

SMALLFIELD *and* BURSTOW PARISH NEWS

40P DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



Your Village Magazine



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SMALLFIELD and BURSTOW PARISH NEWS

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Please contact Angela Sullivan (*details above*) if you would like Parish News delivered to you every month

This month's cover photograph of the east windows at St Bartholomew's Church, Burstow was taken by Kay Hammond

Your Village Magazine

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RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

One of the things that has struck me about writing my magazine letters this year is how fast the situation changes. Editorial and printing deadlines mean I write two or three weeks before the beginning of the month I'm writing for and I'm left wondering what our world be like by the time you come to read what I'm writing – and this month especially so. For the first time in my ministry I'm not yet certain how to plan the Christmas services this year. There will definitely be Christmas services on our website (www.windmillchurches.co.uk) but at this point, whether we may also be allowed services in church and what form they might take, who knows?

This has been the year when everything has been different, and different in ways that would have been unimaginable at the beginning of the year. Maybe you're feeling the same uncertainties about plans for Christmas as well. Thinking of plans reminds of the saying The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, adapted from Rabbin Burns (and after all this is a New Year letter as well so it seems appropriate to bring him in!). His poem To a mouse is an apology from a ploughman to a mouse for accidentally destroying the mouse's home. In the poem the mouse's plans are disrupted by man but one Christmas, 200 years ago in a little village in Austria, a mouse disrupted man's plans...

The story goes that the day before Christmas, Christmas Eve, the church organ had broken down – a mouse had eaten a hole in the bellows. The young pastor of the church wondered what to do – it would be a silent night without the organ – and with that he remembered the poem he'd written a couple of years earlier 'Silent night'. He showed it to the organist who there and then wrote out a simple tune to be played on a guitar. And that night at midnight mass the priest and the organist sang the song to the congregation – and a carol was born. Silent night is a beautiful carol, originally written in German and translated into nearly 300 languages and dialects across the world.

Continued overleaf

Throughout this year we have lived with so much uncertainty and as Christmas approaches uncertainty is still with us. But Silent Night tells of the birth of the Christ child and of the light and love of God that he brings into the world. what the Christmas story is all about. In our uncertainty the celebration of Christmas reminds us of the certainty that the most important things in the world are love and kindness – and at heart they are the same thing. And I think if the pandemic has taught us anything, as individuals, as a community and as a world, it has taught us that.

So however uncertain your plans are for Christmas, the timeless certainty of the message of Christmas sounds out across the years. And this year especially (though this is also true of every year), it tells us that the best things we can ever do, the best ways we can live our lives, come from love and kindness, sharing them, spreading them around, reaching out to one another and bringing the light and life and love of God into the world.

And you know, one thing I'm certain of, one way or another, is that we will be singing Silent Night this Christmas:

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!*

With love and prayers for a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year

Nicholas

DECEMBER SERVICES IN CHURCH, ONLINE AND ON CD

At time of writing no services are allowed in churches, though hopefully this will have changed by the time you read this. The latest information about services can be found on the church website (www.windmillchurches.co.uk) and on the noticeboards at the churches. But whatever the guidelines about services taking place in church, all the December and Christmas services will be available on our website.

The churches of Burstow, Horne and Outwood are all open for private prayer each day. Please follow the guidelines posted on the door.

If you don't have internet access but would like to be part of the weekly services, or know someone else who would appreciate them, ring or email Nicholas (01342 842224; Nicholas.calver@btinternet.com) and he will arrange to get a service delivered to you on a CD.

It's beginning to taste a lot like Christmas!

Christmas Community Lunch

The team who help at the community lunch have missed you all this year, so as a one off special (subject to restrictions) would like to prepare a Christmas lunch take away.

On 20 December the team will prepare a turkey Christmas lunch to be delivered to your home. If you would like to have a lunch delivered you will need to book in advance by telephoning Kay Hammond on 07808 322440 or email Kay at khammond51@yahoo.co.uk

As usual the lunch will not have a cost attached but contributions towards the cost would be gratefully received.

Let's hope that the New Year will eventually allow us all to meet up again.

Home-made Christmas cakes

There may not have been a church Christmas Fair this year but you can still get hold of one of the most popular items usually on sale there – the traditional, home-made Christmas cakes have been made as usual (paying particular attention to Covid appropriate practices) to Mary Berry's recipe and are available to purchase for £10 each.

The cakes are full of fruit and have been fed with plenty of brandy before decoration and will be available from the first week in December. To reserve yours and arrange collection, ring Jo Coulson Davis on 01342 843498.

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A LIFE REMEMBERED

At the Windmill United Benefice Service of Remembrance last month, there was a focus on three of the servicemen associated with the churches of Burstow, Horne and Outwood. One of them was Private TA Tullett who is buried in Burstow churchyard. Revd Charles Sargent reflects on his life and sacrifice

Private Thomas Arthur Tullett – Service Number 6400977 – was born in about 1919 – the son of Thomas and Matilda Tullett. He married Mary Laura Tullett of Burstow and died on 19 October 1946, aged 27 years old.

Thomas served in the First Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Thomas would have found himself in Egypt at the outbreak of the Second World War, having been sent to Palestine in 1938. Thomas' Battalion would have taken part in the Western Desert Campaign and the Italian Campaign, where it had a terrible time and was involved in the bloody Battle of Monte Cassino.

The Battalion was shipped across to Greece in late 1944, remaining there to help calm the Greek Civil War after the German withdrawal.



Like so many who have given their lives in Service to their country down the centuries, very little is actually known of Thomas Arthur Tullett or his family. Maybe someone reading this will know something more. But like the unknown warrior buried in Westminster Abbey, to some extent Thomas Arthur Tullett is much unknown to us here in Burstow, though we give thanks for his bravery and ultimate sacrifice in war.

From local records he may well have been the Thomas Arthur Tullett whose family came from the Brighton area. His father, also Thomas Tullett, is listed in the 1911 Census as a fish hawker in Brighton, one of eight children.

Our Thomas Arthur Tullett could well be the one born in Steyning in 1919, his parents being Thomas and Matilda Tullett. It may have been following his marriage to

Mary Laura Tullett that he moved to live in Burstow, but we simply don't know.

From the records it appears that his mother died in Brighton in 1948 and his wife is listed as having died in Surrey in July 1970 aged 50.

What is most poignant of Thomas Arthur Tullett's burial in Burstow Churchyard is the personal inscription on his headstone: *Only a soldier to the world but all the world to me your ever loving wife.*

How many war widows and widowers will have felt that sentiment? One of the most moving parts of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall is when the war widows and widowers process into the hall, now more from the most recent conflicts but still some who mourn the loss of a loved one from World War II.

Laurence Binyon who wrote the poem: For the Fallen – from which the words of the Exhortation are taken: 'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old...' finishes the poem with the verse:

*As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

1st BURSTOW BROWNIES

It has been a different time this past year for Brownies, we have kept on having fun using Zoom to meet up. We have developed new games and had some interesting conversation. The girls have missed some of their normal activities, like our annual bonfire party, but we have replaced these with fun stuff, like making armpit fudge! and playing a real life version of Guess Who! We have still managed to work on badges and sent out activity items so we can work online together. We are planning a virtual disco and all of our normal crafts for the run up to Christmas – cards, gingerbread decorating and ribbon trees.

The girls are looking forward to getting back to face-to-face meetings and getting into their little groups and working together.

1st Burstow Brownies would like to wish all the residents of Smallfield and surrounding areas a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

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2020 vision

As we come to the end of a most challenging year, we asked some people to look back on how the year has been for them and what their hopes are for 2021

For paramedics like Craig Prentice, 2020 has been a particularly raw year

Craig's story

What a year. It's been pretty awful overall, but I've learnt a lot, and seen some great things. I've also seen some things I'd rather not see again.

My name is Craig Prentice, and I'm a Paramedic working half my time on the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance and the other half of my time working in the Emergency Department at East Surrey Hospital as an Advanced Clinical

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Working until recently in Smallfield Co-op gave Alan Mitchell an insight into how people have responded to the year's challenges

Alan's story

2020 started like any other year really. January took its usual 68 days to draw to a close (!) but then came Covid which affected everyone in some way. Some people came to appreciate simpler things like walks with their families or less pollution. Others, through fear, lashed out at the very people trying to help them and demonstrated some of the unfortunate qualities people have when fearful.



As the new normality settled in some people went back to their old ways, some have made changes for the better. My hopes for 2021 are that, collaboratively, those who have made positive changes gain the support from those who reverted back to type and win a few over at least. There are always going to be challenges in life and it is how we learn from them that makes us unique.

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Practitioner. I live with my wife, Jemima and two-year-old son, Noah, in Cophorne.

2020 for me started pretty well. I qualified and Advanced Practitioner and gained my licence to be able to prescribe medicines as part of my job... All very exciting. Then CoViD-19 hit. A really nasty virus that attacks people in various ways, sometimes leading to them requiring emergency treatment in A and E, often with them meeting me in the resus room. Training as a Paramedic, I knew I would see some pretty awful things, but seeing numerous people, day after day, 'gasping' for air and not being able to see their relatives before we put them on a ventilator really took its toll; I found this really difficult to deal with, and I can only describe it as heartbreaking. Knowing many patients would be having their final Facetime call with their loved ones from their resus bed, was tough.

One of my friends, Peter Hart, also a Paramedic with me in A and E, caught the coronavirus in the height of lockdown. He rapidly deteriorated, ended up on ITU on a ventilator for a number of weeks, before sadly passing away. When I thought CoViD-19 was bad enough, this was the final straw... I absolutely despise this virus. For any of you that knew Peter, he was the most loving,

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Sue's story

I thought I knew this lovely leafy lane pretty well,
It's beautiful through all the seasons truth to tell,
But this year I've seen differently the parts that make the whole,
Looked within the bigger picture that evolves under nature's control,
Passing time transforms each leaf, flower, twig and branch,
Leaves that were some shade of green now red, yellow and orange,
Leaf over leaf shimmers against blue sky, so many of different colour,
Intricately weaving through shade and light a wondrous restful bower,
Where before were buds, flowers and leaves
now arrayed is autumn's bounty,
In hedges laid bare small birds flock to feast on seeds and plump red berry,
A lone hawk hovers and swoops between oaks,
flying with grace and precision,
The beauty and movement impressive as it hunts on a cold, deadly mission,
Flocks of geese in precise formation announce their journey,
who knows where?
I wonder at their synchronised flight and stare up to the sky – if I dare!
Carefree clouds floating by signal the changes in weather,
Their shapes morph and flow – now a fish, now a bird with tail feather!
Having more time to stare reveals nature with different perception,
And so I'm calling this my year – of 2020 vision.

Sue Wates

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IAN CRUTCHINGTON, SMALLFIELD

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helpful people person I had ever met. He has a beautiful family in Smallfield and would have genuinely done anything for anyone. We were all completely broken by Peter's death... but we had to carry on fighting; fighting to help other people who contracted the virus.

As the pandemic continued, local communities really began to get together. People were sticking together more; the community spirit really felt great. People were looking out for each other. Young people doing older people's shopping for them. All the other lovely things people were doing to make tough times a little easier. Jemima, Noah and I found a new love for exploring, instead of going to 'soft play' and other indoor activities, we found lots of new walks and outdoor activities to do which were great fun, and Noah loved it!

As we approach the end of 2020, I am looking forward to the vaccine becoming available. I'm looking forward to, what will hopefully be, a more normal 2021.

Reading back over this, all I have spoken about is coronavirus but to be fair, this entire year has been completely consumed by it. Hopefully Judith will ask me to write again next year and I can tell you about all the exciting things Jemima, Noah and I have been up to! For now, stay safe... And hopefully we can all have a wonderful Christmas

Find out more about the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance on page 24

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For farmers like Ian McCubbine on Broadland Farm, the seasons still turn, pandemic or not

Ian's story

It would be easy to forget 2020 and start afresh on 1 January 2021, but it's been a year where we've adapted and overcome. This is one of the Golden Rules of farming as no week, month, season and year is the same as any other.

January

Always a hard month. Festivities are over and the winter routine is in full swing, bedding up cattle sheds and keeping the animals' ever-increasing appetites satisfied. However, over the last 15 years, we have brought our calving pattern forward and now aim to have the first calves of the season mid-January onwards. Traditionally we would have calved from April; the idea was to turn cows and calves out to fresh green Spring grass. However, with better buildings, systems and healthcare, we now try to calve the early part of our pedigree Hereford beef herd indoors, making it easier for us to look after the young ones.

February

February 2020 was a very different month from usual. Sarah and I finally got married, after being together for 20 years! A stunning cliff-top in Cornwall was the venue. That it coincided with Storm Ciara did not dampen a truly wonderful weekend with close friends and family. Amazingly, after four days away, the farm survived – It seems I'm not needed 24/7!



March

The month of Spring expectation and looking forward to the Summer. Days are getting longer; the mercury is rising and after a very wet six months, we now have dryer days and are able to get on with field work. This time, however, COVID 19 hit us. This was completely intangible to us all. I think that, although we had all heard of the pandemic's rise, it took us all by surprise. Indeed, words like 'lockdown', 'furlough' and 'shielding' all had to be learnt. If I'm honest though, we are so focused on our field work at this time of year on the farm, that social distancing is second nature to us. My father, a man of 88 wise years (*above*), found his social distancing particularly fulfilling; he took a tractor and the flat roller and proceeded to roll over 500 acres of grassland!

April

A fantastic spell of dry weather got us back up to speed. Most of the field preparation was carried out and the boundary fences checked, maintained and made safe. Easter was glorious and spent mainly at home with 'that list of lockdown jobs' including the annual boiler shed tidy up (this year had the added bonus of a couple of dead rats in my football kit!). Indeed, the weather was so good, all the 200 cattle were put out into the fields. This is probably one of the best days of the year on our farming calendar – the relief, the space, the sunshine and the freedom! It really made us think this year of the less fortunate in lockdown and how they might similarly feel once lockdown ended.

May

One of my favourite months and 2020 did not disappoint; glorious weather and the start of harvest. We were cutting grass by the 15th and had dry, warm days

Continued overleaf

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with a lovely crop for silage – well, lovely as far as quality goes, but dreadful in quantity. However, we made some beautiful feed for next winter and looked forward to further cropping. Also in May, Martin came back from New Zealand, ready to get stuck into harvest, only to spend two weeks in quarantine! Luckily, Martin's brother Phil stepped in for him and they both now help us to run this family business.

June

More glorious weather and no rain. All the cattle looked well and with first-cut silage in, we moved straight onto hay. The idea was to cut some early crops for high quality winter feed and take the later cut grass for the equine market. This also gives the grass an impetus to grow, so providing young quality grass for cattle to graze. With the weather in our favour, we flew through the job, straight into...

July

More of the same and even hotter! We quickly came to realise that the crop was significantly down. Indeed, we worked out we were around 40% down on 2019. The month was so hot and dry, the wheat harvest was brought forward by three weeks. We ended up baling hay and straw at the same time. This was hectic to say the least but reacting to the weather is what farmers do best. With the weather dry, it really worked for us and just about all was safely gathered in

August

More harvest work, with the cereal harvest in full power. The lack of straw from the traditional crops – wheat, barley and oats – meant baling anything we could get hold of. Pea straw, canary grass and rape all got baled to ensure the cattle stay warm and dry for the winter.



September

This was another good weather month which allowed us to work through and catch up with lots of jobs. We over-seeded some 200 acres of grass. This should boost production in the next five years, which after this year is imperative. This September, however, gave us a big problem. The lack of summer rain had left the fields like a desert. We had no option but to give all the cattle extra food. Usually hay is fed but given our commitment to supplying hay to the equine sector, we took the decision to feed round-bale silage and to the older cattle, barley straw.

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News from the 1st Burstow Scouts

We were able to have face-to-face meetings, although mainly outside, until half term. Unfortunately with the second National Lockdown we were no longer allowed these and so returned to Zoom. We hosted our first Zoom meeting on Thursday 5 November which was of course the first day of the Lockdown. The leaders worked together to plan the meetings and activities for the coming month and resource bags were given out to support the upcoming Zoom activities.

All units had an evening learning about Remembrance and the history of the Poppy. We focused on the Service and Sacrifice, then and now, in this time of the pandemic. The Cubs and Beavers made a big poppy by drawing around their hands, to place in their windows (*right*). We normally attend the Remembrance Parade in Horley. Obviously this was cancelled so following guidance from the Scout Association, John Freebody (Group President) and I went to the War Memorial early in the morning to place a socially distanced wreath from our Scout Group (*bottom left*). Some of our members attended their school on Armistice Day, 11 November, in their Scout uniforms. Sophia was pleased to show off all her badges to her class and teacher (*bottom right*).



The Scouts continue to work on their Circus Skills Badge at home. They completed making their own Poi from socks and rice (*right*). They have been set the challenge to find out about Circus History and Clowning and are currently designing their own 'clown face' prior to face painting themselves, or willing individual, to show off their skills. The Cubs are completing their Road Safety badge with a quiz. The Beavers are completing their Wild West Challenge by making sticker pictures, decorating a wooden horse shoe and making their own Sheriff Badge. Everyone had a Christmas or Advent activity for the end of November. In December we will be working towards a Christmas Elf Challenge, either at home or face to face. We hope to be able to return to face-to-face Scouting, if not in December, in the New Year.



One of our Beavers, Jack, completed lots of challenges and badges in Lockdown and has been awarded his Silver Blue Peter Badge. This is his sixth Blue Peter Badge and was earned by writing about our virtual camp in the summer. We are all very proud of him.

We are nearing completion of the North Boundary Fence, with volunteer labour working very hard to dig holes and erect our new fence (*below*). We still have work to do on our boundary fences, including the south fence along the stream. We are grateful for the support of the Co-Op last year which has helped to pay for the improvement needed to our grounds. We are pleased to be chosen again as a local cause with the Co-Op and welcome the support given when you do your shopping. Any money raised this coming year will be used to replace the fence along the stream as a priority,

Keep Safe and have a very Happy Christmas

Rowenna Woodward BEM
 Group Scout Leader, 1st Burstow Scouts
 Email: gsl@burstowscouts.org
 Tel: 01342 718862



NEWS FROM CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

In her latest regular update for the Parish News, our local MP outlines what she has been involved in recently

It is with a heavy heart that I voted for the national lockdown measures earlier this month. I based my decision on local needs by discussing our situation with East Surrey Hospital and our local NHS Trust and looking at the most reliable data which, in my view, is hospital admissions. However, at my core, I am deeply against fighting the virus this way long term. I want to assure local residents that I sought – and received – assurances that, on 2 December, our exit from lockdown in East Surrey will be judged on our local rate of infection, not on a national 'R' rate.

On the subject of health, I recently spoke to Victoria Robinson from Cancer Research, and she outlined her concerns about delays in diagnoses and some people's reluctance to speak with their doctors. As your local MP, I just want to emphasise that if you have existing medical appointments and check-ups, you should continue to attend them. And if you find anything irregular when carrying out self-checks or if you think you need to speak to your doctor about a medical issue – no matter how small – you can and should do so as normal. The NHS is there to serve you – and it remains fully operational.

In light of the new restrictions, the Chancellor announced an extension of the

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Claire Coutinho MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR EAST SURREY

Prior to the pandemic, I had been holding regular surgeries, with a plan to visit each town and village across East Surrey. Because of the current situation, I am holding remote surgeries by telephone, so if you need any help please don't hesitate to email or call me. I am also visiting local businesses in a Covid-secure way, and I am continuing my work with the East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce that I set up to support the local economy. Thank you all for your patience and community spirit throughout this time.

Claire

0207 219 5972
clairecoutinho.com
@parliament.uk
@clairecoutinho

Provided by Tim Hall on behalf of Claire Coutinho, MP at 6 Godstone Road, Lingfield RH7 6BN

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your village website:
www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk

As I write this on Remembrance Day, at the beginning of the second week of the second lockdown of 2020, I have to reflect on what a strange and prohibitive year this has been for us all. Consider this though, our freedom has not been as restricted as that of my grandparents who lived through two world wars and the ravages of Spanish Flu of 1919. Perhaps we should consider ourselves more fortunate in this respect.

Covid 19 obviously has taken toll of both community and council activities, however Council did finally manage to meet in October, for the first time since March, maintaining social distancing and hope to meet again, subject to legislation, in December. Agenda will be posted on our web site www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk or Parish notice boards. Public attendance will be welcomed by 'Zoom'.

Our caterers 'Apple and Cor' have maintained a take away service during lockdown and intend to reinstate a full operation in the Covid-friendly environment of the café and meeting room at its cessation.

Our Ofsted application and inspection for 'The Gingerbread House', our children's day care centre is progressing and we are hopeful of being fully operational in the New Year. We are open for applications for acceptance and for details of registration please contact the centre on 07546 376148. In preparation for the opening we are now looking for bank staff. Anyone who is inter-ested in being available to cover annual and sick leave, should contact us on email at thegingerbreadhouse2020@outlook.com for further information.

With the approach of Christmas why not join the 'Yarn Bombing Team' crocheting hearts for display at Centenary Hall in December. Those interested should contact Angela by email on angelascrochet.andmore@gmail.com or Jeanie (Parish Clerk) 01342 841880. Angela also offers one to one and small group tuition for anyone either new to crochet or looking to brush up on their skills.

Hopefully when this edition is published, we shall be out of lockdown and inoculation against this terrible virus will be more than a speck on the horizon, scientists having achieved what a few months ago may have seemed an unlikely miracle, in the meantime please continue to support and observe government advice. Stay aware, observe social distancing, stay safe.

My fellow councillors and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hopefully freedom and health in the new year.

**Ian Wates, Chair,
Burstow Parish Council**

AIR AMBULANCE KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Craig Prentice writes on page 11 that he works on the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. They, too, have had a challenging year ...

Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) is the only air ambulance in the country to provide a 24/7 Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) every day of the year, including Christmas Day. The crews will be working throughout the festive period to ensure that they are there for anyone who needs them across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. From two bases, Rochester Airport and Redhill Aerodrome, their helicopters can reach any part of the region in 25 minutes and last year they helped over 2,500 people in life-threatening conditions.

It costs more than £14m a year to sustain this world-leading service and amazingly 89% is donated and raised by local people. But this has been a difficult year for KSS, as for so many charities. We launched our Coronavirus Emergency Appeal in April, as we faced a shortfall of £2.9m. Thanks to our incredible supporters we have raised over £1.9m, enabling us to remain fully operational throughout the pandemic but we must raise a further £1m to ensure we can continue to save lives 24/7. We send sincere thanks to all our supporters who have been there for us throughout this pandemic. It has been a turbulent and difficult time, but thanks to you we have been able to continue our life-saving care.

If you can contribute to the work of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, you can donate online at: aakss.org.uk or send a cheque, made payable to KSSAAT to Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust, Rochester City Airport, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 9SD.

Meet some of the team

Maja Gavrilovski, HEMS Doctor

As a medical student, I was inspired by the amazing work of the ambulance service and knew I wanted to be part of such a team. Towards the end of my training as an Emergency Medicine Consultant I applied to join Team KSS, and in 2016 my dream came true. I became a HEMS Doctor. Now I work as an Emergency Medicine Consultant at St Thomas' Hospital in London and a HEMS Doctor for Air Ambulance KSS. I feel privileged to be part of this amazing charity with its dedicated team providing critical care at the roadside, pushing the boundaries in pre-hospital medicine and striving to be better. I have the best job in the world!

Ben Macauley, HEMS Paramedic

In 2002 at the age of 21 I started my career with South East Coast Ambulance Service, working on the ambulances, seeing the work of the HEMS Doctor and Paramedic first-hand. I was inspired after learning that Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) is a charity and depended heavily on the public. After ten years I decided to apply for my 'dream job' and in 2012 joined Team KSS as

a HEMS Paramedic. I am fortunate to have had a long career with KSS, and I am enormously proud of the cutting-edge care that we provide, bringing the Emergency Department to the roadside. Having been part of the charity's journey, from its first 24-hour shift in 2013 to carrying blood and plasma.



*Ben and Maja
with KSS
helicopter*

 Air Ambulance
Kent Surrey Sussex

Christmas with KSS

You keep us flying high

Christmas will not be the same this year, but at KSS we have been working hard to put some sparkle back into your festive season.

- ◆ Brew with the (Christmas) Crew – Join us virtually at 6.30pm on the 15th December. Register for your invite below
- ◆ Why not give your virtual Christmas get together a KSS twist and download our fun party pack?
- ◆ Or simply donate to our Christmas appeal to help our life-saving work

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR FESTIVE ACTIVITIES

Visit: www.aakss.org.uk/christmas-with-kss/

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AVIATION GROUP

In this our second lockdown, like many groups etc we cannot see any likelihood of resuming our meetings, we'll just have to wait and see how 2021 unfolds.

At this time of year young children's thoughts turn to Father Christmas, reindeer, snow and ice and Santa's toy factories at the North Pole. So who was the first person to fly over the North Pole and disturb him?

On 9 May, 1926, US navy pilots Richard E Byrd and Floyd Bennett made a flight to the North Pole in a Fokker Tri-motor built in Holland and named Josephine Ford after the daughter of the Ford Motor Company



president who helped finance the expedition. The flight took off from Spitsbergen (Svalbard) Norway and returned 15 hours and 57 minutes later, including 13 minutes spent circling at their farthest North. Byrd and Bennett claimed to have reached the North Pole, a distance of 1,535 miles. When he returned to the United States from the Arctic, Byrd became a national hero. On 12 May, only three days after the Byrd flight, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen piloted by Italian airship designer Umberto Nobile and 16 crew, took off from Spitsbergen and flew over the Pole in the semi-rigid airship Norge and landed in Alaska.

Later, doubts were raised about the Byrd flight with conflicting data and flight times which would have meant both out and return ground speeds greater than the aircraft's 85mph airspeed. A Byrd defender claimed a westerly-moving anticyclone boosted Byrd's ground speed on both outward and return flights. Nevertheless, on 28 November 1929 he was

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This was really important to maintain their growth and also to stop them from breaking out!

October

Winter feeding all the cattle is a full-on daily task for 200 cattle, but at least they were outside in good weather. October is also the month we started hedge trimming. We don't start as early as some, to allow the birds to feast on as much of the fruit as possible. We are also in an environmental scheme that requires us only to cut them twice in five years. However, last year being so wet in the winter and keeping us off the fields, we failed to cut any of the field hedges so this year, we have every one to cut, with some four years of growth. Apologies if they look hard-hit, but Martin has his work cut out to get them back under control.

November

This month brings back the winter routine again, to keep cattle healthy and happy. Everything has to come inside, have a health check, an ear-tag check, a haircut and be ordered into sized groups. Any animal needing new tags or veterinary intervention or some stockmanship, gets this done as soon as possible. The aim, by the end of the month, is to have them all tucked up and sorted for the long winter months. It's also the month of weaning off the older calves to give their mums a rest before the next one.

All that remains is to wish you all the best for next year and for us all to be thankful for our health and happiness.

Postscript: Sarah's story

Ian has omitted December, I assume because it hasn't happened yet, so based on 20 years' experience, I will predict what will happen!

The month will be spent in a similar fashion to November, with routine feeding, mucking out and bedding up of the cattle. Any hints of Christmas will be totally ignored right up until Christmas Eve when Farmer Ian will suddenly 'pop out' for an hour or two Christmas shopping (if lockdown allows). This trip will involve just two shops – Mole Country Stores (where he'll spend five minutes shopping and two hours chatting to other farmers) and our lovely local hardware store, Smallfield Supplies! He will buy something practical for me and something funny for work colleagues, having taken for granted that I will have done everything else.

On Christmas Day his realisation back in February that the farm can continue without him will have been long forgotten and on the contrary, rather than take time off to spend with the family, Christmas Day will be spent doing the normal routines, a quick Christmas dinner, then off to find a friend with a dairy herd to help with the afternoon milking, saying, "Well it is Christmas!". To be honest, I wouldn't have it any other way!

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undisputedly the first to fly over the South Pole from their Antarctic Base in a Ford Trimotor.

The first undisputed aeroplane flight over the North Pole was by Russian Valery Chkalov and two crew in an ANT-25 on 17- 18 June 1937 (see *commemorative stamp*) during a flight lasting over 63 hours for the 5,475 miles from Moscow to Vancouver, Washington State USA. It wasn't until 23 April 1948 that the first landing was made at the North Pole when a Soviet expedition of three aircraft landed there, complete with 24 scientists.

Happy Christmas and a Better 2021 to our members and Parish News readers.



John Thorpe

SMALLFIELD CLUB

Hopefully the Club will be able to reopen on Friday 4 December but as we all know this will only be if Government Restrictions are lifted.

As we expect Restrictions to revert to those before lockdown, our opening hours will be:

Monday – Thursday: 1pm - 8pm
Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 1pm - 10pm

Christmas Opening Hours are as follows:

Christmas Eve: 1pm - 10pm
Christmas Day: Closed All Day
Boxing Day: 6pm - 10pm
New Years Eve: 1pm - 10pm

Please note: these hours are only **IF** lockdown is lifted. Any change to these hours will be posted on our Facebook page and the Smallfield Village page.

The Club is restricted to 50 people at any one time so **no guests** will be admitted after 6pm on Christmas Eve evening and New Years Eve evening. As per restrictions there will be **NO** Entertainment on both these evenings. And as the Club has nearly 400 Members, the Committee felt it is only fair to all **NOT** to open Christmas Day, as we normally have up to 100 customers during lunchtime.

The Committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Members for their continued support during these difficult times. Also to wish you all A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with the hope that 2021 will have a vaccine which will enable us all to beat COVID-19!

The Committee

Continued from page 22

furlough to the end of March – employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to £2,500 per month. We're also providing even more generous support to the self-employed by increasing the support to the self-employed from 40 per cent of trading profits to 80 per cent for November, December and January.


I'm also pleased to report that my Local Roads and HGV surveys have now been delivered to residents in Smallfield, Burstow, Outwood and Horne. Roads are a local priority for me. I campaigned for increased pothole funding at the March budget, which has led to £33.5m extra funding locally. I have been in regular contact with Tandridge District Council and Surrey County Council since, visiting road maintenance in action and pushing for a review of our contractor. But I am aware of the strength of concern locally, so I want to hear directly from all of you. I'd be grateful for a few moments of your time to fill them out, outline your thoughts, and then send them back to me. I will then report back on the results at a public meeting on Zoom with County Councillor Representative, Lesley Steed.

As part of the East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce that I set up with Crispin Blunt MP to support the local economy, we met with the Minister for Skills, Gillian Keegan MP, last month to push for £2.5m for East Surrey College's Advanced Technology Centre. The meeting was very constructive, and we were encouraged by the Minister's positive response. In education news, I'm also thrilled that 77

of Surrey's schools are rated as outstanding by Ofsted, which contributes to the county being listed as the second-best place to live. I'm especially pleased to see a number of our SEND specialist provisions too. We're lucky to have them, and I hope the 213 additional places across Surrey will help to alleviate the pressure they've faced this year.

I was delighted to visit the Lingfield Nature Reserves recently, established just over 25 years ago in 1994, to see for myself the brilliant work the volunteers are doing to create this natural haven. It's remarkable that in a short time they have such a wide range of species – for example, they now have more types of butterfly than the whole of Northern Ireland. Last month, I signed a letter to the Environment Secretary with other MPs across Surrey to ask him to urge Natural England to begin – at long last – the review into the boundary of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy Christmas and extend my best wishes for the new year. I know that 2020 has not been the year that we had planned: it has been characterised by unprecedented challenge and tragic loss. But residents across East Surrey can be so proud of their response to those difficulties. From local charities helping those in need, to new groups of volunteers mobilising through Facebook to do their bit, the community spirit across our towns and villages shone through and was so inspiring to be a part of. I hope that with the recent news of promising vaccines on the horizon, 2021 will bring a return to our normal way of life.



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Miss Nicky Radford 07846 956140

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Following the success of the Summer bring & buys and the difficulty of running a stall before Christmas, we will be selling a selection of Christmas stationery in the next few weeks. If you would like to be included in the emails outlining goods for sale, please send your details to Angie;challis668@btinternet.com

With so many fundraising events cancelled this year, we had to come up with alternative ways of raising funds for the hospice. Our virtual quiz and supper evening during lockdown last month was a great success with 109 quizzers taking part. Thank you to everyone who participated. We raised over £1000!

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SMALLFIELD COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

In the year ended December 2019 your Speedwatch team reported to Surrey Police:

2,960 offenders

Amongst these were:

259 2nd time offenders and 43 3rd time offenders

The Team comprises 16 regular police-trained community members who are able to commit to an hour or more a month at various approved locations around the village.

We ARE making a difference.

So much more could be achieved with more members.

Should you wish to join the team please contact the Parish Clerk,
Jeannie Ryan (01342 841880, burstowparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Visit: http://www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk/community_speed_watch.asp

SOME LOCAL SERVICES

Smallfield Surgery, Wheelers Lane 01342 843822

Website: www.smallfieldsurgery.nhs.uk

Smallfield Pharmacy, 2 Redehall Road 01342 844424

Email: info@smallfieldpharmacy.co.uk

Burstow Primary School, Wheelers Lane 01342 842010

Burstow Parish Council

■ Parish Clerk: Jeannie Ryan (Centenary Hall, Wheelers Lane)

Email: burstowparishcouncil@gmail.com or ring 01342 841880

Office core hours: 9.30am-2.00pm weekdays during school term

Website: www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk

Tandridge District Council 01823 722000

Tandridge District Councillors

■ Kevin Bourne (07963 833154; email: Cllr.kevin.bourne@tandridge.gov.uk)

■ Harry Fitzgerald (01342 832475;
email: cllr.harry.fitzgerald@tandridge.gov.uk)

■ Colin White (email: Cllr.Colin.White@tandridge.gov.uk)

Surrey County Councillor

■ Lesley Steeds (07973 872 614; email: lesley.steeds@surreycc.gov.uk)

Police contacts:

■ In an emergency – dial 999

■ If not an emergency – dial 101 for Surrey Police

Crime Stoppers (independent anonymous phone line): 0800 555111

Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team

email: tandridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

■ PC Kevin Stimson (tel: 101 or mobile 07720 061363;

email: kevin.stimson@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

Neighbourhood Police Smallfield, Burstow, Horne and Outwood

■ PCSO Conrad Cheeseman (tel: 101;
email: Cheeseman12437@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

■ PCSO Stuart Wren (tel: 101 or mobile 07720 050768;
email: stuart.wren@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

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I'd much prefer the latest game
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Pat Thorpe

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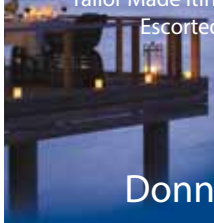


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