

LITTLEPORT

MAGAZINE

www.littleportlife.co.uk

ISSUE 57 SUMMER 2020

Your Community Magazine

Here Comes Summer!

**62 pages packed
with features
and articles
about and for
Littleport people**



PLUS 42 pages of Littleport Businesses & Services



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If so, you could be the very person we are looking for!

Yes! Littleport Life is looking for a new treasurer.

Our present treasurer is stepping down after many years of excellent service to your favourite community magazine and so we are looking for a new volunteer to step in.

If you would enjoy being part of the committee of Littleport Life and you also enjoy tea and biscuits (supplied at every meeting) then we would be very pleased to hear from you!

For more info please contact Chris Hook at
treasurer@littleportlife.co.uk



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Littleport Life Advertising Rates are very reasonable!

Your deadline for the Autumn issue is August 3rd 2020

Our Advertising Rates are:

Book 1 issue; Quarter page, £29.70 Half page, £50.60 Full page, £91.30
Book 4 issues; Quarter page, £103.40 Half page, £180.40 Full page, £321.20

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		Width	Height
Full Page	Portrait	123	182
Half Page	Landscape	123	89
Half Page	Portrait	59.5	182
Quarter Page	Landscape	123	42.5
Quarter Page	Portrait	59.5	89

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Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of Littleport Life.



Your old editor here - and I am pleased to have been able to continue with the editing and production of Littleport's old-established magazine while Cathy, its photographer, advertising manager and 'roving reporter', was putting up with me as we isolated ourselves for many weeks. Her article on how so many Littleport residents rallied to help those elderly and vulnerable members of the community during the lockdown is on page 50.

Many of your favourite groups and organisations are represented in this summer issue.

And I add my thanks to Littleport's people for putting in their interesting articles - and the loyal advertisers without whose financial support we could not be printed! At this point I would also like to make it clear that we are all unpaid volunteers. Littleport Life magazine is indeed a labour of love for all of us!

Have a good Summer.

Lyn
Editor

And a welcome from me!

I don't think anyone foresaw that events would take such a turn when we issued our last (spring) issue and to say that the last few months have been challenging and unusual would be to understate the case I think. Despite the challenges and many difficulties, the community as a whole and the people in this community have really shone through and showed all that is positive about Littleport and also about the human spirit. And you can see in Littleport Life just how many of the village organisations and groups have kept going regardless. And you can see in its pages the tangible and visible community spirit that exists here in Littleport. All of us on the committee would like to thank very much all those who have contributed to the magazine over the past few, trying months; without your efforts and work there truly would be no magazine and the magazine is simply a reflection of the community spiritedness, the persistence and the creativity of everyone. Thanks again and we hope you enjoy your belated summer issue.



David
Assistant Editor

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APOLOGY TO TYLER!

In our article about Westcott Aromas at Unit 2 in Saxon Business Park last issue we mentioned proprietor Mandy Wright and her training Tyler – he is of course Mandy's grandson and definitely not a girl! Sorry Tyler!

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LITTLEPORT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Still Going Strong Through the Recent Lockdown

Any group or organisation is as strong as its constituent parts – its individual members.

And Littleport WI has demonstrated that in a manner reminiscent of the old World War 2 spirit and its refusal to be down-hearted aftermath!

WI Secretary Ms Linda Whytock recounted just some of the huge efforts made by the members during what was for many a truly isolating experience. Not everyone had a significant other person with whom they could hunker down or close family members with whom they might self-isolate.

But in true WI style the committee and membership forged a plan of action.

“Although meetings are usually held once a month, a virtual meeting for members was set up using the broadcast media app Zoom every Tuesday afternoon to discuss any business and have a virtual cup of tea and a social half hour with all who were able to participate.

There may be a speaker at one of the meetings in the Village Hall soon who will

talk about how to access social media platforms for any still unconnected and refresh the knowledge of those who already use it to good advantage.

Then Brenda Bean who you will remember writing in the Spring issue of your Littleport Life told us about the making of many scrub sets for the NHS – for those working at Hinchingsbrook Hospital for instance and lots of masks made for families, friends and neighbours.

And certain members volunteered to keep an eye on those who were more locked in due to issues with their health and age.

We will now through our Zoom meetings go forward looking at life out of lockdown and start preparing for our Littleport WI's 100th Birthday 2020 when it is hoped we will be able to meet and celebrate.”

Again, harking back to modern communications, newsletters are being sent electronically to those ladies with emails. As Linda says, “Sadly not everyone has an email facility.”

And continues, “Brenda has been walking along the river bank and taking



Scrubs! Photo: Brenda Bean

photos to share with us on social media. We had many interesting speakers booked for the coming year but alas our programme planner had to cancel so hopefully they will be back next year.

The older generation may well compare this lockdown with memories of the Second World War when people had to queue up for food and other goods that were in short supply, similar to what we experienced this year with the shortages that occurred due to panic buying.”

Finally Linda said, “When we come out of this there will be a warm welcome for all the ladies in Littleport who would like to come along and meet us.”



Littleport and District Flower Club

The Club has had a very good year of flowers and friendship over the past year and our membership has grown steadily, our demonstrators have as usual given us all great entertainment with their flowers and designs and humour.

The year was rounded off at our Open Evening with 120 people coming along to see the magic of Gill McGregor, and the Club did a wonderful buffet for everyone to have before the demonstration commenced.

At our AGM in February 38 members attended and we had a lovely meal which Fairways Catering of Littleport provided before the actual AGM commenced.

The President of the Club, Louise Richards, took this meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Louise went on to thank the Committee for their hard work and for her three years as President getting through difficult times. The Treasurer Helen Fordham gave her report and said what a good year we had had, and that she would not be asking for the membership fee to be increased this year, but would look at it again before the next AGM.

Carol Weyman the Chair, in her report, said that it had been a good year for everyone and she had enjoyed her first year as Chair, she thanked all of her Committee for their continued efforts and all members for their support. She thanked the President Louise for all her contributions over the past three years as President and all the support she had shown to her in her first year as Chair. Susan Taylor was stepping back from the



A Beautiful Arrangement

Committee after 4 years of commitment to the Club and Carol thanked her also. Carol then gave Louise and Susan gift vouchers in appreciation of all that they had done.

The Committee were then voted on en bloc for the following year. Carol emphasised the need for more people to join the Committee and hoped that they would give some thought to this.

Due to the Coronavirus our May meeting with Tim Meakin was cancelled and the decision was made to cancel all meetings until June when it would be reviewed.

The Chair and Committee look forward to seeing all the members back at our meetings whenever this might be.

Report given by Pam Hayes



A Superb Arrangement produced at a Flower Club Meeting By a NAFAS Demonstrator

Littleport and District Flower Club Committee meeting held on 15th May: Update

Since putting my previous report into the Magazine things have moved on considerably in regard to the Coronavirus and at a Zoom Committee Meeting last Friday on a majority vote it was decided with great regret to cancel all meetings until 2021.

This was a very difficult decision to make in view of all the changes happening at the present time by the Government. The Club made this decision with the health of all Club Members and Demonstrators uppermost in our decision. It would be very difficult to do social spacing at a normal Club evening, let alone the Open Evening, which as you know can bring in over 100 visitors. We had already taken the decision to cancel all Demonstrators up to October, and realised it was going to be very difficult to begin to organise an Open Evening. We all know how much hard work goes into this with Members helping to organise a wonderful Buffet. We must also take into consideration the fact that the Village Hall is closed indefinitely.

As we did not have the Membership night

in March, we of course at the present time have no Members in place. We hope that when everything is opened up in the New Year that you will all be returning for another wonderful year of flowers and friendship. A full year's Programme has already been arranged for 2021, with old favourites and new Demonstrations already under Contract to come.

Our Chair Carol Weyman will be putting out a letter to all Members in which she will explain our decision. Carol will also be asking for everyone's vote on us having a Demonstrator in January, which is a month we do not normally meet, followed in February by our AGM. We are not sure whether there will be a meal with this at the present time for obvious reasons. March will be the start of our new year of Membership.

The Chair and Committee hope you will understand this decision and wish you all good health and please keep safe in these difficult times.

Pam Hayes. Programme Secretary.

Littleport Leisure: Update from Manager Debra Jordan

Greetings and warm wishes from Littleport Leisure. We have missed you all!

As you know, weeks before the lockdown, we had instigated hand cleaning stations, further cleaning of soft play and equipment, plus a complete overhaul of our cleaning practices to disable this horrible germ. These will all be further enhanced to ensure your safety as much as is practicable.

We were open for one day in May for blood donors as we felt this important health function should not be cancelled. As it turned out, many venues had cancelled their provision and they were delighted that Littleport Leisure opened their doors to them. Huge congratulations to all the donors who attended and replenished the stocks of blood.

When we welcome you all back we will have put in place many measures to secure

your safety and give you confidence in visiting the centre.

Our three current gym areas (main gym, functional suite and outdoor balcony) have undergone stringent safety tests that ensure social distancing together with enhanced cleaning regimes. This also applies to classes.

Please continue to have the pleasure of using the fields for your daily exercise as our contractors have maintained all grassed areas. The bins are emptied on a regular basis and may be used for bags of dog poo. We would really appreciate dog walkers keeping a close eye on their dogs and clearing up after them.

Keep up to date checking for announcements on our Facebook page and via email.



Littleport's Independent Food Bank Carries On Regardless



Due to the circumstances we have all been living in we have been busier than ever at food bank. Many people have had the rug pulled from beneath their feet. The church building was closed for many weeks and so we began delivering to people's homes and also collecting donations. Leaving and collecting from their doorsteps.

The community has been extremely generous. Deliveries being made once every two weeks unless there has been an emergency - usually dealt with on that day.

Anniversary!

In July, Littleport Independent Foodbank will have been operating for 4 years.

We have witnessed many sad stories and also many acts of kindness.

Support From Prison!

We are always touched that the men

from Whitemoor Prison donate to us and we thank them all for their kindness.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions we were not able to join them as we usually do at their Sunday morning services. We have been told by one of the pastors that they always asked him about us.

Please Use Us!

Now many people feel embarrassed about needing our services, but no one should feel like this.

One thing this horrid virus has taught us is that our circumstances can change quickly.

Many people in low paid but extremely worthwhile jobs do not earn high enough salaries to allow them to save for a rainy day that the C19 crisis pre-empted.

Our many thanks to the people who help us to help others.

***Susan Green on behalf of the
Littleport Foodbank***

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Overview

It is a very strange feeling writing this newsletter when the World has changed so much over the last few weeks following the outbreak of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Hopefully by the time you read this we will be over the worst and life will be returning to 'normal' and we will be able to visit our family and friends and enjoy the summer weather we hope will visit us.

COVID-19 Help & Support Littleport

At the start of this pandemic a wonderful group of our residents took the initiative and started up a help and support group to help those residents who may have had to self-isolate and need assistance with shopping, friendly telephone calls etc. The group has grown to incorporate numerous volunteers throughout the village and to try and alleviate any concerns that people have the village has been split into 12 different areas so that, hopefully, anyone in need of help will know the person helping them. This group has also been registered on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Coronavirus Hub which is centrally administered by East Cambs District Council. Our local motorcycle training school has also been absolutely fantastic providing a free prescription collection service to anyone who needs it. This in turn has aided St George's Medical Centre by reducing the footfall in the surgery and thereby helping to protect the dedicated staff who are there every day to help everyone.

A letter from the Parish Council Chairman was posted on social media in April detailing the work that we are doing with the Help and Support Group, Youth Group and Foodbank. Since that time, with the support of the Parish Councillors and volunteers, we have used our CCF Covid 19 Grant funding to deliver food once a week during lockdown to some of our elderly and vulnerable residents who live alone (referred by agencies), and have provided emergency food packages via the foodbank to some of our residents who are experiencing financial hardship due to the Coronavirus Outbreak. We continue to work hard to ensure that we do everything within our power to support our residents through these difficult times.

The Paddocks

If you've been able to visit The Paddocks during your once a day exercise allowance you will have, we are sure, noticed that one of them has now been fenced and "kissing gates" built and installed. We have purchased 500 hedging saplings which have also been planted around the perimeter and in a cluster copse of this paddock which, when established, will provide a wonderful habitat for flora and fauna. There have also been installed 4 dog bag dispensers and 4 large bins ... so what is the

purpose of doing this to this one particular paddock? It's to enable dog walkers to walk their four legged friends in relative safety. The paddock is not to be classed as a "secure" area but will enable dogs and their owners to have some freedom for a run around.

What's On Website

Since the launch of the What's On Website numerous groups have registered and have been posting their events which gives residents an overview of all the wonderful things available. Unfortunately due to the situation we find ourselves in as we write this, most of the events have had to be cancelled but we're hopeful that it will start to grow again when we come out the other side. Please spread the word about this excellent resource. The website address is : www.littleportwhatson.co.uk.

Local Highway Initiative Bid

We have now been informed that we were successful in our bid for additional signage etc to be installed at Black Horse Drove to remind drivers of pedestrians in the road etc due to there being no pavements. This is not exactly what the Parish Council had applied for – we had requested that a speed limit be introduced but this was rejected due to lack of support from official agencies despite most of the residents of Black Horse Drove having written in support of our application. We will continue to press for a speed limit to be introduced though, we haven't given up!

Changes to Regulations

In light of the COVID-19 Coronavirus situation we have been informed by the National Association of Local Councils that there are changes to the requirements for the way Parish Councils can continue to conduct business during this time. This effectively means that until such time as social distancing measures have been removed, Parish Council meetings will be held remotely via the Zoom video conference app and these meetings are 'open' to the public to participate as if we were physically in The Barn and details of how to participate will be published along with the Agenda via our website and Facebook groups. The legislation allows the Parish Council to operate this way until May 2021 but, obviously, we're hopeful that by the time you read this we will be back to holding meetings physically again. The requirement for holding an Annual Meeting of the Parish has also been suspended until May 2021. Another effect of the changes in legislation means that the Parish Council also has an additional 2 months to complete the close down of the annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 and the official Notice to invite residents to view the accounts will be posted in line with the new regulations at the beginning of September 2020.



Su Field
Parish Clerk on behalf of
Cllr Clive Webber – Parish Council Chair



*Leader of Littleport
Council, Clive Webber*

From the Leader of Littleport Parish Council, Clive Webber

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Clerk to the Council: Ms Su Field

Deputy Clerk: Ms Vikki Austin

April 20th 2020

I would firstly like to say a huge thank you to all the groups that have been supporting our residents, as well as our wonderful NHS and all other key workers that are working so hard in such difficult circumstances.

Our community has really come together to support each other and we are seeing neighbours supporting each other in addition to residents volunteering with the Littleport Mutual Aid Help and Support Group, the Council led Community Hub and the NHS Volunteers Scheme.

Local authorities have had to restructure to gear up for the fight against Covid-19 at an unbelievable speed and as a Parish Council it was important that we could continue to support our community within the government guidelines. We, therefore, set up remote working for our Clerks so that the business of the Parish could continue and we could still coordinate the support effort, look at the impact on the village and put plans and procedures in place to minimise that impact.

The Littleport Covid-19 Mutual Aid Help and Support Group was set up at a very early stage by five residents who have continued to co-ordinate the group which has been extremely effective and our thanks goes out to you all. The response to the request for volunteers was amazing and the Parish Council wanted to fully support this effort. Via video conferencing we hold regular meetings with representatives of the Support Group, District & County Council Officers, St Georges Medical Centre and Sanctuary Housing, to name just a few, to ensure that we can discuss any queries or questions,


react quickly to any changes in guidance, share best practice and escalate issues to the appropriate organisations quickly. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank to our Independent Food Bank who work tirelessly to support our most vulnerable residents and also to our community who continue to donate food items to help those in need.

I am pleased that we have been successful in securing a grant from the CCF Covid-19 Community Grant Fund, which we applied for as soon as the details were released and this funding will be used in a variety of ways to support residents during this period of lockdown. Prior to the grant being agreed we had already provided funding to Joanne Coe, ThePort Youth Group Leader, to enable her to continue her great work with our children and parents who are having to adjust to lockdown and home schooling.

Please do feel free to contact the Parish Council if you are in need of support. We have also received a joint public sector partnership response to Covid-19 for East Cambridgeshire, which includes lots of useful information and contacts and is available to view on the Parish Website and Facebook Page.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to you all for continuing to follow the current guidance. It is essential that you all stay at home when you can to protect both your families and the NHS. The community spirit in Littleport has been heart-warming and I am proud to both live in Littleport and be part of the Parish Council. I truly believe that our community will be stronger and more resilient when we finally find ourselves returning to a normal way of life, whenever that may be.

CLlr Clive Webber
Chair, Littleport Parish Council
April 20th 2020



Covid2020 **#livelovelittleport**

Littleport - you are amazing!

Community is everything

If you require any support or wish to volunteer:
f Covid 19 Help and Support Group (Littleport)
✉ Covid19helplittleport@hotmail.com

We are here to help:
Clerk@littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk
T: 01353 860449



May Farm Grounds and Biodiversity 2020

The G's mushroom farm at May Farm, Littleport has a total area of 27 hectares, 15 of which are regenerated fenland habitat, crossed by waterways and surrounded by a watercourse (the Swale). The farm has an industry leading approach to conservation and is the only mushroom grower globally to have Fair to Nature status.

The mushroom facility has been fully operational since 2015, since when a series of ongoing projects have been implemented creating new and unique habitats. These include the development of three large wetland areas and the planting of over 42,000 British native trees and shrubs including the creation of a native British tree and shrub arboretum – unique within the UK. The arboretum has been planted with 3,345 saplings, comprising 67 species.

Special wildflower margins have been created, these buzz with bees and hoverflies and attract species of butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies; other margins are sown with wild bird, pollen and nectar

mixes to provide additional feeding areas for birds and insects.

A large pond in front of the farm attracts numerous species including Kingfishers, Little Grebes and dragonflies and the new marshlands provide valuable shallows for ducks such as Teal, and wader species like Lapwing, Snipe, Oystercatcher, Green Sandpiper and Redshank. Furthermore, a new scrape has been created with a bespoke nesting bank for Sand Martins and Kingfishers.

A Grey Partridge release programme has been implemented and these Red List birds now breed on the farm.

In addition, three thickets with specialist feeding strips have been planted, to support the multi-agency project “Operation Turtle Dove”, to provide nesting and foraging areas for this threatened species. This also provides a link to our farm in Senegal, where Turtle Doves overwinter. G's are committed to provide secure winter and summer habitats across the two countries to try



to help reverse the 97% decline in this species population.

These new habitats have seen an explosion in the biodiversity across the farm. To date, the site has attracted 146 species of birds (including 27 Red List and 47 Amber list species). There is evidence of 56 species breeding on the farm including Oystercatchers, Kingfishers, Grey Partridges, Skylarks, Reed Warblers, Swallows and Yellowhammers.

The wild areas have proved to be attractive to insects with 26 species of butterflies and 184 species of moths logged so far.

Damselflies and dragonflies are abundant with 21 species of dragonflies/damselflies identified, including Banded Demoiselle, Emperor, Southern, Migrant and Brown Hawkers, and rarer species such as Small Red-eyed Damselfly and Willow Emerald.

The aquatic insect life along with a thriving population of Water Voles (nationally endangered) gives testament to the quality of the watercourses surrounding

the farm. 24 other species of mammal have been seen on the farm.

The habitat creation and management work has been carried out by Steve Mumford who has shown real vision, passion and dedication in creating a long lasting, generational transformation to the landscape. As a consequence, the farm is recognised by key industry bodies including the Fair to Nature accreditation (the only mushroom farm in the world), Red Tractor, RSPB, BTO, LEAF and Cambridgeshire Bird Club.

The commitment to biodiversity at May Farm has vastly improved the surrounding land and the wealth of wildlife it attracts, and the real excitement is looking to the future – the opportunity to make an impact on the Turtle Dove decline, the maturing of the native British tree arboretum and new habitats attracting an even wider range of species to the site for colleagues and future generations to enjoy.

Steve Mumford

Learning Matters...

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

Franklin D Roosevelt

While I love the above quote by FDR, (and it has a particular resonance now) the use of the word 'build' is interesting, harkening back to a more mechanistic age, when the language of engineering and 'making' was widely used to make sense of the world. I think now we might have issues with that word, 'build' – can we really build people? Can we even build a future? Instead of 'build' we might use words such as 'encourage', 'nurture' or 'grow'; words that reflect more the spirit of our age and our understanding of how we develop.

The sentiments behind the quote, however, will evoke a feeling of recognition by many and raise the question as to how do we help to develop the young of now so they are best placed to deal with the challenges of an uncertain future? One way, clearly, is through education, for it is through learning the appropriate knowledge and skills that students of all ages can best prepare themselves for the future, whatever it may bring. In what was a landmark piece of social research conducted in the 1970s, the 'Marshmallow Test' began to illustrate what had been suspected for a long time; that attitudes and dispositions (the so called 'soft skills') play at least as large a part in 'future-proofing' the young of today as do curriculum knowledge and skills. These 'soft skills' include attributes such as self-discipline, perseverance, self-belief, creativity, imagination, independence and determination. It is these attributes, allied to school learning, that are the engine for success in later life. There are many examples of people who stick at things and persevere and one, that comes to mind right now is, JK Rowling, who struggled for years before finding success with her Hogwarts

series of books (by the way, she has given an excellent TED talk called "The Fringe Benefits of Failure"-do look it up if you have the chance).

Resilience, psychologists believe, is one of the key attributes for helping to develop the young so they are better able to cope with the uncertainties of the future. Resilience is defined as 'bounce-back-ability' and, with increasing levels of uncertainty and stress leading to increasing levels of anxiety and depression in young people, there has never been a greater need for us to support them as they develop this important attribute.

How do we develop resilience in the children we look after, love and care for? There are many answers to this, but one key message, coming out of practice and research is for parents/carers to not do too much for their children. Resilience is an attribute which grows in the mind and attitudes of a person who feels they 'can do' (like in the story of 'The Little Engine That Could' who repeatedly said to itself; "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can") and the best way to feel that one 'can do', is to take action and 'do'. This may seem like a small idea; however small ideas are often very powerful so don't overlook this one. It is so important that young people are encouraged to do things for themselves at every opportunity. Independence helps to build resilience, resilience builds success, and contributes towards happiness and fulfilment. The flip side of this is dependence- which undermines this spirit of 'can-do-ism' leading to learned helplessness, in which a person feels they 'just can't' do things.

One way in which independence can be achieved is by getting the child in your life to do as many things as they can by

themselves and for themselves. Children are always, in my experience, much more clued in and capable than we give them credit for and so a good starting point for this is the question; 'what is it that I am doing for my child(ren), that he/she/they can do for themselves?' and once you have thought about this, you will then need to have a chat with them to agree on things they can do and will do going forward. These can include activities such as cooking meals, ironing, washing, planning and carrying out shopping-whatever is appropriate. We must encourage children to be as self-sufficient as possible; this doesn't mean abandoning them to their fate but it does mean setting them up to feel competent and confident. Resilience is built up over 1000s of acts of mastery/success, 1000s experiences of failure (and of 'getting up again') and 1000s moments of feedback (both external and internal) that contribute to a feeling of 'Yes...I can do stuff!' and the feeling of wanting to take on new challenges.

A (not exhaustive) list of things children could/should be able to do at various ages/ stages could include:

2-3 years old

- Dress themselves
- Put dirty clothes in the bin
- Put toys away
- Help lay the table
- Help feed animals
- Dust

4-5 years old

All of the above plus;

- Help in the shops
- Unpack shopping
- Lay tables
- Hoovering
- Feed animals
- Help with dishwasher
- Make sandwiches

6-10 years old

All of the above plus;

- Pack own lunch boxes
- Get own breakfast ready

- Load and empty dishwasher
- Work a washing machine
- Provide a basic meal
- Organise their school things
- Tidy and clean their rooms

10s and up

All of the above, plus;

- Take control of homework (plan, organise)
- Use public transport
- Cross roads
- Pack suitcase

By 15

All of the above plus;

- Cook simple meals
- Plan and shop
- Iron clothes
- Manage basic finances
- Use a washing machine
- Change a lightbulb
- Make social arrangements
- Pack own suitcases
- Change sheets
- Tidy own bedroom
- Clean a bathroom
- Do school work independently
- Have kit and homework ready

I am sure you will have your own ideas to add!

The reason I am mentioning all of this is that now, while many of us are spending so much time with the family, is an ideal time to put these important building blocks in place. With schools inactive for so long, the learners of all ages are experiencing the totality of the most powerful learning environment they ever have; the home. So, use this time, and the forthcoming holidays to build the independence, resilience and 'can-do' spirit of the learners in your lives. It won't be easy (and maybe my next piece should focus on conflict resolution strategies!), but it will be worthwhile.

We cannot know what the future will hold, but we can be ready for anything.

David Barker



Littleport Community Primary School News

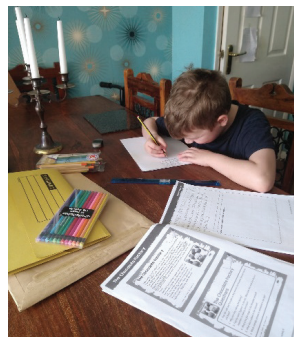
Adam Rivett Littleport Community Primary School Headteacher and Director of East Cambs and Fenland Research School gives us an insight into activities during and prior to the C19 pandemic situation

It is reassuring to know that in what have been turbulent times, there are certainties. There are sunrises and sunsets; rain and shine; happiness and sadness; and education. Education continues despite schools having been closed across the country - it's just that the educational landscape changed. Children have swapped the classroom for the kitchen table; sofa in the lounge; desk in the bedroom or the back garden but learning has still been taking place!

Nobody could have predicted that the summer term in schools would have looked like this but we have been inundated with examples of learning at home from the children of Littleport Community Primary School. Our Twitter page (@LCPS07) is being used by families to share the amazing and unique learning activities that have taken place outside of school. The children are at the very centre of everything we do at our school and school provides a sense of routine and stability for many of

our children. We have been very mindful of their well-being, as well as that of the families at home, throughout this period. It was important for us to not overwhelm children and families with work at the start of this but instead allow them the time to adapt to the new way of life. As time has gone on, we have reinstated familiar routines for the children. We now hold virtual assemblies via our YouTube channel and conduct 'face to face' calls with the children using technology. All staff love seeing the photographs of learning the children have sent in and seeing their faces via conference calls. It cheers us up and we know it does the same for our families.

Beyond this, school has been open for children of key workers and vulnerable families. I am extremely grateful for the exceptional effort that all members of the school community, including governors, have put in to support each other as well as our families. We are always cheered up by the displays of appreciation for key workers we



see whenever I, or my staff, are out delivering meals to families around the local area.

What follows are a few examples of school life before the partial closure as well as a few examples of learning at home children have sent in during lockdown.

Y6 Trip to Anglia Ruskin University - Ms Hoal, Upper School Leader

Swifts and Kingfishers visited ARU to learn more about life at university. Their first challenge was to work out what the student ambassadors were studying by asking them questions to which they could only answer yes, no or maybe. After some serious grilling, they discovered that they studied a huge range of subjects including illustration, international relations and business management.

Later in the day they had the opportunity to explore the university campus. It was really exciting to see the science block, the art gallery and theatre. However, the wide range of cafes and restaurants caused the most excitement!

After lunch, they designed their own universities, including one entirely run by robots, and then presented them in a real lecture theatre – a really exciting experience.

World Book Day Celebrations - Ms McLeish, Lower School Leader

On World Book Day, the whole school enjoyed discovering the beautiful wordless picture book, *Journey*, by Aaron Becker. Each year group approached it in a different way, from writing poetry to descriptive writing to creating suspense. It was lovely to be able to celebrate our work in a whole school assembly.

We are also taking part in the World Book Day Share a Million Stories campaign. Each time a story is shared for more than ten minutes, whether at school or at home, we can add this to our school total and also to the national total. This campaign lasted for most of March, so there was plenty of opportunity to share lots of fantastic stories.





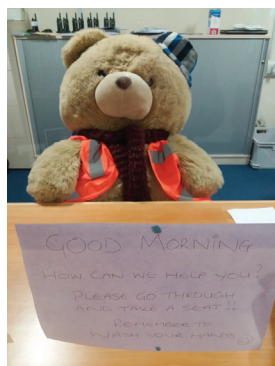
Millfield School



It's certainly been a challenging time for us all and here at Millfield we have attempted to keep some sense of normality for those children in school and those working at home.

When it looked likely that schools would remain open only for our most vulnerable children and those children of key workers, the Elliot Foundation Trust was swift to act and consider the likelihood of many weeks or months of home learning by creating a Virtual Learning Platform. Teachers created Google classrooms from which children could access a range of activities and assignments to do at home. We knew this would have teething problems so at Millfield we also developed home learning packs for children to complete. It was a difficult situation in that final week of 'normal' schooling; numerous staff and pupil absences, knowing that this could be the last day of this academic year and for our Year 6 pupils a milestone not marked in any celebratory way.

However, we picked ourselves up and Millfield opened on Monday 23rd March as a school with a difference. Minimal staff and, with many parents heeding the advice of the Government to only send children as an emergency arrangement, we embarked on a new challenge. Children working from home started on their home learning packs and children in school got to know those who would become their new classmates over the following weeks. Our new 'class' ranged from nursery to Y6 but all children coped amazingly well that first day. It was a day with a difference, exercise with Joe Wicks the television celebrity fitness trainer at 9am, making rainbows to show positivity and displaying them outside our school to cheer up passers-by and remind them to stay safe, Chromebooks and Google classroom. With the sun shining on what was a beautiful Spring day, we spent a lot of time outdoors enjoying the fresh air as much as possible. This was the start of the 'new normal'.





Over the weeks, we spent time each day in our Google classrooms, continued with our reading and quizzes, became fit with our daily workouts, photographed, painted, created, made, danced, sang, forest schooled, baked and made the best of the Spring weather outdoors. Mental wellbeing was something we were eager to protect and we tried to do this through yoga, meditation and relaxation and creating a safe and secure environment. Keeping in contact through

our Google classroom meant we could keep contact and support those at home as best we could.

It was also great to see what children at home were doing as parents posted photos on our Friends of Millfield Facebook page. It was difficult to be apart but this helped us feel that we were all still in touch with each other.



As this time draws to a close, hopefully we have come out better people who appreciate what we have; our friends, family and the world around us. We have had to be patient, resilient, independent, considerate, supportive, appreciative, the list is endless. Now we look positively forward to the future.

Wendy Lee

Vice Principal

Millfield Primary School



An Exciting Academic Year to come for **LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY**

Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy continues to grow and develop, and our latest recruitment drive has seen us appoint a new Assistant Head and also Heads of Maths, English, Science, Humanities and PE. We will also be recruiting for a wide range of positions across the curriculum, and support staff, so we are ready to start GCSE courses in September.

This year a number of new initiatives have begun. These include the Duke of Edinburgh Award running throughout the year for Year 9, Activities Week for the whole school in July and a new Student Leadership Programme launched after Easter. These are all exciting opportunities for our students and many of them will be involved in all three if they want to be.

For the third year running, LECA will have a full cohort of new Year 7 students in September. Demand for places at the Academy is at an all-time high and we are so grateful for the positive support the local community has given us since we opened. Having a full school means we get full funding and that means we can ensure we have all the resources we need to meet the needs of all our students.

We have had a good sporting year so far too. Our Year 9 Netball teams scored some impressive wins both home and away; our table tennis team progressed to the Counties; our runners performed brilliantly

at the County finals of the Cross Country and our Year 8 U13 Girls Cricketers beat Neale Wade and King's Ely to also progress to the Counties. For a relatively small school, we do compete well against schools in the area and we have some outstanding sporting students who compete at regional and national level.

There is always lots of things going on at LECA so it is almost impossible to capture it all. One way to keep informed about the Academy is to follow our Facebook and Twitter pages and listen to our weekly podcast (or BlogCast as we've called it). This is a quick rundown of the events going on at LECA and also features teachers and students too. We hope you'll give it a listen.

Community spirit and a determination to take a 'can-do' approach have seen LECA students and staff involved in the supply of personal protective equipment, PPE.

Students and staff at Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy hand-crafted more than 300 PPE visors in a week for St George's Medical Centre, Littleport Grange Care Home, Laburnum Lodge, Beech Court, Alderton House and the East of England Ambulance HQ in Newmarket. As well as making PPE visors, students made face masks, which were dropped off to staff at the Co-op in Isleham and the Newmarket branch of NatWest.



Thumbs up for PPE from all at LECA!



Key workers receiving PPE



Bank staff receive masks!

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers Union at St. George's Littleport

This group meets at 7.15 pm on the first Monday evening of each month in the parish room at St. George's Church. We have thirty members this year.

Men and women, married and unmarried, not only mothers, are all welcome to join us. At our November meeting last year the average age of those present was eighty two but we are a lively and friendly group whose members take part in the whole life of St. George's Church, especially Messy Church and the toddler groups!

We are part of the Mothers' Union worldwide which has over four million members who live in about eighty five countries. We are ideally placed to contact one another now when people all over the world are affected by the coronavirus because we already had a "Families Worldwide Prayer Diary" in the hands of every member. That also links us across the Church of England wherever there is a Mothers' Union branch and we continually pray along with them.

Each meeting begins with prayer and ends with a time of fellowship, greatly appreciated by members especially those who live alone. Often speakers come to tell us about their work and interests. We have learned about the lunch time clubs which are run by the Anglican, Methodist and Vine Churches working together in Littleport's secondary and primary schools. At our last meeting held in March 2020 Lisa Thompson

told us about the amazing and inspiring care given to the folk who have suffered brain damage and who come in to Fen House for rehabilitation. In July we have a strawberry and cream tea meeting and entertain one another with readings of all sorts. We also have craft evenings and occasionally play riotous board games or 'beetle'. Each year in March we hold a coffee morning to raise funds for mothers in need around the world. This money is sent via the Mothers' Union in Ely Diocese. They also support us in fellowship services and monthly MU prayers at Ely Cathedral attended by members from other branches all over Ely.

Although we have had to stop meeting during the coronavirus, members are knitting garments for premature babies, woollen toys to give to little children who are brought to visit parents in our local prisons and twiddle muffs for people who have dementia.

We are also in touch with one another by phone and online, helping to keep each other's spirits up. We now have the chance to join in the service sent out on line from St. George's Church. We look forward to the time when we can give each other a proper hug instead of a virtual hug. When that time comes, we hope that you will come along to a meeting, where you will be sure of a warm welcome – you are never too young (or old!) to join. Pauline O'Connor, St. George's Branch Leader.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH



As I write this article, we are in lockdown due to the coronavirus, but hopefully by the time you are reading it, we are not; at least I hope some restrictions will have been lifted. Whilst the lockdown is global, its effect is played out at a highly personal, individual, level with a huge impact upon all our lives. For many that means big restrictions on movement and for others, an even bigger impact with the loss of work.

And there has been another impact too; that is the realisation of how interconnected we all are, not only locally, but globally too. How something, in this case a virus, can move between us paying no attention to international boundaries or even oceans. And then, once we are forced to respond to it, suddenly realising how much our way of life depends upon each other.

We are accustomed to the word individual as meaning separate or set apart; we listen to our music, make our choices, we follow our way. Yet the word individual comes from the Latin *individuus* where the original meaning is actually 'not divisible' and 'inseparably linked together' – quite the opposite to set apart. Now, it is quite common for the meaning of words to morph and evolve over time, but this change for the word individual is remarkable. It's a change we might not have known about, however I had various conversations which suggest that people became very aware of how a modern individualism was so destructive. The early days of the virus getting here gave rise to panic buying and hoarding

which had such a negative effect on our common life; yet as things progressed to the lockdown, so much mutual support came to the fore. I am not suggesting we needed the virus to make us understand, but faced with the virus, we faced both the best and the worst of our humanity.

The Christian gospel pulls no punches when it talks about selfishness and makes very clear that none of us know everything and by association, we therefore need one another. But this is no policy statement on social welfare; after all, many an atheist will acknowledge that we need one another. The gospel however speaks of self giving love; this is much more than policy pronouncements, delivery schedules or funding streams. Self giving love directs us emotionally to something much bigger than ourselves which is why the church says that God is love; an overflowing loving kindness streaming from the heart is how the New Testament puts it.

When the lockdown is over, I hope that we can recall how we are so dependent on each other and keep the good things that did emerge from something so terrible.

And finally; this is the last article I shall write for Littleport Life because I am moving to a new post in Buckinghamshire, part of Oxford diocese. Living in Littleport has been a pivotal experience for me in church and community life, so thank you for making it so.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson

Vine Community Church

Look at the Birds



VineCCL

*Where can we get our inspiration
from for daily living?*

I've been in Littleport three years now, and the rooks in the trees a couple of streets away have been my constant companions through the day and through the seasons. What a season this last one has been (and very much continuing

as I write). We have all had our own thoughts during lockdown, and not a few challenges. One morning in March, as soon as I woke up, a few words and phrases came to me that I turned into a sonnet. Here it is.

**You stake your lofty claim in giant trees -
A colony of heaven made of sticks!
But what if comes more than a gentle breeze?
Is this location really safe for chicks?**

**Your social distance is my inspiration
While soaring far above this Covid virus;
Your parliament will always be in session -
Your wheeling dealing cawing Covid chorus.**

**I want to fly away! Lord, give me wings!
But you say Stay, remain aloft, Be Still.
So then, dear Lord, give me the heart that sings;
Help me to do your good and perfect will.**

**My child, Look at the birds, observe their style;
Your heavenly Father feeds them all the while.**

Ian Silk

The Vine Community Church



Baby and Toddler Group Monday

(term) 10.00 - 11.30am
Tel. Julie 07790 304099



House Groups (evening) - Tuesday and Wednesday times vary ~ 7.15 - 9.15pm

House Groups (day) - Wednesday
10.30am - 12.00noon (biweekly)

Coffee Break - Thursday (term time) 10.30 - 12.00noon - Coffee/Tea and home made cakes



ENERGISE! - Friday (term) 5.15pm to 6.30pm
5 - 11 year olds



Sunday

Worship 10.30am - 12.00 followed by refreshments
We have a **crèche** and **Stars** Children's Group

You are very welcome to visit us. For further information email vineccl18@gmail.com or tel. 01353 861478 and leave a message.

The Vine Community Church, Globe Lane, Littleport. CB6 1PW
We are also on vineccl.org.uk and facebook.com/vineccl

St John's Methodist Church



High Street, Littleport

Sunday Services

Morning: 10.45am – weekly

Evening: 6.30pm – 2nd Sunday of each month

Coffee Mornings

9.30-11.30am on the first Saturday of each month

Minister: Rev. Catherine Dixon (01353 662426)

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals by arrangement

<http://www.elyandnewmarketmethodists.org.uk/littleport>



***Alive in Christ..... Worship,
Mission and Service***

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISTS IN LITTLEPORT



We have all endured much over the last few months, in many and various ways, but the planet has kept turning and the sun has risen over our horizon and set each day, regardless of the tumultuous earthly events that tested the entire world's population to the utmost with many likening it to the last world war. But this has been a war where the entire nations of the world were united in battling a common anti-human foe.

As for the place that I inhabit with my fellow residents of Littleport, it has born witness to the basic goodness, kindness and humanity of everyone living in the village regardless of class, creed or culture.

We have all witnessed random acts of kindness, planned kind help by members of the community for those less able to help themselves, especially with shopping and picking up medications etc., spontaneous acts of neighbourliness and new friendships formed between erstwhile strangers.

In our time of isolation, we reached out to support others in whichever way we could, and on a spiritual level in common with all the religious groups in the UK who took to the internet and social media to broadcast messages of comfort, Littleport Christian Spiritualists broadcast our usual service held in the village hall every Thursday night, on Thursday nights from our own homes via a professional provider.

And because there is a record of participators, viewers, we know that there were far too many to have crammed into the hall on any ordinary evening – around 5-600 live views and ticking up to over a thousand watching the replay from one service to the next!

I am sure that our services demonstrating that we do indeed inherit eternal life and that there is communication between this existence and the next through messages from our visiting mediums (from their front parlours) often

containing a modicum of humour generated by the individuals in spirit, with spiritual readings, philosophical addresses and inspirational prayers and healing minutes, will see an increase in actual attendance as we resume our Thursday gatherings that will also be broadcast.

As life for most of us returns to some semblance of normality after hundreds of thousands of untimely deaths, bereavements and sadnesses caused by the virus, there must be a shift in world consciousness for the better.

We as Christian Spiritualists endeavour, each day, to cheer and uplift others' spirits by spreading our understanding of survival after physical death together with our basic principles which are:

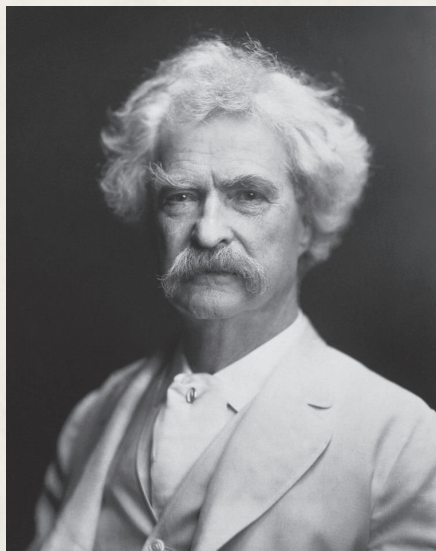
- **The Fatherhood and Motherhood of God**
- **The Brother and Sisterhood of Humankind**
- **The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels**
- **The Continuous Existence of the human soul**
- **Personal Responsibility**
- **Compensation and Retribution hereafter for all the good and evil deeds done on earth**
- **Eternal Progress open to every human soul**
- **With Liberty of Interpretation**
- **We accept the leadership and example of Jesus as our saviour and light of the world**

On behalf of all of us at Littleport Christian Spiritualists I wish you the very best in life for this summer and hope you will look us up!

Join us in a live broadcast or catch up on Facebook to see what we are all about, and until next time, be good to yourselves, and each other, and may God bless you and your loved ones.

Rt. Rev'd Nick Brown

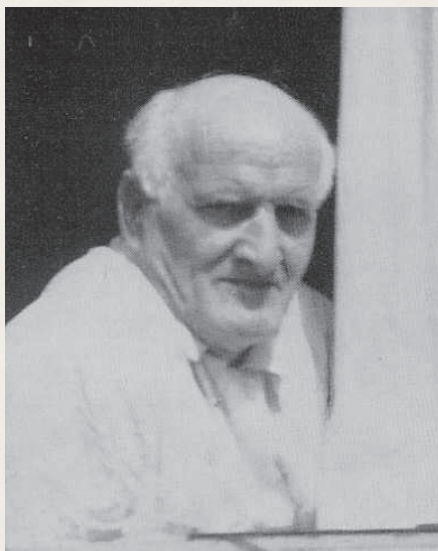
MARK TWAIN, W. H. BARRETT & THE SHIP AT BRANDON CREEK



Mark Twain

The Ship Inn at Brandon Creek (recently sadly closed) has a long and colourful history, with tales of hangings, witchcraft and (perhaps even stranger) a visit by Cliff Richard. It seems that there was an inn there as early as the 17th century, and it thrived under a succession of landlords and landladies during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Walter Henry ("Jack") Barrett was born on July 23 1891 and spent his formative years in and around Brandon Creek, then a small village on the edge of the fens. As an elderly man in the 1960s he recounted a large number of old tales, legends and personal reminiscences to Enid Porter, then the Curator of the Cambridge and County Folk Museum. These stories were published in two books (unfortunately



Walter Henry ("Jack") Barrett

out of print) called "Tales from the Fens" and "More Tales from the Fens".

In the introduction to the first of these volumes, Enid Porter relates Barrett's tale of his encounter with Mark Twain at the Ship.

He explained that Mark Twain was staying in Cambridge after suffering a nervous breakdown and that he came to the Ship to complete his recovery at the recommendation of Mr. Thurston who owned Thurston's Café in Cambridge. He remembered receiving sweets from the American humourist and the fact that he and the other local children followed him around hoping to receive more. He also reported that Mark Twain enjoyed the tale-telling skills of the fenmen and joined a long



The Ship Inn, Brandon Creek

session after supper at the Ship, which concluded with Mark telling a tall tale of his own.

I became fascinated by this story and attempted to verify it.

I contacted Cameron Hawke-Smith, who was then the curator of the Cambridge and County Folklore Museum and he kindly let me have a copy of the story that Twain supposedly told. I then contacted the Mark Twain Project at Berkeley University and had some very enjoyable exchanges with their researchers who could neither confirm nor deny Barrett's story but, to put it politely, they had their doubts. And despite numerous invitations, none of them ever made it to the Ship for a pint of good "warm" British beer. (Incidentally, I have never understood why some Americans think that English beer is served warm. It is served at room temperature. Have they ever been to an English pub?)

In another stage of my journey I enlisted the help of the well-known local historian Mike Rouse who kindly put a plea from me in his newspaper column asking if anyone had any information about Twain visiting Cambridge. The replies hardly flooded in – in fact there were none. And no biography of Mark Twain makes any mention of a visit to Cambridge, let alone Brandon Creek.

Now Twain was very fond of a tall tale, as were the people of the Fens. I am not the only one to have come to the conclusion that Jack Barrett was pulling a number of legs with his story of Mark Twain. Perhaps we'll never know but it is telling that he doesn't mention his encounter with Twain in his autobiography "A Fenman's Story". However, I think Jack Barrett might go along with the view that it's not a good idea to let too many facts ruin a good story.

David Meacock

THE LITTLEPORT PLAYERS PANTOMIME 2020

Pantomime

Unfortunately our summer musical HAIRSPRAY has been cancelled due to recent events but we promise to be back (fingers crossed) with our next pantomime – name to be announced.

Performances – 3-6 December 2020

Venue - Littleport and East Cambs Academy

Filled with a host of great characters, upbeat songs and groovy choreography – you seriously don't want to miss this one.

Tickets will be on sale shortly but purchase them quick as we always sell out!

AUDITIONS

Are you aged 13 and over? Do you like singing, dancing and acting?

Then why not give it a go and come along to the auditions for our next pantomime. Previous experience is not essential but a love of performing and commitment is. You'll have a great laugh, make lots of new friends and gain tons of experience.

AUDITION DATES will be announced shortly

Please be prepared to sing and dance a little and explore the characters of the script in a friendly, relaxed environment.

Rehearsals are Monday and Wednesday evenings with some Sunday afternoons. You must be available every night of show week. Email rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com for an audition pack and further information. Alternatively like our Facebook Page – The Littleport Players.

If you would like to take part off stage either play an instrument, make-up, chaperoning, set/prop building, costumes, programme/poster design, marketing, front of house, stage management or anything else we haven't mentioned, please do let me know on the above email address or through our Facebook Page. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you

ThePORT Youth Group

Joanne Coe is the busy organiser of ThePort youth group - and there was no stopping her - and the youngsters - during the recent stringent social distancing and isolation measures!

Although unable to meet together at the Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Club, Joanne told Littleport Life about many of the activities in which they have been involved.

Joanne says: 'We have been keeping busy in the community with many activities including random acts of kindness, crafts and online activities over the last few weeks.

Our first week was mainly all about encouragement. Encouraging the children/youths to keep themselves safe and as the slogan states, Stay Home!

Posting out on social media many reminders, guidance on washing hands as often as possible and keeping busy indoors.

In early May, 250 clear bags full of goodies were prepared comprising note books, sweets, small games, bracelets, model airplanes etc. All were then delivered across the village randomly as Random Acts of Kindness.

We asked youths and the community to make 'thinking of you' cards to add to some bags for older residents - these cards were left at the One Stop shop.

Many photos were posted online of children with the bags - messages of thanks and support to others.

The second week saw many parents struggling with school work and keeping children/youths busy - we decided to source crafts to help

support many who were finding it hard at home whilst parents tried to work in the house. Craft supplies in local shops were very low.

We also posted on our media page many craft ideas using items easily found in the home and continued to add these ideas weekly.

Just for example - drawing a picture on a plate with a marker then adding water to lift the picture so it moves.

Cutting a plastic bottle in half attaching a sock and dipping it in fairy Liquid / water to blow snake bubbles.

Quizzes and Picture Quizzes were also added online for the older youths and adults.

Shopping for some of the youths' families has also been high priority, trying to ensure all who use the food bank have been continuing to do so and claiming school free meals if applicable. We have also offered assistance with any forms.

Staying in touch with youths we see regularly who we know suffer with mental health related concerns has also been high priority ensuring that all are ok and know we are on the phone should they have a need to chat. Our Essential Sue Box has also been on offer with toiletries for all who may require.

Crafts arrived and were sorted in to 50 bags and distribution began.

Alongside this, Easter Bunny bags x 45 were prepared and hung all over the village as a random act of kindness for families to find whilst out exercising.

Huge Easter Hampers were delivered to The Grange, Laburnum Lodge and

Beech Court. We included crafts and goodies for residents to enjoy.

Over 70 Easter Eggs were delivered to The Grange for staff and residents. We say a huge thank you for allowing ThePort youths in to help through the year.

We got proactive in raising £450 to assist Phil Priestley's Youth Panel to help provide lap tops for children you need and put a link on our Face Book Pages.

Joanne told us about a healthy initiative to encourage youngsters to exercise!

Moving on from the first few weeks we continued to stay in contact with many families in Littleport encouraging daily exercise. Many parents had mentioned children were not bothered about going for a walk and it's becoming difficult to encourage exercise - mainly because it wasn't safe to just pop in the shop for some treats etc.

And so the idea of a pocket money stall was put in to action. My husband Andy and I cleared all the prizes we store at the youth group and sold many plus all the bingo prizes were sold at really reasonable prices. Our stock was then refreshed - but the most important thing was seeing the children (and parents) excited about a little treat after walking or cycling to my drive."

Joanne went on to say: "The online crafts and recipes continue. Over £350 worth of crafts were sourced and these were sold from my drive. We supported The Grange art display. And NHS/Key worker colouring in templates were made available as many do not have printers at home. Over 350 packs of chalk were delivered after days of searching the internet - chalk was sold out everywhere, and these were sold at the cost price again to encourage

exercise. Children used this to decorate walls and driveways adding games etc."

In conclusion, Joanne told Littleport Life: "We also had lots of entries for the colouring competition and fantastic donations from some local businesses."

THEPORT JOINED FORCES WITH THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB DURING THE LOCKDOWN!

First of all many congratulations to all those who entered the picture competition, they were all of a wonderful standard!

How did this competition come to be?

Back in April, Cathy Gibb de Swarte asked committee member Derek Timbers whether the Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Club notice boards, that were miserably blank of the usual notices for forthcoming activities, could be cheered with decoration by the youth group called ThePort that ordinarily uses the Club to meet.

No sooner said than done - Derek called Joanne Coe, ThePort organiser and the idea for a pictorial competition on the topical theme of how we deal with the difficult situation and for the entries to be pinned on those hitherto blank spaces outside the Club was instigated.

With the age categories decided and a deadline for entries, the new competition was quickly announced and as the pictures poured in, they were pinned up for all to enjoy.

The day for judging the entries arrived and Littleport Life magazine's photographer, reporter and advertising manager Cathy Gibb de Swarte, together with consultant editor Lyn Gibb de Swarte, who are also secretary and publicity officer respectively for The Littleport Society, were asked to choose the winners.



The standard of all the entries was really high so choosing between them all was really hard. From the youngest, aged 2 years old, to the 'Over 16's' that ranged up to 60 years of age, the judges were hard-pressed to look for the winners and runners-up in all the categories.

But it had to be done, so... The Winners, Runners-Up and the prizes they received were:

UNDER 5

Winner: **PENNY WALTHER**

Prize - Art Set Donated by Fenland Spirit Services and Chocolates donated by Derek Timbers.

Runner Up: **MASON ISLEY**

Prize - Craft & Sweets

AGE 6-10

Joint Winners: **RUBY WALTHER** and **LUCIE HENSBY**

Prize - £20 Rumbles Voucher & Ali's Kebab £20 Voucher

Runner Up: **CAITLIN WHITE**

Prize - Craft & Sweets

AGE 11-16

Winner: **ROSS**

Prize - £23.50 Pizza Town Voucher (donated)

Runner Up: **RUBY JOHNSON**

Prize - Craft & Sweets

AGE 16 +

Winner: **LAURA MATHEWS**

Prize - Clare's Kitchen - Picnic on VE Day for 4

Runner Up: **JANE**

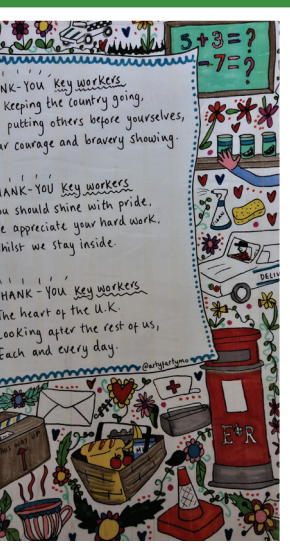
Prize - Craft & Sweets

An extra prize was also given to **SHELBY PALMER** as Highly Commended.

The photos are winners in each age category followed by runners-up and last but not least the highly commended.

They were then replaced to be viewed outside the Ex-Servicemen's Club courtesy of Joanne Coe and Andy Coe.





If Carlsberg made friends & Bike Clubs.....



363MCC Active in Lockdown!

The activities of Littleport's bikers are legendary - and for all the right reasons! Although the recent lockdown put a temporary stop to their usual pre-summer meetings 363MCC members were still busy.

May Day is always celebrated with the Crowning Around Bike Show that this year had to be cancelled. The profits are always given to charity, and the main beneficiary is always East Anglia's Air Ambulance. Local charities are also awarded a cheque too.

But nothing daunted, the 363MCC's president Mark Robinson decided to raise money for them on his birthday through his Facebook page.

Mark said: "Due to the current situation, we, as many others had to cancel our event, the Crowning Around Bike Show.

But the problem being the main charity East Anglian Air Ambulance still needs our donations. So for the first time we set up an online donation and were overwhelmed with the response. So pleased that in these hard times, people can still spare their money for this wonderful cause. We cannot thank you enough."

£1,362 was raised!

There was an alternative for the first rally of the year that also had to be cancelled. Called the 'Arse in the Yard Rally' all the participants had a really good time and the competition was fierce. Bike photos were posted and after judging, the best in each category, winners of Best British, Best American and so on, was announced.

Littleport is proud of its 363MCC.



WWT We Opened!

It's the moment we've been looking forward to since we closed our doors in late March. Welney Wetland Centre opened again on Wednesday 10 June.

Lockdown has taken its toll on us all. But the good news is that nature's paid little heed and our wetlands are absolutely teeming with wildlife that we couldn't wait to share with you.

We've worked hard these last few weeks to make a few changes so that everyone can stay safe. Most significantly we're strictly limiting the number of people who can visit on any given day.

To manage this we've set up an **online booking system**.

Everyone, whether you're a WWT member or not, must book in advance for the day you wish to visit.

Bookings open every Wednesday morning at 9am for the following week, and you need to book before midnight the day before you'd like to visit.

Once here you'll see we've made some routes one-way to help you keep a safe

distance from other households. Most indoor areas and all play areas are closed for now. However, we've managed to open many of our hides safely by limiting the number of people and propping open all doors and windows. We've also made sure that toilets are available and can be used safely.

For now (early June) we're not opening our shops or cafes, but we hope to offer takeaway refreshments very soon. You're very welcome to bring your own food and drink though and there's plenty of space to enjoy a picnic.

Of course, staying safe is everyone's responsibility, and we've updated our Code of Conduct to reflect the current situation. Please read it before you visit and ensure that everyone in your household behaves with respect for others during your visit.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Welney Wetland Centre

Spring began for everything except humans! But Summer is here now!

The team at WWT Welney hope that everyone in Littleport has kept safe and well through what have been some very testing times. For this article we will let you know how the reserve and wildlife has fared this spring, giving suggestions for lots of online resources and some ideas for how you can enjoy watching the wildlife in your own gardens. We started March coming out of one of the wettest winters we've had in a few years with prolonged flooding, and were just getting ready to jump into spring with both feet when everything came to a grinding halt thanks to coronavirus. As the pandemic picked up speed we started to see volunteers and staff beginning the process of self-isolating and as increasing guidance came out about social distancing we had to employ several different tactics

to maintain the safety of our remaining staff, volunteers and visitors. As of Sun 22 March we could no longer safely remain open to the public during the pandemic, and as it happened lockdown began for the general public from that Monday. Since then a much reduced team worked on essential tasks, making sure that the site was secure and trying to bring the wildlife and reserve to people through the website and social media, whilst people could not come to the reserve in person.

The onsite team have been sending out weekly updates to the team of staff and volunteers throughout who cannot be on site, and these also appeared on the news page of the website. Progress on the reserve has also been shared with followers on social media, follow us online if you don't already so that we can share



Main lagoon

Black tailed Godwits Lady Fen



our wildlife and reserve with you. During April water levels dropped on the reserve, revealing the wetland habitat which is so important for our ground-nesting birds. Spring and summer arrivals included wheatear, yellow wagtail, sedge warbler, ruff, little ringed plover, garganey, sand martin, swallow, house martin, greenshank, spotted redshank, ringed plover, little gull and whimbrel. Cattle were brought onto the reserve from Easter Monday to begin grazing and fertilising the grassland. Once the water levels got to the ideal level for spring breeding season, the remaining water needed to be moved around the reserve through the network of ditches to make sure it was in the areas our wading birds most need. The first insects were emerging in April with the warm, sunny conditions. Butterflies and bumblebees were busy pollinating flowers and moth trapping could begin with the warmer evenings and the first dragonfly was spotted on Sunday 26 April.

Due to restrictions on conservation projects during coronavirus Project Godwit is having to take a physical break this year, no headstarting for birds or engagement with visitors and local groups through on site events and school sessions. However, there are plenty of new resources on the website this year. Visit www.projectgodwit.org.uk to find downloadable activities for homeschooling in the classroom pack as well as a blog update from Jess Owen. The onsite team

Dragonfly



have tried to spot as many ringed birds as possible, whilst carrying out essential checks. By the end of April at least 12 birds from previous years of headstarting had returned so far this spring.

WWT have launched two new areas on our website, the home learning hub, home-schooling resources tailored for parent-led teaching – www.wwt.org.uk/homelearning. A new primary-curriculum lesson is released each Monday focussing on the science of wetlands and the natural world, as well as lots of family fun activities available at all times.

The bringing nature to you section of the website does just that - <https://www.wwt.org.uk/bringing-nature-to-you>.

From giving you ideas about what you can do in your garden and home, family activities, news articles about wetlands to webcams and videos there is some fantastic content available to keep you occupied and inspired.

Although we were unable to speculate when or how we would reopen, we have been pleased that our members and supporters continued to show their support for us throughout this situation. We have missed our team of staff and volunteers dearly, and of course missed seeing all those who visit us, members and non-members too. Please check the website for the latest information on what we are able to do at the centre and when we will be welcoming visitors.

Rotary Club of Littleport – Update



As I'm sure readers are well aware we have been living under the threat of Covid-19, which has also impacted on the life of Rotary. We have been in lockdown and our meetings have been Virtual, using Zoom. Earlier we had a live event—**Gardeners Question Time** in March

See Below— Chelsea



Another Evening for All Garden Lovers



At the Anchor Little Downham, on Friday 6th March **Littleport Rotary** presented, **Gardeners Question Time** with **Tamara Bridge** Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Awards—Young Designer of the Year 2015 (RHS) Gold Medallist designer of the Radio 2 Scent Garden at Chelsea, Warner Gin Garden 2018 Designed Montessori Garden 2019

Above **Alexander** and **Tamara**

Tamara was supported by her husband **Alexander Laver** who is a **Master Arborist** — answered questions on shrubs and trees.

The event raised £500 for Rotary Charities

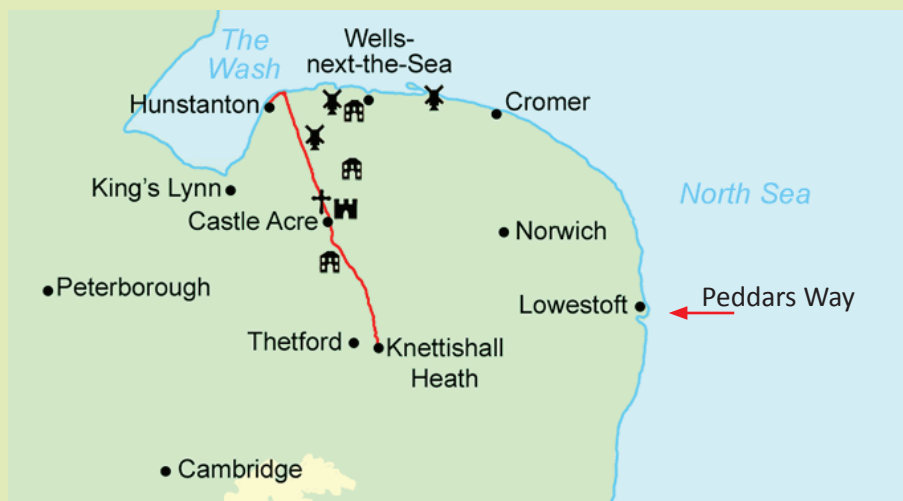
Rotary Club of Littleport – Archive



Summer 2017

April — Littleport Rotary Club staged a fund raising event at the Anchor Little Downham the event was based on Call my Bluff and raised £800 for charity.

May — During the weekend of May 19- 21 — we organised a sponsored walk along the historical 46 mile **Peddars Way**. **15 Rotarians** participated in the walk — including refreshments, It took three days for all to complete the course.



Mid summer — We have organised a golf tournament at Sheringham golf course.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland is the association of Rotary clubs within England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. We have over 1,800 clubs consisting of more than 50,000 men and women from all walks of life.

We are community champions who stand up for our communities both locally and overseas. We support those who need help, we strive to improve lives and we bring about positive change in our neighbourhoods. Every event, initiative or project that we run – whether it is local, national, international or online – is rooted in the notion of community. This is because we believe that society works better when communities work together

National —Across Great Britain and Ireland, clubs often come together to collectively support our national initiatives such as [Know Your Blood Pressure Day](#) and Community Emergency Support.



International —Our members carry out a wealth of international programmes and activities all over the world, reaching out to people in need. In many countries, millions die of starvation and from diseases that could be prevented by clean water, proper sanitation or medicines. Rotary members in Great Britain and Ireland use their skills and links to clubs in other countries to alleviate some of the causes of poverty. Other projects include eradication of hunger and malnutrition; reduction of child mortality, disease prevention and education for all. When natural disasters strike, anywhere in the world, Rotarians are usually the first people to take action, organising collections and raising large sums of money for the various charities that are best equipped to provide relief for those in need.

History — The first Rotary club was founded in 1905 when four friends met in Chicago to discuss how they could work together to help the wider community. Rotary has since grown internationally to more than 1.2 million members across 200 countries. In 1914 the organisation moved across the Atlantic and the British Association of Rotary Clubs was established. The association was renamed Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland in 1924.



The 2016 Polio Project —
[Grow Your Own Crocus](#)

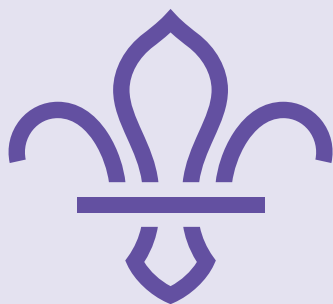
was launched by the RIBI to help educate children about — a crippling disease that kills and paralyses young children. The purple crocus symbolises the purple dye that is painted on the fingers of children to show they have been immunised. The 50000 Crocuses planted locally.

If you want to have a chat about becoming involved in Rotary, call
David Ambrose Smith on: 01353 861010

If you want to find out more about our Rotary Club. **Take a look at our website:** www.littleportrotary.org.uk **Paul Cox**

Carry on Scouting

As with almost every leisure activity, Scouting as we know and love it was suspended from mid-March in line with government advice to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Sleepovers, hikes, games, quizzes and badge presentations were all cancelled - but Scouting did not stop.

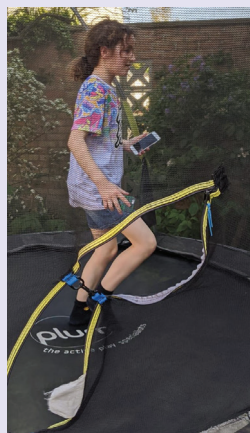


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Although members could not meet up, they were encouraged to continue doing activities towards their badges at home. This was obviously only if they and their parents and carers wanted to: there was absolutely no pressure. But many Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have risen to the challenge. There are many

badge requirements that can be done at home: from cooking and home help activities to arts, music and computing. For example, Cub Scout William has been working toward his animal carer, artist and helper badges, while Beaver Scout Mackenzie built a space rocket as part of an experiment towards his creative challenge, craft and space badges. Leaders were on hand to help if needed via email, and are looking forward to awarding some very well-deserved badges when restrictions are lifted and meetings can resume.

The Scout group members were also encouraged to 'hike to the moon' on 23 April as part of the BBC's Big Night

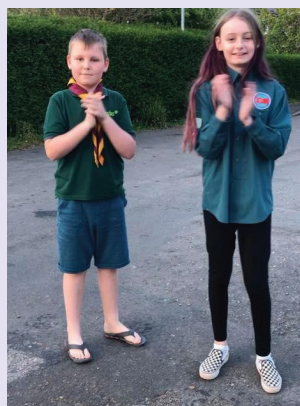
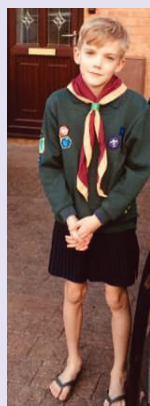
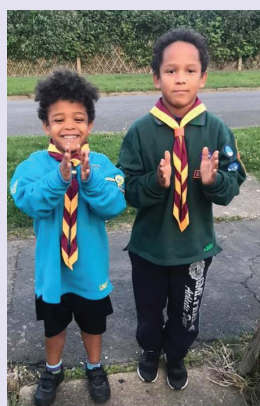


Hiking to the moon

In to raise money for those affected by the coronavirus. The children had to hike a mile at home, be that running round their garden, going up and down their stairs, bouncing on a trampoline, skipping on their patio or even walking on the spot. The idea was that if every Scout in the UK 'hiked' one mile, together they would complete the incredible 240,000 miles that it would take to reach the moon. There were also activities the children could do if 'hiking' wasn't their thing, such as creating a 'mission control thank-you'

paper-chain, or designing a rocket, with each action counting as a mile.

The Scouts had lots of fun finding novel ways to complete their miles. Bethany, Matthew, Thomas and Freyja connected via FaceTime to do their miles together – even if they were in different gardens! William and his sister (who was raising money for the Guides two-point-six challenge) went for a walk close to their home, and spotted a muntjac deer and butterflies.



Clapping for carers

The group also wore their uniforms on St George's Day to join in the clap for carers to show how proud they were of all our heroes in this current time. Some children and leaders also renewed their promises with Scouts from across Cambridgeshire in an online St George's Day celebration on 25 April, showing their commitment even when the going gets tough.

The leaders are all looking forward to seeing their groups as soon as it is safe and we feel able to go back to offering all the amazing activities our children love about Scouting. This has showed us all that even when apart, Scouting is one brilliant community that helps bring people together, in good times and more challenging ones. We're so proud of all you.

If you would like to join the Scouting adventure, then please get in touch. New members, both children and adult volunteers, are always welcome.

We'd also like to say a big thank you to our current treasurer, Helen, who is stepping down after two years of doing a brilliant job looking after our finances. The commitment is to attend a meeting with the executive committee every two months and take care of the group's accounts. Please, if you can help, we'd love to hear from you. Without a treasurer, we cannot continue to run Scouting in Littleport. If you'd like to know more about any of these opportunities, email info@1stlittleportscoutgroup.org.uk



Renewing their promise

BLACK HORSE DROVE

Always a steady hamlet, as with other villages, it's been quieter on the Drove in recent months, however, some of our community spirited neighbours have stepped forward to offer help during this unsettling time.

First was Gavin Vanns, who, immediately lockdown was announced, posted a note through all doors offering help to those who may be self isolating.

Julie and Roger Goodson of JR Cars assisted by Richard Tod, rolled up their sleeves and spent a few days digging out the last remaining grass area at the front of our Community Centre to extend the car park. Hard work, but it means we are now utilising all the space at the front of the Centre.

Even some of our younger neighbours have stepped up with Fiona O'Reilly's children

kindly donating some of their games and toys for others to borrow by placing them in the phone kiosk.

Mandie Bell, who only moved onto the Drove earlier this year, has placed various items including children's toys, games, bunting kits, craft materials in the phone box for children to take and use.

Our recently renovated phone kiosk has come into its own by providing a hub for people to share books and crafts during this time, our appreciation goes once again to those who kindly renovated it for us.

Others have offered help and support by shopping, cutting grass and playing the saxophone on Thursday evenings at 8pm. Everyone's contribution is appreciated.

Joy Tod



Electoral Canvas Reminder

Between 23rd July and 9th August the Electoral Register forms will be delivered to all households by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The form is issued annually and requires returning annually, regardless of whether there are any changes to the information it contains. Returning it is quick and easy to do, instructions on the form.

Littleport's Amazing Support Network

Covid 19 and in isolation? Sorted!



Julie Anne Double

As soon as the government announced the terrible news of the pandemic reaching the UK, and the measures to try and contain the spread of the virulent C19 and alleviate the projected burden of treating those infected from all those working for the NHS, and isolation for the elderly and otherwise vulnerable, Littleport's extremely community minded residents swung into action!

Back in March one Littleport resident Carol Hockey aired her concerns about how help could be given to vulnerable people living in Littleport on Facebook which prompted Group Scout Leader Julie Anne Double to set up the local COVID-19 help and support group (Littleport) page on Facebook to coincide with their WhatsApp group.

"A friend of mine had originally set up the Cambridgeshire COVID-19 help group which I did join, but I asked her if we could set up our own Littleport group which she thought what an excellent idea so that's how it happened really," Julie told Littleport Life Magazine.

"The Littleport COVID-19 group firstly consisted of myself and 2 other administrators before 2 more people were added.

"Our first job was to put a call out for volunteers to distribute 3,000 leaflets which were printed by Debra Jordan's Copier Warehouse for free to every household who needed help. The feedback was amazing, and we soon had over 100 residents who we assisted either regularly or on a one-off basis getting either shopping and/or their medical prescriptions for them.

"Any requests that the Parish Council or East Cambs received were then sent on to me to sort out and respond to, and I know that the administrators of the Parish Council and other key professionals met once a week dealing with any problems or issues that occurred."

Julie Anne, who is training to be an early years teacher for those who have special educational needs, was pleased that her children Jorja, Denny and Zak helped out when they could. Julie Anne said she wanted

to make sure that all her children including India were aware of what was going on and considers it was very important that they got involved and that it was adding to their life skills.

And Lyn and Cathy who were having to live in isolation from the start of the pandemic in the UK were so pleased whenever they saw Julie, Jorja, Denny or Zak coming up their garden path to deposit bags of shopping on their doorstep with a friendly smile and a wave through the window!

Julie Anne wanted to give praise to all the hardworking staff members serving in all the many local shops and especially to the Tesco supermarket in Ely.

"They have been so supportive and helpful in what we were doing so I can't thank them enough.

I also have to say a massive thank you to all those who helped to deliver the leaflets, did the prescription runs, or became a listening ear for someone to talk to over the phone, as well as those who helped to do something for someone whether they be a neighbour, a friend or stranger including our local Parish Council who have all been fantastic," concluded Julie Anne Double who has already been nominated for this year's Ely Community Hero Award.

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte

Cor-connexions

Littleport community journal project from The Field Theatre Group

As we enter this exceptional time in our shared history, The Field Theatre Group is inviting all residents to contribute to our community journal.

By documenting these extraordinary events, we will be creating a unique historical record of life in our community during this unprecedented year.

You don't have to be a writer (or a historian) to take part in this project. It's very often the ordinary, everyday accounts of life that shine a fascinating light on momentous events.

We're collecting writings, photos, pictures, etc, from you, the public.

So whether you are in the frontline of events, isolating at home, or caring for your family, we'd love to hear from you.

Let's /make history' ... together. And create a valuable historical record for future generations.

Written work in Word please,
images in PDF or Jpeg formats.

Contact:

thefieldtheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk
for more information.



FIELD THEATRE GROUP

Facebook: **Field Theatre Group**
www.fteldtheatregroup.co.uk

Community creative project for Littleport

from The Field Theatre Group

We are inviting all residents to contribute to our free, art and documentary project to mark this extraordinary time in our history.

We'll be gathering poems, stories, diary entries, thoughts and feelings, for inclusion in a unique record of our times.

We're accepting anything from children's drawings and poems, photos, pictures and writing (fiction and non-fiction) from children, families, groups, young people and adults of all ages.

The best thing is, even if you are stuck at home, self-isolating, or caring for children everyone can take part in this creative project.

You'll also be helping to create a valuable social record for future generations.



Written work in Word please,
images in PDF or Jpeg formats.

Contact:

thefieldtheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk
for more information.



FIELD THEATRE GROUP

BRANDON BANK BOATERS UNITE!

The boating community at Brandon Bank has always been a close one but the Covid 19 pandemic has definitely brought people even closer together.

Clare and Martin Madelin have been part of the boating community for the past 6 years and when the lockdown started causing difficulties, they had the brilliant idea of creating a WhatsApp Group for local residents. Initially the group was set up to help each other with shopping as people were struggling to purchase essential items resulting in repeated trips to the shops, exacerbated by the fact that many boaters don't own freezers and have very limited storage space.

The WhatsApp Group became a really useful way of sharing details of the products people were struggling to buy so that anyone venturing out to the supermarket could pick up items for others, whenever available, subsequently reducing the overall number of shopping trips and keeping people safer.

But as people found it harder and harder to buy what they needed residents started exchanging and gifting items to each other, leaving

parcels on decks and doorsteps, with boaters and house dwellers looking out for each other. People were even leaving wonderful presents of flowers and plants!

Clare says 'We were completely bowled over by people's kindness at this difficult time. It's amazing how a gift of a loo roll can warm your heart!' Clare and Martin have seen unbelievable acts of generosity and support for everyone who has wanted and needed it.

As time went on the group broadened its scope becoming an entertainment platform, with people sharing funny and inspiring jokes, quotes and videos. Although a tiny community, residents were inspired to take part in the regular Thursday clap for The NHS and carers, whilst making use of this opportunity to share a chat, or rather a shout, across the riverbank! The Queen's birthday in April was an ideal time to remotely raise a glass, or cup of tea, in celebration, with photos shared across the group. Such amazing positivity during tough times.

House dwellers have been doing all they can to support the boating community. Local resident Niki has been inviting boaters to use her refuse collection bins whilst



Clare and Martin Madelin

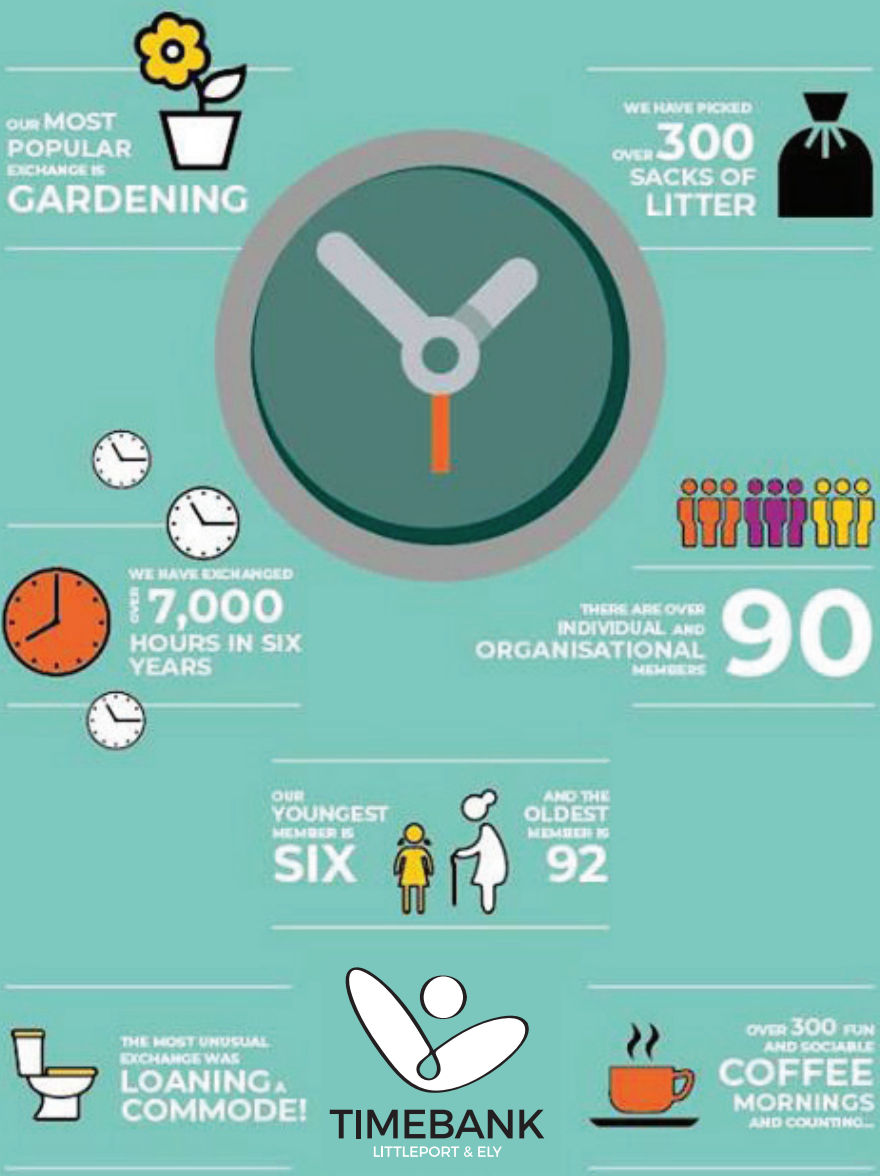
local tips have been closed, a vital service which so many of us take for granted. Neighbour Mal has very generously been giving away fresh eggs from his free-range hens! And some residents have been busy coordinating their growing efforts so that a range of fresh fruit and vegetables are available for sharing later in the year.

The Covid 19 virus has brought devastation to so many and has highlighted the importance of community spirit, so valuable in this time of need. Knowing that the impact of the Brandon Bank experience will survive long after the pandemic has ended is reassuring and heartwarming. A huge thank you to Clare and Martin and everyone involved.



TIMEBANK TOP FACTS

LITTLEPORT AND ELY



THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY



The Littleport Society's Roger Rudderham tells us about Littleport's Fishing History! And some medieval poaching stories!

The Littleport Society cancelled all its meetings and events due to the advice given during the pandemic, and the Archive & Collection was also closed to visitors. The work of the Society, nevertheless continued and goes on. We are busy with answering many queries coming in via e-mail, preparing the Summer edition of the Magazine, and we have also purchased a number of interesting items for the collection. A recent bequest to the Society was an old wicker eel hive or trap. This is a great addition to our collection as eels have played an important part in the economy of the Fens.

Fishing was by far the most important of the medieval industries in Littleport. The village was called upon to supply the monastery of Ely with an annual quota of eels. In 1221 the quota set by Bishop de Fountains was 26,500 eels annually, this was increased in 1251 by Bishop de Northwold to 36,000, besides 2,000 'bedrepeeles.' The bedrepeeel was probably the lamprey, an eel like parasitic

fish that was regarded as a delicacy by royalty and the nobility and must have featured as a dish at the Bishop's table.

The river through Littleport was divided into fisheries, half-fisheries and quarter fisheries. Each fisherman had his own boat and was only allowed to fish in their allotted section of the river. Anyone caught fishing in the fisheries of others was liable to a heavy fine, or even ran the risk of being expelled from the village. When fisherman John Boystons was caught fishing at night in the 'pools of Wellenheath,' in 1316, the Littleport Manor Court thought he should be expelled from the village, but he was saved by Geoffrey Wintring who vouched for his good conduct.

Within a year of his narrow escape from being expelled from the village, John Boystons was again caught fishing 'by night with nets in the fisheries of others.' This time he was fined 12 pence, but John seems to have made a career out of poaching in other people's fisheries. In 1321 he was again in court, along with





other fishermen, William Abbott, Michael Gigil, Alan Rushpiler and John Gigil, for taking fish to the value of 20 shillings from a fishery that William Thame claimed was his. Boystons and the others claimed that it was a common fishery, but after the court had inspected the terrier, an official roll that lists who owns what in the manor, it was found that William Thame had been granted the fishery by the lord of the manor, and therefore John Boyston and the others had committed an offence by fishing there, and they were fined 3 pence each.

Confusion over who owned what fishery in the fens around Littleport must have been compounded by the Ely fisheries stretching as far as Prikewily (Prickwillow)

and deep into Brentefen (Burnt Fen) and Padenhalefen (Padnal Fen). Hugh de Walpole of Ely even held 'hereditarily by charter' a fishery in Crechmere (Crouchmore) for which he paid 5 shillings annually to the Bishop of Ely.

Mentioned amongst the fisheries of Littleport in the thirteenth century is a place called 'Mudeke,' The exact location of this place is not known but some historians have identified it with Modich, where in the twelfth century a court was held for the Wisbech district of the Ely Hundred. It would therefore appear that the Littleport fisheries stretched for some miles along the Welney River (Old Croft River).

Why not join The Littleport Society?

They contact members with a quarterly magazine and membership communications. Membership is available at a minimum rate. Additional donation is very welcome.

UK Family Membership is only £5 a year, Individual £3 and Seniors £2 a year.

Overseas Family Membership £15. Corporate Membership is £15.

Send your name and address and email details with your cheque in pounds sterling to TLS Treasurer/Membership Secretary, Bruce Frost, 18 Upton Lane, Littleport, CB6 1HF.

Email: **membership@littleportsociety.org.uk**

Littleport Town Colts Football Club

Looking Forward to the New Season



Littleport has had a football club since 1908 - Littleport Town.

The club is now looking for more members to continue the village's proud association with the beautiful game

"When you see them coming off the pitch with a smile on their faces, you feel so elated – it's the best feeling in the world," says Chris Slatter who has been coaching his team for Littleport Town Football Club for more than eight years. Now playing in the under-14s leagues, he has seen them all the way from academy age, the under-7s.

Last year, the team won their league, a proud moment for Chris, assistant coach Mark Prior, and the team. They also made it to the semi-final in one of the cup rounds. "That was a brilliant season," Chris says.

"But to be honest, just offering them the opportunity to learn and enjoy playing football is just as big a buzz for me."

Littleport Town has been the village's football club for more than 100 years. It began in 1908, and currently has three teams in the Colts division. As well as the under-14s, there is the under-9s team managed by Carl Murfett and the under-15s managed by Chris Kelly and Tony Ure. There is also an adult team. Littleport Town Colts teams play locally on the pitches by the brilliant new leisure centre, although sometimes winter training takes place at the superb facilities at King's School in Ely.

The club is looking for players and coaches to help set up an academy for younger players in the new season (2020-2021).



Littleport Colts Under 13s with the trophies for winning the league 2019

They offer a warm welcome and support to anyone interested in either this or establishing teams for other age groups. "There's lots of help out there, both from the FA, the club and other managers," says Carl. He set up his team two years ago when his son moved out of the academy group – and loves it. "I really enjoy seeing the kids progress. Yes, it is a commitment of time and energy, but it is totally worth it."

Coaches need to hold a 1st4sport Level 1 Award in Coaching Football from the FA, which gives a basic introduction to the concepts of planning, organising and delivering safe coaching sessions. The club will pay for this and support people during the course. A team can have as many assistants as they like, provided they are DBS checked and receive safe-guarding training, which again the club is happy to pay for – Chris said one team they played this winter even had its own physio!

The club will also fund a referee course for anyone over the age of 16 who fancies

getting involved, but cannot commit to a weekly coaching session.

"You're not on your own, we're always more than happy to help each other out, offer support and mark out each other's pitches, and so on," says Mark.

Both boys and girls are welcome to join the club – Chris currently has a mixed team – because under FA rules boys and girls can play together until they are 18. "It's great the rules changed because it offers a level-playing field for girls too – and in my experience, they have a lot to teach the boys!" Chris says. "To see the achievements all the team make on and off the field and to know I have helped in some way towards that is just brilliant. Nothing can beat it – although winning the league last year was definitely up there too!"

If you want to know any more about setting up a team, or if you are interested in joining the club, please get in touch at **littleporttownfccolts@hotmail.com**



Littleport Colts Under 13s

LITTLEPORT BRASS



AND THE BAND PLAYED ON!

So goes the old song **writes Lyn Gibb-de Swarte**. Littleport Brass was unable to meet for band practice as they would normally do on a Wednesday night, but they have been playing on throughout the past troubles. They gave their first recorded video – a masterpiece in timing organised by MD Ian Knapton audio editing by Joe Winters of JW – with band members playing in their own homes and the mosaic performance was posted on the new YouTube channel, Littleport Brass.

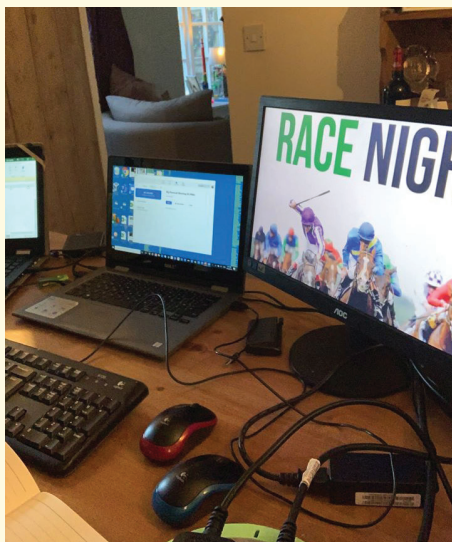
As well as continuing to practice band members have played in public in individual performances for their neighbours on many occasions, many

like Sara Bowe, who played outside their houses instead of clapping, to thank the NHS and key workers who soldiered on through it all at work. And when the Brass Bands of England put the call out, Littleport Brass musicians were out there with thousands of brass band members on the same day at the same time playing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

They also had a variety of game playing evenings on electronic devices like Bingo, Race Nights, Murder Mystery and Would I Lie to You and so on!

They are still open for more players. Musical Director Ian Knapton says.

“The band only has a couple of seats to fill. We do have interest in these seats



already and will be giving each player time with the band to see if they fit in with us and we with them. Current vacancies are Bass trombone and percussion/kick player (we are looking into funding to purchase more percussion equipment in the future). If you are interested in any of these vacant positions please visit our website www.littleportbrass.co.uk or message us on Facebook. We welcome any other players as well."

*Some dates for your diary
all being well:*

Sunday July 12th 14.00
Hunstanton Bandstand

Sunday August 2nd 14.00
Ely Bandstand, Jubilee Gardens, Ely.

Saturday November 7th 19.00
Concert at Littleport and East Cambs
Academy.

Concert at The Littleport Society meeting Village Hall December 2019



Photo: Cathy Gibb de Swarte

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



After this time of unprecedented crisis it is still difficult to find something to write about other than the virus. The Royal British Legion has had to take note of the close down and self-isolation rules as has everybody else. We have not been able to hold committee meetings in Littleport but will notify members of our next meeting as soon as possible. The Pop In service in the Barn has also had to have been put on hold. The dedication services for the Charles Pettit headstone, and the opening of the new Remembrance Garden have been postponed. This is hard to take but they are the right decisions. We've also cancelled a coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum that we had planned. The postponement was made easy by the closure of the NMA.

And to top it all the National Conference has had to go the way of everything else. These are also incredibly hard times for all charities, and many struggled to continue to function without Government support which is ironic because charities exist to fill in the many gaps that are missed by Government welfare schemes.

The RBL is large enough to have survived this period of turmoil but we lost a lot of our income. Here in Littleport we had three fund raising events arranged, and these, including an Armed Forces Day bucket collection have been cancelled.

We have been doing and will still do all we can to make sure that welfare cases are handled to the best of our ability. If anyone who is entitled to RBL support has real needs please contact The RBL on: 08088028080 our main helpline.

Meanwhile take care and continue to keep safe.

Garth McGowen

President

Littleport Branch Royal British Legion



Littleport Lions are Going Strong!

Genevieve Battey reports



Indeed we live in strange times in lockdown, but all of the community of Littleport have done a tremendous job of helping each other, well done everyone. Our club, Lions Club of Littleport is still active, but we are for now not having 'face to face' meetings. As part of our lock down efforts we have donated two hundred pounds to Littleport Food Bank, who are a vital service for those who cannot afford meals.

Before lockdown we had a lovely meal at The Plough and Harrow pub in Littleport. We would like to thank landlords Patrick and Carol Creek for making our club feel very welcome, providing some very tasty high quality food and making our club charity of the year in their pub. Also we would like to thank the teams at Adams Community Centre, Habis and many local

businesses for putting posters of our charity events in their windows.

It is during this time we urge kindness and community spirit to prevail in the face of adversity. Our fundraisers have had to be cancelled this year, but we have still raised over four hundred pounds for our community. Other groups who have benefited from these funds have been our local scouts as well as guides.

At this current time we have been doing all we can to help our local community, and club meetings will start again as soon as government guidelines permit. However if there is any way in which we can help further, please contact:

lionscluboflittleport@gmail.com

GARDENING UNDER LOCKDOWN

Gardening under the Lockdown conditions caused by the coronavirus crisis has been the one thing for many people which has kept them sane. The plant & seed companies were as busy as the supermarkets with queues just to get onto their websites. Then, when garden centres opened in mid-May, many people flocked to them to buy plants and other products to beautify their gardens. My little front cottage garden is full of colour and my pots and baskets are overflowing with flowers. Does this sound familiar to you?

If not, maybe you are one of the many other people out there who have previously struggled with their garden and feel happy just to have the grass cut and any borders tidy. Whoever you are, a lawnmower that works when you want to use it is vitally important. No one needs the stress of pulling and pulling a petrol mower which just won't start. Most of the time the problem is old fuel. Modern petrol doesn't last more than about

2 months before it starts to lose its combustibility. This can be solved with a good service.

While some people don't worry how long their grass gets, most of the people we meet get a feeling of overwhelm when the grass is out of control and they can't cut it. With all of the other stress in the world at the moment this is one thing that can be avoided. One customer, upon receiving his mower back serviced & running well, recently commented that we had "renewed [his] interest in the garden". This is music to our ears!

For those of us fortunate enough to have a garden, even a small patch of outside space, it is somewhere to sit and relax, for the kids to play, to explore and most of all to enjoy. We hope that you have been able to spend time this spring in your garden and that you will continue to do so in the coming summer months.



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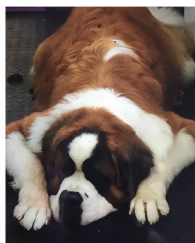
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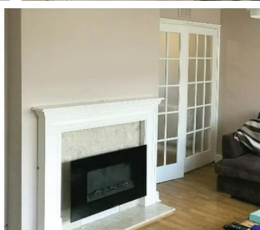
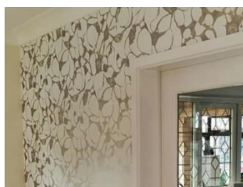
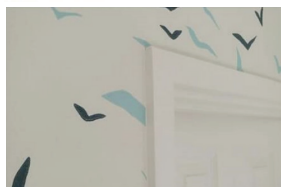
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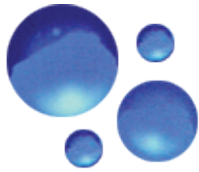
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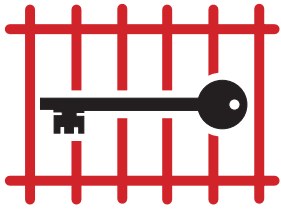
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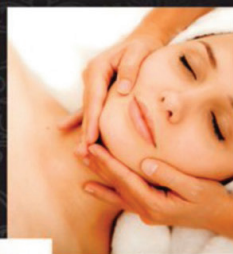


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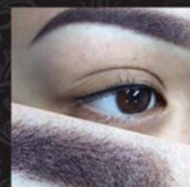
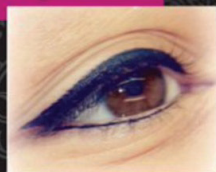


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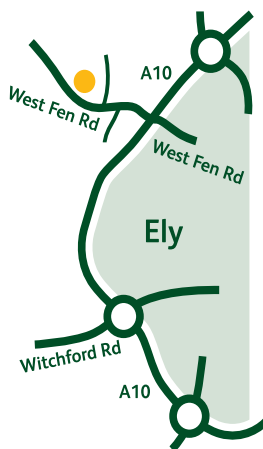
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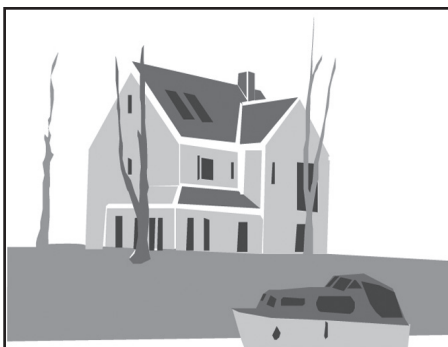


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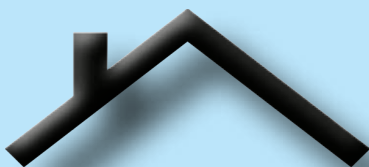
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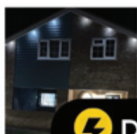
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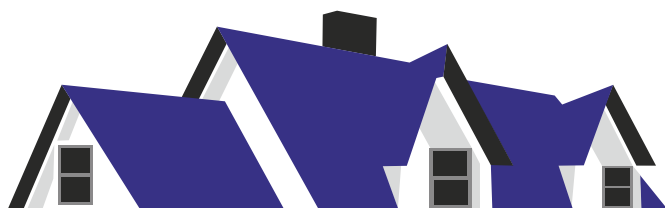
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These organisations always list their great activities and events in every issue of Littleport Life – but due to the difficult circumstances beyond their control were not able to plan ahead for June, July and August this year.

Littleport Life Magazine has a page on Facebook where listings may be seen once arranged, and all those listed, apart from the last two, the WI and Flower Club, also have Facebook pages for that essential information.

All of us here at your Littleport Life community magazine hope that you enjoy this summer edition that features many of these organisations and more, and that you will enjoy all the societies and groups' activities when they are back to normal!

Littleport What's On? A Parish Council Initiative!

We are proud to announce the launch of www.littleportwhatson.co.uk

The idea for the website came from our residents who felt there was no easy way to find out what was happening in the village. So, with funding from the Parish Council and the expertise of Infiniti Graphics, we set about designing a website that would enable all Littleport based community groups, clubs, organisations and venues to advertise their events in one place, for free!

We hope that the website will become the 'go to' central village calendar for our residents to find Littleport based activities, events regular club meetings, workshops and entertainment in one location.

Littleport has so much to offer and we encourage anyone who wishes to promote an event or activity to register if they

have not done so already. Only Littleport based organisations are eligible to register, however the website can be viewed by all.

There are several ways to search for events and activities by category, date or using key words to display the type of event for example, crafting or football. So, if you're looking for a new hobby, something to do at the weekend or want a volunteering opportunity, it's all here.

We hope you enjoy using our website and will support some fantastic groups, clubs and venues, run by extremely dedicated people who advertise here.

A massive thank you goes to Infiniti Graphics and the Littleport What's On web team for all their hard work.

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