

LITTLEPORT

MAGAZINE

www.littleportlife.co.uk

ISSUE 61 SUMMER 2021

Your Community Magazine

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People, Groups, Places...



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photo credit PA

Cambridge pulling in after winning the Women's 75th Varsity Boat Race at Littleport 2021

How the World Famous University Boat Race came to Littleport – Again!
On Pages 49, 50, 51 and 52!

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Saying goodbye to Littleport Life stalwart
Chris Hook retiring after years of service to
this community group. With love and thanks
and good wishes for the future from all of us!



Littleport Life Advertising Rates are very reasonable!

Your deadline for the autumn issue is July 19 2021

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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Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to your summer issue of Littleport Life.

Almost all your favourite groups are represented, and the spotlight falls on many people who are doing good things in the village. The lockdown has been a time of great stress and difficulty for everyone, but you'll see that there has still been demonstrated an incredible determination to carry on regardless in the best traditions of this community.

Littleport is also expanding in housing and it's going to have a new community type purpose-built centre and possibly, as rumour has it, even a few extra shops, in the area of those new dwellings.

Of course we already have good shops and barbers, to mention just a few like Kings and Erika's, and stylish hairdressers Infinity Hair, in the centre in Main Street; and nearby tributary roads, like Ness & Ems in Granby Street, spoiled for choice eateries and takeaways from pizzas to fish and chips, Indian and Chinese, then we have the Post Office in the new Premier convenience store and in Wisbech Road the big Co-op with the smart hairdressers, Inspire, opposite, and the BP garage and M&S at the A10 roundabout. Should also mention Littleport Players' Karen Booth's salon Bizzie Lizzie's down Pontois Hill past the Ex-Servicemen's Club that had been marking time until it reopened for summer!

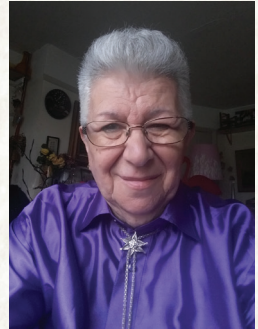
We have Loach and Wade the optometrists and a dentist too. Some of those establishments, and a great many more businesses and services, advertise in Littleport Life for your convenience – and altruistically the proprietors know that the revenue from them pays for your magazine to be printed. And all those involved in producing it and getting the finished article out to every household in Littleport are actually unpaid volunteers. We do it for love of Littleport.

Do enjoy the features, photos and articles in your summer issue and don't forget to use our lovely advertisers for all your needs.

And remember to use Littleport's social media Facebook pages for updates, like Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Club, Littleport Parish Council Group, Littleport Community Group, Littleport Notice Board, Littleport Notice Board 2, Littleport Living Extra, Littleport Life magazine, Littleport Brass and more!

Who needs to go outside of Littleport other than to be glad to come back after the excursion!

Have yourself a wonderful Littleport summer.



Lyn

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Summer's Here in Peacock's Meadow says Deborah Curtis-Watson

And summer is certainly here in Peacocks Meadow community garden. A great deal of work has been going on over the winter and spring. And as we step out into the sunshine again after a difficult winter, the committee are aware of the great need to get our children out and active again. We have received funding from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Youth and Community Fund, to create a gorgeous sensory garden area. This is for all our visitors but especially for our learning-disabled children and adults. A large area has also been cleared to create children's dens. We are applying for more funding to install items that build confidence and exploration of the natural environment in our young residents.

We are indebted (as ever!) to Joanne and Andy Coe, and ThePORT Youth Club members who have worked tirelessly to enhance the garden with delightful new additions. ThePORT's Easter event attracted over

240 visitors, all socially-distanced, with sanitiser and all Covid-control measures in place.

We would like to thank Littleport Parish Council for their on-going support of the development of the garden.

We would like to thank all the many residents who have put their own lovely decorations in the trees, and who have donated plants, materials and other items for the garden.

And of course, we'd like to thank our many visitors, who respect the garden and help us to look after it.

We are delighted that so many residents have taken this lovely green space to their hearts, and who tell



Sensory enjoyment section of the Meadow

us that it feels 'safe and welcoming' to visitors of all ages and abilities. Well, we couldn't have done it without YOU the lovely people of Littleport. A warm welcome awaits you in ... Littleport's Secret Garden.



Looking back at Easter!

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

LITTLEPORT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Linda Whytock Secretary of Littleport WI gives us a look at WI past activities - and looks towards the summer

What have we been up to in this last year? Well sadly not a lot. Normally our WI is a very thriving and busy group.

Every month we would have a committee meeting discussing all aspects of business that had been received by our secretary including invitations to other WI's.

We also have a lot of National Federation business. All members of the WI have a choice of important resolutions that we vote on that will eventually be voted on at National Federation level.

We visit the sick and celebrate special birthdays and anniversaries.

This is just a sample of our WI activities

The last 14 months has stopped us in our tracks due to Covid. But with the WI spirit we have managed to keep the monthly newsletters delivered to our members who are not on the internet. Our President Monica has delivered personally to those ladies. Monica has of course regularly emailed out to members so that everyone has been kept informed. We know that every group throughout the country has been in the same boat. We hope that this summer and in the coming year we will once again be able to meet in the village hall on every second Tuesday of the month.

Littleport and District Flower Club



Report by the Programme Secretary Pam Hayes

A big hello to all Flower Club Members and hopefully new Members that might come along as a Visitor in the first instance to see what it is we do and meet up with other Members.

The Club is hoping to restart on Friday 17th September at our usual venue of Littleport Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Vicki Hease will be the Demonstrator at this meeting, a new face to the Club, but I am sure she will inspire us all to get back into the groove of flower arranging and the enjoyment it can bring to us all.

As a Committee we hope that we will be able to move forward without any more cancelling of Demonstrators because of the Covid situation. The past year has been a sad time of informing Demonstrators that we have to cancel, for some it is the only income that they have had coming in, and sadly to say many of our regular Demonstrators have now decided to retire and we as a Club have not been able to say goodbye to them.

Looking forward, we have September, October and November, to look forward to for the year 2021 we will not be having a grand Open Evening, sadly we have had to cancel Lorena Dyer as we realised it would not be possible to organise a big meeting as we do not know what restrictions will still be in place in regard to how many we can have at any meeting. We have however a great favourite of the Club coming along David Wright who we all know and enjoy. This will be a meeting for Club Members only, but if possible once we know how things pan out you can all bring along a friend to enjoy his Demonstration of the 12 days of Christmas, and the Committee will attempt to make it a jolly evening. A full

year of Demonstrators has been arranged for 2022, some you will know but a lot will be new to the Club, our Christmas meeting in November 2022 will be with Demonstrator Johnathan Moseley, who some of you may have seen many times on TV doing Demonstrations, so fingers crossed that this will be able to happen.

The Committee hope that you are all well and beginning to get back to a more normal way of living, hopefully you have all had your Vaccinations and are looking forward to getting back to a more normal world. Have a happy summer and we look forward to seeing you all on the 17th September for our return meeting. We will attempt to get a Newsletter to everyone once we know exactly what the Government position is in regard to meeting up.

Memories of past meetings, the group photo shows a lot of happy ladies at our first Workshop with Adele Kent in 2018 and one of an arrangement won by Pam Hayes by Demonstrator Tim Meakin in June 2018.

If you need more information please contact the Secretary Sue Constable on 01353 861012 or the Chair Carol Weyman on 01353 360289.





Littleport Parkrunners have done their bit for charity during lockdown!

When it comes to getting out there and running, helping to get everyone motivated as well as raising money for worthwhile charitable causes, you don't have to look very far. Littleport parkrunners who call themselves the Fab 4, Chelsey Meadows, Julie Murfitt, Andrea Sullivan and Cathy Gibb-de Swarte often seen dressed in brightly coloured tutus and wearing crazy headgear running round Littleport, have been active throughout lockdown.

The four runners are always messaging each other on social media finding such events and when it was deemed safe, invited other runners to join them for the 5k Autism Awareness charity event on Good Friday April 2nd raising money for Spectrum. On the morning itself Amy Holland and local running buddy Jennifer Stewart joined the Fab 4 and together they raised £500. Local business Sigma Embroidery aka Kim Oakhill provided the

free printing of Run 4 Autism Awareness on caps and tee-shirts, the money for which the runners donated to Spectrum for their merchandise which they wore on the day.

On Saturday the 10th of April Cathy provided some novelty sailors hats and scarfs which her running buddies gamely wore for their 8k memorial run for keen micro sailor and London Marathon runner David Catto, who passed last year. He had volunteered for Hope UK, a drug education charity working with children and young people, installing their whole IT system.

Like the rest of their running buddies which includes Jo White, Lizzie Hyslop, Donna Leonne and Tali Iserles, Amanda Murfitt, James Lee, Joanne Bruno, Ann Schofield, Charolotte Nevison, Lisa Long, Ian Barnish and Emily Sweatt, they were all looking forward to meeting up again for the popular Littleport parkrun that begins again for the summer.



Chelsey holds a collage of her buddies and interviewer Johnny Dee top centre, husband Simon on another fundraiser bottom right



Running 4 Autism Awareness Amy Holland, Chelsey Meadows, Jennifer Stewart and Andrea Sullivan - photo running buddy Cathy Gibb de Swarte

Although regulars at the Saturday parkruns organised by James Lee at the Littleport Leisure mapped out running course, these hardy and inspirational runners will still be out there in between times pounding the pavements, accompanying Chelsey with her half marathons, taking part in charity events or just trail running down the various riverbanks heading off to either to Queen Adelaide or Ely from Littleport in their many colourful outfits which always brightens up the local community - especially some of the very young residents who think fairies wearing tutus are running round their village.

As for their past exploits, the Littleport Fab 4 surprised the BBC tv crew as they ran past them over the now world famous Sandhill Bridge on the morning of the relocated Cambridge v Oxford University Boat Race.

If you would rather get involved in a running group then why not join

'Let's Run Littleport' a sociable running group offering 'Couch to 5K' programmes throughout the year and regular 'Steady

5k' runs lead by qualified Run Leaders.

Regardless of age, ability or previous running experience, you will be guided and supported through your running journey.

Run Leader Sandra Pietch posted on their Facebook page thus: We are pleased to announce that we will continue with our 'C25k Spring 2021' and 'Steady' running sessions. Admittedly the sessions started in May but there are a few still left in June.

We have just published more bookable session dates up until June 14th.

Why June 14th? Save this date in your diary as the 'C25k Spring 2021' will conclude that day and will head out for our first 5k run.

If you like to book more sessions for the 'Steady' sessions, please follow this link:

<https://groups.runtogether.co.uk>

Let'sRun Littleport **<https://runtogether.co.uk>** and if you have any queries visit

Let's Run Littleport or message by Facebook Sandra Pietsch or Clare Dell at Healthy You East Cambridgeshire.



May Day Holiday Fun Run for the Littleport Fab 4 Cathy, Chelsey, Andrea and Julie

News from Littleport Lions Club



Every Lions club supports a range of good causes and projects in its local community where you can get involved.

Because we are local, we serve the unique needs of the communities in which we live. As we are global, we can address community challenges wherever they occur.

Lions serve. It's that simple, and it has been since we first began in 1917. Our clubs are places where individuals join together to give their valuable time and effort to improving their communities, and the world.

Littleport Lions Club have during the lockdown held zoom meetings, quizzes, beetle drives and even a beer festival.

We have made donations to the local Foodbank, East Anglian Children's



Online Meeting!

Hospice and The Down's Syndrome Association.

Hopefully soon we will be able to all meet outside and have a coffee morning.

Help local Lions - Help local people!

Keep well, keep safe.

David Ellis

For more details of the club contact:
lionscluboflittleport@gmail.com



Isaac



Witchford Pillar Box!

It's Summertime without the Blues at Littleport's Ex-Servicemen's Club!

Well the only blues you'll get at Littleport's favourite social club this summertime is the music that goes by that name! Other than that, it's all upbeat!

Derek Timbers the ever-jolly entertainments manager has a really cool selection of boogie nights on offer for your pleasure!

As Derek says "we have some great acts booked, old favourites, June 5th Dan Starr, June 12th Two's Company present Night of the Guitars, June 19th is Just Andy, July 3rd Lee Gillett 'Mean Eyed Cat' and the welcome return of Soul Fusions with free entry on Friday July 9th; July 10th is Spree, July 24th Roll the Dice, our Family Day on Sunday July 25th, and some new acts – like famous drag artist Felicity Flappes who is also well-known locally for compering the Ely Pride extravaganzas who will be appearing on a definitely Adults Only Saturday night July 17th!"

There was a request put out for sponsors to stump up to help finance those events and many of our locals rallied to the call. Derek says thanks go out to all of them on behalf of the Club and the community it serves.

Entry to these events is £4 for members, £5 for non-members with a well-stocked bar and very reasonably priced drinks!

Then Bingo is back with numbers called by the ever-popular Peter Ginn! And a superb Pool table of competition standard has now been emplaced!

There is also the cosy members bar that is always open regardless of what goes on in the main hall and bar. The Club is a great and friendly place just to drop in any time to relax, and there is a lovely garden and tables out the back, so why not join as a member.

Contact the Club or Derek for details about membership application on 07867906026



Mr Entertainment Derek Timbers



Gleaming Littleport Ex-Servicemen's Bar waiting to serve you



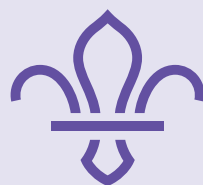
Felicity will be performing at the Club!



Then Mayor of Ely Mike Rouse and Felicity Flappes at Ely Pride!

Littleport Scout Group

Community connection



As this issue is put together, we are all hopeful for a continuing easing of restrictions, and the opportunity for everyone in the village – and the country – to be able to start to come together and resume the activities that we enjoy safely. Scouting is very much embedded in the values of community and outdoors. Although the latter has had to take more of a back seat in the past year, the pandemic has reinforced that it is our connections with those around us that keep us strong and supported during difficult times.

The activities that our brilliant leaders continue to offer every week – bearing in mind that they are volunteers with jobs, families and other commitments of their own – is nothing short of amazing. From gardening, kite-making and scavenger hunts for whole village to enjoy (in their family groups) during a wet February half-term to the opportunity to meet Scouts from across Ely District online and enjoy activities such as pancake making and magic tricks in a special St George's Day virtual event, the sense of community has shone through in every sense of the word.

The weekly summer term Scouting meetings continue online for now,

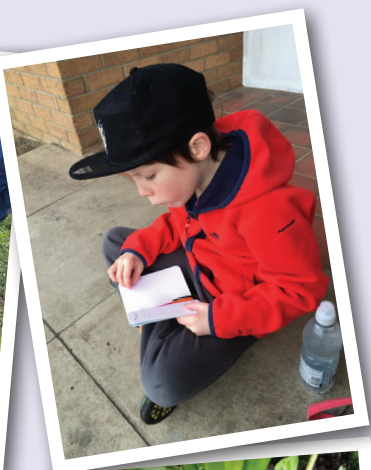
including life skills such as pairing socks and making beds through to pioneering projects using cocktail sticks and sweets, and general knowledge quizzes. The leadership team are also busy preparing risk assessments, so when the time is right, we'll be able to welcome the young people back to face-to-face Scouting in a safe way, getting as much of the 'outdoors' back into the activities as we can!

For now, we'll continue to support our Scouting family and our wider community by delivering Littleport Life; taking part in litter picks; and offering young people opportunities to develop their skills, earn badges, and, most importantly, have some fun.

The Littleport Scout and Guide Hut Committee are hoping to run a family fun day on Saturday 17 July (restrictions permitting). There will be a fair in the afternoon with various stalls and activities for all the family, followed by a barbecue and campfire songs in the early evening. Details are being finalised, but keep an eye on Littleport Noticeboard FaceBook group and posters nearer the time.

If you want to join Scouting or know of a child who does, please get in touch with Group Scout Leader Julie Double at info@1stlittleportscoutgroup.org.uk

We are also looking for more volunteers to join our Executive Committee, that looks after the behind-the-scenes running of the group. Please email info@1stlittleportscoutgroup.org.uk to find out more.





Littleport Community Primary School

Spread your wings and fly!



A Message from Headteacher Adam Rivett

Since the last issue of Littleport Life, we have welcomed back the whole school from a national lockdown and the classrooms are once again alive with learning! A balloon arch full of rainbow colours welcomed families back and certainly helped to put a smile on the faces of some anxious families. Talking of smiles on faces, we also celebrated Red Nose Day and the theme of 'superheroes' gave us the perfect excuse to honour our national heroes, including the NHS and Captain Sir Tom Moore.

At our recent INSET day, we took the opportunity to take stock of where we are on our journey of improvement as a whole school. It was important for us

to reflect on the work that has already been undertaken; the work that had been started and impacted by COVID; and the work that was yet to be implemented. With the disruption of lockdowns and the challenges still to face ahead of us, now felt like the perfect time to review our visions and values as we move forward 'post COVID'.

Our Future Curriculum – Mr Clark, Deputy Headteacher

We are always looking to develop our curriculum here at LCPS. This summer term our Year 3s and 4s have been trialling a new humanities curriculum called Opening Worlds (history, geography



and RE) which seeks to provide children with a rich understanding of the subjects but also make clear the links between them. This curriculum was originally designed with Haringey schools in London and we are really excited to have the opportunity to join them. This term, we have been travelling back to ancient Egypt; discovering knowledge about rivers; and, enjoying learning about Rama and Sita as an introduction to Hinduism. All of these areas of study have rivers at the heart of them (the river Nile and the river Indus) and we have loved seeing the children make these links while also enjoying the things that make each subject area special. We are really looking forward to taking the children on the next stage of this journey after half term (we're off to the mountains and ancient Mesopotamia!) and into the autumn when we roll this curriculum out more widely across Key Stage 2.

Reading at LCPS – Ms McLeish, English and Year 1 and 2 Leader

At Littleport Community Primary School, we are really keen to encourage a love of reading. At the end of the last academic year, many of our parents and staff kindly donated money to help us buy new books for our school library. We believe that it is really important for children to read books

written by or featuring characters from a diverse range of backgrounds. With the donations made by parents, staff and PTFA, we have been able to buy a broad range of books, which we are very excited to share with the children. We were also able to use commission from previous book fairs to add some lovely new books to our home reading selection for younger children. Books are so important to us that we even had a special competition to design a potato to look like our favourite book character for World Book Day! Check out our efforts...

As the children have returned, they have become familiar again with school routines. Our new assessment system has helped staff to identify gaps in learning that are being addressed through targeted interventions. We also have year groups who are trialling our new Opening Worlds curriculum, which we have already seen is going to have a positive impact on writing standards across the school. Key leaders across the school also met recently to discuss the outdoor provision and we have big plans to engage more with the local community as COVID restrictions ease. It is an exciting time to be part of Littleport Community Primary School!

Stay safe!



When I wrote my last contribution to the Littleport Life, we were in a national lockdown and I was hopeful that schools would re-open just before Easter. As I write this at the end of April, schools did indeed fully re-open to all children on March 8th, the national vaccination programme is proving to be something that as a nation we can be proud of, milestones on the Prime Minister's road map seem to be met to date and things are indeed looking hopeful!

Millfield continues to be organised in bubbles and I don't see this changing this academic year; whilst it's not something we would want permanently, I know we have all made the best of it. We have tried very hard for teaching and learning to be as the children would expect; when things in children's own lives change it's critical for them that school remains predictable and provides them with an element of certainty.



I'm pleased to say that this term things are really beginning to 'open up'. We have always had a strong relationship with the Witchford Schools

Partnership (for PE and sport) and this term staff from that organisation came in and led workshops on funky cones. We are also engaging with the Daily Mile. The sports coaches have started coming in again on a weekly basis. Sports Day will be different this year and as I write this, details have yet to be confirmed. What I can say with certainty is that all our children will engage in a sports day- it may look different from previous years as the children will have to take part in class bubbles rather than in year groups and

sadly we won't be able to invite parents. However it will still be a great day.

Our Year 5 and 6 children are taking part in a really exciting design and technology project with the Royal Opera House designing a stage set for Alice in Wonderland. I will be able to put more detail in my next contribution. It is our plan to have a Year 6 Leavers Assembly where parents can attend and this will be great for our year 6 children- sadly, this is something the children last year had to miss out on.



The residential visit to PGL is all planned to take place after numerous changes of date! Fingers

crossed it goes ahead for our Year 6 children as it is a wonderful opportunity to take part in outdoor and adventurous activities.

We will be meeting with the Family Learning Organisation this term to plan courses for parents in the autumn term. Family Learning is something I've been so proud of here at Millfield. Many parents have engaged in courses linked, for example, to helping their child with maths homework, managing children at home when they test the boundaries and even supporting parents to gain their English and Maths qualifications equivalent to GCSE.

Things are indeed looking up!

Deborah Hannaford
Headteacher

LITTLEPORT LEISURE BACK FOR GOOD!

Littleport Leisure once again re-opened its doors on Monday 12th April and we were overwhelmed to welcome so many members, old and new, back to the Gym. The Bar and Café area have not re-opened which means we can focus our attention on the Gym and Sports groups who use the Centre.

We continue to ask you to make an appointment for your time in the Gym and although we are allowing 1 hour per person, we are flexible with how long you stay. You can book an appointment via our Facebook page or by calling 01353 373800. We are strict on maintaining 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 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 continue to maintain social distancing at all times and respect all other users.

The changing rooms are not currently (April) open and we ask that you arrive wearing your appropriate sportswear.

If you would like to attend any of our classes we do require you to book your place. Booking in advance for both Gym sessions and classes is necessary and payment will be required upon booking.

Our class timetable has changed many times over the last year. We currently offer:

- **Circuits** Thurs 6:00pm to 7:00pm
 Thurs 7:00pm to 8.00pm
- **Hiit** Weds 6:00pm to 6:30pm
- **Boot Camp** Weds 6.45pm to 7.30pm
 Fri 9.45am to 10.30am

We will hopefully be offering 'free sessions' of some of our old favourites, including Yoga and Pilates. Please call 01353 373800 for further details regarding this. Please be patient with us as classes are constantly under review and changes made accordingly.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support throughout this pandemic. We are very proud of our Leisure Centre and all that we have achieved during these difficult times.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Adam, Aimee, Clare, Kevin and Tanya
Your Littleport Leisure Team



The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Black Horse Drove!

Joy Tod reports

The sad passing of HRH Prince Philip has brought more attention to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the foundation of which is one of his most notable achievements. The scheme started in 1956 and has been very successful in enhancing the lives of many young people ever since.

Open to all 14 to 24 year olds regardless of ability, gender, background or location, the scheme comprises 3 levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has 4 sections: physical, skill, volunteering and expedition with an additional residential element at gold level.

Here 3 current local participants offer an insight into their DofE experience, each one adapting the scheme to their individual interests and ambitions.

Shukti has utilised her DofE experience with her future career aspirations in mind, Isobel has used hers to achieve new experiences whilst Grace's approach was more relaxed, extending activities that she was already engaged in.

Shukti Narotam

Since completing the Gold DofE Award, I had the chance to learn a lot about myself, through the different elements of the award. For the volunteering section, I was able to



develop my leadership abilities through the Volunteer Police Cadets, where I had started off as a Cadet and then progressed on to becoming a young leader. This was challenging taking lead as it was my first time teaching in front of young people but nevertheless, I got the practise and have taken on those skills to the University Officer Training Corps. As for the residential section I had the opportunity to go skiing with the UOTC (University Officer Training Corps) and gained a basic qualification that will allow me to progress further on, through more

trips to the Alps. For the skills, I was learning to drive, so I decided to use that as my skills section. Driving is a valuable life skill that I was able to gain two achievements by 1; my licence and 2: the DofE award. As for the physical section, I played for my local hockey team as that has always been one of my favourite sports, even so I got the chance to play for 2 teams, Ely City and Cambridge UOTC. This also allowed me to play against Oxford in one 'Oxbridge' competition at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Onto the final section, the expedition, this was one of the most challenging aspects I found because of the lack of my own physical and mental preparation. But nonetheless, I got through the days from the training and to the destination. In summary, it was an overall big achievement, but an important lesson of making sure that you are prepared physically and mentally.

Since completing the award, it has also given me a firmer grounding for my career aspirations with the UK military because during the award we performed some of the basic fundamentals; also, there is a lot of adventurous training within, so by achieving the award it has opened multiple avenues and has now helped me to stand out from the crowd.

Isobel Tod

My DofE experience took four years to complete. The scheme is very well thought out and its flexibility means that it is easily tailored to individual preferences. I knew I wanted to study history at university so I volunteered

at Downham Market Heritage Centre which provided me with experience to help with my later university application. At my school I was given the opportunity to take an extra GCSE in ICT as a twilight class; this fulfilled the Skills section. As Shukti has mentioned, learning to drive can also count for this so it's possible to include activities that you may already have intended on doing.

As a family we have always enjoyed cycling in Thetford Forest, so I used this to cover my bronze and silver physical section. For Gold level I decided to run instead and made use of this time and effort by raising funds for cancer research, having lost someone very close to this illness. I trained and eventually took part in the Cambridge Half Marathon. This was the part of my DofE that I'm most proud of.

The expeditions were, for me, the most challenging part. My rucksack weighed approximately a third my body weight, I couldn't stand up from sitting with it on my back so my friends would pull me up. Once balanced, I was okay. We saw some wonderful areas of the Yorkshire Dales, the Peaks and Lake District. The two most important requirements for the expedition are good boots and good friends. If one of us was flagging, the others would encourage and support.

With Gold level, there's an additional Residential task. I stayed in a National Trust bunkhouse in North Wales, helping Rangers to clear invasive species of Himalayan balsam and

rhododendrons from the mountains. The work was hot and tiring but we ended each day by cooling off in the beautiful lake 'Llyn Gwynant'.

My Gold presentation took place at Buckingham Palace where we met Andi Peters and Sophie, Countess of Wessex. An interesting and very memorable day.

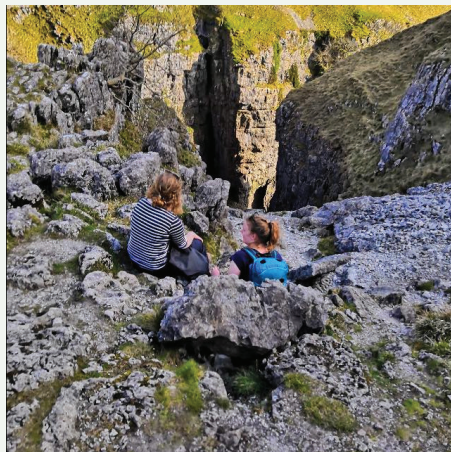
Was it all worth it? I'd say it was. At my age, I find that my DofE experience is really relevant and is great to talk about in interviews and applications, be it for jobs, higher education or student activities. The questions asked can be quite random, so often I've been able to draw on my DofE experience to illustrate problem solving, teamwork and integrity. DofE has made me more resilient, self-reliant and confident, it has also helped me to learn how to help and support people in difficult situations.

Grace Tod

I'm still working through my DofE, currently part way through my Gold level.

Being a keen reader, I decided to volunteer at West Norfolk Deaf Association at No 8 The Old Bookshop in Downham Market. I enjoyed working there so much that I decided to stay on for all three levels of my Award.

For my skills section I took Drama GCSE as an extra twilight class in school for bronze and took a music grade in saxophone for silver. I was already learning to play the saxophone, so it was easy to fit in. I went along to Zumba classes in Black Horse Drove



Community Centre for the physical element of my silver level.

My Bronze level expedition was taken locally in Thetford Forest, and for Silver we went to the Peak District.

Up to now, I've managed to tailor my Award to activities that fitted in well with my lifestyle and locality.

My Gold Award is ongoing, I've completed the skills section by taking an acting course with LAMDA, it's something I've been lately able to do at home with occasional lessons with my teacher.

I've had to delay the expedition and residential element of Gold due to the pandemic, however, I'm hoping my expeditions will go ahead in the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales this summer and my Residential will be at the former RAF West Raynham airbase with Scorpion Airsoft.

At times, especially on the expedition, I've asked myself whether the challenging work is worth it, however, I believe completion of the scheme

shows an individual's ability to work as part of a team and hone problem solving skills. Both attributes a potential employer would appreciate, making the scheme well worth the participation.

My sister used her DofE to push herself to try new experiences, I've taken a more relaxed route and tried to tailor the scheme to incorporate activities that I was already doing, but taken to a higher level. Either way is acceptable, the DofE is about achieving a little more, doing something for others and getting fit. Prince Philip once said "it's a do it yourself growing up kit", I'd agree with that.

Joy Martin offers a different insight into the DofE scheme.

Through her organisation, Joy of Adventure, she supports local schools to run their expeditions or for young people to join expeditions where their own schools don't offer them. Her canoe expeditions take place on rivers and lakes as far afield as Sweden, Scotland as well as closer to home. Locally she offers canoe expeditions on the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk rivers canoeing to Thetford, Cambridge and Huntingdon, depending on the level being taken.

Joy tells us "As a child I lived at Black Horse Drove, where I learnt to ride a bike down to the primary school, swim in the river and fell in love with being outside and being able to see the sun rise and sunset. As children we covered an old wooden canoe which

we found in one of the sheds with a trailer cover and I remember struggling to paddle along the river from Queen Adelaide to Sandhill bridge.

Life has a funny way of bringing things round in circles. Having trained as a teacher the Head in my first school asked me if I would run the Duke of Edinburgh's award. I took up his offer and realised I was still young enough to complete my Gold. Thus began a life of working with young people in the outdoors and education. I now run Duke of Edinburgh award expeditions canoeing - and warn young people that the hardest part of their expedition may well be the section from Ely to Littleport unless the wind is with them in which case they can sail!

Young people doing their Gold, Bronze or Silver DofE by canoe often start to learn to canoe on the Ouse River and for many the first time they have ever camped is next to the river at Black Horse Drove. The fens might not be the adventure capital of the UK but over the last 10 years it has given over 1000 young people the opportunity to camp, canoe and hopefully begin a lifetime of adventure, inspired by the big skies, the stars and all the wildlife which our rivers produce.





BLACK HORSE DROVE KITCHEN

A recipe given to me by my mother in law Christina, who has baked hundreds of these for various WI, Church and parish events, in her home village of Haslingfield, Joy Tod.

Cashew Nutters

Ingredients

- 125g (4oz) baking margarine or butter
- 60g (2oz) semolina
- 100g (3.5oz) self raising flour
- 90g (3oz) well flavoured Cheddar cheese, grated
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Half level teaspoon dry mustard
- Cashew nuts for topping

Method

1. Set the oven to moderate, gas mark 4 or 180 C (160 fan).
2. Line and grease a large baking sheet.
3. Place the dry ingredients, except the nuts, in a large bowl and mix, then add the margarine/butter and work together until thoroughly blended - ideally in a food processor or mixer.
4. Roll into 40 small balls, place them on a baking sheet, flatten them slightly and top with a cashew nut.
5. Bake in the oven for about 15 - 20 minutes, until pale golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

Mothers Union Report

For the last few months, all that Mothers' Union members have been able to do is to keep in touch with one another. When you read this, it will be summertime and the Mothers' Union may just be meeting again in the parish room. However, since we have not met since March 2020, I will write about other things besides our Littleport meetings.

The charity was founded by Mary Sumner, in 1876. She was a young mother of three children and she was a clergyman's wife. That is a whole story in itself but she would have been amazed if she had known that this simple beginning would lead to what Wikipedia describes as, 'An international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide.' Not all its members are mothers. Men, women, parents, widows, singles and grandparents have all joined the movement and become involved in its work.

This spring a new magazine is to be launched. It is called, 'Connected' and every member will get a free copy twice a year. It will contain regular updates about MU projects across the globe and about the difference they are

making to people's lives. It is available now online.

One of the favourite projects at home is the 'Away from it all' project to which our branch members willingly give cash. A holiday, or a day out is provided for families that are under stress. Many dioceses have caravan holidays available; some places organise a day out by coach for several families who have suffered bereavement or illness.

All charities need to raise funds and the MU is no exception. In Mary Sumner House in London, Mothers' Union Enterprises has a shop where ethical gifts, greeting cards, stationery and publications are sold. All profits are covenanted back to the charity. Members have been using this extensively during lock down to buy birthday, Christmas and Easter cards. Beautiful gifts for families and friends have been especially useful for the members who have not been able to leave their homes.

Once again, I invite you to look on the home page of www.mothersunion.org or facebook.com/mothersunion, to learn more about us.

Pauline O'Connor, Branch Leader

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Your Message from St George's

Every year in the Church we have to hold a sort of AGM where everyone is invited along to hear what's happened the previous year. It's an opportunity to reflect, to say thank you (to people and to God) and to look ahead - although like lots of meetings, it sometimes can be a little bit....let's say.... a little bit wordy....!

Like every other thing that has happened in the past year, this year's meeting wouldn't be like more normal times. We hadn't been able to do what we really wanted to do this last year - we haven't been able to see people, to support people, to share God's love in the community as we would have liked. But it was still important to focus on what we have done and to celebrate that so I spoke about some things that make me really happy to be part of St George's - things like; being part of a great team, people being willing to learn new skills especially technology, being able to find new ways to serve our community and working together with different people. These things are not unique to people at St George's and I've seen lots of people around Littleport being involved in supporting others in many ways over the past year. And that is certainly something to celebrate!

Christians believe that God is at work, even amidst the sorrow and hardship. The God who came among us as Jesus is by our side in tough times. We've learnt so much this year about the frailty

and fragility of life - what are we able to hold onto as being something that is strong and endures? Maybe we need to ask ourselves 'in the midst of all this change and upheaval, what has stayed the same?' There might be something that you really value, that perhaps you didn't think so much about before but, since all these lockdowns and restrictions, you realise that you have more constants in your life than you thought.... Maybe a really good friend, the companionship of a pet, or a group of people that you meet up with online, teachers at the school or people at the health centre..... Even just the same old person that you see each day on your walk - someone of something that you have really begun to value. This is the tiniest glimpse of how God is always there for us, despite all the changes and upheaval around us - God constantly loves and cares for us, even if we may not always know it. We at St Georges hope you know this more and more in the weeks to come.

As we head towards summer, we hope to start gradually doing a few more things that bring people together - check our Facebook page and posters to see what's happening! May you know God's love and peace at this time, Madeleine

Contact: email is:
revdmadeleinealbert@gmail.com
and my mobile is 07741466458

Vine Community Church

Looking forward

What will you do this summer?

Do you have plans?



VineCCL

We have come through spring with some turbulent weather as the coronavirus comes under some sort of control. Almost all of us have done our bit to help reduce the number of deaths and cases to subside as we have had our vaccinations, obeyed the guidance about social distancing and worn our masks when they were needed. We are nearly there.

So are we picking up from where we have been, or looking towards a different, better future? If we have family or friends who have died during this time we may find it difficult to think about this at all. There is a time for mourning, but when the rawness of grief has subsided then it will be time to work out what comes next.

My husband and I hope to have a break in Keswick, taking our very elderly Old English sheepdog with us. We will take turns looking after the dog and attending some sessions of the Keswick Convention, if, by then, it is safe to do so. This was set up for last year but cancelled because of Covid. Before then we intend to catch up on our family, who are scattered across several counties.

But other plans are yet to be made and not only our personal ones. At the time of writing this, our church building in Globe Lane will open up soon - but first the main church room needs work on the ceiling which will need to be followed by redecoration. With everything freshened up, we have plans to welcome more people in. We want to extend our community work - The Men's Shed, Coffee Break, Vine Tots and Energise are already well-established and will probably be running again by the time you read this.

So look out for possible picnics, holiday clubs, celebration services or cafe church - or in fact anything else that will appeal to you. Details will be found on the www.vineccl.org.uk website as plans are made.

Just come and try us out - we will be there to help you if you have any problems, if you would like to find out more about Christianity or if you just wish to join in and make a few friends.

You are always welcome at the Vine.

Angela Hobday

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***

LITTLEPORT CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISTS

A Splash of Sunshine, A Shot of Hope



As we look forward, much like we do every year at this time, to the hopeful (and albeit short) glimpse of the British summer sun, we are likely all looking forward to much more than that this year. A hug with someone we do not live with, meeting someone from another household without wearing a mask, may well be just some of the once simple and previously unthought-of as special pleasures that we may be hoping for the opportunity of experiencing in the coming months.

For us here at Littleport Christian Spiritualists much the same as any religious grouping who do not own a building, but make use of and rely on public buildings, the simple opportunity to come together in praise and worship, united under the banner of love and friendship in the same room, is a previously assumed blessing that we have not had the chance to experience since March of 2020.

That is not to say, of course, we have been resting on our laurels every Thursday night! As many have done in the last year, we have moved to online services – providing comfort, upliftment and hope, to a wider congregation.

There's that word again. Hope.

One of the greatest gifts of any faith, religion or way of life is the kindling of inner and outer hope. In our way of life, we work, every time we meet to kindle within the hearts of all present, that the truth in the principle of the continuity of life is not an empty hope. We provide evidential proof to that fact by mediumship, allowing those who are always with us and love us from the other side of life a conduit to tell us that it is not just shallow or false hope.

For the past 12 months, Littleport has been a beacon flame of hope for more people than we might typically reach, allowing the

services of our Spiritualist church into the homes of many all around the world. We have had guest speakers from Canada, Israel, America, Norway, Australia, and Rotherham, to name but a few, with people joining our congregation weekly from all around the globe. But, as well as being able to go forward, taking the message of continuity of life after this life in all parts of the world, we too have suffered as a group, personal and collective losses.

When we return to the Village Hall, not all of our congregation will be with us physically; Reverend Wendie Perry, my able and ever keen deacon, my father, Francis Brown, will not make the tea, coffee, plate up the biscuits. We may know that although every corner and every inch of space within that hall will be filled to the rafters with hundreds of Spirit people hoping to connect with loved ones present, it will still be strange not having the physical presence of Rev Wendie and Pappa Brown with us.

When you read these words, we will be close to joining together once again in one room. Our Thursday nights raising the roof of that Village Hall with love and hope and healing, but this time we will be bringing our online congregation with us, a community of individuals all joined together in the face of great strife, united in the hope of a better tomorrow, for all of us.

Regardless of what tomorrow or even the next day may bring, we are here, to welcome all who need that shot in the arm of hope – and proven hope no less, every Thursday night at 7.40pm, on Facebook, Youtube, and please God from July, in Littleport Village Hall.

God Bless and see you soon.

The Most Rev Nick Brown, *Supporting Archbishop to the First Minister, (NCSS)*



***The Littleport Society's Roger Rudderham
tells us about***

THE GREAT SHIRE HORSES OF LITTLEPORT

The English Shire Horse is not a native breed to this country, it was imported by the Normans after their conquest of England in 1066. Its massive size and strength made it an ideal war horse for the steel-clad knights, as well as for pulling heavily laden carts and wagons. This huge horse was, primarily black in colour, was a distinct European breed and was generally referred to as the "old black horse," a name favoured by many owners of wayside taverns, and still a common name of public houses all over the country.

Over the centuries this mighty work horse developed into what became known as the Shire Horse, particularly in the Midlands and East Anglia, and its colour, by the early 19th century was

by no means restricted to black. Bays, browns, chestnuts, and roans became distinctive of the breed, and the Fens in particular became noted for the fine animals bred by the farmers of the area.

It was said, according to Frederick Street, the author of *The History of the Shire Horse*, published in 1883, that "more good horses were bred within a radius of twenty miles of the City of Ely than in the rest of the kingdom." The Isle of Ely was a vast agricultural area, its rich peat soil was some of the most fertile in the country, and the farmers required thousands of horses to work the highly productive land. There was therefore a great demand for fine strong horses. Among the farmers of Littleport were some of the most notable breeders of prize winning shires.



Shire Horses

It was reckoned that Mr. Joseph Martin, of Highfield House, a member of the English Cart Society, had “a stud of shire horses admitted to be one of the best in the district.” One of his finest horses was Hercules, described as “a beautiful chestnut” standing 18 hands high, and weighing 1 ton 1cwt 4 stone, his sire was Mr. Thacker’s Heart of Oak, by a mare owned by Mr. T.J. Mott, and was soon after purchased by Mr. Martin. Hercules won prizes at the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Show in 1873 at Chatteris, and in 1874 at Newmarket where he took the Treasurer’s Cup in a class open to all England. He also won prizes at the Norfolk Show at Fakenham in 1875.

Hercules was in great demand as a stud serving 100 mares a year at £2 5 shillings each, and Mr. Martin had many offers to purchase the horse, one for £400 in 1871, but he refused them all. Tragedy, however, struck Hercules on the 14th November 1876. He had been returned to his stable and was fed, but when the ostler returned a little later Hercules was on the floor struggling to get up. It appeared that somehow he had injured himself internally and he died three days later.

Hercules was a great loss to Mr. Martin, but he did have several of his progeny to maintain the high reputation of his stud, including Hercules II, foaled in 1873, and a chestnut like his sire. Other son’s of Hercules were Ajax and Hector, foaled in 1874, Achilles foaled in 1876, and Goliath foaled in 1876. Achilles was a chestnut, the image of his sire, who won 3rd prize in the Cart Stallion Class at the Cambridge Horse Show in 1879. Hector, a dark bay with black legs was a fine stallion, but somewhat a disappointment when it came to winning prizes. He was often highly commended, but missed out when in competition with others sons of Hercules. When Ajax won



Then Mayor of Ely Michael Rouse at a local ploughing contest at neighbouring village Prickwillow (photo credit Archant)

the best cart stallion for under 2year old at the Cambridge Horse Show in 1876, Hector only received a “reserve.”

Another well known breeder of prize winning shires was Mr. T. J. Mott, of Dairy Houses Farm. Mr. Mott was a prominent agriculturist, farming a large acreage of land in the Littleport -Little Downham area, and together with his brother, William Mott, a veterinary chemist, established a business manufacturing and selling horse and cattle medicines.

Mr. Mott’s most famous shire was Samson, foaled in 1861, he became a credit to his mighty sire, Mr. Saberton’s Old Samson. A bay, Young Samson as he was sometimes called, grew to “elephantine proportions,” attaining the weight of 1 ton 8 cwt., and was considered to be one of largest horse of his day. Samson was a celebrity whose services at stud were sort after by farmers all over the country, earning his master a small fortune.

When Samson died, Mr. Mott kept one of his enormous hoof’s, which he exhibited on his Show stand. Samson left many mighty sons, including Mr. Mott’s Samson III, and Samson V who won 2nd at the Ely Agricultural Show in 1881, and was soon after sold to Mr. Attrill, of the Isle of Wight, for 83 guineas.

Another son of Samson was Lincoln, a bay like his sire, and owned by Mr. Miller of Lancashire. Lincoln was described as having “enormous muscular power,” and stood 17 hands two inches, and won first prize at Derby Horse Show in 1876, a contest open to all England. It was reported that Lincoln “cannot be equalled in England.”

Honest Tom was another of Mr. Mott's mighty shires, foaled in 1884, he was a son of Wonder of the West. He was a draught horse of great strength and fine proportions, and won many prizes at shows. He was also in great demand as a stud, at one time being let to the Vale of Aylesbury Association for a season for the sum of £300. In August 1890 he won the Championship prize at the Cambridge Agricultural Show. A month later Mr. Mott sold him for “a considerable sum” to Mr. James Forshaw, of Carlton-on-Trent, at whose stud farm he continued to sire great prize-winners until his death in 1896.

The notable shire Marquis was also a son of Mr. Thacker's Heart of Oak. Marquis was foaled in 1874 by a mare owned by Mr. Jones, of Apeshall, shortly after selling the young stallion to William Little, who farmed the Westlands estate for his uncle William Luddington. Mr. Little was a member of the English Cart Horse Society, and had an eye for a good horse. He often acted as a steward at their shows all over England and was regularly called upon to judge the horses at many of their local shows. It was said “his opinion carried great weight.”

Marquis was a beautiful black stallion, typical of the great war horses of a few centuries earlier. At three years old, in 1877, he was awarded the Reserve Riband at the Cambridge Horse Show. He went on to win many prizes, including

three firsts and four seconds, and in 1882 he judged best cart stallion at Cambridge winning the Treasurer's Cup. Shortly after the Cambridge Show in 1883, Mr. Little retired from farming and all his shire horses, which numbered 23, including the great marquis, were all sold by auction.

William Little was also instrumental in establishing the Whitehall Farm stud for Mr. W. R. Gamul Farmer, of Nonsuch Park, Surrey, whose family had owned the Littleport farm for several generations. Mr. Little built up one of the finest studs in the area, comprising mostly mares known for their fine characteristics and breeding. Many of mares were given names that were all preceded by the word Welcome, one of which was the splendid bay, Welcome Lady, a daughter of Mr. Little's famous black stallion Marquis.

In 1887 Mr. Gamul Farmer let the Whitehall farm he put all his shires, which comprised 55 mares, 10 stallions, 8 geldings, 11 foals, and 1 nag mare, up for sale by auction. The sale was held on the 7th October and attracted many well-known farmers from around the East of England, and due to stiff competition some high prices were realised. The beautiful Welcome Lady fetched for 96 guineas, and was purchased by HRH The Prince of Wales.

The fame of the Isle of Ely shires had spread far and wide. When Mr. I. H. Truman, of the stock yards, Chicago, visited England in 1882 to acquire shires of great strength to improve the breed in the United States, he ensured the Isle of Ely was on his itinerary. In Littleport he purchased horses from both Mr. Martin and Mr. Little, and eventually returned to the USA with 50 of the purest bred shires to be found in England.

Geoff's On The Road Again!

Local retired builder from Littleport Geoff Cross has just got his latest car building and customising project on the road.

Geoff was born and bred in Littleport and although having moved and living for many years at Queen Adelaide, he returned home to his roots in 2015.

Geoff has spent 3 years of hobby time to take the Tiger Avon from rolling shell to a complete road registered vehicle that he has named Little Red.

Geoff would like to thank his daughter's partner Kieran Hughes for his

input along with Sam Ellerton, owner of Burt's Motorsport, Littleport.

Geoff has always had hobby projects on the go.

These started with Minis in the 70's to a customised build of a BMC 1300 which was completed in 1975. Along with this came a GP Beach Buggy that he says was great fun.

At this stage Geoff decided to get into boat building as a career which gave him the opportunity to build a 'Stingray' speedboat that launched many years of water skiing for him, his family and friends. He also completed an early Bedford Campervan project.

After this period, Geoff moved to general building and property improvement services

locally. This required a van which of course had to be customised too, and different vans followed to keep up to date, all having that special look.

Next to come along was the classic era with the complete refurbishment of a 1970 Reliant Scimitar GTE sports in vivid yellow. Run by Geoff for many years and now owned by Geoff's brother John in the village, not content with just doing this at the time, Geoff took on his 1st kit care project, a 'Pastiche Henley' in the style of an MG Roadster of the 50's period. Again this was run for many years of fun driving. So we move forward to today when Geoff still runs a custom van along with his newest project, the amazing Little Red.



Littleport Rangers Football Club Play a Good Game!



The U12 Navy team

Following what has been a turbulent season the Navy's pressed forward defeating all comers within the league until the final game which was a hard fought battle, but alas we conceded with 5 mins left on the clock and couldn't strike back. This left us runners up to deserving champions. The team has shown great resilience to the large gap in matches and under the strict rules implemented by the FA. A marked improvement in every aspect sees the team ready to face the upcoming reconfigured 'Champions League' style cup competition with 5 guaranteed matches. This all before big preparations and recruitment drive for the step up to the 11v11 next season.

Manager Pence Pendle, Andrew Proctor and Andrew Cusick.

U12 White Team

It has been the strangest of seasons for Littleport Rangers Under 12's White. Interrupted by the last lockdown, returning measures had to be put in place to ensure we can play again whilst keeping everybody safe. It was fantastic to see each and every player return to training after lockdown and to see them enjoying their football once again. Whilst the results have not really gone our way this season, the effort, enthusiasm and teamwork has shone through in every match and, after what has been a difficult time, the most important thing is that the

team can once again enjoy playing the game they love with their friends. It's an absolute pleasure to be the Coach of such a great bunch of players.

Manager, Brian. Coaches, Bek and Stuart.

U13

Littleport Rangers U13's returned to the Cambs District Colts League with a busy schedule of Saturday and midweek fixtures against the top teams in the League. First up was a tough away fixture with Haslingfield Followed by Cottenham, Barhill and a local derby against Witchford Colts. Results haven't gone our way but have steadily improved and Rangers continue to battle for league Positions and are enjoying being back on the pitch. We are also looking for players to join our existing squad of year 8 pupils. **Manager Nathan Mitchell and Coach Martin Thomas.**

Under 9

It's been a stop start season for the under 9s due to COVID but when the boys and girls have been at training or playing in matches their enthusiasm and energy certainly hasn't wavered. In the few matches we got to play, the team performed brilliantly and with smiles on their faces, never giving up until the final whistle. All the players give 100% when they play and come off the pitch buzzing. It's an absolute pleasure for myself and Nathan to



The U12 Navy team Littleport Rangers



The U12 White Team Littleport Rangers

coach these children. I just hope from now on they get to play regular football but it must be safe to do so first. A continued thanks also goes out DS Silcock 'the local builder' for the continued sponsorship. **U9's Coaches are Nathan and Simon.**

For the 2021-22 season Players and two coaches for each of the following new teams: U7 - school year 2 U8 - school year 3 U9 - school year 4 U10 - school year 5 U11 - school year 6 U14 - school year 9 New players to join the following existing teams: U12 - school year 7 U13 - school year 8 U14 - school year 9 We are also looking for committee members, volunteers and fundraisers. All coaches will be

provided FA Coaching qualifications paid for by the club and will be DBS checked and certified. A big thank you to all of our sponsors this season, **Vinall Roofing, Rumbles, Allans Skip Hire, D Silcock, Head Fen Country Retreat.** Contact; Katie Pendle, Club Secretary **Lrhc-secretary@hotmail.co.uk** or 07432275060 or Pence Pendle Club Chairman on 07432275061.

A big thank you goes out to our sponsors:

Howden's, Allen's Skip Hire, Sigma Embroidery, D Silcock Construction and Head Fen Country Retreat.

Simon Rampley is raising £1,000 to Raise money for Centre33 and Littleport Rangers Football Club by cycling for 24hrs on the turbo trainer in his garage. He says: "Centre 33 is a local charity that looks after the welfare and mental health of young people within our community. With the recent pandemic and lockdowns children's mental health has deteriorated. Centre33 provide advice, support and counselling for young persons and I feel this is vital in the current climate.

I help to coach the LRFC Under 9s football team and the pandemic has impacted on this too. The whole club has suffered throughout as we have not been able to generate the money we normally would.

I would like to raise money for both causes, so I can help support the youngsters in the future. I have suffered with my mental health in the past and found support invaluable. To deal with it as an adult is hard enough but to go through it as a child I couldn't even begin to imagine."

Simon concludes: "To raise money I am going to cycle for 24hrs on a static bike in my garage starting at 3pm on 17th July and finishing around 4pm on 18th July."

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/simon-rampley-1?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socpledgemobile&utm_content=simon-rampley-1&utm_campaign=post-pledge-mobile&utm_term=B5qrqQQJM



363MCC Rides On

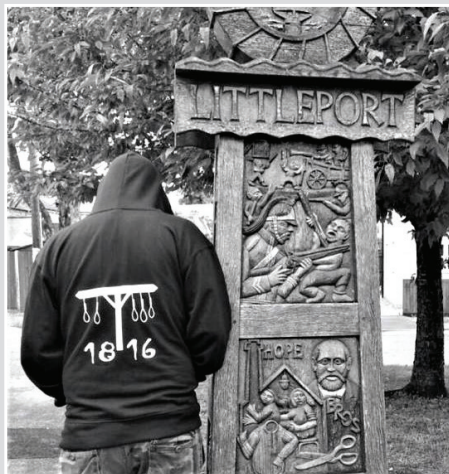
President of the Littleport Bikers Club Mark Robinson Reports

With the restrictions easing it is time to blow the dust off the leathers, polish the bikes and slowly start to stretch our round rubber legs and carry on the adventure of our lifetimes!

It has been hard at times, but with the support of the club family we have all made it through thick and thin. We should have been holding our May Day Holiday Crowning Around bike show, and this is the second year of having to cancel due to lockdown restrictions.

But we never go down without a fight, so we started and are still having an online fund raiser for the East Anglia Air Ambulance on our Facebook page 363MCC. Last year with the support of our amazing community we managed to raise £1500. So hopefully we can match, if not beat, that amount this year!

Stay Safe out there. Love and Respect from the 363MCC.



Colin Copen pays his respects
photo credit Sharon Lee



Mark Robinson relaxing after a long ride out



Crowning Around before lockdown



The Crown Inn hosts the 363MCC annual bike show!

Rotary Club of Littleport – Update

We haven't had our regular weekly club meetings for over a year, we have been Using Zoom meetings as many have, throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We hope to return to the Little Downham Anchor in June

Our former President Colin Every is once again running his **Annual Golf Event** in **Felixstowe**. It is a super venue and golfers who attended over the years have been complimentary both about the golf course and the organisation that goes into arranging the day. **Typically £1000** is raised for good causes—**A Wine Tasting** & Call My Bluff Evening is scheduled at The **Anchor** (Late Summer)



Above Left: Rotarians litter picking in Littleport

About Rotary Calendar

After the trials and tribulations of the Covid pandemic Littleport Rotary Club has sprung into action with a number of events planned over the next few months.

First off, a number of Club members will have been seen on the morning of Sunday 18th April walking the streets of Littleport collecting litter. We all felt that this would be an ideal opportunity to give something back to the community after all the support you have given us over the years.

On the 29th April we had a Bingo night for Club members only and their guests to raise money for various charities. Something we've never tried before but it combines two basic principles so important to our Club, namely raising money and having fun.

Wednesday 9th June sees the return of our Annual Charity Golf Day this time at Felixstowe Golf Course. Cancelled last year due to the pandemic there has already been exceptionally good demand to participate so we are hopeful of raising a goodly sum for our usual charities.

We also plan a "Call my Wine Bluff" event on Friday 9th July. This involves tasting wine to try and identify type and from where it comes. A meal accompanies the event which takes place at The Anchor in Little Downham. Always popular it is supported by Majestic Wines and is always a popular event helping to raise more funds for our chosen charities.

Finally, we plan our Quiz Night on Friday 24th September. This ever-popular event will take place at the Village Hall and will include food and wine. Further details will be announced soon.

If any of Littleport Life readers are interested in participating in the Quiz or learning more about Rotary please contact David Ambrose Smith on 01353 861010.

Why not visit our Facebook Page – you'll see plenty of pictures of what we get up to and it may even inspire you to consider joining the club – new members are always welcome.

If you want to have a chat about becoming involved in Rotary, call:

President **Ian Burrows** on: 07803 088352

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

Littleport Players



THE LITTLEPORT PLAYERS NEED YOU

Fingers crossed that Covid won't prevent it, this December the Littleport Players will be back with their all-time favourite pantomime. Becky Smith, Chair of this superb local theatre company, stated "the past 18 months has been harsh for everyone and it's been particularly difficult not being able to perform or even be remotely involved with anything theatrical.

It literally stopped us completely. During the pandemic, the Players did perform a couple of Zoom sing-a-longs and a couple of videos displaying past shows, which was great fun but sadly no live performing.

Now we would like to make a huge comeback and make this the biggest

and best show we've ever performed BUT we need help to do this. We are extremely short of volunteers to help us and it is becoming more and more difficult to put the shows on. We are making a plea to the local community to come out and help us out. If you have a love for any of the following, please get in touch as soon as you can."

WARDROBE MISTRESS x 2

Measuring cast members, sourcing costumes (we have a lot already in storage). Making any new and amending any costumes – including alterations etc. You must have previous experience in dress making etc. You would be required to be at all the shows including set up and clear up.



The Cast of Aladdin

WARDROBE ASSISTANTS x 2

To help and assist the Wardrobe Mistress. Be part of the planning process whilst learning a trade along the way. You would be required to be at all the shows including set up and clear up.

SET BUILDERS x 2

To help with the building and/or construction of the set for the shows. Must be a competent builder, have a flair for creative thinking. Liaise with the Director on a regular basis. You would be required to be at all the shows including set up and clear up.

PROPS MAKERS x 2

Similar to the set builders but making any hand-held props. You would also liaise with the Director on a regular basis. You would NOT be required at all the shows but you would be required to attend the set up and clear up.

DBS CHECKED x 4

Several DBS checked people are required to help out backstage with all cast members under the age of 16. You would be required to attend 2-3 rehearsals to meet the children and then attend dress/tech rehearsals and performances. We would need a copy of your licence.

MAKE-UP ARTISTS x 2

Creative thinking people required for these slots! If you are interested in the make-up side of things (which would include applying all make-up to ALL cast members) then this is the position for you! You would not be required at rehearsals but it would benefit you if you came along to a couple to meet the cast and liaise with the Director.

You would be required to purchase any make-up or items needed (refunded). You would be needed at dress/tech rehearsal and all shows.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Competent photographer required to take pictures. Mainly consists of attending 2-3 rehearsals and dress/tech rehearsal. Make pictures available for cast members.

NOTES:

- You must have had your two COVID jabs.
- These are all volunteer posts.
- You would be required to purchase any supplies etc., upfront. This will be fully refundable when providing a receipt.
- Some of these posts are a big commitment so please bear this in mind when applying.
- Please bear in mind, it is very busy show week.

For more information, please email rebekahsmith2016@outlook.com or call 07799 604209 or find us on Facebook under The Littleport Players.



Cinderella. The Ugly Sisters closing in!

The Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance at Littleport Cemetery 15 May 2021

In 2018 Littleport Branch of The Royal British Legion wanted to make a Garden of Remembrance. Mr McGowen persuaded Littleport Parish Council to donate a plot of land at the entrance to the cemetery. Mr Jimmy Johnstone offered to make a sculpture befitting to the garden and along with his colleague Tony constructed the garden. Mr Goodearl and his wife Penny painted the boulders to represent the current Armed Forces.

The Venerable David Fleming dedicated this Memorial Garden to the glory of God and the memory of all whose lives are honoured in our community.

Marking the Centenary of the Royal British Legion – 15 May 2021

Our Founding History. On Sunday 15 May 1921, a wet and dreary day, a small number of ex-Servicemen walked to the Cenotaph war memorial in London's Whitehall. As Big Ben struck nine, four men representing societies that for three years had been rivals, each laid a wreath at the base of the memorial. On those wreaths were the badges of the four organisations that would officially amalgamate to form the British Legion.

This moment was the starting gun for the Royal British Legion we know today. By Christmas of 1921 the ranks of our organisation had swelled to include 2,500 branches across the country,

as well as overseas. These were the groups around which the armed forces community rallied after the First World War. They made change happen, fundraised during the Poppy Appeal, provided welfare locally and became the foundations for what has become the UK's largest Armed Forces charity.

One hundred years later we are proud to still have 2,500 branches, some with a history reaching back to 1921 as is the case of our own Littleport Branch which celebrates its own centenary on 21 September and others established in the last decade.

To mark the moment of our founding, we recreated the activity of that day. Mr Jimmy Johnstone laid a wreath at the Remembrance garden at 0900 hours on Saturday 15th May on behalf of the Littleport Branch of the Royal British Legion. Mr Andy Swift, parade marshal and Mr Paul Page, standard bearer, paid homage with The Littleport RBL standard; Mr Martin Goodearl said the Exhortation and the Kohima. Everyone stood for the two minute silence.

The Venerable David Fleming gave thanks for the one hundred years service of the Royal British Legion and prayed for its continuing work.

The Blessing of the Gravestone of Cpl Charles Pettit Saturday 15 May 2021



Mr Gerry Sutcliffe read out a brief statement of the life of Cpl Pettit who died of his wounds from World War One.

It was only while Mr McGowen was researching the names of casualties of WW1 on the War Memorial that he discovered why the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had not been able to give Cpl Pettit a headstone. He made further inquiries and found evidence which he submitted to CWGC to enable them to install his gravestone.

Mr Bruce Frost was able to find a few of his distant relatives who attended the service.

Mrs Janice Butcher and Mr Graham Butcher watched Mrs Debra Jordan and Mrs Tracey Lee lay a wreath on Cpl Pettit's grave. Again homage was paid.

The Venerable David Fleming gave the Blessing.

Mr Goodearl thanked everyone for coming.

Maggie McGowen, Littleport RBL Branch Secretary and music director



The Gravestone Dedication Ceremony

The Venerable David Fleming of Ely Cathedral, and a Littleport man, officiated at the blessing of the gravestone of Corporal Charles Pettit. This had to be postponed from last year because of the pandemic. Many distinguished people from Littleport attended including the leader of the parish council Clive Webber and his wife councillor Jo Webber, Cambridgeshire County Councillor David Ambrose Smith and his wife councillor Christine Ambrose Smith, Ms Debra Jordan and members of Corporal Pettit's family who were traced by The Littleport Society Treasurer, family tree man and membership secretary, Bruce Frost. The Society's general secretary Cathy Gibb de Swarte and publicity officer Lyn Gibb de Swarte, were there too, also representing this magazine.

President Garth McGowen was attending a Royal British Legion conference and was represented by his wife RBL Branch Secretary Mrs Margaret McGowen.

Corporal Pettit, a regular soldier who had enlisted in 1911, was among the first troops sent into battle in Europe in 1914. He was wounded and captured by the enemy during the Battle of Mons but had been so badly injured that he was repatriated in 1916. He died on 28th January in 1918 from the epilepsy brought on by the head wound he suffered and was buried in Littleport Cemetery in a common grave paid for by the parish – thereby disintitling him from having a proper headstone.

President of the Littleport Branch of the RBL Garth McGowen requested help in this regard from local ex-services people and together they made it possible to purchase Corporal Pettit's grave. As a consequence of that Herculean effort the Commonwealth War Graves Commission agreed to install a headstone.

LGdeS





LITTLEPORT BRASS

LITTLEPORT BRASS PLAYS INTO SUMMER IN STYLE!

There's no stopping Littleport's favourite brass band! They have overcome all that the months of lockdown has thrown at them and come out better than ever.

Under the enthusiastic and expert baton of Musical Director Ian Knapton the members of Littleport Brass have even entered contests when not only have the musicians been unable to rehearse together, but the competitions themselves have been conducted online!

One very good aspect of this otherwise unfortunate state of affairs is that literally thousands of people have been able to watch and listen instead of the few hundred who could have attended the concerts in person.

On the 27th March the Kapitol Cory Online Brass Band Championships were broadcast live on the Cory Band YouTube channel.

After huge efforts to rehearse the very ambitious programme in their individual homes using video cam technology and an amazing presentation video put together by MD turned film maker Ian, the band found themselves up against European bands who had not only been able to rehearse together but were presenting a non-social distancing live set for the judges.

Needless to say our band didn't win...

The complete video that is entitled Our Village is available to watch on

Facebook pages for Littleport Brass (don't forget to 'like' them) and Littleport Life magazine.

Nothing daunted, Littleport Brass worked hard on their next challenge which was the Foden's Whit Friday March Contest. 134 bands were entered, and it was decided to hold it over two days on the 28th and 29th of May.

Again this is available to view on the Foden's YouTube channel and those Littleport Facebook pages.

Sean Brodrick, aka 'Animal' made his bid to be voted for in the Wessex Tubas competition in May, while the youngest member of Littleport Brass, Dexter Speed, entered the Under 13 Slow Melody Contest and came a creditable 4th.

And James Stygall came 3rd in the 2021 East Anglian Brass Band Association Online Slow Melody Contest.

And there have been signings too! Matt Ralph is the new solo trombone

who brings a wealth of experience having recently played at the top level in the Championship Section.

On Saturday June 26th Littleport Brass will be playing in Jubilee Gardens at the Ely Bandstand from 2pm.

Earlier in June the band will give a birthday concert for keen supporter of Littleport Brass Lyn in the garden of the Littleport Ex Servicemen's Club outside the Band Room.

And rumour has it that there is a plan for an outdoor concert in Peacock's Meadow after midsummer! Glyndebourne and Woodstock watch out!

Check the Facebook page Littleport Brass and Littleport Life and Littleport Living Extra pages for updates.

LGdeS

**The band will be at Ely Cathedral
Green Fair Saturday 31st July
from 1 - 3 pm**

LITTLEPORT INDEPENDENT FOOD BANK THANKS YOU!

We are still delivering food to people's homes. Each month the numbers seem to grow. Fortunately, the community are supporting us through these busy times.

Waitrose has been very supportive of us and we have been able to buy fresh food for families.

So many people have been more than generous, we cannot thank you enough!

If you need help or know of anyone needing help, please contact us on 07766111080 or 07999841326.

If anyone has spare vegetables from their garden or allotment we would be very grateful for a donation.

**Susan Green on behalf of Littleport
Food Bank**

THE LITTLEPORT RIOTS

A Moving Exhibition in Adams Heritage Centre Window

By Jennifer Stevens

Adams Heritage Centre is commemorating the Littleport Riots with a special window display throughout the month of May and into June. The Riots took place in May in the village 205 years ago and resulted in the hanging of 5 men.

The Riots in Littleport and Ely happened between 22 and 24 May 1816. The riots were a result of starvation in the village due to very low wages, very high grain costs, and reflected the general unrest which spread throughout England following the Napoleonic Wars. In 1815, a pound of bread cost just over 4 shillings. Average wages for the period remained static at 8–9 shillings, per week. Many farmers

and millers were profiteering from the high prices of wheat, hoarding grain, making huge sums of money on the backs of the agricultural poor.

The year 1816 is known as the Year Without a Summer, also the Poverty Year and Eighteen Hundred and Froze To Death because of severe climate abnormalities that caused global temperatures to fall massively. This resulted in crop failures and major food shortages across the Northern Hemisphere. Evidence suggests that the anomaly was caused by the massive 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in April in the Dutch East Indies, known today as Indonesia.



Jennifer Stevens prepares the window exhibition!

On 22 May 1816, a group of 56 locals met at The Globe Inn in Littleport (where the little Co-Op now stands) to discuss the lack of work, rising grain costs and to see what poor relief was available, virtually none. Fuelled by alcohol, the locals directed their anger at Littleport farmer Henry Martin, overseer of the poor in 1814, ungenerous and unsympathetic, he was not well liked.

One man borrowed a lighterman's horn, blowing it outside The Globe Inn, gathering hundreds of villagers to join the first group, and so the riot began. The rioters began at Mr. Minge's shop, where stones were thrown through the windows, next Mr Clarke's property where they threw his belongings into the street. Then, at Josiah Dewey's place, the Rev. John Vachell and his wife arrived to try to calm the rioters. Vachell had been vicar of St George's since 1795 and was also a magistrate; an unpopular man who dealt harshly with even minor offences. He read or tried to read the Riot Act without effect.

The rioters continued through the village demanding food and money. At about 11 pm, the rioters arrived at the house of the Rev. John Vachell, who, after threatening to shoot anyone who entered his house, was disarmed when three men rushed him. He fled on foot with his wife and two daughters towards Ely. The rioters destroyed his goods and chattels and stole some of his silverware. Vachell was later to sue the Hundred of Ely for the damages under the Riot Act. He received over £708 (approx £54,594 today).

In the meantime the rioters had stolen a wagon and horses from Henry Tansley and equipped it with punt guns, armed with pitch-forks, they marched to Ely, arriving just north of the city between 5 am and 6 am on 23 May. (We have a replica punt gun in Adam's window based on the one at Welney Wetland Centre) The Rev. William Metcalfe met them, read the Riot Act, and

asked what the mob required. On being told that they wanted "the price of a stone of flour per day" and that "our children are starving, give us a living wage," in a panic the Reverend agreed but stated that he would have to consult with the other magistrates. He asked everyone to return to Littleport, but they marched on. Metcalfe implored them to go to the market place and many did go there, where they were joined by Ely locals. The riot spread through Ely. Magistrates attempted to calm the protests by ordering poor relief, fixing a minimum wage and foolishly supplying them with free beer.

The following day, 24 May, encouraged by Lord Liverpool's government, a militia of the citizens of Ely, led by Sir Henry Bate Dudley and backed by the 1st The Royal Dragoons, followed by the Royston troop of volunteer yeomanry cavalry, rode into Littleport. The rioters had barricaded themselves in the George & Dragon in Station Road. In the ensuing fight, a trooper was injured, one rioter was killed, and at least one went on the run.

The assizes, held in Ely and presided over by a Special Commission of two judges, Mr Justice Abbott and Mr Justice Burrough, for the 82 charged, 73 of whom were in prison and nine on bail, lasted from Monday 17 June 1816 through to the following Saturday. On Saturday 22 June 1816, six men were acquitted; 10 were discharged; 36 were bailed; 23 men and one woman were condemned of whom 18 men and the woman, Sarah Hobbs, had their sentences commuted. Of the 19 persons commuted, nine were sentenced to penal transportation.

The five men condemned were all from Littleport.

William Beamiss (42) the elder a shoemaker, George Crow (23) a labourer, John Dennis (32) a publican, Isaac Harley junior (33) a labourer and Thomas South

the younger (22). On Friday 28 June 1816 at 9 am, the condemned men, William Beamiss, George Crow, John Dennis, Isaac Harley and Thomas South, were driven from the gaol at Ely market place in a black-draped cart, accompanied by the bishop's gaol chaplain, John Griffin.

The men arrived at the gallows at Parnell pits around 11 am, and were hanged after praying for some time. Griffin was unofficially given the ropes, which he eventually passed on to his housekeeper, who sold cut up pieces as a cure for sore throats.

Following the hanging, the bodies were placed in coffins and displayed in a cottage locally, where many people came to visit to pay their respects. They were buried the next day, upright in an old plague pit, by St Mary's Church, Ely. As a warning to others, a stone plaque was installed on the west side of the church, it concludes, "May their awful Fate be a warning to others".

To put the riots in context it is worth remembering Rioting was commonplace in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Ordinary labourers were denied political or legal redress. In fact it was an essential part of the methods of struggle of the early working class, an acknowledged form of political behaviour that has been referred to as collective bargaining by riot.

When the rich plunder the poor of their rights, it becomes an example to the poor to plunder the rich of their property.

There is a DVD entitled 'Riot in the Blood' made by the Field Theatre Group in 2016, telling the story of the Riots and also featuring the local 363 MCC the Motorcycle Club set up in 2012 in the name of the 5 hanged men.

The DVD is £10.00 please email: thefieldtheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk





Boat Race Littleport 1944

THE DAY THE VARSITY BOAT RACE CAME TO LITTLEPORT – AGAIN!

(And some runners recced the finishing straight!)

It hasn't been all doom and gloom during the latest lockdown for Littleport. On April 4th we hosted the annual Oxford v Cambridge University Boat Race!

On the one hand it was a wonderful boost to the spirits, on the other we were told we couldn't cheer the Light Blues on in person and were confined like the rest of the country to watching it on the television.

This was the 166th Boat Race, the 75th women's, and the second time that it's been raced on the Great Ouse.

The first time was on February 26th 1944 in the dark days of World War II.

But unlike the peace time days of the pandemic 2021, there were 5,000 happy spectators on the riverbank back then.

This time round clear instructions were sent out forbidding any congregation of enthusiastic fans, whether of Oxford or Cambridge.

Naturally the residents of Littleport had thought that they would at least stand a chance of being able to cheer on the Light Blues on their home water.

The Cambridge boat crews have been using the wonderful stretch of our river for as long as they have been in existence, so having been told that we should all stay at home and watch the Boat Race along with the rest of the country on our television sets was a disappointment to many.

We were treated to a commentary that added to our irritation when one commentator opined that unlike London there were no landmarks from which the crews could gauge their progress, other than by one brown tree somewhere on the bank.



Cambridge Crew 1944 at the start



Advance Warning



Notices on the Bridge



Hard at work clearing the course of obstacles... Not popular with the wildlife...



The garden of the Swan prepared for tv action!



New Pontoon near the Welcome to Littleport Sign!



How they filmed a view of the proceedings!



All that cabling at the main entrance to the Swan!



Behind the scene activity



A view we could only get from the tv



And another aerial shot they broadcast



watching the Cambridge crew celebrating on tv



Winners!



The podium outside the Swan viewed by millions around the world! And us in Littleport!



And when it was all over our roving reporter couldn't resist the empty podium

The viewing and listening millions were told how bleak and barren the Fens are. The same fens that produce so much of their food from the wonderful rich soil... As for landmarks, every subtle twist and turn of our river is unique.

It was amazing to see all the preparations taking place and all the assembled media and television crews and their security personnel ranged round Sandhill Bridge and the now more famous than ever

Swan on the River. The hostelry provided super refreshment and comfortable accommodation for those involved in this historic event, and the winners podium was set up outside near the usual mooring. The signs were a little forbidding which of course had the desired effect notifying people that the roads were to be closed from 12 noon to 6 pm on the actual day of the Boat Race. Many residents took the opportunity to go up to the Finishing Line before the area was

hermetically sealed to get a closer look at the goings on, and that included some of Littleport's parkrunners having a recce in fancy dress who were cheered on by some of the somewhat amazed BBC camera men as they crossed the Sandhill Bridge and ran along the riverbank.

But we got a good result for Cambridgeshire as both the men's and women's crews trounced Oxfords in both races.

And now the world knows where Littleport is and hopefully will decide to come and visit our fantastic and history-rich village this summer.

Paul Speed, who stood for election as a Lib Dem councillor in the May elections, who is also a valuable member of Littleport Brass, is part of an initiative hoping to get the Boat Race back to Littleport in 2024.

And speaking of history – in 1829 the stretch of water once known as Sandy's Cut, now known as the Adelaide Straight, was completed. This is the 5km stretch of water between Ely and Littleport that Andrew Probert, a former Cambridge cox, described as "bloody cold, bloody straight, and bloody boring."

In the 1820s, only a tributary existed and it was decided to make a waterway that bigger vessels could access. The digging

of the channel was fortuitous work for the local population given the dearth that led to the riots in 1816 in the area and particularly Littleport. Good to remember those who created that part of the river that could host a world event!

Before the Easter weekend's contest, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's popular presenter Johnny Devine came to Littleport on Tuesday March 30th to ask the Littleport Life editor about her views on the Boat Race and what the feeling about it was on the ground in Littleport so to speak, and he was also able to interview Chelsey Meadows and Cathy Gibb de Swarte at the same time about their fund- raising activity.

The Littleport parkrunners, who called themselves the Littleport Fab 4, Julie Murfitt, Chelsey Meadows, Andrea Sullivan and Cathy Gibb de Swarte, were undertaking a Good Friday 5k to raise funds for Spectrum a Cambridge based charity involved in National Autism Awareness Week.

Johnny Devine ran part of that morning's run with them, and his rather breathless interview was aired to good effect both on Dotty McLeod's morning show and again later in the day.

LGdeS



Johnny interviewing the Littleport Life editor



Johnny Devine interviewing Chelsey Meadows on the run!



Cathy and Chelsey with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire personality Johnny Dee!

In Memory of Peter Green

Peter died at Addenbrookes hospital on April 1st 2021.

He had grown up in Littleport attending Littleport Primary School and Soham Grammar.

Peter was a staunch supporter of Littleport Town FC and Saturday afternoons would see him standing on the touch line watching his grandson William Rolls.

Peter and his wife Susan enjoyed marshalling for Littleport parkrun and also for the run held every year from the Leisure Centre.

He was a member of the FoodBank team.

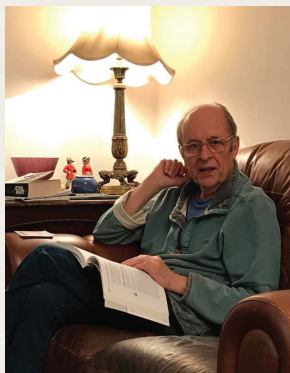
Peter loved being retired, he had time for all his many interests which included reading, Bridge, music, his dogs, and the world around him.

He never stopped wanting to learn.

It was his express wish that his body would be cremated privately and a thanksgiving service is to be held at a later date.



A Susan and Peter selfie marshalling runners on a wet Saturday morning!



One of Peter's favourite pastimes, reading



Peter Green and Susan Green Parkrun Marshalls



Peter and the dogs out and about

From all at Littleport Life magazine: Peter was a valuable part of Littleport Life's distribution network for many years. He, and his contribution, is sadly missed and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife Susan, his family and friends.



Welney Wetland Centre

Aerial image of the reserve and visitors centre by Commission Air

We are looking forward to being able to welcome back visitors this summer. You may have already visited during spring as we re-opened our doors with the April restrictions change. If you are yet to visit, this article should entice you over.

Since the winter floods, water levels dropped away nicely through March and the team of staff and volunteers spent many hours over several weeks clearing debris, repairing structures and re-stoning footpaths. It was a great chance to allow many volunteers back to Welney for the first time in over 12 months, something appreciated by them and the staff. Over winter we had already started creating wildlife viewing points along the banks between the hides to allow people to spread themselves around the reserve rather than congregating within the hides. This work continued over the

spring and it was a good job too, as a late change in the re-opening guidelines meant that all nature reserves had to keep hides closed until 17 May.

We have a blog on the Welney website about where to see wildlife which goes into detail about how to fully explore the site without relying on the hides. They are of course fantastic for overlooking the pools, but you can't always see birds high up in the sky as well as not being as close to the plants to enjoy insects. The summer walk was opened early and extra seating benches were dotted between the picnic benches to allow plenty of spaces to pause and enjoy our wetlands.

We will monitor the viewpoints between the hides, see which ones offer the best views and look to improve where we can. The one closest to the main hide is accessible for electric scooters and wheelchairs too. In fact, most of our

site, apart from the summer walk, is fully accessible and can be enjoyed at a slow pace. By June we should have the full extent of the summer walk open, a grass footpath that weaves across the width of the washes. Plans are afoot to extend the route at the far end, to take in more of the scrub and grassland habitat which is fantastic for insects and small passerines too. Then in August we plan to re-open the access around the perimeter of Lady Fen. Breeding season for our ground nesting waders will have finished, but this will allow you to spot migratory birds passing through as well as see the herds of cattle a little closer or maybe even spot the hares hiding amongst the grasses.

Summer can be written off as a quiet time for birds, but actually by summer, there is almost too much to see as so many species are at different stages

of their life cycle or breeding season. Most ground nesting birds like waders and ducks have hatched and possibly fledged their young. Others like the swallows and house martins may be on or preparing for second broods, and birds that have failed to breed further north are already on their migration south by July. Add to these the profusion of flowering plants and insects and the reserve is very much teeming with life.

Summer holidays should see the return of our Wetland Explorers theme, which includes all our regular family activities, with some special additions. Plenty of chances to explore outdoors from pond dipping, bug hunting, and meeting moths. All you need is one of our explorer backpacks and the kit at the various activity stations and you are ready to enjoy a day out in our wetlands.



Four-spotted chaser dragonfly by Kim Tarsey



Yellow wagtail by Kim Tarsey

One last thing to bear in mind is the new accommodation we have on site. If the wildlife spectacles of Welney are something you enjoy, why not enhance the experience by staying on the reserve in our very own accommodation either Wigeon House or coming soon, Pintail House. A fantastic opportunity for new visitors and regular visitors alike, enjoying

summer evenings and early mornings surrounded by our wildlife. You or visiting friends and family could use this as a base from which to explore the area and meet up with those we haven't been able to see in a long time. Wigeon House is available to book through the website and Airbnb, from July onwards, accommodates up to four people.



Yellow loosestrife bee by Georgette Taylor

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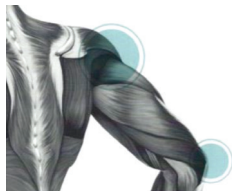
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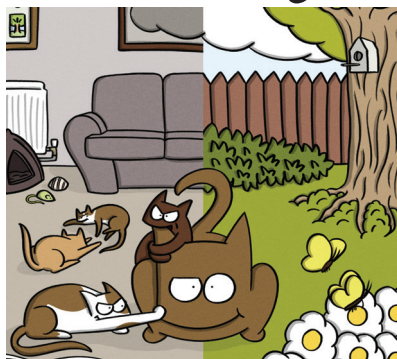


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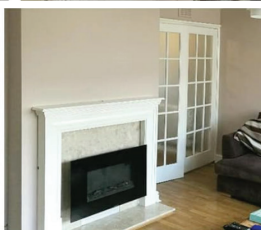
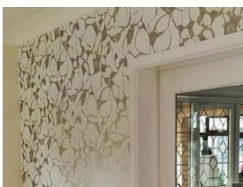
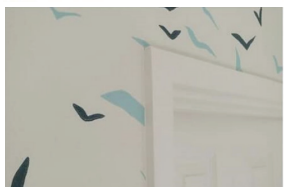
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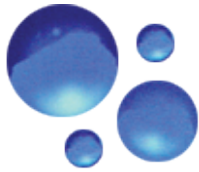
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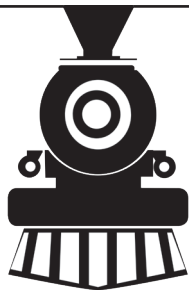
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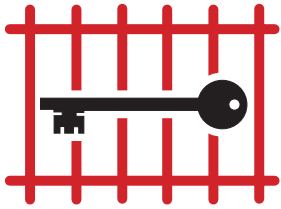
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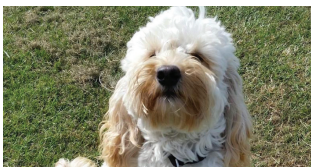
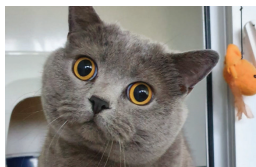
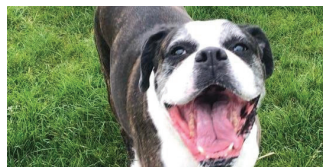
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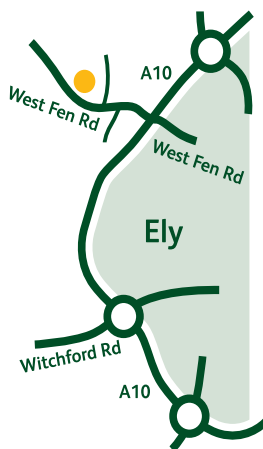
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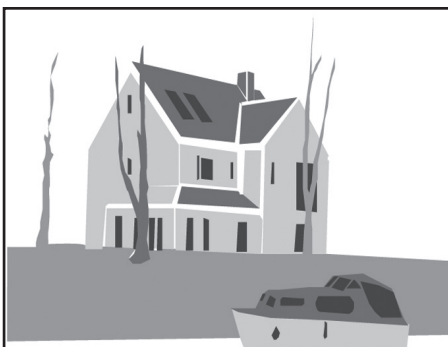


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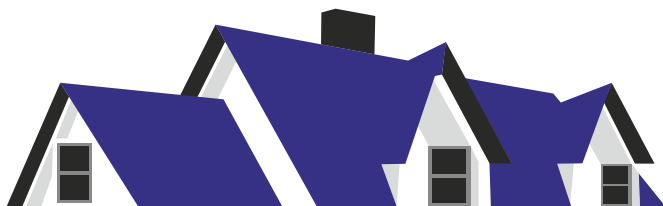
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