



THE BRADLEY BUGLE

March 2024 Issue 275

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Find us online

www.facebook.com/groups/greatbradleysuffolk

<https://greatbradley.weebly.com/>

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Thanks

Many thanks to our advertisers who help make this newsletter possible.

Thank you to everyone who contributes content.

Huge thanks to everyone who delivers our printed copies around the Village.



Moody skies and flooded fields in Great Bradley

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the March issue of the Bradley Bugle!

It's certainly been a soggy start to the year, as our picture this month shows. These are usually fields about to burst into life with crops, this year the fields have become wetlands!

It has also been rather mild and warmer than usual, which has meant the welcome arrival of daffodils and tulips - at least those in my garden have decided to wake up a little earlier than they did last year.

Once again we have to thank the Parish Council for agreeing to print the Bugle, I hope you enjoy what our wonderful contributors have to offer this month.

We at the Bugle are happy to welcome new contributors and advertisers, so if you have something on your mind, or would like to see something new this year, please let me know so we can keep the Bugle interesting and engaging for all.

Happy Reading!



VILLAGE DIARY

Overview of what's happening The diary is also online: https://greatbradley.weebly.com/village-diary.html		
Annual Village Meeting	Wednesday 10th April. Doors open at 7pm, meeting starts 7:30pm. Agenda will be posted on the village notice boards and on the Facebook group the week before.	
Coming up this month		
Pimp my Fish	Delicious, freshly cooked fish and chips.	Thursday 14th March, Village Hall, 5:30pm
Weekly Events		
Bradley Bookers	Our friendly local book club, come along for a fun evening with lively discussion and tea and biscuits too! Cost is £3 per session, contact Annette on 783892.	First Thursday in the month 7:30pm to 9pm
Scottish Country Dancing	Lively light exercise and fun! Contact Ella Hollins on 710340 for details of the next session	Village Hall Mondays 2pm to 4pm
Art Group	Great Bradley Art Group is now FULL and is now waiting list only. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list please contact Pat Spires on 783269 or via Facebook.	Village Hall Tuesdays 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Afternoon club	All welcome, all ages, all interests. Come and meet neighbours for tea, cake, loads of news, views and lots of laughter. Contact Anne on 783648 for details of the next session.	Village Hall See our Facebook page for more details too!
Photo Club	Everyone is welcome, you don't need flashy equipment, a phone will do just nicely! Cost is only £2 per person. Contact Nikki Stroud N.a.stroud@hotmail.co.uk 783416	Third Thursday in the month 7:30pm to 8:30pm Village Hall
Looking further ahead		
Mobile Library Every 4 weeks on Wednesdays	More information at https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk 2024 dates are as follows: 24 January, 21 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May, 12 June, 10 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 30 October, 27 November. No service in December 2024.	Evergreen Lane 12:10 to 12:35 Rt 18-Stop E
Further afield		
Thurlow WI	The next meeting is on Tuesday 12th March. See page 13	Thurlow Village Hall
Dullingham Flower Club	Next meeting is on 14th March. See page 13 .	The Taylor Hall, Church Close Dullingham
Bins and bottle bank		
Bins	Black bin: normally emptied on a Tuesday. 12th, 26th March Blue bin: emptied on a Tuesday in the alternate week. 5th, 19th March 2nd April Brown bin: emptied on a Thursday in the same week as the Blue bin. 7th, 21st March Find more information online here: https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/	
Bottle Bank	If the bottle bank is full, call 01842 820804.	

CHURCH NEWS AND SERVICES - STOURHEAD BENEFICE <http://stourheadbenefice.org>

St Mary's Great Bradley - Sunday Services March 2024

Further details of other services and events in churches across the Benefice can be found in the Benefice News <http://stourheadbenefice.org/wordpress/stourhead-benefice-newsletter/>.

Date and time	Service	Where
3 March 10am	Holy Communion	Kedington
10 March 10am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow
17 March 10 am	Holy Communion	Great Wrating
	Family Service	Little Thurlow
24 March 09:40 Palm Sunday	Procession from Fox Corner	Great Bradley
24 March 10am Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	Great Bradley
28 March 7pm Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion	Little Wrating
29 March 2pm Good Friday	Service of Reflection	Barnardiston
30 March 8pm	Easter Vigil	Kedington
31 March 10am	Easter Holy Communion	Kedington
7 April 10am	Holy Communion	Great Bradley

Note: Holy Communion services will take place at Little Bradley on alternate months starting 4 February 2024.

St Mary's Great Bradley Flower Rota

March - Lent, no flowers

April - Helena Crawford

Carol Service December 2024

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation at the Carol Service, we were able to send a donation of over £235 to UNICEF towards their work providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children facing crises around the world.

Save the date!

Great Bradley Fete - Sunday 30th June 2024

There will be a Fete planning meeting on Saturday 16th March 11am Great Bradley Hall.

Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL from Charles Boulton Chair GBPC

Well, from a Parish perspective, I guess things are dominated by flooding and potholes – much the same as for any of you trying to drive out of the village. Let me begin by thanking all the people who have been contributing their observations on Facebook. It's become the go-to resource to understand which routes are passable and where the problems are. So thank you all and keep the comments coming! Special thanks to Paul Hart for the graphic videos and for the drone shots that give a completely different perspective. We've been canvassing for action with appeals for help to our District and County Councillors and to the Highways authorities in both Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. And people's photographs and videos are all useful evidence to communicate how serious it's become. Looking at the portal you can see that the volume of complaints is remarkable and the increasing frustration shines through. We've also been in touch with the adjacent Parish Councils with a view to combining our voices and keeping each other up to date with what each of us are doing in our respective counties.

Looking several years ahead, there's the final consultation and check of the West Suffolk Local plan which sets out the long term planning and land use policies for the area. See the notices on the village notice boards and on Facebook. (See also https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/local_plans/ws-local-plan-review.cfm.) Under the Plan, housing growth will be concentrated in the population centres where there are sustainable services, primarily Newmarket and Haverhill, and, to a much lesser extent, in Kedington and the Thurlows. There is no planned housing growth here because of sustainability and accessibility, the impact on climate and on transport needs.

The plan also looks at the local economy, transport and other infrastructure, environmental aspects and sustaining the countryside. It identifies the River Stour Corridor and the importance of protecting the environment around it. In the coming months we will look at what this means for Great Bradley and how we might help. Heritage assets (such as our church) will be an important part of this agenda.

More locally, cutting the hedge around the glade and the end of the recreation ground has been delayed by the weather – the ground is like a sponge and we don't want to damage the surface. But we're keenly aware of the need to do it before the birds queue up to build nests.

We're starting to craft the survey in which we'll be asking you for what you'd like to see around the village – and if you have any topics for that survey, then please let us know. We'll launch that at the Village meeting in April.

And in the background, we're working with the Parish Clerk to review and refine the standing orders and financial regulations under which we operate, to ensure they're robust and still pragmatic for a small Parish so that we make decisions robustly and spend your money wisely.

Parish Council Members

Charles Boulton (Chair)	cbboulton@hotmail.com Tel: 07956 696932
Annette Sugg	Email: annettesugg@gmail.com
Rowan Sylvester-Bradley	Email: rowan@sylvesterbradley.org
Polly Cook	Email: pollyannacook1@gmail.com
Geoff Bailey	Email: geoffreybailey717@gmail.com
Michelle Thompson (Parish Clerk)	Email: greatbradleyparishclerk@protonmail.com

New Lighting in Great Bradley Church

The Friends of Great Bradley Church and the PCC are delighted to announce the installation and commissioning of new lighting in the church. The new lights really bring out the character of the building, they illuminate the wonderful wooden roofing structure that's been hidden for centuries and they make the church itself a much more usable space for the village and visitors.

The lights themselves are discreet and blend into the setting and have a sophisticated controller.

Several different lighting schemes can be called up at the push of a button. For example, as well as a general illumination for visitors, there's setting that is ideal for a performance, maybe singers, in the middle of the church. In this setting there is spotlighting on the focus of attention and dimmed lighting elsewhere. In addition to the setting for typical church services, there's also a particular scheme for candle-lit services – very atmospheric.

The lighting project has been under way for a few years now, championed by Charles Ryder and the Friends group who are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the church to enable it to survive and flourish for many centuries to come. The money needed was raised by donation from Friends and many others, together with a grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

The lights will be in use at this year's Fete – so come along and see why, and take the opportunity to see how they open up the church so its special features become much more visible. They really have transformed the church!



GRAPES LESS TRODDEN

SAVE THE DATE!!

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY 2024

AT

THE OLD RECTORY, GREAT BRADLEY

**PAUL IS ALREADY COLLECTING HIS WINE LIST FOR OUR
ANNUAL CHARITY WINE-TASTING. JOIN US FOR AN
AFTERNOON HERE IN THE GARDEN, WHEN HE'LL INTRODUCE
OUR GUESTS TO SOME OF THE MORE OBSCURE GRAPE
VARIETIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

NEWS FROM GREAT BRADLEY VILLAGE HALL from Sophie Gale

At the time of writing this we are experiencing a rare day of sunshine, instead of the usual downpours that seem to be making Great Bradley feel like more of an inaccessible island. Thankfully the committee members managed to wade through the waters to meet together in late January to come up with some exciting social events for the upcoming few months. The first of these is a Quiz Night on Friday 22nd March. Please see the poster below for more details. If anyone has any raffle prizes that they would like to donate to this event then we would be extremely grateful and feel free to get in touch with anyone of us with details.

There will also be a Table Top Sale on Sunday 21st April with further details on how to book a table to follow in the next bugle and on the village Facebook group.

GREAT BRADLEY VILLAGE HALL



FRIDAY 22nd MARCH 7PM

BAR OPEN FROM 6.30pm

Bring your own nibbles

£3 PER HEAD, TEAMS 6 PEOPLE MAX.

Raffle

To book your place
email quiz@housden.co.uk
or call 01223 880161

Great Bradley Village Hall Committee

Who	Role	Contact Details
Barbara Housden	Chair	01223 880161
Ros Barber	Treasurer	01440 783006
Annette Sugg	Bookings	01440 783892
Richard Sugg	Maintenance	01440 783892
Chris Housden	Facilities	01223 880161
Adrian Bhreathnach	Facilities and Business Advice	
Nicola Stroud	Lottery	01440 783416
Sophie Gale	Social Events	07557 094081

VILLAGE LOTTERY from Nikki Stroud

Congratulations to our February winners for the Village Hall Lottery! There are three winners this month. The number of prizes is calculated from the number of entries – for every person who enters 50p is put towards that month's prize fund. I then look at the total and decide the prize amounts (mainly I aim for whole numbers so I can hand out notes). If I have money left over that gets rolled over into the next month – which is why the prize fund can go up and down.

If you would like to join the lottery you can do so at any time throughout the year, just contact me on the address below.

February Draw Results

First (£10)	Jenny Becket (Number 84)
First (£10)	Ernest May (Number 109)
Second (£5)	Edie Wagner (Number 101)

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Village Hall by joining the lottery. The money goes towards keeping the hall running – such as helping with the recent renovations. We also hope that you enjoy being part of it and the possibility of winning!

Good luck for next month.

Contact Nikki Stroud by email gbvillagehall.lot@gmail.com or telephone on 01440 783416

Great Bradley Village Hall Lottery

The Lottery is a significant contributor to fundraising efforts for the Great Bradley Village Hall with 50% of the proceeds going to the Village Hall, the other 50% paid out in prize money each month. Its success helps ensure that the Hall is financially sustainable and available for everyone. Other villages covet our Hall for the bright, warm and welcoming facility it is, and the Lottery goes a long way towards keeping it that way.

The Lottery runs from 1 November to 31 October and costs just £12 per entry per year. To take part:

1. Email Nikki Stroud (gbvillagehall.lot@gmail.com) with names and addresses and for details on how to pay by Bacs. OR/
2. Fill in the form below and bring cash or a cheque (payable to Great Bradley Village Hall) to the address below.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all of those who have supported the Lottery in the past and warmly welcomes new members, The November draw will be held AFTER the Village Hall Fireworks event and Nikki will be happy to accept your entries there. You can also join at any time during the year, paying £1 per month to October inclusive.

Great Bradley Village Hall Lottery

I enclose £12 subscription per person (for entry from the November draw)

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Name 3 _____

Name 4 _____

Address _____

Phone/email _____

Please return to the Promoter—Nikki Stroud, 29 Clarendale Estate, Gt Bradley, CB8 9LN

Phone 01440 783416 Email gbvillagehall.lot@gmail.com

GREAT BRADLEY THROUGH THE AGES: 17th Century Yew Tree Cottage from Mike Brophy



Some of the artefacts from the 17th Century related to the village are still visible. So it is doubly sad when people deliberately wipe our history off the map. Yew Tree Cottage on The Street has its origins the 17th Century. Until 2022 it was one of 8 listed buildings in the village and was previously three cottages. When they belonged to the Thurlow Estate they were numbered 177, 178, 179.

A building probably existed before the current building, and it would have sat on the edge of the medieval area of Pound Green. The green is still present on maps from the 18th & 19th centuries.



In 1974 the building was given Grade II listed status. The citation reads: "17th-18th Century timber framed and plastered house. 1 storey and attics. It has 20th Century casement windows and boarded doors. The roof is thatched, with 3 sloping roof dormers". It was dilapidated and under repair at time of the survey. In 2022, the owners had the listed building status revoked.

These photos show the cottages in the 1950s.



The property was sold by the Great Bradley estate in 1963 as three farm cottages to a Mr H J Game. It clearly took him a long time to convert the building because in 1972 the Parish Council wrote to the district council saying "Despite the fact that a certain amount of work has been done [on the cottages] they remain unfinished. The general appearance has caused us some concern. They look dilapidated and untidy and detracts from the appearance of the village. We could not possibly win the Best Kept Village Competition. I would be grateful if you tell me of any 'pressure' - planning or otherwise that could be brought to bear on Mr Game". Plus ça change!

The cottages were converted into a single two-storey dwelling and the roof altered and raised to provide headroom for 1st floor rooms. Two external doors were removed and the building externally rendered between the timber framed walls which sit on a plinth. The roof was re-thatched. The first-floor walls to the rear of the property are all modern additions and part of the original cottage.



John Winch was the last occupant of the cottage along with his big shaggy dog Sam, captured here in August 2010 on Google Streetview. John wrote this note for the Bugle late in November 2014. "I have lived in Great Bradley for more than 27 years and have enjoyed every season and walking with my dogs during those years in our magnificent countryside, even in the torrential rain. I have been diagnosed with cancer, spreading to my bones, so I do not know how long or short a time I have left. I am going to assume it will be many years and to enjoy myself to the last.

Please, no sympathy or expressions of regret and let life carry on as if all is well. I am aware I have crossed words with some people, usually concerning Sam. What has been said cannot be unsaid. I intend to enjoy the quiz nights and as many Xmas' as possible. Where there is life there is always hope - John". Sadly, John and Sam both died within a week of writing this note.

Yew Tree Cottage was put up for sale in 2015 and bought by the Great Bradley Estate. A plan to develop the land for 10 houses was put forward in 2017 and then dropped. The proposal would have provided new homes, but some people objected to the extent of the development took it outside the permitted building zone for the village.



The land and building was put up for sale again in 2018/19, when its sold for £190,000. Since then the owners have tried to sell the land for a rebuild as yet without success. In 2024, the price being asked was £425,000. Initially the plans showed that the thatched cottage style of the building would be maintained, with a new dining area at the rear, but now the suggested development of the building will do-away with the cottage style completely.



Over time the building has sadly fallen into disrepair, and ultimately will likely disappear in its current form meaning a part of the village's history will disappear with it. Our village archive however, will continue to provide historical records and images preserving the cottage in our memories.

For more information go to the village archive at <http://tinyurl.com/yewtreecott>

'OLD BLACK AND WHITE' OR IS IT 'STRIPEY' from Walter Lane

There is one wild animal, which, because of its chosen habitat, is far rarer in East Anglia than it is in other parts of England such as the South and West. Damp large areas of marshland like the 'Fens' are not for him (or her), they much prefer woodlands be they deciduous, coniferous or mixed and if the said woodlands are next to open arable land so much the better. I'm of course referring to (***Meles meles***) the European Badger. However, here in Great Bradley, we have much better drainage than most of East Anglia, sitting as we do at the top of the Stour Valley on the edge of the 'East Anglian Chalk National Character Area'. The area around Great Bradley is indeed well blessed with wooded rolling hills much suited to the Badger. Having said that, I have to say it must be many a year since I've actually seen a live one. Sadly, the sight of dead individuals on the side of the road, unfortunate victims of night time collisions with motor cars is far more common. However dog walkers I have met on my travels tell me that, (if you are lucky) they are around and may be seen in the summer months at dusk along the edges of our many woods.



The Badger is of course mainly nocturnal and that is why we rarely see them. They have a highly developed social lifestyle and when not active they usually lie up in an extensive system of underground tunnels and nesting chambers known as a sett. The Badger social group (or clan) may vary in size with six adults being an average number but social groups as large as twenty or more is not uncommon. They will mark out their territory around the sett and will fiercely defend it if necessary. With their black and white striped long face, plump low set grey body, everybody can recognise a Badger. Badgers belong to a

group of animals known as the Mustelidae or simply Mustelids. This is an extremely diverse family of carnivorous mammals which includes weasels, stoats, otters and martens. This of course marks out the Badger (whose diet by the way is mainly earthworms and insects) as the UK's largest Carnivore. Badgers vary in size but usually they are about 75-100 cm long and weigh in at about 8-9kg in Spring. I say in Spring, because like many animals they will put on an extra 2 or 3kg in Autumn in preparation for Winter. Badgers mate in spring but normally only one female from the social group will breed, giving birth in the safety of the nest to 2 or 3 blind and hairless cubs in February. The cubs don't usually appear above ground until they are about 8 weeks old with weaning usually complete after about 12 weeks. This means by late summer they are well able to feed independently.

Badgers are quite fussy about their living arrangements and will regularly clean out their setts, dragging old bedding out of the entrance and into the sun for airing whilst at the same time permitting the ultraviolet light to kill off any ectoparasites like fleas and lice. If you are lucky this may be a time when you may get a glimpse of 'Old Brock' in the daylight.

Changing tack a little, many years ago, people believed all sorts of strange and bizarre things about badgers. Although such old sayings and stories seem very strange today many still exist and as is quite often the case one or two may even have an element of truth in them.

For instance here is a bit of nonsense from the 18th Century; according to this poem some people thought that badgers were the bringers of bad luck:

Should one hear a Badger call,
And then an Ullot cry,
Make thy peace with God, good soul,
For thou shall shortly die.

So, according to this bit of folklore, if you hear a Badger call (they growl and yelp something like a dog), then hear an "Ullot" (an owl) hoot, you are definitely not long for this world! Not much truth in this one (I hope)

Our not so ancient ancestors also believed Badgers smoked underground in their sets. I like this one and there is a possible explanation for it as.... In very cold weather, when the air is still, you might sometimes see a small plume of steam rising from the ventilation hole of a badger sett. With twenty odd Badgers down there it is quite possible that warm air leaving the sett turns "white" just as our breath does in cold air.

Depending where you go around the country, locals will have a different name for the Badger. You may hear them referred to as a "grey" because they exhibit a generally grey appearance when viewed in poor light. In other areas they may be called for obvious reasons, a "black and white" or even a "stripey". Quite often you will hear people refer to them affectionately as 'Brock' (The Badger) or in Scotland as Brox (or in Celtic broc). People or places that have "Brock or Brox" in their name usually have some old association with Badgers. For instance the Glasgow Rangers football ground is called Ibrox - which means 'Home of the badger'.

Sad to say we cannot close our story without mentioning the conflict that Badgers have with Farmers. It is true to say that a small percentage of Badgers do carry 'Bovine TB', a disease that affects cows and can be spread by farmers as they move cows around the country. Arguments have raged for years about the rights and wrongs of culling Badgers and I have absolutely no intention of getting involved here in that debate, I will leave that to the experts and scientists. At the moment it would appear that road traffic collisions are an even larger threat to our Badger population with an estimated one in five adults meeting their demise in such a way. But there is some good news in that our UK Badger population is stable at about half a million although there may be some decline in areas where culling has taken place.

Well I will leave you here; snow drops are popping their heads up and early daffodils are in bloom and not to mention the catkins on the hazel bushes and so... I guess we can say, Spring at last... is almost here!

Take care!

Walter Lane.

Stowmarket Chorale perform

Sea Pictures by Edward Elgar and Love's Philosophy by Alexander L'Estrange at the John Peel Centre, Stowmarket

Saturday 9th March at 7 pm

The Chorale is delighted to present a programme of song arrangements for mixed chorus and piano: Elgar's Sea Pictures (1899), with Alexander L'Estrange's Three Songs of Love (2008), Lauridsen's Nocturne, Sure on this shining night (2007) and Quartel's All the way home (2018). Reflective and stirring music, portraying the multifaceted strengths and weaknesses of love, and conjuring up the emotional resonances of the sea, from serene still waters, to a mighty ocean storm.

We are also joined by cellist Caio Boyero, for Gjeilo's New York inspired Sidewalks and The Hudson.

Sir Edward Elgar's (1857-1934) Sea Pictures was initially written in 1844 for piano and soprano. However, in 1898 it was transposed to a lower key so that the alto Dame Clare Butt (dressed as a mermaid) could take the lead role in an 1899 performance for the Norwich Festival. The current arrangement for Chorus and Piano was first performed by the Kelvedon Singers in Coggeshall, Essex.

Alexander L'Estrange (b.1974) is one of Britain's most popular living choral composers.

His flagship work, Zimbe! Come sing the songs of Africa!, a 40-minute fusion of African song and jazz, had 150 performances worldwide within its first five years.

Love's Philosophy is a trio of exquisite original songs exploring love and longing, arranged for choir and piano. L'Estrange describes it as exploring the "beauty and simplicity of the English song tradition.

American composer and professor of composition, Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) based his "Sure on this Shining Night" on a poem by James Agee describing the wholeness of the earth and the turning of the seasons. Morten Lauridsen's flowing music captures all of the beauty and wonder of the poem.

Together with "O Magnum Mysterium" this has become one of his most recognized choral works, performed by ensembles the world over.

Sarah Quartel (b. 1984) is a Canadian composer and educator. One of her earliest musical experiences was sitting by her father as he played organ for a church choir and she is enthusiastic about the way that choral singing creates community. Her works are performed by choirs across the world.

"All the Way Home" was inspired by the Radcliffe Ladies' Choir and their motto, "Friendship through singing." The overall tone is one of peace and contentment with a lilting melody and delicate piano playing.



Dullingham Flower Club

From Helen Smith

Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th March 2024

8.00pm

The Taylor Hall, Church Close Dullingham

We hope you will join us for a demonstration by

Crystal Duvall

entitled

'Behind the Shed Door'

£8 to include refreshments.

Everyone is welcome.

Please contact Lesley Bird for further information

01638 507658

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th April 2024



Thurlow WI

From Iris Eley

At the February meeting President Ruth Hopper welcomed members and five guests. Notice was given of this years Fayre which will be held on the 8th of September and that the Stour Group meeting will be hosted by Sturmer. She ran through this year's programme .and then welcomed speaker Katie Lynn, to tell of her work making Wonky Glass.

She had all the item son show; Jewelry,Bowls trinkets and so on and she spoke of travelling the world and doing lots of long walks and climbs and had films to accompany her talk ,then told how she had set up her business.

A complete change in March, two of our members Anne and Denise will bring along their Guinea Pigs and tell of how they manage them and compete in shows.

March 12th Village Hall 7:30pm

Visitors Welcome, no charge

Warm regards

Iris

For more information, email us at thurlowwi@gmail.com.

BURROUGH GREEN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS from David Sanford

Hello again. I hope this edition finds you all well and happy. The weather has been pretty miserable (unless you are a duck) throughout January, but there are clear signs that it is beginning to turn – my car thermometer on the way home last night read 15 degrees – pretty warm for 7.45pm on a mid-February night!

As always, we offer incredible staff to pupil ratios here at Burrough Green and the children really do benefit. The Year 6 children, for example, are in a class of 14 for their English, reading and maths lessons, the EYFS/Year 1 class has a total of 16 students! – I have certainly never worked in a school where children have opportunities like this. It truly is an amazing place to be a child.

Academisation

Last issue, I told you all about the impending academisation of our school. We will be joining ACT – and the expected transfer date is April 1st 2024.

At the end of January, the CEO of the academy came to Burrough Green to answer questions from parents. Below is a transcript of the questions and answers from the session. I have reproduced the minutes from the meeting for you all.

Academisation - Questions answered

On the 24th January, Alison Anderson – CEO of ACT, the academy we are joining – answered questions from parents regarding academisation. The minutes of this meeting have now been ratified and I can share them with you all – they will also be appearing in various village publications in the future.

These minutes come straight from our governing body

Will the Trust have more influence over the curriculum?

As an Academy, the school won't have to follow the National Curriculum but will have to prove that its curriculum is achieving what it is intending. The National Curriculum doesn't actually give much information or direction so lots of schools are designing their own curriculums already, as long as they meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. Lots of MATs will apply the same curriculum to all of their schools or for particular subjects but ACT doesn't do that. The Trust Board will review the strengths and advise if necessary but as long as it is achieving what it is supposed to, the curriculum will remain in place.

Will the PTA funding get pooled by the Trust?

No, the PTA will keep all of the funds raised for the school. It will have to be accounted for and audited but doesn't go to the Trust for pooling.

How does the Trust funding work?

The Trust will eventually "top slice" the funding – this is where some of the school's funding is given to the Trust to pay for centralised services. "Back office" functions such as HR, Finance, IT, Estate Management and Liability etc. will be centralised at the Trust so the headteacher can focus on the educational purpose of the school.

Are Academies proven to perform better than non-academy schools?

Performance comes down to how a school is led and the support it gets from the Local Authority, which is dependent on their capacity. A Trust has to report on all of the schools within the MAT and oversee the running of them all, which means they must know each school very well. Being part of a Trust will give the school more support and a team to rally round it through challenges. It's more challenging relying on the Local Authority as their resources are very stretched.

This is an opportunity to share resources, strengths and ideas amongst a family of schools, and to shape an emerging Trust.

Will different teachers be teaching or moving classes?

Within the Trust, some teachers are centrally employed but at Burrough Green teachers can work at the school they have chosen, which is Burrough Green. There will be more opportunities for enrichment across the schools as teachers will be able to work together. For example, whole year groups across the schools could get together, or schools within the Trust can compete against each other in sports etc.

Often small schools don't have enough children to get a team together, but this can be different when working across a group of schools. It won't always be the small schools which have to travel out. Burrough Green has fantastic facilities and it is a great opportunity to share this with other schools.

Day to day, the children won't notice the change as the teaching will be the same, but there will be greater enrichment opportunities for them in the classroom, e.g. using technology to connect the children to those at other schools or learning about the geography and environment of the other schools.

Will the school have an input into its future?

There is a scheme of delegation which determines responsibility and authority within the MAT. Members of the Trust have ultimate responsibility, and then the Board of Trustees are like the governing body but at Trust level and have rules they have to follow that are set by the government. Day to day oversight is delegated to the Local Governing Body and there will be regular meetings between the Trust and LGB to review how the school is doing.

Headteachers across schools will also meet and there is a mechanism to give feedback to the Trust Board to shape what is happening.

Is there a way a school can extract itself from a MAT?

It is very difficult for this to happen. As a Church school, the final decision is with the Bishop, and currently their opinion is for Church schools to join a MAT. There are lots of legal intricacies around it as the MAT is a legal entity. The only other circumstance would be if the Trust is failing the school and the DfE steps in and removes the school. The school would then be placed in a different MAT. Being forced to follow set schemes can also happen to any school, not just those in an MAT.

The decision to join ACT was made with the reasoning that Burrough Green could maintain its identity and still have a voice, which is what will continue. There will always be change in the future but joining ACT gives us many opportunities. A lot of work has gone into considering options and making the decision, plus the further work around the legalities of the buildings and estates, but throughout the process, Governors have maintained that the school will be able to keep its identity.

Will the Ethos and Values of the school stay the same?

Yes. If the ethos and values of the school align with those of the ACT, they will not change. They were developed by the school and its community who know it best and so it's really important that this continues. Governors are incredibly passionate about the school and its identity. Academisation was turned down several years ago because it wasn't the right fit but now, ACT gives the school the best chance of support and of maintaining its identity.

There were no further questions.

If anybody out there has any more questions, please send them into me and I will endeavour to answer them for you – either immediately or I will find out.

Larks and Owls

More and more parents are continuing to use our new wrap-around-care service. There are places available for all days and we always take late bookings as we appreciate that life throws us a curveball now and again. This half term, Larks and Owls have been entering the children into a range of writing competitions. The children are loving it and have produced some incredible work. Here is a poem written by Lucy Godden (Year 6) that will be entered into a competition:

What Would Peace Look Like?

Would it look like a warm summer's day?

Would everyone be my friend?

Would everyone be on trend?

Would boats only be used for pleasure, not escape?

Would everyone care?

Would the world just be fair?

Would climate change be over?

Would the police only give directions?

And have no need for corrections.

Would every war finally cease?

Would age be respected?

Would disabilities be accepted?

Would we all call time on crime?

Would world hunger end?

Would relationships mend?

Would I watch the news without sadness?

Would it be a world without madness?

Lucy – Year 6

I love this poem. I have read it so many times. Congratulations Lucy, and I hope it does well in the competition.

To remind you all, morning sessions (Larks) run from 7.30am – 8.45am and evening sessions (Owls) run from 3.30pm to 6pm (even on a Friday, as this is a day many schools will offer a reduced service) – this is much later than local schools offer and has been a real game-changer for working parents. The service is now open to rising 5s – those children in the final year of playgroup or nursery before ‘proper school’ starts – I’m sure the current customers of Burrough Green Playgroup will be pleased to hear this!

BMX

On Monday 12th February we had an inspirational visitor - Mike Mullen – 2 times world BMX champion and multiple X Games gold medallist (the X Games is like the Olympics, but for extreme sports!). He spent an hour with each KS2 group and he taught them how to ride a BMX as well as few tricks and jumps.

The children I asked said that they loved doing it and that it was so much fun. As you will know from last week’s newsletter, BMX is now a certified Olympic sport and the children now have another reason to engage with this summer’s spectacular (the second being Jordan Catchpole in the Paralympics).

Mike completed his visit by leading a whole school assembly, where he talked quite inspirationally about ‘Flearning’ – the idea of having to fail to learn. He completed the assembly, by doing yet more tricks in the hall, culminating in a jump over myself and Mrs Chubb – of course the children loved this and I can confirm that no teachers were harmed in the process!

All of this was organised by Mrs Moxom and the whole school would like to thank her for her efforts. She has organised so many things for the children this year – Olympians, pop bands and now BMX. Thank you.

Website

Our new website is now up and running. Our whole team has been working very hard on this and we are proud of it. Please log on to read our weekly newsletter which will appear on here – I read the entire set the other day and they tell an amazing story of the year so far at Burrough Green. As ever, if there is anything not covered or if you have any questions please contact the school office and help will be provided.

Maths

On Thursday 8th February, parents from KS1 and Reception came into school to learn about all things maths. Under the excellent leadership of Angela Harris, the parents learnt much about how mathematics is taught and how best to help their children at home. The programme says the following:

‘Mastering Number is a programme introduced by the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics). The programme secures firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. The aim over time is that children will leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number. Attention will be given to key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception classes, and progression through KS1 to support success in the future.’

The event was really well attended with over 20 adults showing willing. An incredible adult turnout. The session in the hall was followed by parents experiencing a maths lesson with their children.

Weekly tasks will go home to embed and establish these methods. There is a 'home diary' to be completed and returned to school so that a new pack can then be sent out.

Safeguarding/Well-Being - Anxiety in Children

Everybody (including children) gets anxious - some children experience this feeling more than others and children's triggers are all different. Feelings that they experience can include: feeling tense, nervous or unable to relax. They may have a sense of dread over certain situations or simply fearing that the worst is going to happen. Left untreated, or not acknowledged, any type of anxiety can make it difficult for children to get schoolwork or homework done. It can certainly affect relationships with their peers and teachers.

In the worst cases, students with anxiety disorders miss a lot of school days - or they may avoid school altogether. Currently **our website** carries a 'children's mental health' tab. It has some basic information about anxiety and worry on it, as well as some (3) activities to try. The NHS website also has excellent information on children's anxiety.

Events

The school is holding a bingo evening (in the school hall) on Friday 22nd March. All welcome - please contact the school office for details.

We have space in all classes. If you are interested in securing a place for your child in any year group, please contact the school and an appointment will be made for you to visit the school, have 'the tour' to see the school at work and see our wonderful facilities (including a swimming pool!).

I am excited by the future of Burrough Green and it is privilege to be able to tell you about our exploits every month.

Take care everyone.

David Sandford

Headteacher



Burrough Green CofE Primary School
Working Together To Discover And Learn

NEWS FROM THE ELLESMERE CENTRE

New to the Ellesmere on Saturdays and Sundays

Fluffy Paws Pet Grooming

Please call Sugi on

07707538861

Seniors Table Tennis

Thursdays 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Fridays 1-3pm

All Welcome

Walking for Health

Every Thursday (weather permitting)

Meet at the Ellesmere at 2pm

Back for a hot drink and a biscuit afterwards

Please contact the office for more details

Chair Yoga

Friday Mornings from 10-10:45am

Contact Nicole 07508 025941

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter@CentreEllesmere

Email: office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk alternatively call us on 01638 508212

ADVERTISING

Note that the advertisements in this newsletter are accepted in good faith, please note that they are not personal recommendations from the editorial team. Details are available online too <https://greatbradley.weebly.com/local-business.html>.

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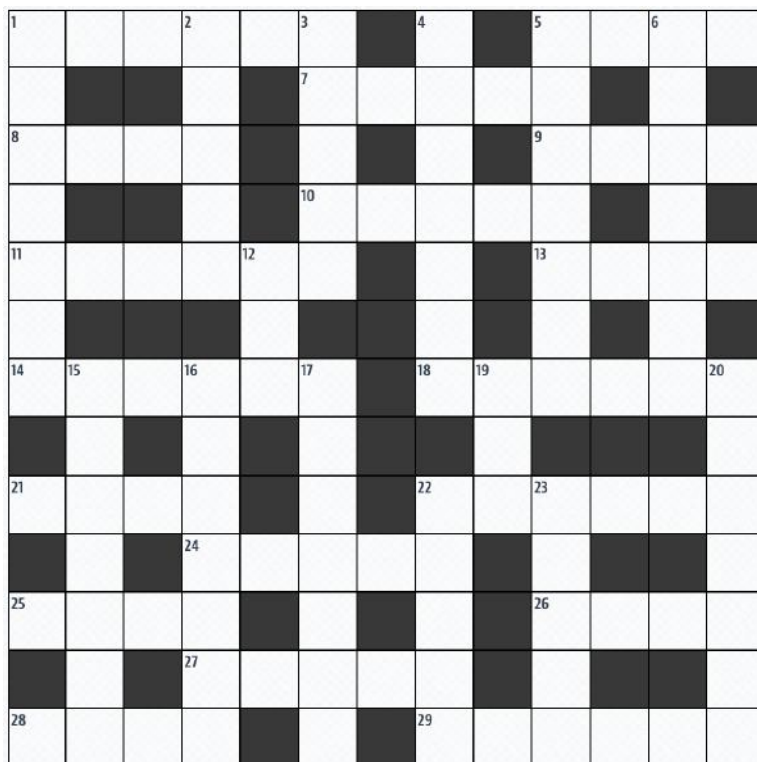
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Burrough Green
Newmarket

Email: paulnicholson418@gmail.com

TIME FOR A BREAK AND A BIT OF FUN

The 'just for fun' feature really is for fun, no competitions, no prizes, sorry.



Across

1. Being
5. Engrave
7. Fire fragment
8. Quiet interim
9. Every single
10. Fast jet effect, ... boom
11. Be sorry for
13. Narrow
14. Predatory birds
18. Lightly pushed
21. Take rudely
22. Mooring weight
24. Mad (dog)
25. Zone
26. Perfumed powder
27. Crop up again
28. Swing to & fro
29. Hospital workers

Down

1. Make bigger
2. Lazy person
3. Bread-raising agent
4. Leave behind
5. Constructed
6. Addictive narcotic
12. Female sheep
15. In-flight attendants
16. Collection of books
17. Relapse in recovery
19. Grecian pot
20. Guides
22. Beautify
23. More appealing

T Q T Z R C J R L D M X
 A A K M L E U P C R L Q
 B P K H F A F U R E I D
 C I P E L P D L I C N G
 G A E E A R Z E S C D A
 A N R I T W P H P O I R
 N Q F T K I A E S S C B
 C A N D Y O Z Y T M A A
 R B P X V B O E B R T G
 J I B P K E O C R I O E
 I N G V Y A S O Q E R L
 Q F V M D R Z T T P U F

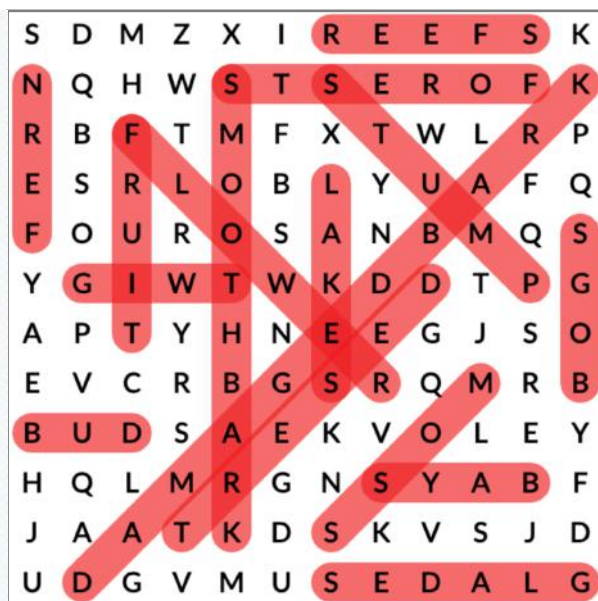
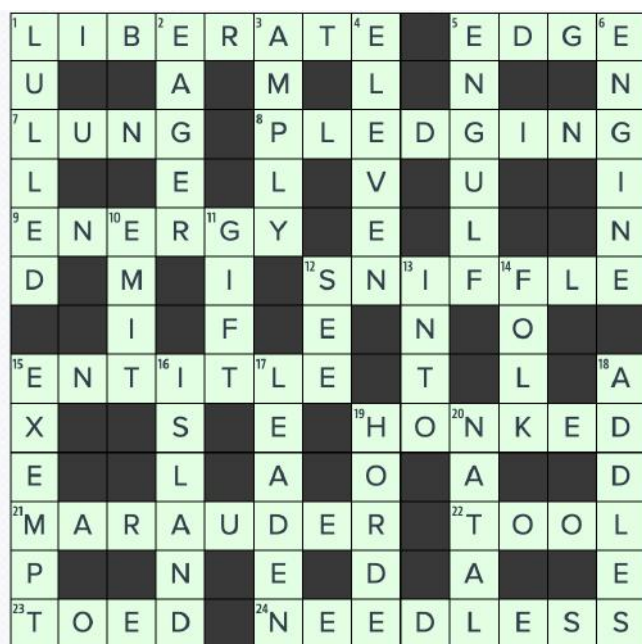
APPETIZER

BOOT
 CANDY
 CART
 COOKIE
 COT
 CRISPS
 FLAT
 GARBAGE
 GAS PEDAL
 INDICATOR
 NAPPY
 PETROL
 SOCCER
 TAKEAWAY
 VEST

TIME FOR A BREAK AND A BIT OF FUN

The 'just for fun' feature really is for fun, no competitions, no prizes, sorry.

Answers to last month's crossword and word search.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR PIMP MY FISH

The Pimp my Fish van will be at the Village Hall at 5:30pm on the following dates. Note that you can order online: <https://order.pimp-my-fish.co.uk/>



Month	Day	Date
February	Thursday	8th
March	Thursday	14th
April	Thursday	11th
May	Thursday	9th
June	Thursday	13th
July	Thursday	11th
August	Thursday	8th
September	Thursday	12th
October	Thursday	10th
November	Thursday	14th
December	Thursday	12th

FUN FACTS ABOUT MARCH

- "March" is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.
 - Did you know that March is National Umbrella Month?
 - **March 3rd** is designated: What If Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs Day
 - The March equinox occurs on **Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 03:06**. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is known as the vernal, or spring, equinox and marks the start of the spring season. In the Southern Hemisphere, autumn begins. At this time, the Sun crosses the celestial equator on its way north. Also, on this day, the Sun rises exactly in the east and sets exactly in the west—a good thing to know if you get lost in the woods.
 - You may have heard the weather proverb, "If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb," which means that if the month starts off stormy, it will end with mild weather. There is, however, a different interpretation: The constellation Leo, the lion, rises in the east at the beginning of March. Thus, the month "comes in like a lion," while Aries, the ram, sets in the west at the end of the month, and hence, the month "will go out like a lamb."
-

QUIZ - Just for fun, answers next month

1. Who wrote the book Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car?
2. In which part of your body would you find the cruciate ligament?
3. What is the name of the main antagonist in the Shakespeare play Othello?
4. When was the movie the Titanic released?
5. What element is denoted by the chemical symbol Sn in the periodic table?
6. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Catherine?
7. What was the most popular girl's name in the UK in 2021?
8. What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate scandal, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman?
9. Which comedian was the second permanent host of Never Mind the Buzzcocks after Mark Lamarr?
10. What is the capital of Finland?
11. Which popular video game franchise has released games with the subtitles World At War and Black Ops?
12. In what US state is the city Nashville?
13. Which rock band was founded by Trent Reznor in 1988?
14. What is the currency of Denmark?
15. Which Tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?

COLOURING IN

