



Woolverstone News

May 27th 2018

Dear All

This has been a month full of variety. We have had bitter cold and record heat! Never has a truer word been written than in the old adage: "Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out" as we wrapped our winter coats around us in the evenings!

But the May blossom has been spectacular along the hedges; in some places even looking like cascading snow. In Woolverstone Marina there are two trees side by side; one pink blossom the other white. On the footpath down through the woods there is an ancient hawthorn, probably as old as the great gnarled oak only a few paces away. The evening sun shines through on the white of the blossom making it unbelievably bright. It made me think of the line of the nursery rhyme: "Here we go gathering nuts in May" which should really read as "knots of May" and the collection of the pure white flowers to use in May Day celebrations. And they would have probably been flowering on May Day if the change brought about by the adoption of the Gregorian calendar had not taken place in 1752.

This beautiful floral show was a little late this year - like our House Martins. These usually arrive around the 5th May. By the 10th May I was getting worried that they had got caught in a sandstorm somewhere across the Sahara and we would never see them. Then at 9.30 pm on Friday 18th there was a frenzy of excited chattering under the roof. The House Martins had arrived. Summer has started.

Walled Garden

A planning application to build a 3 bedroom, single-storey dwelling within the Walled Garden was approved by BDC Planning Committee. However, this comes with stringent conditions attached through a new 106 agreement and which also only allows the developer an opportunity to build one or other of the two dwellings he has permission for. One of the conditions ties the developer down to selling only one property before he sells the dwelling responsible for the Walled Garden and associated structures. Another condition allows for public access on one day a year to view the listed property. If this safeguards the future of the Walled Garden itself, this is to be welcomed.

Local History

Did you know that the London Nautical School was based at Woolverstone Hall from 1947 to 1952? Until recently, the colours from LNS were laid to rest at St Michael's Church on July 15th 1951 when LCC took over the Hall for an *educational experiment*. We are told that the "colour" flag is currently with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury having its condition assessed following substantial deterioration. We hope it can be saved as it is part of Woolverstone's heritage and I look forward to receiving some feedback on progress. Recently, I received an account from an old boy from LNS of his time at Woolverstone Alan Rawlinson. It's a fascinating window into this period of the Hall's history. Want to find out more?

This is one of the entries on our new Facebook page: Woolverstone: Notes and Queries. Here's the link:

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

Please take a look at the site. It would be of huge interest if we gathered history of the older houses in the village and the memories of villagers of Woolverstone in the past before they are lost to us. Please join the group and feel free to add information and photographs about our historic village. Or, indeed, ask questions!

Shotley Peninsula Guide

A new guide to the Shotley Peninsula has been produced by Babergh District Council. You can get one at local Tourist information offices or see it online:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/allaboutipswich/the-shotley-peninsula-guide.html>

Some Dates for your Diary:

St Michael's Churchyard. Maintenance team. Friday 1st June. 10.00 -12.00

Restoration and maintenance volunteers: keeping our churchyard and open spaces beautiful. We are meeting at St Michael's at 10.00 a.m. Grass cutting around Headstones and leaf clearing from the fenced area. We are trying to secure the fencing to prevent rabbits and hares gaining access to the churchyard. The original rabbit fencing was donated by Mrs Double and the gaps that have appeared over time need to be closed.

Monthly Morning Market at St Michael's Church. Saturday 9th June. 9.00 – 12.30

The theme this month is: Flowers

There will be a mini flower festival. Don't miss the bacon butties and Woolverstone sausage! East End Butchers are back. There will be local fruit and veg from Tattingstone, specialist artisan breads from Anchor Bakery, Aloe Vera products, Game Keeper's Daughter with wild meat goodies, local crafts, plants and trees and much more.

Take a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and buy some local produce in the most beautiful and peaceful surroundings.

Sunday 10th June . 7.00 - 9.00

Joanna Eden Jazz and Picnics on a Summer Evening

“The Great Divas’ Show”

Friends of Woolverstone are hosting a concert by the talented jazz singer Joanna Eden. It is a wonderful opportunity to listen to a singer who sells out at Ronnie Scott's Jazz club! Joanna was mentor to Sam Smith, too. Eden has four albums to her name and has supported Jamie Cullum, the Buena Vista Social Club and Ronan Keating. Joanna has the natural grasp of jazz phraseology that many vocalists miss and, together with a strong, warm, expressive voice and she knows how to put them over. Her voice has a natural warmth and intensity. In between songs Joanna provides interesting and humorous anecdotes. She has recently been a judge on the BBC show All Together Now. A night not to miss! Why not combine the evening with a picnic with friends in the beautiful grounds of Woolverstone Hall?



If you would like to hear her sound there are a couple of links on her website:

<http://www.joannaeden.net/>

Woolverstone Hall Theatre, Woolverstone, Ipswich. IP9 1AZ

Grounds open from 4.30 for picnicking. Guides to Woolverstone Hall available.

Performance 7.00 – 9.00

Tickets: £ 18.00.

Book tickets at: <https://experiencetickets.co.uk> or Mercury Theatre 01206 573948
(Look for Friends of Woolverstone or Joanna Eden)

Or, from one of the members of Friends of Woolverstone or the Parish Council.

There will also be ++ Strawberries and Cream ++ Bubbly ++

Proceeds from this event to Friends of Woolverstone supporting our village and community.

Wednesday 27th June. St Michael's Church 7.00pm

One of our very own, James Hodgkinson, is a Canterbury Cathedral Chorister. We are immensely privileged to have a visit from the group of choristers to St Michael's Church, Woolverstone.

Canterbury Cathedral Choristers Present a Concert

In
St Michael's Church, Woolverstone

7pm Wednesday 27 June 2018

Tickets: £12.50 Including Summer Refreshments

For more information and to secure your tickets ring Chris Hodgkinson: 07764 285 928

Or

Email: jchodgkinson@gmail.com

All proceeds to St Michael's Church, Woolverstone and the Choir House Choristers' Social Fund

Broadband

There is still a huge disparity between broadband speeds available within the village. Some people are able to access fast fibre; others are not so lucky. Paul Rogers has been searching for a better access as his is disappointingly slow.

An Openreach engineer seemed surprised that we were not all upgraded when the cabinet was - his thought is those of us on 'EO Lines' (that do not go via the new fibre cabinet) could be upgraded without huge effort.

Paul asked how much it would cost if he paid for it and the engineer pointed him towards the community fibre partnership (<https://communityfibre.openreach.co.uk/>). The idea is to bring together communities, Openreach and any Government grants to fund the project. Given the original roll-out plan appears to be stalled (awaiting funding?) Paul would be keen to go ahead and at least find out how much each property would be expected to pay using this community scheme.

He has registered his property and just needs a list of addresses/landlines for anyone else who is interested. At this stage there is no commitment - just registering an interest with the Openreach scheme to understand potential costs.

Paul is happy to organise this. He would need help obtaining a list of interested properties (address and landline) but happy to then enter everything onto the portal and manage the process.

If you are unhappy with your broadband speed and would like to explore alternative possibilities, please make contact with Paul; paul_martin_rogers@hotmail.com

A word from our Rector, Geoffrey Clement

Dear Friends

A few years ago at the Edinburgh festival Tim Vine was voted as having the best joke: Murder in a multi-storey car park – that's wrong on so many levels! Well, I thought it was funny and I suppose humour can be a matter of taste.

Laughing is considered to be very good for you, dare I say it: on every level. Trouble is, for most people religion and humour or laughter don't really go together. People still have this image that religion is something practiced by humourless stony-faced people who are in a permanent state of seriousness. Hopefully that is not the reality for most Christians or those of other faiths either. Jesus certainly had a sense of humour and we find him having his own little jokes with the disciples. Mostly we find Jesus making jokes that play on words or highlight the attitudes of those who think too highly of themselves.

Jesus once said that he came that we might have life in abundance. That was not a joke, he was saying that to know and be known by God can bring fullness of life and all that fullness can mean; enjoyment, fun, laughter, inner peace, in fact all that the Hebrew word Shalom sums up.

It is my hope and prayer that in the coming summer months you might find that spark in life that brings fullness and abundance.

I remain

Your Friend and Rector

Geoffrey

Sunday Services at St Michael's.

Sunday 3rd June	10.00	**New** Holy Communion. A "said" Holy Communion in the traditional style using the Book of Common Prayer.
	11.00	Café Church
Sunday 10th June	11.00	Worship the Woolverstone Way
Sunday 17th June	11.00	Morning Prayers for Father's Day
Sunday 24th June	11.00	"Holy Communion and in the afternoon a Taize Workshop followed by tea and then a Taize style service. Meet in the church at 2.45 for a 3pm start for learning the music, high tea at 4pm and service at 4.30;all away by 5.30pm"
Weds 27th June	7.00pm	Canterbury Cathedral Choristers Concert.

Helping our Community

Our community is stretched out in a ribbon or linear settlement, mostly along the B1456. People at No 1 are over a mile away from people at No 38. It is hard to stay connected. One of the ways to keep connected is through supporting local events, meeting and catching up with people. I hope you will be able to support the village through the different events that have been organised. We also need your help for some of the jobs that keep the community ticking away

Booking Secretary

Berners Hall Management Committee are looking urgently for a new Booking Secretary:

Duties to include:

1. Taking telephone and email enquiries from new and existing Hall users
2. Arranging all bookings and viewings and advising hire charges
3. Completion of hire agreements
4. Showing the available facilities to new hirers
5. Collection of payments, issuing receipts, passing payments to treasurer
6. Unlocking & locking before and after an event
7. Liaising with other BHMC members on a regular basis
8. Maintaining current Booking diary

Some of these duties, ie unlocking & locking, collecting payments & issuing receipts may be shared with a member of BHMC. You will need to be prepared to use your own home phone and mobile to take telephone enquiries and also an email address to receive and send electronic data. Your telephone numbers and email address will be advertised, together with your name only (no address) as being the contact for all enquiries relating to Berners Hall. Although this is an unpaid voluntary position, any reasonable incurred expense will be reimbursed subject to prior agreement. For more info please contact:

Sarah Hutton on 077540 75684 or email sarahhutton7@btinternet.com

Parish Councillor

We have a vacancy for one Parish Councillor. If you think you would be interested in being part of the PC and would like to know more, please get in touch (780009)

Community Speedwatch

In order to have a continuing presence we really need people who are prepared to give a couple of hours a month to support us.

If you would like to be part of the team to help keep the traffic flow through the village to safe limits, please make contact with me. We've got the kit but need to get this project moving and regular. (780009)

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.

Best wishes

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