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Parish Council - Chairman's Report November 2020 - Carol Nelson

November is upon us and with it another 'lockdown'. Hopefully, we will not see as many second homeowners descend on us this time, as it should only last for four weeks. Nevertheless, I hope everybody keeps safe and well.

Time seems to have flown since the last newsletter. The PC have been holding meetings via Zoom and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Since the last newsletter there has been a visit by the 'Rangers'. A team who undertake minor highways tasks such as cutting back of foliage encroaching onto the highway, paths or road signage.

We had hoped that they would clear out a few water grips, to help combat the flooding which has been occurring at the bottom of Docking Road, where it joins with Peddars Way South. Unfortunately, this did not happen, but Highways should be out to do all the water grips over the winter. Highways only do this every other year which gives them time to fill with mud and foliage, causing them to be very ineffective. There is extraordinarily little that the PC can do about this except take on a contractor yearly. This has never been discussed as it would prove to be expensive but if parishioners feel that it is something they would like the PC to discuss in the future, please let us know. It has also been noted that some water grips, along Peddars Way South, are being filled with garden rubbish. To the person/s responsible, please cease!

There have been enquiries about the ongoing reinstatement of Public Rights of Way/Footpaths in the village. About this time last year, the PC enquired as to when a decision would be made and were told it should have been around December 2019. We have not heard of any decision yet and to the best of our knowledge it still an ongoing case.

The roundabout is still out of action and is a monthly agenda item, quotes have been obtained for both replacement and repair and were discussed at the last meeting. It is hopeful that the elderly roundabout can be repaired, to be enjoyed by children once again.

A Poppy wreath of Remembrance was purchased by the PC and has been placed on the War memorial. Unfortunately, Covid prevented a small Remembrance service in the church from taking place this year.

The PC is trying to put together a committee of locals, to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. There should be an accompanying article in this Newsletter. It will take time and fortitude to complete but it should be well worth the effort when future planning is applied for in the village.

Another 'Gateway' has been bought for the village, with the help of the Parish Partnership Scheme, run by Highways. It will be positioned along Sedgford Road, where the 'Ringstead' sign is now, (other gateways are on Docking and Peddars Way North, roads). It is hoped that having larger signage, when entering the village, will persuade motorist to lower their speed. This is also partly funded by the Ringstead Allotment Charity.

All are welcome to join the Zoom meetings, please do so by contacting the Clerk to the Council in the first instance. Also, if anyone has any points that they would like to bring to the attention of the PC, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk. Our Parish Website is <https://greatringsteadpc.wixsite.com/greatringsteadpc>

All that is left to say is that the PC wish you all as Merry a Christmas that is possible at the moment, and a Happy New Year. Lets all hope that 2021 turns out to be a much smoother affair than 2020!

Winter Newsletter to atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk by Friday 19th March 2021

Please note: The views expressed in this newsletter are of the contributors and not necessarily the views and opinions of the editorial team. The team also reserve the right to edit articles as appropriate.

Parish Council Website - Parish Clerk, James Howard

Now that the new website is up and running, I thought I would provide a link so that people could find it easily. Any new website takes time to get to the top of the search engine as this is based on usage. The more people access it, the more it will rise up the ranks! <https://greatringsteadpc.wixsite.com/greatringsteadpc>

If you come up with any ideas for things to put on the website do let me know. You will notice we have started adding details on behalf of the church and are happy to consider any requests that could benefit the community. Email: greatringsteadpc@outlook.com

Towards Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan - Vice-Chair, Parish Council, Bill Jacob

In the Spring Newsletter our Parish Council Clerk, James Howard, wrote about the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Ringstead. A Neighbourhood Plan would give residents a voice in shaping future developments here and identifying issues and opportunities for the future of the village. This will enable us to map out a vision for Ringstead's future and to realise our objectives by drawing up policies that reflect our local circumstances, and that are based on local knowledge and understanding. Our neighbours have already been doing this – for Holme google holme-next-the-sea-plan.co.uk and for Sedgeford google Sedgeford Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017-2036 – so we can build on their experience.

Following James's article some people expressed an interest in being involved in developing a Plan, and the Parish Council have agreed to set up a Steering Group to begin the process.

We will need to have a number of public consultations while drawing up the Plan. However, currently opportunities for public gatherings are restricted but we can still begin preliminary work, with the Community Profile element of the Plan. This requires gathering information about Housing, the local Economy, Heritage, Environment and Community facilities, Recreation and Transport. Much of this is available online via the Borough Council, who will make resources available to support us on this, but local knowledge will also be important. When we have accurate information for our Community Profile we can then seek views on Issues and Opportunities for the future of Ringstead. This will be a two or three year project.

If you would like to be involved in helping to shape Ringstead's future for the next twenty and more years, please get in touch with me on 01485 525394 or wmjacob20@gmail.com.

Village Hall - Chairperson, Debbie Rice

Once again, our Village Hall is in Lockdown! But at least for a short period we had 3 exercises classes making use of it on a weekly basis.

Hopefully, in due course, the regular Clubs will resume meeting in the Hall, and I have listed the contact details in case anyone is interested in finding out more or would like to join one of the Clubs.

Table Tennis Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm Contact Richard Hendricks 525366
Carpet Bowls Wednesday 2pm - 4pm Contact Liz Witley 525341
Art Group Thursdays 10am - 12am Contact Liz Witley 525341



In the meantime, if anyone would like to hire the Hall, please contact our Booking Secretary, Mr Roger Pincott 525522 (Ringstead Residents are charged £6 per hour or £35 per day, non residents or commercial bookings £8 per hour)

Please note that a **defibrillator** is fitted on the corner wall of the Village Hall (facing the High Street) If needed please dial 999 and you will be provided with an access code once you have quoted the postcode which is shown on the casing. At the same time an ambulance will be dispatched. A guide and useful video of instructions by the British Heart Foundation, can be found online by searching 'How to use a defibrillator'

email: debbierice55@btinternet.com

Tel: 01485 525505

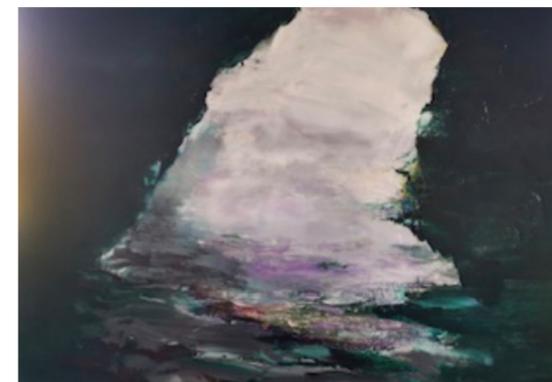
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Helga Joergens - Landscape, acrylic and gouache on paper



"I find consolation in nature, particularly in these dark times. Many of my works depict landscapes but they are imagined scenes. I start without a preconceived idea. (...) Despite the dark elements like clouds or rocks which seem to threaten the viewer, there is light that gives us hope. This light of hope is very important to me. Here, acrylic gouache paint was used. Its strong colour saturation intensifies the expression of the image. However, if diluted with water, it appears like watercolour."

Pandora Mond - Sea Cave No 1 oil on canvas.



"These cave paintings emerged during the early dark days of lock down. They are small and intimate compared to my usual large, range-y sea paintings. There is certainly a feeling of claustrophobia and maybe drama in the stark tonal contrast but they are ultimately optimistic. We are inside the darkness looking out to a dazzling light. As so often with painting ideas come from the unconscious mind and only make clear sense in retrospect. This was certainly true of these small caves, whose narrative is most certainly one of hope."

MR G continues Arco Tool Hire Services - Mark Gregory

MR G a new service set in motion after local company Arco Tool Hire decided to call it a day after 30 + years. I joined Arco in January 2000 where I applied my engineering background and enhanced my skills to take on that role within the garden machinery world. Now self-employed under the name MR G (a nickname name that seems to have stuck over the years). I am continuing to offer the Arco services which includes rotary and cylinder mower service repair and sharpening, also shear, lopper and chainsaw chain sharpening and all aspects of garden machinery. This includes strimmer line, oil, parts and machinery along with builders equipment repairif it is not included above just ask!!!!. I do offer a mobile repair service as well as a drop off/collect option if needed.

Feel free to contact me about any of the services I offer, and if it's connected with any of the above I will be able to help or advise. spannerman.gregory@gmail.com 07983352791

Great Ringstead News and Views

The editorial team welcome articles and photos from all villagers and advertisements from local businesses via email to atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk. For costings of adverts or to request a PDF version of the newsletter please use the same email.

Items for the Spring Edition of the newsletter due by Friday 19 March 2021.

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Exhibition to support Women + Health charity includes five local artists - Barbara King

Five artists from the Ringstead area have had paintings accepted for a fundraising exhibition to support the London charity 'Women + Health' which has been supporting isolated and vulnerable women, including those who are survivors of domestic violence and rape, for over 30 years.

Julie Clark, Sally Anne Fitter, Helga Joergens, Barbara King, and Pandora Mond are all taking part in what is now a virtual show and sale, after plans for a 'physical' exhibition at the Zabłudowicz Collection in London had to be cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions.

The exhibition is co-curated by Cass Wedd, who is also an artist from Ringstead, and a long-standing trustee of Women + Health. Gemma Tighe, Director of Women + Health, said:

"I'm thrilled so many women artists have donated work to support our organisation, which like many small charities, has been hit hard by the financial challenges brought about by Covid-19. Each piece of art purchased helps a woman receive support from Women + Health."

The exhibition/sale of artworks from a total of 49 women artists can be viewed online until 25 December at

<https://wla-exhibition.womenandhealth.org.uk/> also Women's Lockdown Art Exhibition Facebook Event page

<https://fb.me/e/1e2XOGucP>

W + H LOCKDOWN ART EXHIBITION NORFOLK ARTISTS - Paintings and Statements

Julie Clark - Halcyon - mixed media on paper



'Halcyon' is an abstracted representation of the calmness, stillness and eerie peace of isolation.

Sally Anne Fitter - Alice's Flowers, collage and acrylic on canvas



I am an artist by profession and, as the galleries closed over Lockdown I moved into working with Artist Support Pledge, a scheme Instagram thought up by Mathew Burroughs at the start of Lockdown to help the artistic community survive. I also found time to experiment with new techniques and ideas."

Barbara King - 'Liquified', acrylic on canvas



My paintings of boats reflected on turbulent water show a distorted reality, a jumble of colours and lines. A transformation of life into something disturbed and muddled in much the same way as Covid 19 has mixed up our lives from that we knew so short a time ago. Just as the water in my paintings deconstructs the forms of the vessels, this too could be a good time to take apart the known elements of our pre Covid lives – the building blocks – and reassemble them in a more sustainable and suitable order. From this bleak and confused time can come something better if we all make time for reflections.

St Andrew's Church , Ringstead Parochial Parish Council - John Crofts



'Poppies along the road side East End Farm' - Kate Birch

Like for so many of us life around the church is somewhat uncertain at the moment! In addition to a very good Harvest Festival service led by the Reverend Gill Stevens, we had become familiar with a pattern of worship in two of the churches in the benefice each Sunday; one being a service of Holy Communion and one being Morning Prayer and hence a service at Ringstead at least one a month, but that has changed during 'lockdown 2.' Now we wait to see what will happen after December 2nd. Services will be announced on the noticeboard at the bottom of the drive and on the benefice website www.saxonshorebenefice.co.uk

Despite lockdown we did commemorate Remembrance Sunday on 8th November with an outdoor service led by Reverend Sandra Ellison at which the Venerable Bill Jacob laid a wreath on behalf of the village and the names of 'The Fallen' from the village were read.



The previous day in glorious weather Stephen Marsh, our gardener, was joined by a dozen villagers to do a thorough tidy-up of the church and churchyard, strimming the front section which we are encouraging as a wildflower meadow, cutting back ivy, clearing flower beds and planting crocus corms amongst other jobs.

Most recently and most significantly, following visits in person, the churchwardens and clergy of the benefice were able to interview, by zoom, potential Team Vicars to work alongside Rector Rachael and Assistant Priest Father James and it was with great delight that Reverend Rachael was able to announce the appointment of The Reverend Kirsty Allan as Team Vicar. Kirsty is from Wilmslow in Cheshire, where she has been servicing her curacy. Timings for her move to the vicarage in Brancaster still need to be finalised, but we look forward to welcoming her early in 2021.

Team Rector Hunstanton and the Saxon Shore Benefice - Rev Rachael Dines

I want to concentrate on looking forward with hope to not only the last month of this year but the one in which we celebrate a most precious event for Christians.



Christmas is precious because it is when we remember with joyful thanks the birth of the one who will ultimately give us true peace and real joy. In his life Jesus was given many names and one of them was 'Light of the World'. On Christmas Day morning we hear the Bible Reading from John 1 and verse 5 is particularly powerful 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' We might think that there is darkness all around but Jesus was born so that the darkness will not overwhelm us. Jesus was born to bring us light and hope.

In the account of Jesus birth we hear of an amazing guiding star that led men from distant places to come and worship Jesus. They didn't go all that way for a holiday they came because they knew that this child was someone special, they came to give not just precious gifts but also their worship. The star that guided them was so unique and it's sight so compelling that these strange looking characters from different countries were drawn by the light. They followed and were given a glimpse of the Light of the World!

This Advent and Christmas will be very different and I suspect many of us will feel the need for guidance at this time. May I encourage you to do your own searching for Jesus, The Light of the World this year.

I am also going to challenge you to put a star in your window this Advent, take a photo and you, or a family member, can post it to social media and use #GuidingStar to join with others celebrating Jesus' birth. May you all know the light of hope in your lives this Christmas and always. Let's fill our windows with light and hope!

With my prayers for a blessed Christmas whatever it may look like this year.

Please see the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice website for December and Christmas services. Notices will also be posted at all Churches.

The Gin Trap Inn - David Lamyman

Happy Christmas to everyone.

Our stop/start world is creating havoc for one and all. Thankfully we can now see light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to all the pharmaceutical boffins around the world. We are trying to make Christmas as normal as possible. Small family groups will be able to enjoy a stress-free festive season at the pub. What we're really sad about is that we can't have carol singers and mince pies on Christmas Eve. We wish everyone the most enjoyable time over the festive period. In the meantime I hope that our head chef, Stuart Wyllie's Salmon Gravlax will be a delicious challenge to try.

Gin cured Salmon Gravlax for Christmas Day morning - Stuart Wyllie's Christmas Recipe

Serves 6-10. Time period - 4 days

Ingredients

One side of salmon (skinless and boneless, around 800-900grams)
100ml Gin Trap Gin (others are available i'm told)
3 x juniper berries
400g demerara sugar
400g salt
4 x lemons (zested)
300g cooked beetroot
100g dill

Put the beetroot, dill, lemon zest, gin, and juniper into a blender and blend till smooth. Add the salt and sugar and blend again into a smooth red paste.

Place half the salt mix into the bottom of a tray (line the bottom of the tray with cling film, the cure can react with some metal trays) and lay the salmon on top. Cover the side of salmon with the rest of the salt mix and cover with cling film. Allow to sit in the fridge for 24 hours.

After this 24 hours, check the salmon and spoon over the salt mix if there are any areas of the salmon that its fallen from that is now uncovered. Put back into the fridge for another 24 hours.

Now remove from the fridge, rinse off the cure, dry the fish and put on a cooling rack and put into the fridge, uncovered for another 24 hours to dry the surface and firm the fish.

On Christmas morning, slice as thin as you possible can, and serve on some toasted bagels with a horrific amount of cream cheese, a few fronds of fresh dill, a squeeze of lemon juice, and some good sparkling wine. (I would recommend the Humbleyard white cuvée, a lovely Norfolk sparkling wine with just enough citrus and fruit to balance the juniper in the salmon.)

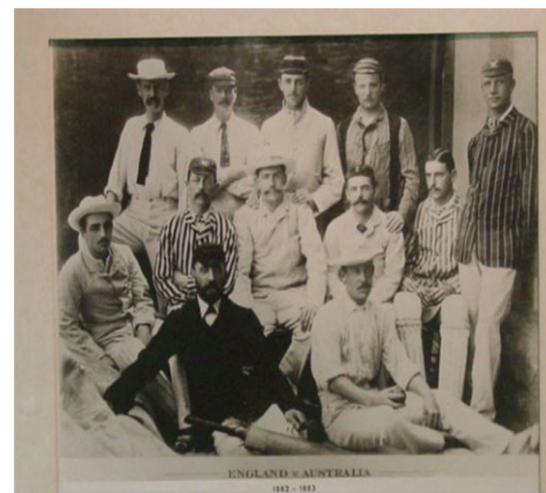
Great Ringstead Butter Scotch Choc Bars - Sara Stocks

Below is a recipe that I love and make a lot. Makes 12.

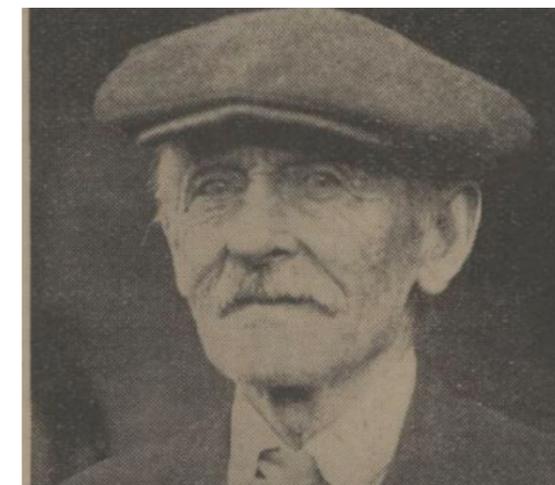
140g butter
2 large eggs
350g soft brown sugar
2tsp vanilla essence
250g sifted self raising flour
150g milk chocolate broken into big chunks
150g macadamia, hazels or pecan nuts
Icing sugar to garnish

- * Heat oven to 180C/fan 160/gas.
- * Butter and line (with parchment paper) a 20 x 24cm shallow tin.
- * Melt the butter and allow to cool for 5 mins. In a bowl beat the eggs, sugar and vanilla and add the cooled butter.
- * Tip in the flour, then fold in the chocolate chunks and 3/4 of the nuts.
- * Spread the mixture in the tin, scatter over the rest of the nuts and bake for 25-30mins.
- * Allow to cool in tin and then cut into 12 bars.
- * Dust with icing sugar before serving.

E. F. S. Tylecote - Historian, Helen Stanley



ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA 1882 - 1883



Mr. E. F. S. Tylecote

To the west end of Ringstead church, lies the headstone of Edward Ferdinando Sutton Tylecote. Edward was born in 1849 in Bedfordshire and came from a sporting family.

According to his tutors, at St John's College, Oxford, he was a brilliant student and also an athlete of the highest order, scoring 404 runs not out for Clifton College in 1868.

He was a player and Captain of the Oxford University XI from 1869 to 1872 and played for both Kent and Bedfordshire County Cricket Clubs and in 1875, he became the Mathematical Tutor at The Royal Military Academy in Woolwich, where he stayed for twenty years.

In 1882, he was chosen to play in Australia in the Honourable Ivo Bligh's England team. By the time he played against the Australians at the Oval in 1886, he had brought his total to six test matches, a national record of appearances for a gentleman. He was forced to retire shortly after, from a knee injury.

Edward married Annie Robson in 1905, the couple living first in Bournemouth before moving to Elmwood, Austin Street in Hunstanton. In 1911, he is on the Voters List at The Lodge in Ringstead. His main interest was collecting moths and butterflies and his collection of rare European specimens is on display in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

In a 1933 newspaper interview, he described the injuries he had received during his career, broken toes, black eyes, and a thigh injury that put him in hospital for seven weeks. He described 'body-line bowling' as nonsense and felt that "Today the players stand right over the wicket, the bowler has to bowl at their legs".

He described his first trip to Australia as "rather thrilling", when their ship, the Peshawar, was rammed by a 1500 ton barque, causing a foot long hole in the side. Despite the high seas, a canvas repair was made and the Peshawar and the offending barque were towed safely into Ceylon.

The team had a wonderful welcome and enjoyed both the cricket and the shooting parties, when they killed kangaroo and wallabies. It was so unbearably hot that their cricket gloves were kept on ice . In his 1933 interview, Edward said "I think too much fuss is being made of the Modern Test Player. It does not do him any good"

E.F.S. Tylecote died in Hunstanton in 1938 aged 88, a noted entomologist, England's oldest surviving Test cricketer and a man described by his peers as ' The countries finest wicker keeper and sportsman'.

What to Feed the Birds in Winter - Les Bunyan

As the temperatures go down in winter, it is a difficult time for our native wildlife, especially our garden birds.

So here are a few tips on what you can do to help:

Different birds, just like us, like different things. To attract birds like Goldfinch, Siskins and if you're lucky Redpolls, try the smaller seeds like Nyjer. Greenfinches and the Tit family are, on the other hand, more fond of sunflower hearts. Robins and the Thrush family are partial to mealworms (live or the dried variety), whilst if you leave some windfall fruit such as apples, pears and plums, these are great for Fieldfares and Redwing as well as a rare winter visitor, Waxwings.

Fat balls, coconut halves and peanuts usually pull in great Spotted Woodpeckers as well as Starlings and the Tit family.

Don't forget to move your feeders around your garden - this can help prevent predators like Sparrowhawks getting used to seeing "food" in the same place!

Clean fresh water is a must and to prevent it freezing something floating in the water keeps it on the move and free of ice.

Try to clean your feeders on a regular basis - mouldy seeds and peanuts will spread parasites and disease.

But, above all, keep it up - your little patch can be the difference between life and death at this time of year.



Greenfinch



Robin



Spotted Woodpecker

Village Pensioners - Roger Pincott

Due to the second lockdown being enforced we will not be organising this years Christmas lunch. I hope we can get back to normal some time next year. Keep safe.

Ringstead Village Club - Elaine Pincott

It is with great regret there will be no village club until after Christmas, then hopefully we can get together for a cup of tea and a chat. When restrictions are over watch the notice board for further information. elainepincott@gmail.com

Ringstead Bowls Club - Roger Pincott

The club did not play any league matches this year but did have a lot of fun playing various formats on a club basis. We played up the green, across the green, across the corners and Australian pairs. If nothing else it showed us where there are differences in the green. It did also show us that some of us cannot multi task in that we got lost when, counting six ends, do I roll two woods or four woods and what was the score? We had a hoot. We are now in the throws of putting the green to bed. The green has had 800 kilos of top dressing, 1000 kilos of top soil, 20 kilos of autumn fertiliser and a couple of kilos of grass seed. On top of all that Gill and her gang have been very busy tidying the garden and planting bulbs.

You may not be aware but we did have the hedge replaced a couple of years ago. Unfortunately most of the hedging material failed and a second lot was planted. These also failed. A local business (they have a keen interest in garden plants), who are not involved in the first or second attempt, stepped in and have donated a whole new set of container grown plants, for which we are sincerely thankful. Gill has also been planning these and they are already taller and healthier looking than the previous plants.

We hope to play competitive games next year, have a good and safe Christmas and a whole lot of different New Year.

Ringstead Open Gardens will be held Sunday 13th June 2021 - Cherry Green

We were all so disappointed that we had to cancel this year. It was such a shame not being able to see everyone and get together for what is always such a fun day and boost to the village! However, our Ringstead gardens were not entirely forgotten, with thanks to Jane Whiteford (our publicity agent!), we had a post on Facebook as follows...

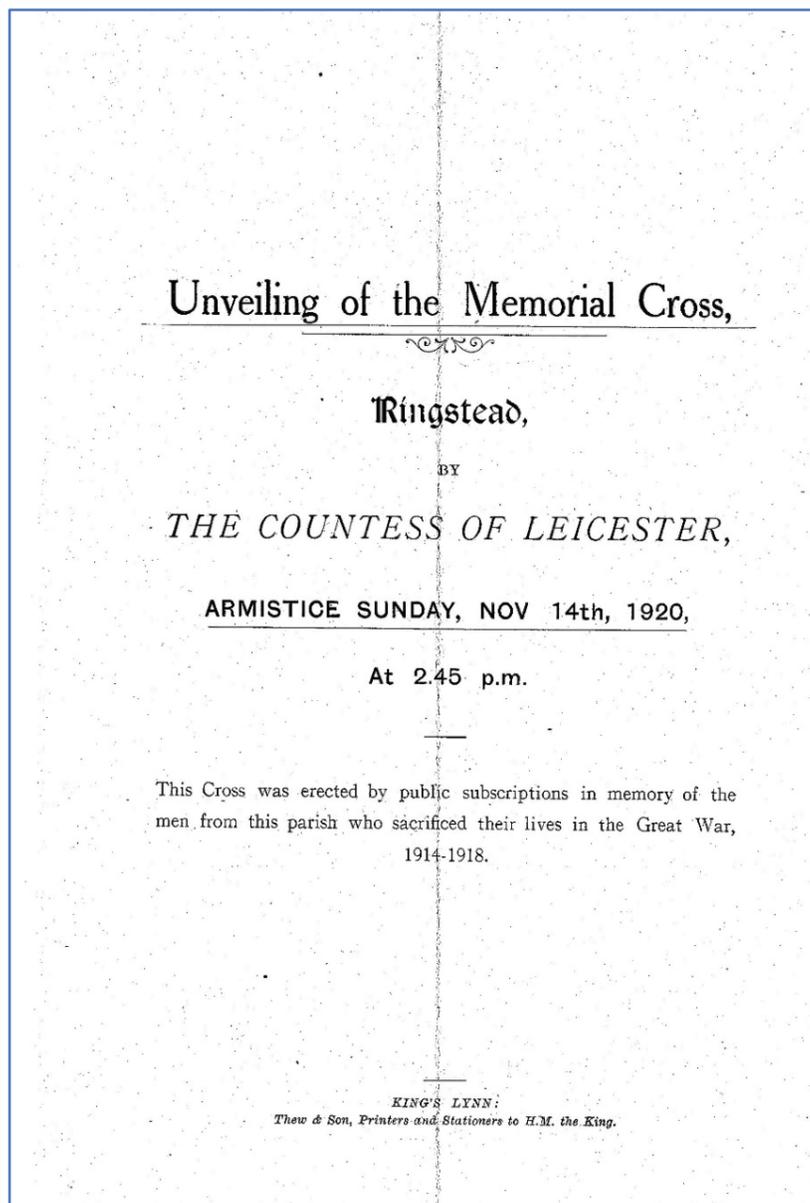


Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @RingsteadOpenGardens for future updates!

We would love some new gardens and so if there is anyone who would like to open next year, who is not already on our list, do please let me know. The more variety the better. Please contact me on Tel: 525223. So, it is full steam ahead to make next year a huge success.

Unveiling of the Memorial Cross, Ringstead, 14th November, 1920 - Kate Birch

As you see from the front of the service sheet the War Memorial in Ringstead was unveiled a hundred years ago. The service sheet and the accounts of the War Memorial committee were among documents scanned by the History Group earlier this year.



The names of the 109 households that subscribed are listed, and Lewis Bros of Heacham were the monumental masons responsible for erecting the "Balmoral Red Granite Wheelcross and bases" and the inscription letters in "raised lead".

From the report in the local paper "The Lynn Advertiser, Wisbech Constitutional Gazette and Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Herald" on Nov 19th 1920 we learn:

The unveiling ceremony was performed by the Countess of Leicester, and the squire (Mr Le Strange) gave an address. The Rector (Rev A Le Strange) dedicated the cross and conducted the service with the assistance of Rev WH Waller.

The choir was augmented from neighbouring parishes, and the organist was Miss Olive Linford.

Arriving at the memorial Lady Leicester quietly drew away the Union Jack with which the cross was covered and the Rector uttered the dedicatory sentence.

The last Post was the sounded by Bugler Harry Lake.

After the service a number of wreaths and other floral devices were placed at the base of the cross.

Later relatives of the fallen, and the War memorial Committee were invited to tea at the Rectory, to meet Lady Leicester, who talked with much sympathy to the bereaved mothers.



To the glory of God
and in memory of the Ringstead
men who gave their lives in the
Great War 1914 – 1918

We remember
Charles Owen Hammerton
Charlie Amos Goulty
Henry Nudds
William Chapman
William John Frammingham

Peddars Meadow - Linden and Stephen Bevan-Pritchard

A vivid childhood memory is of myriads of insects streaming into the car headlights as we drove through Devon lanes in the dark of Winter. Another memory comes to mind: thirty years later, brushing against the Hyssop plants that lined the garden path, clouds of bees, day-flying moths, butterflies and hover-flies rose up around us. On one Sedum plant alone, we could count up to fifty Tortoiseshells. By the time we left that garden forty years later, we felt surprised if we saw more than one butterfly. We had a deep feeling of unease at this dramatic decline.

Walking in Courtyard Farm meadows during our extended isolation this year, we found solace in the wonderful variety of plants that were providing habitats for insects, mammals and birds. We were delighted to find that Hanneke Robson was embarking on a project to create a wild flower meadow for our diminishing pollinators, on half an acre of land adjacent to Peddars Way South. It lies just below an established wildflower area created by James Young, and we intend to merge with this to form Peddars Meadow.

After negotiations with the landowner, it was established that the land could be developed as a wild flower area, as long as it was managed and not allowed to revert to scrub. The Peddars Meadow Project was launched. It will be funded with commission taken on sales of art work from The Garage Studio in Docking Road.



Once the ground had been cleared of invasive plants with herbicide, and the earth tilled, seeds that had remained dormant for forty years or so sprang into life. Among other native flora, we were delighted to discover, nestled beside swathes of the annual Bugloss, lots of Fumitory, a plant important to Turtle Doves. The green mantle of summer flowers has now set seed and died and will provide winter cover for all kinds of fauna. An owl post has been installed for our Barn, Little and Tawny Owls to watch for prey.

Peddars Meadow is just the beginning of an exciting new project: "The Acre per Village Initiative", a plan to encourage every village in England to release an acre of land from agricultural use and restore it to nature. After hearing on BBC radio 4 of Wild East's ambitious plans for re-wilding East Anglia, Hanneke made contact with one of the founder members, Argus Gathorne-Hardy, to tell him about her plans. This was his response:

"This is such a simple and beautiful idea which would be exciting to see repeated across the region as part of a wilder, wetter and woodier east. It is just this sort of vision that we want to celebrate and to encourage others to follow. We fully support you and would love to host you on our map of dreams as part of the WildEast."

Well, we would love to be part of a map of dreams, but the main thing is to make a contribution to restoring some of the biodiversity that has disappeared. I really believe that all life forms are interconnected and interdependent, but there is an acknowledged crisis; this intricate web of connections has been disrupted, and nature is in free-fall. Yet I know that many gardeners are making havens for all kinds of wild life, and I'm encouraged by the creative and visionary ideas that could help nature to flourish again.



Peddars Meadow