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BILDESTON BUGLE ADVERTISING AND FREE CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Our aim is to provide every resident and organisation in Bildeston with a magazine which provides information of local interest FREE OF CHARGE. To that end we are required to be efficient in the space we use to print free notices. We endeavour to include interesting items, announcements for events open to the general public for free and items of a charitable nature free of charge. Ongoing free announcements need to be reduced to minimum size or make a contribution towards printing costs. Please check with us before submitting your advert and ALWAYS provide us with all of your contact details in order for us to send an invoice and receipt.

email: editor@bildestonbugle.co.uk

Sponsor a 'Bugle' – £15 per issue and have a brief message of your choice printed on the front of the Bugle

Advertising Rates

	1 issue	12 issues	
1/4 page	£5.00	£35.00	65mm W x 92mm H
1/2 page	£10.00	£60.00	134mm W x 92mm H
Full page	£15.00	£110.00	134mm W x 190mm H

THE SMALL PRINT

All adverts, payments and items are required <u>before</u> the 17th of every month for inclusion in the following month's issue (except December before the 15th). The earlier free contributions are received the greater the chance of inclusion.

The Editorial Team are not responsible for the accuracy of articles or adverts and reserve the right to alter, shorten or refuse any item submitted for publication.

Ask for BACS details or make cheques payable to Bildeston Bugle and send to:

The Editor, Bildeston Bugle, 14 Squirrells Mill Rd, Bildeston IP7 7DY

If we do not receive payment by the 17^{th} of the month your advertisement may NOT be included

The Bildeston Bugle Management Team is:

Alan Jacobs (Editor) 01449 741645
Christine Hubbard (Finance Manager) 01449 740633
Alison Sims (Supplies Manager)
Pam Weaver (Distribution Manager)
Christine Hastings Tricia Baldwin Rita Bradley (Printing Assistants)

ED'S COMMENT

Here we are in December, at the end of 2022, a year which has been truly eventful. Internationally Europe was plunged into a war which has dragged in and affected many countries around the world with its impact on food and energy prices. Nationally we lost our much respected, longest reigning monarch with the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The revolving door of prime ministers and other senior ministers would be a funny image if it wasn't so serious a political issue. It felt like our country had moments when we questioned if anyone was actually running the place.

Locally Suffolk has had a burst of sudden energy with workmen furiously digging holes in roads which seem to be specially identified to make the simplest journey an experience in orienteering. Roadworks signs have sprung up all over the place. Water leaks being fixed by Anglian Water, fibre optic cables laid to support our county in the 21st century and last winter's holes being filled in by Council workers ready for this winter. Just when fuel prices reached new highs, transport forced to navigate round Suffolk adding miles and miles to journeys. It's been so frustrating we've seen drivers move the barriers to squeeze through or drive up the pavement to get past rather than take the scenic route via single track country lanes.

To bring it even closer to home, I decided the time was right to retire from being the editor of the Bugle after all these years. I told the team in October and confirmed my last Bugle would be January 2023. Sadly, so far, nobody has heeded the call from the Bugle, nobody has come forward to join the team of volunteers who produce the Bugle for the village. Nobody has contacted us yet to show an interest to take over the role of Bugle editor.

This is really sad because unless someone does volunteer to take over as editor, the Bugle will fold and cease publishing from January 2023. The Bugle has been going for over 30 years since 1990. That in itself is quite an achievement. The team have fond memories of how the first issues were produced. We used to run round the table in people's homes picking up individual sheets of paper, collating by hand, getting to the end, stapling them all together, then folding them using a walpaper roller! We still do that when they emerge from the printing machine to make them as flat as possible for everyone! Now, the machine does most of the work, but the end result, The Bildeston Bugle, remains something of which we are proud to share with all our village residents.

Maybe for some people it doesn't matter that the Bildeston Bugle will no longer be produced and delivered. It doesn't matter that the January 2023 Bugle will be the last one ever printed. Nowadays there are so many ways to access information and news, maybe The Bugle is no longer relevant and useful. The Bugle Team feel otherwise and know there are many people in the village who value the Bugle and look forward to it each month, but without an editor it cannot be produced. So there is still time for someone locally to become the new editor. Just contact anyone of the current management team, Christine Hubbard, Alison Sims, Pam Weaver or myself for all the information.

If the Bugle does stop and the January issue is the last one, thank goodness for The Roundabout, the magazine representing 10 villages in the local benefice. Caroline and Jenna have done a superb job, and their new printer (the same type the Bugle uses) has improved the look tremendously. Organisations who currently only use the Bugle to get their news and information across to Bildeston residents may well have to consider switching to The Roundabout in the New Year, unless someone volunteers to be the editor.

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Enquiries to - Mrs J. Carne RGN, RM, (Matron) Mrs E. P. Knight RGN, RM, Mr N. Knight (Proprietors)

Telephone (01787) 247340 / 495

enquiries@laxfieldhouse.co.uk www.laxfieldhouse.co.uk



Member of the Registered Nursing Home Association

Bildeston Primary School

Learning and Growing Together



Ofsted

As you may know, Ofsted Inspectors visited our school on 29th and 30th September. Their report has now been published and we are delighted to be able to tell you that our school has been judged "Good" in all areas. This judgement supported our own self-assessment of our strengths and areas which need further development.

There are two sentences in the report of which we are particularly proud. The reports opening lines are "Pupils love school. They feel cared for as individuals". We could not ask for a better summary of Bildeston Primary school than this, and it captures everything we want to achieve for our children.

You can read our full report at https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/124531

I am sure you will want to join with me in thanking Mrs Shaw and all the staff for their hard work which has led to such a positive inspection report.

Mrs Williams. Chair of Governors

PTFA Halloween Night

A super attendance at the PTFA Halloween event on Friday 21st October. Over 100 parents and pupils enjoyed s 'mores around the camp fire, a pumpkin carving competition and best dressed pupil in Halloween costume! There was hot chocolate, hot drinks and hot dogs available and everyone had a great time. Thank you to our PTFA for organising such a successful evening.

Parent Drop In/Consultations

As well as parent consultations this term, our parents were able to pop into school on Monday 7^{th} November to view their child's class and school books.

'Into Film' Festival

Taking place from 8-25 November, the Into Film Festival helps educators bring learning to life for 5-19-year olds across the UK by inspiring young people to watch, understand and make film in new and creative ways. Our reception children and children in years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to get a visit to Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Cineworld to enjoy films as part of this programme. Year 5 and 6 children

watched 'The Railway Children' which linked wonderfully with their topic work on World Wars.

U9 Tag Rugby

Amazing rugby at Hadleigh Rugby Club played by all of our U9 team members. Lots of tagging and lots of tries! Well done all!



If you are considering Bildeston Primary as a school for your child, we would welcome a visit. Please phone the office on the number below. We would love to meet you.

Bildeston Primary School Newberry Road, Bildeston, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7ESTelephone: 01449 740269 Website: www.bildeston.suffolk.sch.uk

Treasure island and the Silver Long Johns



At Chamberlin Hall Fri 27th Jan 7pm Sat 28th Jan 7pm Sun 29th Jan 2pm

Tickets on sale from Dec 1st Contact Debbie Bailey 07948 083769

> Adults £8 Children and over 60's £6

PAINTING SERVICES

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Mob: 07852 795469



What's on in December

For bookings contact: 07716 921514 or chamberlin.bookings@gmail.com

Mondays 3.45 to 9.15pm Miss Lesley's Dance classes (07957 351941)

Tuesdays 11.00 to Noon Rosie's Line Dancing

Tuesdays 12.15 to 1.00pm Zumba Gold

Tuesdays 7.00 to 10.00pm Carpet Bowls contact Mike 01284 827688

Wednesday 7.30 to 11.30pm Open Mic Night

Wednesday 7.30 to 9.30pm Snooker Club contact George Miller 07508 402370

Thursdays 10.00 to 11.00am Zumba Gold

Fridays 11.00 to 1.00pm Pilates (contact Claire: 07900 440141)
Fridays 7.00 to 11.00pm Social evening, food served
Saturday 17th 12.30pm Over 60s Christmas Lunch

Sunday 18th 3.00pm Family Christmas Disco Saturday 31st 7.30pm New Year's Eve Party

Email: chamberlinhallmc@gmail.com for information

BILDESTON GARDEN CLUB

Bildeston Bloomers gardening group meet once

a month for a social chat and a drink to discuss

our hopes and dreams for our own gardens

• whilst picking up tips from each other.

If you'd like to join us give me a call for dates

and venues

Debbie Bailey 07948 083769



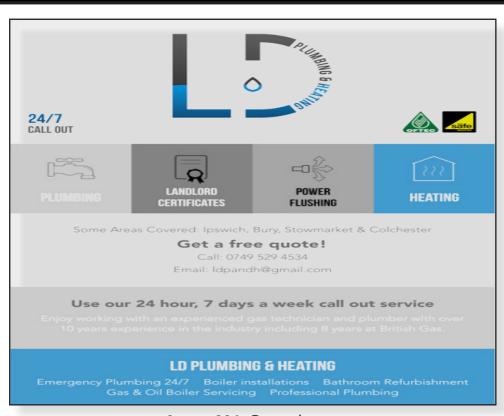


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Bildeston Waytes Carols 2022

Thursday 22nd December at 7.30pm CALLING ALL SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

The "Waytes Carols" evening is an extremely popular Christmas event in Bildeston. An enthusiastic audience joins talented local musicians and singers at Chamberlin Hall for a fun-filled evening of festive singing!

If you sing or play an instrument, please consider joining us for this ever-popular event. We will rehearse from 6pm, with the festivities starting at 7.30pm.

Details of the music will be available in advance.

Our website has all the information you need, including how to order tickets:

www.bildestonwaytes.com

This where Christmas begins - I look forward to seeing you there!

nansi@bildestonwaytes.com

07773034635

Bildeston Ladies Club



We were thoroughly entertained by the visit of the Lady Town Crier and there was no doubt at all that we heard every word as her voice boomed out across the hall. Brenda told us stories of her triumphs winning competitions around the world, often being the only lady participant and being once crowned as loudest in Britain!

The first recorded criers arrived in Britain with the Norman Conquest to act as messengers of the Crown. Even today, it is a treasonable offence to attack a Town Crier - hence the saying "Don't shoot the messenger". Another expression, "His face rings a bell" comes from the use of their handbells to defend themselves! Brenda also explained that words used for our postal service derive from the act of posting their proclamations onto buildings for all to see. Resplendent in her costume, with a waistcoat adorned with horses to represent the town of Newmarket, Brenda demonstrated cries she had composed, both solemn and amusing. A great evening!

Bildeston Ladies Club



Our Christmas meal will be at The Crown on Thursday 8th December - 7:00 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. I look forward to celebrating with you all.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to everyone in Bildeston.

Jo Silburn 01449 257045



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Why not join our monthly Saturday morning Winter Warmer series?

These rides are for riders of all abilities.

WINTER WARMER 3

JOIN US FOR A RIDE OF ABOUT 25 MILES, STARTING FROM THE MARKET PLACE AT 9.30am, ON SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER. CAFE STOP HALFWAY. BACK ABOUT 12.30pm.

PUT IT IN THE DIARY NOW!

Warm clothing recommended. The ride will be mainly on quiet lanes, at an acceptable speed (no-one left behind!). Regret no unaccompanied children under 16.

JUST TURN UP; or for more information, contact Robin Weaver 741048





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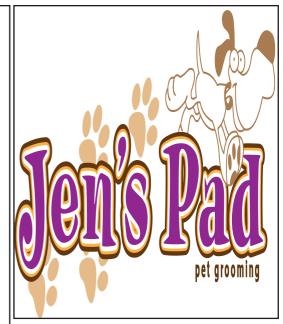




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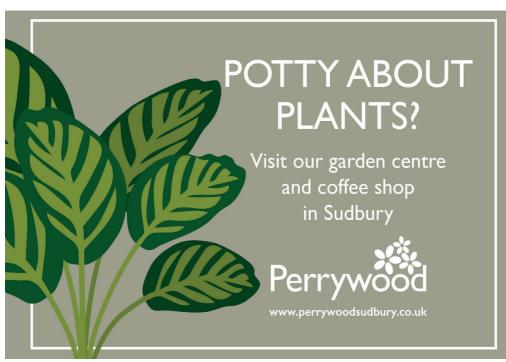
Windows over conservatories. All cleaned from the ground. Prices from £15

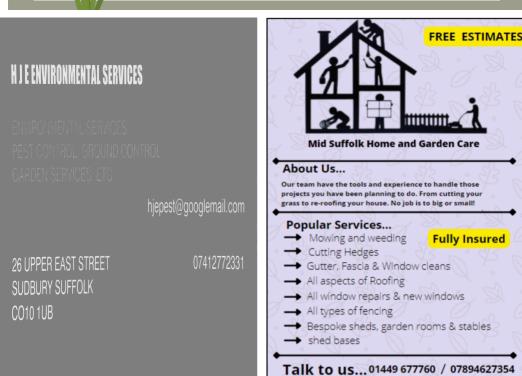
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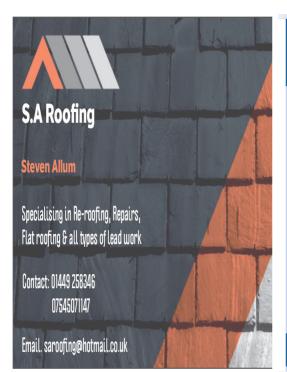


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DECEMBER 11TH 12-5PM





Stowe Veterinary Group For a professional caring service

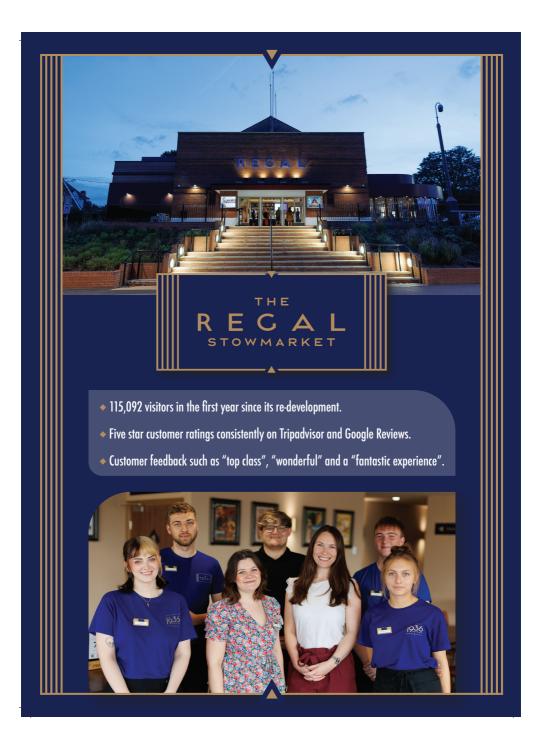
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The Regal Experience



The Regal has undergone a major redevelopment which was completed last year - costing £3.71 million.

It has had over 100,000 visitors in its first year and Manager, David Marsh says: "I never tire of the surprise and delight expressed by first time visitors at the quality of the venue. Screen 1 is one of the largest in East Anglia and all three of our auditoriums are equipped with the latest laser projectors. This provides an outstanding experience, and reminds you that there is simply nothing that compares with seeing a film on a big screen."



What's on offer?

The Regal has been designed to be used for a wide range of purposes. They include theatre performances, live music, comedy nights, cinema, live streaming of concerts, bar and café services, private parties, conferences, groups and societies, school visits, dementia friendly screenings, training sessions and business meetings.

As a community owned facility, prices are kept at an affordable significantly level lower than those charged by the chains who operate in cities and larger towns.

The Regal's Pocket Money Movies screenings on Saturday & Sunday mornings make a family trip to the cinema even more affordable to all. Children's tickets are just £3 and include free admission for one accompanying adult. These screenings feature family favourite films and take place on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

To find out what's on offer at the Regal

follow us on social media or sign up to the Regal Weekly Newsletter via our website, which will be delivered straight to your inbox each week.

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The 1936 Cafe Bar

The 1936 Café Bar at the Regal is proving to be the ideal meeting place for a coffee with friends, a pre-film lunch or even an evening cocktail. You don't need to use the cinema as everybody is welcome to enjoy the spacious café area!

There is always a selection of cake and drinks available along with tasty offerings from the Breakfast, Brunch and All Day menus.

Come in and see what is on offer – we are sure that you will be impressed!



Opening Times: Breakfast

Served until 12pm every day

Brunch

Served until 2:30pm every day

All Day Menu Available 10am - 9:30pm every day





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up to 31st December, 2022
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The Regal Redevelopment



he redevelopment project has involved experts from up and down the country. They have helped to provide the experience and expertise required to create a high quality facility within the approved budget.

However three of the key roles on the team have been performed by businesses closer to home. The Project Managers have been Northmores of Cambridge who, amongst other projects, have overseen the master planning for the expansion of the Addenbrookes Hospital. The Architects have been Purcell based in Colchester who have overseen the restoration works at the Houses of Parliament and the main contractor has been local building company, Mixbrow based in Needham Market.

The redevelopment has managed to retain the character of the original 1936 building whilst adding the modern facilities that are expected by today's audiences. With extensions to both sides the Regal now has three auditoria, a new front of house space, plush new seating, a new café and bar area, better staging and changing facilities and enhanced sound and audio equipment.

The opportunity has also been taken to improve the surrounding area including resurfacing the Ipswich Street Public Car Park immediately next to the Regal.

Manager David Marsh says: "The fact that the venue is so much easier to get to than other entertainment venues has proven to be very appealing. The transport links into the town are really good and rarely congested and there are nearly 200 parking spaces within 200 yards of our main entrance."

Warm Spaces in Bildeston

With all the news of inflation, rising fuel prices and the cost of living crisis that bombard us on the news and hit us in our pockets, there is some good news in Bildeston.

The following places have been designated as warm spaces. A friendly place to go in the warm where you can have a hot drink and something to eat at reasonable prices. Come along and try them out. All ages catered for - a variety of activities are provided, play cards or board games or just sit and read or have a snooze, the choice is yours.

Baptist Church Lounge Mondays 10.00 -12.30 Hot drinks and snacks Baptist Church Lounge Wednesday 12.30 over 50s Lunch

Social Wednesdays 12.30 - 3.30 Sports Pavilion Light lunches and afternoon teas

Baptist Church Community Cafe Fridays 9.00 - 11.30
Breakfast snacks cakes etc

Social Sundays 10.00 - 12.00 Sports Pavilion
Breakfast snacks, cakes etc
(not on the 11th December due to Christmas Fair in the Square)
or 25th December & 1st January

All spaces supported by Babergh District Council Community
Grants – Winter Warmth Fund Support Grant

Please note there may be changes to these times and days over the Christmas and New Year period. These will be notified on the Bildeston Noticeboard Facebook page.

For information at Sports Field venue contact Elaine 0776652743

Baptist Church contact Chris 01449 740071



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Recipe of the Month

AIR FRYER CHICKEN PARMESAN with POTATO WEDGES

Ingredients

Cut down on energy costs with this delicious air fryer recipe (5.5 litre air fryer) Serves 2

for the potatoes

2 x medium baking potatoes cut into 1.5 wide wedges

1 tsp vegetable oil

1/2 tsp dried basil

for the chicken

25g plain flour

40g breadcrumbs

25g finely grated Parmesan cheese

1 medium egg lightly beaten

2 skinless chicken breasts

4 tbsp tinned tomato sauce

50g mozzarella cheese torn into pieces



Method

- 1. Preheat air fryer per instructions from manufacturer. In a medium bowl mix all the potato ingredients with plenty of seasoning until evenly coated.
- Put them in the crisper basket and cook for 20 mins shaking and turning half way through
- 2. Cover the chicken breasts with cling film and bash with a rolling pin until 1cm thick. Place the flour and some seasoning in a shallow bowl. In another bowl mix the breadcrumbs with the Parmesan. In a third bowl, beat the eggs. Coat each chicken breast in flour, dip into the egg then coat in the breadcrumb mixture
- 3. When the potatoes have cooked give them a turn and carefully place the chicken breasts on top. Continue to cook for 15 mins, turning the chicken over after halfway. Top the chicken with tomato sauce and mozzarella and continue to cook until the cheese has melted and is golden. This may take 4-5 mins. Serve with a green salad.

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King's Pightle News

KING'S PIGHTLE NATURE RESERVE TRUST

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE AGM HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2022

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting. I would like to begin by thanking my fellow Committee members and Trustees for their support and involvement over the past twelve months. We welcomed two new members on to the Committee- Will Pratt and Stephen Hiscock. They bring enthusiasm and valuable skills to the Committee.

Anne Slater has found it possible to continue on the Committee

The Committee would also like to thank all the volunteers who have helped to maintain the King's Pightle throughout the year.

It has been a busy year which started with a hedge laying demonstration in December, which was well attended and 20metres of hedge were laid. There are plans to have a coppicing day in the future.

The annual Himalayan Balsam 'bashing' day did not take place this year as there was very little infestation. On the 30th October we had the first of what we would like to make an annual event. This year it took the shape of continuing the hedge laying in the top meadow with a bonfire of the dry material from the previous cutting followed by baked potatoes with cheese and butter. We had 16 volunteers and a good time was had by all. The work that was done is making a difference to the habitat in the Nature reserve. Thank you to all who contributed to making it a success.

The Committee were very grateful to Anne Slater who organised an excellent stall and quiz trail round the reserve for the day of the Jubilee Celebrations. This we hoped would increase community awareness of the Reserve There is a wildlife camera in the reserve which was monitored for a year by William Hubbard. The Committee are looking at several cameras to film the wildlife and put some pictures on the website.

A tree is to be donated by TMJ Ltd to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and this will be planted in the meadow.

The Committee continue to maintain the Reserve and twice yearly a safety inspection is completed. Also for any event taking place in the reserve a risk assessment is carried out.

Unfortunately there was some minor vandalism in the bird hide, however this has not happened in the past few months.

We always welcome volunteers who can be called on for our occasional work parties to help maintain the Reserve- please contact any of the Committee members if you would like to help or email: sue@jacksfarm.co.uk

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED AT OCTOPIGHTLE

Now Frying At Market Square Bildeston Thursdays 4pm - 7.00pm Fridays 11am - 1.30pm



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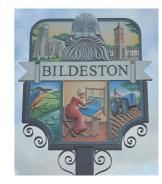
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BILDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes for the Parish Council meeting for Monday 14 November 2022, 1900hrs, Baptist Hall, Duke Street, Bildeston.

Present: Cllr Alex Banks, Cllr Andrew Guttridge, Cllr Ashley Hubbard, Cllr Richard Lester (Chair) CC/DC Robert Lindsay, Cllr Ray McCann, Cllr Virginia Tuck (Vice Chair), 1x KBB representative, 1 x residents. Clerk – Angela Chapman.



C286/2223 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies:

Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies: Cllr Sarah Leigh-Hunt. Apologies accepted.

C287/2223 Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

Non-pecuniary – Cllr R Lester, St Mary's PCC, treasurer, Trustee of Kings Pightle Nature Reserve; Cllr Alex Banks – Trustee & Chair of Bildeston Sports Field & Pavilion. Cllr V Tuck – interest in planning application DC/22/05220.

C288/2223 Requests for dispensations in respect of pecuniary interests. None.

C289/22/23 Minutes of Last Meeting held 10 October 2022, approved as a true record.

C290/22/23 Adjournments.

Meeting adjourned 1906hrs to receive reports from County and District Councillors, and consider any matters raised by local parishioners.

CC/DC Robert Lindsay – 20mph – no update but should have a decision from SCC in November; gave a grant to the Roundabout magazine from Locality budget for new printer; SCC are asking the public how they think the budget should be spent, survey can be completed online; £16.2m overspend after Q2, caused by children's special needs provision, travel and accommodation; however, there are unusually large reserves accumulated at present which will help; SCC applying to Government for license for ANPR cameras for use mainly in Ipswich to prevent cars using bus lanes.

Resident – the PC agreed to move the dog waste bin.

Representative from KBB (Keep Bildeston Beautiful) – explained the current position with the group, and the funding held at present; representative to consult members before funds gifted to the PC with possible conditions.

Meeting reconvened 1922hrs.

C291/22/23 Planning applications Planning Appendix A – Items for comment.

DC/22/05220

Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Alterations to previously converted barn. New entrance hall.

Location: Woodland Barn, Church Road, Bildeston, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7EE

Planning Appendix B – Items determined by Babergh District Council Comments: No objection.

C292/22/23 Projects and Progress Reports

- a) 20mph project/design costs/funding see C290/22/23 above
- b) 'Heating Bildeston' currently no update
- c) Mill Lane footpath no response to letter, PC to offer the resident quote obtained for work.
- d) **High Street/Ipswich Rd** following an escalation from CC Robert Lindsay SCC have responded, Clerk to complete form for street furniture license.
- e) **Village accessibility** footways Cllr Ray McCann to report survey finding online, to CC Robert Lindsay if no response.
- f) **Plaque for village sign** brass plaque to be fixed to the wooden post, text to be agreed.
- g) **Bilder sign** metal brackets for erection of sign approved, Cllr Hubbard to order. Resident has kindly treated/ weather proofed the sign.
- h) **Bowls Club** proposed sign location agreed, suggest Chamberlin Hall Management Committee also agree location.
- i) Update on village amenities:

Cllr V Tuck advised Quiet Lanes signs ready for collection and fixing. Volunteers needed to install. Cllr A Hubbard – Grove cemetery 1x application for burial, memorial stone approved. Memorial tree to be planted next week in Grove cemetery, also Platinum Jubilee commemorative tree to be planted in Kings Pightle Nature Reserve next week. Contractor will cut the hedge around Grove cemetery in the winter.

Sports Field – Cllr S Leigh-Hunt and Clerk met with Babergh DC biodiversity officer, he agreed to supply hedging plants for around the car park bund. Also to supply seed for a wildflower meadow at the south end of the field, subject to BSFMC approval. Grass will need cutting and raking off, and left over winter ready for Spring planting.

King Pightle – bonfire and hedge laying successful followed by refreshments.

Christmas tree – ordered, delivery Monday 5 December. Stand to be collected by Cllr A Banks; Market Place to be coned off ready for installation of tree; Cllr A Guttridge to test the lights.

C283/22/23 Administrative, Finance and Governance reports

- a) Payments for approval. Cllrs Tuck and Guttridge to authorise payments.
- b) **Scribe** monthly accounting reports signed and approved for July, August and September by Cllr R McCann.
- c) Consider KBB funds see C290/22/23 above
- d) Review working group list and responsibilities some amendments and additions, Clerk to distribute updated list

C294/22/23 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

Cllr R Lester – proposal for information board in Market Place and leaflet, agree a format, ask thru Bugle and FB for volunteers for group. Agree style, content and draft. Cllr R Lester – proposed the PC write a complaint to Anglian Water about the constant leaks/ broken pipes in the High Street, this has now reached a point not acceptable to village and PC, its very disruptive to residents and their livelihoods. Draft letter and distribute for approval. Copy in MP James Cartlidge.

Cllr R McCann – Remembrance service – proposed a road closure for next year. Close

road informally for 2 minutes silence. Discuss in Sept 2023.

Cllr A Banks – had correspondence from resident at White Lodge on the square, house keeps being hit by lorries when they are going down Duke Street. Add traffic management to agenda for next meeting.

Cllr A Hubbard – suggest advert in Bugle and on Facebook for new Cllrs.

C295/22/23 Items for next agenda

Project at village sign grass triangle

Village accessibility - footways

Traffic management particularly around the Market Place/ Duke Street/ Chapel Street KBB funds

Information board/ Market Place

Anglian Water

Meeting closed 2059hrs.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12 December 2022, 1900hrs, Baptist Hall, Duke Street, Bildeston.

Village website: www.bildeston.org



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In July I wrote about a visit I made to various friends living in towns around the border of Romania and Ukraine who were helping Ukrainian refugees. I was asked to help an orphanage which had suddenly increased in numbers and desperately needed a large dishwasher. This we were able to do and last month I visited Ukraine with friends and went to the 'orphanage', but in fact it is a residential school and home for deaf children between the ages of 5 and 18 years. At the moment there are 93 children in the home. A few are orphans, many have families who are too poor to care for them and other children have families and they return home during the holidays.

I left England with my car full with over 1000 items of new children's clothing for the home, plus blankets and warm socks for the soldiers. On the morning we were preparing to drive into Ukraine we received a phone call asking us to go to a chocolate factory first. The owner wanted to send some gifts for all the children. So we left most of my 'stuff' behind and loaded up the car with 100 carrier bags of chocolates and sweets etc. The weather was still warm so the clothes weren't needed immediately and could wait a couple of weeks before the next delivery of aid.

When we arrived we heard there had been a nation wide alert of a possible missile attack and the children had spent the morning in the basement. We learned later that Lviv had been bombed which was directly north of our town, and close to the Western border with Poland. So nowhere in Ukraine is 'safe' any more. The home was a wonderful place thanks to the Director who has transformed it over the past two years. It was light and welcoming with lots of examples of the children's art and craft work on display. The children weren't shy or reserved and were keen to talk with us even if they only knew a few words of English. We saw the commercial size dishwasher in use in the kitchen and the dormitories with our bedding. The Director told us that she earns 300E a month — when she gets paid. She certainly isn't in the job for the money! I hope to keep in touch and continue to help her care for so many traumatised children.

Earlier In September we were asked if we could supply an Army Medical Unit with a generator and tents and boots and socks for the winter. We sent some money from EPIC (the charity I work for) as all these things could be bought in Romania and they were delivered just two weeks later. The situation in Ukraine will get worse in the winter with thousands of people without electricity and water. We hear too much about the fighting and not enough about the human tragedies. What we are doing is a tiny drop in the ocean, but on the 5th December 30 years ago when we travelled to Croatia to deliver the first ever shoebox Christmas gifts, a pastor said to me, when I apologised for taking so little, 'we are holding out the bucket for every drop'.

If you would like to see photos of the school and the children, why not come to the Community Café in the Baptist Church Lounge one Friday and look at the display whilst drinking a latte. page 39 - issue 386 - December 2022

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Brett Valley Benefice

Christmas Pastoral Letter





"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him..." – John 1:9-10

As you read this letter the church again begins the season of Advent. The time when there is a profound sense of anticipation and of hope. As we all make our plans for Christmas, we again are facing another potential complication in our lives. We are still coping and attempting to manage the Covid pandemic and meeting with family and friends. But the devasting news of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia earlier this year has had an impact across the world. We are all suffering economically and from the changes in the cost of living.

We know we cannot forget this time of year, the excitement of the children as Christmas approaches. This year will be different as we will not hear the usual Queens Christmas message, because of her death in September. We will instead hear the first King's message from King Charles III.

The churches in this benefice will be having Carol and Crib Services during December with much excitement in the preparations from each parish. The despondency we may feel at present needs to be separated from the 'Hope' that is given to us through the birth, 'Hope and Light of Christ.' You might ask, where is our hope, how does the story of a baby born in a stable have to do with what we are going through today. The Christmas story does not stand still in the past but is modern and multicultural. We may question why our problems do not go away can this baby we remember born to us at Christmas have anything to do with our lives.

I remember some of the words of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from her Christmas message in 2021 which would be her last to us as a Nation and Commonwealth.

"It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus — a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation and have been the bedrock of my faith. His birth marked a new beginning. As the carol says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

Her faith in Christ was a sure foundation for her all her life. Her Majesty believed the message of Christmas was explosive, and it would transform our world for the better. As we begin to light our 'Advent Candles' in our churches each week and we journey towards Christmas let us remember, the light, which first shone from Bethlehem's stable will never be extinguished. It continues to shine all around our world, usually at its brightest when we are facing the greatest difficulties. Jesus promises to be there with us in whatever it is that life brings; in the happy times and in the sad times; in the pain and in the joy.

At Christmas, God welcomes us all to celebrate the birth of His Son, the One who brings hope to the world. We pray for our new monarch King Charles III as he will undertake his first Christmas message to this Nation and the Commonwealth.

I wish everyone a happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2023. God Bless Revd Elke



Services in the Brett Valley Benefice December 2022



Date 2022	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 4 th December	11am	Holy Communion	Bildeston
	11am	Morning Prayer	Nedging
Sunday 11 th December	11am	Holy Communion	Whatfield
	6pm	Carol Service	Naughton
Saturday 17 th December	5.30pm	Carol Service	Lindsey
Sunday 18 th December	3pm	Carol/Crib Service	Semer
	5pm	Carol Service	Nedging
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Bildeston
Saturday 24 th December	4pm	Crib Service	Bildeston
,	5pm	Crib/Carol Service	Whatfield
	11.30pm	Midnight Service	Bildeston
Sunday 25 th December	9.30am	Christmas Holy C	Semer



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St. Mary Magdalene church bell tower 8.00 to 9.15pm Every Tuesda
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7.30pm Chamberlin Hall. Contact Mike 01284827688Every Tuesday
Open Mic Night Chamberlin Hall 7.00pmEvery Wednesday
Social Evening Chamberlin Hall 7.00pmEvery Friday
Social Wednesdays
Sports Pavilion 2.00 to 4.00pm
Bildeston Garden Group call Debbie 07948083769Last Wed of the month
Chamberlin Hall 7 20pm
Chamberlin Hall 7.30pm
Baptist Hall 7.00pm
BNatural Christmas Market
Market Square 12.00 to 5.00pmSun 11th
Bildeston Community Cycling
Market Square 9.30amSat 10tl
Over 60s Christmas Lunch 12.00 for 12.30pm
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