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**Volume 46 No 1 2021**





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# ***Tail Corn***

The name Eversden is an Anglo-Saxon word listed in the Domesday Book as Eversdona, meaning the Boar's Hill, or Home of the Boar. The Boar has been adopted as a symbol for the Eversdens. Tail Corn is a farming term for the small grains of corn that are sieved out from the good plump grains.

## **Welcome from the Editors**

Who would have thought that nearly a year ago we would have seen several stages of lockdown. Hopefully there is a glimmer of sunlight as the vaccine is rolled out and signs of falling numbers are encouraging.

With the guidance of the South Cambs Covid and Environmental Health department we were given the OK to bring you this edition of Tail Corn, taking on board as many precautions as we possibly can and adhering to their advice by storing the boxed copies for several days, reducing the delivery personnel numbers and providing masks, gloves and sanitizers.

With the appearance of the Aconites, Snowdrops and Daffodils we know that Spring is dawning with warmer longer days ahead and hope for better things to come. Stay well, stay safe and look after each other.

Our amazing picture from Kay Probert warrants the following description:

The flood appeared in the morning on Christmas Eve, after heavy rain on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

So not wishing to miss an opportunity the new owners of

Church Farm got their canoe out. Young Timothy Gerety (pictured) bravely paddled his canoe along Church Lane and then in a south westerly direction up the flooded drain and back again. Quite an adventure, in these parts.

By Christmas morning the flood had not receded and the Reverend Charles had to put out a message that wellington boots were recommended in order to attend the family service at St. Helens on Christmas morning.

Since then there has been a second flood in this low part of Church Lane on 14<sup>th</sup> January. It receded more quickly this time after some neighbourly work with drain rods.

We were glad not to have to go anywhere either time but it was interesting watching a variety of people and vehicles make their way through it, and back again, to go to work, deliver food and shopping, get to church to attend graves and services and the post lady and bin men were as heroic as ever, not missing anyone out.

This is the spirit that keeps us going - through hell and high water - as the saying goes.

**Cathie and Kay**

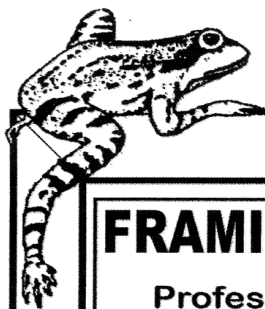
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**Future publication deadline dates to be announced**



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## RECREATION GROUND NEWS

It's a tricky one this, let's start on an upbeat note.

Belated Happy New Year to you all although, (and here's the downbeat part) we are still in lockdown. However, we are delighted to announce that we finally achieved a milestone in the history of planning applications; permission granted! It took approximately 18 months but thanks to the persistent hard work of the committee, in particular Derek Blatch and Peter Mallows, the right decision was made in October 2020. Now of course the real hard work begins in sourcing funding to build the pavilion. This is going to be difficult particularly since the pool of potential funding streams is obviously much smaller than even this time last year; as monies are and/or have been used to support existing sporting functions. We are determined to push forward with our project in spite of this and we will keep you updated on our funding plans.

We are progressing with our plans to revitalise the children's playground in the meantime, following our successful bid for Capital Grant Funding, and have chosen a supplier for the new wheelchair accessible roundabout. More news about this in the next edition hopefully.

### December Sale

The skies cleared just in time for our December sale at the Recreation Ground where various stalls sold seasonal handicrafts and gifts together with a tombola and raffle. Thank you to all who attended and supported the sale. A special thank you must go to the Eversden Brass Band for their very enjoyable topical music. It was lovely to be able to see and chat to everyone before the next lockdown began!

### Plants and Birds Quiz.

Thank you to everyone who took part and purchased quiz sheets. We are planning to produce another quiz sheet later in the year.... Watch this space!

Well done to the winners:-

1<sup>st</sup> - The Maskell Family

2<sup>nd</sup> - T. Probert

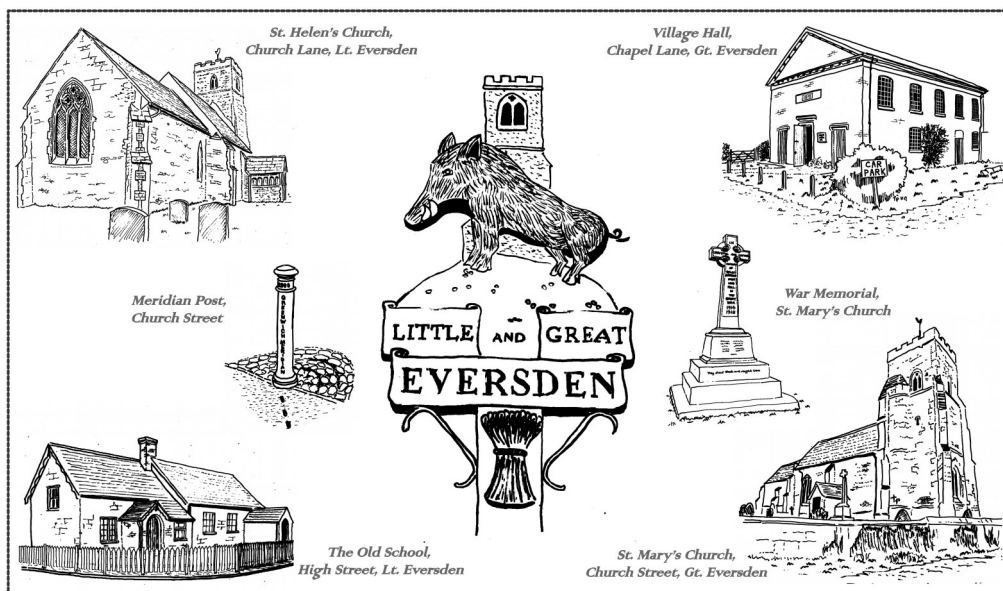
3<sup>rd</sup> - S. Langdon Ellis

**Sue Glasse**

**Secretary Recreation Ground Committee**

## EVERSDEN TEA TOWEL - only a few left now!

Have you got yours yet? This lovely design depicts places of interest in both Great and Little Eversden. 100% cotton and would make a great gift for friends or family at £5 each. Available from Pete Mallows 264461, or any Recreation Ground committee member.







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## A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT ON STREET PARKING AFTER DARK

It is permissible to park cars on the roads in our villages providing they do not cause an obstruction nor break any laws - as defined in the Highway Code, which is a joint agreement for all road users. Some rules in the Code are advisory and some are legal requirements. The rules for waiting and parking are numbered 238 - 252 and parking after dark are 248 - 252. The first of these, Rule 248 states:

You MUST NOT park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space. Laws: CUR reg 101 and RVLRL reg 24. Night time and recognised

parking spaces are defined elsewhere in the Highway Code. Exceptions are defined in the Laws. Further to this; Rule 250 covers the necessity to be 10 metres/32 feet (over 2 car lengths) from any junction and Rule 251 when it is foggy.

These Rules and Laws are to keep all road users safe after dark. If your parked vehicle is hit from the front or rear after dark, and it is parked illegally, you may be uninsured. If it is necessary to park on the wrong side of the road, front and rear lights should be used, from sunset to sunrise.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

## GOLF AND DOGS NOT PERMITTED

It has been noted that a significant amount of damage has been made by someone practising golf on the recreation ground. **Please note that golf is not permitted on the recreation ground** at anytime for safety reasons and the damage it causes to the playing surfaces. **Please also note that dogs are not permitted on the Recreation grass or playground areas.** Thank you.

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**Tel: 07813 928126**

## EVERSDEN BRASS BAND

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## NEW YEAR, NEW APPROACH?

East West Rail Company's consultation on the exact path of the new East West rail line will take place very soon. We expect the consultation will include more than one route alignment within EWR's preferred Option E area, perhaps with a route running from a North Cambourne Station. However, we do not anticipate EWR Co to offer a route option involving a northern approach to Cambridge. We are asking EWR Co to undertake a fair consultation which includes a northern approach to Cambridge.

### Why consider a northern Cambridge approach?

A northern Cambridge approach:

- was by far the most popular among parishes between Cambourne and Cambridge in the 2019 consultation
- avoids rail freight going through more of Cambridge
- will support communities by connecting towns that are actively seeking transport links, such as Northstowe and Cambourne
- is the shortest route linking Cambourne to Cambridge
- will be the most wildlife-friendly option, according to the Wildlife Trust
- offers better options for the eastern approach to Cambridge
- will arguably save taxpayers' money

If you believe a northern approach should be included in the imminent consultation, **please write to your representatives NOW**

**Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport:** [shappsg@parliament.uk](mailto:shappsg@parliament.uk)

**Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government:**  
[robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk)

**Anthony Browne MP:**

[anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

**Mayor James Palmer:**

[james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

**Councillor Lina Nieto:**

[Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer:**

[cllr.vandeweyer@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.vandeweyer@scambs.gov.uk)

**EWR:**

[contact@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:contact@eastwestrail.co.uk);

[simon.blanchflower@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:simon.blanchflower@eastwestrail.co.uk)

In addition, **please sign the petition** and spread the word. Search "CamBedRailRoad" on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org). Each household member over the age of 16 can sign, including those who don't live in Cambridgeshire; remember all UK taxpayers are funding the EWR line.

**Subscribe** to the latest updates from Cambridge Approaches:

**[cambridgeapproaches.org](http://cambridgeapproaches.org)**

In the case that EWR fail to include a northern approach in the consultation, we are fundraising for a potential legal case against EWR. If you are able to support this, please contact [eversdenewrgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:eversdenewrgroup@yahoo.com)

**It's not too late, but we need to act together to choose the right approach**



# MARK STEELE

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR VILLAGE POUND AND SIGN

Listening to the Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January made me think, when it reached item 10 on the published agenda, that there must be many villagers who don't know the history involved. So... if you are interested read on!

Many years ago the then Clerk of the Council Lily Volans became aware that the plot was about to be absorbed into BANKS farm land for a loading ramp to be built.

As it was registered as the Village Pound (hence Pound Drift) the Council sprung into action to save it.

The area was drained, grass seed sown, a sapling tree planted and a young beech hedge set around two sides. Money was then raised to buy a wooden seat which despite being bolted down was stolen some time later while the house on the other side of the drift was being built – the newly installed kitchen there vanished at the same time! The replacement seat was donated by two public spirited locals.

David Ellis volunteered to build a plinth in the centre using local field stones to hold the newly commissioned village sign and it was thus complete.

At this point 4 volunteers from the Parish Council took on the job of grass and hedge trimming – each month was divided into 4 parts and if jobs arose during your stint it was done. This happy situation continued for over 25 years until the team members moved away, fell apart or died – the only change being the addition of the DOOMSDAY plaque fixed to the upright wood and the repainting of the original sign by Christine & Tom Harland at no cost to the village.

At this time the now large tree was trimmed back on the road side as the double decker bus was being hit by the branches as it passed.

This tranquil life was rudely interrupted when a planning application arrived from the Newmarket equine crowd who had decided they needed an establishment on our side of Cambridge and had chosen a site at the top of Pound Drift owned by a Mrs Mahda. The plans showed an enormous barn like show arena and a very large car park to

facilitate horse boxes and cars attending events there. The application eventually had to go to judicial review which was where the village opposition was made very clear to the poor Inspector who came over from Wales to investigate. We were not allowed to speak to him but on the chosen day there were a lot of walkers on the drift and David Ellis had driven his fork lift truck to the arena site. Here he raised the arm as far as it would go and then added a flag on it to show the effect of the building on the village skyline.

Victory came some weeks later as the inspector pointed out that vehicular access on the drift was limited to adjacent land owners and could not be sublet to another party allowing a road to be built for the cars and horse boxes going to the proposed site.

So...the loss of the drift and the sign area was narrowly averted once again.

Eventually the wood at the top of the sign started to rot and the PC voted to put money aside in order to have a replica made.

At this point no new volunteers took over general maintenance and Derek Blatch kindly offered to keep the grass cut when he could spare the time. In 2020 Pete Malloes brought it to the attention of the PC that the tree had been damaged on the Drift side by farm equipment and needed attention as did the few dead branches (due to natural wastage) over the seat and road which needed removing for safety reasons. Also the canopy over the road and on the Drift had to be raised as the lower branches were being caught by tall vehicles.

The tree surgeons declared the tree fit and healthy.

Sorry this has proved to be a longer article than I intended but I hope it has reminded us all to stay aware of dangers that might affect our village assets?

**Barbara Sach**



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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BEDFORD TO CAMBRIDGE RAILWAY

No-one, at the time of writing, knows whether freight trains will rumble past the village into the night.

Few of the affected villages can see a net gain, while the construction company, EWR Co seem determined that it should go ahead 'as is'.

There appears to be a disconnect between Cambs transport infrastructure groups.

An attempt to make some sense of this, would seem to be justified for documentation purposes.

At a meeting in the village hall on 27 Aug 2018, Cllr Sebastian Kindersley and CBRR outlined their ideas to move the railway from Cambridge South to Cambridge North.

CBRR directed us to a report by Jacobs, a US construction company, based in Dallas, TX, with an office in Croydon, where it said that the corridor options were decided at a rail industry workshop on 22 Aug 2014, [at an unknown location].

Their preferred alignment, C2-2, went through Bassingbourn joining the Shepreth Branch Junction. They claimed a benefit to cost ratio of 1.54 and a semi fast journey time of only 79 minutes.

CBRR succeeded in blocking this alignment. They are running a petition with **5,581** signatures at the time of writing.

The reason given for excluding Cambridge North was that this would require an expensive train reversal into Cambridge Central. The finer details of this manoeuvre may be beyond this author's understanding, however, there are instances where the operation is trivial, and others where the issue can be resolved by engineering accord.

The neat CBRR solution doesn't require a reversal.

Questions have arisen over who are the primary decision makers. The Jacobs report indicates that the stakeholder is the East West Rail Consortium, a group of local authorities and business representatives.

EWR's website confirms this.

EWR Co was designated by the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, as the body to oversee the opening of a rail route between Bedford and Cambridge in late 2016.

EWR Co is headquartered in the same building as the DfT in Horseferry Road.

EWR announced on 30 January 2020 that the railway between Bedford and Oxford would, if given permission to proceed, be on a new alignment via St Neots and Cambourne, calling at the new Cambridge South station and Cambridge Central.

Railfuture is a campaigning organisation, its CEO, Paul Hollinghurst, lives in Cambridge.

He claimed that "Route E was backed by 80% of responses to the public consultation in 2019. South Cambridgeshire councillors campaigned hard for it as well".

Evidence for this appears somewhat lacking.

Transactions between EWR, CA and CBRR have been plagued with secrecy, obfuscation and resolute focus on following the old Varsity line as closely as possible.

Campaigning for a route that benefits most of Cambridge and causes least environmental damage, continues apace, courtesy of CA and the Eversden EWR group linked in with the other villages.

### References

<https://cambridgeapproaches.org>  
[www.cambedrailroad.org](http://www.cambedrailroad.org)  
<https://eastwestrail.co.uk>

**David Anslow**





## and the Leetes of Eversden

I have always been curious about the origins of road/street names. Not the obvious ones, like Church Street, Mill Lane, Castle Hill, Harlton Road, etc but the more obscure ones. Who or what, for example, is Dixie of Dixie's Hill or Wheeler of Wheelers' Way, Little (perhaps Betty Malllows may know?)

When we first came to live in our bungalow in Leete's Lane in 1961 I assumed that "Leete" was an old English name for a stream or brook as one runs along the bottom of the lane. However I later learned of the existence of the Leete family and can only assume our lane was named after them. They possibly lived in the house at the end of the lane. The Leetes have family branches all over the world. Timothy Dalton graduated from Cambridge in 1615, married a Ruth Leete in Suffolk and became Vicar of Wolverston. He got into some trouble with the Bishop and moved to America. They had no children. The earliest record of the family showed that Gerard, son of Lete, held land at Morden in Cambridgeshire in 1209. I was, however, only interested in the ones connected to Eversden and district. Googling the name brought up lots of interesting information. I stopped at Lydia Leete who it is rumoured still "walks" the orchard and lane – although I have never seen her! There is much more information about later Leetes on the website.

The known family tree starts with a John Leete who was born in Eversden in 1551. He married Ellen (or Helen) Burgoyne and they had five sons, William who became a Doctor of Civil Law at Cambridge and lived in Eversden, Kingston and later in Melbourn, he married Flower Browne; Edmond who lived in Eversden; Robert who also lived in Eversden and married Alice Grundy of Great Eversden in 1573 and was a Fellow of St John's College; Henry and Thomas who married Dorothy Warde of Barton and then moved to Bury St Edmunds.

Robert and Alice had seven children, according to the Parish Registers, Symon; Judeth; Debora; Ruth, Mordecheas, Susan and Pheobe. Simon (Symon?) became churchwarden in 1607 and started a long

period of service to the Eversden churches. Simon had two sons, William born 1607 who in 1635 also became churchwarden, and Israel who was born in 1610. William married Elizabeth Barron of Little Eversden and they had three sons, William, Robert and John. This Robert and his Judith produced three sons, Robert, Simon who married Elizabeth Gayler and was churchwarden in 1721 and William.

Robert had seven children and Simon had nine. Simon and his wife Mary lived in Guilden Morden, and their eldest son, also named Simon, was churchwarden there for forty years from 1734 to 1774. There is also mention of a later Simeon Leete who was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Fossey, and their daughter, also Elizabeth, married an Edward Fossey of Wallington, Herts. I wonder if they were related in any way to 'our' Harold and Frank Fossey of Great Eversden?

There are several wills in the Ely probates of the Leete family. Letters of administration granted to Ellen Leete, widow of John Leete, of Eversden and Thomas Leete his son in 1564. Also, letters of administration of William Leete, John's eldest son, of Melbourn, granted to his widow Flower Leete in 1560; the will of Edmund Leete of Eversden in 1551 leaving possessions to his brothers William, Thomas and Robert, who inherited copyhold land at Eusden (an old name for Eversden). Letters of administration were granted to Alice, widow of Robert in 1597. Flower Leete of Kingston in her will of 1580 left legacies to her daughters, Marie Rogers and Ellyn Widdows and to Gyles Leete her son. They lived at "The Sparrows" Melbourn. Gyles was a Master of Peterhouse in 1572 and died in Kingston in 1626.

Lydia Leete was baptised in Little Eversden in November 1778 and was the great, great, great, great, great, (I think!) granddaughter of John. Her father Robert was also baptised in Little Eversden in June 1732. He was married to Lydia Hawkes and they were married at Wimpole in December 1762.

There is a monument in Little Eversden Church to Lydia Leete, born at Quarry Farm, who died in Westminster, London in 1854 and is buried in Little Eversden churchyard. In her will she left to the poor

of the parish £300 in Consols, the interest to be spent on coals and clothing for the poor at Christmas, and also £100 to Addenbrooke's hospital.

The Leete family has lived in this area for several hundred years, obviously owned land and property and were a great asset to the villages. A Joseph Leete, who was a direct descendant of John Leete who died in Eversden in 1566, was writing the family history in 1905. The Cambridge University

Library has a book written by Joseph Leete published in 1906 entitled "The Family Leete". So the Leete family has lived in the area from 1200 to at least the 1900s and there could still be descendants living in Cambridgeshire today.

*(the above information was gleaned from Google "The Leetes of Eversden", an article by Lucy Joan Slater and Cambridge Family History Society)*

**Julie Maling**

## **VILLAGE HALL NEWS—TREASURER REQUIRED**

The Village Hall committee is in need of a Treasurer from March. This is minimal work as most banking is now online, however duties include:

- Preparation of floats for events
- Payment of adhoc bills
- Signatory on bank accounts
- Sense checking of bank account and processes
- Keeping the income/outgoings spreadsheet up to date
- Preparation of accounts for external annual audit

- Submission of annual accounts to Charities Commission

Without someone in this role, it will be impossible to reopen the hall, so please pass on this plea to your local networks. There is no need to attend Village Hall events or get involved in the day-to-day maintenance of the hall.

It is unpaid, but with good perks, like participation in the fun 6-weekly committee meetings!

For more information email Edwina Mullins

[edwina.mullins@plextek.com](mailto:edwina.mullins@plextek.com)

**Edwina Mullins**

## **BOOKSTORE AND THE 'SILENT' JANUARY COLLECTION**

Just before the recent snowfall I ventured out to the store to spray the surfaces and collect the January donations. Was not expecting much after the Christmas rush so was not surprised to find there wasn't a lot of noise as I shook the box before opening it. To my delight the 'silence' was caused by notes muffling the sound.

The total collection for January thus came to a stunning £46 to be divided between The Arthur Rank Hospice and the New Pavilion fund. This is so comforting as both funds are suffering because of the Covid lockdown. I therefore want to thank the very loyal visitors to the store once again.

For anyone venturing this far on their daily walks I aim to keep the store virus free and to maintain a clear path past the greenhouse. Can add to that now as have received my first vaccine injection so life is getting safer here!

**Barbara Sach**

The Bookstore can be found at  
3 Leete's Lane



## **THE 100 CLUB IS RETURNING**

The very popular 100 club which raises funds for the Recreation Ground will be returning in the summer.

Watch out for further details .....





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## WORKING FROM HOME

As lockdown continues many of us are still battling with the challenges, both mental and physical, brought by working from home. There are a few things you can do to make it easier.

Firstly, identify a specific workspace. Avoid the temptation to sit on the sofa with your laptop on your knees. Instead, find a specific place for work. It doesn't have to be an office or an ergonomically perfect place. The kitchen table will do, in fact, I've heard of people setting up on the ironing board! Try to set your area up in a part of the house that can be kept separate from your home life. This will help with concentration and can give a feeling of normality to the working day. It is important for your mental health to keep your home life and work life separate where possible.

Whilst ergonomic chairs and sit/stand desks have their uses, the most important factor is comfort and accessibility. Make sure that your screen is in a position where you can see it easily. You shouldn't have to look down or up too much. If you are using a laptop, you may benefit from having a separate keyboard so that your screen can be raised on something a little higher. Make sure that your legs fit comfortably under the table. Have the things you use regularly within easy reach. Spread the load a bit and have things on the left and right of your desk so that you are not always reaching to one side.

Don't worry too much about your chair. Again, the key is comfort. Contrary to popular belief, there is very little evidence of a link between posture and pain. The biggest cause of pain when working is lack of movement.

When we are at the office, we fit lots of incidental movement in to our day. The journey to the office, trips to the photocopier, up and down the stairs to meet with colleagues and maybe a decent walk to the canteen. At home, our movement tends to be restricted to a few steps from the bedroom to the kitchen and then to the workstation. There is little need to move within the day and you can find yourself sitting at your desk for hours.

It is important to try to incorporate as much movement as you can into your day. If you are in a meeting, can you take that meeting standing up, or even perching on the edge of your desk? When you get up for a coffee, maybe go up and down the stairs a couple of times whilst the kettle is boiling. The key is to move as much as possible.

Try and get into a regular exercise routine. If your routine prior to lockdown was exercising before work, then try to do the same now. Likewise, if you were used to taking a walk at lunch time then try to keep to this routine. If you are not used to exercising, now is a good time to start. There are plenty of resources on the internet from yoga to HIIT (high intensity interval training). Have a look and decide which will work best for you. You might like to try a combination. If you are starting something new, make sure that you pace up slowly. It's important to try and get outside every day so try to incorporate this into your exercise.

Most importantly, be kind to yourself. Remember, we are not just "working from home", we are working from home, in isolation, in lockdown during a global pandemic.

Take care and keep safe.

**Emma Birkby**

## THE EVERS DEN PLAYERS



The Eversden Players are unable to plan any productions at the moment.

If you would like to be involved when the future is brighter,  
even if 'front of stage' is not for you  
there are plenty of other roles to fill.

Please get in contact with Lorraine

email: [lorraine.bidwell@btinternet.com](mailto:lorraine.bidwell@btinternet.com)

or telephone: 07790 703646







## AN EVERSDEN PUZZLE



In this 7 sided frame are the 8 letters used in the word **EVERSDEN**.

How many words can you make from these letters? Always include the **V** and there are at least 15 different words. Try to find some or all of these. There is even one word that uses 7 of these 8 letters. You may also find the letters for other places such as the capital city of Colorado, USA.

What type of dog can tell the time?

*A watch dog!*

What kind of nut has no shell?

*A doughnut!*

Why are fish so smart?

*Because they live in schools!*

What gets wetter the more it dries?

*A towel!*

What is the biggest kind of ant?

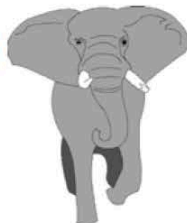
*An elephANT!*

What runs but cannot walk?

*A river!*

How does the ocean say hello?

*It waves.*



What piece of wood is like a king?

*A ruler!*

Why couldn't the bike stand up?

*It was too tired (as in, "two-tyred").*



What is the longest word in the dictionary?

*"Smiles," because there is a "mile" between each "s."*

What do you call a gorilla wearing ear-muffs?

*Anything you like! He can't hear you!*

Why was the student's report card wet?

*It was below C level!*

Why did the drum take a nap?

*It was beat.*

What has a bed that you can't sleep in?

*A river.*



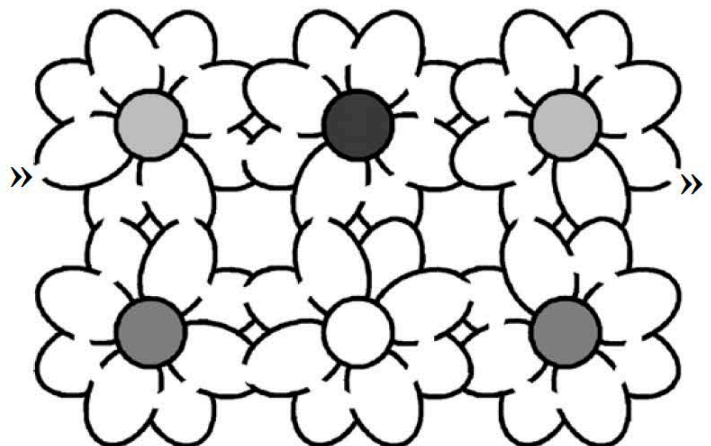
What has four wheels and flies?

*A garbage truck.*

When is a door not a door?

*When it's a-jar.*

## FLOWER MAZE



Enter on the left and find your way through the flower petals until you leave on the right. You will only miss two petals.

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## Butterflies in Little Eversden

For many years I have been interested in gardening and UK wildlife, and when I moved to Little Eversden in 2012 I had the opportunity to combine both interests. Butterflies are considered an indicator species and if they are doing well, it's a fair bet that other species are also ok. Every year I have recorded the different species of butterfly that live in and visit my garden and periodically I do more systematic counts of their numbers.

In 2012, I saw 17 species of butterfly in the garden, not bad, but rather disappointing since I used to see 16 in my much smaller Cambridge garden. Believing that a rural garden should be better for wildlife than an urban garden, I set myself the target of attracting 20 species in five years. I adopted a more sympathetic style of gardening than the previous owner and crossed my fingers. All I did was stop the frequent mowing of all of the grass, which also saved me time and effort and I found the tall grass swaying in the breeze very attractive. The first thing I attracted was a negative comment/complaint from one of the neighbours, unfortunately for wildlife, some people still think it better to try and beat nature in submission rather than to relax, encourage and enjoy it. The following summer I saw 23 species, success.



*Large Skipper*



*Common Blue*



*Small Copper*

What I hadn't appreciated was how quickly some butterflies can colonize and thrive in appropriate habitats. They continued to arrive, and in 2020, I recorded 26 species of butterfly. Although two of these are annual migrants to the UK and one was a stray from nearby woods, my target of 20 species was clearly achieved and arguably unambitious. It is probable that 23 of these species are now resident in my garden.

Species	Date first seen in 2020		Species	Date first seen in 2020
Small Skipper	13 June		Holly Blue	09 April
Essex Skipper	14 June		Red Admiral	12 April
Large Skipper	27 May		Painted Lady	11 August
Clouded Yellow	10 September		Small Tortoiseshell	26 March
Brimstone	10 March		Peacock	22 March
Large White	12 April		Comma	22 March
Small White	22 March		Silver-washed Fritillary	26 July
Green-veined White	15 April		Speckled Wood	17 April
Orange-tip	08 April		Marbled White	13 June
Green Hairstreak	05 May		Gatekeeper	16 July
Small Copper	26 April		Meadow Brown	30 May
Brown Argus	08 May		Ringlet	19 June
Common Blue	08 May		Small Heath	06 May

Between 18 July and 9 August, I counted the number of certain species of butterfly in my garden according to the protocol of Butterfly Conservation. Over this period I took 32 counts, each of 15 minutes, half the counts from the gardened area and half from the meadow area. The totals would have been higher had I counted the Skippers, Brown Argus and Small Heath not included in the survey. Incredibly, I saw an average of 65 butterflies per count.

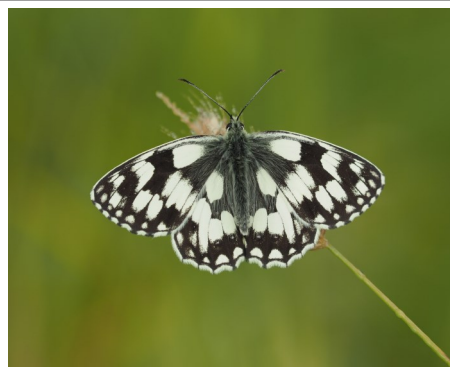
In the UK, as in much of the world, there is a collapse in biodiversity and the main causes are believed to be habitat loss, climate change and pollution including pesticides. I think that most people find this unacceptable but unfortunately many believe that there is little they can do as an individual. Fortunately, this is not true as we can provide suitable habitat in our gardens allowing an oasis for wildlife and offer many species a lifeline.



*Small Heath*



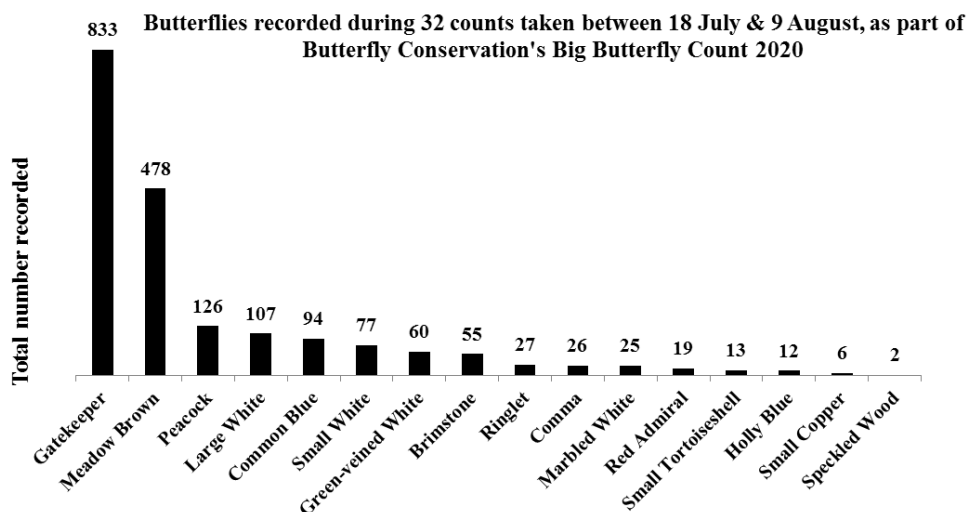
*Gatekeeper*



*Marbled White*

We all know that if you have the right flowers in your garden, the butterflies will find them and since all of the species I have in my garden are mobile they probably visit your garden. However they will only stay, breed and increase in numbers if you provide suitable food plants for the caterpillars. Wild flower meadows are often promoted as one of the best things gardeners can do for wildlife.

However, the emphasis is usually placed on the flowers and not on the grasses. Long grass supports a vast range of wildlife from butterflies and bees through to Barn Owls. Short grass (lawns) supports very little. To allow butterflies to complete their lifecycle (many species survive the winter as caterpillars close to the soil surface), it is important that the grass is not cut until autumn, October or preferably November and not cut too short. Even an area of a few square metres is better than nothing.



I have three areas with differing management, or perhaps lack of management. First, a small patch in my front garden surrounded by regularly mown grass. This patch of long grass contains cowslips, vetches and bulbs that flower in the spring before the grass grows tall, it is cut once in October and the cuttings removed. The second area is in the lawn behind the house. It comprises of a number of geometric islands each of a few square metres within the short mown lawn. These areas are allowed to grow about six inches tall and only need mowing a few times a year, again saving me much effort. Although the longer grass never flowers, the clover and other lawn “weeds” do, it is very colourful and it is a magnet for bumblebees and butterflies. Bee Orchids have also established and flower every year. The third and main area of meadow is further from the house and has regularly mown paths running through it. I only cut about a third of it every year and I never cut any of it before autumn. In only a few years, many species of flowering plant have established in this area and like the butterflies I find it very attractive. Unfortunately, some don’t agree, but perhaps they fail to appreciate how important these areas are and view them as areas that need taming.

Some villages have relaxed the management of their areas of Greens and road verges, delaying cutting until the autumn for the benefit of all. Maybe this is something we should practice in The Eversdens. Until then, we can manage our own gardens as we see fit, even if some of the neighbours don’t get it at least the butterflies will.

**James Fowler**

## Eversdens East West Rail Campaign January 2021 Update

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT APPROACH

cambridgeapproaches.org  
#eastwestrail



The Eversdens EWR Working Group was formed in November 2020. It now comprises between 20 and 30 residents of Little and Great Eversden. Over the last six weeks, the Eversden EWR Group has been working tirelessly to build a cross-community campaign to oppose East West Rail Co's current Route Option E corridor, which approaches Cambridge from the South, and to demand that East West Rail Co carries out a full and even-handed evaluation of, and consultation on, a North Cambridge approach.

The Eversdens EWR Working Group is coordinated by Stephanie Jack, Great Eversden, and supported by the Eversdens Parish Council. The Group can be contacted via [ewr.correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:ewr.correspondence@gmail.com).

Our campaign activities over the last six weeks have included the following:

- Developing a strategy for a positive, cross-community campaign calling for a full and evenhanded evaluation of, and consultation on, a North Cambridge approach for the proposed East West Rail line.
- Raising awareness within the Eversdens, and encouraging local residents to write to local representatives and others, and to sign CamBedRailRoad's petition, via leaflets sent to all households in December about the project and via our campaign pages on the Eversdens village website.
- Developing a coordinated campaign of professionally-designed signs within the Eversdens, which have also been made available to other villages across South Cambridgeshire to ensure a consistent and strong public message.

- Developing a social media campaign via the Cambridge Approaches Twitter address and other outlets, to stimulate wider public awareness and debate, and challenge East West Rail Co.
- Liaising with and supporting other South Cambridgeshire villages' Parish Councils and working groups to build a coordinated campaign calling for a full and even-handed evaluation of, and consultation on, a North Cambridge approach.
- Meeting with key local representatives, including our County Councillor, Lina Nieto, and Anthony Browne MP, to convey our concerns and enlist their assistance in amplifying our voices.

We have also been active in supporting the wider work of the Cambridge Approaches action group, including by:

- Undertaking extensive background work to pave the way for possible legal challenges to EWR Co's decision-making.
- Working with Cambridge Approaches to establish a framework for fundraising to support possible future legal challenges to EWR Co's decision-making.

Our campaign is ongoing. Over the coming weeks and months, we will need to maintain, and increase, pressure on local representatives, central Government and EWR Co through all available means if we are to achieve our objectives. This will be all the more important as EWR Co moves to the next stage, soon, of launching a non-statutory consultation on specific route alignments within the Route Option E corridor.



There are, however, already some small measures of success:

- A large number of South Cambridgeshire villages located between south Cambourne and the Shelfords are now working together closely to present a common demand for proper consideration of a Northern Cambridge approach, and are benefiting from sharing of important campaign material and research.
- CamBedRailRoad's petition is gathering momentum – it now has almost 5,500 signatories, demanding proper consideration of a Northern Cambridge approach.
- Local representatives, including our County Councillor, Lina Nieto, and Anthony Browne

MP, have expressed their support for our demands.

- Cambridge Approaches have recently instructed lawyers to pursue the possibility of legal challenge to EWR Co's decision making.
- Important preliminary steps have been made in raising funds to support any legal challenge by Cambridge Approaches, in the first instance via substantial pledges from affected Parish Councils.

For further information, please see [our campaign pages on the Eversden village website](#).

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT (OCTOBER 20 – JANUARY 21)

Please find a brief outline of the main discussions of the Parish Council. Given the current situation the Parish Council has been hosting meetings via Zoom since March. You are welcome to join the Zoom meeting, however if you are unable to access the technology you are also able to dial in via telephone and participate in the meeting. If you would like a matter discussed at a meeting please do contact me at [eversden.clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eversden.clerk@yahoo.co.uk).

Full agendas and minutes are available at <http://www.the-eversdens.co.uk/parish-council/>

### Asset of Community Value

The Council has resubmitted a nomination for The Hoops (Cam Spice) to be recognised as an Asset of Community Value. Thank you to everyone who provided a testimonial. We will keep you updated.

### New Councillor

Following the resignation of Mrs Handley after many years' service, for which the Council thanks her whole-heartedly, Mr Chris Brown was co-opted as the new Councillor.

### East West Rail Link

The East West Rail project will be the most important planning issue to affect our local community in the Eversdens over the next decade. Depending on its exact siting, the railway's construction, and its operation once opened, could have a significant adverse impact on our local area. It is essential that we are all aware of what lies on the horizon, and that we take every opportunity available to us, individually and collectively, to have a voice in the decisions that lie ahead.

Please See front page link at <http://www.the-eversdens.co.uk> and the actual page at <http://www.the-eversdens.co.uk/the-east-west-rail-project-and-the-eversdens/>

### Covid Grant

The Council received a £200 Covid grant that was distributed equally between the Village Hall, Recreation Ground and Churches.

### Parking

Given the increased traffic coming into the village to exercise during lockdown the Council have been discussing traffic issues at the Harlton Road/High Street Little junction. The Clerk will contact the PCSO for advice and possible signage was discussed to signpost motorists to the Recreation Ground.

### Precept

The Council agreed a Precept from South Cambridgeshire District Council of £29,000 for 2021/22. This remains unchanged from 2020/2021.

The Council has also made decisions on many planning applications that can all be viewed on the website.

Best wishes and stay safe.

**Karen Easey**

**Parish Clerk**

[Eversden.clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Eversden.clerk@yahoo.co.uk)

## **BEEES, BUMBLES AND STINGERS (continued from previous edition)**

### **Wasps**

Are social insects living in colonies inside nests that they build from wood pulp. The most common locations for these nests in buildings are roof spaces, airbricks and wall cavities. Outside nests are often built in garden sheds, holes in trees, hedges and soil banks.

The building of each nest starts in the spring when the fertilised queen wasps emerge from hibernation and search for suitable sites to rear new colonies. This is usually around Easter time but can vary enormously depending on the weather and temperature. The number of queens emerging from a single property can vary from the odd 1 or 2 to what looks like a small swarm. Although it may appear that the queens are all together they are, in fact, working independently of each other in seeking out a nesting site.

When the queen has found a suitable site she begins building a nest about the size of a golf ball in which she lays between 10 and 20 eggs. Most of these will fail to result in an active nest. Initially the young queen feeds the larvae that emerge, but once they reach adulthood ('worker wasps') they take over the enlarging of the nest and the feeding of all subsequent larvae that hatch. This is usually from about late May to the end of June.

The queen continues to lay eggs throughout the summer until early autumn, by which time the nest can contain 3,000 to 5,000 individuals (although most are smaller) and can be up to 30cm or more across. By this time most people will be aware of the presence of a nest by the continual wasp activity around the entrance point. This is also the time you will see wasps gathering wood fibres from gate post and garden furniture for building and expanding their nest.

During the later part of the summer the nest produces fertile males and new young queens who emerge and mate. The males die and the now fertilised queens fly away to find somewhere to hibernate for the winter. This can be in lofts, sheds, garages, overflow pipes etc.

With the onset of cold weather, the workers and the resident queen all die. Again the timing of this can vary enormously and be anywhere from October to December, normally the first ground frost is regarded as the point from which the nest will rapidly die off. The nest is then empty and will never be used again. An old wives tale suggests that in Victorian times house holders blew up brown paper bags, tied them with string and hung them from rafters to thwart wasps from building a nest.

As the wasp season nears its end in late summer, the worker wasps become more aggressive. This is due

to the queen ceasing to lay eggs. With no larvae to feed the worker wasps seek sweet substances on which to feed themselves. A favoured source of food is fallen, over ripe fruit. It is the ingesting of the often-fermenting juices that contribute greatly to the worker wasps' increasingly aggressive behaviour, in layman's terms "getting drunk" It is also at this time of year that they more frequently come into contact with humans looking for sugary food and drink.

### **Hornets**

Although they come from the same family as wasps, the primary difference to help you distinguish between wasps and hornets is their size. Hornets are usually about an inch larger than wasps and have been known to grow to 5.5cm in length.

While many people are scared of hornets, they're not actually aggressive insects. They usually choose to live in a high undisturbed area and don't attack unless they think their home is being attacked. Hornets tend to prefer roofs and treetops to nest, as it's more secure and private. One difference is that unlike wasps, hornets stay out and fly in the dark and are attracted to artificial light, which is very often someone's porch light, making the owner think that they have a nest in their property, which in the main they don't.

Their sting can be venomous and potentially fatal for humans, due to the amount of poison they can carry. However hornet stings are rare, as they tend to shy away from people. These insects eat some tree sap but they are also accomplished predators. A hornet will eliminate many flies, bees, and other insects. When a hornet finds a beehive it leaves a special scent to attract other hornets. Saying that, we have had a colony of bee's in our roof for several years and last year hornets decided to set up home not that far away from the bees, and not once did the hornets bother the bees and we were only bothered once when one was in the greenhouse. Had it been Asian Hornets it would have been a different story as their primary target are beehives.

### **Hoverfly**

In Britain there are over 270 species of hoverfly, these insects mimic the colouring of wasps to protect them from predators, as they can't sting. As well as being great pollinators half of the species have larvae that feed on aphids. Adult hoverflies feed on nectar, honey dew and pollen.

To encourage them into your garden plants which these beneficial insects love include catnip, clover, dill, mint, oregano and yarrow.

**Derek Blatch**

## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Since I last wrote a letter for Tail Corn we have been in and out of lockdown. At the end of Lockdown 1.0 there was an incredible response from the villages to the return of formal public worship and the churches were, briefly, almost overwhelmed by villagers given the restrictions on numbers. Given the ages of most of our regular worshippers it is not surprising that the number of people attending regularly has fluctuated but rarely into double digits.

During this time I have been delivering weekly emails to 26 households with worship at home services, links to other services, Daily Hope (a telephone service that operates 24hrs a day every day by phone and is entirely free of charge), our own podcasts and some YouTube services. Our online resources are being accessed by many more devices than we would have expected. More than ever this has proved the value of being part of a wider team of churches, The Lordsbridge Team, [www.lordsbridge.org](http://www.lordsbridge.org). If you would like to receive the weekly email then please let me know at [revd.charlesfraser@gmail.com](mailto:revd.charlesfraser@gmail.com)

We have used St Mary's to help the charity CAMCRAG store supplies ready to be shipped out to Calais for the refugees in Northern France. This is the same charity that the villages supported so

massively in 2019 with the laundering of sleeping bags.

Our in person services have been limited by necessity but we had a large gathering on Remembrance Sunday and the outside Carol Service was much enjoyed by the nearly 70 people who attended and many commented that they would like something similar again.

Christmas was lower key than usual and St Helen's was almost cut off by flooding in Church Lane but we had a lovely, if brief and chilly, celebration of Christmas with some traditional carols and readings and the shortest of sermons.

I am currently acting as Rector of Harlton but we have just appointed a new Team Vicar so the team of clergy serving the 11 parishes of the benefice will be back up to strength by Easter.

The pandemic has presented huge challenges for us and will continue to do so; none of us knows what the future holds for us and for our churches.

Stay safe!

Best wishes,

**Charles**



### The Unknown Donor's Charity

The Unknown Donor's Charity helps to enable young people living in Little Eversden to undertake recognised training courses and apprenticeships leading to a profession or trade for their future careers. It can contribute towards the cost of course fees, or equipment necessary for training courses.

For 120 years, it has helped many young people to get started on a variety of career paths, and hopefully will continue to do so.

Requests and contributions are treated in confidence. Any requests should be made to:

Mrs Sue Glasse 01223 262621

or

Mr Steve Dinsdale 01223 263906



## REVEALED: THE EVERSDENS SET TO RECEIVE HYPERFAST FULL-FIBRE BROADBAND AS CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS

Work to build next-generation full-fibre broadband in The Eversden's are due to start by the end of October as thousands of residents and businesses prepare to receive some of the UK's fastest speeds, it can be revealed.

County Broadband, a specialist rural full-fibre network and broadband provider, has announced 24 villages in South Cambridgeshire are earmarked to receive the new Hyperfast infrastructure in 2021, totaling around 9,400 premises.

The UK fell 13 places in global rankings for internet speeds and is now among the slowest in Europe in 47th place, research from Cable.co.uk found. The Hyperfast network would replace the current part-copper Superfast FTTC infrastructure (fibre-to-the-cabinet) that dates back to the Victorian times with FTTP (fibre-to-the-premises).

The new network will deliver improved reliability and provide speeds of up to 1,000 Mbps initially – nearly 20 times faster than the UK average – upgradable to over 10,000 Mbps in the future.

The East Anglia-based provider, backed by a £46 million private investment by Aviva Investors, has confirmed that The Eversden's, along with seven other villages, has met the sign-up target required to give the green light to start construction.

Engineers have been granted key worker status and are following health and safety rules.

Prime minister Boris Johnson is relying on local providers like County Broadband to achieve his flagship target of UK-wide gigabit-speed connectivity by 2025. It forms part of his “infrastructure revolution” to catch up with the rest of the world and support the Covid-19 economic recovery. The news also follows his fresh advice to work from home during winter.

**Lloyd Felton, chief executive of County Broadband, said:** “The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of our creaking copper infrastructure that is stifling productivity and holding back innovation at such a critical time. Boris Johnson has told the nation to remote work

but some of us can't even have a Zoom call. We need future-ready networks now more than ever.

“That's why we're driving our plans to build Hyperfast full-fibre networks in The Eversden's with great gusto. We want to help restart the economic engine and give Cambridgeshire a huge investment in its infrastructure to support residents and businesses.”

Full-fibre broadband uses fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) infrastructure in which fibre optic cables are installed directly into the premises, offering download and upload speeds of 1,000Mbps. It replaces fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) Victorian copper-based infrastructure on which ‘superfast’ is based.

The deployment of full-fibre broadband could be worth £5.38bn to the East of England economy over the next five years, according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research.

Visit [www.countybroadband.co.uk](http://www.countybroadband.co.uk) to see if the service is available in your area and for more details.



*Full-fibre broadband is coming to The Eversdens*

## Neighbourhood Alert The Word On the beat...is eCops

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## DOG OWNERS URGED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

We're urging pet owners to be vigilant and review their security after reports of a rise in dog thefts in other counties.

The demand for dogs has soared across the country due to more people working from home and having extra time on their hands.

DCI Chris O'Brien said: "Dogs are often part of the family and having them stolen can be absolutely devastating.

"Whilst we are not currently seeing an increase in dog thefts in Cambridgeshire, we'd urge pet owners to consider taking extra precautions to help deter thieves and protect your pets. You can never be too careful."

Extra precautions include:

- Keep an ID tag on your dog at all times
- Lock gates using bolts at the top and bottom, along with a heavy-duty padlock
- Ensure there are no places where dogs or other animals can escape or be pulled through, if they are left in a back garden
- Never leave your pet in the garden unattended
- Fit a bell or gate alarm so it makes a sound when someone opens it

- Purchase a driveway alarm so you are alerted to any visitors, these can also be used in rear gardens
- Make sure your dog is microchipped and their details are updated so that they can be returned if they are stolen and subsequently found
- Avoid leaving a dog tied up outside a shop or left alone in a car, even for a few minutes
- Take lots of photographs of your dog to prove ownership if it's stolen and then found
- Report dog theft to police straight away

Always report stolen dogs to us, as sometimes officers have been able to reunite owners with their pets.

Anyone with information about a stolen dog, or suspicious behaviour, can report it via the force's web chat service: <https://bit.ly/2D9KFKH> or by calling 101 if they do not have internet access. For more advice, visit the force's dedicated dog theft page: <https://bit.ly/3iDogWH>



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## BOURN SURGERY NEWS

### Special Update

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January we held our first virtual Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting, and used this opportunity to bring those members who were able to attend up to speed with what has been happening at Bourn Surgery, how we are responding to the Level 5 emergency response initiated last week, and progress on local delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination. We would like to thank those PPG members who gave us their time on Tuesday evening, for what we hope was a useful and productive meeting. If any patients are interested in becoming members of our PPG, please do email our practice manager Mrs Tracey Wilson on [tracey.wilson@nhs.net](mailto:tracey.wilson@nhs.net).

### How Bourn Surgery is responding to the move to Level 5 emergency response and new national lockdown:

Moving to Level 5 emergency response means that all non-essential general practice work should be stopped to allow general practice to cope with very significant, potentially overwhelming, demand relating to COVID-19, acute deterioration in long-term conditions, new symptoms indicating potentially serious disease and the COVID-19 vaccination roll out. We have spent time in the last week working out what this means for Bourn Surgery.

The major message we want to communicate is that **we are open**. We have remained open and here throughout the pandemic and previous two lockdowns, and will continue to be here during this next stage of the pandemic. We have maintained our normal level of appointments throughout, and will continue to see patients face-to-face when clinically needed. **If you need us, we are here.**

We do however need to ensure that we are able to protect our vulnerable patients who need to see us in person at the Surgery, by providing an environment that is as safe as possible. We also need to protect our staff from any unnecessary contact to reduce the risk of the nightmare scenario, which has happened in a number of practices, of having so many staff off sick and isolating that the practice has to close.

### We are open and we are here, but we must act to protect our communities and our patients.

The current important points are:

- All GP appointments will continue to be by telephone/video in the first instance. Only after this initial appointment can a decision be made about whether a face-to-face contact is required.
- No-one is to enter the practice building unless they have a pre-arranged face-to-face appointment. If you need to speak to Reception to book an appointment or update us, please do this by telephone.
- Dispensary are now handing out medications from the side window into the car park. We have an awning to ensure you have shelter from inclement weather, and are fixing the lighting to make sure that visibility is good in the evenings. We have used cones to create a safe space within the car park for this.
- Due to the impact of needing to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme at pace (see more below), no appointments will be available to book more than 7 days in advance. This is to ensure that we do not have large volumes of appointments to rearrange when we are informed of our vaccine delivery dates and need to release doctors and nurses to the vaccine centre.
- We will continue to work proactively to reach out to our patients who have more complex medical needs, to ensure that we continue to monitor and safely manage their health conditions throughout this pandemic.

We discussed the results of a survey we have carried out asking patients about their experiences of telephone and video appointments with the PPG. We reflected that, once the pandemic has passed, for certain groups of patients telephone and video consultations can be a much more convenient and accessible way of engaging with us, and we are keen to ensure that we build on the technological advances that the pandemic has necessitated.

This is a unique and challenging situation for us all, and so far 2021 is not proving any easier than 2020. We will continue to review, revise and revisit the way that we are responding to the pandemic, and we are grateful for your support as we do so.

COVID-19 Vaccination update: Finally we are able to share some news with you! The communications given out around the vaccine programme are tightly controlled by NHS England, and up until recently we have been asked to simply say “you will be contacted when a vaccine is available for you”. Thankfully that has now changed.

Locally the Pfizer vaccine began to be delivered at the end of December by local hospital hubs. Due to the complexity of the Pfizer vaccine, its cold-chain requirements and very short shelf-life, sites have to be able to give 1,000 doses within 3 days to the eligible cohorts. This is clearly very challenging, especially for small rural GP surgeries such as ours.

At the current time it is not possible for individual GP practices to deliver either the Pfizer or Astra Zeneca vaccine from their own premises to their own patients. This is a nation-wide directive. Instead, GP practices are working together as groupings (otherwise known as Primary Care Networks) of 45-50,000 patients to deliver the vaccine from one single site within that grouping, for all patients of the group of practices. Our local vaccination hub in Royston became operational from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, and we are notified at least 3 days before our vaccine is due to arrive, and only then are we able to book patients in for appointments.

The vaccine priority groups (i.e. who gets called for a vaccine when) have been decided centrally by NHS England, and we have absolutely no ability to alter this or make exceptions. The first groups to be vaccinated were care home residents and staff, health and social care workers and the over 80s. As each cohort is completed, we can then begin calling those in the next priority group.

We are not allowed to offer a choice of vaccine. Again, this is a national mandate. Our priority has to be to ensure that no vaccine is wasted, and that every dose is given to an eligible patient.

We do know that automated booking systems will be used to help deal with the huge administrative burden of booking hundreds of vaccine appointments in an extremely tight timescale. Those with mobile phone numbers on their records are being contacted by text initially, therefore if there is no record of a current mobile number, please ensure you update us with your mobile number. As soon as we are able to book appointments for those in the appropriate priority group, you will be contacted. **Please DO NOT contact Reception about this until you are invited to do so.**

We know that this has been a very frustrating time for you all, and the lack of information has been questioned by some.

As we are sure you can imagine, we have been desperate to get going with this work. It will, however, inevitably have an impact on staffing levels at the Surgery over the next months, as clinicians and admin staff are needed to staff the vaccine centre whenever we are in receipt of vaccine delivery. We will do our very best to ensure that we strike a balance between continuing to provide care from our Surgery, and playing our part in the vital national vaccination effort.

Thank you very much for reading this (rather long!) update, but we hope it is useful to help you have a better understanding of this difficult and complex situation that we find ourselves in.

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## BEEAWARE BEEGRATEFUL BEEAPPRECIATIVE

Bees are the most important animals on this planet, and in general are taken for granted. We can't afford to lose bees, if we do we will have a flowerless landscape and dysfunctional food system. There are over 250 species of bee in the UK: 25 species of bumble bee, 224 species of solitary bee and 1 honey bee species. There has been an overall decline in wild and honey bees over the past 50 years.

Since soon after the second world war ( around 70 years ) we have lost 97% of our flower rich grass land. Way back then fields of clover were grown and were ploughed back into the soil to enrich the soil, now its fertilizer. Many wildflowers and weeds would grow amongst the crops, now herbicides are used to allow only the crop to grow. Hedges and ditches rich in wildflowers have been removed to make one very large field.

One big concern at the moment is now we are out of the EU, Neonicotinoid pesticides may be reintroduced into the UK. Neonics are injected directly into the seed of a future plant. That means traces of the insecticide may always be part of the plant tissue. A growing body of research has implicated neonicotinoid in the death of honeybees. There is particular concern that neonicotinoids might have sub-lethal effects on bees, not killing them outright, but causing enough damage to make them vulnerable to an assortment of other ills and affect their navigational system.

How can we help in slowing or halting this decline? Since the pandemic so many people have fallen in love with gardening and here are a few suggestions, and in doing so become a member of the saving bee society.

The first suggestion involves you doing very little, by avoiding pulling out dandelions in your garden. Dandelions - which will begin flowering early next month - are rich in both pollen and nectar, providing a great source of food for pollinators. Each bright yellow head contains around 100 individual flowers, meaning bees, butterflies and hoverflies flock to them, feasting on their goodness. With spring on its way, bees will be emerging from hibernation hungry, on the hunt for food. If you're planning on cutting your grass over the next eight weeks, leave the yellow flowers to bloom - because grass filled with dandelions is far better for bees than a weed-free one. Leaving the grass to grow 8-10cm (3-4in) tall means clovers, daisies, self-heal and creeping buttercup can also flower. If you can leave a strip of garden that is cut only once in autumn and once in spring it's a great way of helping bees.

*Don't clip back and burn stems from shrubs, plants and bushes - the hollow stems might be used by bees for overwintering (and other helpful invertebrates).* Instead, cut them back in spring if you have to, and leave them (un-burned) in a pile at the back of the garden.

Please think twice about using pesticides and herbicides, search for alternatives, for instance soapy water for aphids, salt for weeds, dig them up or better still if they flower look on them as a prize rose.

Leave your veg patch to over winter. Bees love kale which have fragrant yellow flowers and would not look out of place in a flower border

As a rule, if you can see the pollen and nectar parts of a flower without pulling back petals, then it's OK for pollinators."

Lastly an area of wildflowers as large as you can spare will reward you with an abundance of every insect imaginable. A great way of achieving an area of wildflowers with very little preparation is to look at meadowmat, 2m x 1m turf like roll, ready to lay down. It's about £16.00 per metre and can be purchased locally. If you only want to spend a few pounds watch Monty Don's clip on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQ-QIQajchU> which will give you much more satisfaction. Spending money on a wildflower meadow/area should be considered before a fruit tree, as without pollinators they won't yield any fruit unless you self-pollinate them.

These are the ones you should be looking to grow in Eversden soil. Common Arimony, Lady's bedstraw, Betony, Black medick, Salad burnet, Meadow buttercup, White campion, Wild Carrot, Wild Clary, Cowslip, Ox-eye daisy, Common Knapweed, Greater Knapweed, Meadowsweet, Hoary plantain, Ribwort plantain, Common Poppy, Ragged robin, Field Scabious, Self-heal, Common Sorrel, Tufted vetch, Yarrow, Yellow-rattle.

Yellow Rattle suppresses the grass growth by as much as 50%. It's recommended that you sow Yellow Rattle in the first year and the wildflower mix in the second or, as Monty Don has done, sow together.

If a bee was paid the minimum wage a 1lb jar of honey would cost £142,000

**Derek Blatch**

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Sun 21 11.00 Holy Communion Great

**Mon 22 20.00 Planning Zoom**

Sun 28 11.00 Palm Sunday Morning Prayer Little

**Mon 29 20.00 LE Annual Meeting**

### **April**

Sun 4 11.00 Easter Day Holy Communion Great

Sun 11 11.00 Holy Communion Little

**Mon 12 20.00 Parish Council & Planning**

**Mon 26 20.00 Planning**

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(Please let the Editors know of any alterations or additions)

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Email for VH enquiries [eversden.village.hall@gmail.com](mailto:eversden.village.hall@gmail.com)**RECREATION AREA COMMITTEE:**

(Meets - Pavilion every six weeks)

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Secretary: Mrs Sue Glasse 262621

Treasurer Mrs Liz Coyle

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Ollie Scognamiglio (Administrator)

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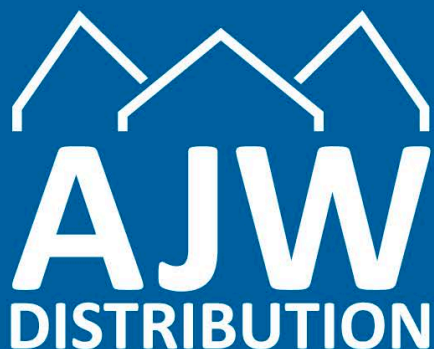
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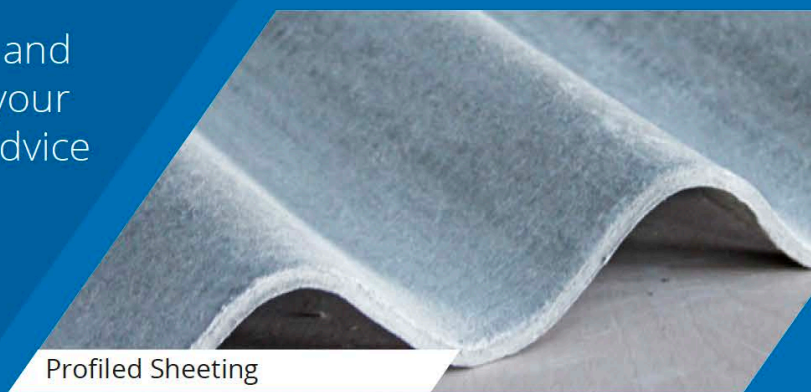
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