

# the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth December 2021







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# the Villager

The Newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needlingworth

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December  
Distributed free to every household in the parish of  
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth

Winter Issue, December 2021

## EDITORIAL

The centre page series of articles in this issue on how the village coped with the Covid 19 pandemic is entitled "Learning to live with the virus 2021." The fact that I was able to restart the What's On page in the Villager (page 31) indicates that we are learning to live with the virus, although the range of events is a little more limited than previously. Groups still seem reluctant to make firm long term plans; I know a number of other events are planned, but was unable to include them in "What's On" as details have not yet been finalised. As another sign of getting back to normal, I was pleased to hear that the Music Festival held this year in August was such a success (see page 9).



Hopefully we can all look forward to spending Christmas as we wish this year with family and friends. Please do continue to send in your articles, photographs, etc. for the next issue of the Villager - everyone is welcome to contribute whether with individual comments or news from our many local village groups. Remember the copy date is 1st February for the Spring/March edition of the Villager. Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

Jennifer

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### Next issue deadline:

1st February for March, April and May 2022

The views expressed in this newsletter are submitted by readers and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council or the Editor. Dates and times of events have been submitted by the organisers of the events and are passed on in good faith. Please check with the organisers before attending.

## THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS

The birth of an infant a long time ago,  
In a manger of hay where the cattle would low,  
The Hope of the World and the Bringer of Peace,  
This is the time when struggle should cease.

But our planet's in peril, mankind in despair,  
We keep on destroying when we should repair;  
The rivers and seas continue to swell,  
While floodwater rises, where should we dwell?

The trees are aflame, the Earth is on fire,  
World leaders to Clean and Green must aspire,  
And all of us need to alter our ways  
Lest climatic chaos will number our days.

We have war, pollution and pillage of land,  
While Covid has struck with a sword in it's hand,  
Cleaving away dear families and friends,  
Our poor world is ill and we must make amends.

So, let us be thankful for what we now have,  
Live simply and think of those who have none,  
Gather our loved ones and make them feel glad,  
This may be the best Christmas we've ever had!

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# PARISH COUNCIL

## Meet Your Parish Councillors

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council consists of 13 Councillors. Over the next few editions of The Villager we will be introducing you to your Parish Councillors ...



**Councillor Linda Macrae**

I moved to Needingworth from St Ives in 2003 with my husband and 2 sons, however my husband and I originate from Cumbria. I am pleased to have been re-elected as a Parish Councillor for Holywell-cum-Needingworth for a second term, having recently taken semi-retirement I fill my days by walking with my westie, Radley all around this beautiful village listening to my books. I am a member of the book club the "Readingworths" and we meet once a month in the village pub.

**Committees:** Discipline & Grievance, HR, Leisure Facilities

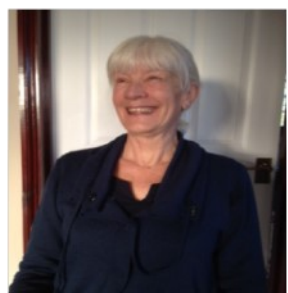


**Councillor Eda MacPherson**

I have lived in Needingworth for over 40 years so have been involved with many of the organisations in the village. Many of my earlier years were spent campaigning, fundraising and eventually acquiring a Village Hall; until recently I was a Trustee. Currently I am an active member of the WI having served a few terms as President and also enjoy many activities as a U3A member.

I am a long-standing member of the Parish Council and I am keen to maintain the community feel of the lovely villages in our Parish.

**Committees:** Discipline & Grievance, HR, Leisure Facilities, Planning & Finance, Relief in Need Charity



**Councillor Sue Martin**

I have lived in Needingworth for over 30 years, raised my family here and my parents were also village residents.

I have recently retired from the NHS, having worked as a Senior Nurse in both our hospitals and within the local community.

Living and working locally, I share many of the concerns regarding the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by residents.

I believe we must involve local people of all ages and backgrounds in the decisions made which will shape the future of our village.

I am proud to support and represent our local community as a member of the Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council.

**Committees:** Discipline & Grievance, Environment, HR, Planning & Finance



**Councillor Stephen Mitcham**

I have lived in the Parish for 30 years and during that time have seen my two sons grow up attending the local schools. During my time in the village I have tried to support the well-being of the local community through my involvement in the youth football and cricket clubs.

In my professional career I worked for 30 years at Cambridge Building Society with the last 12 years as Chief Executive. I have now moved into non-

executive roles and currently hold positions as Lay Member, Cambs & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and Board director of a financial services linked technology business.

Having benefitted from living in the Parish for many years I am keen to see that the local community continue to grow and develop as the number of homes in the village increases. In my opinion, all parts of our community united in an exceptional manner to support each other during the Coronavirus challenges and I am keen to work with the Parish Council to build on this appetite for collaboration, whilst ensuring that all members of the local community believe that thoughts and views are being listened to.

**Committees:** Appeals, Consultation, HR, Leisure Facilities, Planning & Finance

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth PARISH COUNCIL

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CLERK		
Miss Jane Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall, Overcote Lane, Needingworth	468451
PARISH COUNCILLORS		
Mr A Whyte Chairman	23 Bramley Avenue	464223
Mr R Fountain	18 Priory Rd	496636
Mr D Jackson	Overcote Farm, Overcote Lane	466612
Mrs E Macpherson	6 Priory Road	468633
Mrs L Macrae	7 Silver Lane	462055
Mrs S Martin	21 Bramley Avenue	494920
Mrs S Mortlock	The Paddocks, Mill Way	462945
Mr S Mitcham	6 Willow Green	301679
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green	466110
Mrs C Norman	42 Harris Crescent	463724
Mr G Norman	42 Harris Crescent	463724
Mr C Pearce	22 Harris Crescent	468759
Mr M Williamson	3 Priory Close	465821
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS		
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green, Needingworth	01480 466110
Mr L Besley	48 The Furlongs, Needingworth	01480 300658
COUNTY COUNCILLOR		
Mr K Reynolds	17 Virginia Way, St Ives	01480 496006
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS		
Eleanor Hardy	email:hardy.derek@sky.com Tel: 07730 504220	
MILLFIELDS BOOKINGS		
Miss J Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall	468451



## Parish Council Summary Report

Council usually takes a break during August but due to 5 planning applications being received from HDC which were time critical a meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August which was attended by 10 Parish Councillors along with the County and District Ward Councillors.

Cllr M Williamson provided a verbal report on the Virtual roundtable meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Accounts for payment totalling £8,948.37 were approved.

The quote for 2 cameras, one image camera and one ANPR camera, at a cost of £1410 +VAT for installation in Millfields was also approved to assist with anti-social behaviour in the area.

The details for Councillor/Community Engagement Event to be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were also finalised.

At the September meeting a member of the public addressed Council members with a suggestion that the Council reject the application from Envar based on emissions, over capacity and whether Envar are trustworthy.

County Councillor K Reynolds praised the speaker from the public with his points made on the Envar application and that they were well researched and further commented that it is only material planning considerations that members should comment on.

District Councillor Neish reported that Huntingdonshire District Council is working to utilise previously underused land to provide new additional affordable homes for Huntingdonshire residents with the support of leading housing provider Longhurst Group.

Accounts for payment totalling £13,568.20 were approved.

Members discussed the additional work proposed for Millfields refurbishment and agreed that the cladding, urinals and kitchen are necessary works to complete the refurbishment with the heating to be decided when a quote is received. The additional work will cost £5650 + VAT there will be a shortfall from the business interruption grant of £3225 which will be taken from the Renewals and Refurbishment budget

A further 5 planning applications were considered including the Envar application which the Council objected to on several issues including concerns over traffic and the Wheatsheaf crossroads and the proposed chimney.

Cllr Neish made a verbal report on the site visit to Needingworth Park made by himself, Cllr Whyte and the Clerk.

The time frame for the installation of the footpath was queried and representatives were advised that there are some drainage issues, and they will need permission to close the road but should start soon.

A Christmas Tree will be put up on the entrance to the site.

David Wilson Homes asked if they could smarten up the hedgerow on the boundary and pollard a large tree at the site entrance.

David Wilson Homes verbally stated that they would support the Parish Council on a LHI Bid for the relocation of the 30mph speed limit on Bluntisham Road. The Public open space on Needingworth Park will have 4 pieces of equipment and will be installed in approx. 3 months' time and advised that by December they expect approx. 20 properties to be occupied.

Accounts for payment totalling £58741.32 were approved at the October meeting.

The long-awaited mural for the bus shelter which has been created by the Brownies and Rainbows is now ready for installation and it was agreed by all parties that after the Remembrance service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November would be a good time to hold the unveiling ceremony.

The new model Code of Conduct was adopted.

The meeting was closed to members of the public for an item relating to Grounds staff working hours for the month of November 2021 to be discussed.

Finally, at the Planning & Finance committee meeting held on October 19<sup>th</sup> the Parish Clerk reported an advice notice from HDC advising that CIL money to the sum of £8894.18 will be received relating to Egret Close development in the near future.

The official record of all meetings are the minutes which are available on the Parish Council website.  
[www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk](http://www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk)

### 'the VILLAGER'

Extra copies of this quarterly magazine can be obtained from the editor Jennifer Horn,  
16 Willow Green, telephone **468952**  
or from Roger Beaman, 17 Willow Green,  
telephone **462379**.

**WEBSITE: back issues of the Villager Magazine can be found on the Villager website**  
[needingworthvillager.org.uk](http://needingworthvillager.org.uk)

**To advertise in the Villager** please contact the editor  
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### JUST MOVED IN?

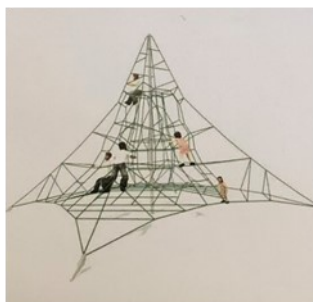
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## Parish Update



### Overcote Playing Field update

The Parish Council are pleased to advise that all of the bird mouth fencing at Overcote playing field has been replaced.

Furthermore, planning permission has been granted for the Space net!



The Space net and pergola have an installation date of early December which will be funded from CIL receipts. These will be a welcome addition to the existing facilities offered at the playing field which we hope will be enjoyed by many in the spring and for many years to come.



### Streetlights

The end of August saw all the Parish Council owned streetlights updated to new more efficient LED streetlights. There are a couple of minor issues to resolve which are currently being addressed and it is hoped that these issues will be rectified in the near future. Originally the Parish Council was planning to fund the project with a public works loan however, due to changes in Government legislation the Salix funding was not available, so in order to complete this project the Parish Council resolved to fund the project from CIL receipts.

### Millfields

Due to the pandemic the Parish Council received a business interruption grant for Millfields which the Council resolved to spend on a much needed refurbishment of the pavilion with the shortfall being covered by the renewals and refurbishment budget. This included a full redecoration inside and out, work to replace the kitchen units and to update the showers. Furthermore, to be more environmentally friendly and to save money on the utility bill all of the lighting was upgraded to LED lighting. Council are still investigating the replacement of the outdated heating system.



Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council

## Parish Hub incorporating a Parish Office update.

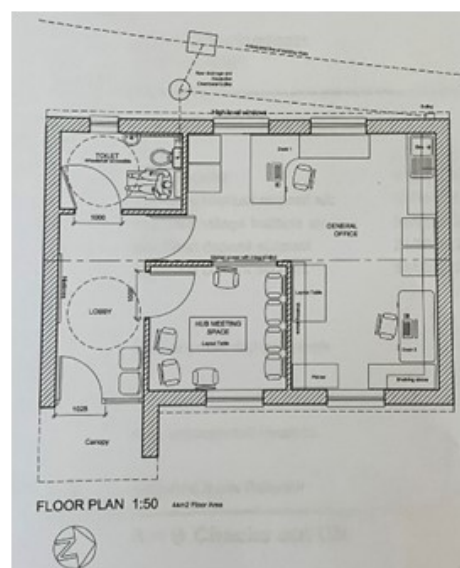
Planning permission has been granted for the Parish Hub incorporating a Parish Office. The Parish Council are now taking this project forward to the tendering stage. It is anticipated that the tenders will be received in the new year and once actual costs are known the Council will be able to make a final decision on this project.



*Proposed front elevation*

The Parish Council will be attending the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December where the architects drawings will be available for parishioners to view.

Work continues around the feasibility of a stage extension for the Village Hall.



*Proposed floor plan*

Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council



# Needingworth Bus Shelter Mural

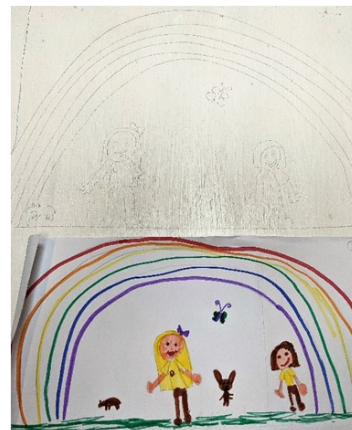
A Collaboration between Girlguiding Needingworth and Holywell-Cum-Needingworth Parish Council

It was in July 2020, during the middle of the pandemic when we were first approached by a member of the parish council to see if we would potentially be able to create a mural to brighten up the inside of the bus shelter, opposite the Queen's head.

After a mixture of trepidation and excitement, by October the units were ready to go ahead with some initial ideas. The Parish Council requested that the mural represented the village, so the units found out more about some of our local landmarks including the churches, lockup etc. The Rainbows went for a socially distanced walk around Needingworth looking at different landmarks and the Brownies had a quiz to see if they could identify photos of village sites. After spending some time taking a closer look at all the landmarks around us it, it was time to get to the drawing board! The girls each chose different places and had a go at drawing their own interpretation of them. The results were brilliant and neither the Girlguiding leaders nor the Parish Council could choose just one design to be translated onto the bus shelter.



We asked Lindsey Page, a local artist who had been a Needingworth resident for many years if she could help. Lindsey very kindly agreed to combine as many drawings as possible into one coherent design. Her priority was always to keep the girls' drawings as accurate to their original picture as possible – rather than putting an adult's take on them. Lindsey then did an amazing job at translating them onto the panels ready for the girls to paint.



The pandemic threw up another challenge as our original painting day in July had to be cancelled. Thankfully by September, we were able to hold a day with socially distanced painting stations with 36 girls from across the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides booked in to take part. Once painted, it was just the small task of adding the final bits of detail and the many layers of varnish before the panels were ready to install.

Hopefully by the time this article is printed, the mural will have been installed within the bus shelter and unveiled to the village on Remembrance Sunday. We hope this colourful mural will help to cheer up all the Villagers and those who see it. The mural also contains some references to the pandemic in-

cluding Guides keeping 2 metres apart and a poster saying 'Thank you NHS'. Hopefully the mural will also serve as a reminder of the times we are living in.

We would like to thank the Parish council for asking us to take on this project, financing the panels and the majority of the materials. Also, to West End DIY (St Ives), Wilko (Huntingdon) and some of our families who also kindly donated some paint and materials. A huge thanks also to Lindsey Page who did such an incredible job of bringing all the drawings together and translating the designs for us.

A project like this would not be possible without the support of our incredible Girlguiding volunteers (and other unsung heroes) who gave up their time to make the project happen; from helping with the painting day to varnishing and installing the panels. A final thank you also goes to our Girlguiding families for all their support and patience throughout the pandemic as plans have had to be changed and reorganised.

If you are interested in doing something rewarding and challenging for the youth in our village or would like your daughter to join us; we would love to hear from you. Get in touch at [hello@ggneedingworth.co.uk](mailto:hello@ggneedingworth.co.uk) or call Helen on 01480 460838

Here is a 'Where's Wally' style game of things you can look for on the panels:

Can you find...?

Louis the ginger cat.  
 An owl hiding in a tree.  
 A 'thank you NHS' poster.  
 Guides playing 2m apart.  
 The Bowls club.  
 Three Girlguiding trefoils.  
 A family walking their dog.  
 A heron.  
 The meridian line marker.  
 Guides in a canoe.



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## Village Hall News

After cancellation in 2020 due to Covid we presented a very successful Music Festival on the weekend August 21-22. The festival is usually in early July, but Covid restrictions had forced a later date on us. The Hall and Music Festival Committees are very grateful to the bands, supporters, donors, music lovers and volunteers who ensured that we had a memorable occasion. We are particularly indebted to the Parish Council for use of the field and to our generous sponsors, in particular Wellington Wise, who not only gave us financial support, but also provided festival volunteers with natty tee shirts! The festival generates much needed funds for the hall, ensuring affordable hire fees for all our users and investment back into the building. As this is that biggest fund-raising event that we do each year, we are pleased to report that despite all the problems we have faced, this year's festival was one of our most profitable ever.

Hall users are continuing to return to us, and though we had slim returns at the height of lockdown in 2020 our income is now becoming much healthier. Of course, our primary concern is to provide an attractive and useful facility for our community. If you wish to book the hall or pavilion for your club, business or private party please contact our Bookings Secretary, whose details are in the Villager (Who's Who, back page). We welcome new committee members, so please consider joining us and feel free to contact any committee member for details.

The Village Hall Trust has conducted a consultation process with the users of the hall to establish how we might move forward with extending the hall complex. With an expanding village there is a clear need for more rooms and additional toilets. With this consultation now complete, we are working with the Parish Council to establish the next steps.

Future dates for your diaries: After a popular night with the Outlaw Eagles in October we are presenting further Band Nights on February 5<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Annual Quiz is planned to be back at its usual slot in March (5<sup>th</sup>). Further details to come.

**Mark Hebert**, Secretary  
Holywell cum Needingworth Village Hall Trust



Hello all of you lovely people. We hope you are keeping well and continuing to stay safe in what continues to be an uncertain time for all us. Due to the ongoing times and also the fact we are still struggling for volunteers we have made the difficult decision to close Chatters café until the New Year when we will evaluate our situation. We hope by then we will have more 'hands on deck' and be able to reopen. We will see!! It is a sad time but we feel COVID has contributed immensely to this and this was something we couldn't foresee. I am pleased to say we have been granted permission to have a table at the Village Hall Christmas Fair so we will be there with our lovely big bear for our 'Name A Bear' competition and some other bits and bobs. Please come and see us for a 'Chat' as we miss you lots. Take care and keep safe. Love Becci and Sam xxx

## RECIPES from the 1950s

I have been browsing my mother's old personal recipe books again and came across a few simple ones that sound suitable for the season. I can't guarantee that they work well as I haven't tried them myself and may need some interpretation, but if anyone fancies a go I would love to hear if you were successful. They probably date from the 1950s or a little earlier.

### GOLDEN ROCKS

8 oz self-raising flour  
3 oz fat  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
2 oz sultanas ½ teaspoon cinnamon (or spice)  
1 egg

Rub fat into flour, add sultanas and cinnamon. Add golden syrup to beaten egg and add to dry mixture. Mix to a stiff consistency. Bake 15 minutes in a moderate oven.

### ORANGE MOULD

Juice of 3 oranges  
Rind of 1 lemon  
1 dessert spoon glucose (or if preferred 2 oz sugar)  
1 oz powdered arrowroot or cornflour

Put orange juice in a measuring jug and make up to half a pint with cold water. Put into a saucepan and add glucose (or sugar) and stir until dissolved. Put arrowroot into a small basin and mix to creamy consistency with cold water, then add it to pan along with grated lemon rind. Boil for 2 minutes until it thickens. Put mixture into a rinsed out mould and leave to set.

### BAKED ORANGE SUNFLOWERS

4 medium sized oranges  
Foil  
1 oz butter  
2 oz soft light brown sugar  
2 oz mixed dried fruit

Pre-heat oven to 350°F (gas mark 4). Scrub oranges then use a sharp knife to score each skin into 8 sections from top to bottom but leaving ¼ in of base (stalk end). Peel each section of skin carefully from orange almost to base leaving it joined. Fold each section of skin inwards towards segments and tuck points under base. Divide the orange segments using a sharp knife. Cut 4 pieces of foil 4 in larger all round than an orange and put each orange on foil. Put butter and sugar in a basin, cream together then stir in dried fruit. Divide mixture between oranges, filling the centre of each. Bring edges of foil together, pressing together to seal well. Put foil parcels on a baking sheet and bake just above centre of oven for 20 to 325 minutes. Serve each orange hot on an individual dish with juices from foil poured over and with whipped cream.



# Christmas at the Pike & Ee

MARINA · HOTEL · DINING · BAR | 1608

## Join the fun with our fabulous shared party nights!

Enjoy a welcome cocktail on arrival, followed by delicious food and then boogie the night away with our resident DJ

To start  
Ham hock terrine with toasted ciabatta, Piccalilli and dressed leaves Prawn and crayfish cocktail, brown bread and butter  
Bruschetta with roasted vine tomatoes, basil and balsamic glaze (VG)

Main course  
Roast turkey breast, pork & sage stuffing, pigs-in-blanket, Yorkshire Pudding  
Spinach pine nut and tofu plait (VG)  
Pan-fried sea bass fillet, garlic parsley butter

All served with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables and traditional accompaniments

To finish  
Traditional Christmas Pudding served with brandy sauce (v)  
Cheesecake served with Cream (v)  
Home-Baked Chocolate Brownie with chocolate sauce(v)

9th, 10th & 11th  
December

19:00 - 00:00

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## WI

It was a very happy occasion when we were able to hold our first official meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. We spent most of the evening catching up with friends although we did manage to complete some official business, vote in our new committee and new President Carol Peilow. Thank you so much to Jackie Norris, our outgoing President for all her hard work and enthusiasm during her term of office, especially during the lockdown. It was greatly appreciated.

2021 has been our Centenary Year and we were delighted to welcome our local Federation (Peterborough and Huntingdon) Chairman, Phyllis Brooks, to our October AGM where she presented us with 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificates from both the local and National Federations. We learned that Phyllis first attended a WI meeting in 1962; it was with this WI! Following a fascinating and entertaining presentation on a Beekeepers Year by Tim Gooder (who rewarded questions with some mini jars of lovely Holywell Bees honey!), our celebration cake was cut by Phyllis and our longest serving member Pat Staddon. We enjoyed delicious cup-cakes baked by Needingworth star baker Margi.



We are looking forward to our meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November when yoga teacher Samantha Wilson will lead a session of Chair Yoga. Time to dig out the lycra!

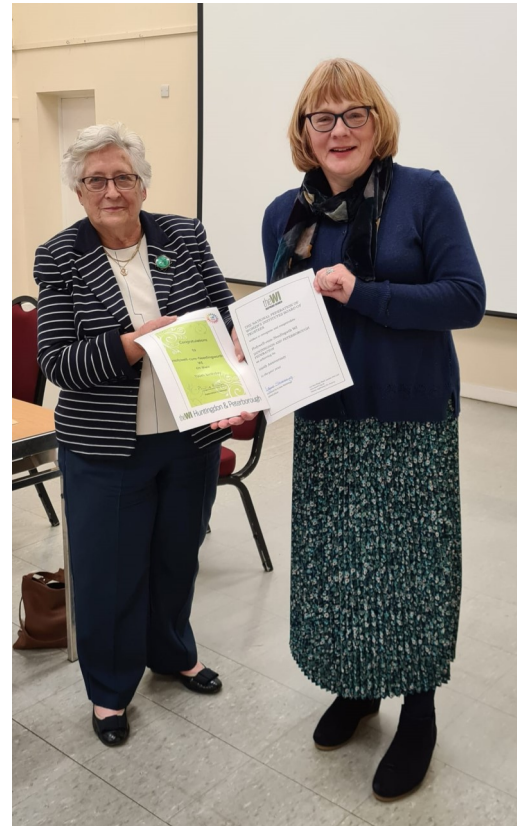
At our December meeting members will celebrate the season with a Christmas Party at the Village Hall where we will be entertained by the Huntingdon Ukulele Band. There will be every opportunity to sing old (and not so old!) favourites.

The party season continues into January, when members will meet at the Queen's Head for our annual dinner.

Our 'Knit n Natter' Group has been creating some delightful craft items which will be on sale at the Village Christmas Fair on 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will also have Christmas Lucky Dip bags available and will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt.

Our committee is planning a varied programme for next year. In addition to our regular monthly meetings with talks and demonstrations, and our 'Knit n Natter', Cinema, Scrabble and Lunch groups, we are looking forward to extra activities and visits.

If you are interested in joining us, be assured you will receive a warm welcome. We meet on the first Monday of every month. For more information please contact: **Carol Peilow – 01480 496958.**





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**BELIEVE ON CHRIST.** "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31)

**CONFESS YOUR SINS.** "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation" (Romans 10:9-10)

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## Beer and Wine Society

Unfortunately we had to cancel our October meeting. Our next meeting is for members only when we will be going for a meal together.

**December 10th** is the annual show where we will be judging our wines made during the year. The prizes will be awarded at the AGM.

**January 14th** we will hold the competition for wine made from tinned fruit or juice.

**February (tbn)** we are holding an evening of wine whist.

All meetings will be held in the Village Hall and those attending must have had at least 2 covid jabs.

You can contact me on **01480 466239** or Sandra on **01487 825669**

**Pat Britton**

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Local History Group

In August a small group met down at St John the Baptist church at Holywell. Stephen York was there to answer questions on the history of the church and Roger Beaman to talk about the bells. 'Refreshments' were available by some at the Ferryboat!

In October a group met at Janett's house with open windows, and coats and masks on! Some of the projects we had done in the past were discussed and some we still need to do, the 1939 'Census' being one of them. Also Janet shared a project she had been doing that started as an interest in becoming knowledgeable about heraldry. We were able to share in her enthusiasm!

The lectures at Gresham college are still ongoing. Please use this link to find out more.

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures>

And here is a repeat of the website of the person, based in Over, who does tape-to-digital transfers

[www.cassette-to-cd.co.uk](http://www.cassette-to-cd.co.uk)

On Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> we are having our usual Christmas social at Blackers Hall. If anyone would like a lift, please contact Cherryl or Sally.

The next meeting after this would be on Monday 14th February 2022, but this may change depending on the romantic nature of local historians!

For updates nearer the dates given, please contact Sally Beaman or Cherryl Frost, as below:

Sally - Email: [rsde.beaman@btinternet.com](mailto:rsde.beaman@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 462379

Cherryl: Email: [cherryl.frost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cherryl.frost@hotmail.co.uk)

Or visit our website [www.hcnhistory.org.uk](http://www.hcnhistory.org.uk)

## ART CLUB

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Village Hall.

We are a small, friendly group; if you are interesting in joining us, please telephone **Paul on 01480 465536**

## DANCE CLUB

**Pleased to announce  
Wednesday afternoon  
sessions have re-started**

**Every Wednesday  
2 - 4 pm**

**For information on when  
Saturday evening sessions will  
re-start please contact**

**Rose on 01480 466487**

## OVER 60s

We are holding our  
Christmas tea  
on **7th December**,  
2pm in the Village Hall,  
entertainment by children  
from Holywell School

No meeting in January but  
we hope to arrange a  
Christmas lunch, probably  
for Tuesday 4th January

For details nearer the time  
please contact

Joan: 01480 497892

## Scribblers Writing Group

normally hold meetings monthly  
at Needingworth Village Hall,  
plus they have a lively poetry  
group.

For current activities please ring  
**Helen on 01487 843437** or **Joan  
on 01840 463966**.

## "Bridge Bunch"

We normally meet on a Friday  
afternoon from 2 pm - 5 pm at my  
house in the Furlongs. We will  
resume meetings when it is safe  
to do so.

We play the Benjii Accol system;  
we are a small friendly group and  
would welcome some new mem-  
bers.

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01480 460132



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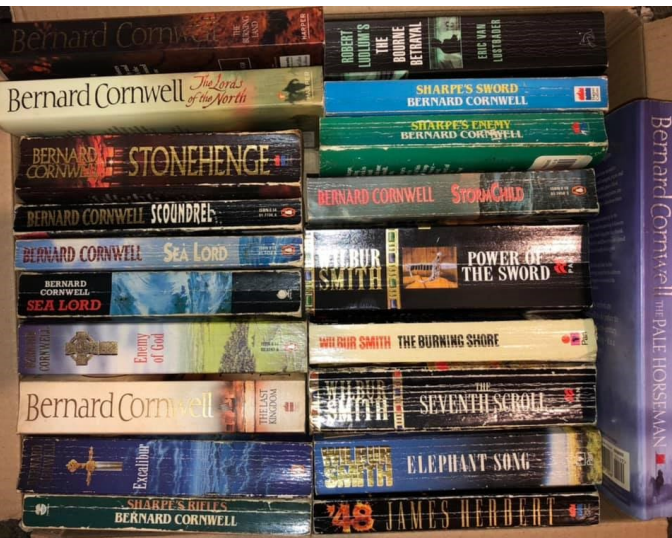
# Learning to Live with the Virus 2021

The vaccine rollout began in January 2021 for those aged 70 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable. There was much anxiety about how this would work locally and not a little anticipation. People queued on the pavements safely and masked but not always patiently. Some of the logistics of supporting those with health issues took a little while to iron out but eventually the programme really swung into action.

We were introduced to the Government's Four Steps including the reopening of schools in March and businesses very slowly began to open. The Rule of Six was introduced – not a new game but a complicated arrangement to allow members of households to meet up in 'bubbles'.

Then came the larger events but still confined to small numbers for weddings and funerals. Outdoor facilities were opened but with very limited numbers. The rollout of the vaccine gathered pace and take up.

As we entered the race to get us all vaccinated, the debate about opening or closing schools continued. Such a difficult decision for parents and school staff and even now with the vaccine rollout for 12-15 year olds, still having to make hard choices. This battle is not over by a long way but many are reflecting on the past couple of years and the significant change that has occurred in our daily lives.



## Here is Margaret's story:

*I am 80 years old. When Covid and the lockdown were discussed I felt very alone and anxious. When the lockdown was said to be for twelve weeks, I decided to treat it as a challenge. Luckily the sun was with us so I was able to walk and potter in the garden.*

*Instead of feeling alone I now had a purpose and it was then I discovered there are many kind people in the village. They took it upon themselves to look after the older and vulnerable residents.*

*A young woman, Emma, offered to do my shopping and collect my prescriptions. She is so kind and lovely and I knew and still know I can call on her anytime. The Village Pantry, run by Debbs Wain and supported by other residents delivering made sure we had food when some of the supermarkets ran out of essentials. Melanie kindly gave us books to read and operated a safe book swap.*

*The weekly window displays were good fun, especially for the children. My own Great Grandchildren supplied me with pictures. The Christmas windows were marvellous and I am really pleased that it is carrying on this year.*

*I made very good friends with Brenda who lives a few doors away and when we were allowed to, we started walking daily and we are now in our 30<sup>th</sup> week. Our group has now increased to 4 when Pat moved nearby and Anne came too. By doing this daily walk I feel a lot healthier and confident and certainly not lonely as we regularly meet dog walkers and gardeners who now seem to look out for us. We feel like Royalty waving to everyone. It definitely feels better to carry on for the rest of the day. I also joined in with the weekly clapping for the NHS and it gave us an opportunity to just see each other and nod that we were OK.*

*I am lucky enough to have a garden and since March 2020, I have grown a variety of produce in pots and grow-bags which I mostly gave away to family and friends. During the V.E. cele-*



*brations, I had five neighbours in the front garden, all socially distanced and with tables, the appropriate music and had a great time.*

*Since the onset of Covid I have been feeling positive, apart from the odd day, this is thanks to my family, friends and neighbours and the most kindest of people imaginable in Needingworth.*

*I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in February 2021. I had the most wonderful time with neighbours dropping off cards and flowers. The day ended with a link up with all the family. It was great.*

# Learning to Live with the Virus 2021

*So all in all I have been very encouraged to be positive and keep going. So I am okay.*

*Thank goodness. The things I loved were the sunny faces by Jackie Norris and the masks made by the W.I. I also loved the rainbows by Roni Kipps which I have now shared with a little girl.*

*A big thank you to everyone for all of you have done to support me and our village.*

## **Volunteers**

Finally I would like to pay tribute to all the volunteers in the two villages. There are those who do this daily, weekly, monthly, regularly and have done even before the rise of the Pandemic. Some work within the wonderful Good Neighbours scheme and so just help because they are friends and neighbours. There are other volunteers, in fact over 75 of them who within minutes and hours of the Facebook page being set up offered to help and help they did. They shopped, collected meds, cooked and baked and set up The Village Pantry, walked the dogs, fed the cats and took care of people. They dropped leaflets with information, helped people to find care and support when it was almost impossible. What is so important is that they are selfless about their acts of kindness. They are our friends and our neighbours and stepped up when needed and many are still doing this today. I asked a good friend of mine, who volunteered to reflect on his experience and share it with us.

## **Here is Adrian Dobbyne's story:**

### **My Covid 19 Experience - Surprise**

Reflecting on my whole Covid 19 experience, I think it can be seen through a number of surprises. First off, was the surprise of being in a Covid Pandemic. When it first came out, it was seen as "what on earth is this" and then something elsewhere and not likely to reach us. That soon changed and of course when it did reach Europe, it was seen as we will not get it so bad, after all we are an Island. But sure enough we did get it.

Another surprise that soon followed was that we got it worse than most other countries.

To someone relatively new to the village, it was a surprise how our village rallied round to support one another. I put myself forward to be a Street Volunteer and we were not short of them. So, I had my street and few side roads off it. Then to my surprise I really did not have too much to do. I gave out some leaflets, identified some neighbours who may need some help, I called round a few times, had a few phone calls, did some collections, but in all cases, there were family, friends and close neighbours looking out for one another. It was reassuring just how much people were going to be looked after.

I immediately worked from home and got used to the new commute from bedroom to study, abandoning rules on dress etiquette to spend a day looking behind a computer and making Team Calls. My wife was working from home too and to no surprise, the 10:00 coffee was my responsibility, every day. We had a spell of home schooling, which of course left you respecting the work Teachers do a lot more.

I had no problems when I received my Vaccines, but it has been a surprise seeing how differently people have reacted to the Jabs and the different reactions to those who caught the Virus. I was fortunate when I did, it just felt like a bit of a cold.

And it has continued. A new way of working, a new way of living and a new way of socialising. The final surprise I guess has been how easy people adapt. Sure there were some problem areas and not seeing family and friends was not easy, but in the end, we proved pretty resilient in our house and I sense most people out there in the village were and still are.



A Merry and bright  
Christmas to you all  
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## Exciting new community website for Holywell-cum-Needingworth



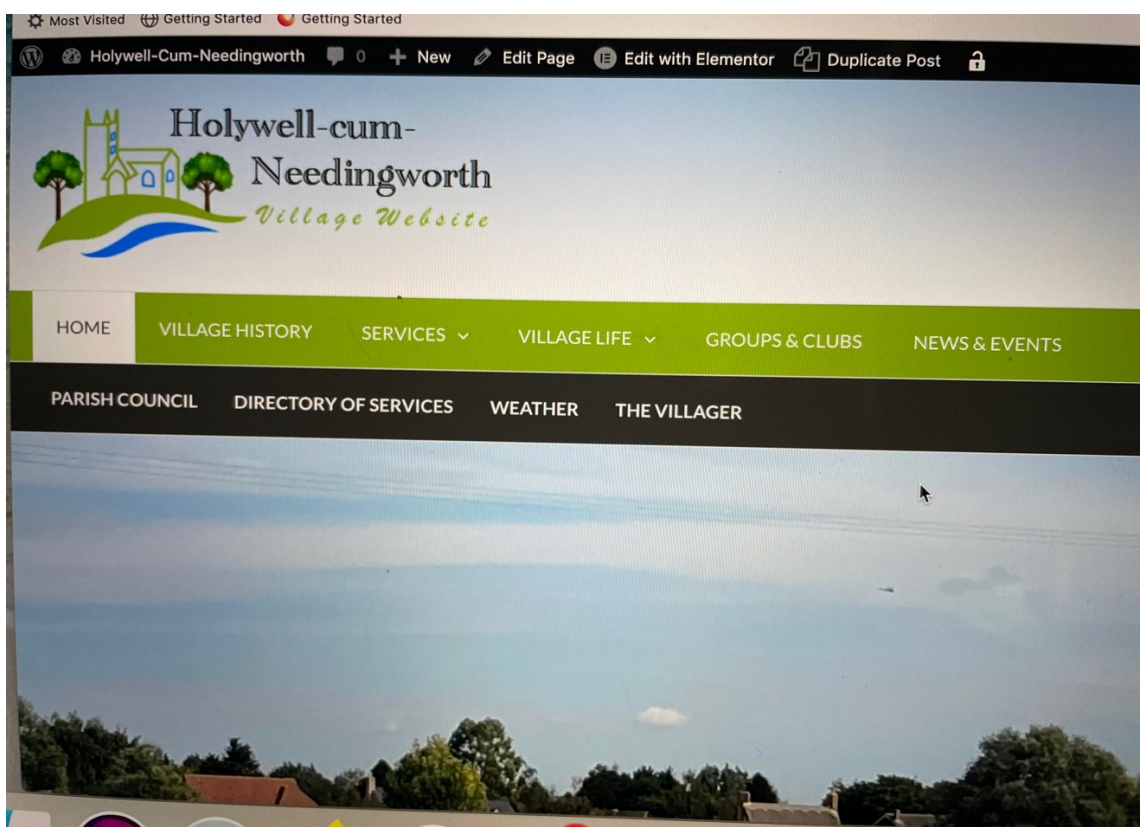
[www.holywell-cum-needingworth.org.uk](http://www.holywell-cum-needingworth.org.uk)

Launch date: December 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

### Why did we bid for Lottery money?

Working with the existing Villager team, a small group of residents wanted to build a community website for our village that gathers all the existing services, clubs, organisations and support and businesses in one easy accessible place. It will provide our villages with a reliable update, a source of information, a network for help and activities, and provide the whole community with an events diary and blog to keep the residents informed. All households can have access to it and will be an additional source of support for our elderly and vulnerable.

This is a new project. It will bring all existing links and websites from services, and community organisations and societies together. It will also provide an opportunity for the businesses in the village to be represented. We are happy to have help building this new website. Take a look, and add your comments.



Linda Birr-Pixton, Lesley Fisher and Trevor Piggott and the Villager Team – Jennifer Horn & Roger Beaman

## PUZZLE CORNER

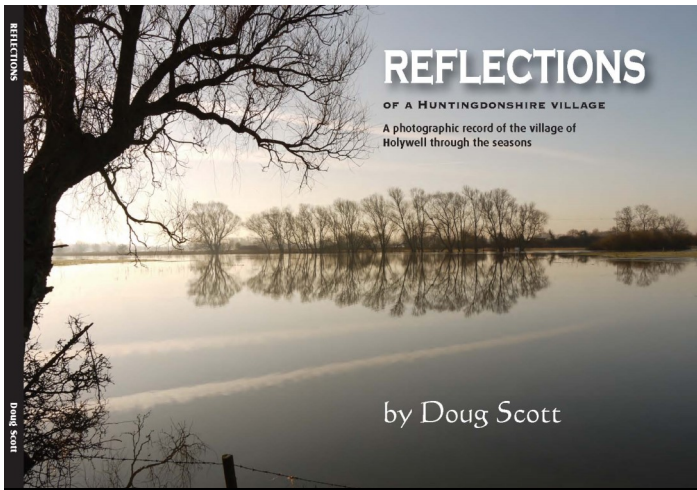
### Word Search - with a Christmas theme

This Word Search contains the names of 17 birds or animals with a Christmas connection. There are 11 birds and 6 mammals. The words run horizontal, vertical and diagonal, forwards and backwards.

Answers on page 24.

Clue: think of Christmas songs, Christmas cards, Christmas dinner, the Christmas story (a few are only traditional in other parts of Europe).

P	A	R	T	R	I	D	G	E	X	N	W
U	Q	P	U	B	T	A	O	G	A	E	T
R	L	N	R	M	X	B	O	W	T	U	P
D	U	C	K	O	A	A	S	A	R	S	O
G	O	R	E	R	B	Z	E	T	E	T	L
R	P	N	Y	I	H	I	L	G	I	N	A
O	J	M	K	L	C	E	N	F	N	A	R
U	O	C	K	E	D	P	D	W	D	S	B
S	N	A	B	O	Y	E	E	R	E	A	E
E	Q	M	V	W	U	E	W	E	E	E	A
F	R	E	N	C	H	H	E	N	R	H	R
A	R	L	S	T	E	S	V	A	Z	P	Y



Reflections is a beautiful record of the seasons in Holywell photographed over a period of 30 years, reflecting the changing moods of this lovely village.

If you are looking for an unusual Christmas gift that will provide enjoyment long after the festive season, there are still a few copies available.

All proceeds from the sale of the books will go to Cancer Research UK.

The price is £4.99 per copy and it can be delivered free locally or collected from Doug Scott, Flagholm, The Front, Holywell.

The book can be mailed to any UK address for an additional £3.00 or if you wish to send it to someone, cardboard mailing pockets are available for £2.50.

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### Where in the village?

In the September issue, I asked if you knew where this photo was taken. Answer below:





## Gardening Club

### Pleasures and Challenges of a Village Club

Our village is very lucky in having so many excellent clubs and organisations around so that there is something for every one of the residents.

There are some who "just do not do" village organisations for a whole range of reasons. When you are out at work all day it can be hard to get out for an evening meeting. Even if you are working from home, as is so often the case nowadays, it is still a struggle to raise the energy to go out.

Looking after children or families is obviously very demanding and tiring.

Others find it difficult to step out into a new experience or may be unsure of what they will be letting themselves in for.

And yet we have so many people in the village that do step out and either join or, often, help run one of the great clubs available. Even those who do not attend one regularly like to experience the benefit to the wider community that some of these organisations create.

The Annual Village Show is a great addition to the life of our village as it is a dying type of event all around the country although villagers still like to have one in their village.

The Plant Sale in May is the largest and best in the area and is well supported by a large number of villagers.

These last two events are financed and arranged by the Gardening Club as part of their contribution to village life.

Many of these village organisations, including the Gardening Club, face a problem that it happening all around the UK.

With an aging population and increasing demands on people's lives, the organisations are often being run by the same group of people for years on end and who experience falling numbers of the organisation members and

particularly the committees that run them.

Being involved in a local organisation is an excellent way of increasing the quality of an important aspect of our lives. The benefits of having a like minded group of people with whom you can mix in relaxed way are substantial. New acquaintances are made in the local area and there is a warm sense of sharing a common interest. They provide a sense of contributing to our community and this is a well recognised benefit for individual mental health.

The local Gardening Club is the largest club in the village and suffers from a slight image problem in that people have the impression that it is full of only older, very keen, knowledgeable gardeners talking earnestly about lots of Latin names etc.

In fact, our emphasis is on providing an enjoyable atmosphere where anyone of any age who has any interest at all in plants or gardens can come along and hear excellent speakers talking about their area of expertise in a light and interesting way with good photography to provide colour.

In October we had an excellent talk on Houseplants by Jane Perrone who writes in the Guardian and Financial Times as well as numerous gardening journals and is a published author. This quality of speaker in our local Village Hall is a pleasure to listen to even if you only have a passing interest in the subject.

I know it takes a leap of faith to approach joining an organisation but I can assure you that you will be well received into the Gardening Club with no pressure to contribute, socialise or work.

If you are interested, we meet at the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.45 pm. We charge a fee of £2.50 for visitors and an annual fee of only £5.00

If you come along please introduce yourself to me!

**Grant Williamson**

**Chairman Holywell-cum-Needingworth Gardening Club**



# Vicky Grant

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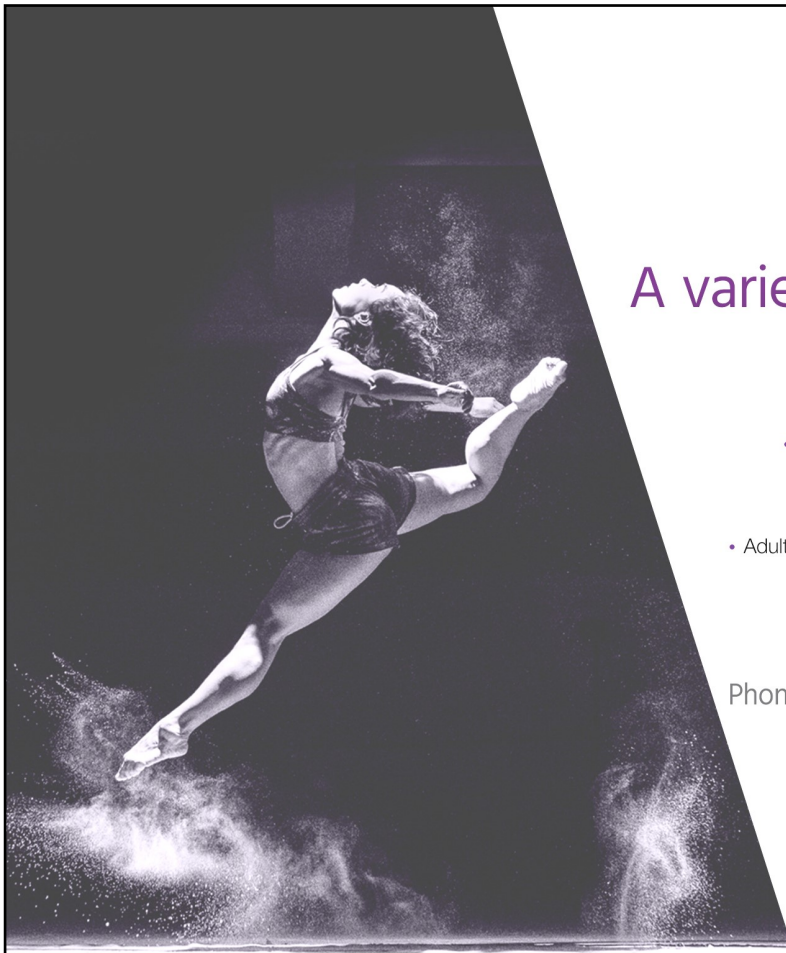
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December. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the church.

The 2021 **church Christmas cards** are now on sale, available from the above addresses, and at the Village Christmas Fair, in packs of five cards. There are several new designs, all based on images on our Christmas altar hangings and other fabrics in the church. Joyce Brinkhurst in Needlingworth is once again selling her beautiful hand-made cards on behalf of the church. Joyce can be contacted on 01480 301130 if you wish to view the cards or place an order.

This year the parish church is organising the **Village Christmas Fair**, Saturday 4 December at the Village Hall – see advertisement below.

## Parish church of St John the Baptist, Holywell-cum-Needlingworth

[www.meridianbenefice.org.uk](http://www.meridianbenefice.org.uk)

### CHURCH SERVICES

Thankfully we have been able to return to our normal pattern of services at the parish church:

First Sunday of the month – 8 a.m. Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer, and at 9.30 a.m. Café Sunday (now held at Holywell C of E Primary School); Second Sunday – Holy Communion (Common Worship); Third Sunday – All-Age Service; Fourth Sunday – Morning Worship. At present we are still asking people to wear face masks in services.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19 December: **Carols by Candlelight** 6 p.m. at St John the Baptist Church (please note that there is no morning service that day)

Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve: **Crib Service** 3 p.m. in the Village Hall; **Midnight Communion** 11.30 p.m. in the church

Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day: **Holy Communion** 9.30 a.m. in the church.

(If there are any changes to these timings, they will be announced in the December/January edition of *The Herald* and on the Benefice website.)

Please note that there will be no service on Sunday 26 December.

### FUND-RAISING AND EVENTS

Tickets for the **Church Christmas Draw** are now on sale. A lovely selection of hampers, vouchers and seasonal prizes can be won. Tickets available from Chapel House, High Street Needlingworth and Wren Cottage, Back Lane, Holywell. The draw will take place after the Carol Service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

Looking ahead to next year, we intend to repeat our successful **Snowdrop Coffee Morning**, to be held in the church sometime in February when all the snowdrops are out in the churchyard. The exact date will be announced in the February edition of *The Herald*.

We wish all villagers a joyful Christmas and a New Year full of hope. Keep praying for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic but also give thanks for the amazing community spirit that it has brought out in our village.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6–7)*

The  
**CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
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## Needingworth Baptist Church

High Street,  
Needingworth,  
PE27 4SB

Elder – David Mann

Website – [www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk](http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk)

### Sunday Services

At present we are holding one service each Sunday at 10.30am, and you are warmly invited to join us! We hope to restart Sunday evening or afternoon services before too long. "Social distancing" is still something we are trying to practise as far as possible, but the wearing of masks is optional. What happens in a service? We pray, we read the Bible, we sing hymns, and the focus of the service is the preaching of a message from the Bible. We believe that God speaks to us through the Bible. How kind He is! Services are recorded and posted on our website on Sunday afternoon for those unable to make the in-person services. You can find the recorded services here:

[www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/online-services](http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/online-services)

### Christmas services

We hope to have a Carol Service (nine lessons and carols) on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. This will be the only service on that day. We do warmly invite you to come. This is of course subject to any change in the government's Covid advice or regulations at the time. It will be helpful for seating arrangements if you would let us know if you are coming – please email [pmb8743@gmail.com](mailto:pmb8743@gmail.com) or use the contact details below. We would encourage mask wearing on that occasion as "social distancing" may not be possible. There will also be a service on Christmas Day at 10.30am and on 26<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am as usual.

### Sunday school

Children stay in the first part of the service with their parents and then have Sunday school in the church hall during the sermon.

### Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

This is on Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm and at present it is on Zoom. Please contact us if you would like to join us.

### Coffee club (toddlers and parents/carers)

This takes place every Wednesday morning at 10am. More

## Coffee Club

Coffee Club restarted on the 15<sup>th</sup> September with familiar faces who aren't toddlers anymore and we now welcome 2 or 3 babes, a couple of toddlers and another young boy. As well as their mums of course! (Dads, Grans, Carers - are all welcome too!)

We are making sure we follow the guidelines with regard to social distancing, where we can, keeping a window open throughout the meeting, bearing in mind children are present! Because cups are washed up in hot water and they and the toys aren't used for a week, the danger of cross-contamination from solid surfaces is

details on <http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/coffee-club/>

If we can be of help to anyone, or pray for you, please feel free to contact us.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Christmas again – but what is it really about?

Christmas is the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. It is not a myth. It is not a children's story. It is a historical fact that has changed the history of the world. But who exactly was, or is, Jesus? If you read through the account of His birth in the Bible, or if you listen to the words of the Christmas carols, you will find three important truths about Him that are frequently repeated.

Firstly, Jesus is God who became a man. He took on human flesh. This is the Incarnation. He was 100% God, and also 100% human. This is why the religious people of His day put Him to death on the cross. They treated His claim to be God as blasphemy, deserving death.

Secondly Jesus is King. The wise men came looking for the one born to be King of the Jews. One of our carols starts "Hark the herald angels sing: Glory to the new-born King!" But, by and large, people reject that too. They do not want a King to rule over them. Because it means He must be followed and obeyed. And this conflicts with their lifestyle. They want to run their own lives and not be told what to do.

Thirdly Jesus is the Saviour. The angel told Joseph that Mary would have a baby whom they should call Jesus (meaning Saviour) "because He will save His people from their sins." He would do that by suffering and dying on the cross to bear the punishment of our sins in our place. Now, people don't like this either, because it means they need to own up to being sinners – selfish, proud and rebellious against God. It means they need to repent of their sins – be sorry for them and turn away from them.

But for those who have come to trust in Jesus, all these truths are wonderful: that God would come to earth to seek and save the lost; that He will rescue us from sin and change us into the people we should be; that He will become our King to protect us and care for us; and that one day He will take us to our eternal home with God in heaven. This is the message of Christmas.

Why not read the Bible to find out more? And come along to our church to hear more. We shall be thinking of these truths in our services over Christmas. You will be very welcome.

### Contact us –

David Mann – Tel. 300382

Email: [david.mann@cantab.net](mailto:david.mann@cantab.net)

Website: [www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk](http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk)

extremely low. We have an arrangement to let each other know if any of us show any signs of Covid. We continue to sing songs, have a Biblical story, do a related craft and have drink and biscuits (that's the adults too!) And the children 'help' to tidy up eg the play food all going in the oven as it had become the dishwasher.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to know more.

Sarah Wordingham – Tel: 462396; Facebook

Sally Beaman – Tel: 462379; Mob: 07749 170984



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## 1st Needingworth Guides



In August, girls from our unit joined St Ives Guides to take part in a fun-packed activity day at Copley, where they learned a range of camping and outdoor skills. We had a fantastic time – despite it being a day of typical English summer weather!

Some of the activities we took part in included constructing a pioneering bridge, setting up a camp, learning about trees on a trail of the site and cooking tasty puddings on a campfire. They also built a rope bridge, made their own individual campfires and enjoyed some campfire singing, 'Cecil is a Caterpillar' being a particular favourite! Dinner was due to be cooked on the campfire, but the weather had other ideas... At the end of this busy day, the girls were delighted to learn that they had all passed their Camp Skills builder badge. Congratulations to them all!



Since September, we have been meeting again as a unit in the village. The girls have enjoyed taking part in a host of exciting events and activities. If you'd like to find out more about our Guides unit check out our website at:

[ggneedingworth.co.uk](http://ggneedingworth.co.uk)

## Answers to Word Search on page 18

A	R	L	S	T	E	S	V	A	Z	P	Y
F	R	E	N	G	H	E	M	R	H	R	R
E	Q	M	Y	W	U	E	W	E	E	A	A
S	N	A	B	X	E	E	R	E	A	E	B
U	O	C	K	E	D	P	D	W	S	B	B
O	J	M	K	L	C	E	N	F	N	A	R
R	P	N	Y	I	H	L	G	I	N	A	A
G	O	R	E	R	B	Z	E	T	L	L	L
B	U	G	K	A	A	S	A	K	S	O	O
R	L	N	R	M	X	B	O	W	T	U	P
U	Q	P	U	B	T	A	G	A	E	T	T
P	A	R	T	R	I	B	G	E	X	N	W

Birds, all from "The 12 Days of Christmas" :-  
 PARTRIDGE - also a Christmas dinner alternative  
 TURKLE DOVE  
 FRENCH HEN  
 SWAN - also eaten for dinner in olden times

Birds, traditional Christmas dinners :-  
 TURKEY  
 DUCK  
 GOOSE  
 PHEASANT  
 GROUSE

Other Christmas birds :-  
 ROBIN, because of it's red breast  
 WREN, from Irish tradition

Mammals :-  
 REINDEER, PULLING Santa's sleigh  
 DONKEY, Mary rode on way to Bethlehem  
 SHEEP and OX, Nativity scene in the stable  
 GOAT, a traditional yule symbol in Scandinavia  
 POLAR BEAR, chosen for Christmas cards because of its association with cold places





## 1<sup>st</sup> Needingworth Rainbows

What an exciting term we've had! The first part was dedicated to earning our First Aid and Live Smart Skills Builder badges. To help us with this, we enjoyed a visit from Nurse

Rachael (one of our Rainbow mums). Nurse Rachael showed us how to administer first aid on toy babies and dolls. The girls were excellent at putting on gloves, applying plasters and bandages, and were very excited to be able to take some of the equipment home. The Rainbows were very caring – I think we have lots of future doctors and nurses! We also learnt how to treat different animal

bites and to wash our hands properly – something they were all very good at!



During the second part of the term we've been celebrating Girlguiding Anglia's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The theme was 'A Buzz About Anglia' and in addition to a range of bee themed activities, the Rainbows had a visit from a local beekeeper.

We had six new Rainbows start with us this term – we now have a large unit for a village! Excitingly, the unit has been accepted onto a Girlguiding pilot scheme meaning we can now enrol four year olds, as space allows. If you'd like to find out more about our Rainbows unit

check out our website at: [ggneedingworth.co.uk](http://ggneedingworth.co.uk), or contact Jules at: [Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com](mailto:Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com) or 07597 569582.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Needingworth Brownies

It's been a busy Autumn term for the Brownies! Our focus has been inspiring the girls to explore the wide range of interest badges available through the Girlguiding programme.

Highlights of this include enjoying a visit from Needingworth villager and sport therapist Judith Barrass. Judith led a brilliant Pilates session, contributing towards our Mindfulness interest badge. The Brownies also experienced the stunning sound of the Arco Iris Community Samba Band. This visit led the creation of our own Samba performance using drums we made ourselves, linking to the Performing interest badge.



Lots of girls have been working hard on earning interest badges independently at home. Baking seems to be a particularly popular badge to work towards! This led to five girls achieving their Bronze award within the first two weeks of term. Congratulations!



The second part of the term was dedicated to celebrating Girlguiding Anglia's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, the theme being 'A Buzz About Anglia'. We've embraced this – the Brownie unit has BEEN a hive of activity – with lots of bee themed activities, concluding with an unBEElievably BEErilliant party!

If you'd like to find out more about our Brownies unit check out our website at: [ggneedingworth.co.uk](http://ggneedingworth.co.uk), or contact Jules at: [Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com](mailto:Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com) or 07597 569582.

## Pre-School

If you would like your child to attend the very popular Pre-school, you must register them as soon as possible.

Children can start from 2 years 10 months.

For a registration form, or any other information, either see one of the staff in the pre-school room, or contact

**Rachael Beeton**

01480 464201 or 07584 047390

## Coffee Club

Coffee Club is a group run by Needingworth Baptist Church for Mums, Dads, Childminders and children under 5.

We meet on Wednesday mornings during term time from 10.00 to 11.30am at the Baptist Church on High Street - more details on page 23.

All are welcome for, songs, stories, activities and refreshments, as well as playing.

Cost £1/adult – children go free!

**Sarah Wordingham - 462396**



## Little Tigers

This is a friendly under-5s play group that normally meets on most Monday mornings in term-time, in the village hall. Come along for a cuppa and chat and let your 'little tiger' play with the toys and other children.

Entrance (including refreshments): £2 per family.

For more details contact:

**Abi 07824 810532**

Join us on our 'Little Tigers' Facebook page.





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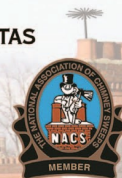
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# FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Dear Resident

We left off in my last update detailing the disappointing election result in May where the Conservatives lost control of Cambridgeshire County Council and my fear that the Rainbow Coalition (Liberal, Labour and so called Independents) were about to embark upon a radical and an ill conceived program of changes not least combining the 2 largest and most important committees, HEALTH, which includes Public Health (covid measures, prevention) along with monitoring and scrutinising our health care providers including hospitals, GP's etc with Adult Social Care, which between them accounts for 70% of our annual budget and are both essential for the wellbeing of our communities across Cambridgeshire. On top of combining the committees they in their stupendous wisdom decided to reduce the number of times they will meet (you could not make it up). They also did all they could to put a stop to the move from Shire Hall to Alconbury where a new low cost building was nearing completion and the monies raised both short and long term being 'ear marked' for keeping council tax as low as possible and continue, and where possible improve, those public services we rely upon. Well the move to Alconbury has now just happened, although if I am honest I am not entirely sure what shenanigans are still taking place behind the scenes, time will tell no doubt!

The other significant disruption we face is the loss of our Director for Public Health not an insignificant problem during a Covid epidemic, although I am pleased to say we have recently made an appointment. However, we are also losing our long serving and extremely effective Chief Executive and are now in the process of searching for a suitable replacement. This with a background of the Rainbow coalition signalling that greater delegation from elected members to officers, which will give them the powers to decision make on our behalf! I am sure I do not need to expand further on the potential erosion within local democracy but also accountability to you the local tax payer, as I see this new administration being Cambridge City and South Cambs centric. I really hope I am proved wrong on this prophecy.

I am sad that my opening words sound pessimistic but as ever I endeavour to be as honest and upfront as possible, in order that everyone understands the issues that are not often spoken about. The good news of course is that you still have a splendid Parish and District Council, please appreciate their efforts on your behalf.

I am still trying to resolve many of the issues that when combined cause a great amount of distress to households by surface water flooding. We have made progress with both the Environmental Agency and Anglia Water in ensuring that they uphold their obligation with regard to keeping waterways of all sizes clear and free flowing, still a way to go on this but progress is being made. Of course the County Council is not totally blameless in some of the issues and again good progress is being made but if I am totally honest I am not sure the commitment is so strong with the current administration, as the 'hot spot' areas and not within Cambridge City or South Cambs! Another interesting point with regard to surface water flooding, which I observed during my pre election canvassing was the number of households who no longer have traditional front gardens. If I can use the Fairfield estate in St Ives, which I am sure you all know and has no previous history of flooding, I estimate

that about 80% of all houses have had their front areas either paved, concreted or tarmacked over, consequently when it rains, regardless of the intensity, it does not have the opportunity to soak / percolate through the grass and soil and runs into the street where the poorly maintained drains just cannot cope as they were not designed for such a volume of water, consequently small puddles turn into large pools of water which often grow to a size that then enter households! Now I mention drains not being maintained, whose responsibility is that? Cambridgeshire County Council of course. We can all remember years ago with the 'sludge gulper' trundling down our streets once or twice a year clearing drain of debris even though they were never full. In a cost saving exercise, it was decided that drains would only be cleaned when they were blocked (common sense tells you that is too late) and someone has to report it, consequently people thought someone else was reporting it and drains that were blocked were quite often never cleaned at all. I should add that the highways budget is often the 'go to place' for council cost savings or topping up our social care or health budget as these are statutory services, while much of highways (but not all) is discretionary spend. At last, after years of lobbying we are now financing and addressing the problem. Remember flood water is not just a problem for those who have issues year on year, water when displaced travels along a path of least resistance and can and does often appear in places previously free from flooding, sometimes underground (sand and gravel seams etc) so unless you live at the top of a hill, be aware as the problem is not going to go away. Please do report any blocked highway drains.

Finally, I made passing reference to the council's annual budget, which is normally prepared for consultation about now for a final decision in February. At this stage I have no idea what the new administration will see as priority spend or if commitments made previously, flooding being just one of many, will be honoured. Watch this space

As always if anyone would like me to publish a more in-depth report about any item within the County Councils remit, I am more than happy to do so. As you may know the County Council is responsible for many areas from Adult Social Care to Highways, so if there is something you would like explaining in greater detail and you feel it would interest other readers, please get in touch and I will do my best to publish a concise but interesting overview of the subject requested. Again, please remember your representatives at all levels County, District and of course your excellent Parish Council work very hard behind the scenes to ensure Needingworth-cum-Holywell remains 'a special place'.

**Kevin Reynolds**

County Councillor Needingworth & St.Ives  
[kevin.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



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*Hello from Dogs Trust!*

*Your local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton would like to briefly make you aware of a few services that we provide free of charge:*

*The first, our Canine Care Card scheme, is a free service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, we will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until we can find a responsible, loving new home for them. This is often a great concern to the elderly, as their dog may be their only friend and companion – Dogs Trust can give them peace of mind, knowing that their canine companions future is safe, should the worst happen to them. Every year, we care for more than 14,000 dogs at our nationwide network of rehoming centres and we never put down a healthy dog*

*Secondly I wanted to make you aware that we provide free talks to local community groups. I cover the whole of the East Anglia region, to talk about the varied work of Dogs Trust, where we come from and where we hope to be in the future. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses so please let me know if you believe that your local club would be interested.*

*If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please contact me by emailing [emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk) or phone 01953 497912.*

## Needingworth Tennis Club

### SUMMER SEASON 2021



The Annual Tennis tournament brought the Summer Season to a close thank you to all those who helped to organise the tournament and the Finals Day. The winners of the tournament were Chris Moore and Sue Pandey.

Finals day for the men had a familiar look with Michael King winning the Men's Singles as well as the doubles with his Dad Colin for another year. Sue Pandey was the victor in a hard-fought Ladies final and Seb Miller and Kaz Tyres won the Brian Northwood Mixed Doubles. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all that entered. A well done to Will Dack who has once again won the Pauline Bailey Trophy for our best Junior, who has also started to be integrated into the Men's team.

It was great to see the return of League Tennis this year, the Hunts and Peterborough saw us enter three Men's and one Ladies team with the A and B teams narrowly finishing just outside of the promotion slots and the C team and the Ladies mid table.

The Fast 4 singles league has gone from strength to strength, having run seven divisions for 36 players. Fantastic to see so many competing at all levels and ages.

Club sessions have restarted in full. Wednesday morning 9 until 11 being the most social aimed at those who don't normally play for our teams. Wednesday evening (6:30 until 8:30) and Sunday (10:30 until 12:00) where players of all standards come to mix in.

Our Coaching team have started with a wide range of courses from juniors to the Rusty Rackets for those wanting to dust off their skills. Details of all coaching can be found on our website.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Annual Membership is still the cheapest in Cambridgeshire. Juniors pay £30, Single membership is £65, Couples £85 and family membership £120. We are always happy to welcome new members of all abilities.

If you are interested in trying, then we can offer half price membership available until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### CONTACTS

Chairman - Tim Perry  
(07484270975 – [timperry100@hotmail.com](mailto:timperry100@hotmail.com))

Membership - Chris Moore ([chrismoore1983@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrismoore1983@hotmail.co.uk))

Secretary – Jim Hunter ([j.hunter2011@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hunter2011@btinternet.com))

**Head to our website to find out more information about current club members, upcoming events and tournaments and how you can get involved:**

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NeedingworthTennisClub>

## Bus Times

### Dews Service No. 21 (Ramsey—Somersham—St Ives) Monday to Friday

Ramsey, opp. New Road	09:15	15:55
Somersham, nr. Loftsteads	09:38 12:38	16:18
Earith (opp. School Rd.)	09:51 12:51	16:31
NEEDINGWORTH, nr. Church St.	10:05 13:05	16:45
St Ives Morrisons (grounds)	10:09 13:09	16:49
St Ives Bus Station	10:15 13:15	16:55

### Service No. 21 (St Ives—Somersham—Ramsey) Monday to Friday

St Ives Bus Station (Bay 2)	12:00 14:00	17:00
St Ives Morrisons (grounds)	12:05 14:05	17:05
NEEDINGWORTH, opp. Church St.	12:13 14:13	17:13
Earith (nr. School Rd.)	12:25 14:25	17:25
Somersham, nr. Loftsteads	12:38 14:38	17:38
Ramsey, opp. New Road	15:02	18:02

### Stagecoach Service V3 (Somersham—St Ives) Monday to Friday

Somersham Post Office	05:53	06:53
Somersham The Trundle	05:56	06:56
Colne High Street	06:03	07:03
Earith Adelaide Walk	06:08	07:08
Bluntisham White Swan	06:15	07:15
Needingworth Queens Head	06:20	07:20
St Ives Station Road	06:28	07:28

### Stagecoach Service V3 (St Ives—Somersham) Monday to Friday

St Ives Bus Station Bay 4	16:00	19:00
Needingworth Queens Head	16:08	19:08
Bluntisham White Swan	16:13	19:13
Earith Adelaide Walk	16:20	19:20
Colne High Street	16:24	19:24
Somersham The Trundle	16:31	19:31
Somersham The Cross	16:34	19:34

### Stagecoach Service V3 (Somersham—St Ives) Saturday

Somersham Post Office	06:39
Somersham The Trundle	06:42
Colne High Street	06:49
Earith Adelaide Walk	06:54
Bluntisham White Swan	07:01
Needingworth Queens Head	07:06
St Ives Station Road	07:14

### Stagecoach Service V3 (St Ives—Somersham) Saturday

St Ives Bus Station Bay 4	20:02
Needingworth Queens Head	20:10
Bluntisham White Swan	20:15
Earith Adelaide Walk	20:22
Colne High Street	20:26
Somersham The Trundle	20:33
Somersham The Cross	20:36



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Local Group**

## Overlooked Winter Wildlife

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to a fascinating talk on the more unusual aspects of wildlife that we may sometimes overlook. This illustrated talk will be hosted via Zoom on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm and given by Brian Eversham, who is the Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Brian has held this position since 2009 and prior to this was Conservation Director of the Trust during which time he was involved with the launch of the Living Landscapes projects at The Great Fen and Nene Valley.

Brian's interests and knowledge are extensive, including birds, botany, lichens, insects and molluscs. Tonight, Brian will introduce us to the small but fascinating world of insects, fungi and lichens that are best in winter. Brian will explore the complex interactions between species and show us how a typical nature reserve might support between 3,000 and 5,000 species.

Anyone who is interested is very welcome to attend. Please book by emailing Pat ([jp.doody@ntlworld.com](mailto:jp.doody@ntlworld.com)). He will then send you a link to join before the meeting is due to start.

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Registered Charity No: 1000412

## Wellworth Players

The Wellworth Players are proud  
to present their panto:  
**Robin Hood**  
and the Sheriff of Snottingham

February 17th-19th 2022

Tickets details coming soon!





## The Wellworth Players presents:

A Christmas Carol – a play adapted from the book by Charles Dickens

Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Hall at 15.00 and 19.30

Duration approximately 1 hour, with no interval.

Refreshments available. Suitable for all ages we are delighted to present this most festive of all Christmas stories.

Mark Hebert (Director) adds - what we have tried to do with this adaption is to be as true as we possibly can to the spirit of the original story. Or the many spirits! We are delighted to have the benefit of live music and audience participation.

All profits to homeless charities

Tickets are just £5 (no concessions) and are available by emailing:

**markhebert0@gmail.com**

Or

**07748848686**

Or

**01480 300532**

If leaving a message, please indicate matinee or evening performance

Covid guidance to be followed

## WHAT'S ON in the Village

### December 2021

Sat. 4th	Christmas Fair, Village Hall (see page 21)
Mon. 6th	WI Christmas Party (p 11)
Tue. 7th	Over 60s Christmas Tea 2 pm (page 13)
Fri. 10th	Art Club (see page 13)
Fri. 10th	Beer & Wine Society Annual Show/wine judging (p 13)
Fri. 10th	Christmas Tree Lights switch-on
Sat. 11th	Wellworth Players, 'A Christmas Carol' (see adjacent advert)
Mon. 13th	Local History Group Christmas social (p 13)
Tue. 14th	Gardening Club (p 19)
Sun. 19th	Carol Service, Baptist Church, 4 pm (p 23)
Sun. 19th	Carols by Candlelight, 6 pm St John the Baptist Church (p21)
Fri. 24th	Crib Service, Village Hall 3 pm Midnight communion 11.30 pm in the church (p 21)

### January 2022

Tue. 11th	Gardening Club (p 19)
Fri. 14th	Art Club (p 13)
Fri. 14th	Beer & Wine Society wine from tinned fruit/juice competition (p13)
Fri. 28th	Art Club (p 13)

### February 2022

Sat. 5th	Band Night, Village Hall (p 9)
Mon. 7th	WI (see page 11)
Tue. 8th	Gardening Club (p 19)
Fri. 11th	Art Club (p 13)
17th to 19th	Wellworth players Panto "Robin Hood and the Sheriff of Nottingham"
Fri. 25th	Art Club (p 13)

### Advance notice

March 5th	Village Hall Annual Quiz
April 23rd	Band Night, Village Hall

If your organisation would like any future planned events listed here in the next issue of the Villager, to help avoid clashes, please send me details by the next copy date (1st February).

## Parish Christmas Tree 2021

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from 6pm.  
Lights switch on approx. 6.30pm



Please join us at the Pond site, between Hawkes Lane and Church Street to enjoy this annual event. Subject to current Government Guidelines.

Opportunity to visit Santa in his grotto at the Lock Up on your way to the tree!

Carol singing round the Christmas Tree from 6pm and the Light Switch On at approx. 6.30pm with refreshments available.

## BUS TIMETABLES

Details of the Dews Coaches service no 21 and Stagecoach service V3 are given on page 30 but we recommend checking either, for Dews services, the web site [www.dews-coaches.com](http://www.dews-coaches.com)

or for Stagecoach telephone **01223 433 250**

or go to web page

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east/cambridgeshire>

or <http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk>

### POST OFFICE (within One-Stop Shop)

Please note current Post Office opening hours are: **9 am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday**

**and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays)**

### POST COLLECTION TIMES

from the post Office:

Monday to Friday, 4.15 pm;

Saturday 9.45 am

(Sundays & Bank Holidays no collections)

### MOBILE LIBRARY

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month

**Holywell** - Ferry Boat car park  
3.55pm to 4.10pm

**Needingworth** - Playing field (Overcote Lane)  
4.20pm to 4.50pm

**For renewals or enquiries ring 0345 045 5225**

## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

To print a calendar of collection dates go to the following web site, enter your post code and click on your address.

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins>

Most addresses in Holywell-cum-Needingworth have collections on the following days:

### GREY BINS (normal waste)

Dec Thurs. 2nd and 16th **and Fri. 31st**

Jan **Fri. 14th** and Thurs. 27th

Feb Thurs. 10th and 24th

### GREEN BINS (garden waste)

Dec Wed. 8th **and Tues. 21st**

Jan **Fri. 7th** and Wed. 19th

Feb Wed. 2nd and 16th

### BLUE BINS (recycling)

Dec Thurs. 9th **and Wed. 22nd**

Jan **Sat. 8th** and Thurs. 20th

Feb Thurs. 3rd and 17th



## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### 24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Hospital - Huntingdon (Hinchingsbrooke) 01480 416416

Hospital - Cambridge (Addenbrookes) 01223 245151

Gas Leaks (Any Supplier) Transco 0800 111 999

Electricity Power Cuts & Emergencies 0800 316 3105 or 0333 323 2105

Drinking Water - Supplies Failure/routine enquiries (Cambridge Water Co) 01223 706050

Sewerage, Services Failure (Anglian Water) 0800 145 145

Rivers - Pollution and Flooding (Environment Agency) 0800 807 060 or Floodline 0345 988 1188

### PUBLIC & IMPORTANT SERVICES - ROUTINE ENQUIRIES

Cambridgeshire Country Council 0345 045 5200

Electricity (UK Power Networks) 0800 029 4285

Sewerage Services (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145

Telephone Services (British Telecom) 0800 150 111

Police (non-emergency no.) 101

Trading Standards (business queries) 0345 045 5206

Age UK 0300 666 9860

To stop unwanted mail 0845 703 4599

To stop unwanted phone calls 0845 070 0707

# WHO'S WHO

**Baptist Church** David Mann **300382**

[david.mann@cantab.net](mailto:david.mann@cantab.net)

**Beavers** Chris Huddleston

[agslfirstneedingworth@hotmail.com](mailto:agslfirstneedingworth@hotmail.com)

**Beer & Wine** Petronella Britton **466239**

**Book Club** Sue Forrest **464082**

[sueforrest65@hotmail.com](mailto:sueforrest65@hotmail.com)

**Bowls** Alan Blackley **464804**

[leetheeflee@sky.com](mailto:leetheeflee@sky.com)

**Brownies** Julie Swindells **07597 569582**

[needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com](mailto:needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com)

<https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/brownies/>

### Chatters Community Cafe

Rebecca Allen **538511**

[Rebecca.allen@thetraveldirectors.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca.allen@thetraveldirectors.co.uk)

### Church

Rector: Revd Sheila Anthony **01487 740456**

[sheila@saintintraining.co.uk](mailto:sheila@saintintraining.co.uk)

Jill Harvey **460429**

[jillsbharvey@icloud.com](mailto:jillsbharvey@icloud.com)

Stephen York **465120**

[stephenyork@flagholme.net](mailto:stephenyork@flagholme.net)

**Cricket** Dave Roberts **07800 834780**

[davez76@hotmail.com](mailto:davez76@hotmail.com)

**Cub Scouts** Chris Huddleston

[agslfirstneedingworth@hotmail.com](mailto:agslfirstneedingworth@hotmail.com)

**Dance Club** Rose Killock **466487**

**Football** Email via web site:

<https://needingworthcoltsfc.com/contact/>

**Gardening Club** Grant Williamson **493360**

[parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk)

[www.hcngardening.weebly.com](http://www.hcngardening.weebly.com)

### Good Neighbours Coordinator

Kate Carpenter **07794 680475**

**Guides** Helen Whitehead **460838**

[needingworthguides@yahoo.com](mailto:needingworthguides@yahoo.com)

<https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/guides/>

### Holywell School Association

Sally Batsford **493700**

**Little Tigers** Abi **07824 810532**

### Local History Group

Sally Beaman **462379**

[rsde.beaman@btinternet.com](mailto:rsde.beaman@btinternet.com)

History Website: [www.hcnhistory.org.uk](http://www.hcnhistory.org.uk)

### Neighbourhood Watch

Mike Norris **465997**

[michaelnorris852@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelnorris852@btinternet.com)

**Over 60's** Rose Killock **466487**

**Pre-School** Rachael Beeton **01480 464201**

Website: [needingworthcommunitypreschool.org.uk](http://needingworthcommunitypreschool.org.uk)

**Rainbows** Julie Swindells, **07597 569582**

[needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com)

<https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/rainbows/>

**Scouts** Andrew Huddleston

[skip1stneedingworth@gmail.com](mailto:skip1stneedingworth@gmail.com)

**Scribblers** Joan Tucker **463966**

**Tennis Club** Chris Moore **07718 987152**

[www.needingworthtennis.co.uk](http://www.needingworthtennis.co.uk)

**Hall Trustees** Margaret Fountain **496636**

**Hall Bookings** Eleanor Hardy **07730 504220**

email: [hardy.derek@sky.com](mailto:hardy.derek@sky.com)

**Wellworth Players** Karen Bays **01480 463505**

Website: [www.wellworthplayers.co.uk](http://www.wellworthplayers.co.uk)

[mailto:admin@wellworthplayers.co.uk](mailto:mailto:admin@wellworthplayers.co.uk)

**Women's Institute** Jackie Norris **01480 465997**

[jackienorris@btinternet.com](mailto:jackienorris@btinternet.com)

**Youth Cricket** Stephen Mitcham **301679**

### Chairman Parish Council

Cllr Andrew Whyte **464223**

**Parish Clerk** Jane Bowd **468451**

[needingworthpc@btconnect.com](mailto:needingworthpc@btconnect.com)

[www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk](http://www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk)

**District** Jon Neish **466110**

**Councillors** Lewis Besley **300658**

**Post Office** **465121**

### Village Hall tel:

Outgoing calls emergency line only

Incoming calls **01480 498351**