

Great Holland



Dec 2020 and Jan 2021



70p where sold

FROM THE EDITOR

As I write we are ten days into Lockdown 2 and we are all feeling anxious about Christmas. Let us hope that we will receive our best Christmas present – to be able to be with family and friends over the festive period. News of the vaccine is very heartening and hopefully 2021 will be a good year!

I would like to thank Nicky, Sue and Sheila for the valuable contribution they have made to village life with the Home Made Hour. They have worked tirelessly over the years making cakes, setting up the hall and contributing money to the Village Hall and All Saints' Church. They now deserve a well-earned rest and wouldn't it be wonderful if other volunteers were able to come forward to take over, as Home Made Hour is such an asset to the village.

Thank you also to the team who are trying to save our village pub. I wish them every success – it would be such a shame if we lost this valuable village asset. Once the pub is gone there will be no going back so we must all support this important campaign in any way that we can. There is a detailed update on this in the magazine, together with the results of the recent survey.

I wish you a Happy Christmas and a brighter New Year!

Vanessa

New Year Party

Unfortunately, as a result of the Covid 19 virus we are unable to host a residents' party this year. We are therefore donating the monies held to fund this year's event to the Royal British Legion. The receipt will be displayed in the Village Hall in due course.

Sylvia Rackham and Sue Lead

Welcome To the December/January edition of the



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Village Voice. We always welcome new contributors. Is there anything **YOU** would like us to include in the next edition? For example:

- Are there any events happening in February 2021 or March 2021 that you wish to publicise?
- Do you have any local news items to be included?
- Do you want to tell other villagers about a local group/club?
- Can you write an article for the magazine?
- Do you want to advertise any items for sale/your business/service?

Please contact Vanessa on 670165 with details (email: vanessaagiles@icloud.com). Please note that Hazel (671767) deals with the advertising side of the magazine. All contributions to the Village Voice should be received by January 10th.

HOME MADE HOUR – SAD NEWS

We wanted to let the village know that we have decided to stop doing the Homemade Hour in the village hall. We have struggled over the years to get people to help, or to make cakes, and it was always left to the same old people. Covid seemed the ideal time to stop.

We have enjoyed the times over the years and thank everyone who has given up their time to support us.

Nicky, Sheila and Sue

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in 'Great Holland Village Voice' is published in good faith. Neither the Rector, Church Warden, Parochial Church Council nor the Editors accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement contained in the magazine. Nor is any culpability accepted for work done by advertisers.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH LETTER

I am a terrible shopper.

Very often I'm sent out on an errand to buy 2 or 3 much needed items. But as soon as I enter the shop (the larger and more varied the better, and even better if it's got a "centre aisle") my attention is taken and I'm planning all the different and, for that moment at least, exciting items I can buy. The same is true online.

I've nearly come home with a snorkel and mask, mega pack of batteries, such a very handy pack of various drill bits, weed killer, and certain stall holders at Great Holland fete know that I'm prone to going home with a new bike... But eventually, something brings me back – I'm reminded what I'm there for and what my visit is all about. What we really need is a loaf of bread and bag of apples.

As we come towards the end of 2020, into advent and the preparation for Christmas, I pray that the next weeks might be like me at the moment in the shop when I remember what really matters and what things are really all about.

There have been so many things this year to capture our attention. I write this with today's headlines about a new American president, Brexit negotiations, and a potential Covid vaccine. Many of us will have had our own events of the year, that have rightly and understandably taken our thoughts.

But, if I may, there is something that actually means far more. It is the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here's a shortened quote that sums it all up:

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.

And in Bible Words: *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1v9)*

I'd love to invite you to All Saints for Christmas to find out more, but like others our plans are up in the air. But we take heart – there's something more important than our plans – what we're here for and what it's all about – Jesus.

Mark Holdaway

GREAT HOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH

December 2020

Dear friends,

It is customary at this time of year to be looking ahead to Christmas and back to the previous year. I don't think anyone could have predicted the year in which we are! Whilst many New Year Resolutions are not kept for many and varied reasons there is an additional excuse this year! As we look into December we also see that the 'normal' preparations for Christmas are likely to be very different too.

So often, we are thinking about carol services and so much of the way in which we share Christmas preparations involves a carol or two along the way. That, of course, is not to forget the mince pies and sausage rolls as well. But this year is different. As a musician and someone who loves to sing it's hard not to be preparing carol services although it does encourage reflection in different ways.

As we sing the carols I wonder if we pay proper attention to the words. Are the words so familiar that we have lost the full and deep meaning of them? O little town of Bethlehem is one of the carols we sing many times during this season. The final two lines are 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!' As we are singing those lines, we are asking God, in Jesus Christ, to come and live within us. The word Emmanuel literally means 'God with us.'

Throughout this year, in the many difficulties that there have been for individuals as well as for the country, let us not forget that God is with us. Jesus Christ, born in a humble stable, came to earth to be with us, and remains with us now through the Holy Spirit. It is a wonderful promise that is assured for all times and for all people who turn to God.

As we reflect on the aspects of the preparations of Christmas that have maybe been lost this year let us also make room for time to reflect on some of the words from the carols we might have sung. God is with us, in the past, today and forevermore. This is what we celebrate as we come to Christmas Day. God's nature remains constant and true, even as the world around is so very different.

May I wish you a peace-filled and blessed Christmas time.

God bless,
Chris

DECEMBER IN HISTORY

10th December

Today in 1886 the world's first traffic lights were installed in Parliament Square in Westminster, London. They were at the junction of Great George Street and Bridge Street, to address the large amount of traffic crossing Westminster Bridge. During the day they worked by semaphore, at night coloured gas lamps were used. They were not however automatic as an attendant was required to operate the system. Also, there were problems as less than a month after being installed, leaking gas caused one of the lamps to explode, badly burning the face of the man working it.

There were no petrol driven cars on the road as they had not yet been invented but there were a growing number of horse-drawn carriages, which it was widely felt presented a danger to pedestrians. John Peake Knight was an engineer working on the expanding railway network. He proposed that the signalling system used on the railway tracks might also be utilised on the roads.

27th December

Today in 1836, an avalanche crashed into a street full of family houses. It was the deadliest avalanche in UK history. Blizzards, gales and heavy snow created the perfect conditions for a tragic loss of life. The location of this alpine phenomenon? Not the highlands of Scotland or the craggy peaks of Snowdonia but the pretty town of Lewes in Sussex, only a few miles from the south coast.

In Lewes the River Ouse has carved a gap in the South Downs and created a canyon of sorts with cliffs to east and west of the path of the river. Cliffe Hill lies on the east bank, rising over 150 metres above the town. A line of workers' cottages sat at the base of the cliff, flimsy cheap dwellings of the poorest members of the community.

On Christmas Eve 1836 the country was blasted with heavy snow. A gale on Christmas night pushed snow on the top of Cliffe Hill into a large cornice which hung over the houses beneath. The poor householders had nowhere else to go, particularly in the depths of a freezing winter. Therefore, they remained in their houses despite the snow hanging directly above them.

At 10.15 on 27th December the cornice collapsed. A witness reported, "The mass appeared to strike the houses first at the base, heaving them upwards, and then breaking over them like a gigantic wave. There was nothing but a mound of pure white." Neighbours scrambled to rescue the victims before they froze or suffocated. Seven survivors were hauled out, but eight people died, one of them a two year old toddler.

It was not long before people moved back into the ruined street. Houses remain there to this day alongside a pub called the Snowdrop. They cannot say they have not been warned!

JANUARY IN HISTORY

16th January

An old soldier died today in 2014. He was ninety one and like many others he had been thrown into the maelstrom of the Second World War. Unlike them, however, his service in the war lasted not for a few years not decades.

Hirou Onoda had joined the Imperial Japanese Army at aged 18 in 1940. He was descended from a long line of samurai warriors. Onada ended up being stationed on Lubang island in the Philippines as the war reached its climax in late 1944. Bereft of hope the Japanese were ordered to do what they could to resist American troops and never, under any circumstances to surrender. So he didn't!

The American military machine swept ashore weeks later and Onada's unit was wiped out. He took to the hills and fought a lonely guerrilla campaign for the next twenty-nine years, refusing to believe that the war was over. Only when the Japanese government sent his former commanding officer to order him to surrender did Onoda do so!

He arrived back in Japan to a hero's welcome, a living embodiment of the unswerving samurai ideals of Bushido, which had made the Japanese Empire such a resolute adversary.

28th January

Today in 1547 Henry VIII died at the age of fifty-five. He was vastly overweight (with a 54-inch waist) and was tormented by pus filled boils that covered his body. Was this the result of a jousting accident a decade earlier, which also caused mood swings and a personality shift? Possibly.

Henry is best known for his six marriages and for his disagreement with the Pope over the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. This led him to initiate the English Reformation.

Having been embalmed his body first lay in state and was then moved to Windsor and buried in a vault next to Jane Seymour. A century later the decapitated body of Charles I would be lain with him.

For all the harm and cruelty he inflicted there is no doubt that he brought about great changes in England's status during his reign.

When autumn leaves start to fall...

The seasons have brought us around to autumn again after an extraordinary summer which was sometimes full of hope and sometimes not. The autumn hit us with some very wet weather but as soon as Lockdown was announced, out came the sun! This may be a coincidence, but it certainly helps to cheer the spirits and must help us to make the most of our blessings. My garden continues to be a joy which helps to compensate for the current problems we are facing this year which make this an autumn unlike anything most of us have experienced before. The colours this year do seem to be more stunning than usual with my Cornus Kousa having leaves like flames and the Stachyurus praecox going from deep red to a brighter red with yellow among them. I do sometimes wonder whether we have developed a better sense of awareness due to being restricted in our activities. The Nerines this year seem to have been particularly flamboyant and the bright pink Schizostylis, the Karif lily, lasting longer than ever than ever and adding a glow to the early evenings.

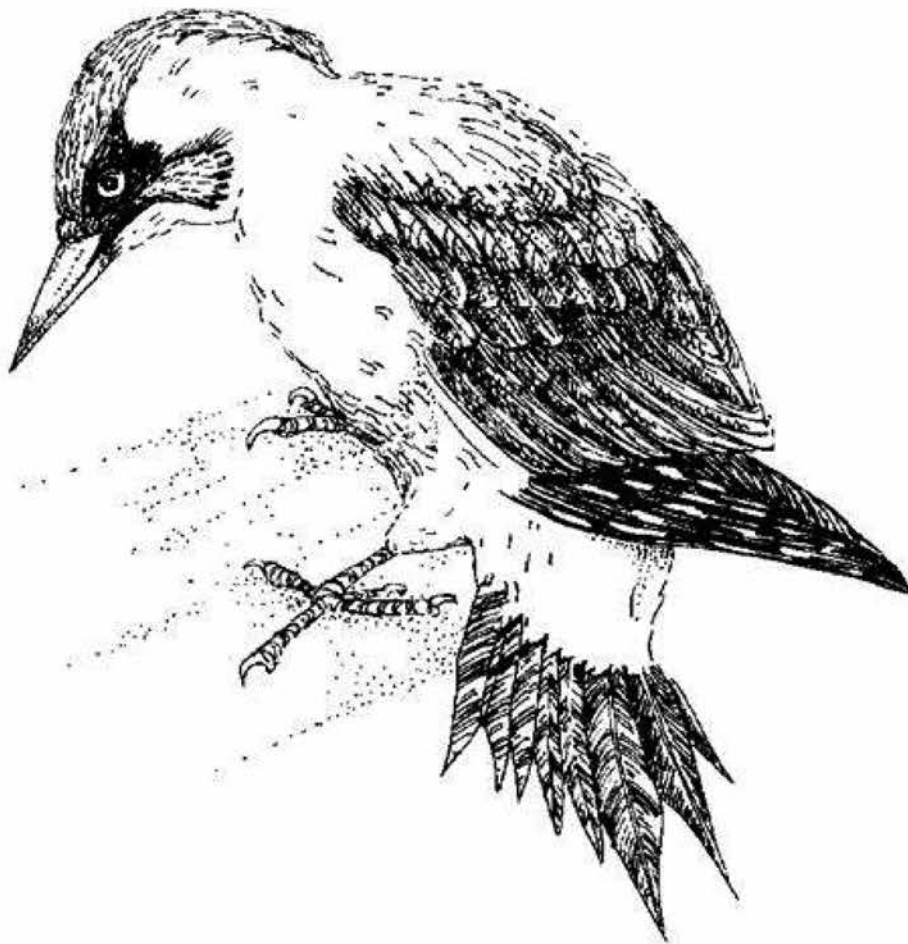
Every year at this time I try to plan some winter shelter for the birds, hedgehogs and field mice as well as the insects which benefit from help to survive the cold and damp to come. The birds particularly appreciate the shelter afforded by ever green shrubs and if they are insect eaters will no doubt continue to find food where they can, while many will be enjoying any fruits from berry bearing shrubs as well as windfall apples and, and in my garden, the quinces, which have excelled this year both in quantity and size. Some of the smaller birds really appreciate any remaining seeds I can, I find teasles and Echinops are much appreciated and look quite sculptural as well. The hedgehogs and mice will be happy with a cosy corner made with old logs or even a flower pot stuffed with fern leaves, they can no doubt nibble on the spores. I gather the hollow stems from herbaceous plants which made into a small bundle can be tucked into bushy shrubs and are enjoyed by various insects including the essential ladybird.

While writing a Green woodpecker came on a visit and enjoyed foraging in the grass, probably for ants, to which he is more than welcome, including giving the added pleasure of a display of his brilliant green and red plumage. The Tits variously are enjoying the sunflower hearts which are hanging from my newly installed bird feeder and I look forward to them being joined by the finches before too long, if I am lucky.

It is so important for us all to make the most of the good things in our lives and I am very aware of how lucky I am to be living in Frinton with access to the sea

and our lovely beaches and to have such a rewarding garden. This year the Sasanqua Camellia, the only one with scented flowers, is covered in the most beautiful single, pink edged white flowers and as I sat outside my conservatory on the bench my son gave me for my birthday in the warm sun I felt very blessed, if not a little sad, not to be able to share this with others. Inside my conservatory I have a glass vase where some Paperwhite Narcissus are growing on stones in water; I enjoy watching the roots grow and wish you could share all of this with me. So when "The falling leaves drift past my window, the falling leaves of red and gold..." I look forward to spring and a new beginning.

Rethna Flaxman





GREAT HOLLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Paul Fletcher-Tomenius and Myrna Lyles
Secretary: Vanessa Giles
Planning Officer: Alan Rusbridge

Dear Friends

Well here we are at the start of another lockdown and none of us know when this will end and life can resume as we used to know it. Or will it ever be the same. It seems so long since we were able to meet at a Residents Meeting and share our love and concerns for the village that we have chosen to live in. I personally, miss Church Services where we were meeting in complete safety, yet being able to check on friends and feeling part of the community for an hour or two.

As I mentioned before I am an elected member of the North East Essex Health Forum and this certainly continued to keep my spirits up during the pandemic. The second wave of the virus has increased the meetings that I attend either by ZOOM or TEAMS I have been very busy. I have also been amazed how the NHS is certainly open to everyone who needs medical help during this time. Normally we have open meetings with speakers on a variety of health subjects which I find very interesting and why I got involved in the first place. I am hoping that we will start these again when we are able to. They are free to attend and are held in Clacton and well worth going to if you are interested to know what is going on health wise locally. The Health Forum is free to join and you are sent regular information from our Public Engagement Officer who is very approachable and helpful.

Unfortunately the signs have not gone up for the new speed limit through the village up to Kirby Cross but things take a lot longer to happen during such troubled times and I guess we must be patient. I also worry about the speed of vehicles passing the play area with so many cars parked opposite the opening

to the recreational area, there is an accident waiting to happen. Please slow down and drive carefully along this stretch past the play area.

The Residents Association Meetings are a good place to meet new people and learn more about the village so once we start having these again all residents would be very welcome. There is an opportunity to ask questions of other residents plus guest speakers including local politicians and the police. You will get a warm welcome. They are usually held on Saturday mornings at the Great Holland Village Hall. We also need new officers and committee members if we are to continue to represent the people who live here and to keep Great Holland as a village. Please think above putting yourselves forward once we can meet and hold our AGM.

Finally as usual the annual Remembrance Service was held by the Village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and it was a lovely dry and even warm morning for those who attended. Thank you to the organisers and everyone who took part. As usual it was very moving and a reality check on the current situation when we should all be grateful to the people who enabled us to live safe and peaceful lives even during a pandemic.

Best wishes and let us hope we will be able to meet up again soon and that we all stay well. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year on behalf of all of the officers of GHRA

Myrna Liles (Joint Chairman)

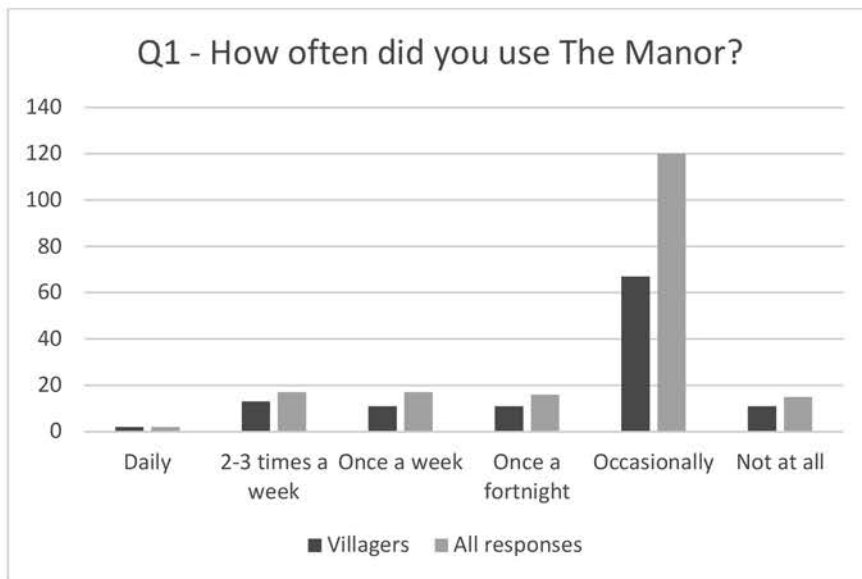
The Manor Reborn survey results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey about The Manor (formerly The Ship Inn) – past, present and future. We had 187 responses in total. 122 of these were from Great Holland residents or very-soon-to-be residents. 115 Great Holland households were represented, being a little under 30% of the total households in the village.

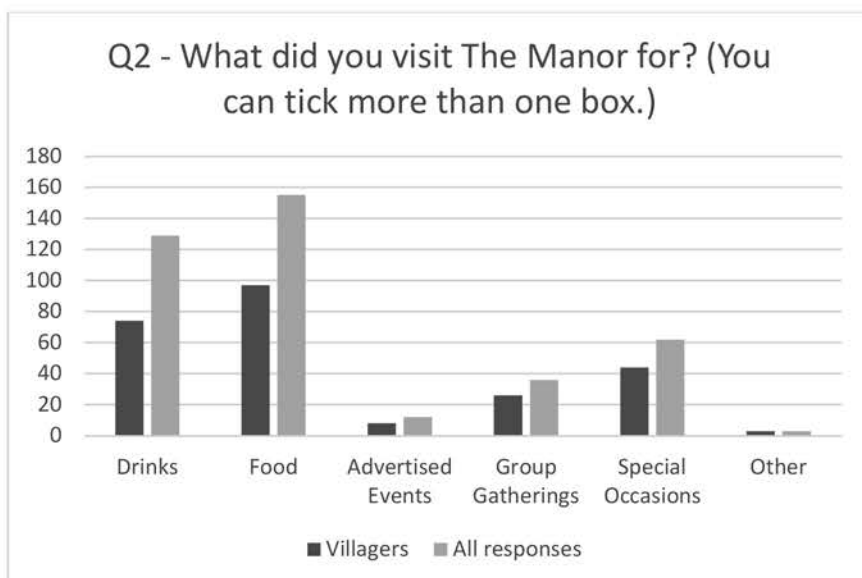
The answers you have given us will shape the initial plans for the pub.

If you have any questions, or would like any more information, please let us know at themanorreborn@outlook.com or drop a note into The Saltings, 30 Manor Road.

In the following charts, the darker blocks represent the responses from villagers only, and the lighter blocks represent all responses.

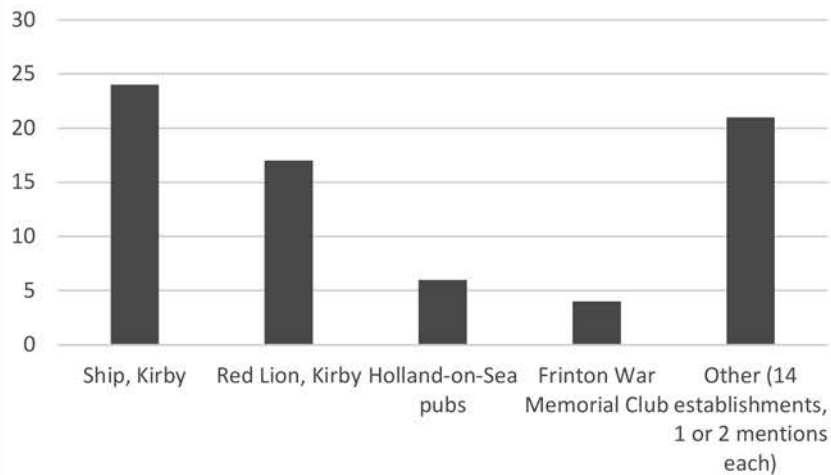


68% of village respondents told us they used The Manor 'occasionally', i.e. once a month or less, or not at all.



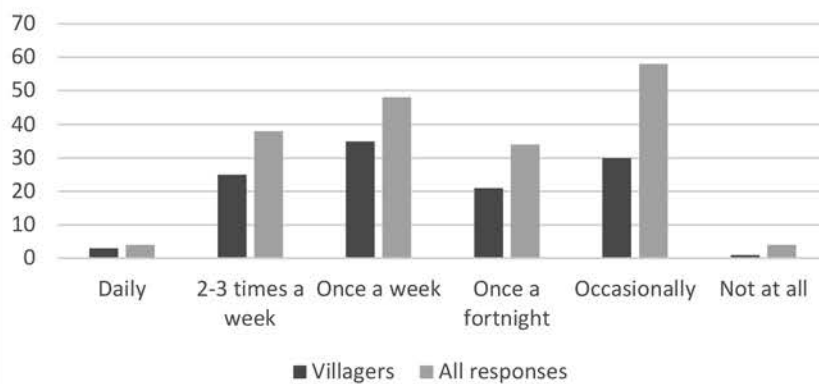
Given that The Manor was a gastro-pub, it is to be expected that food was the main reason for visiting The Manor. The majority of respondents – villagers and non-villagers – told us they visited The Manor for BOTH 'Food' and 'Drinks'.

Q3 - If you currently use an alternative pub where do you go?



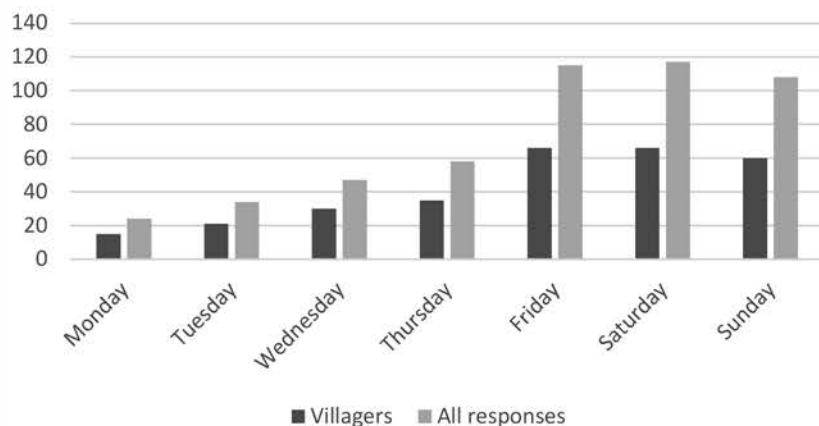
This chart shows only responses from villagers. (Non-villagers will obviously use establishments outside Great Holland.) The two favourite alternatives were the Ship and the Red Lion, both in Kirby-le-Soken. The Red Lion is currently closed leaving Great Holland villagers with little choice at the moment.

Q4 - If The Manor was saved and owned by the community, how often WOULD you or any member of your household use it?



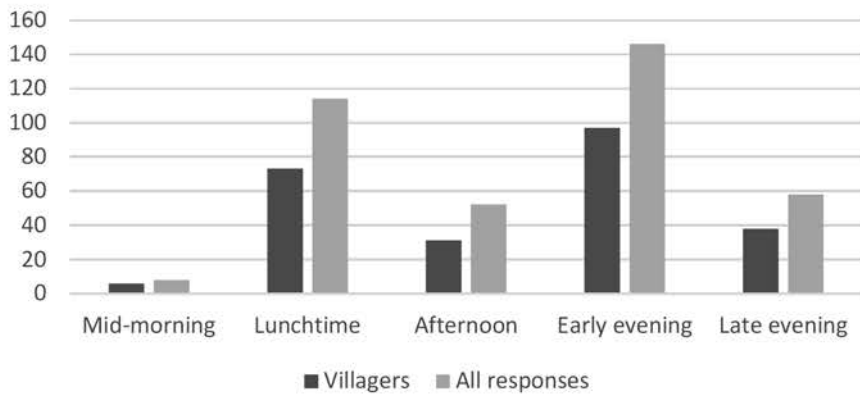
What a difference from Q1! Here, just 27% of Great Holland respondents said they, or a member of their household, would use the pub only occasionally or not at all whilst 18% said once a fortnight and a massive 55% said once a week or more.

Q4a -and on what days of the week are you likely to use it?



...and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are the most popular pub-going days.

Q5 - What time of day are you most likely to visit The Manor? (You can tick more than one box)

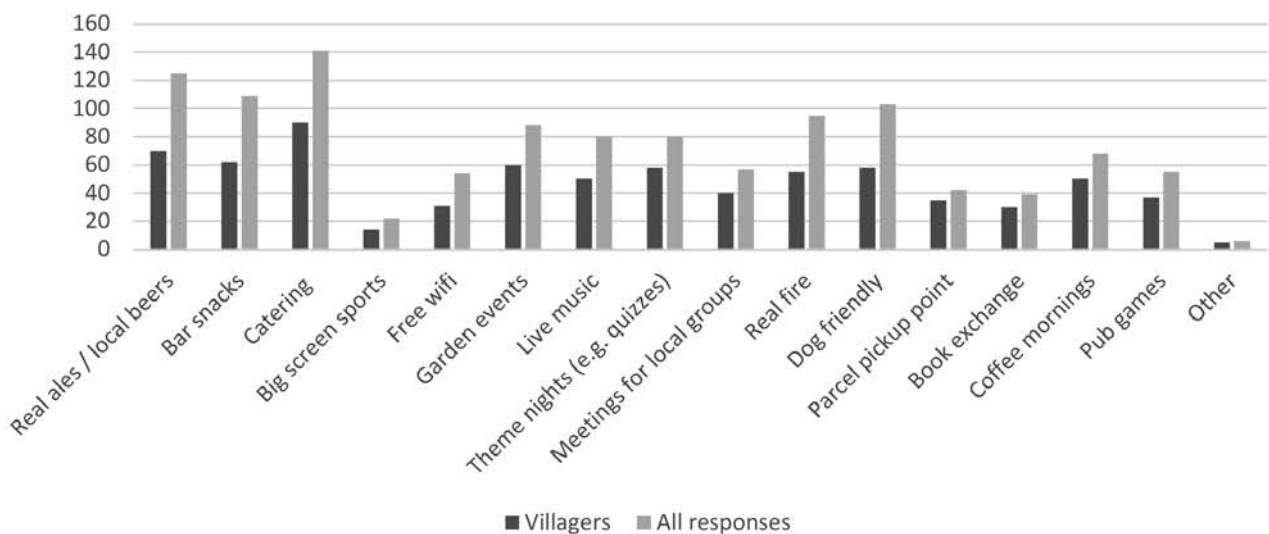


Early evening and lunchtime are the most popular times. Mid-morning and afternoons may be available for clubs and other facilities.

Q6 - Is/was the Manor (or Ship Inn as it was) special to you for any reason?

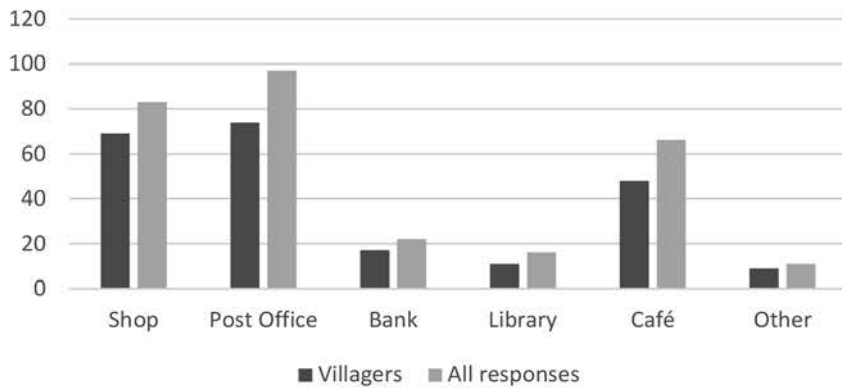
The most frequently quoted factors were: 1) being able to walk there, 2) a place for the community to get together and for neighbours to meet, 3) a friendly atmosphere, 4) a place to go with friends 5) a part of village or family history. People also had very specific memories associated with their childhood or special family occasions.

Q7 - What services would you most like to see The Manor offer? (You can tick more than one box)



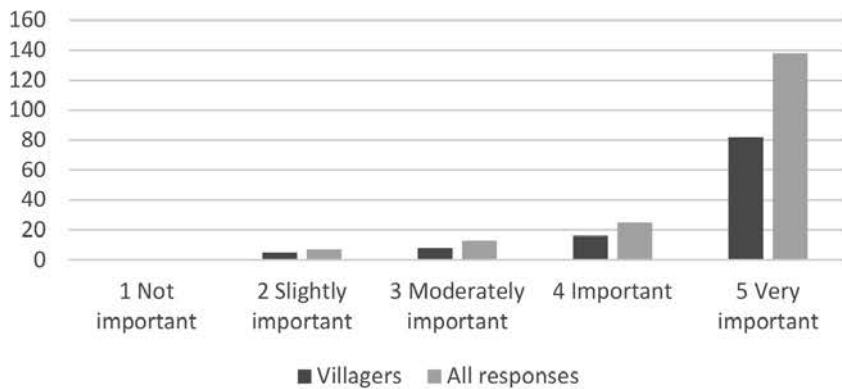
Evidently, catering is the most popular service. However, some people have made it clear that they'd be happy with 'pub grub'. Real ales, local beers and other quality drinks are also high on the list, in keeping with a village pub. Villagers' suggestions in 'other' include: coffee and cakes; bottled and canned beers and packaged sandwiches and cakes to take away; and having special themed nights e.g. pizza night, curry night, pancake day etc.

Q8 - Would you like to see an additional service added to The Manor? (You can tick more than one box)



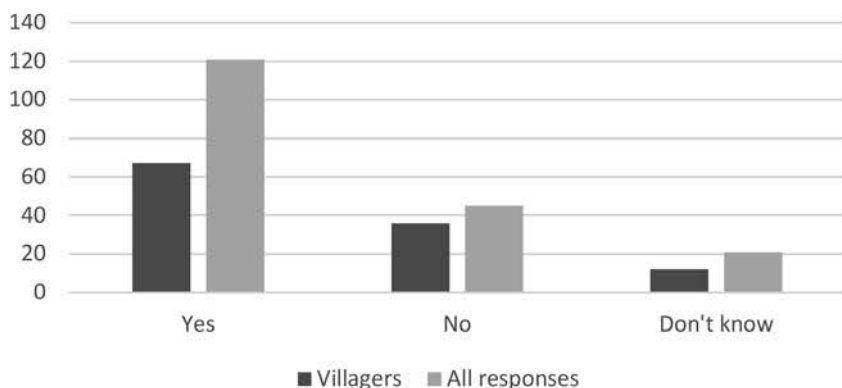
If we can save The Manor and turn it into a community hub, we would hope and expect to be able to offer additional services. 'Other' suggestions include ATM, parcel drop-off point, electric car charge point, local councillor surgery, prescription collection point, recycling point and training facility.

Q9 - On a scale of 1 – 5, How important is/was The Manor as a pub and village amenity?



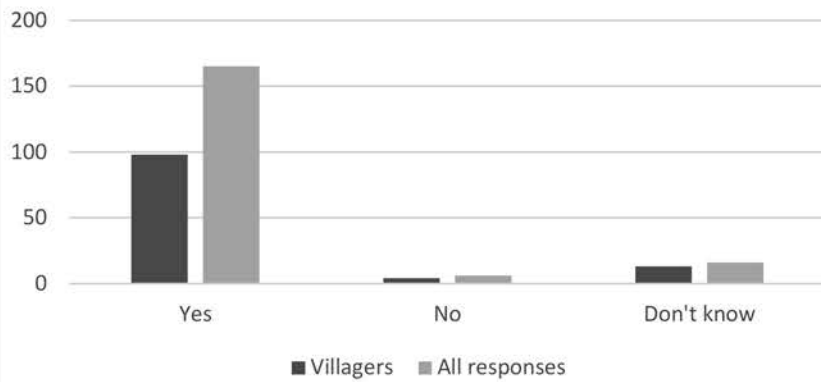
88% of village respondents feel that the Manor is/was important or very important as a pub and village amenity. Some respondents said they felt it was important even if they didn't want to use it themselves.

Q10 - Do you think that the permanent closure of The Manor would affect the price and saleability of properties in the village?



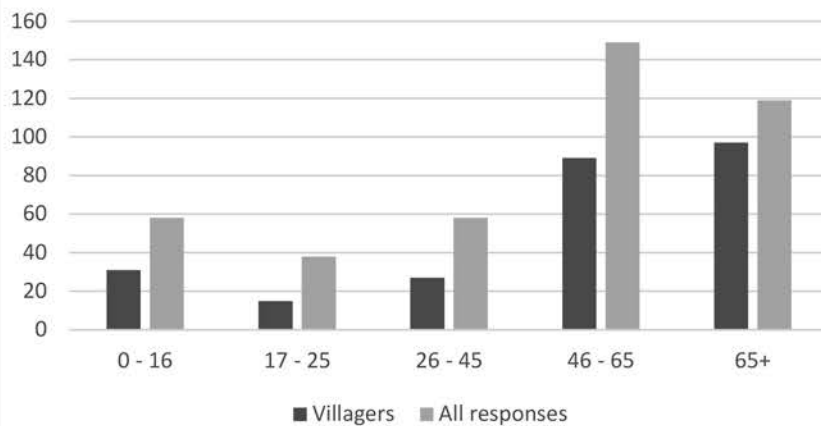
Some respondents commented that part of the reason they moved to Great Holland was because it had a pub.

Q11 - If the opportunity arose, do you think a co-operative/community pub is a good idea?



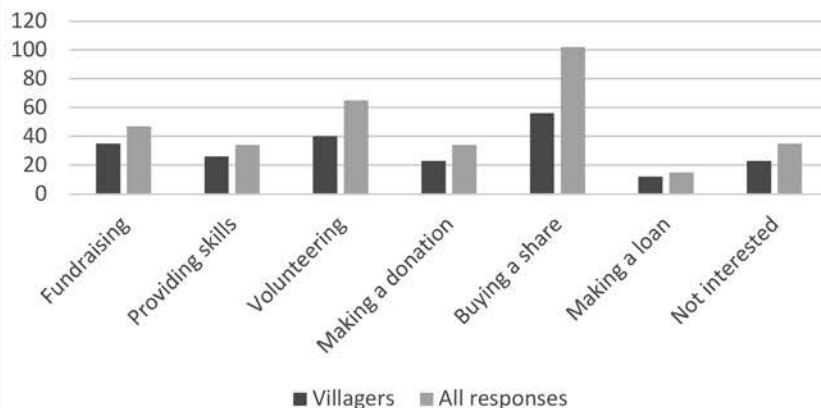
That's a yes!

Q12 - Please state how many people there are in your household and their age range



37% of village respondents are aged 65 and over. 51% are of working age 17 – 65 and 12% are 16 or younger.

Q13 - Would you or anyone in your household be interested in helping a co-operative pub project in any way by:



The majority of respondents were happy to offer their time, skills and/or money. The average value of the pledges made to buy shares was £257,000. This is very encouraging and suggests that the will and resources to achieve our community goal are out there.

If you haven't completed the survey and you wish to do so, or make a financial pledge, you can find a link to the online version on The Manor Reborn's Facebook page. You can also use your paper version if you still have it. We have a few spare copies – if you need one, please call or text Andrew Fairbrother on 07783 479974 and we will drop one round to you.

What next?

At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear from our valuer.

Other tasks that need to be addressed in the short term are: setting up a company that will purchase and own the asset – this will be a community benefit society; setting up a bank account; registering for VAT; and exploring potential tax breaks for investors. We will then be able to issue the share prospectus. This will be a comprehensive document explaining what will happen to your money to keep it safe, possible tax breaks, voting rights etc. Everyone who buys and holds shares will be able to have a say in all major decisions regarding the reopening and subsequent running of the pub.

The TDC planning decision on change of use has been postponed until mid December which is also when we expect our application to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value to be decided.

The draw!

For a little bit of fun, and to encourage people to return their completed questionnaires, we said we would draw two completed replies (from Great Holland) at random, giving the winners the opportunity to pull the first and second pints when we reopen. Cllr. Dan Land made the draw remotely. The winners are....

- 1 Mrs E Elsworth
- 2 Mr J Lott

There's more...

Can you create something about and for the pub? It might be a drawing or painting (illustrative or abstract), a poem, an account of something in the past – anything you can think of. And do you have any old photos? It would be wonderful to display all of these items and celebrate the continuity of the pub's place in our community.

Thank you!

Anne Fairbrother, Nick Nash, Paul Withams, Dawn Withams, Andrew Fairbrother, Liz Fairbrother, Roger Frere, Margaret Frere.

POLICE REPORT

13/09/20 – Little Clacton Road – Alarm activation. House alarm set off by family member. Premises all in order.

17/09/20 – Field along the marshes – unexploded bomb.

Member of the public found what they believed to be a UXB whilst out walking along the farmer's field. Police unit attended and it was an old-fashioned wheel bearing/coil and not a UXB.

25/09/20 – Little Clacton Road – Highway disruption.

Report of a fence panel and concrete in the road. Units attended but found no trace.

28/09/20 – Little Clacton Road – Road traffic collision

Vehicle had crashed into a garden fence. Elderly driver had a dizzy spell. Medical advice sought. Driver all in order and minimal damage caused.

20/10/20 – Kirby Road – Covid Breach

Received a report of what was believed to be a Covid breach whereby a resident had other persons attending the address which was against Government guidelines. Resident spoken to. The other person visiting was within their support bubble.

05/11/20 – Clacton Road - Fire

A mattress that had been fly tipped had been set alight. The fire was attended and dealt with.

A speed gun has been deployed in Little Clacton Road – nine drivers will be automatically prosecuted for speeding offences. The device that we use issues an automatic fine instead of words of advice to the drivers.

There are various scams circulating either by mobile text, emails or phone calls. All crime prevention advice and latest information can be found on the Essex Police website or I can post some to you if you give me a call. Please look out for your neighbours, especially at this time of year.

Michele

P.C.S.O 6477 Diss

Direct dial : 101 ext 487552

e-mail: michele.diss@essex.pnn.police.uk

website: http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood.aspx

DONATIONS WANTED!

HELP TO MAKE IT A BETTER CHRISTMAS
FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS



Frinton and Walton Police Community Support Officers are appealing for gift donations for elderly or vulnerable members of the Frinton and Walton community this Christmas.

Your help could really make a difference to someone in our community who is lonely or in crisis.

- Non-perishable items, such as **warm clothes** or **toiletries** would be very welcome, along with **food items** such as **chocolates**, **biscuits** or **hampers**, which have a longer shelf life.
- Please only send **new** or **unused** items.
- Or if you're not in a position to donate a gift, then many members of our community would be delighted to receive a **Christmas card**.

If you are able to help, please drop any gifts of at one of the collection points listed below or contact one of the Frinton and Walton Police Community Support Officers on **07812 067263**.

Last day of collection is **Thursday 10 December**.

Your nearest collection point is:



"Merry
Christmas &
a Happy
New Year!"

Indoors and Out

As I write we are doing a degree of social distancing again along with a partial lockdown. This one is less strict than the last, and more companies are opening, and the roads are busy. I am not furloughed this time, though my volunteers in Essex Wildlife Trust are not being permitted to work, but they can visit, the reserves mostly being open. While all the government rules on Covid-19 precautions create anxiety for some, I am not put out. Indeed, it has made me (slightly) more organised about my shopping, and the change in ways of doing things invite all of us to re-think activities, rather than to continue doing tedious regular activities on 'autopilot'.

From a very young age I spent all available time outdoors, weather permitting. As a child, the distractions of the internet and online gaming didn't exist, and many of us spent their early years outdoors. At that time, most of these places were not designated public spaces. The territory of my friends and me was a dairy farm near Braintree, bounded by a river, much preferred to the recreation ground next door, and over the river, gravel pits and lanes, which would be fenced off these days as private land. These were happy hunting grounds indeed.

Coming towards the end of school years everyone was offered career advice, and I remember filling in a questionnaire, and I was informed that my preference was for outdoor work. Who would have guessed? Indeed, I tried for jobs at Rothampsted horticultural centre, the Marine Research station in Aberdeen, and the Met Office, but alas I ended up working mostly indoors. Having retired from my main work now, I am usually outdoors whenever it is not too wet, or seriously cold.



For most of our evolution as humans, we lived in the open. Though humans in these cooler climes had to make shelters, most of their food gathering, culture and social exchange was done outdoors. It was really the dark satanic mills that

typify the industrial revolution that brought people indoors, and that state has become the 'normal' for many people.

When the first Covid lockdown began in spring, people were permitted to exercise, and the general quiet on the roads encouraged a lot of outdoor activity. When regulations were eased there was an uncontrolled rush of people to the outdoors, mostly public outdoor places. For some of us this was a problem. Photographs hit the newspapers of car parks jammed, litter left and difficulty in maintaining healthy social distance. Nature reserves created to shelter certain rarer wildlife were not being respected.

However, several studies conclude that access to the outdoors contributes to good mental health. The usual complexities of modern society are difficult for some people to cope with, and I believe that tuning into natural places, particularly the informal ones is therapeutic.

All Essex Wildlife Trust public activities are on hold, so there are no evening meetings, and no plans yet for reserve open days, though it is possible I will be hosting a Zoom presentation in the New Year, which members will be invited to join online.

Essex Wildlife Trust have a series of blogs, mostly short, which you can find here:

<https://www.essexwt.org.uk/news/WildlifeTV>

We all hope that 2021 will see a resolution of the Covid problems and we will be able to resume a more relaxed life. While Christmas will be disrupted in many cases, I wish everyone success in making the most of what they can do and that the constraints will be overcome in a loving way.

Bob Seago





Warden of Great Holland Nature Reserve



VILLAGE CONTACTS & LOCAL INFORMATION

Member of Parliament	Giles Watling MP Email: giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk	678334
Residents' Association	Paul Fletcher-Tomenius and Myrna Lyles	675268
All Saints' Church	Rev. Mark Holdaway	675997
Methodist Church	Rev. Chris Preece Email: chris.preece@methodist.org.uk	851179
Village Hall Committee	Ms Sue Jenkins (Chair) Mrs Coralie Harris (Bookings)	850317 830136
The Manor	Rectory Road, Great Holland CO13 0JP	440310
Frinton & Walton Town Council (incorporating Frinton, Walton, Kirby & Great Holland)	Jerry Wedge (Town Clerk) Cllr. Mr Christopher Keston	676666 850067
Tendring District Council	Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton CO15 1SE Cllr. Mr Dan. Land	686868 Emergency/out of hours: 2220220 07590034305
Essex County Council	Cllr.Mr Mark Platt Email: cllr.mark.platt@essex.gov.uk	672551
Dog Warden	(Tendring District Council)	686787
Cats Protection	Tendring District Branch	744014
RSPCA	National contact number: Charity Shop, Frinton	0300 1234 999 674926
National Rail Enquiries	National Line	03457 484950
Essex Police	Non-Emergency	101
Crime Reduction Officer	David Gillies	101
Crimestoppers	National Line	0800 555111
Citizens Advice	(Clacton)	0844 4770808
Tendring Dial-a-Ride	Hurlingham Chambers, 61-65 Station Road, Clacton on Sea, CO15 1SD	436962
Colchester General Hospital	Turner Road, Colchester CO4 5JL	01206 747474
Civic Amenity Tip	Maltings Lane, Kirby-le-Soken. Winter opening times (16 th October – end Of February): 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Summer opening times (1 st March – 15 th October): 9.00 am – 5.00 pm <u>Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays</u>	

What's on in your Village Hall?

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sunday	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
Monday	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	Tendring Male Voice Choir 3.00 – 5.00 p.m. Contact: Ilze 813909 	Links Combat Academy (self defence) 8 – 9pm Contact 07766 170848 www.linkscombatacademy.com
Tuesday 	Fantari Dance and Fitness 9.30-10.30a.m. Contact: Sarah-Jane 688740 Gentle Tai Chi with meditation 11.00a.m.-12.30 p.m. Contact: Ruth 07724 133702	Carpet Bowls 1.45-3.45 p.m. Contact: Sheila 851855 	Links Karate 5.30-7.30 p.m. Contact: Paul Harris 830136
Wednesday	Yoga 9.30-11.00a.m & 11.00am-12.30p.m Contact: Srina 07835 730593	The Coastal Singers Mixed voices 2.30-4.30 pm Contact: Ilze 813909 	AVAILABLE TO HIRE Badminton 9.00-10.30 p.m. 671300
Thursday	Tai Chi 9.30-12.30p.m. Contact: Des Exworth 679610 (additional classes available)	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	Links Karate 6.30-7.30 p.m. Contact: Paul Harris 830136
Friday	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	Links Karate 6.00-8.00 p.m. Contact: Paul Harris 830136
Saturday	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Rate for hire of Village Hall

£15.00 per hour. Please contact Coralie Harris on **830136** to book. (Email: coralieh@live.co.uk)

Updated September 2020

FROM THE ARCHIVES.....

Continuing our look at Gt. Holland's shoreline. There had been much flooding of the marshes in the days when the Brook had been a much larger river with an estuary, known as The Gunfleet Estuary.

During the 17th Century the estuary began to silt up and by the latter part of that Century it was decided to reclaim the estuary by building a sea wall. (The wall was built in a similar way as a railway embankment would be constructed - mainly piles of earth and rubbish were used).

Records dating November 1703 show there had been a great storm with much damage in the vicinity of the Brook, followed by exceptionally high tides at the end of that month.

Again, in February 1736, there was a Great Storm, with much damage reported, and there was reference to five men drowning in the storm, including one Captain James Bushell "famous for fishing for wrecks". It was recorded at 2 o'clock that afternoon as "the highest tide on record".

The Tendring Commissioners met in the August following the storm - it was the first meeting since their appointment in 1728. They decided on a survey of the repairs needed at Holland Haven and as a result the old wall at the Haven was made four foot higher and a new sluice put in to drain the level and a new cut was made to divert the outlet of the river. The Commissioners decided to stone pitch the wall between Frinton and Little Holland, but it was still WOOD Thatched in the 1850's. When they tried to stone-pitch the wall in 1868, they needed £2000, so they abandoned the idea as it was too expensive.

Storms continued and in 1881, there were more problems when the wall was again damaged bringing to a head the trouble brewing in the Tendring level. The Commissioners brought in a consultant engineer who stated that the wall was unsafe and in a perilous condition, recommending a new wall further back, leaving the old wall to its own fate, This failed as the land was private and they did not have the finance and no-one would lend them the required money.

The storms continued to top the wall for many years. In 1931 the Essex River Catchment Board was constituted, with an area controlling 321 miles of tidal defences, with over 200 miles in a dilapidated condition. The new wall was suitably reinforced with modern concrete which exists today.

Liz Bruce, Local History Recorded. November 2020

PUZZLE

Can you fill in the gaps with a word which completes the first phrase and starts the second? The first one is done for you.

Mother **Earth** Quake

Swan Sheet

Big Affleck

Dead Generation

Leg Girl

Gone Apple

Jet Black

Either Else

Egg Noise

Answers at the end of Dan Land's Blog.

This time last year I had a little visitor in the shape of a little harvest mouse. While relating this story to my niece Abby, great niece Maddy (11) and great nephew Dante (7), who live in Italy, they asked me to write it down. I finally committed it to paper in Lockdown 1 and started writing other animal stories for my other great nieces.

I thought it would be appropriate to have a story for children in the Christmas edition of the Village Voice so here goes!

The story is illustrated by Dante.

The Story of Cadbury

One day Vanessa was wrapping presents for Christmas. She remembered that she had stored some special chocolate in one of the wardrobes in her bedroom. Eagerly she anticipated the delights she would find within: chocolate covered pecan turtles from America, melt in your mouth chocolates from Italy, special bars of Belgian confectionary, chocolate coins for Christmas stockings and various Cadbury delights.

After removing the various boxes from the top of the wardrobe interior she discovered the first of the bags of goodies. What was this? Why did the first container of chocolate have little holes in the packaging? Vanessa tipped the contents of the bag onto the floor – all the chocolate had little nibbles taken out of them. This was a disaster – who could have done it? With trepidation she pulled out the bag full of Cadbury chocolate – all the packets had been broken open and again little bites taken out of each type of chocolate. The third bag of chocolate revealed the same sad story – only one bag had been left untouched and sadly this was dark chocolate, which was not Vanessa's favourite!

Continuing to empty the wardrobe she noticed small pieces of paper which had been ripped up and, as she revealed the last container – a zipped bag with bedding inside – she noticed a little creature scurry behind it. It looked like a little mouse, obviously a mouse which shared Vanessa's love of chocolate! She shut the wardrobe door to keep the mouse from venturing further and decided

to go to bed and call her friend Bob in the morning to help her to catch the cheeky little creature.

The next morning Bob, the local nature reserve warden, arrived early with a container for capturing the mouse and they went to the wardrobe, opened the door, but no mouse was to be found! Bob explained that mice can squeeze through holes the size of a pencil and so had made its escape. Now it was wandering the rest of the house, no doubt looking for more sugary treats.

Vanessa decided that she needed to catch it but didn't want to harm this fellow chocolate lover so she made a trip to a hardware store and asked the assistant for some humane traps – ones that wouldn't hurt the little creature. Armed with these she went home and set them up in the bedroom. Now, what to put in the traps? Cheese was supposed to be a mouse's favourite snack but she decided that for this mouse, only chocolate would do. Luckily, she had plenty of chocolate from the nibbled packages so she set both traps and hoped that it would do the trick. The idea of these traps was that the mouse would enter to eat the chocolate and then a door would shut, trapping the mouse inside but not hurting it. Vanessa decided to visit her friend Andrew and come back later.

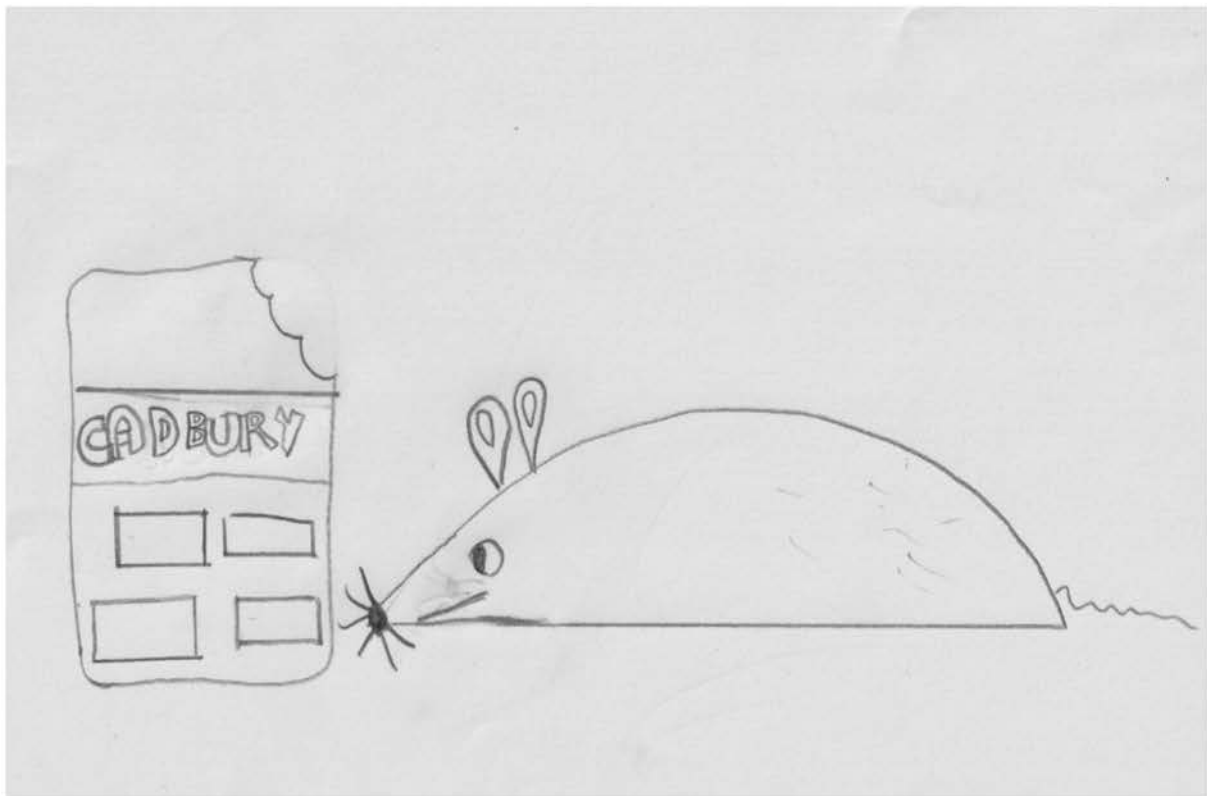
On her return she was disappointed to see that the traps had not been set but entering the lounge she saw that a package under the Christmas tree had been disturbed. Oh no! she had forgotten about the bars of chocolate she had already wrapped, and they had the tell-tale nibbled packages which showed that this mouse had enjoyed another snack. Later, she related the story to her niece Abby, and her children Maddy and Dante and they decided that the mouse would be called Cadbury! A fitting name for a chocolate-loving mouse that Vanessa was starting to feel rather fond of.

Vanessa decided to put the traps in more rooms in the house, so she set them all with chocolate and went shopping, leaving the mouse to explore in peace. Arriving back an hour or so later she noticed that the traps were still open but all of the chocolate was gone. The cheeky mouse was also a clever one and had managed to enter the traps, steal the chocolate and then depart without setting off the door of the trap. Vanessa couldn't help feeling admiration for

this resourceful little mouse, but there was only room for one chocolate lover in the house.

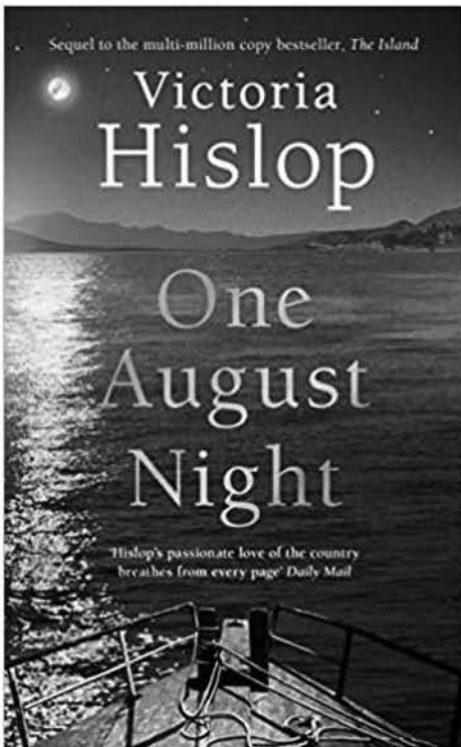
She went back to the hardware store and bought some special traps with doors that sprung shut more quickly, went home, and set the new ones with plenty of chocolate – Cadbury’s of course. She then went out for a meal with friends and when she returned she was eager to see what had happened. This time success! One of the traps had a closed door and as she picked up the trap she saw Cadbury properly for the first time. He was a tiny little field mouse and again she couldn’t help but feel fond of this clever little creature. Cadbury was very scared so she decided that she needed to release him as soon as possible. She had heard that mice are very good at finding their way back again, so she drove several miles to the end of the lane and released him. He energetically ran out and, by the light of the moon, Vanessa said goodbye to her furry friend as he scampered across the fields to be reunited with his family in time for Christmas.

Vanessa A Giles



The Caxton Bookshop Review

One August Night by Victoria Hislop



The long-awaited sequel to her much-loved classic, *The Island*

5th August 1957. The island of Spinalonga closes its leper colony. And a moment of violence has devastating consequences.

When time stops dead for Maria Petrakis and her sister, Anna, two families splinter apart and, for the people of Plaka, the closure of Spinalonga is forever coloured with tragedy.

In the aftermath, the question of how to resume life looms large. Stigma and scandal need to be confronted and somehow, for those impacted, a future built from the ruins of the past.

Number one bestselling author Victoria Hislop returns to the world and characters she created in *The Island* - the award-winning novel that remains one of the biggest selling reading group novels of the century. It is finally time to be reunited with Anna, Maria, Manolis and Andreas in the weeks leading up to the evacuation of the island... and beyond.

Why not be swept away to the Greek Islands with this evocative tale of love and betrayal: the perfect Christmas gift for anyone looking for a touch of true escapism and a great story!

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www.caxton-books.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you. All good wishes, Judith and Sally

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Daniel Land's Blog

Winter 2020



I wish you all a Happy Christmas, it's a pleasure representing you all.

I recently jumped out of a plane to raise money for my charity this year. Here is the story.

The Skydive



First date cancelled, re-booked for Friday 16 October. In the lead up to the first jump date I had literally not been able to sleep at night, lost weight and was generally concerned. Once the first date came and went and the new date was a further 2 weeks away, I thought I can't keep worrying about this for another two weeks and there on I stopped watching Youtube clips and listening to many written descriptions of the experience, most of which said it's difficult to explain. I couldn't understand that...

At 5am the alarm went off and I knew this was the start of the journey. That journey was to drive to Beccles in Suffolk and there after I was not sure...

Arrived in very good time and checked in, was quickly told that me and Maria would be on the first plane up (up sounded very scary at the moment). Many more people started to turn up and it became obvious that we had been fortunate to get on the

first plane load, we would be accompanied by experienced jumpers who were working towards a qualification to become qualified, I felt so far away from that.

We waited and watched the pilot refuel the plane and others clean the toilet who later jumped, it really was a family affair who all mucked in. I had been looking at the planes they use on YouTube thinking I hope there is not more than 6 of us getting in that thing, actually on the day the plane was full, nigh on 20 people. We were jammed in and told quickly that there was "1 out at 5000", this meant that a guy was doing his final training jump from 5000 meters, that is low and we were also told it would be "squeaky bum time for him". That is part of the qualification to be a fully-fledged instructor but interesting for us to see. We went through the safety briefing with our tandem pilots as they strapped us into our harnesses. At this time, we also met our cameramen who would be jumping out to film us, what a job! It turns out the plane's engine is worth nearly three quarters of a million pounds alone and when the throttle went on it got 20 of us off the ground very quickly indeed.

Our two instructors who we would be strapped to were not short of a few jokes, "don't worry, the last bloke that fell out without being attached we caught up." I explained I had been worried about this for far too long, a nervous flyer on commercial jets, but these guys jump so many times each day that they have an answer to all your fears and so you are reassured, well as much as you can be. The last thing one of the guys said to me was the following, "it's not natural to jump out of a plane, it's a calculated risk". In that moment I kinda got it, I was about to do it and that was that, I had dreamt vividly one night of exiting the plane and loving the experience and I suspected that would play out today.

When I decided one day to do this, it was always on the premise that I booked Maria onto the experience too, I could NOT have gone up in that plane without her and it was also a caveat that she would exit the plane first, then I could chase her. 😊 She had not displayed any real emotion about the jump, just laid back as ever, her mother however was not talking to me for obvious reasons. The emotion only really came out when that plane took off and we started climbing, she was not in any major panic, but I could see the realisation had hit her. I can't say how amazing that girl is, a rock, so calm collected and without her the jump would not have happened for me!

So as "1 at 5000" exited the plane, the pilot cocked up the engines again and up we began to climb to our jump height of 13000 feet. We had been told we would not be able to have jumpsuits owing to covid so we had to dress up warm as its cold "up there". As usual, I had underdressed, but I can tell you at no point during the whole experience was I cold, too much else to contend with.

By the way, for someone who is scared of big planes, I was not scared at all on this pocket rocket of a plane, even crammed in, strapped to a burley Romanian instructor. We were a family in the plane, we got on and were all going to GET OUT!

Many things I had written and seen said that the real point of terror comes as you finally hang out of the plane, legs and body weight supported only by the guy you are strapped to. As Maria left the plane the thought of "I hope she get down ok" crossed my mind, mainly cause her mum was at the bottom waiting for her lol. She was gone

and there was only me, my instructor and the cameraman left in the plane, oh and the pilot of course, I later found out he never jumps out of the plane.

You are forcefully slid along the plane by your instructor, you do not have to do anything. You are told to hold onto your harness for the exit and until he taps your arms to say you can release. You are told to tilt your head up and to the left, conveniently this is where your cameraman is looking down at you, whilst hanging out the side of the plane, looking at your happy face! To be fair, they do not mess about, they know that if you were gonna back out you'd do it in these moments, they do not allow your thoughts to build up, you are going out that plane.

There is no count down, you feel a slight rocking back and then forward, your mind is not in a place to think about all of the finer points as you are about to do something unnatural and with no prior knowledge. You know that upon exiting the plane you go into a free spin until a small parachute is pulled that stabilises you and slows you to around 120 miles an hour, without it I'm told you go upwards of 180MPH. I remember feeling no stomach dropping sensation, most write ups said this and that turned out to be true for me too. We span upside down, rolled around a few times and then we stabilised. I think my instructor delayed pulling the mini-shoot for a little bit longer than normal as I think he sensed I was up for some fun in the air. Once stabilised the fall begins, there is extreme wind and noise but I can't honestly say you feel like you are falling, it's true what you read, you are in a mini bubble that is racing through the sky (just happens to be downwards) and you are taking in all of the views around you, and of course your camera man who appears out of nowhere in front of you to high five and take pictures and video footage. You can literally reach out and he is there, travelling at the same speed, just looking at you as you fall from the sky.

I was very aware of all of the videos I had seen before and I knew the indicator for the shoot being pulled was my instructor giving a signal to the cameraman that we were going to deploy. I had been worried for some time about the feeling and jolt that the chute would give when it was pulled from such a great speed, should I have been worried, no, it was relatively smooth, parachute out, the rush bit gone and just in a mellow world of floating down to earth with great views, with absolutely no sound whatsoever.

The cruise back down to earth is a calming one with fabulous views and a mid-air practise of your legs for landing. So, there you go I did it, but what I never thought would happen is that I'd go back 24 hours later and do it all again, but I did, the second time was scarier!

Does bravery come into it, yes, a bit, but I'm not a good flyer or a heights man, the fact is it is scary, but challenge yourself and you will see a reward greater than you could have ever dreamed.

Any donations still gratefully received through the following link <https://rb.gy/wcxbvg>

Finally...

I continue to be Chairman of TDC and am very proud to represent you all and champion the good work that goes on not only in Great Holland but across the district.

I update my activities on the village Facebook group as well as the Facebook page www.facebook.com/greatholland

I am available to you 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. If I can help you, then please do shout.

Speak soon

Daniel Land

District Councillor for Beaumont, Great Holland & Thorpe

Thanks for your support; you can contact me in the following ways

01255 861116 / land_daniel@hotmail.com

Answers to Puzzle

The blanks are:

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Dr Carla Mahmoud
Dr Mathew Kattukaran

Tel: 01255 861850



Thorpe-le-Soken Surgery
High Street
Thorpe-le-Soken
Essex CO16 0EA

Thorpe Surgery Newsletter December 2020

Merry Christmas to all and happy and healthy new year-let's face it none of us will miss 2020 and we're all hoping 2021 is going to be better. I do hope that all those events put off in 2020 due to covid will be able to go ahead in 2021 without further drama or restrictions!

Speaking of events, we have been looking at our appointment data over the past year and whilst we have continued to offer a range of appointments during the year we have noticed more and more that some individuals and family groups do seem to need a disproportionate number of appointments. Some people without having any identified medical need seem to appear almost every week on our triage list. Obviously there will be reasons behind this kind of behaviour, for example living away from family and friends and not having a trusted person to ask very basic advice of, for others it will be that they need multiple opinions of Doctors and Nurses before they can accept the advice/diagnosis given to them. Perhaps for others there is no particular reason other than they have no idea what else to do. Either way, this is a drain on the NHS as a whole, not just Thorpe Surgery and does mean that it is more difficult to get through on the phone and when up to 150 people are on the triage list in a day some patients are obviously going to have to wait the full 48 hours for a call back, let alone an appointment. We are dealing with up to 2500 calls per week!

At the time of writing (9.11.2020) there is speculation on the future availability of an effective and safe covid vaccine, hopefully there will be very soon and it will be easily accessible for all people that could benefit-I will let you know when we know!

As the nights are getting longer and our freedoms are curtailed during the pandemic we look towards 2021 as perhaps being better. Most people will have found it hard not to see their loved ones as regularly and have certainly not hugged and kissed them in a very long time, perhaps we should think about what we mean to others. Are we loved and valued? Hopefully so, with that in mind we should value ourselves and our health. If you have a chronic disease that you haven't given proper attention to perhaps 2021 is the year to make a difference, to eat well, exercise more, enjoying simple pleasures like fresh air and looking at nature. Along with taking medication as prescribed, attending reviews and being aware of symptoms triggers you can make a huge difference to your symptoms and mental wellbeing-and you are in control of it and not the other way round, not only that your loved one will worry less about you!

No one can possibly know what the future holds in store but if 2020 has taught us all something it is to appreciate what we have and to cherish it-including the NHS.

Best wishes to you all

Karen Austen

Branch Surgery: 88 Frinton Road, Kirby Cross, Essex CO13 0HJ

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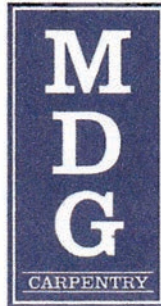
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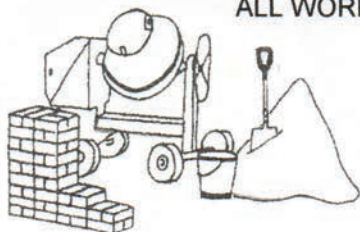
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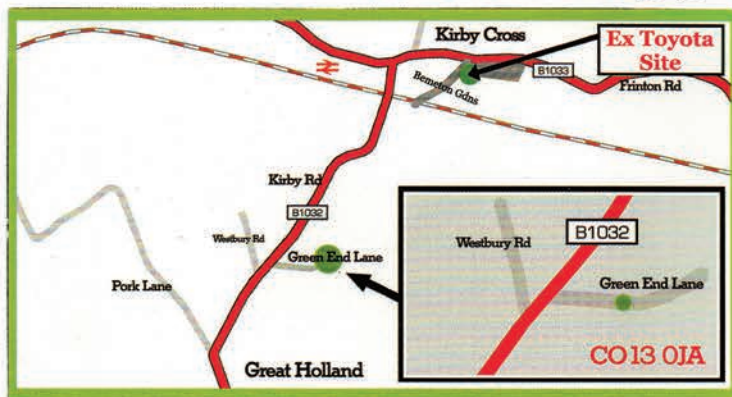
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