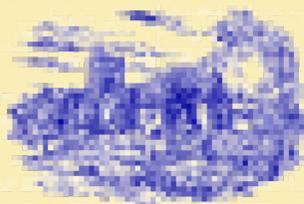


# COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

for **BOUGHTON & DUNKIRK**



June 2020

Issue No. **354**

Price **60p**



Boughton Church - Photo by Daryl Rook

**Treasures amongst the hardships**

**The Stone Snake**

**What the Papers Said - Mrs Phoebe Ann Beeham and St Barnabas Church**

**Slugs - Friends or Foes?**

**And much, much more!**

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**Annual Subscriptions are now due.**

**The magazine remains excellent value, at £6.00 for the ten issues. Advertising prices have also been held for another year, and invoices have been sent. Please help our distributors (and us) by paying promptly.**

As ever, thank you for your interest in this magazine and for helping us to promote local organisations. and traders. The magazine is published for the community by the Parish Church of Boughton with Dunkirk. It is produced, and in normal times printed and distributed by local volunteers.

We rely on advertising and sponsorship to keep the price of the magazine down, and to support local businesses by reasonably priced advertising. Please mention the magazine when responding to adverts - it helps them and it helps us! We can't endorse our advertisers' services but we do expect them to treat you well.

The views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the church

## Welcome to our third special issue

We are trying to keep the magazine going at this difficult time with news, information and a little entertainment. Although we are not able to print and distribute as usual we shall post the magazine via the internet, in parallel with invaluable sites such the village facebook pages.

So, articles of local interest, pictures and news of events are always welcome. This is a great way to keep in touch, share information and support local business.

Copy should be e-mailed to us at [boughton.dunkirk.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boughton.dunkirk.editor@gmail.com)

# Treasures amongst the hardships

All the way down one side of my garden is my nature area full of nettles, brambles, thistles and weeds but it was not always thus. Before it became so overgrown I planted a hydrangea and I enjoyed it for a year or two but then wild nature took over and it was engulfed. Every spring I said to myself, 'I must weed that part of the border,' but I never got round to it, until this year and the corona virus lockdown that is.

I've only weeded a small part of that long border but I was delighted to find my hydrangea, alive and doing quite well despite the neglect. But more than that I discovered other plants I had planted several years ago and then forgot I had – a hellebore, azalea, clematis and honeysuckle. It's like finding treasure.

Maybe you've had a similar experience in your garden, or in your house. I know some people have been having a good sort out and the charity shops will be overflowing with donations once they are able to open again.

Maybe in your clearing out you've found some treasures you had forgotten you had, perhaps old photos, souvenirs or even special nick nacks and rediscovering them has brought some joy into your life.

I know the lockdown has brought bereavement and very real difficulties into people's lives but if you are able to find some treasures amidst the hardship value them, give a silent or vocal prayer of thanks and may they bring you some joy and sustain you until life returns to normal, or the 'new normal,' whatever that will look like and whenever that will be.

Wishing you all God's peace as we go through this corona virus pandemic.

***Revd Jean Burrows***

***Keep well, keep praying, keep connected***

# The stone snake

From Aimee Skinner



my name is Aimee and my daughter Hannah is 14. Due to the lockdown we wanted to do something to lift the spirits for everyone in the village. Something that everyone could join in with and be part of.

We started off by collecting some Stones and when we got home Hannah set about painting the most important stone the 'snakes head' after we had painted the stones and made the sign we popped round to the back of our house 'Colonels Lane' to set it all up.

The snake started off with about 5 stones and after a weeks it had over 100 stones. At the last count there were 306 and it was still growing.

It has been so popular and people of all ages have taken part from young children to adults. Its been lovely to see the snake grow and no doubt after another week it will be longer...we would love for it to reach the end of Colonels Lane.

Even the village school have mentioned that they are going to set it as one of their half term activities to do :). It really is bringing the village together at a time when we have to be apart.





**Three year old Daisy Mae, with her contribution**





**Jacob (10), Isaac (8) and Cali (5), adding stones to the snake, and (left) the head start by Hannah.**



# Boughton-under-Blean (Methodist Voluntary Controlled) Primary School



I am typing this over the bank holiday weekend and at the time of writing we are putting plans in place to open the school on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. What a tricky position we all seem to be in.

There is much debate about opening, the safety of it, the value of it and the reasoning behind it. Despite opposition to this plan from within the profession and the unions it looks like we will be expecting to open and therefore plans need to be made. The response of Jo Cottenden, my deputy, and I was telling. Firstly with surprise that that is what we were being asked to do then secondly with concern, exasperation and a slight amount of panic at the scale of what needed to be done. But we waited.

We took time to consider the connotations and the arrangements and mull it over. Then we met on a Saturday, along with Sam Holness, the Early Years lead, and came up with a workable plan. We had already ascertained how many year R,1 and 6 pupils would be coming back and how many staff would be returning (every one that could) and this meant we could create 'bubbles' that were self-contained and that would be kept away from other such bubbles.

Each would have their own entrance to the school, own toilets to use, the children would have their own equipment and we would do our best to ensure the safety of everyone. But here is the dilemma. Should children within each bubble be kept 2 meters apart from each other, the teachers also remaining at that distance?

[Continued on next page](#)

To answer this question one should look at what a school is and how it operates. To take a 4, 5 or 6 year old child out of the family home where they have been in the bosom of their family for so long and then say they cannot be close to anyone seems a little bit unfair.

It would also be practically impossible and actually is a long way from what our school is about. As it is, the school will already feel like a very different place.

We take our responsibilities very seriously and safety and well-being has to be at the top of that list. However in this situation we can only do so much and I have tried to be as clear as I possibly can with the parents in terms of social distancing.

Of course many of you may ask the question of whether the decision to return is right given the lengths that schools need to go to. I think that would be an appropriate response and one that I definitely share, both as a parent and as a school leader. I guess that we need to look at the bigger societal and community picture.

Some of the arguments put forward by the government simply don't ring true however we have to start somewhere. Children starting to return to school, shops opening, more people returning to work – these are all signs that the virus is coming under control and without doubt that is great news.

We will embrace this challenge with a smile, that's what we do, and with a can-do attitude. We will make the school as welcoming and as friendly as it always is and we go into this next phase determined not to forget all that we have particularly missed over the last few months: the interaction with children, families and colleagues, the sense of community and the togetherness, the opportunity to make a difference. There may be restrictions but our intentions will remain the same.

Simon Way

# Lockdown, 2020

from Phil Mace



If someone had said to me that this year would turn out the way it has, I wouldn't have believed them. For me personally, it all ends tomorrow as I am going back to work; so, for the last two months and three days I have been at home, venturing out no further than a walk round our estate and latterly, a drive out somewhere but not very far and not for very long.

To say I feel ambivalent about it ending is a gross understatement. Whilst I feel happy that the long-term health and well-being of the nation and indeed the world is on an upward curve and my financial situation is about to improve, I do feel a little melancholy that I won't be at home to spend time with my lovely Zoë. Selfish of me I know.

It's easy to forget about the things which are important in life, because our hectic lifestyles get in the way. I wonder how many people are now thinking of making significant life decisions based on their experiences during lockdown..

Anyway, I digress. This is supposed to be about my experience of home-schooling because of the coronavirus pandemic isolation, lockdown, quarantine - whatever you want to call it.

As with everything, you start with the best intentions in the world. Both Zoë and myself were committed, I would write a timetable, plan a lesson, we would stick to it and it was working well. We were both invested and it was a novel experience for us both. Me as a teacher, and Zoë as my pupil.

Then after a couple of weeks, things started to slide a little. School days would finish only a couple of hours after they had started because of staffing issues... and then someone reminded me that I wasn't a teacher, so I decided I should stop trying to be a teacher and start being a daddy again.

That's not to say we stopped the whole learning process altogether, mind you. It just took a different form. It turns out Zoë is a sponge and takes lots of things in; something which I didn't fully appreciate until the week of VE day where we spent a few days looking back over the events which led up to the cessation of aggressive action in Europe.

Zoë reminded me of the atrocities that had taken place during the Blitz and remembered the name of the Prime Minister who made the historic speech announcing the war in Europe was finally at an end. I was humbled. I was shocked and surprised and immediately relieved that my efforts (or lack of them) hadn't completely been in vain.

So, our learning took a different turn and went off in a direction with which we were both comfortable. And also, I found it absolutely necessary to differentiate between school and home. They couldn't meld together in my opinion as I thought that would be damaging.

Certainly, the first thing I do when I get home from work is to remove my day and transition quickly to being at home to fully enjoy my evening. Zoë does this after school, too. So I really wanted to clearly underline that distinction.

Too often people refer to experiences like this as a 'journey' - I've always balked at this term because I believe it to be wrongly used in the majority of cases.

However, I do think it applies here. We have been on a journey. A journey filled with joy, sadness, love, hate and ultimately relief that we could very soon be coming to the end of what, I'm sure a lot of people will reflect upon as being a year never to be forgotten...

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We don't accept commercial equipment including fridges and freezers.

**How much is it?** We charge £25.00 for up to 4 items. White goods and televisions are charged at £25.00 per item.

## What we will collect?

- Large items of furniture such as beds, mattresses, sofas etc
- Televisions and computer monitors
- White goods such as washing machines, fridge/freezers, cookers etc
- Carpets (must be rolled and tied)
- Lawnmowers

## What we don't collect

- Any item over 6 feet
- Any item that cannot be carried by two men from collection point to the vehicle
- Glass, for instance glass table tops/shelves or mirrored wardrobes
- Building rubble
- Fixtures and fittings such as baths, kitchen cupboards, replacement windows etc
- Clearance of garden waste
- Doors

## How do I book a collection?

- You can book your items online
- By contacting our Customer Service team on 01795 417850

You will be advised of any restrictions and a collection day confirmed. You must list all items that you require for removal. This is to avoid any items being taken by mistake.

Items will need to be left outside for collection by 7am on the collection day. They can be left outside the evening before collection, as long as they do not cause any obstruction on roads or pavements.



## Kerbside Recycling & Refuse Collections

**Green bin:**  
Tue 9 & 23 June

**Blue bin:**  
Tue 2, 16 & 30 June

### Bin collection updates

If your bin was not collected on the usual day, please leave it out for us and we will collect it as soon as possible.



## Mount Ephraim Gardens Reopening 3 June



Due to a change in Government guidelines allowing members of the public in England to visit gardens again, we are very happy to announce that we will be reopening the gardens on Wednesday 3 June.

The gardens will then be open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until the end of October from 11am until 5pm (last entry 4pm.) Tickets will be available to purchase on our ticket gate using contactless payments please.

The West Wing Kitchen and Tea Room will not be opening on 3 June but we do hope to offer take aways in due course. You are welcome to picnic in the grounds. There is more information online at <https://www.mountephraingardens.co.uk/the-gardens/plan-your-visit/> on the measures we will be putting in place to ensure everyone's safety and to help you plan your visit. We look forward to updating you with more info over the coming days before we reopen.

Thank you to everyone for your positive messages during our closure and we very much look forward to welcoming you back to enjoy our gardens and wide open spaces from next Wednesday 3 June!

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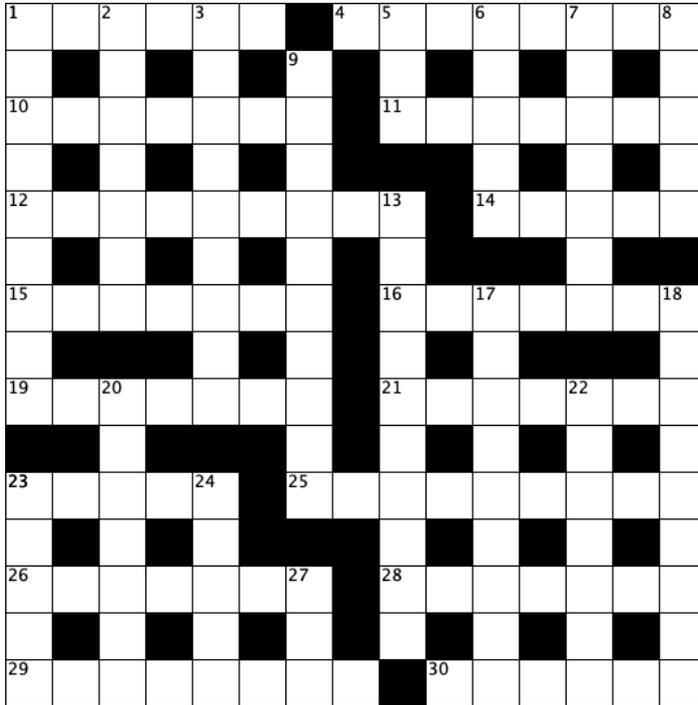
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# COMMUNAL CROSSWORD



## *Curly Clues*

### Across

- 1 Seasonal calculator? (6)
- 4 Turning point with holy man holding sun on one side and ice on the other (8)
- 10 National Students Union come around to eat (7)
- 11 Struggle to see my NZ enablers (7)
- 12 Gold top that is amidships warrants post mortems (8)
- 14 Optimistic star goes to New York (5)
- 15 This month, even repaid as an alternative (7)
- 16 Compensation for change of clothes? (7)
- 19 Geographic midline almost equal to starting ratio (7)
- 21 Get better after upholstery makeover? (7)
- 23 Consider spare vitamin (5)
- 25 Told about writing erased? (9)
- 26 Precipitating a call about software, second on (7)
- 28 Game where Nell holds bat incorrectly (7)
- 29 Abruptly, the South of France is to deny harbouring Left (8)
- 30 Revised tide back in for head journalist (6)

### Down

- 1 So is Alice awkward about wanting to get together? (9)
- 2 Not a lot of time to make a record of meeting (7)
- 3 Alien captures humans after making a joke about technology (9)
- 5 Alternative direction to obtain raw material (3)
- 6 Estimates dimensions (5)
- 7 Huge to have 1999 seen strangely (7)
- 8 Points to articulate in written piece (5)
- 9 Confused by notes about wild inbred (10)
- 13 Sing about knight going back to old city with Persian leader - very unexpected! (10)
- 17 Indeed, Cora is first teacher so honoured! (8)
- 18 Darts up to top door, led to disparate parts being connected (9)
- 20 All together now - crazy fun, I die! (7)
- 22 Six firstborn ran tiptoe, full of life energy! (7)
- 23 Inverts poles in a rut (5)
- 24 Betray a betrayer up on drug (5)

*(Solution on page 40- no cheating now!)*

# STRAIGHT(ish) CLUES

## Across

- 1 & 4 Longest day (6,8)
- 10 Devour (7)
- 11 Biological catalysts (7)
- 12 Postmortems (8)
- 14 Pleasant weather conditions (5)
- 15 Rather (7)
- 16 Reparation (7)
- 19 Zero latitude(7)
- 21 Get better(7)
- 23 Consider (5)
- 25 Portray (9)
- 26 Pouring (7)
- 28 Team game (7)
- 29 Abruptly(8)
- 30 Revised (6)

## Down

- 1 Fraternise (9)
- 2 Short intervals (7)
- 3 Kit (9)
- 5 Raw material (3)
- 6 Estimates (5)
- 7 Very large (7)
- 8 Article (5)
- 9 Very confused(10)
- 13 Very unexpected! (10)
- 17 Adorned (8)
- 18 Bestrode (9)
- 20 All in one (7)
- 22 Energised (7)
- 23 Rotates (5)
- 24 Utensil (5)
- 27 Goo (3)

The Swale Borough Council community support line is also available on 01795 417525 and can offer help to people who have no friends or family nearby who can help with things like food shopping or topping up prepay meters.

The line is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4:30pm Friday, 10am to 2pm Saturday and Sunday, and bank holidays. Outside these times people can contact the Kent Together helpline on 03000 41 92 92 or at [www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether).

For more information, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/community-response](http://www.swale.gov.uk/community-response).



The voluntary Faversham Personal Services Group, who normally provide transport to hospitals, is naturally closed at the moment, but they have asked us to say that they do have a driver who is willing to take anyone if desperately needed. The Doctors' surgeries have details. Clients must sit in the back of the car for safe distancing.



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You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07740 706189 or [boughtonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonclerk@gmail.com) or [www.boughtonunderbleanpc.org](http://www.boughtonunderbleanpc.org)

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY** **Parish Council Meetings**

Wednesday 10th June 2020 at 7:30pm to be held remotely via ZOOM. Members of the public are welcome to attend and will need to contact the Parish Clerk to request joining details.

Minutes from all meetings are published on the Parish Council website. There is no monthly Parish Council meeting in August.

## **Parish Council – Planning Committee Meetings**

Scheduled meetings: 9th & 23rd June 2020 at 7:30pm to be held remotely via ZOOM. Members of the public are welcome to attend and will need to contact the Parish Clerk to request joining details.

These meetings are only held if there are current planning applications to discuss. Please check the website, noticeboard or ask the clerk for confirmation of meeting dates.

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- The Parish Council is now holding its meetings remotely via ZOOM. The May meeting was attended by 6 Parish Councillors (Boughton under Blean) and no members of the public.
- There are still vacancies for new Parish Councillors. Interested parties should contact the Clerk in the first instance.
- The Parish Council has published its annual accounts on the website.
- In the interest of public health, the public toilets at School Lane will be closed until further notice.
- During lockdown, most local matters that the Parish Council has been addressing have taken a little longer than usual as companies/contractors used have been operating on a limited basis. That said, the new door for the phone box has been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible, the planning application for the proposed new bus shelter on The Street has been submitted to Swale Borough Council and the grass mowing on The Street has now resumed.
- Please feel free to report potholes, blocked drains or any other highways matters either via KCC online at ([www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem)) or direct to the Parish Clerk.
- Please feel free to report overgrown public footpaths via KCC online at ([www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way](http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way)) or direct to the Parish Clerk.
- A list of responsibilities for County, Borough and Parish Councils is available on the Parish Council website

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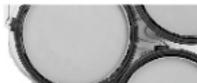
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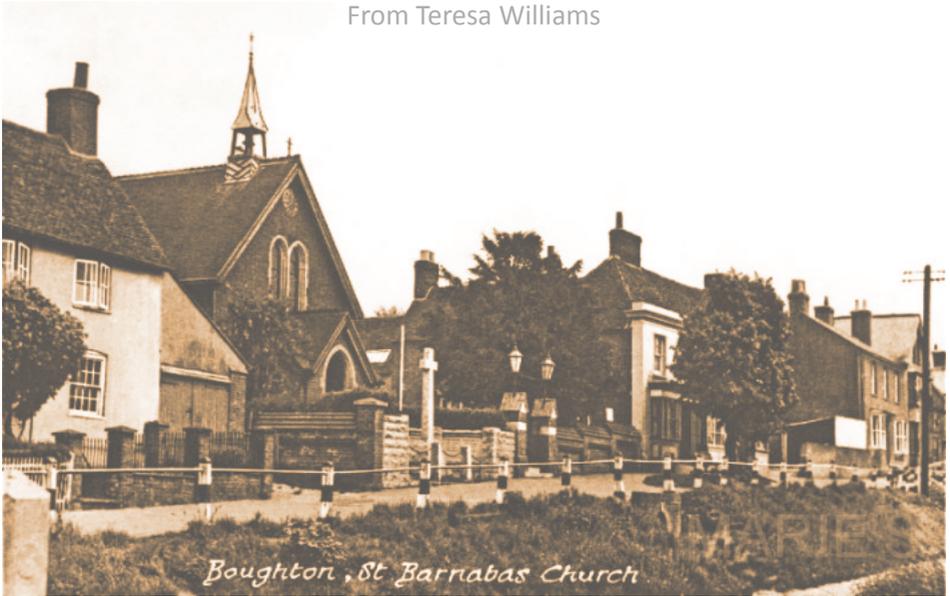
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# What the Papers Said

Mrs Phoebe Ann Beeham and St Barnabas Church

From Teresa Williams



Mrs Phoebe Ann Beeham was not a native of Boughton under Blean, but her name appears continuously in the parish records during the 1890's subscribing towards Church maintenance and village amenities. In the winter of 1891/2 she was among a group of ladies, including Mesdames Dawes, Barnes, Broadbridge, Coe and File, who *"made such a ready response to a request to make up a deficiency in the cost of a series of Cookery lectures that it was unnecessary to ask all who were willing to give."*

Phoebe was born in 1823 in Greenwich, which before the advent of London Boroughs was situated in the county of Kent. It has not been possible to accurately define her parentage and the 1891 Census is the only one recording her residence in Boughton. She is listed as a 'Widow aged 68 years, Living off Own Means' and 'Boarding' in the household of Mr Joseph Alfred Blackley in Boughton Street. Joseph, aged 70, born in Boughton, was shown as a retired 'Master Grocer.' His second wife Sarah (nee Griffin) appears to be Phoebe's niece, according to earlier Kentish records. Two domestic servants, Louisa Jarrett and Mary A Harris, both born in the village, cared for the family. Near neighbours of Joseph Blackley were James and Mary Burroughs, Allan H Newman at 'Allan Bank' and Michael and Esther Weatherell.

Records show that during the years 1891 to 1897, Phoebe gave regularly to the Voluntary Rate, Boughton Church's Choir Fund and the running Funds for the Sunday Schools, Boughton Church School, the Soup Kitchen, Mission Room and Public Lighting in the village. This latter fund was frequently under subscribed and requests for help were often met by generous gifts from Mr Serjeant Spinks of Brenley House. The Soup Kitchen was active in the winter of 1890/1 and again in severe weather in 1894 and 1895. Her gifts to this fund and Public Lighting were either 10 shillings or £1 each time with similar amounts to the Choir and School funds.

In July 1893 the village celebrated the Royal Marriage of Prince George (later King George V) and Princess Mary of Teck (who later became Queen Consort to George V). To commemorate the occasion a Tea-party for 687 children and 68 Teachers and Committee members was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July in Bull Meadow loaned for the occasion "by the kind permission of Mr H D Barnes." Mr and Mrs W Miles were responsible for the catering costing £16 5s 9d with an extra "£2 for Buns and £1 for Cherries." The whole expenditure for the event totalled £29 12s 6d to which Phoebe contributed 10 shillings, the same amount being given by Joseph Blackley.

The Choir and the Schools' Funds collected money towards Summer Outings for the men and boys of the choir and the children of the Sunday School and Boughton Church School. Phoebe's generosity to these funds has already been mentioned and the fund for the Mission Room also received regular donations from her of £1 or 10 shillings.

At the time Phoebe lived in The Street, it had long been wished that the Mission Room, situated near the George Inn and unsuitable in many ways, could be replaced. Eventually the gift of a site of approximately quarter of an acre with a frontage of 70 feet on to The Street was made by Miss Brisco and in December 1893 a Building Fund was set up with subscriptions invited. Receipts from concerts and sales were to be added to the fund and later Mrs Scatchard, wife of Dr Scatchard of The Street, would be publicly thanked for "her original talent in devising entertainments" and thus raising valuable contributions. In March 1894 a published list of donations showed Phoebe Beeham giving £10, the equivalent in today's buying power of over £1,300.

One successful event which raised valuable money was a 'Rummage Sale' or 'American Fair' held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1894 at Mr F Neame's Oast in Boughton Street. A 'Committee of Ladies' including Phoebe was set up under the direction of the Reverend A A Newport, (the Curate of Boughton) described as the "most energetic Hon. Secretary." The Sale would sell "useful second-hand articles at absurdly low prices." A Refreshment Stall

would be there and *“it is hoped there will be some music. Admission 3–6pm One Penny and after 6pm Free.”* The efficient efforts of the Curate and the Committee *“resulted in a wonderful success, the net profit (£39) far exceeding the most sanguine expectations.”*

The Foundation Stone of the new Church of St Barnabas was laid on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1895 by Mr Serjeant Spinks on a day of fine weather. *“Ten clergy were present in surplices and there was a full Choir. A large congregation attended and a hearty service with hymns followed.”* The collection on the day amounted to £10 17s 4d.

Subscriptions to the Building Fund continued to be received and Phoebe’s gifts to the Choir Fund were £1 in February 1896 with Joseph Blackley giving five shillings for some *“new music.”* That month the Vicar made an appeal for a new Font for St Barnabas at a cost of £9 10s. *“Otherwise,”* he said, *“we must be contented with the very unsatisfactory Font which is now in the Mission Room, and which is quite unworthy of the new Church.”*

The following month it was reported that *“Mrs Beeham has most kindly answered the request and given the Font, in addition to her previous gift of the Pulpit and her subscription to the Building Fund.”* That month she also subscribed to the Organ Fund, the repairs of which were to cost £22, a sum successfully raised by Boughton parishioners.

The Consecration of St Barnabas by the Bishop of Dover took place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 1896, the Bishop choosing the text for his sermon from Acts xi. 24. The ceremony held in fine weather was reported at length in the Faversham Mercury and the sermon reprinted in the Parish Magazine. The final subscribers’ list published in September 1896 shows *“Mrs Beeham £10 and additional for Pulpit and Font – £15 12s 6d.”* The other gifts of church furniture including the many given by Mr Serjeant Spinks to the value of over £700, were also listed.

Sadly, Phoebe would not live long to have pleasure in attending services at the new Church as her death was recorded on Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> 1897. The March 1897 Parish Magazine said of her: *“Phoebe Anne Beeham was always most ready to help forward every good work in the Parish, and was a kind friend to the poor, by whom, as well as by the Clergy and many other friends, she will be greatly missed. Already a most liberal contributor to St Barnabas, she gave the Vicar a short time ago a further contribution of £2, which will be acknowledged in the next printed list of contributors towards the deficiency in the way she requested, as ‘a Christmas gift.’”*

Phoebe was buried in Dunkirk Churchyard on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 1897. She was aged 74.

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# An Update from Tree of Life Veganics (previously Vegan Organics Kent)

Jo Kidd

The lockdown has granted us even more time to focus on the farm! You will have noticed that our name has changed – after lots of discussions, prayers and help from friends, we agreed that Tree of Life Veganics better reflects the essence of what we are trying to achieve here.

In April, we were granted our organic certification from the Soil Association.

In Ollinges field, we have sown our heritage wheat again – the April Bearded variety. We are growing this exclusively for Wild Bread Bakehouse in Faversham: <https://wildbread.org>. We also sowed Grove Ash field with Elyann, organic oats. Our aim is to produce our own veganic oat milk and rolled porridge oats for local people.

All the crop trees that we planted earlier in the year are looking very happy. We have planted a variety of horticultural crops in our alleys (between the tree rows) on Brook field (where we have the hazels, mulberries and willows).

This includes several trials of the Three Sisters planting technique, which is a traditional indigenous American approach to companion planting involving a combination of





corn (a tall cropping plant), climbing beans (which climb up the corn) and squash (which provides a dense ground cover and is planted on the outside edge of the trio). We have also used sunflowers instead of corn – from the seeds harvested from our self-seeded (or bird-deposited) sunflower growing in amongst our April Bearded wheat last year.

[www.almanac.com/content/three-sisters-corn-bean-and-squash](http://www.almanac.com/content/three-sisters-corn-bean-and-squash)

We have also planted borage, marigolds and chives in amongst our tree rows and sorrel, lovage, leaf beet, beetroot, cauliflowers, carrots, other herbs and lots of sunflowers in the alleys. We will be undersowing white clover later this summer and our aim is to use a no-till approach across the whole farm – modelling this on the Masanobu Fukuoka approach, which returns all organic matter to the soil and uses green manures as mulches, consequently sowing new crops directly into those once mown off.

<https://onestrawrevolution.net>

We have been weeding around the trees that we planted in early 2019 – we should only need to do this for another few months until they are established enough to out-compete the ‘weeds’. We have been harvesting some of the weeds as we go – including plenty of hogweed, which is especially delicious pan-wilted like spinach or asparagus.



We have continued to mulch areas in the food forest, ready to plant shrubs, herbaceous plants and ground cover in the autumn and winter.

We have added some seeds into our hügelkultur; so far squash and sunflowers – and we will be adding more herbs and salad plants soon. <https://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/many-benefits-hugelkultur>

We are just about to begin a trial in partnership with the Soil Association – growing mushrooms on woodchip.



As we all know, the spring has been very dry, and we have bought a second-hand bowser and set up an irrigation system from the stream that runs through the farm.

We have also started work on our main barn, which will be built completely from locally coppiced wood – with no concrete or plastic. We have put the solid oak foundation posts in already and will be using local poplar and chestnut for the rest of the building. It will also include rainwater harvesting and solar panels – we hope to get another grant from LoCASE for the latter.

Pabon, a visiting fellow from Bangladesh, working under Prof. Steve Newman of Biodiversity International (based in Faversham) has had an extended stay (due to the lockdown) with us since the end of February and has proved a real asset to the farm!

We have also updating our showperson’s wagon (Wilma) with a rainwater harvesting tank, hot water boiler and al fresco shower! She will soon be ready to rent out on Farmstay (alongside her current use for people helping on the farm).

We are very grateful to have been gifted a greenhouse – from Sue and Talbot – which we will be picking up very soon . Again, we would like to thank all the people who have helped us and shared their wisdom and kindness. This truly is a community venture!

.....  
The mission of Tree of Life Veganics is to develop a working farm and learning hub to demonstrate compassionate, regenerative and earthfriendly growing, based on veganic permaculture and agroforestry.

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jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk

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Pat Saunders, 174 The Street, Boughton 751122

**Church Wardens:** **Boughton:** Alison Smith 752573  
**Hernhill:** Peter Willcock 750453

**Bells:** **Boughton** - Tower Capt - Annette Garner 751497  
**Hernhill** - Tower Capt - John Sim 750247

**Choir:** Practice night Weds 7 pm at St Barnabas

**PCCs:** **Boughton** - Secretary - t.b.a  
**Hernhill** - Secretary - Joy Pritchard 750372

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Clerk: Sarah Muteham (boughtonclerk@gmail.com) 07740 706189

**Dunkirk:** Chairman: Jeff Tutt 751634  
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	<b>Magpie (Boughton School Mobile)</b> - Jo Buckman	01227 751404
	<b>Bees Knees Playgroup</b> - Lynda Martin	07939 712637
	<b>D Dees Day Nursery</b> -	01227 751971
	<b>Parent and Toddler Group</b> - Suzi Glaiser-Creed	07731 360818
	<b>Scouts/Cubs/Beavers:</b> - Scout Hut behind Dee-Dee's nursery - Vera Newington - Leader (07815 681465),	
	<b>Guides:</b> Mrs Deborah Possee: 01795 591206 or 07747 466213 favgirlguides@outlook.com	
	<b>Out of school play scheme:</b> <b>Hernhill</b> - Hanan Al Mudaris	01227 751195
	<b>Boughton Breakfast and late care club:</b> Mrs Andrea Richardson.	01227 751431

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS

<b>Boughton Players:</b> (Amateur Dramatics): Sharon Dormedy	01227 750765
<b>Ladies' Friendship Group:</b>	01227 751225 or 01227 751596
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## LOCAL WEB SITES:

**Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill Parish Councils** - can all be found on [www.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.kentparishes.gov.uk).  
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# Wild About Gardens - Slugs: friend or foe?

From Lizzie Talbot and Kent Wildlife Trust

It's fabulous to hear how many people have reconnected with their outdoor spaces, and nature, whilst adhering to the Government's 'Stay at Home' rule this springtime. The gorgeous weather and the extra 'free' time many of us have been lucky enough to experience has really encouraged us to get outdoors, to soak up the sounds and sights of the wildlife that surrounds us or to make more of our gardens: maybe planting flower seeds for the first time ever, making space for nature in an unused corner of the garden or learning to grow salad, vegetables or fruit.

Having a garden, a balcony or a window box is such a positive way to connect regularly with the natural world (which we all know, is vital for our general health and well-being). Kent Wildlife Trust's Wild About Gardens (WAG) scheme aims to encourage us all to consider the needs of nature, as well as our own need, when being outdoors and particularly in our own gardens or outdoor spaces. So, if you love nature and would like to encourage wildlife to visit and/or live in harmony with you in your garden, then why not look at the Kent Wildlife Trust's website for the @Wild about gardens project and advice. KWT's 'Wild about Gardens' scheme (<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/wild-about-gardens>) is offering advice to gardeners in Kent by telephone this year. Visit our website to enter your garden into the scheme and our trained WAG volunteers will do their best to answer your questions.

If you haven't previously considered nature or wildlife when planning or maintaining your garden, take a look at this great blog by Penny and Peter Brook (two of the WAG advisors) highlighting the positive slugs (friend or foe!) in our gardens, to hopefully get you thinking in a different way. We need to protect our wildlife ...so please help us to do so.

*"Slugs are often seen as enemies, even by the most dedicated wildlife gardeners. However, they can be the gardener's friend, not just a hated foe. Read on to discover why we have become more reconciled to sharing our garden with them.*

*From the February edition of The Garden, the Royal Horticultural Society's magazine, we learnt that there are more than 40 slug species in Britain but just nine of them are known to damage plants.*

*Many slugs eat dead and decaying matter and are important for returning nutrients into the soil. Some plant seeds even germinate better when they have passed through a slug.*

*Slugs really come into their own as an important part of the food chain. They provide food for birds, frogs and toads, slow-worms and several*

*species of spider and ground beetle. Glow-worm larvae feed on slugs. A healthy slug population will help to feed the creatures we love to see in our gardens, such as hedgehogs and thrushes. Sadly, hedgehog numbers have declined by a shocking 30% over the last ten years. Gardeners waging chemical warfare against slugs have almost certainly played a part in the tragic decline of this much-loved creature. According to the BBC Wildlife website*

*(<https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/gardeners-guide-slugs-snails>) British gardeners use 650 billion slug pellets each year which then enter the food chain. Tolerating slugs and avoiding poisons is something we can all do to try to halt the decline of the much-loved hedgehog.*

*Instead of resorting to poisons, you can work with nature to achieve a balance between predators and slugs. We see fewer slugs on top of our*



Slow worm eating a slug

Photo: Lee Brady, KRAG



*compost heap now we have a thriving population of slow-worms there, so perhaps we are witnessing natural pest control in action.*

*Frogs and toads are also the gardener's friend as they eat slugs. You can encourage them into your garden by having a pond. Fellow WAG advisor Val Rea has one in her vegetable plot as her pest control (<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/garden-pests>) strategy includes attracting predators to the place where they are most needed.*

*To increase the quantity and variety of wildlife in our gardens, we really need to learn to tolerate slugs and snails as they are a vital source of food for so many creatures. Gardeners could play an important role in reversing the decline of the hedgehog. Personally, we haven't reached the stage where we are thrilled to see a slug as we mourn the loss of favourite plants just like any keen gardener, but we never use poisons against them. Instead, we and other Wild About Gardens advisors have learnt how to cultivate plants in a way that gives them the best chance of survival. In our next blog, we will share these WAG cultivation tips. WAG advisors have also pooled their knowledge of plants that seem naturally resistant to slug attack. During the coming year, we will periodically feature selections of wildlife-friendly plants that seem to survive slugs and snails."*



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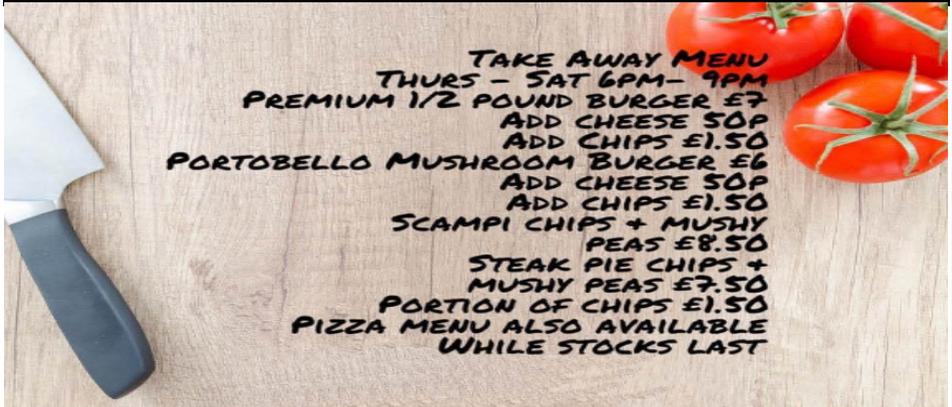
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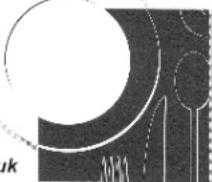
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# Coronavirus and Scams

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- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products
- Shopping or medication collection services
- Offers to clean your home of coronavirus

### Protect yourself and others:

**If you are unsure, check with family and friends before accepting offers of help**

- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. If someone attempts to pressure you into accepting a service then they are unlikely to be genuine.
- Don't be rushed into making a decision, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Only buy goods or services from trusted sellers and think before parting with money or personal information.

---

### Contact

For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**

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## Gardening in lockdown at Avalon



Our garden has become a sanctuary for us during the covid-19 lockdown and we are so grateful that we have a large garden to isolate in. We are appreciating it and the changing seasons more than ever, and have become more aware of the bird song and the sounds of the garden, especially for a while when there was greatly reduced road traffic.

We're spending a lot more time in the garden, taking it at an easy pace, now that there are no deadlines for horticultural shows and garden open days. We've even been learning new skills, such as a video diary of the garden to share with friends and the National Gardening Scheme. The latter to help with fund raising for the many nursing charities supported by it.

Violet is enjoying her daily morning conversation with God and giving thanks and praise, and we are both using it for our daily exercise. We've been looking forward to and enjoying the changes in our garden during lockdown, from spring flowers, fruit tree blossom, daffodils, camellias, tulips, to rhododendrons etc. and soon the irises and roses.

We often see hedgehogs in the evenings, and evidence of their presence when walking round the garden, and been watching the blue tits picking greenfly off the rose buds to feed their young.

No matter what is happening in the world around us nature continues, even the wood pigeons trying to steal our fruit.

We're trying to grow more of our own fruit and vegetables now, and just started eating lettuce and rocket leaves from our garden. Looking forward to enjoying the food of our labours, especially now that we don't have to keep it for competitions. Our young sweet corn plants are looking strong and nearly ready for planting out. The potatoes are doing fine and we've starting adding mulch to protect the new potatoes from the sun and turning green, and to conserve moisture in the ground. Also our squashes and courgettes are nearly ready for planting out.

It's been a challenge to obtain needed garden materials that we didn't have in stock, and we're now using online and home deliveries a lot more. The car is having a rest this year. We're also recycling as much as we can from the garden. Some repairs/upgrades are on hold till better times.

Much of our seeds we ordered or gathered last year, so we were able to start many new plants off from seed, we've had a production line going for the garden this year. Also been using some old seed where there were gaps, e.g for food production. Just before lockdown we'd purchased a lot of young perennial herbaceous plants for bringing on and selling when we would have opened the garden. These have now been planted in our garden, many in exchange for bedding plants that we'll not be buying now.

Everything is growing a pace showing that life and nature carries on even when our futures are changing toward a new normal. Seems strange that just before lockdown we'd just had 5 months of rain and country wide flooding, and now following a couple of dry months, we could do with some more rain especially now that all the plants are in full growth and we are planting out new ones.

If your able, keep gardening, but above all keep safe, stay alert, to control the virus and save lives.

Violet and Shane

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# Draw to Learn!

From Paul Walker

During the pandemic lockdown, people have been encouraged to take up activities that can be done at home – yoga, arts and crafts etc that might have been in the ‘one day’ list for years. I would recommend drawing as one such activity that can be done almost anytime, anywhere and one that has an extraordinary range of fringe benefits. You won’t believe your eyes. I mean that literally.

In the vast majority of cases, when I suggest to people that they draw something, perhaps the face of a friend or family member, the reaction is one of horror and disbelief. “But I can’t draw, I don’t have an artistic bone in my body!” is the typical response, with an awkward shuffling of feet and flickering of eyes, desperately searching for an escape route. But if I make a similar suggestion a group of young children, the reaction is very different and I’ll likely find myself trampled in the rush to get on with producing artworks that will be proudly hung in the gallery of Mum and Dad, aka the fridge.



Drawing comes before writing, both in human history and in individual development.



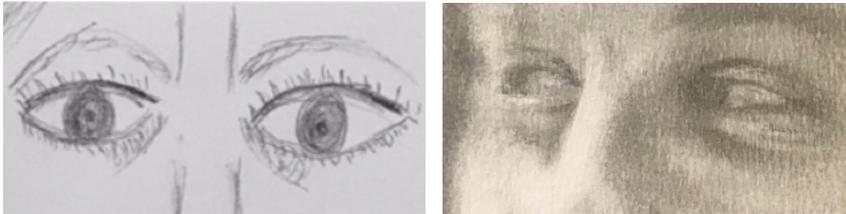
So what happened in our years of growing up to so completely kill our enthusiasm for drawing?

Responding to this question has implications not only for drawing, but for almost any kind of learning. In many years of teaching physics at university, it did not escape me that the reaction people have to the drawing challenge is very similar to the aversion many show when science and mathematics are mentioned. The same foot shuffling and eye shifting is in evidence, along with fervent disclaimers about being ignorant in these matters of great complexity, about not having a brain capable of learning such things and besides it’s terribly boring, tedious and obscure. Over the years, I discovered that the learning problems in most subjects, as well as in drawing, were quite the opposite to these common explanations for our finding them difficult.

In drawing, as in physics, we struggle not because the subject is new and unfamiliar to us. Rather, we struggle because we already know too much about it and this prior knowledge gets in the way of seeing the familiar thing in a fresh light. If you try to

draw someone's face from life, or even a photograph, you'll likely find yourself saying something like "OK, I'll start with the eyes".

As a consequence of this naming of parts, what you'll start drawing is not the lines and shades that are right there in front of you, but rather your preconception of that part – for eyes, roughly almond shaped in outline with a circle for the iris and a smaller one for the pupil - oh, and of course the lashes. The drawing on the right is more true to life without named parts.



Names are very useful in many ways, but they are a shorthand label of an abstract nature, and as such they tend to discourage us from really looking at what is in the here and now. Once we recognise something we think we know we kind of glaze over and don't really look at it properly. The key to getting past this blocking preconception is to let those word labels float away like passing clouds and to concentrate on the shapes and tones apparent in the subject. People use tricks like drawing 'blind' (looking only at the subject and not the drawing), drawing from an upside down original, looking for the 'negative' shapes in the spaces between objects, using an eraser on smeared graphite or charcoal and various other strategies to sideline the automatic recognition of familiar things to start really looking at what's there. There are many tricks like this, but they all amount to much the same thing – learning to see familiar things newly.

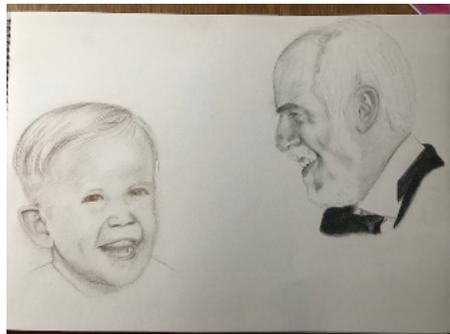
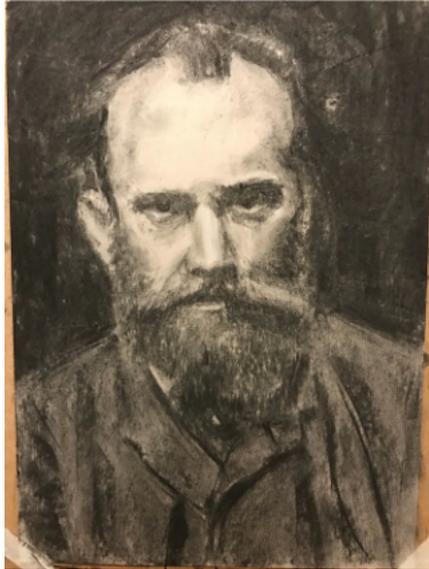
A similar issue arises in learning in other areas, the example close to my heart being physics. We all live in a physical world and each of us has developed a set of informal working concepts for getting around in that world. These are mostly unseen operating assumptions that serve well enough in normal circumstances, but they break down when really put to the test. For example, most people I know when cooking sometimes turn the oven on a bit later than they should have. They want it to get to the desired temperature quickly so they turn the dial up to max at first, thinking it will speed up the heating. They don't realise that this makes no difference at all to how quickly the temperature will rise, through a common misunderstanding of heat and



temperature with thermostat operation. If I am teaching thermal physics, or anything else, the difficulties in learning are most often related to overturning such misconceptions embedded in the common working concepts about the area we're exploring. And because they are hidden assumptions, they are all the more resistant to challenge and development. So it is with drawing too.

An important realisation in physics, drawing, and in everyday life is that we are dealing with representations of reality and that these are always and necessarily imperfect. Paradoxically, this can be a source of wonder and celebration rather than shame and discouragement. A mathematical equation in physics theory or experimental analysis, no matter how advanced, offers only an approximation to observable behaviour. Likewise, a drawing offers an impression of the subject it represents and often is better left in that suggestive state rather than attempting to refine it to some imagined perfection.

A line drawing suggests its subject, but if you look carefully you'll find that the lines we put on the paper don't exist in the subject; rather they represent the boundaries between different objects or features. And many parts are simply left out. Still, that's enough to create the right impression. The eye of the beholder fills in the blanks and the drawing is better for that. So rather than be discouraged by the imperfections in your drawing, it is possible to recognise it as an inherently limited representation or model of something you've observed and experienced. That can provide a wellspring of appreciation and enjoyment, both in the process of drawing and in the drawing as an outcome. It's a personal journey, not a competition. I've taken to making portraits of family members as special gifts, like the one to the right I did for my brother's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. I told him that I wasn't



concerned about its artistic merits, it was a personal gift and he appreciated it as such. I'm just finishing another for my other brother's 60<sup>th</sup>, in much the same spirit and in the hope that it is similarly appreciated.

Picasso is often quoted as saying that it took him four years to learn to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child. In a broader vein, St Paul wrote that putting away childish things had him see 'through a glass darkly', compromising the ability to engage directly with the world and experience life in full. In my physics and other teaching, I often highlighted the importance of a kind of unlearning, revealing the limitations of prior conceptions and considering fresh possibilities of interpretation. This recovering of childhood freedom is a vital aspect of learning to draw and enjoying the process. It is the essence of creativity.

So why not have a go? You only need a pencil and paper to get started. A softer pencil is best, say grade '4B'. Choose a simple subject, like some fruit and/or vegetables on a plate from the kitchen. Anything really, but take your time and don't sit in judgement of yourself for its limitations – if a perfectly proportioned image was what you wanted, then you would just take a photograph. Drawing has a different purpose.

There are plenty of resources, online and in print to guide you in your journey of learning to draw. All of that guidance is almost unanimous in saying that the main issue in learning to draw is learning to see. That is, we need to learn to go beyond the shorthand labels for things that prevent us from really looking. When we look with fresh eyes, all manner of things become apparent that we did not see before. The world can become new again, a source of wonderment available anywhere and anytime. There's lots more besides, but that alone makes learning to draw worthwhile. Try it at this time of greater opportunity, and keep going as things return to "normal".



# Scrubs for local NHS from 'All Stitched Up'

'All Stitched Up' is a shop in Faversham producing kits which contain all the materials (except cotton thread) needed to make a set of scrubs to donate to our hard-working NHS workers who are in desperate need of uniform right now. Each kit is £15, free P&P, and you can either make it up yourself or they have volunteer sewers who will make it up on your behalf. Go to [asufaversham.co.uk](http://asufaversham.co.uk).

If you are sewing yourself they will either send you a link to the pattern via email to print out yourself or they will include the pattern with the fabric. A word of warning the pattern is 65 A4 pages if you decide to print it out.

They have recently received multiple large donations to make scrubs, aprons and face masks for care homes and hospices in and around the Medway and Swale area. While this is INCREDIBLE they now need more people helping to make these items for them!

All they ask is that each volunteer makes a minimum of 5 items each. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch with All Stitched Up via email at [allstitchedupcraftingltd@outlook.com](mailto:allstitchedupcraftingltd@outlook.com)



**Thank you for the donations that have been coming in.**

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Steamed Sponge puddings (from shelves not fridges)

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Soup

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**Thank you**

# Reg Lawrence

1948 -2020

Reg was born on 24th June 1948 and grew up in Canterbury. He went to the Frank Hooker School and his favourite subject was rural science. The school kept pigs and he even featured in a local newspaper, a photo of him with one of the piglets. It was during his time as a roadie for a local band that he met his future wife, Jacqueline, who he married in 1975. Their long awaited son, Matthew was born in December 1979 and made their lives complete.



Reg shared many interests with his son, Matthew and years ago they had great pleasure in keeping chickens and bantams, for which they used the hens to rear pheasant chicks for the Mount Ephraim shoot. Reg was a founder member of this shoot. Another little project they embarked upon together was a barn owl release programme, for which they reared 3 barn owls from chicks. His love for the owls extended into his later years and he would often photograph and watch them in his beautiful garden.

Reg was a very hard working man, kind and generous in nature. He was known for growing plants and giving them away. Reg worked for St Johns Nursery in Canterbury when he and Jacqueline first met. In 1982 Reg went to work at Mount Ephraim for the Dawes family. He had many, many happy years working on the farm, only leaving to retire in 2015 after 33 years of service. Mount Ephraim was one of the first farms in Kent to produce strawberries on table tops and Reg was put in full charge of this enterprise. He was totally committed to his crop and worked tirelessly 7 days a week to produce top quality fruit.

In 2011 Matthew married Laura at Mount Ephraim, they both have fond memories of Reg being so happy on their special day. Even on his sons wedding day he was helping others and insisted on going and getting his Land Rover to drive Laura and her bridesmaid back up to the main house from the bottom of the gardens, to save their heels sinking in the grass. A few years later along came two very precious grandchildren, Emilia and Austin. They were the apple of his eye. He would look forward to seeing them when they came to visit. He was starting to teach them how to do things in the garden and greenhouse.

Reg's legacy lives on in his beautiful garden. He was a true perfectionist and the knowledge he had for horticulture was immense. He was in his element giving advice on plants. Jacqueline will continue to tend to his beloved garden. Reg was taken from us too soon. He was loved dearly by all of his family. He will never be forgotten. Heaven has gained one of the best gardeners to ever live.

A memorial service at Mount Ephraim will follow in the near future in celebration of Reg's life.

# CHURCH DIARIES JUNE 2020



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*SS Peter and Paul, Boughton*



*St Barnabas, Boughton*



*All Saints, Graveney*

**Through the wonders of modern technology, our church services are now being shared online through "Zoom", a free app on the internet.**

**Anyone is welcome to join in our Zoom services; you don't need to download anything, nor do you have to have a camera on your computer, tablet or smart-phone. You can follow the service either on video or just in sound but for security purposes you need an invitation.**

**All you have to do is to email the vicar at [jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk](mailto:jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk) and she will send it. Zoom services are 40 minutes max.**

**Services on Zoom will continue every Sunday at 10 am, followed by Coffee and chat at 11.00 am. Morning Prayer on Mondays at 9.30 am.**

## **What to expect in a Zoom Holy Communion service**

A Communion service on Zoom has the same structure as one in church but without hymns or music. We start by asking God to be with us in our worship and we confess, or say sorry, for our failings to love God and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. We then receive an assurance of God's forgiveness. We listen to a Bible reading and then there is short reflection, explaining the reading and relating it to our everyday lives. We declare our Christian faith in the words of the Creed and then have some prayers led by a member of the congregation bringing to God our world, the church, the local community and those who are ill, bereaved or in any kind of need. We wish one another the 'peace of the Lord' and move on to the Communion part of our service with a special prayer for the bread and wine.

The priest eats the bread and drinks the wine on behalf of the congregation and everyone takes a moment of silent reflection to receive inwardly. We finish the service by thanking God for feeding us with 'the Body and Blood of Christ' and we are sent out with a blessing 'to live and work to God's praise and glory.'

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## **Church News**

### **Prayers for use during the corona virus outbreak**

Sometimes it's hard to pray or to put into words what we want to say to God. This new booklet from the Church of England is here to help us. It contains a small collection of prayers for personal and group use at this challenging time in our lives, when we are struggling to find words to express how we feel.

These prayers will help Christians to pray in solidarity with one another even when it is not possible to gather together in church. It's essential at all times – but particularly in times of anxiety and fear – that we continue to develop and strengthen our own habits of prayer. A simple form of prayer to say each morning and evening is also included as well as prayers for children.

This booklet can be downloaded in various formats from the Church of England website, where you will also find many other resources and ideas for sustaining our worshipping lives:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>



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Reg Lawrence at Barham crematorium on 14 May

## WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT

I heard that we are all in the same boat,  
But it's not like that.

We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat.  
Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be.  
Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal.

A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee.

For others, this is a desperate financial and family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness

While for others it is peace, rest and time with their mother, father, sons and daughters.

Some were concerned about getting a certain egg for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money.

Others want to scream at those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending hours a day helping their child with online schooling while

others are spending hours a day to educate their children on top of a 12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it.

Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance.

Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Let everyone navigate their route with respect, empathy and responsibility

Anonymous





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The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

“With many in our country on lockdown, it’s important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.” Archbishop Justin Welby

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England’s Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled ‘Hymns We Love’, provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group.

## Prayerline

Are you anxious about family, friends, or yourself, and do not know where to turn? Are you, or someone you know, in a crisis and unable to pray?

There are people willing to pray for you because prayer does make a positive difference.

Simply email [bhgprayers@gmail.com](mailto:bhgprayers@gmail.com) and your prayer request will be passed along the Prayerline.

All prayer requests are completely confidential so only the people on the Prayerline will know about your needs and they will never discuss it with anyone.

If you would like prayers for a relative or friend and you want to name them you will need to ask their permission first but we don't need someone's name to pray for them.

Please use us -  
we'd love to help you.

# Leo the Cathedral Cat, centre stage

An online sermon by Robert Willis, the Dean of Canterbury, was derailed when Leo the cat wandered between his legs and disappeared under his robes.

He would have been forgiven for pressing paws on his speech when the creature sauntered across the shot and vanished into his cassock, but the Dean, pro that he is, didn't miss a beat.



Video of the cat-astrophe quickly went viral after was shared by Canterbury (ahem) Cat-hedral. The UK's lockdown has forced churches across the country to deliver sermons remotely, but few have delivered moments as purrfect as this.



It's far from the only appearance Leo the cat has made on the Church's social media pages, though.

Last month, the cathedral shared a picture of the dean preparing for another sermon with his special guest, who sat by his side during Robert Willis' prayers and through his special – and very enjoyable – reading of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes". You can still find the readings on the Canterbury Cathedral website.





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and when they are old they will not turn from it.*  
*Proverbs 22:6*



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