter & Paul Church
East Harling
Will be hosting a
'Derby Day' Themed Afternoon Tea
On Saturday 4th June 2022**

More details to follow nearer the time.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

After a very difficult 15 months, St Peter & St Paul's Church is pleased to announce that we will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival of Light this December in our beautiful church. It will be something for everyone to look forward to, both in the village & beyond.

We would love local schools, clubs, groups, shops & businesses etc. to take part in this event by decorating their own tree. Each contributor will need to bring a tree, decorations & battery operated lights (there are not enough power points in & around the church). There is, however, plenty of room for lots of trees.

The church will be open for decorating the trees only on Wednesday, 8th December from 5pm, Thursday, 9th December between 9.30am - 6pm & Friday, 10th December between 9am - 12.30pm. The name of each contributor can be displayed beneath each tree.

Once all the trees are decorated & in place, the church will be open to everyone to visit, probably over 7 evenings, to enjoy seeing it all lit up. Viewing dates & times & further details will be announced soon so please keep an eye out!

If anyone has an artificial Christmas tree taking up room in their loft or shed, that is no longer used, please could we ask you to donate it to the church to be used in the festival, or better still come & decorate it yourself!

Please contact the churchwardens, Dorothy or Susan if you would like to participate. Alternatively please email harlingchurch@gmail.com. We have several participants already on our list, so please don't leave it too late to get in touch.



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12th August 2021 at the ABSOLUTE LATEST.

Please ensure that the sender's name and address or telephone number is included in all communications. Don't wait until the last day as we cannot guarantee last minute items will be printed.

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