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CONTACT DEADLINES

Submissions for the Mayissue of CONTACT to be delivered **no later than** Wednesday 15th April please, either to 63 Castle Rising Road, or emailed to the editor at penndoss@btinternet.com.

South Wootton distributors please collect your magazines from St Mary's on Friday 24th April.

North Wootton distributors please collect your magazines from All Saints on Friday 24^h April.

THE CHURCH IN THE WOOTTONS

All Saints, Manor Road, North Wootton, PE30 3PZ St Mary's, Church Lane, South Wootton, PE30 3LJ

Rector The Revd. Canon James Nash The Rectory, Castle Rising Rd 673742 email: james@churchinthewoottons.net

James' day off is Friday

Curate Rev. Dan Tansey 34 Castle Rising Rd 01553 390615 email: dan@churchinthewoottons.net mobile 07928 825060

Dan's day off is Friday

Associate Minister

The Revd. Canon Richard Bowett 636020 email: richardbowett@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Enquiries

For all enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals and for other reasons, please phone the Rectory on 01553 673742 or e-mail James at james@churchinthewoottons.net

Church website: www.churchinthewoottons.net
Office email: rectoryoffice@churchinthewoottons.net
Facebook: @churchinthewoottons



Churchwardens

All Saints, North Wootton and Breakfast at 10

Janet Keir 15 Castleacre Close 679300

email: jakeir@live.co.uk

Chester Noble 01553 409057

email: c.noble3@sky.com

Assistant Wardens

Jennifer Watts 20 Wheatley Drive 673820

email: ronald and jennifer watts @gmail.com

Moira Wesson 3 Thetford Way 278890

email: moirawesson@gmail.com

St Mary's, South Wootton

Jonathan Dossetor 63 Castle Rising Road 674022

email: jonathan.dossetor@btinternet.com

Angela Clarke 31 Avon Road 672145

email: a.whiles007@btinternet.com

Treasurer Glenis Lee please refer to the Rectory Office 673742

Mothers' Union **Contact** Judy Fuller 59 Baldock Drive 676833 **Flowers** All Saints Jacqui Woodgate 12 Gregory Close 671034 St Mary's please refer to the Rectory 673742 Parish Magazine (Contact) Editor Penny Dossetor 63 Castle Rising Road 674022 email: penndoss@btinternet.com **Subscription & Distribution:** North Wootton Alison Miller 631643 674022 South Wootton Penny Dossetor Christopher Moore 20 Burghley Road 675361 Advertising **Woottons Community Choir -** please refer to the Rectory Office 673742

A Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader

Normally I have not found it necessary to write an editorial introduction to the magazine, but of course these are not normal times.

As you will see in the following pages, most if not all of the activities usually announced here have been cancelled, including all Church services. Life as we know it seems to be on hold for the moment.

However, it is very heartening to see how quickly the community has come together to find ways to support those isolated at home or in need of help. On page 14 you will find a notice from North Wootton Parish Council with news of their initiative to make sure everyone knows where to find help if they need it. They will be distributing a newssheet with this information to all in the village of North Wootton in the very near future, very possibly before you read this. The Church in the Woottons is joining with them in this initiative and South Wootton Parish Council will probably come on board too very soon.

As Editor my main concern at first was how to fill the pages of the magazine. Now I see it more as an opportunity to invite you to send me articles about interesting things you have done, or ways you are finding to cope with social isolation. This month Dulcie Lofting has contributed a piece about her recent trip to India and her visit to the World Flower Show in Jaipur. It was clearly an amazing experience and Dulcie describes it all vividly. I hope that further episodes will follow! I am grateful to John Smallwood for his constant supply of local history articles - please see the one on page 13 about the Knights' Hill Development, to Nolan and Stella Mills for the weather reports and Nolan's occasional gardening articles and to Eddie Lyon for his Quizwords and other puzzles. But there is room for more, so please help me to make this truly a magazine for the Woottons, reflecting life in both our villages.

Penny Dossetor

To The Church in the Woottons



I am sorry to have to announce that our Sunday services are cancelled with immediate effect and until further notice. This sounds terrible doesn't it? Everything is moving so fast, and developing in so many unexpected ways that is it difficult to keep up and make sense of what is happening.

Please be assured that Dan and I will continue to pray in church and be available to you all. You can contact us by phone, email and on our Facebook page, where you will find some recorded services among other things. We can arrange small meetings too. We will be working hard over the next few days developing ways in which we can continue to serve you through phone calls, messages and maybe even video links.

All mid-week activities have ceased for the time being including:

- 1. The Lent Lunches.
- 2. The APCM due on 29th March is cancelled
- 3. The Prayer Weekend due on 28/29th March is cancelled
- 4. The Course on Prayer
- 5. All music practices
- 6. The Thursday House Group
- 7. The Thursday Drop in
- 8. Friendship Coffee Mornings
- 9. The Gathered Holy Communion.

Please note: Canon James and the Revd. Dan Tansey will continue to meet for a Prayer Meeting in the Mornings at 8.30am

Monday 8.30am at St. Mary's Church Tuesday 8.30am at St. Mary's Church Wednesday 8.30am at All Saints Church Thursday 8.30am at All Saints Church

James and Dan also intend to be present in our churches at times on Sundays

We will think of ways to encourage everyone to pray anyway over the "Prayer Weekend" even if we cannot actually be together physically. I'm sure the Holy Spirit will sort that bit out.

We offer thanks to those of you who have supported the Lent Lunches so far and pay tribute to those of you who have already started to preparing to host us during the remaining Fridays – we're sorry we can't be with you to enjoy delicious soup, bread, cheese and company!

Please remember that God is with us wherever we are – His presence is more important than any particular place of worship. We will continue to care for our wonderful church buildings and they will be kept open during the day as usual. Please feel free to pop into them at any time.

We will all face many challenges in the coming days, weeks and months – but we have strength in our faith in God, and strength in the love we share as members of his Church.

James



Queen Elizabeth Hospital QEH

News from Stella Green - Hospital Chaplain

Just making contact with regard to the QEH Chaplaincy and the Covid-19 outbreak. The hospital is gearing up to face this challenge, and their plans are well in place. As you know, the hospital has asked the public not to come into the hospital to visit patients, except for new-borns, children and those nearing the end of life. Only those outpatients who have cancer, whose treatment is urgent, or who have been on a waiting list for a long time are still coming in for appointments. Other outpatient appointments and elective surgery are being stopped for now, and affected people should expect to receive a phone call.

From a Chaplaincy point of view, we have taken the decision to suspend Sunday services in the Sacred Space for the time being.

Although strenuous hygiene measures are in place, with so many people coming and going, the hospital must be a higher-risk area, and we need to allay people's fears of being together. Instead, the Chaplains will be focussing on visiting patients and bringing them Holy Communion by the bedside. I'm sure, after the expected rise in cases, we will be able to resume Sunday services, but I don't know at this stage when that will be. I'm guessing at 2-3 months in any case, possibly longer. We shall have to wait and see.

We have 5 cases of confirmed Covid-19 patients at the moment, and they are all in isolation. So if church members are concerned about anyone they know who is in hospital at the moment, there is no contact between these Covid-19 people and ordinary patients. The main risk to ordinary hospital patients is from visitors, which is why the hospital have requested they don't come in.

If local clergy would like us to visit any of their parishioners who are currently in hospital, of course we're more than happy to do so. Please just call us on 01553 613441 (direct line) and leave us their names, and we will do that for you. If any of us go down with the virus, I may be back in touch with you to ask for a bit of help, but we're ok for the moment.

In the meantime, the hospital is expected to come under a great deal of pressure as cases of Covid-19 increase, so please be mindful of any hospital staff you have in your congregations, and say a prayer for us..

THE PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a means by which a few church members pray about other people's personal needs in confidence. If you know of anyone in urgent need of prayer, please contact the Rectory (673742).



A Letter from James Time on your hands? Worry filling you mind? Do what you can do.

For all of us, our lives have changed in ways that were unimaginable only a few months ago. Without exaggeration we can say that, even on a global scale, nothing will be quite the same ever again. As individuals we are not free to meet family and friends – unless they are on our doorstep, and unless we are able to observe the social distancing guidelines. Work is very much on hold for many of us, and the availability of so much that we have taken for granted is precarious – to say the least. I and my colleague Dan are doing most of what we normally do in our leadership and care of The Church in the Woottons by phone, email and social media. The flock in our care is not at liberty to gather together, and this is strange and sometimes even disturbing.

Governments, industries, economies, communities and even whole societies around the world will undergo profound change, – and all of these things will need rebuilding. The balance of power in the world will shift I could go on – and on and on.

One of the many lessons we have been forced to learn with the emergence of Coronavirus COVID 19 is that there is so much that is beyond our control, the control of others, the control of governments and agencies - there is so much that is beyond human control.

What can we do? What am I doing? Well, I've been by my phones and computers, more than I can ever remember, keeping in touch with people near and far. And I've been thinking hard and talking with lots of people about the best ways to adapt to the changes that have been forced upon us.

But I have got time on my hands. I have got out into my garden earlier in the season than ever before. Indoors we are are tackling nooks and crannies and even whole rooms that are long overdue for a sort out, tidy up and clean. Chores apart I have got time to listen to more music that I usually can and to take some photographs that have been crying out for my camera to see and snap for too long.

More importantly, for my faith and profession, I have got more time to pray. And I am praying, those in my household are praying and the church I am part of is praying. What do I personally mean by prayer? Well I am spending more time in the presence of God. I am seeking him in the silence, through the words of the Bible and in the words of other people. What am I praying for? I am praying for protection for everyone I know. I am praying for wisdom for myself and for key decision makers in every walk of life. And I am praying that God will use the current global crisis to allow more just, true and even loving governments, economies and societies to emerge, flourish and grow. I am praying for our world to become a better place.

God bless you, take care and stay safe

James



For our next meeting we had planned an outing to Fakenham Garden Centre on Wednesday April 29th but this is now unlikely to go ahead because of the restrictions imposed to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

We will keep everyone informed about this and future meetings as things become clearer.

Judy Fuller 676833



A plea for help from the King's Lynn Foodbank Volunteers needed – a request from Helen – Centre Manager

We are trying to keep the Foodbank provision going as well as we can to ensure that those who are in greatest need can get through the coming weeks and months. As you know, we rely a great deal on our lovely team of volunteers to pack and hand out the food parcels.

Unfortunately, the majority of our team are unable to come in as they are in the high risk category either by virtue of their age or their health. This means that we are VERY short of people to ensure that the Foodbank provision can continue, especially at a time when more people are likely to need the food we provide.

Therefore, I am emailing to ask if any of you who are not in the high-risk category would be able to come and help us, to please get in touch by email or phone and let us know which day or days you would be able to help:

info@kingslynn.foodbank.org.uk **07582 558143** We normally open Monday - Friday 12:30-2:30pm

Please pray for the Foodbank - for protection of our health, and for strength and stamina to ensure that as many people as possible get the help they need.

A Prayer for the World at Eastertide

Almighty God, creator of the planet which we inhabit, we implore you to use your mighty power to help us limit, and finally to banish, the virus which is having such a dramatic effect on people everywhere.



In the midst of turmoil, may we find space on Good Friday to remember the sacrifice of your Son Jesus Christ on our behalf and on Easter Day to celebrate his glorious resurrection which provides us with hope for the future. Amen.

NORTH WOOTTON WI

Thanks to COVID-19 we have had to suspend all future meetings until further notice. We hope everyone will keep well and safe.

Contact: Pat Goodall 671619 or www.northwoottonwi.weebly.com

SOUTH WOOTTON EVENING WI

Due to the restrictions being imposed because of the spread of COVID-19, our April meeting and all future meetings are cancelled until further notice.

For further details contact Sharon Kerr 672455.

West Norfolk Association of the National Trust

The meeting planned for 22nd March had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak, and it is most likely that the meetings scheduled for April and the AGM in May will also have to be cancelled.

For further information please visit the website at www.westnorfolknationaltrust.org.uk.

Making Gardening Easier

Sadly coronavirus has put a stop to future meetings of our group for the time being.

I will let you know when we are able to start again.

Gloria Pantling (01553 671912).



WOOTTON CRAFTERS

Mondays - 10.30am till 12.30pm Scouts & Guides HQ, Station Road, North Wootton

In the light of the current restrictions imposed by the outbreak of COVID-19, Wootton Crafters are suspending their meetings for the moment, but are busy crafting at home.

Samples of their work can be seen on their Facebook page.

For more information contact <u>Woottoncrafters@gmail.com</u> **or** phone 07930 998 177



Weather in South Wootton for February By Nolan and Stella Mills



The rainfall was **80.5mm**, the fifth consecutive month with above normal rain (our average for February since 2000 is 44.8mm). It was not our wettest February (in 2010 there were 82mm). Snow fell on 10th, fortunately it did not settle on the roads and pavements and soon disappeared the following day.

The warmest day was on the 9^{th} when the temperature reached $14^{\circ}C$; the coldest early mornings were on the 6^{th} and 28^{th} with a minimum of $0^{\circ}C$.

The main feature of the month was the wind - three named storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge – each occurring on weekends. Ciara was the worst for our area with fences and trees brought down. A gust of 71mph was recorded at RAF Marham.



Waiting to see his image

A verse in the Old Testament book of Malachi puzzled some women in their Bible Study. It says, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." The members wondered what the statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at a future meeting. She called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, simply her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames were hottest, to burn away all the impurities. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man confirmed he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was fascinated and she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - it's when I see my image in it."

From the Forum for Church Editors

From the Parish Registers



<u>FUNERALS</u> We give thanks for the life and offer condolences to the family and friends of

BRIAN JOHN HOUSDEN (84) Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's on 11th March JOYCE GUY (94) at Mintlyn Crematorium on 11th March WILLIAM (BILL) HARRY WILBRAHAM (82) at All Saints on 16th March SHEILA FARNOL (96) at Mintlyn Crematorium on 18th March SYLVIA EMMA BACKHAM (90) at Mintlyn Crematorium on 26th March

Please note

The funerals listed on this page are mainly those at which our clergy have officiated, which is why they appear in our registers. However, if anyone in the Woottons would like such a notice to be included here, please contact the Rectory office (673742).

Friendship Coffee Mornings



Moira and Mike Wesson made us very welcome in March. It was lovely to see two new faces and to meet up again with old friends to exchange news and views. We normally meet from 10.30 am to 12 noon on the second Thursday of every month at a different location each time. There are usually around twenty

people who gather for a chat and refreshments and they are always friendly, happy events.

However, sadly there will not be a coffee morning in April, nor perhaps for several months because of the coronavirus. They will resume as soon as they are deemed to be safe.

Gloria Pantling 01553 671912 / 07570262766/ gloriapantling@btinternet.com.



CHRISTIAN AID IN 2020

Christian Aid Week will run from **May 10 to 16 May**, not 18-26 as previously published, but we still need to hear from any one in The Woottons who could help.

Julian Bryant, the Area Organiser for Christian Aid, will be speaking at All Saints on 26 April when donation envelopes will be available for us to contribute to the essential work which Christian Aid does. Please speak to Angela Clarke on 672145 or Jennifer Watts on 673820 to offer help.

This is presuming that it will go ahead despite the coronavirus outbreak, although this must be in doubt. More news next month

NORTH WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL

Following the government's recent advice regarding COVID-19, the Village Hall Management Committee have made the decision to:

- CANCEL the Village Market in March and April
- CANCEL Bingo in March and April
- POSTPONE the Spring Fair and hold this on a future date to be announced
- POSTPONE the Fish and Chips Quiz Night and hold this on a future date to be announced
- POSTPONE the VE Day Party until VJ Day in August

Antony Lamb antony@northwoottonvillagehall.org.uk



News from the Purfleet Trust Coping with coronavirus prevention measures

While the current restrictions are in place the Day Centre at Pathway House in Austin Fields will remain open for clients who have nowhere else to go. The Borough Council has requested that the opening hours be extended to 8am to 8pm seven days a week, and is providing support to make this possible. While the normal activities have had to be suspended, clients will still be able to have hot meals and use the Centre's facilities.

Anyone attending the Centre has their temperature taken by a person on Reception and are required to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and to use hand sanitiser regularly.

Only essential visitors will be admitted to the Centre while the crisis lasts.

A welfare check support line has been set up so that staff can make sure that all their clients are safe, and a range of online activities is being explored. Food parcels will also be prepared and delivered for those clients who need them. Paula Hall, the Chief Executive, is immensely proud of the way her staff have responded to the situation and of their commitment to their clients.

The Trust is linking up with all the local support organisations, including Merchants Terrace, the Benjamin Foundation and the YMCA and is working closely with the Winter Night Shelter and the Foodbank. For the time being any donations of food should be given to the Foodbank rather than to the Purfleet Trust.

THE ARTS SOCIETY, KING'S LYNN

The Arts Society King's Lynn has cancelled its April and May lectures due to the COVID - 19 situation. We hope to recommence our activities in September and wish everyone well in the intervening period.

What goes on in the Woottons - usually, but not at the moment

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

South Wootton Pre-school - meets every day during term-time in South Wootton Village Hall with three whole day and two morning sessions. Contact Jane Taggart on 07780 516608.

North Wootton Pre-School - St Augustine's Way, near North Wootton Primary School. Contact 675761.

Lodge Cottage Nursery School - Manor Road, North Wootton, opens every day from 8.30am to 4pm. Contact Joanna Hammond 631263.

Guiding - Rainbows (5 - 7 years), Brownies (7-10) and Guides (10 and upwards) all meet at the HQ in Station Road, North Wootton. Contact Vicki Fletcher 674767.

Scouting - Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10½) and Scouts all meet at the HQ in Station Road, North Wootton. Contact Vanessa Tuck 674646.

FOR WOMEN

A Ladies' Group meets at the Methodist Chapel on Peppers Green on alternate Tuesdays at 2.00-3.30 pm to socialise and listen to speakers on a variety of subjects. Contact Valerie Thurston on 670540.

North Wootton WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1.30 pm in North Wootton Scout & Guide Headquarters in Station Road. Contact Pat Goodall on 671619.

www.northwoottonwi.weebly.com

South Wootton Evening WI meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm in South Wootton Village Hall. Contact Rita Crown on 631562.

Knit and Chat meets alternate Mondays from 2-4pm at South Wootton Methodist Chapel. Enjoy a cup of tea and make new friends - knitting not essential! Contact Liz Houseden on 671952.

FOR MEN

King's Lynn Rural Probus Club Meet weekly on Thursdays at 10.30 am at Knights' Hill Hotel, except for first Thursday of the month when we meet at 12.30 for 1pm for lunch with a speaker. Contact Alan Ashcroft on 674977.

The Probus Club of King's Lynn meets weekly for coffee at 10.15 am on Wednesdays at the Swan, Nursery Lane, except the third Wednesday each month when we meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm for lunch with a speaker. Contact Ivan Jordan on 670228.

FOR OLDER PEOPLE

KL & West Norfolk Parkinson's Support Group monthly on third Thursday 2.30 to 4.30 m at the 12th King's Lynn Scout HQ, Beulah Street, off Wootton Road. Contact Janet Elvin on 672531.

Methodist Chapel coffee mornings first Wednesday of the month (except January) From 10.00 am to 11.30 am in the Methodist Chapel, Peppers Green. Various stalls. All welcome. Contact Phyllis Bowman on 671288.

Over 50s Dance Class meets Fridays from 9.30-10.15am ar Studio 19, 11 Bergen Way, PE30 4BU. Contact 07794689142 or email info@studio19uk.com

SPORT and RECREATION

The Woottons Football Club: for details visit www.clubwebsite.co.uk/thewoottons/

West Norfolk Rugby Club: for details visit www.westnorfolkrugby.com

Wootton Park Bowls Club: contact Vernon Hudson on 675353.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Bridge Club meets Mondays at 7pm in South Wootton Village Hall. Contact Michael Whiting on 631610.

The Woottons Bridge Club - our friendly club meets every Tuesday at 6.45pm sharp in South Wootton Village Hall. Visitors and new members very welcome. Contact Marie Brewer on 07890 574866 or mariebrewer666@gmail.com

Making Gardening Easier meets on the third Friday of the month at 2pm. Contact Gloria Pantling on 671912.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Flower Clubs meet on the first & second Wednesdays at 2pm & 7.30 pm respectively. Contact Dulcie Lofting 675853 for WN & Irene Laws 671312 for KL Clubs.

South Wootton in Bloom

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month in South Wootton Parish Meeting Room at 7pm. Contact Margaret Albinson 670241.

North Wootton Village Hall

Village Market third Saturday 9am-2pm. Bingo last Thursday of the month 7pm.

Wootton Crafters meet twice monthly on a Monday morning at the Scout and Guide HQ. Contact woottoncrafters@gmail.com

Lent Lunches 2020

Our Lent lunch programme got off to a good start, but unfortunately has had to be called to a halt halfway through because of the coronavirus outbreak. However, three lunches took place and thanks to the generosity of those attending a sum of over £400 was raised, which will be split between the Diocesan Lent Appeal and the local branch of CAP (Christians against Poverty).



As always the lunches were about much more than raising money - they have proved to be very enjoyable social occasions, giving people an opportunity to get to know one another better and sometimes to meet new people, all over a bowl or two of delicious homemade soup with bread and cheese.



The last lunch took place at the Rectory in their spacious conservatory and James Nash took these photos, which give a flavour of the event.

We hope that normal service will be resumed next year, and that coronavirus will be history by then.

Penny Dossetor

The Knights Hill issue - a historian's perspective

By the time you read this History Page the outcome of the Public Enquiry into whether houses should be built on Knights Hill will probably have been determined. It is not my intention to enter into the merits or otherwise of the arguments on both sides but simply to explain the background to what has gone on.

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of Local Government. They can and do influence the outcome of Planning Applications but the power to say yes or no to a particular application rests with the District (or, in our case, with the Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk) and, on Highways matters, with the County Council. These Local Authorities in turn must abide by Government Policy.

At the time when Knights Hill became part of the plan for additional Local Housing, any area offered by its owners for development was included in the Borough Plan with the consequence that South Wootton, as the Parish closest to the eastern boundary of Kings Lynn, was drastically affected in order to meet the target set for additional housing in the Borough. The same process took place in parishes further up the coast and, to the south, along the A10 corridor. It eventually emerged that the amount of land in the Borough offered, accepted and allocated to for housing, exceeded what was required. In the meantime the development company responsible for Knights Hill had drawn up detailed proposals for the 600 houses to be built and funded an archaeological investigation. In 2018 one complication emerged. The road plan for the development as first planned envisaged traffic entering via one roundabout and exiting via a road emerging from the 'Clayland' development, lower down the slope. Clayland's plan, however, envisages a 'stand alone' estate with no linking road. Its proposals have been accepted by the Borough, albeit by just one vote.

From the start South Wootton Parish Council, while disliking the prospect of any development on the hill had to accept the fact that apart from a strip of land transferred into the parish from Roydon when the A149 Bypass was built, the area lay either in Castle Rising or in what had once been Gaywood Parish. All in the end we could do was, in reality, try to reduce the number of properties allowed and thus the impact. This was the situation before a groundswell of public opinion persuaded the Borough to change its policy and oppose the entire plan.

I attended the second morning of the public enquiry which was devoted to heritage issues. The heritage case against the proposed development largely lay in the claim, on behalf of the Rising estate, that a planned medieval landscape would be destroyed. The 15th century, when the lodge was built, was dominated by the dynastic struggle between Lancastrians and Yorkists.

The income from rabbits was an important component in the income that the Lords of Rising derived from their rights on the 'Chase' the bounds of which included the Woottons, Bawsey, Gaywood and much of Lynn. The 'Warreners Lodge was sited on what is now Knights Hill so as to be overlooked by the Castle. From the Lodge itself there would have been an uninterrupted view of most of the 'Chase' including Bawsey, yet to be depopulated. Although the Lodge itself is now engulfed in Knights Hill 'Village' a local example of a 'Lodge' may be seen and visited close to the Thetford bypass.

John Smallwood



Our Community:

here for each other.
Village Hall, Parish Council and Church are coming together now to be:

'North Wootton Helping Hands'

(Trying to keep our community safer)

Do you need help?

(shopping, urgent needs, dog walking, some advice perhaps)

or just need **to speak to someone** at any time during this Coronavirus pandemic?

<u>Can you help?</u> (Volunteers): anyone who is fit, under 55, healthy, contactable, with some time to spare and willing *to help others* - we'd love to hear from you **now**.

We are sharing ideas about what we can do as things develop during this crisis.

It might be possible to manage a system for available help by having a resident representative in each street with some whole village coordination.

Contact us:- if you can help, need help, or are concerned for a neighbour.

Telephone: 631939

If no reply try this mobile Number (or ring back later): - 07757 236687

The Church in The Woottons (Church of England): Rev. James Nash: 673742

These numbers are local volunteer contacts and they do not in any way replace Government advice or our local surgery and of course the NHS medical assistance and advice line: 111.

Don't forget: — 'social distancing' is so important. It means keeping away from other people by preferably 2 metres or more; **SO KEEP SAFE** and that will **help others to KEEP SAFE too**. Avoid gatherings of any kind. Without keeping distance from each other the virus has every opportunity to spread.... and it will!

Look out for neighbours who may be self-isolating. They may be ill, or over 70 years of age or have an underlying health condition, or a combination of these.

With your assistance we will try to get to know who in the community may need help.

Keep your distance and wash your hands thoroughly and regularly

INDIA UNWRAPPED

As normality seems to be collapsing around us, Penny, our hard working editor, has asked me to tell you a story of a land far away, full of colour and tradition. Join me on a cultural and floral journey through Northern India, with its plethora of sights, sounds and sensory overload!

As many of you will know, I am a gardener and flower arranger by inclination and have travelled far and wide in search of the perfect bloom! On my travels I have taken to writing a travel blog, predominantly for family and friends at home, recording my thoughts and feelings on the places I have visited. Every three years, the World Association of Floral Artists organise a show, usually in some distant part of the world and encourage members worldwide to attend. There are competitions, workshops, talks and demonstrations all reflecting the host country. This February India was to be the destination; Jaipur, to be precise and my heart leapt at the prospect. This part of the world has long held a fascination for me, but I don't think I ever seriously considered that I would actually have the opportunity to experience a small part of the reality of India. Yet, here I am, home, in the nick of time (!), with a myriad of images and impressions floating through my mind, which I will attempt to put into words for you to share.

My friend Lesley and I joined a floral group drawn from across the UK and beyond, for the long journey to Jaipur. We were all strangers on arrival, but that did not last for long, as clearly our common interests quickly broke down any natural reserve. Our hotel, Alsisar Haveli, is a converted Maharaja's palace and as exotic and ornate as you might imagine. There are some thirty five such establishments in Jaipur, as old ruling families find ways to diversify and keep their ancestral homes alive. Its setting, however, is not what you might expect. Along a busy road, a small sign over an archway marks the entrance. The road is jammed full of traffic, people, carts, animals and detritus. There is no pavement as such, just a dusty, chaotic roadside filled with vehicles being mended, parts, tyres and men clearly discussing the advantage of one type of camshaft over another?! Above it all horns blare constantly. The noise is incessant. As you will have gathered this part of town is a mecca for all things automobile. Through the archway is another world; an oasis of tranquillity and our home for the next six days.

Jaipur was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh 11 in 1727, when his court outgrew The Amber Fort, the outline of which you can see perched on the mountain top high above us. The old city is surrounded by high walls, pierced by several entrances. The Sun Gate to the East and the Moon Gate to the West are predominant. Building continued until 1748 and the Maharajas took up residence in the Moon Palace, which is part of a much larger complex called the Citi Palace, where they still reside today. In 1867 the Prince of Wales, the future Edward V11, was due to visit Jaipur to represent his mother Queen Victoria, the Empress of India. A 'Durbar' (council meeting of all the important families) was held to decide on how best to welcome the Prince with suitable aplomb. The decision was taken to paint the whole of the city pink. It certainly created the desired impression and it has been this colour ever since, hence its moniker 'The Pink City'. I should explain we are not talking a sugar pink here, but what is known locally as saffron pink, actually, a terracotta pink. If you are good with a paintbrush, this could be the place for you! Jaipur was then and is now a city renowned for its artisan skill and we are looking forward to exploring its charms. Come and see......

Dulcie Lofting



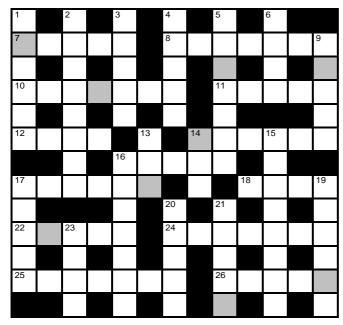








QUIZWORD BY EDDIE LYON



Solution on page 21

When completed the letters in the shaded squares can be made into the surname of a celebrated composer (9)

Across

- 7 Popular name of famed 11th century Spanish hero (2 & 3)
- 8 Popular citrus fruits (7)
- 10 Exotic flowers with bright colours and unusual shapes (7)
- 11 Passageway between rows of seats (5)
- 12 Fast dance of Scottish origin (4)
- 14 Ronnie played Arkwright in TV's Open All Hours (6)
- 16 the Ram first sign of the zodiac (5)
- 17 Head covering being part of a nun's habit in some orders (6)
- 18 Frozen rain (4)
- **22** Upper House of British Parliament (5)
- 24 RCMP being the Royal Canadian Police (7)
- 25 Cathedral in London was designed by Christopher Wren (2 & 5)
- 26 The colour blue in heraldry (5)

Down

- 1 Auguste French impressionist painter (6)
- 2 Frozen dessert (3 & 5)
- 3 Allow to enter (5)
- 4 Large water bird of the family Anatidae (5)
- 5 Telly played the title lead in TV's Kojak (7)
- 6 A long time in the sausage shop (4)
- **9** Young ox (5)
- 13 What will complete aw---, gl--- & squ---? (3)
- 14 You would find one in an apiary (3)
- 15 Capital of 21 Down and film starring Charlton Heston (8)
- **16** Flowering border plant around the asylums (7)
- 17 Part of the United Kingdom (5)
- 19 Heath played The Joker in the movie The Dark Knight (6)
- 20 Collect or accumulate for profit (5)
- 21 Republic and largest country in Africa (5)
- 23 Descriptive of fruit ready for eating (4)

A hymn parody for all gardeners

With thanks to the ACE (Association of Church Editors) member who shared this.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.
The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses he also gave us these.
The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.
The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,

The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.
The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.
The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardeners' outlook, though green may be their
thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers, And pray that what hits neighbours will somehow bypass ours.

Festival Chorus concert postponed



Regrettably, due to the current health issue with coronavirus sweeping the world, the mighty **St.Matthew Passion of J.S.Bach** scheduled for April 4th has had to be **postponed to Lent 2021.**

For those of you who have already purchased your tickets, the Corn Exchange will be contacting you in due course to discuss options.

Further information may be found on our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk, on Facebook and Twitter @kl festchorus

SOUTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

I start my article this month with an important update regarding the Coronavirus. The Parish Council have seriously considered all the information made available regarding the Coronavirus and have made a decision in the interest of staff and public safety to close the Office to the Public for the foreseeable future. This will not affect the running of the Council or your ability to contact us - we will still man the office as normal, but will only be able to accept telephone calls, messages and emails. The Parish Council are not sure at present how this will affect our meetings. We have our Annual Parish Assembly coming up on 17th April, but at the moment we cannot say whether this will go ahead. However, we will endeavour to keep our residents informed as much as possible. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused and ask for your understanding at this difficult time.

As always, our Committees have been very busy. The Planning Committee are seeing an increased number of Planning Applications for home extensions and some new builds. The Planning Committee also deal with Highways issues and a small Sub-Committee have been working with our three local Schools, our local Highways Engineer and the Police to try and help sort out parking issues in and around the Schools and local areas. Some of you may have seen a yellow leaflet that has been placed on vehicles that are perhaps parked inconsiderately. Please, if you are collecting children from school, visiting friends or relatives, think about how and where you park. Remember the safety of those around you.

The Assets Committee have been looking at improving things around the Parish. The Allotments Car Park is having some work done to make it a more useable space, and the left-hand drive and the area adjacent to Asda will be improved over the next few months. The old noticeboard on the outside of the Village Hall has been removed as it was rotten and will be replaced with a nice new metal one. The Parish Council have decided to replace the old staging, with some very slimline movable staging units that can be placed for usage anywhere in the hall and stored on a small trolley. The small gate between the Village Hall Car Park across to St Mary's Church which currently does not open easily will be mended so it can open and close freely; this we know has caused issues for some residents. We are going to provide a new litter bin at our new bus stop on Grimston Road by Asda Supermarket, and we are also going to replace the litter bin by the pond with a new bin with an enclosed top so the litter does not blow about in and around the Pond area. Structural Surveys have been carried out on the Village Hall and the Parish Office; and the Village Hall needs a little attention but that is in hand.

We have a few vacancies at our Parish Allotments, if you are thinking of growing your own vegetables, making new friends and getting fit at the same time, the cost of tenancy is £30 per year. Please give us a ring in the office any weekday morning for more information or to sign up.

Wootton Park 200 Club: The 200 Club is a valuable contributor to the cost of upkeep on the Park. Recently the club membership has declined very slightly, we would like to encourage more people to join. Membership costs £24 per annum and there are three worthwhile cash prizes provided with each monthly draw. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please contact the Parish Office for details, if you are a member, please encourage your friends and family to join.

Tracey Cornwell (Parish Clerk) KL 671692 e-mail:info@southwoottonpc.co.uk



watch this space.

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

APRIL MEETING CANCELLED

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus outbreak, we have had to cancel our Birding Madagascar presentation, originally scheduled for Tuesday, 28th April at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.

It is highly likely that further meetings will be cancelled. Please check our website: www.narvos.org.uk for the latest updates or call lan Black on 01760 724092

WEST NORFOLK FLOWER CLUB

Our March meeting with a difference, proved to be exactly that and fun filled from beginning to end; with members entertaining their fellow members in a variety of styles. Talent will out! You will not get away!! On a sad note, we will regrettably not be meeting in April and May due to the CV pandemic. I hope it will not be too long before we reconvene, so

Further details from **Dulcie Lofting 01553 675853**

KING'S LYNN FLOWER CLUB

Our first demonstration for the year was provided by Jo Poulter from Peterborough. Jo used a a variety of flowers including Spring garden flowers, some very pretty two tone tulips, and interesting containers and she

In view of the recent information concerning the corona virus we are cancelling the April and May meetings. It may be that this will need to be extended for several more months. For further information ring Irene on 01553 671312

Quizword solution

Ripe.

Wimple, 18 Hail, 22 Lords, 24 Mounted, 25 St Paul's, 26 Azure.

Down: I Renoir, 2 Ice cream, 3 Admit, 4 Goose, 5 Savalas, 6 Ages, 9 Steer, 13 Are, 14 Bee, 15 Khartoum, 16 Alyssum, 17 Wales, 19 Ledger, 20 Amass, 21 Sudan, 23

Across: 7 El Cid, 8 Oranges, 10 Orchids, 11 Aisle, 12 Reel, 14 Barker, 16 Aries, 17

Spaded Squares BEETHOVEN



Singing Lessons with Karen Manning LLCM



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Work towards grades

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Adults

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Confidence building

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