

PARISH NEWS

BORLEY : FOXEARTH : LISTON : PENTLOW

April 2020

It will be a strange Easter this year as it is likely that, by then, we will all be in isolation to help slow the spread of Coronavirus, and will not be able to share this celebration with family and friends. We hope everyone will keep safe and well.

Sadly, village events have been postponed and we will all miss the stimulation of socializing, particularly those people who live on their own. At this time, we should all be looking out for those vulnerable members of our community and offering a helping hand where we can.

If we can help anyone, in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us - 01787 313579.

*Kelvin and Julie
Your Editors*

At this time of year, we are usually asking you for some money for your magazine subscription. However, in view of the situation, please put your £3 in a very safe place so that we can deal with this later in the year.

Thank you all for your support of this publication and for your many kind comments. Thank you in particular to our contributors, advertisers and distributors. This is truly a team effort and we need each and every one of you.

We always welcome articles, announcements and reports so please keep them coming.

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All contributions will be acknowledged

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Ruminations from the Rectory.....

Dear Friends

I began writing this letter before the Coronavirus became so concerning and every day brings different news and different measures. It is a time of anxiety and we all need to take sensible precautions. We need to look out for each other, the lonely and the vulnerable, by keeping in touch at least by email and phone.

By the time you receive your magazine, we will be fast approaching Easter but first we run the gamut of Holy Week, just as Jesus did. So on Palm Sunday we join with the crowds who welcomed Jesus as their King into Jerusalem, only for the same crowd to turn fickle and, by Good Friday, they were baying for his blood. What a week Holy week is. On Maundy Thursday all sort of things are remembered. We remember the very first Eucharist (Holy Communion) when Jesus asked us to remember him by taking bread and wine, his body and his blood, which he freely gave for us all. On Maundy Thursday many clergy go to the cathedral to renew their vows and to receive the various Holy Oils to bring back into the parishes for use at Baptisms, for anointing the sick and those close to death, and also oil for Confirmations. Some churches have a foot washing, remembering that Jesus welcomed his disciples to that upper room and washed their feet. Due to coronavirus, this has been suspended this year. On Good Friday, we have services to reflect quietly on the crucifixion of our Lord. Then comes Holy Saturday and in the evening we celebrate Jesus Rising from the dead : a moment of great joy and celebration, with a Bonfire, the New Light lit, bells ringing, we renew our Baptism Vows and receive the first Eucharist of Easter. The joy is all the more intensely felt if we have attended the other services through the week. I do hope and pray that we will be able to hold our services (we are not exactly mass gatherings!) but do keep looking at the news and the Church of England website which updates daily with good advice.

A prayer for Easter

Loving Saviour of the World, be with us as we worry about our world and all the people suffering from the coronavirus. We pray for all who have to make difficult decisions, for our Government , our NHS and all who work in care homes. Help us all to be responsible, to think about our actions and how they affect others. Walk beside us help us not to be afraid and bring us through this pandemic. You conquered death by rising from the dead on that very first Easter day. Help us to rejoice and celebrate the love that is stronger than death itself.

God bless you all this Easter

Revd Margaret your Team Rector

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Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends

While we are still in Lent, we are perhaps being forced to think more about our lifestyle with the impact of COVID-19 than we might usually do during Lent. Perhaps we are a little less focused on giving up chocolate and more focused on our store cupboards!

We find ourselves being encouraged to look after ourselves, our loved ones and our neighbour as a way of life that is being likened to World War II.

The Coronavirus has found us entering uncharted territory and that in itself brings uncertainty and fear. Hope for us to come through this as an individual, as a family, community, nation and world is what we do have. Hope is our foothold and our anchor in the storms of life. When we have that certain hope within, it is then, I think, that we can offer true kindness to others around us.

Through the many distractions, my thoughts turn towards Easter and I wonder about that first Easter. Certainly uncharted territory for those following Jesus. This man was causing quite a stir and unrest. His followers had both hope and faith, and even those who doubted still had hope of some sort. They didn't know what was ahead but I am sure there would have been fear and uncertainty. But, their faith and hope leads them through; they face the death of their dear friend, they themselves are at risk, they watch, wait and grieve but, though they as followers may have felt isolated, they were not alone. They were encompassed by love, their faith washed away their fears, the support of each other kept them going and ahead, was certain hope as Jesus appeared to them alive and well.

You may or may not celebrate Easter as a Christian festival, but take a small amount of the faith that is in the essence of this story, add to it as much hope as you can and through it acknowledge the gift of life.

Pastoral Ponderings continued ...

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... continued Pastoral Ponderings

Times of uncertainty are opportunities to slow down, reflect and be thankful (to take a look in our store cupboard of life!). So, as we reflect on our current situation and on the season of Easter, may our lives be enriched, our love for others grow and our kindness flow throughout our communities, nation and world.

Take care of one another and let us look forward to the gift of life given to us at Easter.

With prayers

Gill

Rev Gill Morgan

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More Information: 01787 269385

revd.margaret@northhinckfordparishes.org.uk

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED

3rd April - The Bones of Borley

7th April - Lent Lunch

14th April - FDHS Silk Journey

18th April - Foxearth Quiz and Supper

28th April - Pentlow Quiz

**Look out for new dates once the
Coronavirus crisis has passed**



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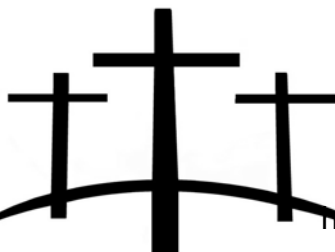
Tenebrae

8pm on Wednesday 8th April

ALL SAINTS MIDDLETON

Please join us for this very moving service which is full of symbolism and helps us prepare for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

This candlelit service features readings and poems, along with beautiful music. After each, a candle is extinguished until



The increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

All Welcome

FOXEARTH MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE

WORK PARTIES

Work continues a pace at Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve. If you can spare some time to help, join Mark on Friday mornings. The sessions start at 10am and finish at lunch time. If you need to leave early or even stop on into the afternoon, that's fine.

3rd, 17th & 24th April

Please contact Mark to check that any given work party is going ahead before you come. The dates may be subject to change or cancellation. It is also helpful to have an idea of numbers attending.



Foxearth Meadows Information: Mark Prina, Reserve Manager, A Rocha UK, Foxearth Meadows Mobile: 07548 209652 Home: 01223 832530 Email: mark.prina@arocha.org
Working hours: Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 09:00 to 17:30

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The health visitor attends the group once
a month for baby weighing and to
answer questions.

Please contact Verity on 07980993975 or
verity.bridge@outlook.com or join the
facebook group "Belchamp Little Acorns"
for further information.

Liston & Borley Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will be held on Saturday 26th April at 10:30
at Purkes Farm Borley Green CO10 7AQ

At these meetings we first of all vote in our Churchwardens for the year: if you are on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll you can vote for the Churchwardens. At the APCM proper, we hear Annual Reports including financial and generally hear how the churches are doing. All are welcome but only those on the Church Electoral Roll may vote at the APCM.

Revd Margaret H King Team Rector



**British
RedCross**

In view of the Coronavirus situation I feel that it would be tempting fate to have a house to house collection this year. I would not wish the collectors and givers to be exposed to any risk of illness.

My best wishes for a healthy, happy and virus-free 2020.

Margaret Nice



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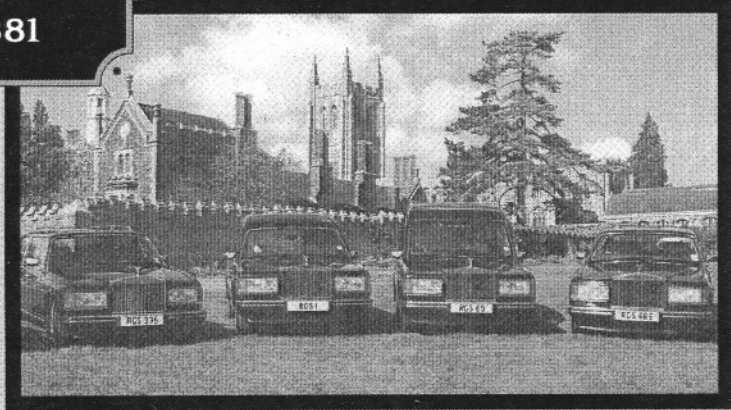
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HOORAY FOR THE PINKERS!

At the end of February came news that The Pinkuah Arms at Pentlow was going to reopen, with a new team to keep our little villages in beer, hospitality, food and fun.

Since closing its doors last year, Pentlow and our villages have wondered if it would ever reopen. The saviours are the Painter Pub Company featuring Glen and Nicole Painter, the Landlords of The Cock Inn in Clare.

The Cock Inn has a strong reputation for real ale, independent brewers, good food and a full schedule of activities. There is a promise that The Pinkuah Arms will not be any different.

Currently, works at the property, by way of a facelift ('and for a different feel') are ongoing. It had been hoped to open in the coming weeks but, with the uncertainty around Coronavirus, the opening has been put back to mid April.

Whenever The Pinkuah Arms opens, it will be a breath of fresh air for Pentlow. In the meantime, Glen and Nicole invite Pinkers Pub Patrons to visit The Cock Inn to see what the Team are capable of!

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

PENTLOW SPEED WATCH



The Pentlow Speed Watch has been inactive in recent months, partly due to non favourable weather conditions and partially due to shortage of volunteers. Monitoring in the 30MPH limit at the junction of School Road and Pinkuah Lane it has not been uncommon for speeds over 40MPH to be recorded with, on a few occasions, well over 50MPH recorded. It was, however, perceived that operating the Speed Watch was having some effect on educating motorists who regularly used this particular route. It is intended to now get the Speed Watch active again so if anyone who might like to help, including those who had previously volunteered but have lost contact, could please contact Tim on bartle77@outlook.com Just committing to an hour now and again would be greatly appreciated. New volunteers are required to attend a short training session run by Essex Police.

Tim Bartlett
Speed Watch Coordinator

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MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Foxearth Village Hall hosted a 'Meet the Neighbours' session on 13th March which was well attended. The outstanding attendance created a lovely atmosphere of keen interest and fellowship, and a chance to meet people one might not otherwise meet. Pam Pluck sends her warmest thanks to all who attended and contributed. This was probably the last time Foxearth Villagers will be able to meet as a group in these troubled times.

This was a super networking event which also showcased the many talents and professions of villagers of which others may not have been aware. Particular mention must be made of Bev from Amor Interiors with her beautiful fabrics and papers, Colin Mayes and his delightful rustic garden furniture, Kate Ginn with the exciting launch of her gluten free food range and Linda Mercer with her fabulous sewing. Neighbours also had the opportunity to meet Rev Gill Morgan.

Pam Pluck

FOXEARTH COFFEE MORNING

Pam Pluck is delighted to let Foxearth Village residents know that at the recent coffee morning, much coffee and cake was consumed and chatter had. Another successfully organised event which netted a profit of £46 in aid of the Village Hall. Thank you to all who participated.

Pam Pluck

HELP FOR FOXEARTH RESIDENTS

Pam Pluck wishes to let Foxearth residents know that she is willing and able to co-ordinate a system of help and assistance to the village so that no one feels isolated or fearful. "I am here to help shop or whatever. Don't feel you can't ask for help. We must all pull together." said Pam as she spoke to our editors down a crackly phone line and without the benefit of any internet connection!!

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 and 3 Winter precipitations - and little white flowers (4,5)
7 D'ye ken John Cumberland hunting song (4)
8 I donate win curiously throughout the whole land! (10)
9 Major Yorkshire river running through Leeds (4)
12 Law makers (11)
13 Alternative British political party to the Tories 1678 - 1859 (5)
15 Icy rain (5)
19 Very large snake, Boa (11)
21 Dishonest scheme in Tosca melodrama! (4)
23 Excise ring needs working out! (10)
24 Boast (4)
25 Treble voices - below sopranos (5)
26 Winter sports equipment - exchanged for kiss! (4)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Nurses flow around Van Gogh's flora! (10)
2 Words on a page - or on the wall! (7)
3 Trump, U S President (6)
4 Relating to opium (6)
5 Spare, concealed weapon! (5)
6 Leap describes the current one! (4)
10 Poetic word for island (4)
11 Grease gets mixed up with chocolate ova! (10)
14 S. American Indian people (4)
16 Large, destructive grass hoppers (7)
17 "Theof Everest" Expedition and book by Lord Hunt (6)
18 Yellow, purple or white Spring flower (6)
20 Last letter of Greek alphabet (5)
22 Cereal crop (4)



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PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 245

This month's competition is just general knowledge with an occasional cryptic clue. Entries to the Editors by 14th April please for a chance to win a bottle of wine.
Ken Nice

Entry of.....
 Add/Tel.....
 Email.....

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MARCH WINNER PRIZE CROSSWORD 244
 Angela Steed of Cavendish
Congratulations, a worthy wine winner

Prize Crossword No 244 (March Solution)
 Across 1 Potato, 4 Chips, 8 Laser, 9 Sardine, 10 Tripoli, 11 Char, 12 Cos, 14 Brie, 15 Able, 18 Rum. 21 Tout, 23 Auditor, 25 Pudding, 26 Inuit, 27 Dirge, 28 Cheese.
 Down 1 Palate, 2 Tastier, 3 Turnover, 4 Curd, 5 Irish, 6 Sherry, 7 Aspic, 13 Sandwich, 16 Lettuce, 17 Stupid, 19 Mange 20 Writhe, 22 Under, 24 Rice.

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Voice recognition is becoming more relevant as a security tool and, although the technique is in its early stages, there are believed to be signs that analysis of what you say may reveal more about you than you really want to be known. The number of catalogues, from firms one has never heard of, that appear on the door mat about things you have never consciously requested is mystifying - unless some subliminal message is being transmitted by your voice! Has your request to Alexa to tell you the time been interpreted as a wish for a you to buy a wrist watch - hence the literature. Thought provoking - or thought reading! Coincidence? perhaps but supposing what you regard as a one-way process, where you ask all the questions, is turning into something quite different. This possibility is exercising the minds of a university research team who feel that something sinister might be afoot. This rather unwieldy project entitled Total Word Analysis Defining Definite Lawless Espionage will be looking for evidence, from April 1st, of instances that concern you. So Google TWADDLE (if you can find it) and let them know. If you do so before 12noon on April 1st, you will be automatically entered into a Prize Draw for a free virtual assistant. And remember that this startling information came to you via the Parish News.

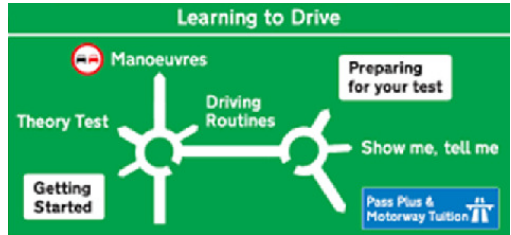
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Spring should be here this month, and I think it is one of the loveliest seasons: everything is fresh, and no hint of drought and its effects have appeared. So, enjoy the wonderful show that the natural world puts on for you every year. I especially love the trees as they come into leaf, all different colours of green and gold, making a beautiful tapestry of the landscape. Some early cherries are out in bloom already, and what a joy they are. But there is a lot to do in the garden.

- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs, but water them well beforehand, and don't plant too deep - the first roots should be just below the surface.
- Watch rose shoots for aphids, which collect at the tips in spring. Squash by hand, if you can bear it, before turning to chemicals.
- Move foxglove seedlings to good positions once there are four leaves. Water in gently.
- Ensure that hardwood cuttings, taken over the winter and now coming into leaf, do not dry out.
- Sow annuals outside this month, such as *gypsophylia*, *Ammi* and *larkspur*.
- Plant up an alpine trough, using a mix of John Innes no.2 and coarse grit, with a top dressing of 2 cm of fine gravel. Drainage is the aim – alpinists don't mind cold but they do mind wet.
- Prune sage, thymes and other shrubby herbs to help them stay compact.
- Trim lavender to 3 cm below old flower stalks.
- Direct sow seeds of calabrese, kohlrabi, cauliflower, peas, carrot, radish and chard.
- Inspect gooseberries for sawfly larva, becoming active at the end of the month, and remove them by hand.
- Late in the month sow, under glass, runner beans, pumpkin and squashes, to plant out after the last frost.
- Fleece small and wall-trained fruit trees if frost is forecast.
- Plant chitted second early/maincrop potatoes in prepared beds or containers.
- Remove the spring flowers of perpetual strawberries for a good crop of large fruit later on.
- Pyrocanthus, holly and hawthorn all produce edible berries for the birds, and shelter for nesting, but they (the plants) are big, and need room.

There is lots to do, quite apart from keeping the weeds down and deadheading plants that have finished. Including hellebores; they are prolific seeders and in general don't come true to their type. To prevent mixed indeterminate colours coming up everywhere, deadhead them when the flowers have faded, but before the seeds have set. Remember, 'weed like a cow' with things like ground elder etc, and don't spend too much time digging – hoes are better for the soil, and less effort. Enjoy the spring.

Cavendish Horticultural Society: Monday, 6 April 2020: Attracting Wildlife in Our Gardens, a talk by Roger Hance. 7.30pm Memorial Hall. Please check with Isobel before setting out in case it has been postponed.

INTERNATIONAL DAY of

I heard an interview with tv and radio personality, Dr Phillip Hammond recently talking about Covid 19. Along with confirming the government advice as to hygiene and social distancing, he went on to speak about our '5 a day'.

Not you may think, the 5 vegetables and fruit, but 5 fun things to do to raise our spirits. Play games, do something fun and LAUGH! Laughter can be the best tonic to raise spirits, particularly at this difficult moment in history.

There is no need to wait until the International Moment of Laughter Day on 12th April. Laugh now!

As to a fun activity - 1st April is International Pillow Fight Day (not an April Fool). If you are 'social distancing' or in self imposed quarantine, what better way to get some exercise and get rid of all that pent up anxiety and worry?

Then, after all that (but continuing the laughter), on the 21st April we celebrate British National Tea Day! But why wait for all these national and international days to come round, do it now!

Finally, 14th April celebrates Day of Human Space Flight - perhaps by the time it arrives we will all probably wish we could escape the pandemic ... space flight anyone?

Kelvin Hastings-Smith



PET CARE

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Contact Lucy:
07790 914187
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Lucy.knox@hotmail.co.uk

EASTER SIMNEL CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients

175g Butter at room temperature

140g Caster Sugar

3 size 1 Eggs, beaten

50g Glace Cherries,
rinsed, dried and cut into quarters

500g Natural Marzipan

175g Currants

*Use a 20cm cake tin, greased and lined
Oven preheated to 150°C, gas mark 2*

225g Sultanas

225g Plain Flour

1 level teasp Baking Powder

1 level teasp Mixed Spice

3 tblsp Milk at room temperature

1 heaped tablespoon Marmalade
+ extra to brush on the top of the
cake once it is cooked

Method

1. Cream the sugar and butter together until light, pale and fluffy.
2. Beat in the eggs a little at a time - if the mixture starts to curdle add a little of the flour then fold in the fruit.
4. Sift together flour, baking powder and spice and fold into the mixture alternately with the milk.
5. Slice approximately 200g of the marzipan.
6. Spoon half the cake mixture into the tin then layer on the slices of marzipan, followed by the remaining cake mixture.
7. Bake near the centre of the oven for about 2 hours 40 minutes – or until the centre is firm and springy. Leave the cake in the tin to cool for 15 minutes before turning it out onto a wire rack.
8. Roll out the remaining marzipan to a round approximately 22cm in diameter. Brush the top of the cooled cake with marmalade, top with the round of marzipan, and scallop the edges using your thumb and forefinger. Use marzipan trimmings to make 12 little balls to place on top, which represents the apostles.
9. Toast the marzipan using a cooks' blowtorch.

Cake stores well in an airtight tin, if you can resist eating it!

**LISTON
BORLEY
PENTLOW
FOXEARH
TRUST FUND**

Grants for educational development, community projects
and religious purposes are available for individuals and organizations
in our villages

Applications are considered by the Trustees in Spring and Autumn

Requests for support should be made in writing to the Secretary:-

Dr Douglas New at Bunters, Borley CO10 7AE

NEW COMMUNITY USE FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

On the theme of 'community' in our church buildings, a new scheme is about to get off the ground at Pentlow, Foxearth, Liston and Borley churches. Called Active Parishioners Recreation In Life, it is anticipated that there will be considerable interest and more importantly an increase in foot traffic and usage of our church buildings.

The scheme involves the church buildings hosting static exercise bikes and treadmills. These machines will be available 24/7 for general use at no cost, save a donation at the door when exercise completed. However, on Sundays, the cycles and treadmills will be available for the congregation subject to a fee of 50 pence per prayer and £1 per hymn (sermons at the discretion of the rider), Rev Margaret and Rev Gill will bestow an award at the end of each month to the parishioner/congregation raising the most cash.



OIL BUYING GROUP

**To join the oil buying group
you need to answer yes to
the following:-**

*Live in Pentlow, Bulmer, Foxearth,
Liston or Borley*

Use oil for heating

*Have an internet connection
or access to one*

Preferred rates negotiated
on behalf of members

Order as much or as little (min 500 litres) as you want as many times as you want throughout the year in spring, autumn and winter, and once in summer as required

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ORDER
4th April & 30th May**

For more details or to join contact:-
Mike Crome
mikey1805@gmail.com

The machines are being installed as we go to press. There has had to be a bit of jiggling around of pews and fonts in order to accommodate Sunday worshippers who will need a direct view of the altar and pulpit. Disruption will be minimal, although pews may be a little unstable for a while during relocation.

Not only does this scheme raise money for the church and keep the buildings in use but it also provides much needed exercise for all.

The scheme kicks off on 1st April and those signing up to the scheme before midday will receive a one off award of Fellow of the Order of Old Locals.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith



NATURE'S NEWCOMERS AT FOXEARTH MEADOWS



The ecology of Foxearth Meadows will not stay the same whether we manage the land or not. Alongside our practical measures such as mowing, grazing, control of willow encroachment and efforts to maintain water levels is another influence more powerful than any of our endeavours – the climate is changing. Ultimately, this may prove more significant to shifts in species composition on the reserve than the contribution from human tinkering, invasive species, disease or pollution.



As temperatures rise new species are appearing in the UK. Predicting the future is uncertain but these arrivals are surely evidence of climate change. A conspicuous recent coloniser to Foxearth Meadows is the Willow Emerald Damselfly *Chalcolestes viridis*.

Photo source
<https://commons.wikimedia.org>

C. viridis exploded onto the East Anglian scene in 2009 when around 400, including newly emerged specimens, were recorded from 35 sites in E Suffolk, S Norfolk and N Essex. By 2015 breeding was well established at Foxearth Meadows. Watching this species' range continue to radiate from East Anglia will be fascinating. The British Dragonfly Society reports that 11 species of dragonfly or damselfly have been added to the British List since 1995 and more are predicted to arrive in the future.

Another insect newcomer is the Ivy Bee - new to science in 1993 and noted in the Channel Islands from the 1970s. In 2001 it was discovered in Dorset and has since spread across southern England and Wales, reaching the Norfolk coast by 2014. The pattern of arrival and spread of this species compared with that of Willow Emerald Damselfly is very different. I first recorded this solitary bee at Foxearth Meadows on Ivy flowers in October 2019. As Britain's only true Autumn



Photo source www.bwars.com

Nature's Newcomers continued ...

Susi Morrow, long time resident of Liston, is a professional musician and accompanist. She gives piano lessons at all levels to both children and adults, and has taught piano at various schools, including the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Colchester Institute.

For more information about piano lessons or Soundbeam, contact Susi on 07753 292919
susievelynmorrow@gmail.com

Susi Morrow AC,SM

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... continued Nature's Newcomers

bee this helps with identification. Subsequently, huge aggregations of the nests of this bee were found on the south facing slopes of the disused railway line to the north of the reserve. A factor which may assist further spread is that its major parasite, the beetle *Stenoria analis* is not present in the UK.

We will continue to manage the vegetation and water levels within Foxearth Meadows as we attempt to maintain suitable habitats for our existing wildlife yet as the climate changes, some species will decline or disappear. As for those species which have arrived and will continue to arrive, as part of the major climactic shifts taking place, we can but watch and marvel.

Mark Prina



Foxearth Meadows Information: Mark Prina, Reserve Manager, A Rocha UK, Foxearth Meadows Mobile: 07548 209652 Home: 01223 832530 Email: mark.prina@arocha.org
Working hours: Mon/WedThurs/Fri 09:00 to 17:30



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Fox Lodge, Brook Hall Lane, Borley CO10 7AE
Foxearth Village Hall, School Street, Foxearth
CO10 7JE

FOXEARTH & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society came of age on Tuesday 10th March, when it held its 21st Annual General Meeting in Foxearth Village Hall. There were 22 members present and - as tradition dictates - savoury snacks and wine were served.

In the Chair, Lynda Rumble welcomed all and thanked members for their support including those who provided meeting refreshment, writing reports, managed the web site, maintained the accounts and generally kept the outfit on the road. Secretary, Clare Mathieson, reported on a thriving society with 42 paid up members, 61 email contacts and some very impressive visitor numbers in 2019 - due, no doubt, to popular "local content" talks with Ian McMillan's history of Liston Hall, and the unforgettable duo of Ashley and Andrew on Sudbury memories, being notable examples. A complete programme for 2020 had been circulated promising a year full of interest and it was understood that Judy and Randolph were engaged upon some research on Liston Church and graveyard which may feature in the future.

On the financial side, Treasurer Mark Mathieson produced an income and expenditure account showing a small profit of £18.68 on the year's activities and a respectable bank account balance of £2,390 of which £1,006 was the ring-fenced book fund. It was agreed that the membership subscription should remain at £10 pa.

President, Ashley Cooper, expressed his appreciation to Clare and Lynda for their skilful programme planning and their enthusiasm for the Society. He endorsed what had been said about the popularity of talks relative to the area and felt that the new season had got off to a resounding start with 95 year old Len Manning's vivid WW2 experiences. Having heard Richard Humphries before, Ashley commended the talk Richard would give at the April meeting. Ashley reminded members of the availability of the book fund and noted that Corinne Cox had another book in preparation.

Members had been invited to contribute to a museum table and the items displayed included old photographs, a pewter plate (circa 1671), wall plaques, a commemorative plate (1945) presented to Clare's father, Rev S Harris for his organisation of a two-month holiday for war-deprived Dutch children and an account of a pageant, in Bury St Edmunds, based on the Court of Elizabeth 1, devised by the same energetic priest.

FHDS continued ...

... continued FHDS

It is always a delight to welcome Sudbury historian Anne Grimshaw to the Society. Her most recent talk concerned a weaver at Waterloo but this evening her contribution had a more personal theme. Researching her family history in the Oldham and Rochdale area Anne had discovered that her 5x great uncle, Edmund Elson (1740 - 1813) had left a Will naming Joseph Travis, grocer of Oldham, as an executor. Since there appeared to be no family connection between Edmund and Joseph, Anne was keen to find out more and her delving revealed that Joseph was the son of John Travis, Chandler, soap boiler and grocer - and a neighbour of Edmund Elson. At the time there was great agitation, under the leadership of Henry Hunt, for electoral reform, universal suffrage and more representation and this culminated in a mass assembly in Manchester on 16th August 1819 when some 60,000 were charged at by the militia who used sabres to dreadful effect. Eighteen were killed and over 600 injured including many women and children in this horrendous Peterloo massacre. It appears that Joseph Travis was a Special Constable but his duties on this notorious day seem to have been confined to counting the number of marchers and demonstrators involved and, when he appeared as a witness at the trial of Henry Hunt in 1820, he did not attempt to discredit the reformers in any way. John Travis bought some shares in the Rochdale Canal Company, although he did lose money when the venture got into financial difficulties. Anne was amazed when she located, via the internet, an image of a share certificate in the name of John Travis and delighted when she was able to buy the actual document. This - and the fact that an ancestor of hers had known someone who had known and spoken to Henry Hunt - were the rewards for her diligent work. There are still unanswered questions but, as Anne said, the thing about doing family research is that once you start you cannot leave it alone! A lovely and most interesting account and I am indebted to Anne for her help in writing this precis.

Next meeting: POSTPONED Richard Humphries describing silk's journey from China to the Essex/Suffolk border.

Ken Nice

MOBILE LIBRARY

SCHEDULE:

1st & 22nd April
13th May

2.10 - 2.40 pm Pentlow Telephone Box

2.50 - 3.20 pm Foxearth Old School

Blood & Sugar by **Laura Shepherd-Robinson** is a debut novel with a punch! This book, and author, has been nominated for more literary awards than she has had hot dinners, and it is easy to see why. The sheer amount of research that has gone into this book is overwhelming and in the main very accurate. Some liberties have been taken, but the factual matters remain largely intact.

The novel is set in 1781 Deptford, a town adjoining London, well before “London” swallowed it and large parts of the East of London. In 1781, slavery was still legal, the trade in slaves gave rise to the predominance of sugar, a commodity that was literally worth its weight in gold. There were many fortunes to be made in the transport of slaves across the middle Atlantic from Africa to London and the Caribbean. Deptford was lobbying for the West India Dock to be built in its town - corruption was all rife.

The abolition of slavery was in its infancy in 1781 and those leading the charge were derided and hounded by owners, slave masters and those holding office in corrupt quangos and government departments. Such an abolitionist was Tad Archer, a barrister, who, from his days at Oxford, fought against slavery and discovered a legal process to free slaves in the English courts.

Tad was brutally murdered in Deptford as he carried out his investigation. His friend, Captain Harry Corsham, a hero of the war with America, is approached by Tad’s sister for help in finding the killer. From this point, the reader is taken on a roller coaster journey visiting some of the most inhumane processes and activities of the 18th century. Along the way, the reader is immersed in the shady world of Deptford Creek and the aristocratic Deptford Broadway. Corsham risks his own life, reputation and family tracking down his friend’s killer, by no means a straightforward task.

This is a terrific thriller and a wonderful historical tour de force highlighting how society turned a blind eye to the most egregious trading known to man. The credits on the dust cover of this book include those claiming to have read the book in one session - it is that absorbing!

The Afternoon Tea Club by **Jane Gilley** is publicised as ‘the most uplifting book of 2019.’ Hmm!

The premise of the story is the establishment of, surprise, surprise, an afternoon tea club, set in and around Southampton. There is a cast of various characters, too many in my opinion, to get to grips with ranging in age groups and all with their own reasons for joining a group to stave off loneliness. It is not a bad premise.

...continued A Good Read

The project is spearheaded by the local council, with two enthusiastic officers taking the initiative forward. The first meeting takes place and all the principal characters are introduced. This is a bit tedious, but one hopes that the story will get going soon.

We are taken on a journey with Marjorie, an abused wife whose husband is now dead, Stacy, a young 20 something living on her own with umpteen cats, Raymond, grieving the loss of his wife and supporting his adult son, who is recently separated, and Dora, soon to be 50, who has kept the biggest secret for more than 20 years.

And so the story progresses to a denouement, which I guess is the uplifting part of the story. Unfortunately I felt the story dragged, although there were some flashes of humour and, at times, a tear may have appeared in my eye.

Not the best read, but one which is light and could be completed in a couple of evenings by the fireside.

Found by Crin Kingsley is a must read novel dealing with an all too familiar story of abduction, assault and murder. But, this is not a typical story of police procedure or a thriller, this is a tale of the effect that traumatic incidents may have on an individual and an individual's family.

The story begins on the school rugby pitch as the under 11 boys trudge off towards the showers and then home. Evan Ferrers and his school friend are distracted from leaving school on time because Evan cannot find his rugby boot. By the time the boys have been to the sweetshop, Evan has missed his bus. His friend leaves him at the stop but Evan does not arrive home, he has been snatched. Two police officers are assigned to the case, but they do not take centre stage and even if they do they are not the important part of the story. By pure happenstance Evan is found some 8 months later but he does not talk about where he was held, or his experience. In short, he does not talk. As a result, the police have no leads with which to find his abductors. The reader is taken on a journey of change in Evan, his mum and dad, his grandparents and the police.

If I could compare this author's writing to anything, it would be to a music score. The rhythm of the writing seems orchestral - a touch of Delius meets Holst! There are no extra words or sentences used when danger or turmoil is being conveyed. When it is time for a more sensitive approach, an adagio could be imagined as life in the Fells is revealed in all its glory.

Because there are no leads in the investigation, the team have no idea where to look. The novel is a road atlas to many parts of England - the Thames Valley, Rochester, Chelmsford, Harrogate and towns and cities in between.

I cannot praise this author highly enough - engaging, imaginative, sensitive and some of the tightest writing I have read in a long while and, of course, it is a really good story.

While the stock markets have been in a spin with the continuing Coronavirus outbreak, the tea industry has been shocked to its core by recent news of its demise.

In late January, Unilever, the owner of such brands as PG Tips, Liptons and Magnum ice creams announced that it was considering the sale of the PG Tips and Lipton brand. Citing a decline in tea drinking and a desire to move towards fewer

brands ‘with purpose’ the continued ownership is under threat. Those other brands without a clear ‘social or environmental function’ will be sold. So said Unilever’s CEO, Alan Jope, who earlier called British tea drinkers a ‘dying breed’.

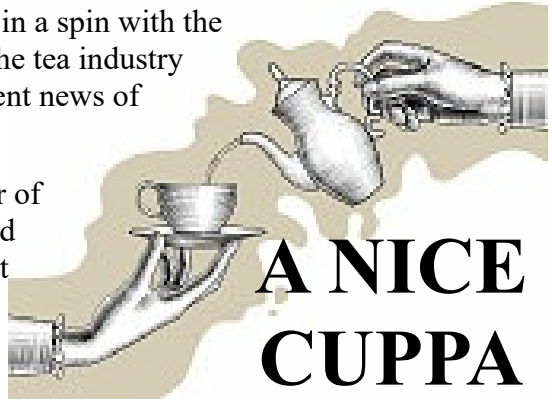
According to statistics, Britain’s tea market has dropped by almost 10 percent in a decade, with Coffee and herbal teas edging out the traditional cuppa. Just over 40 years ago, Britons drank an average 23 cups of tea a week. Now it is only 8! Surprisingly, however, the American consumption of tea is five times more than a decade ago.

Coffee has become the beverage of choice of brits, eschewing a tradition of British Tea drinking going back to the 18th century.

But has anything really changed? We still have coffee mornings and afternoon tea, tea breaks at work and a cuppa, of course, cures all ills!

The one thing that is curious is where are the tea plantations in Yorkshire?

Talking of disappearing brands, Nestle has announced it is stopping its production of its low sugar chocolate bar ‘wowsome’. This after it was introduced two years ago. Mars and Mondale (makers of Cadbury Dairy Milk) have indicated they will not be following suitfor the present.



‘There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.’

Henry James

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

WEST AND NORTH PARISH MARCH CHURCH ROTA

Date	B Otten	B St Paul	B Walter	Ovington	Bulmer	Foxearth	Liston	Borley	Pentlow
5th April Palm Sunday Red	8.45am Communion (BCP) PG	See Ovington		9.45am Communion GM	10.30am Songs of Praise Lay led	10.30am Start the Month! Churchwards	6.00pm Communion (BCP) MHK		11.15am Communion GM
Thursday 9th April Maundy Thursday White		7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service GM							
Friday 10 April Good Friday No hangings		12.00 noon Good Friday Service GM			2.00pm Walk of Witness PG				
Saturday 11th April Easter Eve White					8.00pm Easter Vigil and New Fire at St Mary's, Ovington GM; MHK; PG				
12th April Easter White or Gold	10.00am Songs of Praise RB	10.00 am Easter Communion PG	9.45am Easter Communion GM		11.15am Easter Communion Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt GM	10.00am Easter Family Service			11.15am Easter Communion PG
19th April Easter 2 White or Gold				10.00am West Parishes Communion at Belchamp St Paul MHK					
26th April Easter 3 White or Gold	8.45am Communion (BCP) GM	10.00am Communion GM			11.15am Communion PG	10.00am Communion (BCP) GM			10.30am North Parishes Communion Pentlow MHK
<p>More info from Revd Margaret H King 01787 269385 revd.margaret@northinckfordparishes.org.uk Visit our websites www.northinckfordparishes.org.uk/ www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/08/315BJ/ www.explorestourvalley.co.uk/</p>									