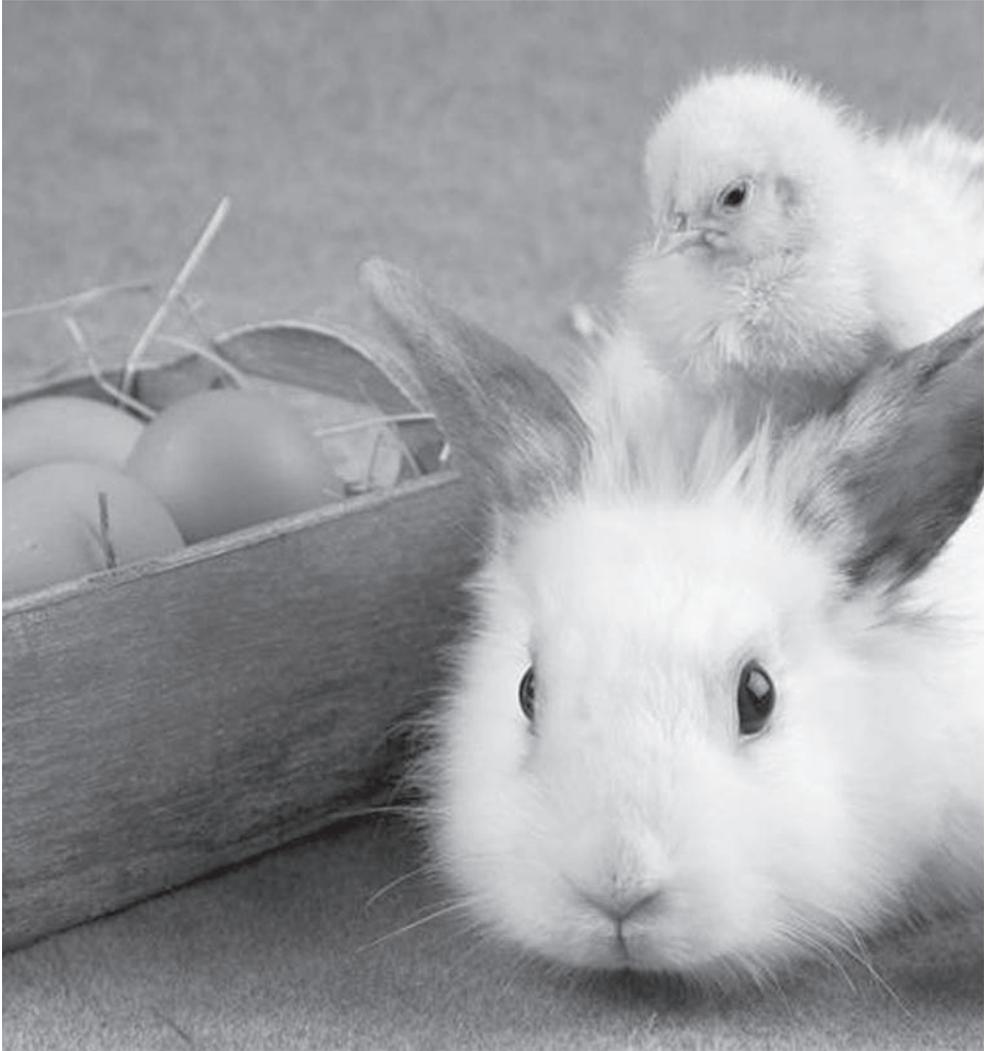


The Sexton's Wheel Issue 207

The magazine for Long Stratton & Wacton



Happy Easter

April 2021

Long Stratton Village Hall - Booking Information



The hall can be booked as follows:

Via our facebook page, search Long Stratton Village Hall
Via our website www.longstrattonvillagehall.org.uk
Email us at longstrattonvillagehall@outlook.com
Call Kirsty Dye on 07986942804 and leave a message
Hire rates from as little as £7.50 per hour.



Wacton Village Hall - Booking information

The meeting room has seating for 22, suitable for small functions. The main hall has a semi-sprung floor with capacity for 80 seated or 120 standing. There is a fully equipped kitchen and a full complement of tables and chairs. All areas are accessible for wheelchairs, there is a baby changing station. Hourly rates are £6 and £10 respectively or £13 for the hire of the whole hall. Christine Goreham 01508 530823 or Wacton.VH@outlook.com

Church Contacts

St Mary's, St Michael's & All Saints'

Revd. Heather Wilcox 01508 530238
rev.heather@btconnect.com

Congregational Church

June Braddock 01508 470701

Church Parish Office

The Parish Office is situated at the Rectory, 8 Flowerpot Lane is currently not staffed, but we are available for enquiries at anytime. Please ring the doorbell (by the front door) or ring 01508 530238 for all enquiries.

If you know of anyone who is unwell or would benefit from a visit from a member of our ministry team please contact the Parish Office (01508 530238).

Long Stratton Town Council, The Pavilion, Manor Road, Long Stratton

Usual office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 1pm and by appointment at other times.

Tel: Clerk Becky Buck 01508 530524 E-mail: clerk@longstrattoncouncil.info

The Editors reserve the right to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. While every effort is made to ensure that the contents of the magazine are accurate, no responsibility can be taken for errors and omissions. The material printed does not necessarily represent the views of the magazine committee and no recommendation of products or services is implied. While the committee take reasonable care when accepting advertisements for publication, it cannot accept responsibility for any unsatisfactory transactions. Errors and omissions excepted.



Although we still have COVID-19 with us it's good to see that we now have people planning to open up again. Churches are resuming services (see page 24) and hopefully it won't be long before we can get back to some sort of normality with local businesses opening up as well.

The Sexton's Wheel Team

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It's a picture

Old photos bring back many memories and reminders of many situations that we have found ourselves in in days gone by. When I was growing up my dad was a keen photographer and the camera was one of the first things packed whenever we went for a day out. Now he is getting on a bit (he's 95!) I've been going through some of his old photos and I've created an album of 'me through the years' pulling together images from his archive. Some are not a pretty sight believe me!

It's been great to look back at some of the old cars that he owned and also in the background, of some of the indoor photos of the television and stereogram of the 1950's.

Looking through the photos and thinking of what I was getting up to in the various years has been interesting and fun. Remembering the good times and also being reminded of some family members no longer with us.

It did get me thinking of not only my physical development as I grew up, not only achievements like riding a bike for the first time and learning to fly (model aircraft only I hasten to add), but it got me thinking of my spiritual journey through life too. Seeing me as a ten year old and thinking - yes I sang a solo in the church anniversary that year, or as a fifteen year old being asked to preach my first sermon (congregation of about 15 but still preached.)

I wonder if our heavenly father, God, keeps a record like my earthly dad did so he too can look back at our lives and see our progress. I hope when God looks back through my life he will be able to say, yes you did well there or yes, I can see that we have grown closer over the years. It maybe that when we all look back through our lives we can pick out the times when we felt close to God or that we find times when we struggled to retain that closeness. Just as with all families there will be times when we are close and times when we are a bit more distant but the difference with God is that he is always there for us and with us.

I hope that our photo albums will show that we have had some real good times and that we are smiling through life.

God bless you all.

Steve Adcock
Reader St Mary's Church Long Stratton



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Easy as that

Our Scouts, Cubs & Beavers enjoyed a great Birds of Prey Session via zoom where they met an Eagle Owl, Lanner Falcon & Harris Hawk. It was really interesting to learn all about the different Birds of Prey.



We also organised two sessions with the Store Manager of the Mulbarton Central England Co-op, based on Fairtrade Fortnight, one for Scouts and the other for Beavers & Cubs. They organised a zoom workshop to teach our young people all about Fairtrade, which was very informative.



Some of our Beavers followed their Fairtrade Sessions with a fun Cooking Activity together on zoom making Chocolate Bananas. This is normally a favourite over a campfire but they turned out just as yummy in the oven at home!

Meanwhile, our Explorers have enjoyed working towards their Chef Badge together via zoom over recent months. Just prior to Christmas the Explorers made some Mince Pies, and more recently they attempted Australian Lamington Cake. We have been very impressed with their efforts & baking skills so far!

Hopefully when you are reading this report, we will be much closer to starting some sessions back face to face in line with current guidance. We will have some spaces in our Beaver Colonies for boys & girls aged 6 to 8 so if you'd be interested in getting involved then please get in touch by messaging us via our Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/1stlongstrattonscoutgroup or email pta.thurston@tiscali.co.uk

Peter, Group Scout Leader



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2nd Long Stratton Brownies

Last month, we had a very exciting zoom session led by a Circus Performer called 'Lucas Jet' showing us his Circus Skills. We watched a mini show with him juggling with hoops, balls, clubs & hats. He was even able to juggle while riding various size unicycles. The Rainbows & Brownies were then shown how to use socks as juggling balls and enjoyed trying to master the skill of juggling in their own homes. We saw lots of happy smiley faces on zoom that evening as everyone was having fun!

For Mother's Day, the Rainbows made handmade cards and the Brownies made Swan Soap Gifts from the packs the leaders delivered to their homes. While this meant for some mums there was not quite the surprise element this year on Mothering Sunday, it was good to have a go at some crafts at home together on zoom.

Thank you to all the parents for supporting us, and helping the Rainbows & Brownies on their zoom sessions throughout the Spring Term.

Rainbows - for girls aged 5-7 years old - have a few spaces available for new girls to join from April 2021 so if you would like to find out more information, please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and please register your daughter as interested, then a leader will be in touch in due course.

Brown Owl & Hawk Owl

LONG STRATTON & DISTRICT WI

Following the Prime Minister's broadcast when he laid out the government's road map for returning to our pre-covid activities, we are cautiously planning ahead and hope to be back enjoying our monthly meetings again very soon.

If you are interested in joining us when we re-start, please contact our Secretary on 01508 531154 or look out for details in future copies of the Sexton's Wheel. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Long Stratton Village Hall at 7.30.pm.

LONG STRATTON YOUTH CAFE

Youth Cafe remains closed until further notice, we hope to open again as soon as its safe to do so.

Matt, Will, Tina and Joanna





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Long Stratton Town Council

The Street, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2AH

Chairman: Mr Kevin Worsley Clerk: Mrs B Buck

01508 530524 clerk@longstrattoncouncil.info www.longstrattoncouncil.info



There have been some enquiries regarding the public toilets and the Town Council wishes to assure all residents and users of their commitment to re-open this facility as soon as is possible. Currently the toilets are still under the ownership of South Norfolk District Council and the transfer of ownership has been delayed because of a change of legal services by SNDC. This is out of the control of the Town Council, however, once the Town Council takes ownership it will be a priority to have these toilets back in operation. In the meantime we thank residents for their patience and understanding.

At a recent Council meeting the contentious issue of dog fouling was again raised and discussed at length. Councillors have asked all users of our open spaces to report incidents of dog fouling when the owners are known to them, this action is in an effort to curb this anti-social behaviour. Please send any report to the Clerk – clerk@longstrattoncouncil.info

We hope all residents continue to remain well and safe during this difficult time and confirm that the South Norfolk Support Hub is still operating and available if you need help. We would ask you to continue to support family, friends and neighbours where possible. We are looking forward to better times and feel sure with the successful vaccine roll-out it is not far away!

Congregational Church

All services in our church have been suspended due to the Coronavirus. All our members & friends are keeping in touch, and we all follow the same service sheet each Sunday, which is shared by email & post to those who would like to join in. For further information, please contact: June Braddock - details on page 2.

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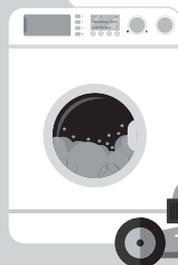


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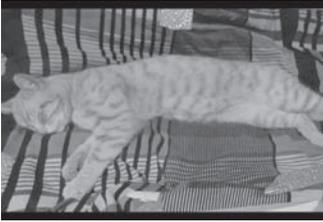


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A year on after a pandemic was declared by the WHO, the world is still reeling under the devastation caused by the covid19 virus. However there is hope of an end to the pandemic as vaccination roll out programmes occur across the globe. Here in the UK, as I write this article, just over twenty million have received their first dose of a covid vaccination and around a quarter of a million people have received their second vaccination. At a local level, many of you will be aware of the vaccination centres across Norfolk and also the role of the practice in delivering the AstraZeneca vaccination as and when the deliveries of vaccines happen.

The Practice continues with all measures needed to keep patients and staff safe during these challenging times. In the midst of all this chaos, the practice continues with its best efforts to try and find the best skill mix of staff to ensure safe and efficient care of our patients. At present our clinical team comprises of seven GPs, three nurses, one Advanced Nurse Practitioner trainee and one Primary Care Practitioner. We have been extremely lucky to recruit a GP to join our partnership. Dr Verity Lowndes- Burt joins us in early April. She is an experienced GP with over ten years of general practice experience. She is a medical graduate from the University of Manchester and also holds a BSc (Hons) in Biology from the University of Leeds. She has worked in Norfolk and Suffolk and at present is working in a very similar sized rural practice. At her interview, she expressed her enthusiasm and her motivation to take her career to the next stage by taking on a Partner role. We welcome her with open arms and equal enthusiasm knowing that the team will benefit from fresh ideas. She describes herself as an active mother of two young boys, loves yoga, kayaking and outdoor activities. In the same breath, she talks with such pride about her puppy and cats. I know all of you will join me in welcoming Verity to Long Stratton.

Stay safe

Mini Nelson

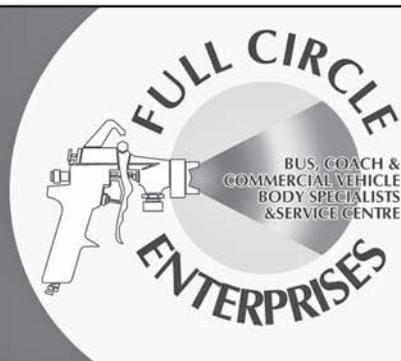
Let's Chat

As with many things, Let's Chat has been greatly missed over the past year. But we are beginning to make plans for re-starting in a Covid Secure way and hope to be back up and running again by the middle of May.

Look out for more details in the next issue of Sextons Wheel, but hopefully, we will be drinking tea or coffee and enjoying delicious cake and lots of chat again very soon on Tuesday Mornings in St. Mary's Church



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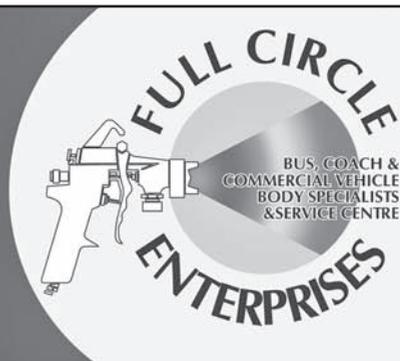
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SOUTH NORFOLK HELP HUB

Everybody needs a bit of extra support from time to time and the Help Hub makes sure people get that help as soon as possible, if they begin to experience difficulties.

Getting help early can stop problems from getting worse. It might be only a small problem, like a broken washing machine or feeling a little isolated, but if it's difficult to find a solution straightaway a small problem can grow and lead to more worries.

The Help Hub is a partnership between organisations that support people in South Norfolk. It can offer practical support, advice and guidance to get you back on track.

Find out more at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/south-norfolk-help-hub or Call **01508 533933** or text **ADVICE** followed by your message to **07860 017323**.

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL

New grants available for South Norfolk and Broadland businesses

New business grants from £2,000 to £20,000 are available to support large, small and micro businesses from South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils through the second phase of its discretionary business grant.

The Councils welcome applications from South Norfolk and Broadland businesses of any size, whether home based or based in business premises, business rated or not rated, self-employed or employing staff. They are particularly keen to hear from businesses that have so far been unable to receive any COVID-19 financial support.

To qualify for the Additional Restrictions Grant, businesses must have experienced a loss of income (turnover) of at least 20% or £40,000 and fall into one of the following categories:

1. A rated business that did not qualify for Local Restrictions Support Grant payments during national lockdowns or local restrictions
 2. A business that has so far been unable to receive any COVID-19 financial support – including businesses with premises which are not business-rated, or without its own business rating
 3. A business that employs 10 or more full-time equivalent employees and wishes to request a top-up to a previous Local Restrictions Support Grant award
- Any business that needs support is encouraged to get in touch to find out what funding they may be eligible for. Please share with your business networks and fellow business owners.

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Tharston & District WI

I am sure we are not alone in feeling that the latest lockdown seems interminable, although not yet as long as the first. Roll on the day when we can all meet again. We have held coffee mornings via zoom on our meeting day and it has been good to actually see members and have a chat. Last month, at our coffee morning, we played handbag bingo – different, but caused a few laughs! Quite amazing what some of us can find lurking at the bottom of a handbag. A picture quiz for our March meeting tested the brains and for our April meeting we will have a speaker with a craft-along session via zoom.

We have tried hard to keep in touch with our members by phone calls and a quarterly newsletter as well as occasional gifts. Delivering the gifts is lovely as it enables us to also have a socially distanced chat.

Our recent newsletter featured some of our long serving members and was most interesting to read and see the photos. One photo was of our 40th birthday celebration and another showed a dinner shortly after our WI began. This September our own WI will be 55 years old and perhaps we will be able to celebrate in a similar fashion.

We have planned a programme for 2021 and hope that meetings will be able to resume later, when we can actually meet up. Last summer many of us were able to enjoy events in the garden of The Jolly Farmers and we hope to do this again this year. Although we may have to make changes to the planned programme, it will be great to continue the friendship, laughter and conversation that the WI offers at their meetings.

Some committee members have been making marmalade for sale and the profits help to fund the extras we offer. It is amazing how many jars of delicious marmalade can be made with just fruit, sugar and a lot of slicing. Order your marmalade now!

Heather Jeary

WACTON VILLAGE NEWS

WACTON COFFEE MORNINGS

Hello again everyone – Unfortunately, it is still not possible for us to plan when we can start meeting again. Hopefully, as we start to receive the vaccine we may be able to get back to some sort of normal.

In the meantime we hope you are all keeping safe and well. Please get in touch if you would like a chat on the phone.

Caroline 01508 530111, Rita 01508 218407

Men on Wacton's Roll of Honour by Robert Maidstone

This month we look at

EDGAR JAMES GOOSE

Private 19427, 2nd Batt. Norfolk Regiment

Edgar was baptised at Fornsett St Peter in 1883, the fifth child of James and Mary Goose. By 1891 they had moved to Wreningham where Edgar went to school, then Ashwellthorpe by 1901 when Edgar gave his occupation as 'sheep feeder on a farm'

In 1907 he married Grace Emma Gibbs and appears to be still living at Ashwellthorpe where his first two children were born. The family moved to Wacton in 1909 to the cottages north of Wilderness farm, where Edgar worked as a horseman. They had two further children at Wacton.

In 1914 he enlisted with the 2nd Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment and in August was sent to Bombay and became part of the 6th (Poona) Division of the Indian Army. Then in November the Division was sent to Mesopotamia. They landed near Basra and fought their way north, capturing Kut-al-Amara in 1915, then attacked Ctesiphon in November of that year where they were defeated and retreated to Kut-al-Amara in December 1915. Here they were besieged awaiting re-enforcement from the south.

On the 22nd April Edgar was killed in action, four days before the Division surrendered.

His wife Grace would have been able to register to vote in 1918 but she must have already left Wacton although it appears she remained in the Depwade District for the rest of her life.

Edgar is remembered on the Basra Memorial and at Ashwellthorpe and Wacton.

THOMAS HENRY LAND

Private 30318, Norfolk Regiment

Born in Tacolneston to James and Henrietta Land in 1879, Thomas enlisted in the Norfolk Regiment in 1894 and served for four or five years before, returning to the Depwade District where he married Ellen Elizabeth Goose in 1899.

They first settled in Ashwellthorpe where in 1901 Thomas was employed as a roadman by the County Council. He registered to vote in Wacton in 1904, having moved from Ashwellthorpe, at Stratton Road. This property has been identified as one of the pair of Cottages now known as Blyth Green Cottage.

In the 1911 Census they had two children Edward Harry and Lena J.

Thomas was recalled to military service at the outbreak of war and joined the London regiment as Private 52056. He remained on the Register of electors for 1914 and 15 but not after that.

The Roll of Honour records him as being in the National Reserve and his last service number 377107 suggests that may be correct.

HENRY FAVILL SCOTT HOLMES

Private, Norfolk Regiment

2nd Lieutenant, 208th Field Company, Royal Engineers

Henry was born in Wacton House on 15th March 1894 where his parents Robert and Ellen lived with grandfather Henry Tuke Holmes. He had two younger sisters.

In 1905 Henry started school at Gresham's near Holt but in 1907 was withdrawn as his father was in financial difficulties, and the family moved to Lowestoft. By 1911 they had moved to Neville Street, Norwich and Henry was employed as a motor engineer.

He enlisted on the 5th August 1914 as a transport driver with the Norfolk Regiment, five months later he was offered a commission and became a 2nd Lieutenant. In March 1915 he transferred to the Royal Engineers and went to France in January 1915.

He was killed in the opening battle of the Somme on 1st of July 1916. He is remembered on Pier 8 face A and D, Thiepval Memorial in France, and at Wacton on the Holmes family monument and War Memorial.

If anyone has further information about any of these men, or would like details of the family, I can be contacted at robertwmaidstone@gmail.com

WACTON FOOTCARE

The next session of Footcare is scheduled for Monday 27th April.
To avoid any confusion, Clare will be telephoning to confirm appointments with everyone before-hand.

The usual contact tel. nos. are ----

Clare --- 07785 295358

Rita --- 01508 218407

In the meantime we both wish you all A HAPPY EASTER.

Churches are opening again

4th April

5.30am sunrise service in St. Michael,s churchyard

8.30am - Holy Communion in St. Michael,s church

9.30am - Holy Communion in All Saints church, Wacton.

11.00am - All Age Communion in St. Mary's (pre-booking advisable on 01508 530238)

11th April

11.00am Morning Worship in St. Mary's

6.30pm - Evensong in St. Michael's

18th April

11.00am - Confirmation Service with Bishop Alan in St. Mary's

6.30pm - Taize style worship in Wacton church

25th April

11.00am - All Age Holy Communion in St. Mary's

8.30am - Holy Communion in St. Michael's

If you live in Long Stratton and have a prayer request please send them to Heather, using the details on page 2.

If you live in Wacton and have a prayer request please send them to **Angie Baldwin at angiekbaldwin@gmail.com/07771 438062**

Come and join us for.....

The next *Messy Church* is on **Saturday 3rd April**

followed by one on 24th April

from 9am until 10.45am



Both of the above Messy Church will be held in St Mary's church



Long Stratton Messy Church

You can find out more by phoning Heather Wilcox at The Rectory 530238

Holy Week and Easter in the Parish Churches St. Michael's, St. Mary's and All Saints Wacton

Physically present services have resumed in our parish churches

Online services continue too

1st April - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm

Taize style reflective service in St. Mary's church

2nd April - Good Friday

10.30am Good Friday Meditation

Service

(In St. Mary's Churchyard - dress appropriately)

3.00pm Hour at the foot of the cross

In All Saints Church, Wacton

Saturday 3rd April - Easter Eve

9.00am Messy Church

In St. Mary's church

Easter Day

5.30am

Outdoor Sunrise Service in St. Michael's churchyard

8.30am

Holy Communion in St. Michael's church

9.30am

Holy Communion in All Saints Church, Wacton

11.00am

All Age Holy Communion in St. Mary's*

*As we are limited on space in our churches due to the social distancing measures we are operating a pre-booking system for St. Mary's Church for Easter morning. To book your seat/s please contact Heather on

01508 530238 or rev.heather@btconnect.com as soon as possible

Free virtual activity programme for 0 to 5s in Norfolk



The Early Childhood & Family Service (ECFS) is still running, offering extra help to families who need it. Right now, due to Covid-19, we're providing a programme of virtual activities and groups that are available to families with children aged 0 to 5 years.



Early Childhood and Family Service

Activity Programme

October to December 2020



New videos every week at [facebook.com/EarlyChildhoodFamilyService](https://www.facebook.com/EarlyChildhoodFamilyService), and on our YouTube channel. First view on the day/time shown or watch anytime later



Baby Days Bitesize

Information and ideas for activities, suitable from birth, which will help encourage your baby's brain development and strengthen your bond

Monday

1.30pm

Toddler Days

Inspiration for fun, learning activities, plus tips to get your toddler talking

Tuesday

11.00am

Talk & Play All Through The Day

Easy to use ideas for you to talk and play with your child, as you go about your every day lives, helping them build good language.

Wednesday

1.30pm

Outdoor Explorers

Videos and simple activities to help you encourage your child's enjoyment and understanding of their natural world

Thursday

11.00am

Cookalong

Step-by-step videos for easy family recipes which are fun to make together and will save you money compared to ready prepared food. No experience necessary!

Friday

1.30pm



Live Online Groups



Baby Days Live Online

Six weeks of free online sessions for babies with their parents/carers. Each session will have a new learning activity to try out with your baby, plus an opportunity to meet other parents and talk to knowledgeable staff.

Courses running regularly

Sessions take place online via Microsoft Teams. You only need an internet connection and a smartphone, tablet or computer to join.

Check dates and book at tinyurl.com/ECFSevents



Norfolk Libraries for Families



Weekly Menu	Monday to Friday 12.00pm	New storytime videos every Monday, with activity ideas to bring the story to life Tuesday to Friday. Available on Facebook.
Bounce & Rhyme	Tuesday 10.00am	Available on Facebook and YouTube.
Josh's Caper: Bubbles and Toddlers	Tuesday 11.00am	Social session over Zoom Video Call. Email libraries.library@norfolk.gov.uk for info.



Family Learning Online



Family Learning Online Cafe	Tuesday 7.00pm	Take part in an activity and find out about Family Learning courses. Visit www.facebook.com/norfolklib for more details about the dates and Zoom access codes.
	Friday 11.00am	
Family Learning Online Courses	Various times and dates	For details and to book visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/familylearning

Need extra help or someone to talk to?

We are here to help with things like:

- Bonding with your child
- Speech and language development
- Parenting challenges
- Mental wellbeing
- Healthy relationships



Please contact us and one of our team will be in touch.

Online form: www.tinyurl.com/ECFSHelp
Email: ecfs-families@actionforchildren.org.uk

0344 800 8020 | www.norfolk.gov.uk/earlychildhood | ecfs-families@actionforchildren.org.uk

Keep up to date with the free Action for Children Services App



Courses offered by the Early Childhood and Family Service



Our courses are running online via Microsoft Teams, or in small face-to-face groups at our risk assessed bases. Extra hygiene measures are in place and we will ask you to wear a face covering, unless you are exempt.

Solihull Parenting Course

A 10 week course to help you learn more about your child's development and behaviour. What is their behaviour telling you?

Baby Massage

A 5 week course for introducing massage strokes. This can help with colic and support you and your baby to feel more relaxed, whilst strengthening your bond.

Freedom Course

A 10 week course for women who would like to look at healthy relationships and to have a safe environment to be able to discuss and understand previous and current relationships.

Triple P

An 8 week course that offers support, information and practical answers to everyday parenting concerns.

Circle of Security

An 8 week course based on supporting and strengthening the attachment between you and your child.

Our partners



Home-Start Norfolk and the community offer in your local area are also part of the Early Childhood and Family Service, and are available to support you and your family.

How to contact us

You can get more information on the service by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/earlychildhood

If you would like further information, help or support then please call us on 0344 800 8020 or e mail us at ECFS-Families@actionforchildren.org.uk



Any updates on services or groups can be found by visiting our Facebook pages. Search for Early Childhood and Family Service



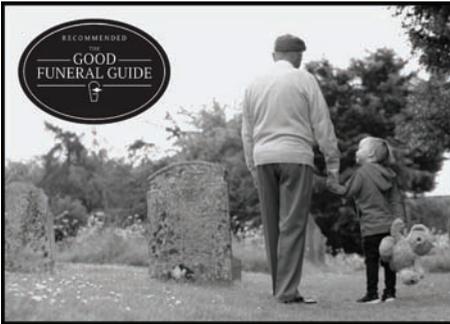
See our video on YouTube to find out more

Useful contacts

Coronavirus Information	norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus
Just One Norfolk (Health Visiting Team)	0300 300 0123
Leeway (Domestic Abuse Support)	0300 561 0077
Norfolk & Waveney Wellbeing Service (Mental health support)	0300 123 1503
Home Start Norfolk	01603 977040
Speech & Language Advice Line (ECCH)	01502 719830
Norfolk SEND Partnership	01603 704070
National Breastfeeding Helpline	0300 100 0212
Norfolk Police (non-emergency)	111
CGI (Alcohol & drug behaviour change service)	01603 514096
Citizens Advice Bureau	03444 111 444
Shelter (Help with housing & homelessness)	0808 800 4444
Job Centre	gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus
Mens Advice Line (for men in abusive relationships)	0808 801 0327

If you are worried a child is at risk please call Norfolk County Council Children's Services on **0344 800 8020** or **999** in an emergency

0344 800 8020 | www.norfolk.gov.uk/earlychildhood | ecfs-families@actionforchildren.org.uk



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A public consultation has been launched on the Neighbourhood Plan for Long Stratton.

South Norfolk Council is asking residents to comment on the submitted draft Neighbourhood Plan for Long Stratton as part of a consultation, which runs for six weeks, from 22 March to 5.00pm on 6th May.

The consultation is the last opportunity for the public to comment, before the Plan is examined by an independent neighbourhood plan examiner. The examiner's role is to test the Neighbourhood Plan against the basic conditions that are set out in national regulations. If approved by the Council, the Plan will then need to be passed by a referendum of Long Stratton residents, before being adopted as part of the planning framework.

The Neighbourhood plan covers the same area as the Long Stratton Area Action Plan, which was adopted in May 2016 and which also includes parts of Tharston and Hapton parish.

Local District Council member, Alison Thomas said: "It's fantastic that following all the hard work of the Long Stratton community steering group we have now reached the point where we have a fully drafted Neighbourhood Plan and can invite everyone in the community to take a look and share their thoughts on the policies. "I encourage all local residents to take part in the consultation, building on the local engagement that has already happened. It's really important that residents have their say, so that the Neighbourhood Plan, once finalised and adopted, is something everyone in Long Stratton can support."

Kevin Worsley, Chair of Long Stratton Town Council said: I have chaired the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Planning Committee, which is made up of Town Councillors and residents from Stratton, Tharston, and Hapton, for the past 6 years. Our team has given thousands of unpaid hours canvassing local opinions and ensuring that these are reflected in the planning document we have written. This consultation is your last chance to comment on our work before it goes in front of the examiner, who will check it meets all legal requirements. Once this check is complete, there will be a public vote: on behalf of the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Planning Committee, I urge you to vote to ensure that residents' voices are heard at the planning decisions table for many years to come.

Neighbourhood Plans are developed by local communities with support from the district council. They have an equal status to Local Plans in the development plan hierarchy and can set out where, what and how new development should take place in their designated area.

Continued on page **31**

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Cont From page 29

To find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan or to participate in the consultation, visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/longstrattonnp. Anyone who is unable to access the consultation material online can contact the **Place Shaping Team at South Norfolk Council on (01508) 533805** in order to make alternative arrangements to view the documents.

Schools

I am super excited to be welcoming all our children back from the 8th of March 2021. We are taking a proactive and sensitive approach to welcoming our children back, supporting the mix of feelings they are bound to be feeling. We will be making sure there will be lots of outdoor activities and exercises, time to talk and express themselves, with only short bursts of learning to begin with, whilst they settle back in the school day and routine. Everyone deserves a medal for getting through this Lockdown and my praise and admiration goes out to all in our community for supporting the children's learning, whether at home or in school.

The South Norfolk Federation - Aslacton Primary and Manor Field Infants and Nursery schools are looking to recruit members of the local community to join its Local Governing Board (LGB). The LGB meet 6 times a year (currently via MS Teams) and are responsible for working together with the Executive Head Teacher and subject leaders to deliver a good quality educational experience for the communities' children. If you are passionate about education and have time and experience to offer, please contact the school office for an application form and submit it for the attention of **Mrs H Haines, Executive Head Teacher (Office@aslacton.norfolk.sch.uk or Office@manorfield.norfolk.sch.uk)**.

Do you have a child or know anyone with a child turning 3 before the 31st of August 2021?

We have spaces available in our Nursery class for 3- and 4-year-olds for September 2021. We offer funded places for both 15 hours and 30 hours eligibility and have morning, afternoons, or all-day sessions available. Please contact the school office for more information.

Our Nursery is situated in a purpose-built classroom joined to the Infant School. It is a fully integrated part of the school led by qualified teachers.

The children have free-flow access to a fenced purpose-built outdoor play area designed to encourage and develop imagination and skills. In addition, they make use of all the schools resource's including the hall for PE lessons, the school library, bikes, and scooters, our "hills and hollows" outdoor area.

Many thanks

Suzie Goodrum

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Still walking!



Photo shows a March walk 5 years ago as we haven't had one this month.

Why does the Sexton's Wheel devote a whole page every month to a group of random people wandering through the countryside (or, as for the last 3 months, not meeting at all)? After all there are plenty of other groups, some walking faster, some further and some including a pub lunch. Some years ago the Sexton's Wheel asked for people to write articles about what they've been doing so someone suggested we should write about our monthly walks. Since then every walk starts with the question, "Who is going to write this up?" Not everyone wants to do this but there's always someone who will enjoy the chance to have a go. Then at the end there's the question, "Who's going to lead next month?" Again, not everyone is equipped to do that but many find that with a map and a spirit of adventure new walks can be found or old ones rediscovered.

So, how did it all start? About 12 years ago two friends decided that they needed to put a date in their diaries to be sure of getting a country walk together at least once a month. Gradually other friends joined in. Once it started to appear in the Sexton's Wheel with a specific time and meeting place anyone could turn up and they did! It's now on the first Monday of the month. One day someone appeared who had retired on the Friday and saw a walk as a good way to start retirement by meeting people and enjoying the freedom of a Monday morning without work. Others can only join on bank holidays. There is no membership, no committee. People come and go. This makes it a bit awkward when, for instance, we have the chance to submit a Christmas tree as a group for the Christmas tree festival. Somehow it happens and the latest one has already attracted one new person who wants to come along when we start again.



So what are the plans? Unless government guidelines change, we will walk on April 5th and May 3rd. It will still be local (no car journeys involved). The rule of 6 still applies so there may be two groups. By June 7th, if we have all behaved ourselves, up to 30 people are allowed so we'll be back to normal. We've all been walking by ourselves or in twos so there should be plenty of ideas on interesting paths to follow as Spring and freedom from lockdown coincide.

COULD either of these opportunities BE FOR YOU?

Volunteer grass cutter

For the last 12 or more years, Robert and friends, particularly Trevor have mowed St. Mary's churchyard.

Robert has decided it is time to hang up the mower and the PCC wondered if there might be a new team of volunteers who would be willing to maintain the churchyard. All expenses are covered.

If you are interested or would like more information, please get in touch with Heather on 01508 530238/rev.heather@btconnect.com

In the meantime, we would like to express our thanks to Robert and Trevor for all they have done.



Community governor for St. Mary's Junior School

St. Mary's Junior school currently has a vacancy for a Community governor.

Would you like to support the Junior school moving into the future? Then this could be a great opportunity for you.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Chair of Governors by contacting the school office. office@st-marys.norfolk.sch.uk

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Doreen Payne whose ashes were interred in Wacton Churchyard on 6th March 2021.

Shirley Davidson whose burial will take place at St Michael's Churchyard on 30th March 2021.

THE SEXTON'S WHEEL

If you have something to tell us, an event coming up, an article of interest please contact us **email: thesextonswheel@googlemail.com**

tel: 07557 990169

or send to the Rectory, 8 Flowerpot Lane, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2TS
using the form below.

If you would like to advertise any Community Events this is free and we can tell over 2200 households

Editorial: If possible all editorial to be sent by e-mail. This saves time putting the magazine together and more importantly this would ensure names of people etc are spelt correctly. **Deadline for editorial is the 11th of the month**

Images: Any pictures you may have to accompany editorial would be welcome. Please send these as jpgs not embedded in a word document.

Adverts: Advertising rates per issue: -
Quarter page(6cm x 9cm) £19.20 Half page (13cm x 9cm) £33.60
Full page (13cm x 18cm) £60

Market Place: Advertise items for sale or wanted for £5 per item per issue. maximum 30 words. This is not for commercial items but private adverts only. There is a maximum selling price of £500 for goods and the editorial team reserve the right to refuse any advert they feel unsuitable. The Sexton's Wheel will not be held responsible or enter into correspondence for any transactions between the buyer and seller. No logos or pictures

Deadline for adverts is the 5th of the month

Fixed charge of £10 for designing and re sizing any advert supplied - we will inform you when the advert is submitted if there is to be a cost incurred. No charge for change of wording if supplied as word document.

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