



Sedgeford Village News

January/February 2021

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Parish Council

Highways

Speeding

Parish councillors have been discussing with Norfolk County Council's Highways Department and with the police possible ways to reduce speeding through the village, especially on the B1454. At the meeting on 20th January, the Parish Council agreed to install a village gateway on Heacham Road, where the current 30mph sign is. The Council also agreed to purchase a second flashing SAM sign. The police continue to carry out regular speed checks.

Flooding

Councillors are monitoring the state of the roads, pathways and drains especially in view of recent heavy rainfall. NCC's Highways Department rangers visit regularly and clear pavements and drains. The Council is liaising with Highways and other authorities about possible longer-term solutions, especially in Fring Road.

Recreation Ground

Although the Village Hall is currently closed, the recreation ground and children's play area remain open.

COVID-19 services and support

There is information about support and services for individuals and businesses on the Borough Council's website: <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Parish Council Clerk

Roger Quick has now started work and is currently enrolled on a training course, with additional training from John Ward during the handover period. His contact details are on the parish council website:

<https://sedgefordparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>.

Co-option of councillor

The Parish Council has received an application from someone interested in becoming a councillor. Their name will be put forward for co-option at the next meeting, once the necessary papers have been completed.

Meetings

The next 2 meetings are scheduled for February 17th and March 17th, with both meetings on Zoom.

Agendas and minutes for these meetings will be posted on the Parish Council notice-board and on the Parish Council website:

<https://sedgefordparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>. For further information or if you would like to attend one of these meetings, please email:

sedgeford.parish@outlook.com.

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Sue Crump

Chair

The Arts Society

FREE and easy to view ONLINE LECTURE

Monday 8th February 2021 at 2pm.

The Housekeepers' Tales: Women who really ran the English Country House.

Join us 'online' to find out what life was really like "Downstairs".

Working as a housekeeper was one of the most prestigious jobs a 19th and early 20th century woman could want – and also one of the toughest. A far cry from the fiction of Downton Abbey, the real life housekeeper was up against capricious mistresses, low pay, no job security and gruelling physical labour.

Until now, her story has never been told. Delving into secret diaries, unpublished letters and the neglected service archives of our stately homes, Tessa Boase tells the extraordinary stories behind some of Britain's most prominent households.

To arrange your view please contact Gerald Pepper 07831 586940 to request your free on line access code.

Women's Friendship Group

Pat Tee would have celebrated her 88th birthday this month but sadly she died unexpectedly on the 12th December in the QE Hospital and her funeral took place at the Mintlyn Crematorium on the 8th January. Pat leaves behind two lovely daughters, Amanda and Vanessa and their families and two grandchildren. Pat loved living in Sedgeford and decided to stay on after her husband John passed away. She had many friends within the village and outside of the village and also friends she had known when her and John lived for many, many years in Harrow. Pat was a very independent, kind and sociable lady, with a great sense of humour and loved to be out and about and had a very young outlook on life. For many years she was the secretary to The Women's Friendship Group and engaged many interesting speakers to talk at our meetings. She had many interests and hobbies and belonged to The King's Lynn Ramblers where over the years she led many walks. Indeed, right up to the end of her life she took a daily walk around the village – I certainly could not keep up with her pace. She belonged to the U3A, National Trust and The Arts Society and enjoyed history and any outings that encompassed the subject. She also loved a swim in the sea at Holkam with John when the weather was hot. Yoga was another of her passions and every Thursday she would take the community bus to Fakenham to do some shopping and have a natter with others on the way. She was also always there helping with village activities, making cakes and manning stalls for the village fete, Gardens Open and the Flower Festival for the church. Gardening was also one of her pleasures and she also had a flare for flower arrangements. Dear Pat, all your friends in Sedgeford will miss you very much and remember you with affection for a very long time.

Amanda and Vanessa send their sincere thanks to everyone who sent cards with kind wishes of sympathy which were most comforting.

No meetings on the horizon yet, I think we are in for another difficult year. We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when.....?

Maggie Burlton

Poppy Appeal 2020

As I am sure you are well aware 2020 was an extremely difficult year for everyone especially charities. As Poppy Appeal organisers for Sedgeford and District Branch it was challenging to keep up with the "ifs" and "maybes" of instructions from the Government and RBL headquarters as to how the appeal would be run. In the end no house-to-house collections were allowed, the November Lockdown came at the beginning of the appeal fortnight and Pubs and Restaurants either closed or had waitress service only which meant that no one went near the Poppy Boxes on the counters. Churches had no services and therefore no collections. However, it was not all bad news. Many of our local churches still had some kind of service of remembrance and made a donation for a wreath and the shops, pubs and businesses that were able to have poppies, did very well.

The total in local collections and donations to Sedgeford and District RBL Poppy Appeal was £2,208.69. In Sedgeford the amount raised was £144. To all who contributed in any way we would like to thank you on behalf of the Service Personnel past and present and their families, who need the help given by The Royal British Legion.

Stephen & Megan Greef

Sedgeford Church

Our church is open daily from 9.30 am – 3.30 pm for private prayer and foodbank donations. Many thanks to everyone who has donated food throughout January – it is much appreciated. Food, toiletries etc can be left in the church or in the porch.

Thanks to everyone who has donated puzzles and books, they have been very popular during lockdown. Please keep them coming. Books should be paperbacks only.

Norfolk Coast AONB and Broads Dark Skies Festival 2021

We are very lucky to enjoy splendid night skies and dark landscapes where we live on the Norfolk Coast. These contribute to the rural character and that feeling of remoteness and tranquillity – some of the reasons why people like to come here. The lack of light pollution and resulting dark skies contribute to our health and well-being by allowing us to philosophise about our place in the universe, enjoy astronomy activities and gain a sense of nostalgia, peace and romance. In addition, scientific studies show that we need the dark to help us sleep properly which in turn boosts our immune system and lowers stress levels. Darkness not only brings us numerous benefits, but is necessary for wildlife to navigate during migration, hunt prey or avoid predators, pollinate night flowering plants, or simply to sleep as part of the 24 hour day/night cycle which humans also need.

The Norfolk Coast Partnership are therefore working with various organisations and businesses, including the Norfolk Broads National Park, to celebrate our night skies, and preserve them by reducing the impact of light pollution on our rural landscapes. We will be holding our 3rd Dark Skies Festival this year between **Saturday 25th September – Sunday 10th October 2021** and we hope you will enjoy taking part. Events will consist of a mix of online and face-to-face activities throughout the festival fortnight. Put the dates in your diary and find out more on our Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Facebook page @norfolkcoastaonb or follow us via Twitter @NorfolkAONB

Is your community interested in preserving the night skies where you live? We are interested to work with town and parish councils and local businesses in and close to the Norfolk Coast AONB. For further information contact Kate in the Norfolk Coast Partnership staff team on kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk

What to do in the garden in February

Keep up with weeding around plants, making sure any weeds that germinate in winter don't get a foothold.

Heel in bare-root trees, shrubs and hedging or keep in shed until they can be planted out.

Clean and maintain your mower or book a service

In the greenhouse

Wash and disinfect all used seed trays and pots to protect against pests and diseases.

Early seedlings and young plants need as much light as possible so, wash the greenhouse inside and out.

Do remember to leave out bird food, fat balls and apples for the birds, also water.

Closing date for next month's newsletter is:

18th February 2021