

Great Holland



Feb 2021 and Mar 2021



70p where sold

FROM THE EDITOR

As I write this editorial, we are again in Lockdown but with the successful roll out of the vaccine let us hope that we can look forward to a brighter summer. It would be so good to see village activities return and life return to as near normal as possible.

For the moment we will continue to use the local firm to deliver the magazines. We are most grateful to our team of volunteer distributors, but it seems the safest way to proceed for the time being. I am aware there are still problems with some deliveries, in particular Westbury Road had very late deliveries of the magazine and there seem to be some properties in Little Clacton Road who are missing out. I am trying to resolve these issues and please let me know if you hear of anyone you know who is still not receiving the magazine.

It is good to hear news of the campaign to save the village pub in this issue and pleasing to hear that there are many people prepared to invest, including some from outside the village.

Please stay safe and if you have time on your hands you can always write an article for the magazine!

Thank you,

Vanessa

Welcome To the February/March edition of the



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Village Voice. We always welcome new contributors. Is there anything **YOU** would like us to include in the next edition? For example:

Are there any events happening in April 2021 or May 2021 that you wish to publicise?

Do you have any local news items to be included?

Do you want to tell other villagers about a local group/club?

Can you write an article for the magazine?



Do you want to advertise any items for sale/your business/service?

Please contact Vanessa on 670165 with details (email: vanessaagiles@icloud.com). Please note that Hazel (671767) deals with the advertising side of the magazine. All contributions to the Village Voice should be received by **March 10th**.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in 'Great Holland Village Voice' is published in good faith. Neither the Rector, Church Warden, Parochial Church Council nor the Editors accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement contained in the magazine. Nor is any culpability accepted for work done by advertisers.

VILLAGE CONTACTS & LOCAL INFORMATION

Member of Parliament	Giles Watling MP Email: giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk	 473 748
Residents' Association	Paul Fletcher-Tomenius and Myrna Lyles	675268
All Saints' Church	Rev. Mark Holdaway	675997
Methodist Church	Rev. Chris Preece Email: chris.preece@methodist.org.uk	851179
Village Hall Committee	Ms Sue Jenkins (Chair) Mrs Coralie Harris (Bookings)	850317 830136
The Manor	Rectory Road, Great Holland CO13 0JP	440310
Frinton & Walton Town Council (incorporating Frinton, Walton, Kirby & Great Holland)	Jerry Wedge (Town Clerk) Cllr. Mr Christopher Keston	676666 850067
Tendring District Council	Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton CO15 1SE Cllr. Mr Dan. Land	686868 Emergency/out of hours: 2220220 07590034305
Essex County Council	Cllr. Mr Mark Platt Email: cllr.mark.platt@essex.gov.uk	672551
Dog Warden	(Tendring District Council)	686787
Cats Protection	Tendring District Branch	744014
RSPCA	National contact number: Charity Shop, Frinton	0300 1234 999 674926
National Rail Enquiries	National Line	03457 484950
Essex Police	Non-Emergency	101
Crime Reduction Officer	David Gillies	101
Crimestoppers	National Line	0800 555111
Citizens Advice	(Clacton)	0844 4770808
Tendring Dial-a-Ride	Hurlingham Chambers, 61-65 Station Road, Clacton on Sea, CO15 1SD	436962
Colchester General Hospital	Turner Road, Colchester CO4 5JL	01206 747474
Civic Amenity Tip	Maltings Lane, Kirby-le-Soken. Winter opening times (16 th October – end Of February): 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Summer opening times (1 st March – 15 th October): 9.00 am – 5.00 pm <u>Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays</u>	

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

I'm aware that as I write this a number of you will be in difficult situations – there is much illness, much worry and much loneliness in our midst.

But along with that, I note that we're also in a strange situation, aren't we?

On the one hand, we're being told that it's all in our hands. Time and time again, we're told that the virus numbers depend upon us. The responsibility for reducing cases falls on us.

But we're also being told that it's being taken out of our hands. It's not in our hands, but instead is in the hands of our scientists and policy makers. We're to trust them! So much has been away from us and so quickly – I had a look at my diary from January 2020 and it looks very different!

Now of course, we want to do our bit, and at church we're praying for our scientists and our government, but the Bible says that someone else's hands are far more important!

The Bible says that the most important fact is that everything rests in God's hands.

We acknowledge that difficult situations raise very many questions – whether we're right in the middle of it all or just looking on from outside – but the Bible insists that God is in control.

We can't say that God doesn't care, we can't say he's forgotten about us and we can't say he's dropped the ball.

Mark Holdaway

METHODIST CHURCH

Dear friends,

As I write this, we have just entered the New Year and January is only a couple of days old. At the same time, I realise that I'm writing this for a February and March issue. It is currently unknown whether the Tier 4 situation we are in will still be in place as you read this or whether it will be part of our recent past.

It has been my pleasure over the past few days to look out of the window at the birds in the garden. Just outside one window is a Cotoneaster with berries on it. At one stage, there have been berries all over it but they have gradually been eaten by the birds. This happens each year in a very systematic way. The berries at the top are eaten first, and the pigeons do particularly like that moment! Yet now the berries at the top have gone and the branches are hanging down it is much more problematic for the birds to get at them. A highly industrious blackbird has been sitting on the patio, flying up, grabbing a berry and then back to the patio to eat it. This has become a bit of an exercise routine for him! He has shown great persistence but also great joy in the moment. It's also given me joy in watching him work and then eat his rewards.

In this time of uncertainty and the unknown it's not easy to know where things will be, what we can do or what the restrictions will be from one day to the next. Yet, in the midst of it all, we are reminded by the blackbird that joy can be found. We can delight in God's creation, that the bright berries are there acting as food for the birds. We can be thankful for the time to notice all that there is in the moment instead of rushing on to the next thing. We can rejoice in the certainty we have of the rhythms of the seasons in this time of uncertainty.

We are thankful for the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas who brought hope to the world. Whilst we celebrate on Christmas Day, Jesus' birth is to be celebrated every day. Jesus' birth was as the Saviour of the world. His birth brought hope for all people. In these uncertain times we need to hear this message of hope of eternal life. There is no doubt here at all. Hope in Christ is a total certainty!

We may be feeling uncertain of the world, of what tomorrow may bring in terms of what we can do but we can rejoice in the certainty and hope we have in Christ. As we see the wonders of creation shown to us in the life of a blackbird let's reflect on the joy and hope that we have in Christ for all the days to come.

God bless, Chris

FEBRUARY IN HISTORY

10th February

Today in 1355, the landlord of the Swindlestock Tavern, John Croidon, responded to student criticism of the quality of his beer with what was called “stubborn and saucie” language. The two inebriated drinkers were enraged. They hurled their drinks in Croidon’s face, and then assaulted him. There was already pronounced tension between “town and gown” in Oxford and clearly this was the fuse that ignited a highly explosive situation.

Bells at both the city and the university churches were rung to summon people to the fray. Locals came from surrounding countryside as well as from the town. Some two hundred students became involved and participants urged each other to “give gode knocks!” - this they certainly did. In the riots that ensued almost one hundred people were killed, more that half of them being students at the university.

It was subsequently decided that it was the town rather than the students that was at fault and annually on 10 February for the next 470 years the city’s mayor and councillors were obliged to walk, bare-headed, through the city in penance, attend mass and pay the university a fine of one penny for every student killed. The relationship between “town” and “gown” was not enhanced by this humiliating charade, and even remained sensitive after the ceremony was ended in 1825. An attempt at conciliation came today in 1955 when the mayor was finally awarded an honorary degree.

16th February

When Howard Carter, an archaeologist, first arrived in Egypt in 1891 most of the ancient Egyptian tombs had been discovered but the little-known King Tutankhamen’s tomb was unaccounted for. In 1922 His British backer, Lord Carnarvon, wanted to call off the search but Carter persuaded him to let him search for one more season. In November 1922 he found ancient stone steps descending to what he hoped would be the tomb. With a chisel given to him by his grandmother he made a hole big enough to peer into the musty gloom with a candle. Famously, he was asked impatiently whether he could see anything. “Yes,” he replied, “wonderful things!” Heralded as the best-preserved pharaonic tomb yet found, it caused a frenzy in the world’s media.

Beyond the antechamber lay another sealed doorway, between guarding statues. Not until 16 February the following year was this second door opened and the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun seen – his mummy nestling within three separate coffins, the innermost one of pure gold. Glorious paintings covered the walls while priceless treasures lay within the vault. It had not been disturbed for three thousand years.

Mysterious deaths of a few members of Carter’s team gave rise to the idea of a curse. Lord Carnarvon, the financial backer of the project died six weeks after the tomb was opened. Most people who worked in or visited the tomb lived long lives, but this did not undermine belief in the curse by those who wanted to believe it.

MARCH IN HISTORY

5TH March

On this day in 1936 Captain Joseph Summers, a test pilot, flew a Type 300 aircraft from Eastleigh Aerodrome, now Southampton Airport. The eight-minute flight was the first of the Spitfire with its Rolls-Royce Merlin engine.

The chairman of the Vickers-Armstrong aircraft company named the plane after his young daughter, Anna, who he said was a “right little spitfire”. The genius responsible for the plane, Reginald Mitchell, grumbled, “It’s the sort of bloody silly name they would give it.”

The Rolls-Royce Merlin engine provided raw power, while the airframe design, including its famous elliptical wing, transmitted this power into speed and agility.

The Spitfire arrived just in time to take on Hitler’s Luftwaffe over Northern France, at Dunkirk, and later Britain itself as Germany sought to knock the country out of the war in 1940. It was a superbly balanced, high-performance aircraft that even inexperienced pilots could fly. During the Battle of Britain it gave the RAF a decisive advantage.

Germans came to fear the unmistakable silhouette. When their commander, Hermann Goering, was midway through a morale-boosting speech and asked rhetorically if there was anything his pilots needed, they shouted back, “Ja, Spitfires!”

31st March

France decided to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the French Revolution with a big festival – The Exposition Universelle. The centrepiece of this festival would be a tower built by Gustave Eiffel, and this tower was to be in total contrast to the architecture of the existing city – an enormous tower made of wrought iron, anchored in concrete. It would celebrate the art of the modern engineer and the century of Industry and Science.

Many people were vehemently against it, describing it as, “this useless and monstrous tower”. Eiffel was determined, however, and it was built in just two years and today in 1889 he led a party to the top of what was then the tallest building on earth. They ascended by stairs as the lifts were not quite working yet and it took an hour. Many of the politicians opted to go to the first stage only but Eiffel went to the top and unfurled a giant Tricolour.

It was supposed to be a temporary structure but it soon became an indispensable symbol of France and a focus for national pride, It is also an enduring reminder that sometimes, cherished national monuments begin life as “hateful columns”.



GREAT HOLLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Paul Fletcher-Tomenius and Myrna Lyles
Secretary: Vanessa Giles
Planning Officer: Alan Rusbridge

Dear Friends,

As we entered a new year with mixed feelings of both hope and trepidation, a late Christmas card arrived from relatives in Australia, Perth, Western Australia, to be precise. It explained that they had experienced very few cases and were largely back to normal. It went on to heap praise on the “Premier”, whom I take to be the State premier, since Australia is a federal state. It detailed the early days when they had some problems with freighters and cruise ships bringing in infected people to the port of Fremantle. They controlled the outbreak quickly by isolating those involved. They then closed the state, including the internal borders with other Australian states. So strict were the rules that Western Australian residents were prohibited from returning from overseas as well, until they put in place a system of quarantine hotels that were manned by both security guards and doctors. Even then returnees were ‘phased in’ to prevent overloading of the system. They have recently reopened internal borders. This is an inspiring story.

I have no idea of the politics of Western Australia, but it sounds to me as though the praise in the card was well deserved. It is a model of clear, decisive, above all, early leadership, led by science, applying clearly explained policies accepted by a population willing to listen and endure a furiously hard lockdown, because they felt involved, well-informed and benefitting from open, clear, efficient organisation. I leave you to make your conclusions and comparisons.

We were passing All Saints church on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, when they were putting out the chairs and so on, ready for the outdoor carol service. I asked if they knew the last time no such service was held inside and, of course, the answer is obvious; the English Civil War, at the end of which Christmas celebrations were banned by the Puritans. Let us hope pandemics prove as infrequent as civil wars!

The real hope for the coming year is, of course, the vaccination programme. We will have to be patient, but the fact that the organisation seems to be locally based gives us some cause to be optimistic it will not be the utter shambles that has accompanied both PPE and testing rollouts. The important thing is that the nonsense on some social media designed to frighten people into joining the anti-vaxxers is ignored. For anyone still needing reassurance before joining me in the struggle to get to the front of the

queue, look at the government website for facts and science or the WHO website, which has a series of four minute videos, regularly updated, with all the latest research developments. There is still much to learn about Covid, but Bill Gates is NOT using the programme as a device to inject us with microchips, Trump should be history by the time you read this and let us put our faith in what we do best as a species, solve problems with our science. In saying all this, I am assuming Trump will have failed to launch WWIII and have fulfilled my dream of seeing him dragged screaming in handcuffs out of the White House by a squad of marines!

I would like to say we had at last fixed a date for the next AGM, but we still take the view that would be as sensible as Trump's rants. You will have the opportunity to remove unwanted officers as soon as it is sensible!

Paul Fletcher-Tomenius

The Manor Reborn



Here is an update on our campaign to save The Manor as at early January. If you follow us on Facebook (The Manor Reborn) or the website (www.greatholland.com/ghcbs), you will be familiar with most of it:

In December, the pub was registered by Tendring District Council as an Asset of Community Value. This gives the community time to put together the funding necessary to bid to buy the asset on the open market. If the owner wants to sell property/land that is on the list, they must tell the local authority (TDC). If the nominating body (The Manor Reborn) is keen to develop a bid, they can then call for the local authority to trigger a 6-month moratorium period, during which time the owner cannot proceed to sell the asset.

We are currently going through all the processes necessary to be ready to buy and run the pub. A Community Benefit Society (named Great Holland Community Benefit Society Limited) has been set up as the organisation that will buy and own the pub and has been registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. You can find the registration details* and rules* of the Society on our website. We have also set up a bank account with NatWest and appointed a solicitor (Birkett Long, Colchester) and accountant (Jameson's, Clacton-on-Sea).

David and Toni (Salmon) and Jon and Liv (Hearn) have told us that they are keen for the village to keep the pub, and David and Toni have withdrawn their planning application for change of use to a dwelling. We originally offered them £325,000, the valuation we were given for a pub that is closed and hasn't traded for 9 months. However we have now increased that significantly to £410,000. Whilst we acknowledge this price is more indicative of a pub that is open and trading, we felt as a group that the increased price reflects the value the village places on retaining the asset we all know it to be. This offer has also been rejected. We are of course disappointed but negotiations continue.

We will soon be publishing the Business Plan* and the Prospectus & Share Offer*.

We want to be open with everyone and believe we will need around £450,000 to not only buy the pub but to provide the funds required to get it ready for opening and to give us some working capital. Frankly, the more people who buy shares the better. Not only does this mean we stand the greatest chance of saving the pub, it means ownership of the pub will be spread across a lot of people who will hopefully be engaged with the running of their pub.

(As volunteers and customers.) Can you think of anyone in your family or circle of friends who might be interested in buying shares in a village pub?

We also intend to see what grants are available and may set up a crowdfunding page.

We wish we could get together and have meetings but that is obviously impossible at the moment so we will communicate in the main via the website, the Village Voice and our Facebook page. Please try to spread the word and if you know anyone who doesn't have access to the internet but is interested in keeping the pub please keep them informed.

We had a fun online pub quiz on Sunday 20th December. Thank you to Dawn Withams for being an entertaining quizmaster/mistress and to Andrew Fairbrother for his great questions. It would be good to see more people at the next one, date TBA.

Thank you!

Anne, Nick, Roger, Margaret, Andrew, Liz, Paul & Dawn

*The following documents are, or will be, on the website www.greatholland.com/ghcbs. If you don't have access to the website and would like paper copies of any of them, please let one of us know:

- CBS registration details
- Business plan
- Prospectus and share offer
- CBS Rules
- Future updates on progress

Here are our contact details:

Anne Fairbrother	07786 960608	Nick Nash	07967 390841
Roger Frere	07365 434024	Margaret Frere	07971 830605
Andrew Fairbrother	07783 479974	Liz Fairbrother	07783 479975
Paul Withams	07949 879091	Dawn Withams	07903 729271

Daniel Land's Blog

Winter 2020



And here we go again...

Happy New Year to one and all. This is the eleventh blog I've written - can't believe it!

We can only wish for more prosperous times; we live in hope. None of the ongoing situation has deterred me from being available to help you all and I have received many calls at the start of this year already.

There are many things we can't do, like our wonderful litter picks that proved to be so successful and the events that take place in venues across the village. So many things have happened that have meant we cannot nurture that community spirit which exists in the village so easily.

Things to mention

The corner of Manor Road and Kirby Road was a hot spot for flooding, myself and Cllr Mark Platt took to our spades to clear the debris on the road and then a jetting tanker came in and looks to have resolved that issue.



The 30 Mile an hour restriction is being implemented along Kirby Road.

Couple of Lighting issues have been sorted out.

Some ground preparatory works on the site at Pork Lane appear to have commenced as a few of you contacted me about this.

I continue to try to improve the fly-tipping situation on the

marshes by working closely with TDC.

Finally...

I continue to be Chairman of TDC and am very proud to represent you all and champion the good work that goes on not only in Great Holland but across the district.

I update my activities on the village Facebook group as well as the Facebook page www.facebook.com/greatholland

I am available to you 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. If I can help you, then please do shout.

Speak soon

Daniel Land

District Councillor for Beaumont, Great Holland & Thorpe

Thanks for your support; you can contact me in the following ways

01255 861116 / land_daniel@hotmail.com

Puzzles

What can you do?

What can be done to all the following?

Fall
Habit
Leg
Promise
Record
Rule

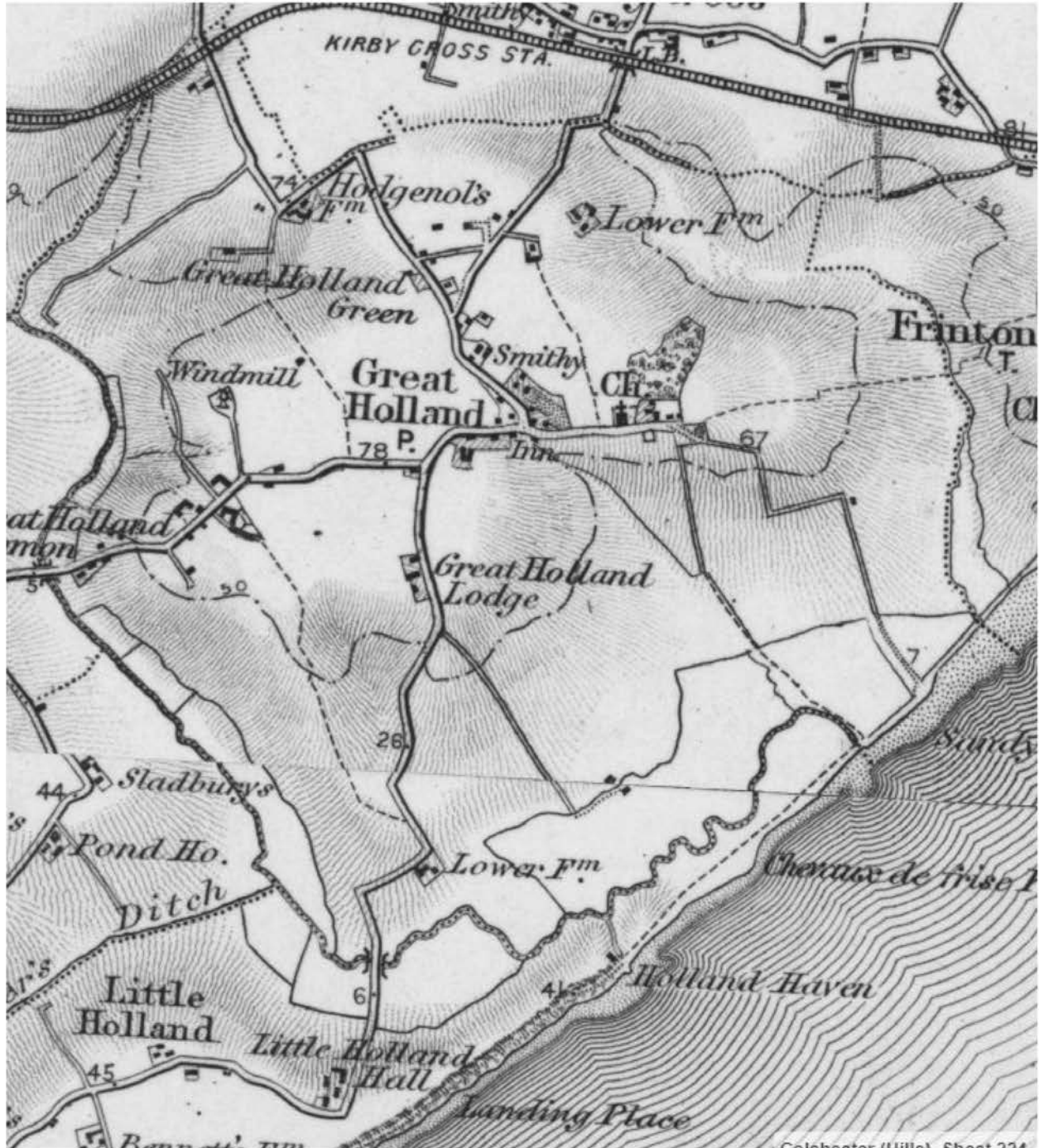
Word Ladder

The answer to each of the following clues contains the same letters as the previous word, plus one other. The order of the letters may be different. What are each of the words? The first one contains three letters.

Part of a play
Informal conversation
Educate
Morally pure
Most affectedly teasing
More watertight, as a ship
Traders
Writing skins

Beating the bounds

An annual tradition I aim to keep on the two nature reserves I look after, is to walk around all the boundaries to check whether neighbours have in any way changed or confused the boundaries. For example, I check if trees have been planted outside fences, and then fences placed around the trees. This phenomenon is not new, there is a saying about the rolling *hedges of Essex*.



OS 1 inch map 1885-1903 - Hills... Available from:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/swipe/#zoom=14&lat=51.83031&lon=1.21497&layers=161&right=BingHyb>

At a parish level there was a strong tradition of beating the bounds of parishes. This practice, established before the Norman Conquest, involved certain parish figures checking against incursions from neighbours. It had its roots in the Roman and the pagan influence of Vikings and was then adopted by the church. Boys were taken on these walks, in order to learn the details early, their

knowledge likely to persist longer, and they were said to be beaten at critical points to make sure they took in the details and would not forget!

Traditionally the boundaries were checked on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter, that is Ascension Day, but I have always done this in the New Year when there is less confusing vegetation. So, this year I decided to look at the boundaries of Great Holland parish on January 1st, obviously a socially distanced event. Great Holland is mostly bounded by physical features. There is a relatively short sea boundary, and to the west there is Holland brook and to the east the Kirby Brook. A tributary of Holland Brook runs through the dip near Pork Lane rail crossing, defining another length and the boundary for a short length was cut off by the building of the Walton railway. There is just a short section of land with no significant natural boundary between there and the head of the Kirby Brook. Being familiar with the rest of the boundary, this is where I took my New Year's Day walk.

Footpaths normally don't follow boundaries but there is one from Prospect Park to Park Farm orchard and there is a footpath from Pork Lane, into Kirby Cross from which the uncertain boundary area can be seen. A traditional marker to fix points in any sort of land ownership or jurisdiction was to pollard trees. This practice involved periodic cutting off the branches at a height just out of the way of grazing livestock. In successive cycles of coppicing the branches tended to need to be cut higher up, but the result was a tree with multiple branches coming from one level.

Pollard trees are common in the landscape, the wood produced being available for firewood, and pollards can be seen widely still. The practice can extend the trees surprisingly. However, the practice has stopped so top branches are fewer and thicker than in the past. Trees bounding arable land also tend to suffer root damage, so they either become stag headed, that is some top branches get stressed and die, while others become stunted, the regular root disturbance from cultivation, causing stunting as in bonsai trees.

The little section of the Great Holland parish boundary had several such trees and one or two old hedgerows persist in that area just north of the orchard. Pollard trees have the ability to live much longer than maiden trees and in parts of the country such as Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches and the New Forest have rare communities of life on them.



Pollard oak tree

Bob Seago

Warden of Great Holland Nature Reserve

Dr Carla Mahmoud
Dr Mathew Kattukaran

Tel: 01255 861850

Thorpe-le-Soken Surgery Newsletter
January 2021



Thorpe-le-Soken Surgery
High Street
Thorpe-le-Soken
Essex CO16 0EA

We trust you enjoyed the festive break and have made the most of the brief relaxation of the rules.

Thanks to all our patient patients who have rolled with the changes and kept a still upper lip throughout the pandemic, we couldn't have made it through without you! We all appreciate that the changes that have been made to general practice services (in fact across the whole NHS) have taken some getting used to - by the staff and the patients alike. These changes are here to stay and are promoted by NHS England, who issue our contract.

The changes have been necessary both due to the pandemic and due to the ever increasing demand for services-alongside a diminishing workforce.

Just to illustrate the level of demand, our list size is just shy of 8000 patients and our reception handle 2,500 calls per week. Triage is here to stay; our dedicated team of Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Care Practitioners, GPs, Practice Nurses, and Healthcare Assistants are all trained and are now experienced in the triage system. This does mean letting go of the old ways of working, you can no longer ring and book an appointment directly with the clinician of your choice. All calls are triaged and the most appropriate clinician is allocated to respond to your need. Quite often this does not need a Doctor. The majority of problems, of the 2500 calls per week are, thank goodness minor. A lot of them don't even need a clinician at all! A lot of calls are for reassurance and are returned by us with a text message link to sign post people to reliable self-help NHS websites and leaflets. Because demand has increased so much, (not helped by scary adverts on the TV and mixed messages in the media) new ways of working have been developed. These new ways of communicating have been sanctioned and embedded into the Practice.

Please remember, everyone who works at the surgery is also patient at a GP surgery too, they may need to use the hospital service and may also be using those services in some way so they do understand.

We are experiencing the changes from both ends - both in having to change the ways we work and to receive the effects of the changes as patients. Please let's all pull together as a community and make the new system work well for everyone.

Keep safe everyone and have the best and healthiest 2021 as possible.

Regards

Dr Carla Mahmoud

Branch Surgery: 88 Frinton Road, Kirby Cross, Essex CO13 0HJ

Email: thorpelesoken.surgery@nhs.net
Website: www.thorpe-le-sokensurgery.nhs.uk

VAT No: 879 1018 03

**Dr Carla Mahmoud
Dr Mathew Kattukaran**

Tel: 01255 861850



**Thorpe-le-Soken Surgery
High Street
Thorpe-le-Soken
Essex CO16 0EA**

Surgery Newsletter February 2021

Greetings all, at the time of writing (5.01.2021) we are in a new national lockdown. At this time of very fast changing advice due to the pandemic we are all used to our routines and expectations being disrupted. Sadly we have become used to advice changing as well in a constantly shifting environment when it comes to all things covid. Obviously its great news that vaccines are now available and we can look forward to a time when things can go back to normal but that is not yet-far from it! We are constantly being asked when patients will get the jab, frankly we don't know but as soon as we do it will be publicised. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SURGERY ABOUT COVID JABS!

The most important thing at this stage is to maintain social distance, avoid crowds, gatherings of any kind, wear a mask, wash your hands and follow the rules. These measures have ensured the safety of so many, now is not the time to be complacent as a jab cannot be given too soon after infection but it's not clearly know how long natural immunity lasts, therefore its crucial at this time to remain infection free if at all possible to ensure that the jab can be administered as soon as it is available.

Our NHS is almost at breaking point yet still continues to function despite losing staff and having more patients to care for. Please think twice before you contact any NHS organisation, can you resolve your query yourself? Do you already know the answer? Is it absolutely essential that you seek professional medical advice? We do unfortunately get queries that are not medical at all or are so minor in nature that a couple or paracetamol would have resolved the problem. Some folk even make repeated calls in the hope of getting different or more acceptable advice to that which they have already been given. This uses time and makes our telephone system struggle under the pressure of dealing with around 2,500 calls a week.

So the time of clapping has long since passed, please support all your NHS services by using it respectfully and wisely to ensure that those people who do need medical advice and attention are able to access it as quickly as possible.

Enough of the bad news, let's all stay safe and look forward to a time when so many have been vaccinated that the rules can be relaxed and we can all get back to enjoying our lives and the company of those that are important to us.

Best wishes

Karen Austen

Branch Surgery: 88 Frinton Road, Kirby Cross, Essex CO13 0HJ

Email: thorpelesoken.surgery@nhs.net
Website: www.thorpe-le-sokensurgery.nhs.uk

VAT No: 879 1018 03

FROM THE ARCHIVES.....

In this publication, we are taking a look at Great Holland's connection with the Martello Towers.

At the beginning of the 19th Century Britain feared an invasion from the French, led by Napoleon Bonaparte. Essex and Suffolk beaches and Folkestone to Eastbourne were thought to be likely targets from the French. Although some existing defences had been strengthened since 1793, in 1803 a military engineer, Captain William Ford, suggested lines of small fortified towers to defend Britain's coastline. He had been impressed in 1794 by a fortified tower used by the French against the British Navy and Army at a battle on the island of Corsica, at Mortella Point in the Bay of Fiorenzo; from which he named his towers "Martello". (The Prime Minister of the time was William Pitt and the towers were nicknamed 'Pitt's Pork Pies' - from P.M. Pitt and the fact that they looked like a pork pie).

29 Martello Towers were built along the Essex and Suffolk coast by 1808-12 as a defence against Napoleon and the French. They cost from £2000/£3000 - £18000 each to build and equip. The towers were mostly unmanned due to their dampness. Troops were garrisoned at Weeley and Colchester, requiring a quick route march if danger threatened. The towers were manned by trained troops of the Royal Artillery, supported by local Artillery Volunteers.

In 1803 when Napoleon had his flat-bottomed boats made and threatened to invade England, it was thought he might attempt a landing on the Essex coast. It had created great alarm in Gt. Holland. Orders were received in the parishes along the coast to appoint persons to take charge of the livestock and have it removed, if necessary, to the upper part of the County on the borders of Cambridgeshire.

In July 1809 the Government purchased 4 acres of the Horsemarsh on Gt. Holland Hall near the Old Haven, on which a Martello Tower was built; in 1810 another was built at Frinton and one at Little Holland.

When the threat was over, in 1819 the Government sold these three towers by

auction and they were taken down the following year. In 1822 it was agreed to build, at the expense of the parish, a range of five cottages(a terrace of two and three houses - named 'Plantation Cottages') with a bake-office in the centre, on part of the Green. A grant of a piece of land was obtained of the Lord of the Manor, on which they erected and completed in 1823 at a cost of £193.4.11d. using the bricks from the Martello Tower which had been taken down on Tower Marsh at Hall Farm.

Thomas Lubbock had his saddlery & harness-making business in one of the houses, until the power of the tractor, then he became a cobbler. In 1904 he established a meeting room and a reading/library room for the benefit of the young people of the village until 1909 when the Village Hall was built. The fee was 2d(1p) per week; the room would be open from 7 till 10 and no one to be admitted under the age of 15. About 20 names were enrolled for membership. The end house later became a post office and general store - this was an "Aladin's Cave", selling practically any-and every-thing. By 1967 these buildings had all been pulled down as they were thought to obscure the corner of the road for on-coming vehicles.

Liz Bruce, Local History Recorder. January 2021

Puzzle Answers

What can you do?

These are all things you can break, as in you can break a fall, break a habit, break a leg, and so on.

Word Ladder

Act, chat, teach, chaste, archest, stancher, merchants, parchments.

THE SEASONS IN MY YEAR IN AMERICA

Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come whispering "it will be happier".

I arrived in Maddison, the capital of Wisconsin in the Mid-west, in late August just as the trees were starting to turn. The weather was still quite warm and we had a student visit to Taliesin, a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, which was hidden from view until you were almost upon it. We had walked about a mile to reach it and when we got there, I found it quite breathtakingly beautiful; the buildings were moulded into the surrounding landscape in such a way that you felt they had grown from the ground. It was a very memorable day for me as the leaves shone red and gold in the autumn sunshine and the earth had a red sheen to it.

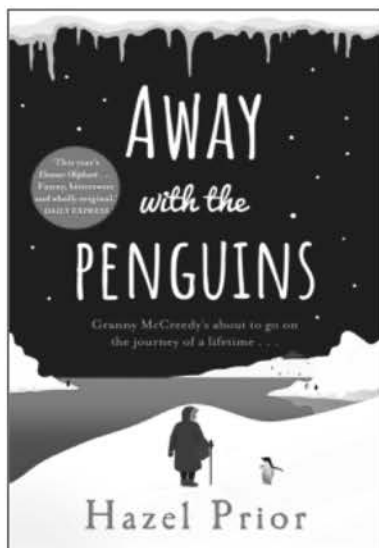
I was reminded of my time in Maddison in the winter of 1963 as the frost came to Frinton this year, although the low temperatures here cannot really be compared to that of Wisconsin. I never entirely understood how cold it was, 36 degrees of frost, but on what scale? I do know that Lake Monona, that was a mile wide and considered too warm for swimming in the summer, froze over and a car could be driven over it. The larger lake, Mendota, on the other side of the city was six miles across and we were able to skate over it. I never really got used to going from the over-heated buildings to the freezing outdoors with the constant putting on and taking off of layers of clothing, but at least I did not get frost bite; it was known for visitors to get frost bitten ears because they did not wear suitable hats. One visiting lecturer who did not speak very good English, was walking along without a hat and people kept saying, "Your ears are white," which is a sign of frost bite. He assumed it was a greeting until someone realised that he did not understand and helped him!

When the Easter break came we left a very snowy Madison and travelled by bus to the East coast. Our first stop was another Frank Lloyd Wright house in Philadelphia. We arrived at The Falling Water House at 8 am and it took away my breath with the beauty of the house and setting and I rejoiced to see a brave little daffodil peeking through the remains of the snow! We continued to New York, where we were shown all the buildings of particular merit, and then along the coast. One place we stopped was Jones Beach, quite bleak and chilly but beautiful and as we looked out to sea we discovered that, apart from Professor Zube and a mature student, called Walt, who had been with the American forces in the war, I was the only person who had seen the "Ocean" before. You begin to understand what a very enormous country America is and how diverse the people are. After this it was summer, they did not really have spring as we know it except that on my birthday in early May, when I arrived at the studio I found my drawing board covered in daffodils just to prove the one I had drooled over in Pennsylvania was not the only one. My fellow students, all male and very suspicious of me when I arrived, had treated me well after the initial shock. America was even further behind the times than England!

Back to the here and now where the sun shines to give us some cheer and hope that things will soon get better.

Rethna Flaxman

The Caxton Bookshop Review



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However, we do still hope to see you again soon in person! Stay warm, healthy and safe.

With our very best wishes

Sally & Judith

POLICE REPORT

Michele was having a week out of the office so was not able to report any incidents, but she sent the following:

I would like to thank local residents for their gifts towards my Christmas appeal. We were able to deliver lots of presents to local residents who were on their own this Christmas and brought a smile to plenty of faces.

There is a confirmed scam going round whereby a text message is being sent to people stating they are eligible to receive the vaccine and to follow the link to receive this. Once the link is clicked on, this takes you to a fake website where it asks for all personal details of bank account/sort code and card number to verify and prove ownership of your address. The way the message received looks to be genuine and given the pandemic we are currently in, people will panic and believe this to be true and go ahead without realizing they are about to be scammed/defrauded.

There are other scams circulating and one, featured in a tabloid newspaper, whereby in London someone knocked on a resident's door, said they had come to inject them with the new vaccine, obtained £100 from the resident and then injected them with an unknown substance.

So, please be vigilant and call the police if you are concerned.

Please keep safe and look after your neighbours, especially over the cold winter months.

Michele P.C.S.O 6477 Diss Direct dial : 101 ext 487552

e-mai: lmichele.diss@essex.pnn.police.uk





website: http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood.aspx

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Tuesday 	Fantari Dance and Fitness 9.30-10.30a.m. Contact: Sarah-Jane 688740 Gentle Tai Chi with meditation 11.00a.m.-12.30 p.m. Contact: Ruth 07724 133702	Carpet Bowls 1.45-3.45 p.m. Contact: Sheila 851855 	Links Karate 5.30-7.30 p.m. Contact: Paul Harris 830136
Wednesday	Yoga 9.30-11.00a.m & 11.00am-12.30p.m Contact: Srina 07835 730593	The Coastal Singers Mixed voices 2.30-4.30 pm Contact: Ilze 813909 	AVAILABLE TO HIRE Badminton 9.00-10.30 p.m. 671300
Thursday	Tai Chi 9.30-12.30p.m. Contact: Des Exworth 679610 (additional classes available)	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	Links Karate 6.30-7.30 p.m. Contact: Paul Harris 830136
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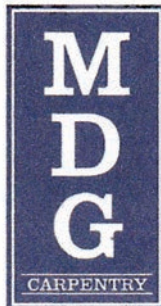
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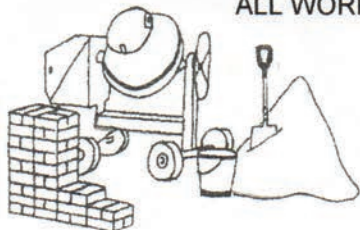
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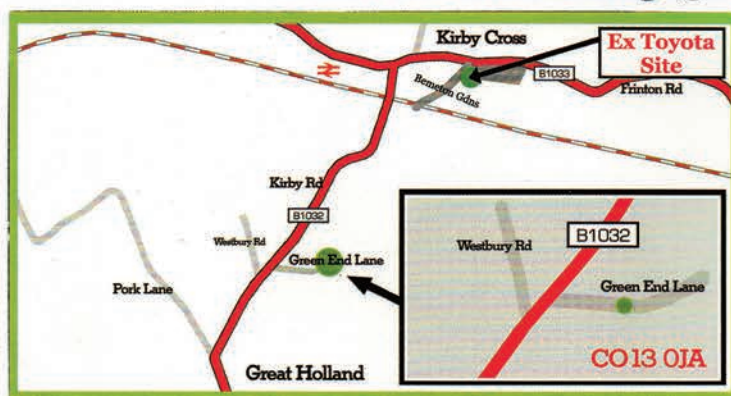
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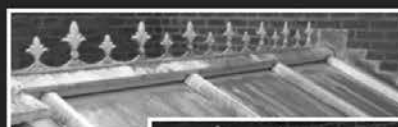
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