

Paxton Post



Issue 22

January - February 2021

Your **FREE** Community Magazine
for residents of Great Paxton

THE MAGAZINE FOR GREAT PAXTON





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We need you!!

WE NEED YOU!



This is your magazine, and it needs your contributions.

All contributions to the next issue of the magazine are gratefully received. We particularly welcome:

- News of village events
- Private for sale adverts
- Letters to the Editor
- Anything you feel the village would be interested in.
- Photographs from the village
- Recipe ideas
- Reviews and Opinions

Contributions should be sent to Simon using the details below:

Email: simon@easiprintandcopy.co.uk

Telephone: 01733 602302

Post: Easiprint Ltd, 39 Benedict Square, Werrington Industry, Peterborough, PE4 6GD

Great Advertising Rates

The Paxton Post is delivered to every home in Great Paxton, and advertising is available at competitive rates. Advertising is not only great local exposure for local businesses, but it also helps support this village magazine, which is a real asset to Great Paxton.



The Paxton Post is published every two months.

Our rates are:

Quarter Page Mono - £ 5.00 per issue

Full Page Mono - £15.00 per issue

Half Page Mono - £ 8.00 per issue

Full Page in Colour - £20.00 per issue

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Deadline for articles in the next issue - 19th February 2021

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From the Vicar, Canon Annette Reed

Vicar: Canon Annette Reed

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canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Mt Bob Hacking	Mrs Sarah Gray,
1 Mint Lane,	12 Church Lane,
Great Paxton	Great Paxton
01480 219846	01480 214015

Tower Captain

Mrs Mary Parnham

01480 394727

MaryP2707@hotmail.com

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Jacqueline Jackson

jmunro@btinternet.com



For news from all of our four churches in the Paxtons benefice, please go to our website: www.thepaxtonsbefice.org

Our benefice Facebook Page is updated most days with news from our benefice and often carries stories from Great Paxton.

You will find us @ThePaxtonsBenefice.

Please do contact Annette with any enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals.

At the time of writing just before Christmas, Sunday services were still taking place with limited numbers along with the possibility of funerals, baptisms and weddings, though with much reduced numbers. Please do contact Annette if you want to start planning for events for well into 2021

Services in 2021.

As mentioned above, as this edition of Paxton Post goes ahead, the UK is facing further weeks of restrictions and, as yet we don't know how this may affect church services in the new Year.

Due to uncertainty, we have decided to aim to recommence our usual pattern of morning services in February, but if we do start earlier than that, we can announce it on the Great Paxton Community Facebook Page.

The benefice continues online

Since March, our vicar has been producing online You Tube services for every Sunday, and these have been very well received. A big thank you to folk from Great Paxton who have taken part and I hope will do in 2021.

The link to the You Tube video is posted onto the Great Paxton Facebook Page every Sunday. Thanks as well to Annette's son Mike who produces the videos every week with a deft touch and technical skills which his mother would not be able to master!

We have also been producing a weekly benefice newsletter since March which goes out to an email list of c 120 people across our benefice. This will continue into the new Year and If you would like to receive the newsletter, please do let me know at: canonannettreed@gmail.com

And a word about funding.....

As we move into 2021, there is just time to thank everyone for their financial contributions to Holy Trinity Church.

So many charities and businesses have struggled in 2020 due to Covid and in the middle of 2020 it looked like we would be a long way off raising our annual costs. But due to some amazingly generous donations, the village getting behind the 100 Club and also sponsoring Graham Bevan's September Cycle Ride, our shortfall has been much reduced. Graham, by the way, raised £1,010 for Great Paxton Church by peddling hard on September 12th!

We didn't quite make our full ministry share (the amount we pay towards having a full-time vicar looking after our four churches) but we were a lot nearer to it than we thought we would be. We hope in 2021 to be able to catch up and pay our way.

If anyone would like to start the New Year by taking out a monthly donation, do contact Jacqueline Jackson, details under who is who on the church page.

The wet and soggy plaster has gone!



<The south porch with some bare walls and candles in the window for Christmas.

In November, some very wet plaster was removed from the lower portions of the aisles and nave walls.

We found that maybe back in the 1960's, concrete had been applied to the walls, presumably to keep damp out. But it meant that the walls over the years trapped damp.

They couldn't breathe and hence the stained damp patches that were very plain to see.

Since the removal, the walls have dried out considerably and some of us quite like the look of the bare walls.

In 2021 we will decide what we do next – but in the meantime, the drying our process continues.

And the roof has stopped leaking!

Thanks to a grant from the Jack Patston Trust, work was completed in November to fix downpipes, lead flashing and masonry on the north aisle. That roof now seems watertight. The contractors also repaired some masonry on the tower roof.

Thoughts for a New Year.

The new year, like a new-born child,
is placed in our hands as the old year passes away.

The days and weeks to come are God's gift.

They carry God's blessing.

As a blessing we welcome them.

Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remains
with us

and all that was harmful be left behind.

Your feedback helps NHS and care teams support us all

If you, a family member or friend have used a local health or care service, Healthwatch Cambridgeshire wants to hear about your experience - good or bad.

We're the local health and care champions. And by sharing your feedback with us, local NHS and care services can find out what's working well or needs improving.

Please support our new campaign 'Because We All Care' by giving your feedback about the services you are using.

It's being run with the Care Quality Commission and follows on from our big Covid-19 survey across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough earlier this year.

It only takes a few minutes to share your views with us. And your feedback helps services to continue providing the right support to local people.

Share your views online at

www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views

You can also call Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285, text your views on 0752 0635 176 or email enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk

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Village Community Events

(events and activities arranged for you by Holy Trinity PCC, Great Paxton local History Society and The Crafty Belles)

As we round up the year, a year that has restricted us in so many ways, let's have a look at some positives.

1000 year birthday of our village and Holy Trinity Minster Church. Whilst the MILLENNIUMFEST Anglo Saxon weekend could not go ahead on the planned date, we certainly didn't let Covid-19 stop us from our fundraising efforts....

- In January, an amazing Wassail evening was held at the farmhouse in Toseland *(where there is a wonderful orchard of old varieties which was made into gorgeous preserves by one of our team and her helpers)* and it was truly magnificent in its delivery. We had authentic dishes from various centuries and a barn was decorated in a Tudor fashion. Lots of guests wore period costume and after dinner we had the tradition of wassailing the orchard led by the Wassail Master where we offered gifts for continuity of fruits.



- We wanted to ensure we kept up sales of the 1000+ jars of jams, jellies and chutneys and therefore as we started to feel a little safer after lockdown, a plan was devised to create delicious picnics for the community to enjoy and link in with, firstly, Solstice as an event to watch via live link from Stonehenge. All created in a covid free environment it was so popular and the Herculean task to deliver started. We sold so many it was wonderful but unfortunately it was a cloudy morning for seeing the Solstice... ah well at least we had our picnics to enjoy. We then repeated this for Summer bank holiday for families to enjoy before back to school for the children after so long away.... again it was a runaway success. Then we decided that the final picnic was to fully benefit our Church in its 1000th year and the villagers didn't let it down with even more sales.



- In June on the weekend we should have been holding our celebrations, we hung up the village heritage bunting and a wonderful sign was made by one of the team to highlight the birthday of our Church and village.



- During the autumn we have been trying to get our sales of preserves to 1000 jars and at the time of writing this on the 19th December, we need to just sell 27 more before the end of 2020.... I think we will do it. We must send a big thank you to everybody who has bought picnics and preserves to help us pay for, what will be a fantastic weekend event, when it is safe for us to do so and it can be fully inclusive for all generations.

Remembrance Sunday

Whilst we couldn't do a service in the way we normally do, we managed to have an open air one in the churchyard, socially distanced. We had a good crowd and readings by Jeff Hill of Manor Farm and Air Commodore Neil Connell with Flanders Fields read by Diane James. We were lucky to have our, now regular, bugler Peter Halliday from Bedford Brass to play The Last Post and Reveille for us.

Looking into the new year.....

Possible Dual commemoration

A dual commemoration is to be held on Saturday 20th November, 2021, if regulations allow, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the village's war memorial and to unveil a blue plaque to honour Philip Cardell.

Starting at 11.00 a small service will be held outside in the churchyard, near to the war memorial. The event will be attended by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and the Rural Dean, just as happened at the unveiling in February 1921. There will also be readings as at the original unveiling. A relative of the two Cardell family members on the memorial will be invited and other relatives of some of the fallen soldiers who live in Canada, or are not well enough to travel, will also be following events. Someone from the History Society will be reading out the names on the memorial with stories about them. To complete the re-creation, Peter from Bedford Brass will play the Last Post, as he has recently at the Remembrance Day services.

Immediately after this service people will be invited to go through to Manor Farm, adjoining the church, to attend the unveiling of the village's first blue plaque. This is to commemorate the Battle of Britain pilot Philip Cardell who was born and grew up in the farmhouse. He was killed in action over the English Channel 80 years ago. His sundial in the churchyard was recently improved by Jeff Hill, the current owner, and his builder. The event is being arranged by David Duker who runs the Tally-Ho project in St Neots which uses the story of the Battle of Britain pilots in schools to promote teamwork, courage and leadership. He will be inviting an author who has written many books on the Battle and a military historian who is one of the country's experts on World War 2.

Due to printing deadlines this had to be written before Christmas and the regulations for Covid-19 may have changed by the time this is published. Please look out for further news prior to the date.

The Crafty Belles



The Great Paxton Tapestry Project: Tapestries continue even though many of the 'Belles' have been busy on the preserves project. Whilst it has been difficult to obtain our wool supplies over the last few months and our designer has had her hands pretty full, we would love to invite more stitchers to join us during 2021.... the more the merrier!

We remain so grateful to personal and club sponsors who have enabled us to fund this project and The National Lottery, Community Fund which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Other Crafting continues..... Maggie Horne is still leading on the creation of a of our 'HERITAGE' BUNTING and it's not too late if you wish to add pennants to it. We would love more to get as much produced to make a BIG impact in the village for our events.

Craft nights are mainly held on the **4th Monday** of the month at the Bell from 7pm until 9pm, do come along if you can when we are able to resume. If you would like to join the group, please contact me, Diane James at diane.james42@outlook.com to join our whatsapp group and keep abreast of our activities. Other demos coming up are Ribbon embroidery and paper craft... lots of new skills to learn to run alongside the main projects. New ideas for fabric Christmas pinecones using pins and minimal stitching.

NEEDED: help during summer to stitch poppies back onto the net used for Remembrance. It's suffered a little in the wind over the last 3 years. Be nice to do in the pub garden one afternoon when it's warm over a drink!

CONTACT: Diane James - diane.james42@outlook.com for further information.

Are you new to the village?



If you're new to the village then a very big **WELCOME**. We hope you are happy in your new home and enjoy being part of the Great Paxton Community.

Your Community Shop first opened its doors in November 2017 – and is now very much a part of the village. Situated in the pub car park – we liken ourselves to a big green tardis – there is much more inside than you would think!

We stock a large variety of things so please call in and see us – whether it is for:

-  The all important ingredient that you have run out of
-  That little something that has taken your fancy, chocolate or wine being the favourites
-  The last minute greetings card and gift
-  Information on our full notice board
-  Volunteering – it's a great way to meet new people in your community

The aim of a community shop is to serve its community – whether you are new to the village or have lived here for many years you will find a warm welcome and a friendly smile when you pop in.

Please support your village community shop – we look forward to seeing you.



www.greatpaxtoncommunityshop.co.uk

or 01480 218 614



Chairman's update

By the time you read this article it'll be "Happy New Year" but, at the time of writing, the Great Paxton Shop is in the final run up to Christmas. Our seasonal fayre is selling well, the new committee is finding its feet and plans are being made for 2021.

2020 was quite a year in all of our lives and the Great Paxton Shop was no exception. Covid lockdown in March changed everything and expectations for the year were quickly revised. Our elderly and vulnerable volunteers were not able to work in Lockdown 1. Limited opening hours and home deliveries became the order of the day as spring turned to summer and we all adjusted to the new normal. Despite increased custom while we were open, the limited hours had a negative impact on our takings and it was a great relief when restrictions eased in early summer. Regular opening hours became 9am – 5pm and some level of normality returned during the summer months.

Great Paxton Shop is a Community Benefit Society run by a Management Committee and staffed mainly by volunteers. As summer turned to autumn, three founding members of the Management Committee decided to stand down after five years of exceptional effort to bring the shop into being. While Roger, Jude and Les started their well earned rest, five new committee members were elected onto the Management Committee at the Annual Members' Meeting in September and a new era in the life of Great Paxton Shop was born.

It's been a steep learning curve for the new committee over the first three months with a mix of naive optimism quickly being replaced with a healthy dose of realism. Long standing committee members Jackie, Amy and Jill continue to provide valuable advice to the new members of the team and stability has been maintained by our two paid members of staff; Michelle our manager and Milly who provides Saturday cover. Peter, Jo, Kiri, Sarah and I may not yet have fully understood what we've taken on!

In progress so far; we've said thank you and good bye to Amanda, our volunteer accountant, who has also departed the team to focus on family commitments and employed a new accountant to help guide us through the coming months. A sustainable supply of newspapers has been secured and opening hours have been extended. We now open from 8am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and 8am – 1pm on Sundays.

You may have seen in previous publications from the shop that our sales target is to average £300/day. This broad target would enable us to break even and secure our long term future. On some days in recent weeks we have achieved our target but there aren't yet enough of those days. The aim of the Management Committee for 2021 is therefore simple – at least to say. We aim to increase takings to our breakeven level.

To achieve our target we'll be reviewing our stock holding, finding ways to optimise our margins and reducing our waste to the minimum. We'll be widening our advertising reach, looking for innovative ways to increase footfall in the shop and extending our opening hours later into the evening as soon as our volunteer team is at full strength again.

The shop exists as a village amenity and is an important part of our community. It provides a service to you all and it needs to be relevant to your lives. If we're not providing the service you expect, we'd like to know. If we're not holding the stock you'd like to buy, we need to know. We're never going to beat the big supermarkets on price but you don't have to drive to visit us. We stock local produce to help sustain the local economy and we aim to always hold the essentials (and the occasional treat) in stock. Please do let us know if we could serve you better.

As well as providing a service to the community, we offer the opportunity to put something back into the life of your village. Our volunteers currently cover 28 hours of shop opening time each week and while they can't claim to put the "Great" in Great Paxton – that position has already been taken – they do put the "Community" in Shop. If you'd like to put a little back into the community we'd like to hear from you. As few as one or two hours a week of your time could make a big difference to the shop and the village.

So, this New Year note ends with two appeals...

- Please let us know how we could serve you better
- Please, please consider supporting the Great Paxton community by becoming a volunteer

You can contact the shop via our website, www.greatpaxtoncommunityshop.co.uk/contact, or call in to speak to us. We'd love to see you.

Thank you for your custom during 2020 and best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2021 from all of the team at Great Paxton Community Village Shop.

Andy Wylde
Chairman of the Management Committee

**OPENING HOURS: Monday – Saturday 8am – 5pm
Sunday 8am – 1pm**

Beat the January blues



Coffee & Pastry

AT THE SHOP

On Saturday mornings join us for a coffee and pastry (croissant, pain au chocolat or Danish pastry) at your local community shop

Only £2.50 for a freshly made pastry and delicious 'Arabica single origin organic coffee'.

You can even phone ahead and pre order!



Our coffee pods and cup lids are 'home compostable'.

Our coffee cups are recyclable too.

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Saturday 8am – 5pm
Sunday 8am – 1pm

The Bell in Paxton

For The Bell it has been a difficult few months with changing rules and the ongoing pandemic. However, we have not let it beat us and we have still been doing our take away's after choosing not to open under tier 2.

I am also doing something I have not done before, cooking on Xmas Day as a take away service!!

This will not become the norm as I want the pub open next year and it full of drinkers!!

We hosted our very own first light switch on the 5th December and my word even in these times it was amazing!! We had stalls all over the village, raising over £2000 between them. We had an amazing firework display which was sponsored by Josh Howard of Pipeline Plumbing Ltd from Gt Paxton and I sold alcohol and soft drinks from the boot of my car!!!

I am pleased to say this will now be an annual event and will take place Saturday 4th December 2021, hopefully in better conditions and will be the 1st Sat in December every year from then.

I am really proud to be the landlady of this village pub in what has been a difficult year, the village has come together and we should all be proud.

Please keep supporting us, please keep safe.

I wish all of our customers a very Happy 2021, I will be opening my doors as soon as it is safe to do so.

Happy Xmas

Rach and all the Bell team and Belle the yappy dog!!

A review of the strangest year many of us will have known must form part of the new history of this ancient village. Instead of the wonderful year of celebrations planned for the Millennium of Great Paxton village and church we spent it in varying degrees of lockdown. We need to thank many villagers who have created all kinds of morale-boosting activities (I can think of bread baking, fairy door trails, themed food nights, the grand Christmas light-up and market, carol singing, mass clapping and that's just a few). We've said farewell to a few residents who have left the village in various ways, but we also welcome several new families and hope to meet them properly when social life returns. If anyone would like to join our friendly group see the contacts at the end.

We met three times in The Bell in 2020 and then were forced to abandon any social gatherings and events by the Covid-19 pandemic. Who would have imagined that we would still be socially distancing and restricted at the beginning of 2021. However there is the development and distribution of vaccines which will hopefully allow us our freedom to meet again.

In the meantime the History Society exists in the virtual land of email, as well as in all kinds of research being done by individuals. Major projects are delayed but not abandoned nor forgotten and will happen.

Lockdown Portraits

Pictures of villagers during lockdown were taken by Paul Ward and other photographers and were to be shown in church as part of an event. All the different restrictions have delayed this until later. It would be nice to intersperse the pictures with your reflections about the last year. This will be an important part of our village history for future historians. We looked at the Parish Council Minutes for 1914-18 and there was no mention of the war. We have no knowledge of what life was like in Great Paxton then except for the childhood memories of two former residents. Let's leave a proper record for the future of what we sincerely hope will be a once only event. There may well be more pandemics but we can only hope lessons have been learnt.

See the Great Paxton 1000 website for more information about the Great Paxton Lockdown Archive. <https://greatpaxton1000.co.uk/events/lockdown-archive.php>

Covid-19 Lockdown - The Great Paxton perspective.

- ❖ What has it been like to have our village shut down overnight? Our pub? Our mobile library? Our church? Our school? Our groups?
- ❖ Have other avenues for social interaction opened up?
- ❖ Have our gardens benefited or suffered?
- ❖ Is your home spick and span? Repainted?
- ❖ How much stuff have you thrown out in the great spring clean? Have you mended something you were going to do one day?
- ❖ What have you made? Have you learnt a new skill? Or tried again something you once knew how to do?
- ❖ How has the lack of trains and traffic affected what you hear. Can you recognize the bird songs you can now hear?
- ❖ How easy has it been to explain Zoom or WhatsApp to friends and relatives? Have you learnt how to use new technology?
- ❖ How did you manage without toilet rolls/flour/pasta? What else have you missed from the shops?

- ❖ How good have our partners become at hairdressing, shopping on their own, working to a list?
- ❖ How good did we get in home schooling, or mentoring those doing the home schooling? What's school like now? University?
- ❖ How much did we miss the pub, the school, the church...
- ❖ Have we discovered new walks and places to visit on our own doorstep?
- ❖ How has your work changed? Your journey? Your life? Where is your home office?
- ❖ How do you keep fit. Remember we were allowed just one hour a day to go outside to exercise in the beginning.
- ❖ Did you get a holiday? How was it different from what you planned?
- ❖ Have you joined in with any the various activities, events and themes created by The Bell, The Brownies and others in the village for our amusement and mental wellbeing?
- ❖ Was your house lit like a Christmas Tree for the 1st Great Paxton Light Switch-on?

And so on – think about what you have done and felt like.

Will you write a letter to the future occupants of the house you are living in now. Remember how we feel reading first hand experiences of life a hundred years ago? The letters could be submitted in sealed envelopes and added to the village archive. The envelope could have on it the soonest date it can be opened, to be decided by you. This could include photos or drawings, but written on paper and probably in pencil as that seems to last.

We hope some people might wish to do a version to be shared with the village in the Lockdown Exhibition, that is equally good and can also be added to the village archive. **The point is if we don't do this soon we will forget.**

Reports of our groups/activities - there is still plenty going on.

Lancaster memorial

See report elsewhere from Graham James.

A new wreath was laid on the white cross in Dovecote Lane on Christmas Eve

The Archives

In the process of gathering archives we have seen a copy of a text held by Lincoln Cathedral. We think the short notes at the bottom of each page in English are only a précis of the main Latin text but they offer hints of who owned Great Paxton during Norman times. The trouble is the more we find out the more questions are raised.

Paxton Farm

After many years of 'looking' but not 'seeing' we notice that the sign at the end of the farm lane on the north side of our village (towards the Offords) is named 'Paxton Farm'. We haven't found it yet in any record. There are some tantalising dots on a map of the 1960s. Does anyone know anything about 'Paxton Farm'? Is the building still there part of an old farmyard complex?. Was it relocated when the airfield was created (we think old Cotton Farm was moved towards the north off the airfield site.) The old black barn (burnt down) was part way up the track. Is it just 'a name of convenience' for the farmer to distinguish it from Offords Farm? If you know anything please let us know.



Website <https://greatpaxtonhistory.weebly.com/>

Please do visit the website. There are lots of pictures from many sources. If anyone has some more pictures of people and places in Great Paxton we would be pleased to see them.

and email greatpaxtonhs@yahoo.com

Facebook **Great Paxton Remembers**

If you join and visit our page you can see entries from people all over the world who are connected still in some ways with Great Paxton.

Also Great Paxton 1000 <https://greatpaxton1000.co.uk>

There is plenty of village history here as well, a shop full of goodies (a safe way to buy unique presents), and projects that you can get involved in

Dates of meetings– 2nd Monday of each month. 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Bell, one day we hope to resume properly. Please tell me at what stage you would be prepared to meet again in reality, rules and regulations allowing? Hope the vaccine programme works.

NEXT MEETING 11th January 2021 by email. If you wish to receive this please let Jacqueline W. know (by email please).

2021

8th February, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November and 13th December

Contact details -

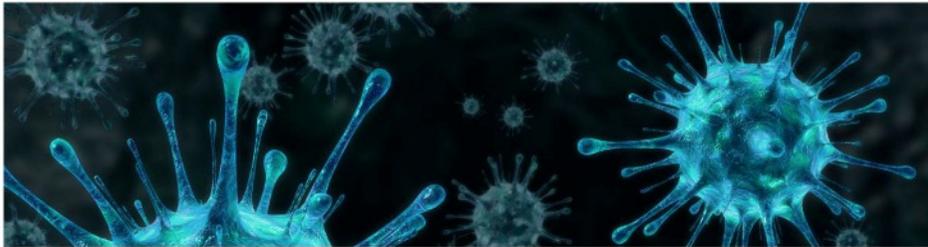
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Diane James, for Great Paxton 1000 - 01480 406938 diane.james42@outlook.com

Graham James, for Lancaster Memorial - 01480 406938 grahamajames1@gmail.com

Paul Ward, for Lockdown Portraits and Great Paxton 1000 website - 07483 815160
danthewhaler@gmail.com

Keep busy, keep well, keep safe
May the New Year be better than the Old Year



Angling Trust

Tier 4 Update



New Covid Guidance for Tier 4 was issued on 19th December 2020, following the Prime Minister's announcement, and the regulations were published the following day. We have taken advice and can provide these formal Angling Trust guidelines for the benefit of anglers, angling clubs and fisheries who now find themselves in a Tier 4 area or who have fisheries in multiple tiers. All national governing bodies are tasked by Sport England with this responsibility.

In drawing up these guidelines we have examined carefully what is specified in the regulations and what remains as government advice. However, we urge all anglers to act within the spirit of the collective battle against this dreadful Coronavirus which is having such a devastating impact on our lives, our economy and our NHS. We are fortunate that even under Tier 4 restrictions angling remains a permitted activity. It is important that as anglers we continue to practice our sport safely and responsibly and maintain social distancing at all times.

The Tier 4 regulations are broadly similar to the 2nd national lockdown in that it is an offence to leave home without a 'reasonable excuse'. Among the 16 categories set out is the provision for 'Exercise and Recreation'. More specifically 'outdoor recreation' in parks, countryside and outdoor public spaces with one other person, not in your household or support bubble. It is under this provision that angling remains a permissible activity and a

‘reasonable excuse’ to be outside of your home. Once again no time limits have been placed on how long you can fish for although you should return home at the end of your trip.

As in the national lockdown, the Government have banned virtually all grass roots sporting competitions in Tier 4 areas. So unfortunately, and regardless of the ability to run angling competitions with no form of ‘gathering’, the new regulations mean that any form of competition including more than two people from different households is prohibited.

The Government have made clear in their guidance, rather than in regulation, that they do not wish to see travel into or out of Tier 4 areas and we encourage anglers to respect this, notwithstanding the obvious anomalies where a County boundary might divide a fishery or separate a club carpark from the water it serves.

The guidance states that you can leave home for the purpose of: “spending time or exercising outdoors. This should be done locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your Tier 4 area to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space)”. We want anglers to continue to enjoy their fishing safely but please do so as locally as possible whatever tier you are living in.

[Full Government Guidance here](#)

Please be aware that the new Tier 4 regulations give a specific power to police constables and police support officers (PCSOs), where they ‘consider that a person is outside the place where they are living’ in contravention of the restriction on movement, to ‘direct that person to return to the place where they are living’. So even if commonsense dictates that visiting your local fishery situated just outside your Tier 4 area is more sensible than driving a further distance in the opposite direction it is possible that a police officer may take a different view. Failure to comply with a direction could make you liable for a fine.

IMPACTS ON ANGLING IN TIER 4

- Outdoor recreation remains a ‘reasonable excuse’ to leave your home so going fishing locally with one other, outside of your household or support bubble, is permissible.
- The regulations are a return to lockdown in Tier 4 meaning no sporting gatherings including fishing matches.

- Travelling to fish should be local 'wherever possible' and entering or leaving a Tier 4 area is actively discouraged within government guidance.
- Tackle shops and other stores can still remain open to operate a click and collect service.
- Outdoor facilities such as fisheries can remain open.
- No time limits have been placed on outdoor recreation so night fishing remains permissible, as previously confirmed in writing by both DEFRA and DCMS.
- Voluntary or paid fishery management work, including bailiffing and maintenance work, remain a legitimate reason to leave home.
- Charter boats can continue to operate in Tier 4 areas but with only one client.
- Angling coaching and guiding can continue to operate in Tier 4 areas but with only one client.
- The police have powers of direction to order people in breach of the regulations: 'to return to the place where they are living'.

The rules for Tiers 1, 2 & 3 remain in place and can be found [here](#).

Details of Covid restrictions and how they affect angling in Wales can be found [here](#).



News from your Parish Council

Your Parish Council continue to take an active role in responding to local and sometimes more regional issues. Residents might be aware of recently published proposals by Luton Airport & National Air Traffic Services to create a holding stack to the west of Huntingdon. The closing date for consultation on these proposals is **5th February 2021**. Holds are used when flight approaches are busy. Knowing that many of our residents had chosen to live in the Parish for its natural, tranquil and beautiful setting and mindful that increased and more regular air traffic would impact adversely on air quality, ambient noise levels and the natural environment, the Parish Council has objected in the strongest terms to the proposals and encourages you to do likewise via the following link which leads to the consultation process, explanatory documents and videos –

https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-luton-airport/ad6_luton_arrivals/consultation/intro/

More locally, the Parish Council continues to consider all Planning Applications submitted for development in the village and ensure that their observations are submitted to the local Planning Authority – the District Council in time as part of the planning process.

The Parish Council welcomed local farmer Robert Lenton to its recent meeting. Mr Lenton described the plans he had to extinguish Public Footpath No 4, divert the route of Public Footpaths 5 and 8 to the field edge and create a new footpath to link Nos 5 and 8 and create a new circular route. These proposals are designed to move current muddy cross field paths to grassed field edges and away from farm buildings to avoid health & safety issues for walkers when moving heavy farm vehicles. Councillors have approved these new arrangements given their positive impact on existing routes and the benefit they offered to walkers in the Parish.

Mindful of the impact of the Corona Virus on their residents and household finances generally, the Parish Council have taken great care over their budget for 2021/22 and have decided to set the precept at £20,000 so that it remains unchanged for a further year.

Several smaller updates, Councillors have

- in line with the Council's Grants Policy, donated £50 to Magpas Air Ambulance given the part they play in responding to emergencies in our community;
- continued to receive updates and offered support where possible to the new Bridge Project. For this reason, the Council has joined the Great Ouse Valley Trust given both the relationship the Parish has with the Ouse Valley and for the benefit of their advice so far;
- given approval for the repair and refurbishment of the Notice Boards as these have deteriorated through wear and tear over recent months.

Similarly, although extremely disappointed at the vandalism that has taken place to the bus shelter recently, the Council is making enquiries as to how to replace the two glass panes that are now missing; and

- taken the opportunity to apply for funding from the District Council towards the provision of some Adult Gym Equipment on Saxon Green and a replacement Children's Trapeze Bar for the play space. No promises but it's a start!

Lastly, some good news to finish the report.....representatives of the Parish Council and Speed Watch have met with a County Council Engineer as a first step towards achieving traffic calming measures in the High Street. A scheme design will be available for the 18th January 2021 Parish Council meeting. Progress at last!

A Happy and Healthy New Year to You All

News from your local District Councillor - Richard West

ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFETY

Although winters may not seem as cold as in our youth, there will still be nights when we need to warm the bed with an electric blanket.

And then we get out the blanket we stored away in the spring, before using it there are certain safety measures that should be taken.

Before using read and follow the manufacturer's instructions, examine the blanket for signs of wear and damage.

WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO

Use the blanket when it is folded.

Use a hot water bottle at the same time

Touch it with wet hands or feet

Insert or use pins or any metal fasteners to hold the blanket in place.

YOUR BLANKET SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH A NEW ONE IF

The fabric is worn or frayed
Scorch marks or discolouration areas are visible on the fabric

Wires are visible or poking through the fabric

There is damage to the flexible wire from the supply plug to the blanket

The Control is making a buzzing sound or is giving off a smell

The Control is damaged or over heating

Its more than 10 years old

The fire service no longer does safety checks on electric blankets

RICHARD WEST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
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Great Paxton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Some girls joined in with the **Girlguiding Anglia Under the Stars** virtual festival over October half term. We had lots of fun creating solar systems, geodesic domes, galactic eggs, making toys in space, finding out lots from the European Space Agency, exercising like an astronaut, creating paper rockets and sleeping under the stars to name but a few.

Understandably, we were not to be able to return to face to face outdoor meetings after half term but have continued our weekly meetings on zoom and sending activities home for those girls who prefer not to join us online (we much prefer being together in person too).

It was a real pleasure to be able to be able to contribute to the village's **Remembrance Service** with the Rainbows creating Poppy Fields from finger prints, Brownies painting remembrance pebbles and the Guides making poppy pin wheels. We laid these on the memorial ahead of the service and some of the girls were able to attend with their families.

As part of our community action we 'acted our age' to raise money for **Children in Need and Girlguiding**. We took on lots of different challenges from star jumps to burpees, cycling to walking, poem writing to baking and between the girls we managed to raise £231.

We loved having a stall at the **village light switch on**; the girls and Tesco Community Team contributed sweets and jars so we

could run a sweet stall. Thank you to everyone who supported us - we ran out of sweets pretty quickly and raised £95 which will be put towards activities and equipment for the girls next term.



There has been a real variety of activities taking place online; -Rainbows have been creating tracking symbols, finding out about the qualities a leader needs, shown off their talents to one another, completed their act their age children in need challenge as a unit, having lots of fun with games, sharing news with one another and making each other smile.

- The Brownies have used their imaginations to create a museum, have learnt kitchen skills whilst making fajitas, taken part in a 'tool school' practising their skills with screwdrivers and drills, done a promise scavenger hunt, had fun with Task Master style challenges and got their cowboy boots on with some line dancing.

- Guides have explored their own personalities by creating their own magical, mythical creature, made up songs reflecting their guiding values, thought like a robot when creating instructions to make a sandwich, found out about open and closed questions on a challenge question and they've been creative and making their own playdough to play sculpt Christmas objects out of.

It was fabulous being able to celebrate the girl's achievements when we awarded a huge pile of **badges** this term; - Rainbows gained their Lead Stage 1 Skills Builder and many girls achieved interest badges; book lover, nature and construction...

- Brownies gained their Live Smart Stage 2 Skills Builder badge and lots of interest badges; aviation, baking, space, charities and speaking out as well as some theme awards; have adventures, express myself, be well and skills for my future. We were also delighted to be able to award out first Brownie Section Awards; three bronze and one silver. Snowy Owl was able to surprise the Brownies with a socially distanced doorstep presentation. Congratulations girls!

- Guides were awarded their Reflect Skills Builder badge and one Guide made her promise over zoom too :-)
Girls from all units also took home Children in Need, Remembrance 2020, Pantomime, Under the Stars Festival and guiding anniversary badges too.

We had fun with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides as we finished off the term with Christmas Crafts and virtual **Christmas parties**... There was singing, disco dancing, bingo, random Christmas activity generator, reusable party popper making, Christmas trees fashioned from books, random acts of kindness advent calendars, Christmas cards and paper chains, snow biscuit houses....

Whilst we wait to hear under what guidelines we'll be delivering meetings next term, the Guide Patrol Leaders have already been meeting with their leaders to make plans for Spring 2021 and the

Brownies have been voting on Skills Builders badges. So whatever 2021 brings we are ready to have more fun and adventures together.

Once again, we are so proud of all of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and all that they've achieved this term. We know they have had lots of fun but so have we as their leaders!

Volunteers

We've said farewell to some of our unit helpers and leaders this year - thank you Rusty and Buffy Owl for all of your dedication and commitment - and are looking out for new volunteers to help support Girlguiding in Great Paxton. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in offering your support; there are lots of different opportunities from working with the girls to behind the scenes.

If your daughter is interested in joining in with Guiding adventure, please get in touch or register at <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus>



Contacts Page

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Any corrections please notify the editor or email jillatgp@gmail.com



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