

Felsham & Gedding

VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 194, April 2020



Welcome to the April edition of your Felsham & Gedding Village News.

It was unfortunate that unforeseen circumstances meant there wasn't a print version of last month's newsletter. The technical issues that prevented printing have now been resolved and it's good to be back.

Whilst it was a disappointment, in the grand scheme of things, missing one edition seems trivial. All of our lives are, in one way or another, being affected the Coronavirus pandemic, and there are much more important matters for us all.

It's great to see the gestures of help being offered to others on the village Facebook page. Whether great or small these gestures will make a difference to those in need, and will hopefully act as inspiration for others to get involved (where it's safe to do so).

Hopefully we'll all soon be able to go about our daily lives without constraint, but perhaps the events of recent weeks might make us take stock, and do things differently in the future. Stay safe everyone.

Richard

Next Copy Date

23/04/2019

Please be aware that items submitted after the deadline cannot be guaranteed to appear in the magazine.

Copy Submissions

Email villagenews@felsham.org.uk or call Jo Tavernor on 01449 737793

Advertising

Email villagenewsadverts@felsham.org.uk or call Jo Tavernor on 01449 737793

Copy Submissions

Email villagenews@felsham.org.uk or call Jo Tavernor on 01449 737793

Compliments, Complaints & Suggestions

The Village News team would welcome your feedback. Do you have any comments about what we do, what's going well, anything you'd like us to change?

Email jsthorticulture@btinternet.com or call Jo Tavernor 01449 737793

Newsletter General Policy

We do publish acknowledgements, articles of general interest, artistic works and similar.

We do publish factual material from recognised organisations.

We do publish to the Village web site at <http://felsham.onesuffolk.net/>

We do not publish defamatory, rude, blasphemous, racial or other inappropriate material.

We reserve the right to edit contributions to suit publication needs.

We are reliant on contributions from many sources, taken in good faith, and cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Copyright waiver is presumed implicit on all submissions unless clearly stated otherwise.

During the current COVID-19 crisis, we will deliver to your door. If you Phone your order through in the morning (01449 736042) it will be delivered either that afternoon or evening.

Orders for Lavenham Butchers would generally be delivered the following day, and Lavenham Bakers deliver on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Please bear this in mind when placing your order.

STORE CUPBOARD ESSENTIALS:

MILK, BREAD, BUTTER, BACON, PASTA, RICE, PUDDING RICE, GLUTEN FREE PASTA, GLUTEN FREE BISCUIT & SNACKS, FRESH BREAD, SLICED BREAD, PART-BAKE BAGUETTES, CRUMPETS, A RANGE OF BISCUITS, MARMALADE, JAM, CAKES, CURRY PRODUCTS, HERBS AND SPICES, FLOUR, CHOCOLATE, CRISPS, PAKENHAM MILL FLOUR & OATS, CEREAL, SQUASH, TOILET ROLL, KITCHEN ROLL, FLASH SURFACE SPRAY, TISSUES, PAIN RELIEF, CHILD PAIN RELIEF, COUGH MIXTURE, BLEACH, BIN BAGS, FIRST AID ITEMS, NAPPIES, BABYWIPES, TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, SHAMPOO

TINS, JARS & SAUCES:

SARDINES, MACKERAL, TOMATOES, CHICKPEA, CARROTS, NEW POTATOES, TINNED STEAK, CURRY, CHILLI, STEW, BAKED BEANS, PEAS, PEACHES, PEARS, MIXED FRUIT, COCONUT MILK, PINEAPPLE, PASTA BAKES, SWEET AND SOUR, BOVRIL, MARMITE, LEA & PERRINS,

FROZEN:

PIZZA, CHIPS, ICE CREAMS, LOCAL MEATS inc. PORK, LAMB, GOAT & CHICKEN NUGGETS

LOCAL SUPPLIERS ALL AVAILABLE TO ORDER IN FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

LAVENHAM BUTCHERS: pies, sausage rolls, scotch eggs, ham, bacon, chicken breast, meat pies,

LAVENHAM BAKERS: white, wholemeal, granary loaves, rolls, scones, hot cross buns & scones

SUFFOLK CHEESES: Suffolk gold, Suffolk blue & butter

We also carry: CURRY WITH LOVE, STOUR VALLEY HONEY, MAYNARDS JUICE, GATE FARM EGGS, PAKENHAM MILL FLOUR, ALDER CARR, YUM YUM TREE FUDGE, MAYPOLE PORK, APPLE TREE COTTAGE and much, much more.

IF WE CAN HELP, PLEASE DO CONTACT US.



Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Felsham & Gedding Branch,
Sub-Branch Drinkstone,
The Royal British Legion,
16, Eastern Way,
Elmswell,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk.
IP30 9DP
Tel. 01359 241159
Mobile 07707 524722
e-mail NPlumpton@aol.com
20th February 2020.

Dear Editor,

We are delighted to announce that, for the third year in succession, Felsham and Gedding Branch, sub-Branch Drinkstone, has been presented with the County Award for the most efficient and progressive Branch within the County.

This is a remarkable achievement for such a small Branch and we are immensely proud to have received this award.

Our nomination will now be considered for the National Award (The Lister Cup) which we won last year at National Conference.

This success can only be achieved with the help and support that we continue to receive from the local community and we would like to thank everybody within the villages of Felsham, Gedding and Drinkstone for your continued support.

Natural progression and survival of the Branch is also greatly dependent upon the ability to continue to recruit new Members to contribute and share in our success.

We would welcome any new Members to come along and join us by contacting me on any of the above methods.

You **DO NOT** have to be a Member or Ex Member of H.M. Forces to join us, simply share an interest in the welfare of our Armed Service Members and their dependants.

Thanks again for your continued support, it really is appreciated and, please do not hesitate to contact me for details if you would like to join us.

Yours respectfully,

Norman Plumpton,
Branch Secretary,
Felsham & Gedding Royal British Legion. (sub-Branch Drinkstone)



The Royal British Legion. Registered No. 219279 under the Charities Act 1960

Announcements

Congratulations to

Janice & Ken Courtney

On reaching their Golden Wedding Anniversary
on 28th March 2020



They have been resident in Felsham for 41 of those years

Cat Found in Cockfield

A cat that was picked up in Cockfield is
now being cared for at Bury Stray Cats Fund.

It has a Durham registered microchip but
no associated contact information.

Perhaps it belongs to someone who has
moved here from the Durham area?

**The Bury Stray Cats Fund can be contacted on
01284 388455.**

Your Views Matter

Felsham Parish Council need your help.....

- **Would you like to move but cannot find or afford a suitable home in Felsham?**
- **Do you have children who cannot afford to live nearby?**
- **Are you concerned about the type of housing that may be provided in the village?**

We are asking all residents and those with a connection to the village to complete a Housing Needs Questionnaire. The questionnaire will be delivered to your home sometime during the last weekend of April 2020 and we would urge you to complete and return it so that we can identify any local, affordable housing needs and find out what aspirations people might have for future housing in Felsham.

Keep an eye out for your forms and please take a moment to complete and return them, the more people who voice their wishes the better equipped Councillors will be to make the best decisions for Felsham.



Here's a little help for any children thinking of displaying a rainbow in a window. Please remember to hunt rainbows responsibly and observe social distancing protocols!



SPANISH



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"cerveza, vino y tapas?"



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for details and availability

Village Friends

Unfortunately our next meeting, scheduled for Thursday 23rd April, has been postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Village Friends is an over 60's friendship group of men and women from various villages who meet once a month and enjoy tea together.

All welcome, just come along

Normally, all meetings are held at Felsham & Gedding Village Hall.

If you require transport to future meetings please contact:

Sue Jell 01294 828892

Lynn Cardale 01284 386327

Urgent Appeal for Volunteers

***Felsham and Gedding Community Store and Post Office
Urgently Needs Your Help!***

During the Coronavirus outbreak, we are extremely busy but also short staffed. We have an URGENT need for extra volunteers to help run the shop, take telephone orders and make deliveries.

If you are able to help in any way, however great or small, please call 01449 736042. Your support will help us continue to support those most in need in our community during this time.

Thank you.

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Tel: 01449 737458

Mob: 07531795064

Email: nicobraz@hotmail.co.uk

Online Resources for Children Learning at Home

If you have school-aged children at home during this period of social distancing, you might find some of these online resources useful to enrich their learning.

Oxford Owl - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Help your young child learn to read, and love to read, with our eBook library, containing over 100 free eBooks. Our eBooks have been developed for children aged 3-11, to teach them to read using phonics.

Magic Keys - <http://www.magickeys.com/>

Magic Keys offers dozens of free eBooks for children, many of which include audio formats. Books are divided into three categories for young children, older children, and young adults.

Storyline Online - <https://www.storylineonline.net/>

Storyline Online is another award-winning, interactive children's literacy site that features famous actors reading children's books alongside minor animation elements.

Gateway to the Classics - <http://www.gatewaytotheclassics.com/>

Gateway to the Classics (formerly The Baldwin Online Children's Literature Project) offers hundreds of children's books from over 384 authors, with an emphasis on literature, history, and natural history. In addition, readers can access over 2500 poems. Some titles are even available as audio files for kids categorized under the Children's eBooks section.

Amazon Kindle Store - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kindle-eBooks>

Children's e-Books – Best Sellers – Top 100 free. You can find free Kindle books for kids categorized under the Children's eBooks section.

International Children's Digital Library - <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

A non-profit organization providing access to the best children's books of their culture, and cultures around the world regardless of where they live.

Book Trust - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>

Here you can find lots of lovely interactive books to read online or watch with signing. They also have free, fun kids' games to enjoy online too.

Online Resources for Children Learning at Home

Open Library - <https://openlibrary.org/>

This site is part of the non-profit Internet Archive and houses a collection of more than one million books, with access to over 22,000 free online books for kids – classic and newer titles – for free.

Topmarks - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk>

Topmarks gives children the opportunity to learn online, through safe, fun and engaging games and activities, and helps teachers and parents save time finding the best, inspirational educational web resources.

Primaryhomeworkhelp - <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk>

Primaryhomeworkhelp is the new website for Woodlands Junior homework resources. Hundreds of pages of easy to read information and facts on many homework topics including tudors, victorians, romans, rivers and mountains.

Primaryhomeworkhelp - <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk>

Primaryhomeworkhelp is the new website for Woodlands Junior homework resources. Hundreds of pages of easy to read information and facts on many homework topics including tudors, victorians, romans, rivers and mountains.

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

A broad range of curriculum-specific and other learning resources from the BBC. For students from 3 to 16+.

BBC Two Learning Zone - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01b8f09>

A range of short films, including dramas, animations and documentaries, designed to provide inspiration for the classroom and beyond.

Twinkl - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

The trusted home of teacher-created planning and assessment materials and teaching resources! Perfect for inside and outside the classroom. Set up a free parent membership to access a wealth of learning resources.

Bradfield Woods

ALL OUR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES HAVE NOW BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL THE END OF MAY.

At the time of writing, Bradfield Woods is still open for you to enjoy – for nature to replenish and cheer us all. However, to support the Government guidelines on social distancing and the cleanliness of public spaces, the toilets are now closed.

Please respect other visitors and the 2 metre guidance, so we can continue to keep the reserve open for everyone to enjoy safely.



ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

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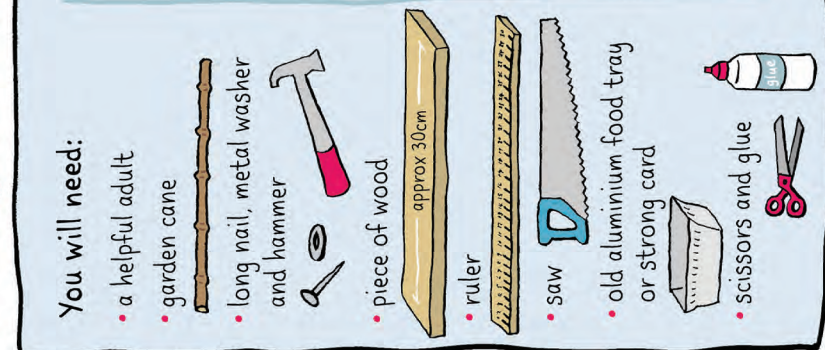
My name is Nigel.

If you would like a quote, please ring me or send an email.

Mob 07775 858052

Email nigel.mess22@ntlworld.com

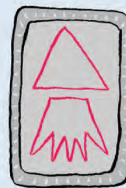
Make your own wind vane



1 Saw a vertical slit at each end of the piece of wood.

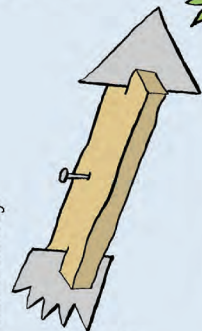


Hammer the nail through the midpoint of the wood, and spin the wood to make sure it turns freely on the nail.



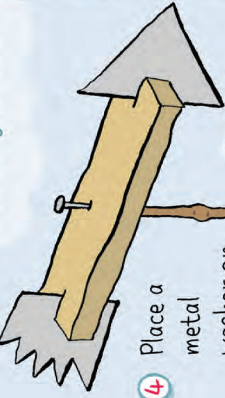
2 Cut out a head and tail from the aluminium tray or cardboard.

Be careful of sharp edges – ask an adult to cut the aluminium tray.



3 Glue into slots and leave to dry.

Choose a windy area for your vane.



Direction of the wind

4 Place a metal washer on top of the garden cane. Hammer the nail through into the top of the cane.

Illustrations: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

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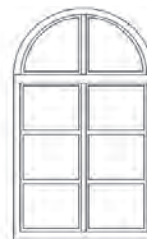
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April 2020

VH = Village Hall
VHCP = Village Hall Car Park

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
			BROWN BIN 	GREEN BIN 		
6 John's Fresh Fruit & Veg Call 01449 736578	7	8	9 Mermaid Fish & Chips VHCP, 6 - 6:30pm	10 Fresh Fish, VHCP 10:05am BLACK BIN 	11	12
13 John's Fresh Fruit & Veg Call 01449 736578	14	15	16 Mermaid Fish & Chips VHCP, 6 - 6:30pm BROWN BIN 	17 Fresh Fish, VHCP10:05am GREEN BIN 	18	19
20 John's Fresh Fruit & Veg Call 01449 736578	21	22	23 Mermaid Fish & Chips VHCP, 6 - 6:30pm	24 Mobile Library Gedding Village Sign, 10:10 and VHCP, 11:40am BLACK BIN 	25	26
27 John's Fresh Fruit & Veg Call 01449 736578	28	29	30 Mermaid Fish & Chips VHCP, 6 - 6:30pm BROWN BIN 	31 Fresh Fish, VHCP10:05am GREEN BIN 	All of the regular clubs and events have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The days and times for commercial services have been left on the calendar, but please check with the service provider they are still intending to visit the village at their usual times.	

Thorpe Morieux and District Gardening Club

At our February meeting of Thorpe Morieux Gardening Club we were pleased to see so many members come along to hear our speaker Tim Fuller.

Tim gave an excellent talk on gardening with grasses. With his extensive knowledge, he was able to offer comprehensive advice on grasses and their planting. Each variety has different requirements as to where they are planted in order to survive and thrive.

Often we buy a grass not really knowing anything about its needs, apart from the little bit of information contained on the label. However, Tim worked through 32 different grasses, aided with coloured slides, making it easy to choose a grass to suit your requirements and those of your garden.

Our competition this month was a vase containing a winter botanic display, which was won by Patricia Everett, with a beautiful-smelling *Daphnia Odora Marginata* and miniature *Narcissus*.

The evening ended with refreshments and members all chatting about their plans for their garden in the coming year. If you would like to join our gardening club, it will only cost you £6 to join, or come along as guest and pay £2. That includes refreshments and a lot of *"down to earth"* gardening help.

The Cockfield Benefice

The C word has displaced all other news at the moment - by that I mean the Coronavirus of course.

As I write this it is difficult to envisage a time in the future when the crisis has passed, and life is back to what we would consider to be normal! The virus has realised our worst fears - as yet there is not a vaccine, and we cannot stop it from spreading. Despite all our technology and our sophistication it crosses all barriers, and has brought nations to a complete standstill.

In the Church you are probably aware by now that we have had to cancel all our public services - and for the next few weeks we are going to have to lock our churches and not have any prayers or services there at all. I will be worshipping at home, so if you would like to join me on a Sunday you can through using the pew sheet that I will email out to those who would like it.

For those not on email it will be delivered if at all possible. I know that our villages have all responded magnificently to the crisis in offering support and help to those who are vulnerable or housebound. It is going to be tough, but I'm sure we will find ways to continue to do so without going against the call of our government to stay at home.

I am very happy to take calls or emails if a person is in need - my details are below. As we approach Easter, a time when we remember what Jesus went through to give us life in all its fullness, my hope is people will develop a spiritual thirst as they seek to make sense of what is currently happening.

I pray that we can prevent further suffering and death through following all that we are being asked to do. I hope that despite all that is happening that you will enjoy the Easter break, and that you will stay safe and virus free.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Revd Sharon

Revd Sharon Potter
revsharon@btinternet.com
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Suffolk Constabulary is issuing advice to combat unscrupulous individuals who look to exploit the vulnerable during the coronavirus outbreak. The messages urge vigilance against criminals who will be using the publicity around the virus as a chance to target the vulnerable. For example, the guidance includes making it clear to always ask for identification of anyone claiming to be from the emergency services or the voluntary sector and not to open the door to anyone, especially from someone you are not expecting. Other scams include coronavirus tax refunds, fake cures, World Health Organisation impersonation emails and bit coin payments.

Chief Superintendent Marina Ericson said: "We are living through unprecedented times, and while we are seeing mostly positive and very helpful community based activity to support the vulnerable, there continues to be a heartless and scheming group of criminals who will look to exploit the current situation for their own needs. Scams can come in many different forms – from, for example, calling on people to say they are testing for the virus, to those fraudulently selling protective face masks, or offering to do shopping and taking money. The majority of groups are well intentioned and working through the voluntary or charity sector, and will be very happy to provide you with proof as to who they are. The message is simple, if you have any doubts about the honesty of the person or offer of help, we urge you not to engage further – put the phone down or shut the door and report suspicious behaviour."

Vulnerable people will be most at risk so we ask that people protect themselves and we ask relatives and neighbours of the vulnerable to have a conversation with their loved ones or neighbours to stay alert and be wary of unsolicited offers of help. If you feel in immediate danger call 999 or if you know someone is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please contact Suffolk Constabulary on 101 or Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

- Only accept help from people you know and / or trust. Never deal with unexpected cold callers.
- You do not have to agree to anything you don't feel comfortable with
- Police, health workers and others will not and do not call at your house to test for coronavirus or ask for money regarding investigations.
- Check the person calling at your door has valid identification, even if they are dressed in uniform
- Do not transfer any money across to someone who calls you over the phone, banks will not ask for your personal security details
- Do not trust anyone asking for money transfers or cash over the phone
- Do not make shopping purchases from a company or person you do not know and trust. Use a credit card to pay to protect yourselves.

For further advice:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/coldcallers1.pdf>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/fraudprevention1.pdf>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/news/latest-news/16-03-2020/coronavirus-scam-warning>

Police advice on a variety of subjects can be accessed via <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>
To get in touch or to report something, use the link <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>
To make an anonymous report call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Police are urging residents to be vigilant after an elderly woman was targeted by telephone scammers. The incident was reported to police on Tuesday 10 March, by a bank in Bury St Edmunds, after a woman, aged in her 80s, from a nearby village, was persuaded to transfer a large sum of money by telephone scammers pretending to be from the fraud department. The woman was also persuaded to withdraw some of the cash and it was later collected by a female courier. Courier fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts a victim by telephone and purports to be a police officer, bank or from a government department, among other agencies. A number of techniques will then be adopted in order to convince the victim to hand over their bank details or cash, which may then be passed on to a courier. Officers are urging residents not to hand over cash or cards to callers under similar circumstances. Scammers are known to make calls like this to convince people into handing over money, bank cards or personal information. Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have received a similar type of telephone call or have any information about this incident. Anyone with any information should contact Suffolk police, quoting crime number: 37/15013/20

Website – <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/existing-report-update>

Email – daniel.witter@suffolk.pnn.police.uk Phone – call 101

Crimestoppers (100% anonymous) - 0800 555 111, or via their online form: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

In an emergency always call 999

For further advice, visit www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Residents are reminded that neither your bank nor the police will ever ask you to withdraw money or purchase items. Further advice is offered below.

- Your bank or the police will never ask for your PIN, bank card or bank account details over the phone – never give these details to anybody.
- Neither the police nor the banks will send a courier to collect money from you.
- Always request Photo ID and if unsure call the police.
- If you're asked to telephone a bank, then always do it on a different phone to the one you were contacted on. Fraudsters will keep the line open and have been known to play ringtones, hold music and a recorded message down the phone so the victim believes they are making a call to a legitimate number. Use a friend or neighbour's telephone instead.
- Never download any software suggested by caller.
- Do not rush into complying to the scammers demands / requests.
- Friends, family, carers and neighbours are asked to spread the word to ensure everyone is aware of this scam and what they should do.
- If you have already given your bank details over the phone or handed your card details to a courier, call your bank straight away to cancel the card.

Further advice can be found at <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/fraudprevention1>

Police advice on a variety of subjects can be accessed via <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>
To get in touch or to report something, use the link <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>
To make an anonymous report call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

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Cockfield Community Broadcast

Computer & iPhone / iPad Training & Support

Those of us with computers, tablets and smartphones are likely to be placing greater reliance on them in the coming weeks as we spend most of our time at home. Keeping in contact with friends and family, on-line shopping, paying bills etc will all assume greater importance as this crisis continues. So we will want our devices to remain fully operational. Occasionally problems will arise or you may feel you need some guidance on how to undertake a task. Equally just to broaden your knowledge you may feel like taking the opportunity for some one on one training.

The formal Computer Circle classes ended earlier this year, but during this period I would like to make available virtually something comparable to help with training and support. So with effect from this Monday, 23rd March from 2.30 to 4.30 pm and thereafter on a weekly basis I will be available for consultation on any computer related training or problem solving requirement. My main expertise is with Windows, iPhone and iPad. For problem solving I have a basic knowledge of Apple computers and Android smartphone and tablets, but in the event I can't deal with the issue, I'll find someone with the relevant expertise.

This routine schedule doesn't prevent anyone contacting me at any time for an urgent issue.

To start with the procedure is as follows. I'll adapt it as necessary in the light of experience to book training on a particular Windows, iPhone / iPad topic, or for any technology related problem, email me on neilka@btinternet.com, or call me on 01284 827238 or 07900 880 888. I will reserve a slot for you on a Monday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30. At the appointed time, call me on my landline, 01284 827238 and we'll get into the training or discuss the problem. If we need to look at your Windows computer - essential for training - I will guide you through downloading and using a product which will allow me when authorised by you to connect to your computer and share the screen and mouse movements.

Stay safe.

Neil Ashton. 01284 827238 / 07900 880 888

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Felsham and Gedding WI

Felsham and Gedding W.I. Meeting March 2020.

Amanda Richmond was our guest speaker and having listened to her account of how she climbed Everest a few years ago we knew we were in for an entertaining evening.

On this occasion she spoke about The Americas concentrating on South America where she and her husband started their epic journey. Part 2, North America was for another time.

It had been an ambition of theirs for ages and finally they took the plunge, gave up their jobs (as teachers) and for a year travelled throughout the Continent. Fascinating snippets accompanied the many slides and we were able to see how immersed they became in local life by partaking in some hair raising activities, staying in hostels, shopping in local markets. Travel was by local bus and only flying when no alternative was possible.

Easter Island, the Galapagos, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil all explored. They found that they spent less money per month than they would have at home despite travel costs and living expenses.

It proved a most enjoyable evening lifting the spirits during the current health pandemic and the dreadful weather raging outside.

Our next meeting, scheduled for the 14th April, has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Our intended guest speaker, Katie Mitcham, will hopefully be able to come along and speak about Heath Farm, Hessett, at a later date.

Parish Report - March 2020

Councillor Penny Otton
Meadowside
High Street
Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds
IP30 0RA
Telephone: 07545 423847
Email: penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk



Review of school transport policy implementation highlights 19 failings

Suffolk County Council has undertaken an internal review of the implementation of its new school transport policy. The report from the review group identified nineteen failings and was discussed by the Scrutiny Committee on 12th February.

Concerns highlighted by the report included: the policy being implemented at the same time as a new IT system and staff restructure; insufficient staff numbers to cope with the increased workload; the policy was poorly communicated to parents and schools; the application and appeals processes were too complex; and the wellbeing of parents and children suffered as a result of the poor implementation. Having asked, the Scrutiny Committee has agreed to review the policy itself before the end of 2020.

2020-21 budget agreed

On 13 February, the Council agreed the budget for 2020-21. This included a council tax rise of 3.98%, a £3m "Suffolk 2020 Fund", and a £0.5m Highways Investment Fund.

Both opposition groups proposed amendments to the budget. Ours included additional funding for health visitors, increasing social worker salaries, investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, to re-introduce bus passes for carers and increasing funding to Citizens Advice. Unfortunately, these amendments were voted down by the Conservative administration.

Plans for Ipswich Northern Route are scrapped

The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council has officially voted to end any further work into an Ipswich Northern Route, following the withdrawal of support from a number of district councils.

Instead, The Cabinet agreed to set-up a task force to investigate measures for dealing with transport issues in Ipswich. It is not yet clear who will be on the task force, when it will be set up or what its remit will be. I am concerned that, it seems, the 2 MPs will chair this, should it not be someone independent?

Parish Report - March 2020

Sizewell C

My group have forwarded a motion to council in SCC to stop negotiations, due to the overwhelming environmental impact on the surrounding area.

Street lights to change to LED in bid to save money and carbon

The Cabinet has agreed to invest £9.8m in converting all council-owned street lights in Suffolk to LED bulbs, with the capability for dimming by up to 50%. This level of investment could potentially be returned through energy savings within 5.5 years of completed conversion, if no dimming was applied and assuming energy costs increase at a rate of 8%. If dimming is applied, there would be a return on investment within 4 years.

It is also expected to reduce carbon emissions by between 60-80%. The council is hoping to begin the work in autumn 2020 and expects the project to be completed within two years.

MID SUFFOLK

Budget

At the Mid Suffolk Council setting meeting, The Lib Dems and Green Party members proposed amendments, including more highways support for planning, investment in zero carbon housing, electric charging points in all public car parks, free parking in Stowmarket after 3pm one day per week and a competition to produce plans for a series of sustainable Suffolk house designs.

These were voted down; however, my suggestion of a youth council has been taken up as well as the creation of a £500,000 climate change reserve, to be available for recommendations from the climate change task force.

Rises for council tenant rents and charges for sheltered housing (which I voted against) were eventually implemented, after a mistake by one Conservative councillor and also the chair when the votes were taken, requiring legal advice to be sought.

Disabled Facilities Grants

I have met with the officer to see what is happening with these and the current contract, hopefully these will be taken over completely by the district council.

Gedding Public meeting 18th March

The MSDC monitoring officer was invited to attend. Thank you so much Paula for organising and delivering a letter to all in Gedding, hopefully we can get things going there again.



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Megan Pryke
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07876 717 008

THE 59 CLUB

The 59 CLUB are looking for more people to take part.
We have plenty of numbers available

For those of you that don't know what the 59 Club is, it's based on the winning National Lottery Bonus Ball. Simple pick a number that's currently available from numbers 1-59, and if your chosen number is drawn as part of the bonus ball in the National Lottery Lotto, then your number wins.

We have 2 games per week. One on a Wednesday & one on Saturday.

The Wednesday game is charged at 50p per number and if your number comes up you win £15. The Saturday game is charged at £1 per number and for that game if your number is drawn you win £30.

The 59 Club is run on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, and raises funds for the Village Hall. So every little bit really does help!

If you would like to take part, or need more information, please get in contact with me: steven1515@yahoo.co.uk or 01449737040.

Thank you, Steven



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		Gedding Bus Stop			10:41				
		Bury Bus Station			11:07				
	RETURN	Bury Bus Station, Stand 5			12:55				
		Gedding Bus Stop			13:19				
		Felsham Six Bells			13:22				

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Emma Harvey Lawrence (Nutritionist)
BSc (Hons), ANutr, MNS
emma@nutrition-creative.co.uk

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Village Directory

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CARPET BOWLS	TREVOR DORES	01449 737936
ST PETER'S CHURCH, FELSHAM	REVEREND SHARON POTTER	01284 828599
ST MARY'S CHURCH, GEDDING	revsharon@btinternet.com	
CHURCH WARDENS	DAVID WILLIAMS (FELSHAM)	01449 737778
	JAMES MORGAN (GEDDING)	01449 737445
DOCTORS SURGERY	WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE, HEATH ROAD, WOOLPIT	01359 240298
PHARMACY	WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE, HEATH ROAD, WOOLPIT	01359 242394
F&G Community Store & Post Office		01449 736042
F&G FUEL GROUP	pawlinson@btinternet.com	01449 736330
FACEBOOK	FELSHAM & GEDDING COMMUNITY	
FAGENDS	c/o DAVID WILLIAMS	01449 737778
FELSHAM CHARITY	DAVID WILLIAMS	01449 737778
GEDDING PARISH MEETING	GILLY MORGAN	01449 737445
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	JO CHURCHILL 10 HATTER STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS IP33 1LZ	01284 752311
MID SUFFOLK & COUNTY COUNCILLOR	PENNY OTTON penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk penny.otton@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01449 736482
MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL	NEEDHAM MARKET	0845 606 6170
FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL	SIMON GARROD, CHAIR	01449 737728
	PAULA GLADWELL, CLERK. GREEN FARM BARN, COCKFIELD felshamparishclerk@gmail.com	01284 828112
PLAYING FIELD	PHILIP COCKELL, CHAIR	01449 671872
SHELTERED HOUSING	MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL	01473 826639
POLICE	SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM ONE stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101 999 (emergency)
TABLE TENNIS	ADRIAN KING	01449 737495
TREE WARDEN	MARK TAVERNOR, mtavernor@btinternet.com	01449 737793
VILLAGE E.VINE	faddb1011@btinternet.com	
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VILLAGE WEBSITES	FELSHAM: felsham.onesuffolk.net	
	GEDDING: gedding.onesuffolk.net	
WHIST DRIVE	PAT CLARKE	01449 736202
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