



Woolverstone News

July 28th 2020

Dear All

This heart-warming photograph of young swallows on rafters in a recently constructed cart lodge was taken by Kris Meadows who lives towards the Chelmondiston end of the village. Swallows like to nest inside buildings so that open access and rafters make an ideal space. Closing gaps and limiting access makes life difficult for this delightful and cheery if temporary neighbour. Their nests are built like house martins out of mud collected in their beaks from the edge of puddles and by the river. In addition they use thin, dried grasses to hold their cup-shaped nests together which are lined with soft feathers before they lay their eggs. Like the house martin they build colonies; breeding pairs and their offspring can return to the same nesting site for many years.

We can attract swallows by enabling them to have access to outbuildings where there are dark, cool ledges to build their nests. They only need a small gap - minimum 3" x 9" - or permanently open window for entry if the building is closed. The open cart lodge style is ideal due to the ease of access. We can help further by making a small platform, high in the roof, to encourage them. If you are worried about droppings you can always place a board underneath that catches them and which you can clean at the end of the season.

One of the delights of early autumn is watching the swallows soar and swirl around the lime trees on Nelson's Avenue, or the trees around the Cat House, as they feast on insects before heading back to Africa for the winter. Further afield they are a joy to watch swooping and diving over the reed beds at Snape.

Our small band of Swifts left for central Africa on 24th July leaving a sense of loss from their piercing call as they race through the skies over Woolverstone.

Parish News

Our very own 12-year old chorister, James Hodgkinson won through the blind auditions to the next round on ITV's "The Voice Kids". James, who lives on the Main Road and who you may have heard singing in St Michael's Church sang a sumptuous rendition of "You Will Never Walk Alone" in front of a packed audience. Paloma Faith, singer and judge pressed her red button only seconds into the song. Paloma Faith will now mentor James through the next rounds of the competition which is a fantastic opportunity for the young Woolverstonian. At the end of the audition, Paloma invited James to sing another song with her accompanying him on the keyboard, "We're Walking in the Air" from the "The Snowman".

If you missed it, you can catch up with "The Voice Kids" on ITV Hub. It is episode 2. His section starts at 19.54 minutes into the programme and finishes at 27.35.

There is also a shorter clip you can view on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uu9VSNHRFzk>.

Congratulations, James! We'll follow your progress over the coming weeks with pride and interest. We'll be able to see James in one of the upcoming "Battles" in the next three weeks. I have asked James to pen a report on his experiences.

FAMILIES REUNITED AS VISITORS RETURN TO SPRING LODGE.

Emotional family reunions have been taking place after Spring Lodge finally reopened to visitors last week. A cautious easing of the lockdown has been allowed after the latest coronavirus tests showed the home is completely free of the virus.

Home manager Jose Simoes said: "We are delighted to welcome back relatives, they are a part of our Spring Lodge family. "Everyone has shown fantastic patience and understanding in waiting for this day to arrive. It has been a very difficult and emotional time and our thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic."

Families are now allowed to book visits and meet their loved ones in a courtyard marquee. To protect residents, strict social distancing is maintained and there is thorough cleaning between visits.

Geoff Mayhew Planning Proposals

I bumped into Geoff the other day when he was checking his potatoes in the field behind us. He told me that the application to build 22 houses in Woolverstone and Freston will be with Babergh District Council Planning Department in the next couple of weeks. This was a week ago, so I guess we can expect it any time now. I will, of course, let you know as soon as the details appear on the Babergh website. The application will be similar to that outlined over a year ago and shared at a Village Meeting but with some changes. There will be detail in terms of what the houses will look like, how tall they will be, exact proposed locations, construction materials, access etc. None of which was available before.

How to find the Planning details when they are available, or any other planning applications.

If you follow this link it will take you to the online planning applications page of Babergh's website: <https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and type "Woolverstone" into box and click on the green "search" button. The planning applications for Woolverstone should appear in date order. If you click on the application you want to explore, a new page will open which offers tabs. Clicking on the tabs will reveal more detail. The "Comments" – allows you to see what other people/agencies have said; "Constraints" – factors to take into account e.g. Conservation Area; and "Documents" – all the relevant documents associated with the application - plans, drawings, heritage statements etc.

I will request paper copies of the all the application and find a way to share them so even those without internet access can consider what is proposed. (Watch this space!) COVID restrictions may make a village meeting challenging but, if it comes to it, "Zoom" would let us have 100 participants. There is an opportunity for individuals to make their views known to Babergh Planners either through the website, email or letter. If you are unsure, make contact with a member of the Parish Council. If you can, make your view known to the Parish Council which also has to take a view and make comments on the proposals. We are expecting a 13 week consultation period given the size of the application which will be a relief.

Corona Virus or COVID 19.

We are still advised to **Stay Alert. Control the Virus. Save Lives.**

However, restrictions are loosening but we must still be vigilant and careful.

To keep safe, we must still keep to the drill!

- **Wash your hands regularly**
- Whenever you come back inside, **wash your hands for at least 20 seconds**
- **Avoid touching your face**, especially around your nose, eyes or mouth
- **Keep a social distance** of at least two meters from other people where possible and 1 metre **plus** other precautions like wearing a face mask, turning aside from someone else, when two meters just isn't possible e.g. on public transport or a confined space
- **Wear a mask on/in:**
 - ✓ public transport
 - ✓ indoor transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals)
 - ✓ shops and supermarkets (places which are open to the public and that wholly or mainly offer goods or services for retail sale or hire)
 - ✓ indoor shopping centres
 - ✓ banks, building societies, and post offices (including credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses)

You are expected to wear a face covering immediately before entering any of these settings and must keep it on until you leave.

You are also strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

Face coverings are also needed in NHS settings, including hospitals and primary or community care settings, such as GP surgeries. They are advised to be worn in care homes. Individual settings may have their own policies and require you to take other measures.

Some Dates for your Diary:

St Michael's Churchyard team

Fri 7th August 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Phil Mayhew cuts the main areas of grass with a ride on mower. However, he can't manage the narrow areas between and around headstones, under the yew trees or where the ground slopes steeply. These have to be done by smaller machines. It is quite possible to maintain social distance and do this work. If you have a mower or strimmer and would like to contribute by cutting some of this grass that would be great. Weather permitting. The reason for changing the mowing time to the afternoon is that the grass is drier then and the job is that much easier.

Parish Council Meeting

Thurs 13th August 7.30 pm

Although one is not scheduled, one will take place via Zoom as we expect to have details of the G. Mayhew proposals by then.

If there is anything urgent, please contact me simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk or 07825708171. The PC will stay in touch with each other via email or phone.

Art Show and Sale – if possible

Sat 29th and Sun 30th August

We are currently exploring whether we can run a limited Art Show and Sale in Berners Hall this year. We have a number of artists who are willing to take part, if we can make it COVID secure. Watch this space.

Sunday Services at St Michael's.

Sunday	2nd August 9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	16th August 11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	30th August 11.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Please note that all services will be held in the main body of the Church, conforming to social distancing requirements.

[NB. I have attended the last two services in St Michael's and the arrangements put in place by Duncan made me feel entirely confident. Simon]

St Michael's Church is open for private prayer. There is a supply of Hand Sanitiser, and we are now able to open for private prayer, as previously indicated by the Government. The Chapel side of the Church has been cleared for this purpose as it will minimise the cleaning required at this time.

Our intention is that the Church should be open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week with immediate effect. However, to achieve this safely we do need to enlist your support:

Firstly, we need a team of two or three people who regularly pass the Church to call in and ensure that the Hand Sanitiser bottles remain available.

Secondly, there will be a requirement for a weekly wipe down of surfaces in the Chapel side of the Church.

If you are able to help with these roles, I would very much like to hear from you (duncan.myatt@gmail.com).

Local History

Have you looked at Woolverstone's Facebook page yet? If not, stop by and see how it is growing. This month we have added: photograph of students from Woolverstone Primary School in 1964; article about the last smuggler to be fined in Ipswich - Drummer Hodge; photograph of Woolverstone United FC in 1950 -51 season; Photograph of E H Last carrier cart that came through Woolverstone from Shotley on its way to Ipswich around 1900; photograph from Gwendoline Berners Marriage in 1914.

Our membership has now reached 255. Why not join and scroll through the information and contribute your local knowledge, too? Join the conversation! Our Facebook page is called: Woolverstone: Notes and Queries. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044317292447243/>

Climate and Wildlife Emergency

It is all very well discussing the Climate and Wildlife Emergency we are facing but we have to do something about it, practically.

TIP: Bees are necessary in gardens. They pollinate and bring life, playing an important role in growing all sorts of crops. Unfortunately, bees in the UK are under threat so it's down to us gardeners to help them out. There are ways in which we can prepare our gardens to attract bees, encouraging them to pollinate all the year through. Now is the time to start planning for next year.

Honeybees visit only one type of flower in any one foraging trip. This is called 'flower fidelity' and is what makes them such effective pollinators. So try to plant large clumps or 'drifts' of single species and optimise each of the bees' trips. Swathes of a particular type will help the bee forage. Good species to consider planting for bees are: Lavender, Viper's Bugloss, Mahonia, Hawthorn, Bluebells, crocuses, Rosemary, Borage, Carb Apple trees, Ox-eye daisies, Catnip, Field scabious and Hyssop. March to September are the key months for honeybees – they will fly whenever the temperature is above 10C, even in winter, so early- and late-flowering plants are especially valuable. (I have attached a more detailed list to this mail.)

Berners Hall

The Berners Hall Management Committee is looking to reopen our village hall from the beginning of September.

The facilities at Berners Hall are available for booking by anyone in the community. There are special rates for residents. (See below) Sessions are up to 4 hours. E.g. 9.00 am – 1.00 pm. 6.00pm – 10.00pm etc.

Weekday session: £15.00
Sat/Sun session: £18.00

Please contact BHMC Booking Secretary for availability.

Sarah Hutton Phone: 07754075684; or, Email sarahhutton7@btinternet.com

If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.

If your neighbour is not on the internet, why not print off a copy and pop it through their letterbox?

Best wishes. Stay Safe. Be vigilant. Keep your distance.

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk)