



Littleport Life - your friendly community magazine needs you!

Do you want to be part of producing this journal that informs and enhances life in Littleport?

Do you have a couple of hours you can spare each month?

Do you have experience of handling figures and budgets?

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

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Welcome

ur theme this autumn is remembrance of all those who fought to keep us free in both world wars and how the people of Littleport met the severe difficulties in the peacetime trauma of Covid 19 with similar determination to not be beaten. And just like those bad times of World War 2, we look forward to better asap.



We have reports, news and updates from our main village organisations and groups, encouraging spiritual messages from three of our Faith groups and information about their activities from a fourth, as well as spotlighting a resident or two!

Littleport is the best place to live in whatever your age and we demonstrate that fact as we look at just some of the options for recreation and interest enjoyed by the very young through to the very old.

Social distancing is observed at its many hostelries where a pleasant time out can be had and the Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Club has lots to offer from Darts, Pool and Snooker to a quiet sit down with friends in the Beer Garden out the back. Their information is on page 54.

Speaking of which the Littleport Brass Band Room is situated at the rear of the club too and great sounds will be heard coming out of there of a Wednesday evening again real soon. You can read about them on page 50.

All the information you need on the newly reopened Littleport Leisure and a look at the indoor facilities is on pages 12 to 14. Not least of its attractions is the large grassed area, with a safe pathway in its grounds used by so many keen walkers, pushers of baby buggies both walking and jogging, parkrun enthusiasts and even roller skaters.

All the shops and services are operational in Littleport's town centre with everything you need from food you buy to take home to cook, including a Lithuanian Deli supermarket, restaurants serving Indian cuisine to fish and chips, hostelries for refreshment perhaps before or after getting your hair done at one of the hairdressing and barbers' establishments that beautify the girls and ladies as well as any Ely or Cambridge hair emporium, a men's modern style barbers like the Kings in Main Street - or like Erika's Barbershop also in Main Street who cater for both men and women who like me fancy a more no nonsense or retro look!

Supermarket Cheap sells all-sorts of household sundries and the over 100 years old Bargain Centre is full of useful garments, gifts and cards, and well-worth a visit. And of course if you want an expert tattoo job there's a parlour waiting for you.

Thanks go to all our loyal advertisers – their advertising revenue keeps Littleport Life printed and delivered through your door. So why not use their estimable services and keep it local! Check out our Advertisers Directory on page 6.

Have a good harvest season.

Lyn

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We have been busy delivering food parcels and collecting donations.

The generosity of the community is amazing. If it were not for that support to us at Littleport's independent food bank we would not be able to provide for all the extra people who we are now supporting.

We have not been able to work from our usual base in St George's church but are hopeful for the future. We miss working out of the beautiful building and we know many of the people who came in for food would often sit quietly and on occasion ask if the vicar would come and say a prayer with them. We have missed sitting in the vestry chatting to one another and

to the people who donate, and those who need food. Thanks to modern technology we were, and are, still able to chat to those who need our support. Being able to stay in contact is very important. And of course lack of food is not the only problem people are having to cope with.

Pets are not forgotten either. We have one donor who provides nearly all the food we give out to cats and dogs!

We were not able to visit Whitemoor Prison since lockdown but they did not forget us. One of the chaplains brought their donations over to us.

We look forward to visiting the prison again and joining in their Sunday service - and to say thank you for their kindness.

Susan Green



Peacock's Meadow: a space in the community.

Vell my goodness, if only I'd got a crystal ball for Christmas! Even

if I had I would never have believed that the events of this year would come to pass.

This year has turned us all inside out and upside down. And everyone is adjusting to the 'new-normal.' Like groups everywhere, the Peacocks Meadow committee have had to postpone some of our plans for 2020. But, thankfully, we live in a brilliantly resourceful community here.

It may sound a strange thing to say, but the 'lock-down' has been a tremendous bonus for the garden. With so many families adhering to Government guidelines and taking their exercise and walks in their own neighbourhood, we have seen a surge in visitors to Peacocks Meadow. It has been one of the great delights of this strange year to see that many families have discovered 'Littleport's very own secret garden.' Many of these were first-time visitors. We are also delighted to welcome those residents of the Limes care home, who take their daily walks in the garden.

And with more people visiting, more exciting developments have occurred. Visitors began to hang their own recycled art works in the garden to brighten up those daily walks. We are indebted to Joanne Coe and her ThePORT youth club artists, for installing their beautiful and inventive art pieces in the meadow. The fairies have been a great hit! Joanne has also created a 'muddy-play' kitchen, Ms P. the peacock sculpture, photo competitions, and so much more. On a visit to the garden you will see all manner of lovely creations in the trees.

And it is not only 'human' visitors that have benefitted from the meadow. One of our supporters, Becky English, has kick-started the creation of our community bug-hotel. And I have to relate a *personal highlight* of the summer. One morning I went to do a







bit of work, clearing weeds from the newly planted trees on the 'mound' in Peacocks Meadow. I noticed that some of the growth had been trampled down. So I took a closer look. I spied a pair of tiny, gingery ears - and as I peered more closely, I came face-to-face with a tiny muntjac fawn! Our resident pair of muntiacs obviously felt that Peacocks Meadow was a safe and secure space in which to hide their precious baby. Of course, I beat a silent and hasty retreat. But I was so delighted that our wild creatures also regarded the garden as a special sanctuary.

We are (as ever) indebted to Andy Coe and his young team of volunteers, for mowing the garden regularly. This is helping to eradicate the brambles and nettles and keep the pathways clear. Thanks also go to Stuart Palmer of Fenland Spirit Services for keeping our mowing machines in trim.

So, it seems that (in this year of strange happenings) our community has really taken the garden to its heart. Our volunteers work very hard to maintain Peacocks Meadow as a safe and welcoming green space for all to enjoy. We ask visitors to report any issues to the committee, by messaging us via the Peacocks Meadow Facebook page.

Peacocks Meadow is Littleport's only woodland garden. It is also the only green space managed and maintained by the community.

We need more proactive volunteers for our committee. If you would like to become involved in shaping the future of the garden, fundraising or organising community events, we'd love to hear from you! If committees aren't your thing you can still get involved. We hold regular work parties throughout the year. All are welcome and we often have entire families getting 'down and dirty' with us. It's a great way to get some fresh air and exercise, and of course, to meet new friends. You can do as little or as much as suits you. And you'll have the satisfaction of helping to create a beautiful green space for future generations.

To find out more about how you can get involved please contact: t.c.curtis@tinternet.com. Or send a message via the Peacocks Meadow Facebook page.







Littlepert and District Flower Club

It is a sad fact that the Summer has gone and we have not been able to meet at our usual venue of Littleport Village Hall for our monthly meetings of flowers and friendship, so many wonderful Demonstrators have had to be cancelled and this August we should have been looking forward to a Saturday Workshop with the wonderful Barbara Collins, who is the incoming Chair of the East of England Area of NAFAS, this would have been such fun but we know that the decision that was made was the correct one to cancel until 2020.

Things are beginning to change but when we will be back to 'the normal' is a long way off, we are keeping a close eye on how things are progressing within NAFAS

but at the present time all advice from Headquarters is the same. We will be putting out a Newsletter to all our members later in August, which will either be emailed or posted to you so that we can keep you all up to date. Some of our members live in other Districts so we must keep them up to date with everything also and we thought this would be the best way of doing this.

So to everyone out there, enjoy the Autumn and by the time of the Winter Edition of Littleport Life we may have better news to give to you all.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Chair Carol Weyman on 01353 360289 or Secretary Sue Constable on 01353 861012 for any information on the Club.

Pam Hayes. Programme Secretary.





Gill McGregor was our Open Evening Demonstrator in December 2019 and in this photograph she is shown with one of her very different arrangements, it was such a different Demonstration which everyone enjoyed and the wonderful buffet beforehand supplied by the Committee and members, and what a personality Gill had. The second photo is from our AGM in 2019 when Louise Richards handed over the Badge of Office of the President to Susan Taylor. Susan was so looking forward to her term as President, but unfortunately everything changed after this meeting and lockdown happened.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LITTLEPORT SOCIETY

ince March The Littleport Society has been unable, due to the Covid-19 pandemic to hold any open meetings, or committee meetings, and the Archive & Collection at the Barn has also remained closed. However, the Society has continued to function. We have continued to produce our quarterly magazine, keep our website and Facebook page updated, fulfil book orders, and answer enquiries, and we are pleased to announce a new 2021 Then & Now Calendar will be available soon.

In fact since lockdown the number of enquiries through our website regarding family or local history has increased, and some of the family history queries have given our genealogical team some real challenges. One of the local history queries regarded the old Police Station in the High Street, which many older residents will well remember.

The Isle of Ely Constabulary was established in 1841. Two constables were stationed in houses in Littleport, and there was an old lock-up on the west side corner of Globe Lane and Wellington Street, to house offenders awaiting to go to court at Ely. The lock-up fell into disrepair and prisoners were regularly breaking out, so it was decided to establish a Police Station in High Street in 1871. The station contained a house for



The Police Station as it was

a resident constable, later a sergeant, and two cells. The station survived until 1964 when it was replace by the present building, now private dwellings.

The Society has also continued to receive donations of items to the Archive & Collection, and also purchase interesting items when they come up for sale. One item recently purchased at an on-line auction was the bronze Gallantry Medal awarded to Edward Cooper in 1878.

Edward Cooper was born in Littleport in 1848, the son of Thomas Cooper, a blacksmith, and his wife Sarah. Edward joined the Royal Navy as a Stoker 2nd Class in February 1868. Later he was employed as a Boatman in the Coast Guard from December 1877 and was one of five men of H.M. Coast Guard, of Aberdovey, Milford Haven, who assisted in rescuing the crews of the smack Lerry, of Aberdovey, and the coaster. Elizabeth Ann. of Cardigan, when both vessels were in distress during a storm, near Godwick, on the 8th November 1878. The Chief officer was awarded a silver Board of Trade Medal Medal, whilst the remainder were awarded bronze medals. Edward Cooper was Shore Pensioned in July 1884.

The Littleport Society can be contacted through our website, just Google The Littleport Society, and we should be top of the list.



Edward Cooper's Bravery Medal!



ittleport Leisure re-opened its doors on Saturday 1st August and it was so pleasing to welcome so many members back to the Gym. The Bar and Café area have not re-opened which means we can focus all of our attention on the Gym and Sports Hall users. If you are one of the many people who are wary about returning to exercise then we hope that the following guidelines will reassure you that we are doing all that we can to make your return a safe and comfortable one.

Our new opening hours are:

Leisure

Monday to Friday 10am to 10pm Saturdays 9am to 8pm Sundays 9am to 1pm

At present, you are required to make an appointment for your time in the Gym and we are allowing 1 hour per person, although where possible we will allow up to 2 hours. You are also required to book for any classes. Booking in advance for both Gym sessions and classes is necessary and payment will be required upon booking. We have moved some of our equipment into the Dance Studio, which means that we now have three spacious areas where you can enjoy your workout in a safe environment. We also have the terrace area for those of you who like to exercise in the fresh air.

Other points to note are:

- We now have a one-way system in the Main Gym to help keep users safe at all times
- The changing rooms are not currently open, this is in line with the government recommendations. Please ensure that you arrive wearing your appropriate sportswear.



Adam Gayfer takes a shot of the Littleport Leisure reception area



Fitness room and view to the reception hall Littleport Leisure

 We have made changes to our class timetable so that we can offer as many classes as possible whilst meeting the government guidelines. The classes which are currently on offer are:

Circuits

Thursday 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Beginners Circuits

Thursday 6:15pm to 7:00pm Saturday 3:30pm to 4:15pm

Pilates

Monday 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Yoga

Tuesday 6:30pm to 7:30pm Friday 10:30am to 11:30am

Hiit

Tuesday 5:30pm to 6:00pm Wednesday 6:00pm to 6:30pm

Boot Camp

Friday 10:30am to 11:15am

- Please be patient with us as classes are constantly under review and changes made accordingly.
- Payment is preferred by card/contactless as we would like to limit the amount of cash handling where possible. We want our staff to feel safe and so disposable gloves will be worn when handling cash.
- When you arrive for your appointment you are required to complete the government's test and trace form. We need to maintain cleanliness throughout and so to enhance the high standards that we already adhere to, you are issued with your own sanitiser and cloth to keep with you whilst using the Gym. We ask that you clean down the equipment before and after each exercise. This includes the wiping down of exercise mats, weight machines and all free weights. We also have members of



Room with a view! Weights at Littleport Leisure

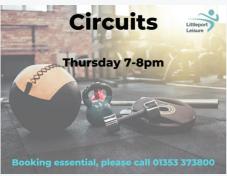
staff helping to maintain the cleanliness of all areas. There will be hand gel available to you as you enter the Leisure Centre and again before you enter and exit each room. We ask that you maintain social distancing at all times and respect all other users.

 We have introduced maximum numbers. for each training area, they are: Main Gym - 15 people Dance Studio - 10 people Fitness Studio – 4 people

If you would like to visit our Facebook page 'Littleport Leisure Centre' you can view a video that we filmed prior to opening. It guides you through our new procedures and is very informative.

If you have any questions regarding Littleport Leisure and the facilities we currently offer please email finance@littleportleisure.uk or call Reception on 01353 373800







Skating Started Again in August!

Saturday morning skating started again on the 15th August. Pictured are happy skaters returning to the Saturday morning sessions organised by top artistic roller coach Brian Paddington. Brian is with the Ely Roller Skating Club that promotes and encourages Artistic Roller Skating and Roller Hockey in Ely, Littleport and the surrounding areas.





Mallorv Pearce

Keira Clifferd

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www.littleportleisure.uk reception@littleportleisure.uk 01353 373800

Registered Charity No 1147008

Littleport Players The Littleport Players Will Be

Back Real Soon!



ecky Smith, Chair of The Littleport Players reports that due to recent worldwide events all theatre groups including our much-loved The Littleport Players have had to take an enforced rest! Resting of course is what those in the acting profession call not having any work.

The Players have performed two or three shows a year for 27 years so to be halted, by albeit necessary rules and regulations in an attempt to keep the population safe, has, as Becky Smith said, "Came as a massive shock and saddened us. Our summer musical HAIRSPRAY was cancelled, and we are still uncertain about the pantomime this December.

However, we have still been busy behind the scenes providing our audiences with upbeat 'lip-sync' virtual videos, reading pantomime scripts and putting procedures into place for the all-important social distancing rules and regs. We've enjoyed doing the virtual videos that has been something completely different for us, but it's still us doing what we do best or try to," Becky added modestly.

Megan Bidecant best known to Littleport's theatre goers for her acting, singing and dancing skills is the techno wizard behind the excellent social media presentations! And she tells us, "I edit and post pictures, create events and videos for our Facebook and Instagram that are our main platforms. Generally trying to keep the community up to date with what we are doing, whether that's performances, auditions, rehearsals or social events."

Chelsea Booth, the popular comic actor often paired with Becky Smith in pantos as the modern-day equivalent of the Brokers Men, is paired with Megan in arranging social outings and gatherings for the cast and crew.

And in conclusion the multi-talented actor. producer, director and choreographer Becky Smith said, "We literally can't wait to be back performing the next show and we will be updating you soon once we have received the guidance from the Government. In the meantime, please keep following us on Facebook under The Littleport Players or get in touch via email - rebekahgreen2016@outlook.com if you think you can help us in anyway."

Lyn Gibb-de Swarte



Some of The Littleport Players crew on screen

Learning Matters...

David Barker says: "Feed a Brain Today!"

don't know if any of you remember the Sure Start programme? It was a government funded initiative targeted at children under the age of four, living in the most disadvantaged areas. The aim of the programme was to provide a host of joined up services to support families, as well as to provide a high-quality educational setting which children under the age of four could attend. These settings were aimed at being cognitively enabling or cognitively rich environments which would support children's cognitive development from a very early age. So, there would be great play opportunities, lots of play resources and well-funded outside environments with an array of exciting equipment that children play with, in or on.

These environments were staffed with professionals and were rich in words, whether this was the spoken word, environmental print or books. This meant that children attending these Sure Start centres were being exposed to a rich and extensive vocabulary.

Why the focus on vocabulary? It is well understood that vocabulary development is a strong indicator of reading success, which in turn is a strong predictor of academic success, which in turn strongly correlates with personal and professional success in later life. The role of parents and the home is crucial to this development. Studies show that children mainly use words their parents and other adults use with them in conversation and



acquire richer vocabularies when their parents use a greater range of words.

Not every child has the same exposure to vocabulary, some live in vocabulary enriched environments which are characterised by lots of talk, social interactions and lots of exposure to books. Others are exposed to much less talk. fewer social activities and fewer books. The differences between vocabulary acquisition of vocabulary impoverished environments and vocabulary rich environments are stark; research has shown that by the age of four, children from vocabulary impoverished environments are likely to have been exposed to around 13 million words, whereas those from environments with an abundance of words are likely to have been exposed to around 45 million words by the same age. By the age of four!

Hence the focus, amongst other things, upon vocabulary for the Sure Start programme.

What is also interesting about the Sure Start programme, was that the programme had a real positive impact upon families, children, and their educational outcomes, at the time they were attending the Sure Start centre. The research also shows that this impact dwindled over time and weakened significantly.

We shouldn't be surprised, and as the education guru David Didau (https:// learningspy.co.uk) has commented, we should see intelligence/learning a little like health. If we want to be healthy, we might stop eating junk food, we might go to the gym, take to walking and so on. And this will help us to be healthier, but, if, once we have got to this healthier state, we then went back to eating junk food, and not exercising, no-one would be surprised

if we ended up being unhealthy again. Intelligence and learning is like this, when the education stops so does the learning. We know schools are restarting and that formal learning is beginning again, after what has been a very long absence. I know all are looking forward to this restart. However, as we can see, not all important learning takes place in the school. Whether schools are open, or whether schools are closed, we can all play our part in providing an educative experience for learners of all ages.

How can you do this? The best way, really and truly, is to keep exposing your child to an ever increasingly rich vocabulary; encourage them to read perhaps have a reading hour at home, visit the library, turn off the tablet/ computer/TV/phone, hear stories being read (there are some great ones available on YouTube) read aloud to them yourself, have a 'word of the day' (www.wordsmith.org) eat family dinners together if you can and talk, play board games together - Scrabble anyone?

Vocabulary development relies upon social interaction, so social activities are key. This advice is advice for all ages. you are never to young nor too old.

It really is worth it. I like to think of every word as being a new idea, a new concept if you like, and when a new word is learnt a new neuron is born to house it, and that neuron reaches out to other neurons. making connections to theirs, which in turn makes more connections and so on. Words are brain food

We know that vocabulary development is the difference that makes the difference.

Feed a brain today!

David Barker



Littleport Community Primary School News

Headteacher of Littleport Community Primary School and Director of East Cambs and Fenland Research School, Adam Rivett, brings you up to date on his school's activities.

"No, I'm sorry but you can't take books out of the library" and "remember to keep 2 metres apart" are two phrases no teacher used on a regular basis before March 2020 but they have certainly been uttered by many teachers up and down the country since. 'New norms' is another expression I am sure many of us have used in recent times too and at Littleport Community Primary School we are well underway with our plans for a full reopening of schools come September, which include a vast number of 'new norms'. New routines and expectations have been well established with the children who attended our setting during lockdown, as well as our wider re-opening in June, and we are looking forward to welcoming more back in September when the government feel that it is the right time to do so. I continue to be amazed at how adaptive and resilient the children of our school have been to the changes in their schooling routine and as the academic

year drew to an end I reflected on the exceptional work staff across the whole school undertook in response to the COVID outbreak. In many cases, staff had to learn how to adapt their practice to suit a new way of working. Even when we had all available staff planning, resourcing, teaching and assessing learning activities for the increasing number of children attending school in-person within their 'bubble' they went beyond the call of duty to make sure children learning from home still felt connected with us. This included arranging Zoom calls with their classmates, making safe and well checks where children had not engaged with the school, answering questions sent in via email regarding learning activities set, creating instructional videos, recording stories and filming virtual assemblies! Below is a snapshot of our engagement with our school community at home via social media during these unprecedented times:



Tweets earned 105.9K impressions over this 91 day period



On average, we earned 6 likes per day

People watched our videos 7,424 times





15,515 views on the Home Learning Help website page A huge thank you goes out again to the parents and carers who have done such a tremendous job supporting with learning activities at home. I appreciate how challenging this may have been at times. I also know that the efforts of the school were very much appreciated and we were grateful for all of the feedback we received from our school community. including:

I am pleased vou did the assemblies during lockdown (especially singing) on YouTube as it made my child still feel part of the school. I especially liked the Zoom meetings as it's pretty much the only time my child has seen other children in 4 months.

The school has approached the COVID-19 pandemic with care and attention. I think that the way the school has dealt with this is amazing and the fact that on my child's first day back he came out of the class smiling and really enjoyed his day shows how well the situation has been managed.

Some staff leading the bubbles within school also wanted to share their experiences:

Ms O'Dell (EYFS bubble)

Throughout this very daunting time for both parents and children, I would just like to start by saying, how truly amazing the children in my EYFS bubble have been. Coming back into school during such strange times, after being locked down 24/7 with their families has been a big

step for them all to take. Seven weeks ago the children entered into school unsure of what school life would be. Within a week of being back, I started to see them relax. They have thrived from being back with their friends and the security of their learning environment. This small group of ten children have made me feel so proud, from how much they have progressed with their learning to how happy and relaxed they have been.

Ms Rabelo (Forest School Lead)

During the wider re-opening of schools, children have been attending Forest School sessions. During the sessions children have continued to run, play, get their hands dirty and experience manageable risks, all while adhering to new rules and expectations. They have been involved in different activities such as; woodland crafts, singing and games.

In the midst of all of these challenges, one magical moment came when a young squirrel decided to break the social distancing guidance and got up close and personal with our groups in the forest!













There is a lot to look forward to as the new academic year begins in September and we cannot wait to have a 'COVID safe', bustling school community again. At Littleport Community Primary School, we will be ensuring that due care and attention is given to prioritising the mental health and well-being of those returning to us. Some children will not have attended school for six months and we realise that this can present a challenge. We know that there is a lot of work to do

as part of 'curriculum recovery', however, as a Research School, we feel well equipped to support our children as well as the network of schools we serve.

The resourcefulness and range of responsibilities taken on by teachers and school leaders during the pandemic has been inspiring and we will be here in September to inspire young minds as we always do each and every year to help them to 'spread their wings and fly'.



Millfield School



s I write this piece, the school year has finished and staff are on the last of their two professional days before their summer break begins. I have just taken a moment to read back through the last edition of the Littleport Life and I see Rev'd Howard opened his article with the hope that by the time we are reading it, the lockdown will have ended...well 'ended' it hasn't, but things are different now. I can't quite believe that vocabulary such as 'lockdown, 'social distancing' and 'bubbles' (within the context of schools) have become part of our everyday vocabulary.

Our children and parents have been amazing! I can't imagine what it must

have been like for parents who found themselves having to work from home whilst also supporting their children with home learning, what a challenge and for such a long time! Parents have been giving their children some wonderful opportunities whether engaging with the learning set by school, or gardening, cooking, going for walks and bike rides, making models, the list is endless. As lockdown was beginning to ease, we welcomed back our Year 1 children and then Year 6 during the last week of the term; along with our groups of children of critical workers, it meant we had about a third of our children back in school. Their resilience was amazing and they took











all the changes in their stride. When I asked the Year 6 children if they had been worried about coming back to school, I was imagining it would be about catching Covid.... but not at all! Any concerns they had were about their friends deciding to remain at home, so they then wouldn't see them in school! I think that puts a good perspective on things.

This summer we say good-bye to Ms Rudkin, who has been with us for the first 2 years of her teaching career. She is a super teacher and it has been a joy working with her. We wish her well as she relocates back to her home county to be nearer family and friends. In September we welcome Ms Blythe as a reception teacher, Ms Newman to teach in key stage 2, Ms Clough to be our specialist music teacher and Ms Sampson as our Family Support Adviser. They will join us as we all return to the more 'normal' schooling that we all prefer and love, albeit with a few adjustments.

I have included some photos of children doing a range of lovely things which don't seem very different from the sorts of things that children have always done.

Deborah Hannaford

Headteacher

Lions Club of Littleport

Your News Report from Genevieve Battev



I would like to congratulate Lion Jenny Ellis



for being given an award by the Lions Club of Littleport for recruiting new members. Jenny is a wonderful member of our club who continues to make everyone feel welcome. She always goes the extra mile to help the community too. During Christmas she was an absolute star when we visited Anchor Court in Littleport before Christmas to sing festive songs and share tea and cake with the residents. During a brief visit to the Norfolk Broads recently I was reminded of the importance of Lions Clubs, where I spotted a social club and charity shop set up for the community of Wroxham by the Lions Club. Lions Club for me is an organisation which is open to all to help the community. Please do get in touch if we can help the community during these challenging times, our e-mail is lionscluboflittleport@gmail.com.

WE SERVE. WE CARE. WE ACCOMPLISH

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Reflection for Littleport Life

t's really strange to be writing this piece for Littleport Life on behalf of St George's. As many of you will know already, Howard has moved to a new job and new challenges in the diocese of Oxford.

We are so thankful for everything Howard helped to establish here in Littleport, creating links with so many individuals, groups and organisations and we are determined that this will continue. St George's has a strong Ministry team who will continue to serve you in the best ways we can.

We have started the recruitment process for a new vicar, although this is likely to be a fairly long process and we don't expect to welcome a new incumbent until after Christmas, possibly next Spring being the most realistic time frame.

Meanwhile we are still open for business-through the lockdown we have offered a range of support groups and activities for anyone who wishes to join in via zoom. Our website and Facebook page have enabled us to maintain contact with friends old, and new, which has been fantastic. Since the lockdown has eased, we have been open for individual prayer 3 times a week, and for Sunday worship at 10am. We have held Messy Church in the churchyard.

We are experiencing strange times and who knows what is to come in the next few months. We are having to be flexible and creative in our approach to worship and service, and this will continue for the foreseeable future. Expect to see a number of pop-up events and activities

around the town, as outdoor activities seem to be the best option at the moment, particularly for family events. All our activities are carefully risk assessed against government and Church of England guidelines. We are very aware that Christmas is our next significant celebration and we know that things will look very different this year.

We have been challenged, just as everyone globally has been challenged: we have had to rethink our priorities, and we have had to focus our energies on the fundamentals of our faith, and adapt. In this we have a perfect example to follow. When Jesus began his ministry he caused much unrest amongst the "traditionalists" and senior faith leaders as he questioned the way things were done, and why. Jesus wanted to shake things up and make people think about what it means to love and serve God. He summed it up in this way: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength" and "Love your neighbour as yourself".

That is exactly how we approach our faith now, and will continue to do so as we serve God in this community.

If you need to contact us, please go to the website or to our face book page, and submit your enquiry. Also keep an eye on the notice boards as they also contain up to date information.

In the meantime, we pray that God will care for you, comfort you and keep you and your loved ones safe.

With every blessing,

Sue Dulgarn and Paul Cooper, Churchwardens

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

Vine Community Church

hen the last Littleport Life was being published, churches were writing their articles back in March. At this time, we were at the start of the lockdown when churches had to close. With their buildings shut, churches had to quickly adapt and provide new ways to enable believers to continue to worship and fellowship with each other. Most of this adaptation took place through the use of the Internet with online services premiering on Sundays, fellowship and prayer meetings continuing via Zoom and some incredible worship sessions happening within musicians' homes through the aid of modern technology. The best example of this was when churches of all denominations from across the UK came together to sing a blessing over our nation. If you haven't seen this then I encourage you to look up 'UK Blessing' on YouTube.

At the Vine we were fortunate enough to have a team of willing and able volunteers who could use technology to allow us to share our service online. As one of the

people involved in this, I admit enjoying learning new skills in iMovie to add special effects to enhance our children's church sessions. At the Vine we chose to host a pre-recorded family service each week. which was uploaded to YouTube or watched by DVD for those who were not yet online. In the service we continued to have someone lead, then others sing/play from their home, someone to pray, our children's worker then provided some teaching for the children and finally we ended with someone else giving the message. Each week we tried to alternate between different people within the congregation, so in the end we had many different individuals from the church involved, including the children from our church who often read from the bible and praved or acted out parts in our children's teaching. We did this to allow our church family to see each other. In this respect, though this time has meant we are separated physically from each other, we are in new ways being brought back together through our shared experience online.



The service also changed the way we personally experienced church as a family. Pre-covid we would be separated from our children in the Sunday Service as they went into their children's sessions whilst we stayed in the main service. Now we sit together on a Sunday morning and share the service together.

From July onwards we were permitted to meet together again, but as a church we chose to do this differently to how we did pre-covid. With a number in our congregation vulnerable to the virus, we decided to continue our weekly online service, but with the addition of having small house churches within our members' gardens. Interestingly this house church model was how the churches began back

in the 1st century around the eastern Mediterranean and Jerusalem. So ironically we now have this mix of old practices and new technology allowing us to meet together in this unusual time.

Though we have been able to adapt in these difficult times, what we are currently experiencing is in some ways (technology) a poor substitute for the real thing and our hearts yearn for the time when we can meet again safely - young and old and praise God together in worship. Even Jesus needed the companionship of his disciples in his darkest times. To find out more about our church, please visit our website at VineCCL.org.uk where you can also see archived links to our Sunday Services.

Mark Hodgkinson

Look at the Birds by Ian Silk



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.

We have all had our own thoughts during lockdown, and not a few challenges. One morning, 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 corvid 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.



LL Ed's apology to lan for mistakes printed in our last issue. Please note the play on the word corvid and covid! Corvid is the family Latin name for crows, rooks, ravens...

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISTS IN LITTLEPORT

Greetings Littleport!

was inspired recently to watch an old favourite TV show again from the early 2000s, "The West Wing" where Martin Sheen plays a very fair, balanced and passionate US president, however for a time he sat very much in the middle ground not wanting to rock the boat, as opposed to fighting for what he believed. In one episode Sheen's character was told a parable about Gods assistance.

The parable is this; A faithful man was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you." The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." The rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this, the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." The motorboat went on.

Finally, a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this, the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." The helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you, but you didn't save me, you

let me drown. I don't understand why!"

To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what exactly was it you were waiting for?"

This is particularly important to Spiritualism; our Principle of 'Personal Responsibility' is emphatically defined by this, in that if we can help ourselves, or an option for aid is available, we should take it.

Just like Sheen's character, Jed Bartlet, we all get stuck in the middle ground from time to time, because it is easier, we do not wish to offend, or we are afraid if we put our heads above the parapet we will be attacked by those who disagree. We have the signs in front of us every day that we should act, but do we?

In the end, who does it help to remain silent? What will change, what good will come from silence, or subservience, or fear?

As Spiritualists' we get to contact those that have gone before us to the afterlife, can hear wisdom and guidance and proof of this. We ask for guidance and direction, we get it, but all to often find ourselves stunted in sharing that which we learn because we are seen as fakes, entertainers, not to be taken seriously, or because we may be challenging established thought or views, that by offering alternatives may cause us difficulty. We end up in the middle ground.

This can cause great pain for some, pushing them deep into the 'underground' if we do not stand up for our belief and convictions.

As a minister, I have read my bible from cover to cover many times. We are told by some that it should not be questioned, taken literally or word for word. There is a big problem with this. Hebrew and Greek from thousands of years ago do not always translate into English (or other languages) very well.

There are so many examples of this that cause pain to those who are impacted by them. The point is, we should always look rationally and with an eve to the fact that not only are the words not always easy to translate, but the mindset and understanding of humanity as a whole are very different in our world now. compared with those of the world which committed words handed down from that time by voice to paper, often many years after the fact.

But one example of this, often used in the negative tones may be of help, in that it attempted to prevent the same issues it is now used to protect. Revelation 22:18.

'I testify and warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book.

"Takes away from or distorts, the words of this book." Change these words? Translate them? So that the original meaning is more closely understood by being read in the original languages used? The bible is a guide to living the way we should, therefore if these words are translated and that translation has errors with colloquial terms that never translate well, even in modern language, we will not be living the way we are supposed to? All this, plus if anyone has added or taken away over the last number of hundreds of years if we do not know about it, how do we fix it?

There lies the rub. We have been given eves to see, ears to listen, hearts that make us compassionate and feel, we are constantly guided by the world of Spirit whether we know it or not, so that if something feels wrong, we should question it, learn more, understand and live free and well, at peace with our neighbours, not punishing them for having a different face, view, or belief.

Ultimately, we are made in the image of God, not our physical appearance, not by the shape of our body, gender or colour, not even the bipedal life form, but by the form of the soul, the light and spark that runs through us and makes us that which we are. Alive.

Inspiration and revelation happen every day, in a smile, a kind word, friendship support and trust in each other. We are all each other's Rowboat. Motorboat and Helicopter, sent to represent the hand of the Great Spirit in each other's lives.

We here in this home of ours are no strangers to challenging established views, following our hearts, and standing up for what we believe to be right. We would not look back at the Littleport Riots as we do if not. But as our guidance and wisdom from the world of Spirit teach us, we grow in our ability to challenge. As the prose poem written by American Max Ehrmann, Desiderata, savs. 'Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story."

In short, be polite, but never shy away from being or standing up for yourself.

May God bless each and all, and may His light guide us away from being stuck in a silent middle ground.

The Rt Rev Nick Brown

Lianne Stephenson is one of Littleport's Extra-Busy Mums



Lianne Stephenson

ianne Stephenson is not only a busy full time Mum, but she also runs her own handmade craft business, and is an independent Usborne Books at Home Organiser for children and young people's publisher Usborne Books, And two

days of the week she is in Ely helping at her mum's very popular Lemon Tree Deli Cafe.

And when the lockdown began Lianne also started fundraising for the NHS from sales of crocheted rainbows and hand creams and lip halms.

Lianne also mentioned that her young son Samuel had taken part in a sponsored read/listen event raising money for charity too.

Lianne runs a stall selling children's books and craft stuff outside her house from 9.30 am to 5 pm and hopes to continue this throughout winter, otherwise it will be a virtual winter fair which will allow everyone to purchase some goodies for Christmas. And as this live-wire lady says: "I know you're all going to hate me for this, but to be able to give you all that personal touch, I need time to get creative! So if you are looking for Christmas gifts please have your orders in by 1st November and your 50% deposit, then the final amount to be paid upon collection of local delivery in Littleport. I can post to anywhere in the UK for just £4.00."

If you want to find out more about Lianne's craft goods just log on to her Facebook page 'Handmade by Lianne' and for book orders message her on Facebook page 'Stephenson's Books' – a good use of social media.

Cathy Gibb-de Swarte



Book Box from Stephensons Books



Tea cosies by Lianne



Ex-Services or Civilians who Support the Aims of the Royal **British Legion are Welcome to** Join us!

Says President of the RBL Littleport Garth McGowen

I begin this issue with a plea to any retired service persons living in Littleport. If you are not a member of the Royal British Legion please consider joining! The Littleport branch is running low on numbers and it would be a sad thing if next year, our 100th year as a branch, we had to consider closing down or amalgamating with another branch. This branch has a proud history and the present committee want that to continue in the future. We realise that as a branch we have little to offer members but that is our 'Catch 22' situation. If you do not have sufficient members it is difficult to offer entertainment. If you do not offer entertainment and trips out then it is difficult to attract members. Please help us break this vicious cycle and become a member. It doesn't matter which service you were in, nor how long you served, all are welcome; we will even accept civilians who support the aims of the Royal British Legion. If you are going to join please send your contact details to the parish clerk at The Barn for forwarding to me.

Further topics this time involve this vears Remembrance Sunday service. If Covid 19 regulations are still in place in November we will have to reconsider the manner of the service. Please do not be surprised if the decision is taken to have an outdoor only service. Under present conditions we cannot allow the usual 400+ congregation in St George's church. But we will have a service rest assured.

In addition the Poppy Appeal news we are receiving is that the Appeal will be seriously restricted this year. We are still waiting for full details but I have to produce this article before I have the full details. As far as I know wreaths will be available as per usual, the schools will have school packs, and I hope that poppies and collecting boxes will be in supermarkets: but this is supposition at this time. There is a belief that street collections. house to house collections and most shop collections will be curtailed this year. This means you may have to look harder for you poppy but please look the Poppy Appeal needs your support more than ever.

The Royal British Legion Needs Your Poppy Money!

Because there is no active collecting for the annual Poppy Appeal this year, we need to support the RBL and all it does by giving via our bank account to theirs!

The bank code details for payment will be posted on the Littleport Life Facebook page as soon as RBLHQ release them.

Payments should be made between 24 October 2020 and 10 November 2020 inclusive only.

the WI

LITTLEPORT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Littleport WI Embodies that War-Time Spirit!

A WI Member tells us how they have been helping the nation again in the difficult circumstances of the last 6 months!

Through the pandemic WI members have been keeping in touch with each other by phone, new technology and Tuesday Zoom meetings, just chatting and offering help and support. With the current situation easing members are starting to meet up in small groups in gardens.

Lots of us have been busy learning new skills, how to use smart phones and tablets, a favourite pastime is talking to our family and friends on Face Time and Zoom.

We have also made use of our sewing skills to make PPE equipment for hospitals and nursing homes. Our small pieces of material have made many colourful masks.

We still receive a Federation News letter. This month told us of the imminent closure of the national Denman college. Mini courses at £5, funded for WI members, are available online, which members can access and pass on their ideas.

We are looking forward to planning for our centenary in 2022.

We do not know when we will be able to meet in the Village Hall, but in the meantime, we will continue to share our ideas.

On the internet: www.thewi.org.uk

And Littleport Life explains why the WI is known for 'Jam and Jerusalem'

In1915 we set out to give women a voice and to be a force for good in the community. Since then, our membership and our ambitions alike have grown tremendously. Today, we are the largest women's organisation in the UK and we pride ourselves on being a trusted place for women of all generations to share experiences and learn from each other.

Making jam is probably one of the things that the WI is most famous for. But what is less well known is that during the Second World War, WI members made jam on an epic scale and made a significant contribution to Britain's food supplies. In 1939, realising that much of the fruit from the summer's bumper harvest might be wasted unless it were made into jam, WI's headquarters secured sugar supplies direct from the Ministry of Food. WIs across the country gathered in surplus fruit from gardens and allotments or growing wild. In their first wave of jam making, it is estimated that the WI saved 450 tons of fruit from rotting.

During the 1920s, many WIs started choirs and NFWI set up a music committee. W.H. Leslie, an amateur musician from Llansantffraid, Shropshire, acted as an advisor, and held a one-day school for village conductors in London in early 1924. He asked his friend Sir Walford Davies to write an arrangement of Hubert Parry's



wartime jam making courtesy WI website photos

setting of Jerusalem for WI choirs. This hymn, with its association with the fight for women's suffrage, was considered appropriate for the emerging WI movement which was encouraging women to take their part in public life, and to improve the conditions of rural life. Leslie suggested that Walford Davies' special arrangement for choir and string orchestra should be performed at the Annual General Meeting of NFWI held in the Queen's Hall, London in 1924. He conducted the singing, bringing a choir from local WIs with him to lead.

This was so successful that it continues to be sung at the opening of NFWI AGMs, and many WIs open meetings by singing Jerusalem, although it has never been adopted as the WI's official anthem.

As part of the 95th anniversary celebration, a modern version of Jerusalem was recorded by The Harmonies, selected from entrants from the WI Search for a Star competition. It was released in 2010 as part of the album Voices of the W.I.

Royal membership

Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has been a member since 1943, and is President of Sandringham WI. Her mother Queen Elizabeth was also a member, and Sophie, Countess of Wessex, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and Anne, the Princess Royal are all members. The Queen attends the January meeting at Sandringham each year and in January 2019 referred to "common ground" and "never losing sight of the bigger picture" in a speech which was widely reported. The evening's guest speaker was Alexander Armstrong, host of the TV show Pointless a favourite of Her Majesty the Queen, who participated in a game played at the meeting. Her Majesty headed the winning team, after which Alexander commented on Queen Elizabeth's "deft. silky Pointless skills".



President of the WI at Sandringham, HM the Queen socialising after the game. Seen in the background speaker Alexander Armstrong.

Littleport Parkrunners Won't be Beaten!

With the easing of some recent lockdown restrictions, a few Littleport parkrunning buddies like the Parkrun run organisers James Lee and Amanda Murfitt have managed to get out and enjoy a few social distancing runs which included a coming together to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of their popular local parkrun on June 27th writes Cathy Gibb-de Swarte.

And on that day they also came across their running buddies Jo White, Lizzie Hyslop and Cathy Gibb-de Swarte who were running the virtual 5k Manea Gala Day Beat the Tractor race at the Littleport parkrun course down at Littleport Leisure.

The incentive to get out there was very important for these running enthusiasts, not only for their wellbeing, but also for their fitness too. They have continued to organise fun virtual 5k runs attracting many to join them and wear colourful fancy dress costumes which fits the various themed events. And already the trio are planning to hold a virtual 5k run every month to keep the momentum going.

They have also brought a lot of fun and laughter to these running events as they have all dressed up in bee and butterfly costumes for the virtual 5k Lone Bee and Butterfly Effect runs.





And they are off!

Doing it for charity, they pay to enter and receive medals for completion that are biodegradable and contain wildflower seeds - plus 2 trees are planted for every person's distance that is completed virtually turning miles into trees.

Wendy Georgina Johnson who joined in with the Bee run in July has invited her Littleport running friends to join in



Cathy 1st at the finish!

with her personal run in memory of her husband John who passed from cancer last year. Not everyone will be able to make the venue at Wendy's home village in Histon on Saturday 5th September, so there is a planned run being held at Littleport's Leisure Centre to support Wendy's special event.

Littleport's parkrunners may not have been able to participate in the parkruns proper, but some of them get to meet up for the 'virtual parkrun uk Big Quiz' live on YouTube every Saturday at 9 am that has been presented during the lockdown that has proved a great way to keep in touch with everyone in the parkrun family - as well as adding a little touch of that competitiveness keeping them on their toes seeing who can get the most correct answers!

Littleport has also been put on the map with the Ely Standard weekly newspaper featuring the activities of some of Littleport's parkrunners on its sports pages during the summer.





363MCC Keeping Their Shiny Side Up!

The old bikers' greeting and good wishes, 'Keep your shiny side up, rubber side down' is embodied by Littleport's bike club.

They have continued to keep spirits high from the start of the lockdown and as soon as it was ok to do so organised rides out.

A fun 'Poker Run' where 363MCC President Mark Robinson explains that "There are various check points along the route at which you get a playing card. At the finish the biker with the best hand wins!"

The club members also visited the Hell's Angels Memorial at RAF Molesworth. This was the name given to the American 303rd Bombardment Group. Between 1942 and 1945, 841 of them were killed and 747 men were taken Prisoner of War. 210 B 17 planes were lost.

There was also a poignant ride out to Brandon in a tribute to honour the 7th Armoured Division, the Desert Rats, who were stationed together in Thetford Forest before landing in France June 5th 1944.

363MCC President Mark Robinson stated "On Remembrance Sunday we will be laying a wreath regardless of whether the usual Remembrance Day parade happens or not because of restrictions emplaced due to C19. We have always supported the armed forces, our veterans, and of course Her Majesty the Queen."



President Mark Robinson and partner Samantha Davis





Photos of the Poker Run



303rd Bombardment Group Hells Angels Memorial



7th Armoured Division the Desert Rats Memorial



363MCC bike crew at the Thetford Forest Memorial



Return to Scouting

1st Littleport Scout Group leaders and members of the

executive committee have been busy preparing for the return of face-to-face Scouting in the autumn. This has involved following the guidance issued by the Scout Association, which is based on the National Youth Agency Guidelines; ensuring risk assessments are completed and approved; and that plans are in place to reintroduce Scouting activities.

"We are keeping everything crossed for returning in September, we have all been missing our young people and everything Scouting offers," says Group Scout Leader, Julie Double. "Of course, there may be slightly different routines and activities, but we will communicate these to parents and children nearer the time to ensure a safe and enjoyable start for all."

Obviously, some of the activities Scouting is famous for, such as overnight hikes and camps, cannot resume immediately, but the leaders have plenty of ingenious ideas to make it fun, keep on with badge work, and reach out to the community.

"Things we have been looking forward include a pantomime trip, Christmas carolling and a joint visit with some of Littleport's more senior residents so our children can learn what it was like when they were the same age," says Julie. "We can't wait to see all our Scouts again and give out the well-deserved badges that they have been earning during lockdown."

New members are always welcome! If your young person would like to join in, please drop Julie an email at info@1stlittleportscoutgroup.org.uk

Beavers (aged 6-8)

Tuesdays 6-7.15pm Fridays 6-7.15pm

Cubs (aged 8-10½)

Tuesdays 6.45pm-8pm Wednesdays 6.30pm-8pm

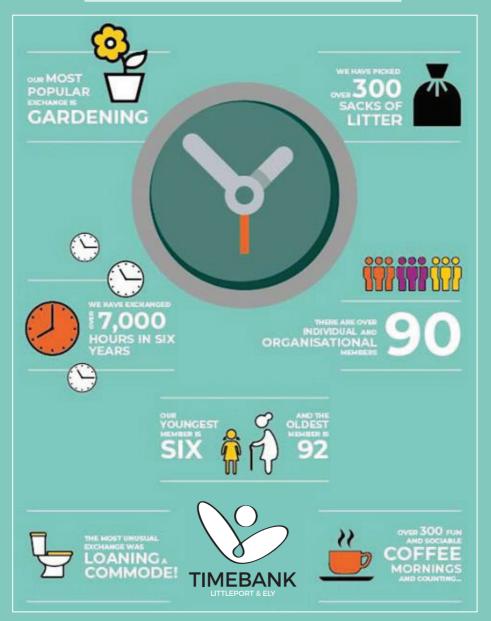
Scouts (aged 10½ - 14)

Tuesdays 7.30pm-9pm Wednesdays 7.30pm-9.15pm

(Please note: timings of groups are approximate and may vary depending on measures taken to ensure a safe return for all.)



TIMEBANK TOP FACTS



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**.

Our incoming President *Ian Burrows* — "We are supporting East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) during this time of crisis."

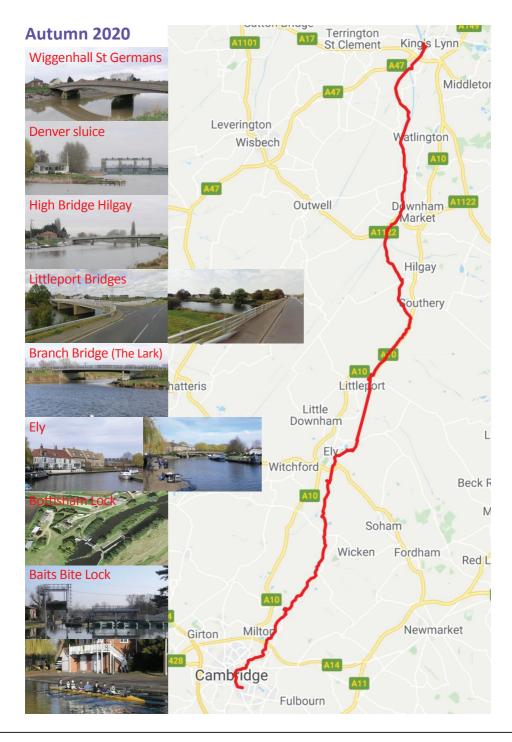


Four members of our club will carry out a sponsored — 48 mile Fen Rivers Walk from Cambridge to Kings Lynn over three days starting on 25th September.

EACH are experiencing a devastating drop in income as their shops are closed and the vast majority of their supporters fundraising activities and their own events are cancelled or postponed. In the next 12 weeks alone, their loss of income is expected to be around £1,800,000. In light of this we want to do our bit, but need your help. Together we can make sure that vital care and support is still available for the children, young people and their families who need EACH, during and beyond this challenging and uncertain time. Unlike hospitals, they rely on the generosity of people like us to fund their services. Please help us support EACH by donating on this JustGiving page and sharing it with friends and families. Thank you for your support and stay safe!

Please see our Facebook page if you are able to make a donation using JustGiving however small—it will be gratefully received. **JustGiving**^{*} Many Thanks Ian Burrows





Littleport Town Colts Football Club



Back to the beautiful game

Littleport Town FC Colts' teams were delighted to be able to return to training this summer, after several months off.

"It was great to see all the young people back together again. We've all really missed them – and watching them play," says under-15s coach Chris Slatter.

The first week or so was a little different as contact football was not yet allowed, but from August the teams will have been able to play matches during training. They have also been playing a few friendly games too, just to warm them up for the next season.

Chris is keen to welcome new players – both to the established teams, which are the under-10s, under-15s, and under-16s, and also to bring some younger players into Littleport Town, especially to help set up an academy for the budding young Jadon Sanchos out there.

"It's going to take some time to get fully back into the swing of the new season, but the main thing is we're back playing the game we all love," says Chris.

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 Rangers FC Kick Off for the 2020/2021 Season in Fine Style!

Littleport Rangers FC have been back in training and are looking forward the next season. With last season being cut short in March all the players, coaches and parents are looking forward to watching games. We now have 3 U12 teams entering into the Colts District League along with the U13s, all playing on a Saturday morning.

The U9s are playing in the mini soccer league playing local teams such as Sutton & Soham. The coaches have been busy marking out pitches so the kids can have friendlies during their training sessions. The parents have been very understanding with the changes the FA have put in place to keep us all safe so players can return to training.

This year we are very lucky to have Rumbles of Littleport sponsor the U12s Navy team.

D Silcock Construction is sponsoring another new kit for the U9s.

Vinall Roofing is sponsoring the U13s a new kit.

We are extremely grateful to local businesses continuing to help out with the players kits. If you are a local company and are interested in sponsoring a team or the club, please contact the Club Secretary Katie Pendle.

More than ever it is vitally important to get children outside and moving around for their mental well-being. Being part of a team has so many benefits, football is a great sport to be part of.

COACHES NEEDED!

The club has a large Academy team, U8s/9s who train only each week. We are looking for 2/3 coaches to take this team over. The current coach is training them each week but is unavailable for matches. If you would like to help out, the club can offer you a coaching level 1 training course through Cambs Football Association, along with a DBS check & safeguarding. Please contact the club Secretary at: Lrfc-secretary@ hotmail.co.uk for more information about becoming a coach. There are more children who would like to join but without coaches we cannot offer this. You would need to spare an hour on a week day for training and then a Saturday morning for matches, these run Sept -March/ April.



Vinall Bros

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The PORT Youth Group

ThePort's Joanne Coe has been even busier during Lockdown!

oanne Coe isn't exactly an unsung hero – this hardworking mum has not just been spoken of in glowing terms around Littleport but was honoured with a civic award recognising all her good deeds for the youth of the village in those halcyon days before Covid and lockdown.

During this recent difficult time Joanne and her initiatives have continued to lift the spirits of the community in different ways.

Joanne said: "It's been so important to support many young people and their families who've fallen on hard times, perhaps struggling with home schooling, or to shop for essentials, access entertainment or just in need of a good old moan about the new norm! And basically to help everyone to remain positive – no one is alone in feeling the pressure of having youths at home or indeed the youths finding it hard to be at home and not able to socialise as much with friends.

I appreciate many youths are out and about locally meeting friends and socialising more than most should and that's an individual choice - I have been contacted by several to see if we can open but at this time it's not possible using our current facility.

I am looking at alternative options so you have a safe place to socialise - however social distancing is a real issue and we need a bigger area. A youth cafe may be possible in the coming weeks."

Joanne also has instituted an Essential Sue Box that contains personal toiletry requirements. She thanks all those who have generously donated to the scheme. If you need anything she says please send her a message on the Littleport Events Facebook page or text 07988477255.

Another initiative has been the 'Random Acts of Kindness' when around 100 presents of toys, books and sweets were placed around the village for children to find!

ThePort will be meeting up again as soon as regulations allow. So do check out their Facebook page for updates.

ThePORT YOUTH GROUP

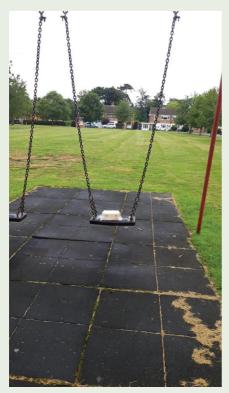
07988477255 Looking forward to opening again soon! Should any youths require assistance please feel free to call us.



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Neil and Becky Cullum's daughter Isla happy with her find!



Stanley Cullum, Becky and Neil's son found a gift too!



Happy Madison and Charlie Whaley with their gifts



n the pouring rain Littleport paid tribute to its sons fallen, taken prisoner, enslaved on the Burma Railway, tortured and starved, before Japan surrendered on the 15th August 1945.

The Royal British Legion Littleport Branch was mustered by its President Garth McGowen and a memorial ceremony was conducted by St George's Parish Church at Littleport War Memorial on the green across from the church entrance in the presence of our Cambridgeshire County Councillor, East Cambs District Councillors and Littleport Parish Councillors, David Ambrose Smith. Christine Ambrose Smith and Joanne Webber. Ms Webber represented her husband, Leader of the Parish Council Clive Webber who had to work that day.

We will never forget the bravery and fortitude of the East Anglian Forces who made up a too large percentage of the 190,000 Allied Troops imprisoned by the Japanese early on in the Far East campaigns.

We will remember them.









From Littleport's John Taylor's autobiographical book of verse, Raising Fen Tigers.

Mrs Fitch would often be seen outside her cottage on the pavement, on Wisbech Road, especially at school times. She would wear a flowered-print, double-breasted apron with a tie cord round the middle, carpet slippers and thick, sagging stockings. But you mostly noticed her anguished look.

Mrs Fitch, God Bless Her Heart

Walking to school every day was slow, If it was sunny, raining or in the snow, I couldn't afford to stop and play, Especially on a windy, rainy day.

During my journey on one wet day, Mrs Fitch stopped me just to say, "My Jimmy has forgotten his lunch again, Please give him this, keep it from the rain."

Going home I could see Mrs Fitch from afar, Standing on the pavement, her view not to mar. In her apron and slippers, standing there, I could just make out her curly grey hair.

A troubled old lady with so many a care, She waved her walking stick in the air. As in the distance her Jimmy she could see, "Come home, Jimmy, it's time for your tea."

"Have you seen my Jimmy at school or play? He's late home from school again today." In the direction of school she stared intensely, To see Jimmy coming would please immensely.

Sometimes I knew what she would say, So, "Yes Mrs Fitch, Jimmy is on his way." I'm sure she knew but couldn't believe, Her heart played tricks, her mind to deceive.

She'd wait until dark, not wanting to go, When she went in, she was really slow. With her old blue eyes cast down, And on her forehead a sorry frown.

Sometimes she'd go to Miss Lester's shop, To buy Jimmy a chocolate bar, or some pop, Slowly, for that was as far as she ever went. Her old legs were weak and her back was bent. She would talk about Jimmy and his care, Ida smiled, as she twisted fingers in her hair. To humour her with compassion and grace, And give some extra, to put a smile on her face.

Some kids thought it would be fun To ask if they could play with her son. "I don't know where he is," she would say, "I think he has already gone out to play."

With a worried look, she paused and said, "I've not seen Jimmy since I made his bed. If you see him, tell him to come home. I don't like being here all alone.

I asked my Nan if she knew Mrs Fitch, "Yes," she said, "I don't see her much When we were girls we'd often play, I thought of her just the other day."

"Did she have a boy?" I asked with reserve, She paused, as if plucking up her nerve. "Oh ves," she said. "She had a lovely son, But he never came home from the Somme."

"Joined the Army, when he was too young, Afraid to tell his mother what he had done. They sent him off to fight a war, Then we didn't see Jimmy no more."

My Nan tried hard not to blink at all, Lest a tear should accidentally fall. She said, "I've got something in my eye." But I could tell she was trying not to cry.

Now Mrs Fitch is in heaven up there, She will be happy and without a care. Yes, I believe that's where she's gone, To be with Jimmy, her beloved son.

Dear Mrs Fitch, I can't forget you. Nor your brave son I never knew. That would surprise you now, I bet, And your dear son. Lest we forget.

Dedicated to Private James William Fitch, First Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment who died on 26th September 1917...and his loving mother.

LITTLEPORT BRASS

LITTLEPORT LIFE BLOWS THE TRUMPET FOR LITTLEPORT BRASS BAND!



ittleport Brass is looking forward to the time when they can get back to doing what they like best – giving concerts to an always appreciative public! And to taking part in the various contests that are usually held around Britain!

This has been put on hold of necessity and as spokesperson and Chair of the band's committee Sue Peacock says, "Sadly, we still have no idea as to what will happen regarding Christmas. As it stands we have now had a November concert cancelled and have no idea about December engagements. Unfortunately, until we have the go ahead to start rehearsing safely, we are unable to speculate as to when we may be able to perform safely to the public."

The determined and talented Littleport Brass musicians and their MD, Maestro lan Knapton, are doing all they can to maintain their musical standard over the internet until they can once again all make their wonderful kind of music together in the

band room behind the Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Club on Ponts Hill.

Sue explains that "It will be some time before we can give a concert at a public venue, but plans are well-on to put a concert online. Our 3 social distancing videos have been viewed/listened to over 15.000 times!"

You can find them on the YouTube Littleport Brass channel entitled Endurance, Liberty Bell and the amazing Coe Fen! There is another in preparation and there are other videos to enjoy made at actual concerts prior to the lockdown.

As for that important social camaraderie all teams enjoy, they have had weekly gettogethers on Zoom holding guizzes - and one was hosted by the band's youngest member, 13-year-old Dexter Speed!

Now Dexter Speed is with the National Children's Brass Band of Britain 2020 and appears in the National Youth at Home Grand Finale YouTube video playing the

horn. Their website is www.nybbgb.com if you would like more information.

Dexter's parents must be delighted that their son is following the family tradition playing Tenor Horn and 1st Horn for the band. Dad Paul plays 2nd Euphonium with Littleport, and Mum Sophie plays Baritone for Dereham where her sister also plays percussion - although Sophie does help out with her excellent Baritone when needed for Littleport Brass.



Dexter Speed with his Horn

President of Littleport Brass William (Bill) Sharpe has served the band as an accomplished musician for many decades and now in retirement, and says he is "very impressed with the determination to carry on and I look forward to the time when we can enjoy a concert or enter a contest once again."

Littleport Life and the community it serves is also looking forward to that first concert.



Littleport Brass President Bill Sharpe and Musical Director Ian Knapton



Disney theme concert at Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Club



Welney Wetland Centre

Autumn arrivals

s we approached the end of summer, we looked forward to the arrivals this next season would bring. But over recent decades numbers of some of these species have been declining. The species that Welney are most famous for each winter are the two swans - whoopers from Iceland and Bewick's from Arctic Russia, but the two populations tell very different tales.

Whilst the Icelandic whooper swan population is doing well, seeing a 17% increase in the wintering population in the UK between 2004/05-2014/15. The Bewick's swan population is not, seeing a 74% decrease over the same time period. Although some of this can be attributed to climate change, as milder winters does encourage more birds to remain on the continent rather than making a full migration to the UK, illegal hunting and unnecessary deaths - including those from lead poisoning are having an impact on the population as a whole. Staff and volunteers from WWT, alongside other environmental

organisations across the flyways of the two species, undertake winter counts to assess the state of the population, as well as monitoring the breeding success for the two species. Last winter Countryfile came out to see what is involved in a swan census, and you can still watch that episode on iplayer until December.

The conservation team at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) have been working across the migratory route of the Bewick's swans, which includes 11 countries, for many decades. Assessing threats and implementing joined-up protections for a species and the habitats they rely on across this distance, is no mean feat. Creating a network of swan champions, is how we are currently bringing scientists, hunters and young people together to protect endangered birds from illegal hunting in their breeding grounds. This community in Nar'Yan-Mar, Arctic Russia, is made of individuals that are passionate about the sustainable use of what is probably the world's greatest wetland as



they live on the front-line of environmental changes. They are everyday people, representing a range of interests, working together to improve conservation of these wetlands and reduce illegal hunting in the breeding grounds.

Elsewhere along the flyway including here in the UK, work continues in raising awareness of the threat of lead shot and the need to move to non-toxic alternatives. Lead is a traditionally used substance for shooting, but spent lead shot left lying on the ground results in poisoning of the environment. In the last decade it is estimated that 100,000 swans, geese and ducks die each year in the UK due to lead poisoning from spent gunshot, and is responsible for one in four recorded deaths of Bewick's swans. More than 6.000 tonnes of lead ammunition including billions of tiny shot pellets - are discharged by guns in the UK every year in areas where birds such as swans feed. Most lands on the ground, where it can be ingested by birds who mistake it for grit or seeds. It is not just the birds that can suffer: lead from ammunition can also enter the human food chain when people eat wild-shot game frequently.

In February a coalition of nine leading UK shooting and rural bodies announced a call for their members to end the use of lead (and single-use plastics) in shotgun ammunition for live quarry shooting within five years. This voluntary ban on lead



gunshot is a major success following decades of campaigning by ourselves and other conservation organisations.

Currently a vote to ban the use of lead shot across the European Union has been delayed yet again, due to a last minute objection to the voting procedure by the Czech Republic Government, despite a clear majority in favour of the ban being evident. Together with other environmental organisations and hunters concerned about lead poisoning we are working to show authorities the truth about lead shot, and not the myths and untruths the shooting industries have been using to oppose the change. A successful vote would have been the first significant hurdle to prevent toxic lead shot from entering a continent's wetlands. You might ask, well what can I do to help? We would ask that you contact environmental and agricultural ministers as well as MEPs to urge action and support for the proposals (for wetlands and all habitats) from the European Chemicals Agency under the framework of REACH. The vote is likely to be rescheduled for September, will you help by acting to fight for our collective healthy future.

We would like to see lead ammunition phased out and replaced with non-toxic alternatives that are effective, as we work towards making a more sustainable and safer future for wildlife, wetlands and people.



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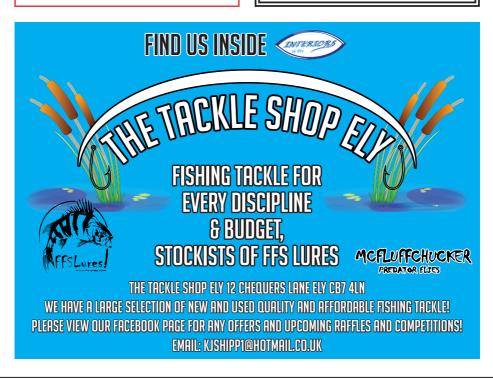


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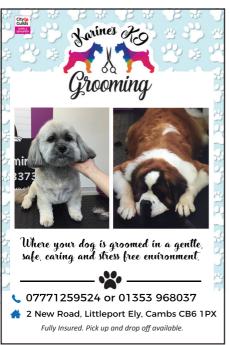
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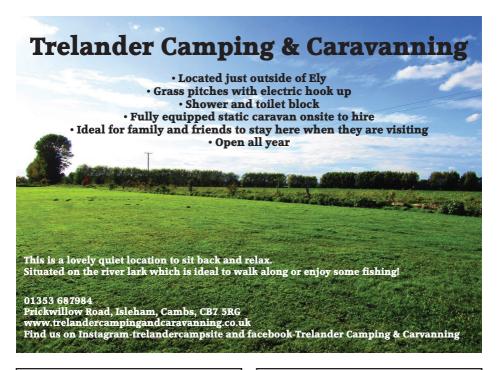
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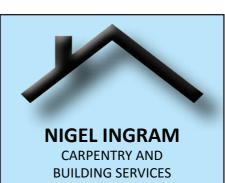
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Flu Vaccinations

Our flu clinics will run in a slightly different way this year to ensure we maintain social distancing measures and protect our staff and patients. Flu jabs will be available by **appointment only**.

Please do not arrive at the practice without an appointment as you will not be seen.

Reminder about eligibility

- ✓ Anyone aged 65 years and over.
- ✓ People aged six months to under-65 years who are in risk groups.
- ✓ Carers.
- ✓ Pregnant women.
- ✓ People living in care homes.
- Children who are aged 2yrs to 11yrs on 31 August 2020 (but not 12 years or older).
- ✓ People who have compromised immune systems, and anyone in close contact with them.
- √ Health and social care staff employed by a registered care home, registered domiciliary provider, or a hospice.
- ✓ Please note people aged between 50-64 years might be offered vaccination if there are sufficient supplies available.

Vaccines will be available from October 2020 to March 2021.

Please look out for an invitation; we will be contacting patients relating to their level of risk.

Details of flu clinics will be published on our website www.stgeorges-littleport.co.uk and Facebook page @StGeorgesMedicalCentre)

You can book an appointment via **askmyGP** or by calling **01353 864100**.

MEDICAL CENTRE

Contact Details, Opening Hours and Clinics St George's Medical Centre is located at Parsons Lane, Littleport, CB6 1JU The Surgery telephone number is 01353 864100

Surgeries are by appointment only which can be booked by telephoning, attending in person or online (register for online services first). Ring before 10am for essential home visits.

> Monday to Friday 8.00am - 12.30pm 1.15pm - 6pm Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

For medical emergencies outside of normal surgery hours, call 999, or the surgery number 01353 864100 to be put through to the out of hours service.

Useful Contacts		
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East Cambs.	Main Switchboard	01353 665555
District Council	Out of hours emergencies	07710 978900
Report Fly Tipping	Mark Mehaffey	01353 665555
Utilities – (Emergencies)	Anglian Water	0845 7145145
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Princess of Wales Hospital	Main Switchboard	01353 652000
Dentist	Reception	0844 3756454
Parish Council	Enquiries, Village Hall hire, Allotments	01353 860449
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