

July 2020

# FELTWELL PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR CONNECTION TO YOUR COMMUNITY



**John Orange**

**Hedgehog Care**

**Water Grid**

**War Hero No. 20:  
R.Johnson**

**ONS Garden Survey**

**Another bumper issue**

Love Radish show their support for the NHS during the pandemic.



## **FELTWELL ORGANISATIONS**

List maintained by Paul Garland.

|  |  |              |
|--|--|--------------|
| Feltwell Bowls   | Trevor Hobbs                           | 827079       |
| The Royal British Legion   | John Linkin                            | 828729       |
| RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser   | Mary Reynolds                          | 828130       |
| Feltwell Historical and<br>Archaeological Society  | Marion Lucas (Chairman)<br>(Secretary) | 828769       |
| Feltwell Baby and Toddler Group  | Lara Payne                             | 07592 126767 |
| Beavers and Cubs   | Claire Scarff                          | 827555       |
| Feltwell School PTA  | Lisa Strutt                            | @ the school |
| Feltwell Women's Institute   | Claire Scarff                          | 827555       |
| Feltwell Playgroup   | Samantha Newman                        | 07582 371984 |
| Feltwell Scout Group   | Claire Scarff                          | 827555       |
| Feltwell Football Club   | Sarah Ramsey (Secretary)               | 07825 506974 |
| Feltwell Youth Football Club   | Andy Kennedy                           | 828914       |
| Feltwell & Thetford District Mencap  | Mrs T. Sismey                          | 827292       |
| Feltwell Brownies  | Lisa Allbut-Kentish                    | 07710 688857 |
| Feltwell Social Club   |  | 828093       |
| Feltwell Primary School  | Mrs J. Lillycrop                       | 828334       |
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| Feltwell Golf Club   | Kim Heybourne                          | 827644       |
| Feltwell Wellbeing Group   | Patricia Pratt                         | 828587       |
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| Churchwardens of St Mary's   | Juanita Hawthorne<br>Christine Parker  | 01366 728545 |
| Friends of St Mary's   | Stephen Parker                         | 827152       |
| Feltwell Men's Breakfast Club  | Paul Garland                           | 827029       |
| F3 - Feltwell Film Fans  | Paul Garland                           | 827029       |
| Feltwell Methodists  | Mike Wilkinson                         | 07712 578721 |
| Feltwell Museum  | Graham Simons                          | 828387       |
| Parish Clerk, Jo Martin. Email: <a href="mailto:feltwellparishclerk@gmail.com">feltwellparishclerk@gmail.com</a> . |  | 828383       |

Parish Council website: [www.feltwellparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://www.feltwellparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

Feltwell's History Website can be found at <http://www.feltwell.net>

## **Deadline for the next issue is 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Submitted articles may be hand written or typed in Word 2019 or earlier.

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Advertisers, please contact Susan Withers (827758)

Distribution is by Ian Webb (828167) & Paul Garland

## Eulogy and Reflection for John Orange

John was born in Feltwell on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1932, third child of Catherine and John Orange. He had a brother Pip and sisters Frances and Cath. He was educated at Feltwell Primary school alongside lifelong friends Malcolm Cock, Michael Banham and John Jacob before moving on to Thetford Grammar School. John travelled to Thetford by train and I'm told he used to eye up the swans on the river with target practice in mind. He wasn't very keen on school and was happy to leave and begin working for the Storeys at Manor Farm, going around various farms in the local area with the threshing machine alongside George Secker before moving on to work for Frank Edwards and Mr Peek as a builder's labourer and digger driver. When he was about 20, John's parents bought him some land down Oulsham Drove where he could work independently, also hiring a field on the Southery Road. During this time he would go out cleaning dykes with Ernie Vine in the Fens, trimming them with scythes. He wasn't above poaching the odd pheasant with mates Lenny Pryer, Chip Sparrow and Donny Wright and he loved going fishing with his mates. He worked casually at Glebe Farm bagging corn during harvest time. His distinctive floppy hat and cigarette feature on cine film of those days at Glebe Farm. Good friend Phyllis Cock, Malcolm's wife was influential in teaching John to be a very competent cook, especially when it came to making the perfect pastry for apple pies and other pastries. He treated close friends Margaret and Frank to homemade sausage rolls and mince pies at Christmas and often cooked homemade meals for his brother Pip who lived nearby. He had a knack of putting on his potatoes to cook at just the right setting and then going out for an hour or more and returning to them just as they were cooked. One day his luck ran out. The potatoes did boil dry and he spent the next few weeks repainting his kitchen as the walls were black from the smoke damage.

He later worked for Edwards and Peck until an industrial injury to his hand and wrist whilst working as a digger driver meant that he needed to take early retirement.

His main hobbies were Horse Racing and greyhound racing. He would go with Ronnie Palmer from Southery to Newmarket and all over the country to enjoy the sport. He always wished he could have been a professional gambler as he was quite successful with his betting. He always enjoyed placing a bet on a Saturday alongside his good friend John Jacob.

He had a great time with greyhound racing and owned a few greyhounds in his life, the most well-known being Merry Minstrel. However according to Roy his best dog was called Sammy Davis and John [or Jack as he was known to Roy] and Roy dreamed that they would be millionaires through investing in such winning dogs, though sadly the millions eluded them! His minivan would be seen parked in a gateway down Oulsham Drove where he exercised his dogs. He frequented Bury and Yarmouth greyhound stadiums on a regular basis.

Many hours were spent on the coursing field. John would regularly visit his friend Albert Shackcloth sharing their tales and banter of the coursing field. Albert was the last winner of the prestigious Waterloo Cup.

He enjoyed shooting and would go along to Glebe Farm for a day's sport.

John also loved drinking with his mates in the local pubs. As a young man, living next door to the Chequers was quite an advantage! There's a wonderful story about how John left the Chequers after a particularly long drinking session one frosty night. When he woke up the next morning, he looked out his bedroom window and spied the outline of a person's body in the frost. He realised that it was his, having passed out for a bit out there before stumbling inside to bed. Lucky for him that he woke up before hypothermia set in! John had a wonderful singing voice and loved to sing in the pubs after a few

drinks loosened up his vocal cords. He'd search out a piano if possible, to add to the quality of his performance. Emma remembers listening to him singing when working in Lawn House garden.

He kept John Player in business until he fell and fractured his hip and a scan also revealed that he was suffering from lung cancer. He gave up after a lifetime of smoking – no mean feat!

John was a kind, caring man with a wicked sense of humour. He lived with his mother, caring for her until her death and enjoyed doing newspaper crosswords with her. He was close to his family, enjoying card games with sister Frances and brother in law Robert when they came to visit. He also enjoyed a special Christmas tradition with the Adams family, secreting Jonathan and Mark's Christmas presents in his house away from inquisitive fingers. An evening would be set aside just before Christmas to wrap the presents and fill stockings. John loved to see what gifts the boys were getting and treated Margaret and Frank to scrumptious mince pies and sausage rolls followed by festive beer and spirits.

To Linda, Uncle John was a quiet, private man who seemed a bit shy. She remembers him when she was a child, sitting in an armchair by the open fire pretending to be asleep while the rest of his family played card games at the dining room table after a big meal. Linda would watch fascinated as this tall, strong man would relax with his feet up on the hearth, smoking one of his many cigarettes. He would occasionally open one eye at a time and wink at Linda, smiling. He was always listening quietly in the background to the conversation at the table.

Latterly John was looked after by niece Linda and a number of close friends and carers, thus enabling John to remain in the home he loved. He had comfort and peace and before the advent of coronavirus, plenty of visitors. Special thanks go to Linda and Hassan, John's live in carer, along with the fantastic team of carers from Hales in Thetford and the Christine Marie care company. His close friends were a tremendous help: Neighbour Rod Edwards who



# The Wellington Feltwell



Co-ordinated by Paul Garland  
 Email: [garlandp@btinternet.com](mailto:garlandp@btinternet.com) Tel.: 827029  
 or talk to Chris at the pub on 828224

| Mon-                   | FREE screenings at 7pm  |
|------------------------|---|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> April  | <p style="text-align: center;"><del>The Last King of Scotland</del></p> <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center; background-color: #800040; color: white; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <b>F3 – Feltwell Film Fans – F3</b> </div> <p>To paraphrase Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 1982 film The Terminator, “We will be back,” once this lockdown is lifted.</p> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> April | <p>Our re-opening presentation, whenever that is, will be –</p>   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> April | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Last King of Scotland</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cert: 15 123mins 2006 Forest Whitaker,<br/>James McAvoy, Gillian Anderson</p>  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> April | <p>Whitaker gives ‘one of the greatest performances of modern movie history’ as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.</p>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> May    | <p>Based on the true events of the brutal dictator’s regime as seen by his personal physician during the 1970s this gripping and suspenseful stunner is filled with performances you will never forget.</p>   |

FREE screenings occur on **Monday evenings** at **7pm** in the restaurant at the Wellington pub.

Please join us, it’s **FREE** - Grab a drink and come on in.

regularly cut John's lawn, his lifelong friend Trevor Adams who did his grocery shopping and brought John his favourite fish and chips on Saturday evenings, Dot who cleaned his home, Margaret who helped look after his legal affairs and who would speak to the solicitor and doctor on his behalf. He was kept company by so many loyal friends who called and visited regularly – Bridget, Margaret and Frank, Abe Merrick and Roy and Rebecca to name a few. Margaret said how much everyone will miss John, such a colourful character.

As a person who loved his family and friends throughout his life, be assured that this 'righteous soul' is now in the safe hands of God. Jesus promised his friends – and all of us – that he has a place prepared for us in his Father's house. Though we may not be able to visualise what that may be like, Christians believe that our physical death is a new birth into a new reality – into the reality of God's presence. This is what we celebrate at Easter for Jesus' resurrection is the assurance that we are loved by him and will be welcomed into the great heavenly banquet in our time, as John is welcomed now. Behind the sorrow and pain of parting is the reality that John is now in the hands of the God who is infinite mercy and love.

## NEWS FROM THE LEGION

It looks like this COVID 19 situation will be with us for a lot longer than we first thought; the Legion is not allowing us to use the buildings for any form of gathering. Last month we were going to have a tea and chat in the outside space but the weather put paid to that, so I am going to give it another try for July 9<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. The tables and chairs will be laid out in the carpark with social distancing being observed, so if you are free and wish to take part we will be starting at 10.00 look forward to seeing you once again.

John L (Chairman)

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## Latest Consumer Alerts and Trading Standards news

*Please note that all the weblinks in this article are live in the copy of this issue on the village website.*

This week we're highlighting the following Scams, Consumer Alerts and News:

News Alert – Norfolk Against Scams Partnership launch anti-scamming campaign during Covid-19

Scam Alert – Emails claiming to be from ‘TV Licensing’

Scam Alert – Further examples of scam text messages claiming to be from PayPal

Scam Alert – Social Media messages claiming to be from ‘Dominos’ offering ‘2 Large Pizza for Free’

Scam Alert – Facebook Messenger messages asking to borrow money

Scam Alert – Further reports of telephone cold callers claiming to be Police Officers

Scam Alert – Text messages regarding ‘Cervical Screening’

Scam Alert – Telephone cold calls claiming to be from ‘Amazon’

Scam Alert – Telephone cold calls claiming ‘your internet service will be terminated’

Scam Alert – Emails claiming to be from ‘DVLA’

Scam Alert – Emails claiming to be from ‘BT’

Food Alert - Unilever UK Ltd is recalling two batches of their ‘Magnum White Chocolate’ ice cream tubs because they contain milk, which is not written in English on the label

Food Alert - Young’s Seafood is recalling their ‘Young’s Simply Breaded 2 Extra Large Fish Fillets’ because they contain milk which is not mentioned on the label

Food Alert – Lidl recalls ‘Baresa Pesto’ because of undeclared peanuts

# J M Harris EST. 1996

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Food Alert – Athenian Family Bakery is recalling two batch codes of their ‘Savour Bakes Bread Sticks’ (sold at Aldi) as they may contain small pieces of metal

Safety Alert – Card Factory recalls their ‘Amazing Mum – Wax Melt Burner’ sold between 20 January and 23 March 2020

### **Online, email and phishing scams**

Scam WhatsApp message circulating claiming LIDL “are giving away groceries worth £175 to support the nation during Corona pandemic’

Scam emails claiming to be from ‘Google Photos’ stating ‘we add new photos’

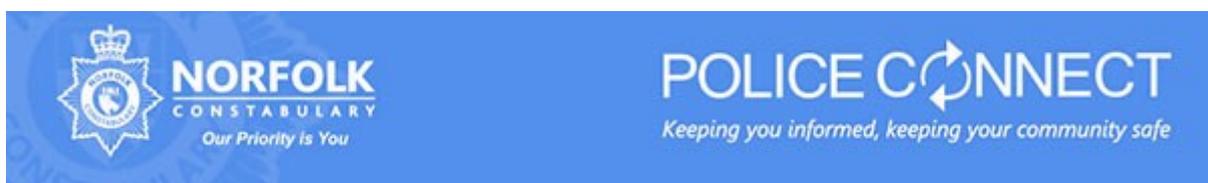
Phishing email claiming to be from ‘Mail Control’ stating that your ‘email termination has been processed’

### **Reporting scams**

You can report scams and get further advice from our partners the Citizens Advice consumer helpline:**0808 223 1133 (freephone)**

If you've been the victim of an online scam you can get advice and support from Citizens Advice Scams Action: **0808 250 5050 (freeph)**

You can also report Frauds, Cyber Crime and Phishing attempts to Action Fraud, the National Fraud & Cyber Crime reporting centre:  
**0300 123 2040**



There are lots of reports across social media of Test & Trace scams.

Please remember, genuine texts, calls or emails from the NHS service won't ask you for any personal details upfront.

You'll be given a unique ID number to log in to the NHS Test and Trace website. The ONLY official web address for the NHS Test and Trace service is: <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/> *Continued*

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You won't be asked to share this information upfront over a call or text, so if someone is asking you for it directly, they are a scammer.

Contact tracers will never:

- × ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- × ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product of any kind
- × ask for any details about your bank account
- × ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- × ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- × disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts
- × provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential coronavirus symptoms
- × ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- × ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

Stay scam aware, and report any suspicious approaches to Norfolk Trading Standards via 0808 223 1133

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Why Cars Stop by M. T. Tank

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## Crime Update

Recently there have been a number of attacks on Irrigators around the Methwold area with damage being caused and taps released. Diesel has also been taken from pumps both in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. With so many of these units across our countryside it is vital to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

There have been a number of telehandlers, small excavators and garden tractors stolen on the Norfolk/Cambs/Lincs border. Please protect your property and store securely where ever possible.

On a positive note there has been a great deal of success in the recovery of stolen plant recently and arrests made and more to follow.

## Marking your property

When stolen property is located, it's great for us to be able to return it to the lawful owner, however this can't always possible as there is often no means of identification. Whilst some property has a serial number to assist with this, often the easiest methods are still the best. When you mark your property with your post code using permanent markers, paint, welding, stamping and etching, not only does this make it easier to identify your property, it also makes it less attractive to thieves and potential purchasers. Help us reunite property by making it simple.

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## **Countryside code**

With the lovely weather we have been having, and relaxation in some of the lockdown measures, there has been an increase in numbers of members of the public visiting our fantastic Norfolk countryside. Norfolk has some fantastic and diverse habitats which are enjoyed by many. With the increase in numbers of people, there has also been an increase in reports of individuals walking where they shouldn't, trespassing on farmland, causing fire from the irresponsible use of BBQs, damaging crops and restricting access to farmland due to poor parking.

Most people who visit our countryside, do so with the best intentions and don't wish to cause any problems. Most issues are caused through lack of understanding rather than any malice.

When you visit the countryside please follow to below guidelines:

- Plan your visit. Be aware that some facilities may still be closed
- Park responsibly so as not to obstruct gateways or entrances to fields. Although you may be in the middle of the country, our farmers are working hard and may require access to the land
- ◆ Leave gates as you find them
- ◆ Follow paths and do not stray onto private land
- ◆ Take your litter home with you
- ◆ Keep dogs under control and clear up after them
- Don't have BBQ's or fires except in designated areas
- Follow social distancing measures

You may also want to consider downloading the What3Words app. This can be very useful if you need to report the location of an incident to the services, if you get lost, or simply if you find an area of interest you may wish to revisit.

NEED TO TALK TO US?  
**James Wonnacott | [james.wonnacott@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.wonnacott@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)**

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## Drabble

*This drabble and the opinion piece that follows are separated by 4 years and two authors but it makes sense to put the drabble first otherwise the punchline will be obvious.*

“I bet you can’t get it in there.”

“I bet I can.”

“Go on then.”

“What, from up here?”

“Yes, from up here.”

“Okay.”

“Well, go on.”

“Give me a minute. I’m just eyeing it up. Allowing for the wind. Waiting for the sun to shine on the target. Just a moment longer. Hang on. Here it comes. Bombs away!”

“I don’t believe it. You did it. Right in the corner. Great shot!”

Just then the lady came out to get her washing in. She checked the empty basket first, grimaced at what she saw and thought, “Those filthy pigeons!”

Edward Gee

*A drabble is a 100 word story.. Why not have a go at writing one yourself? Send it in and we’ll print it.*

## COLUMBA LIVIA DOMESTICA

Confused? Only the enthusiast or a member of the RSPB would recognise our ever-present friend, the common Pigeon.

Also known as the Rock Pigeon or Rock Dove, they are thought to have their origins in the dim and distant past, when Mesopotamian and Egyptian records claim to have proof of their existence stretching back anything up to ten thousand years. The bible states

that Noah used doves to scout ahead in his quest to save the world. They are thought to be the most prolific birds in the world, outstripping even the vast flocks of starlings we are all familiar with. Maybe it all started with Noah?

Every town, city, village and even the humblest hamlet has its resident flock of *Columba Livia Domestica*, and we either love or hate them for their presence! Their more sophisticated cousins have served us well during two world wars, as carriers of vital messages from the front, using their uncanny knowledge of where home was at the time. It is amazing to know that those feathered messengers played a vital part in bringing news from the front, be it military or personal. These were to be referred to as the War Pigeons, and some were even awarded service medals in recognition of services to the war effort. 'Cher Ami' was awarded the Croix De Guerre, whereas the Dicken Medal went to 'G.I. Joe' and 'Paddy', along with twenty others, for services rendered.

However, there was a down-side to the popularity of the humble pigeon during the war years. Prime meat from cattle and sheep was destined for our troops, which meant that along with rabbits, squirrels, and other unfortunates, pigeons found their way onto our tables, to sustain the public in our hour of need.

Enthusiasts have, over many years, taken advantage of the pigeon's built-in satnav to develop a sport which is followed world-wide. By clever breeding, they have produced a bird that can out-strip the peregrine in level flight, and still find their home loft after a thousand miles in the air! This is one bird that will most certainly not end up in the pot! Some of these high-flyers are worth more than you would pay for the most expensive sports car. Along with the falcons in the Middle East, these birds are among the elite of the feathered world. Whether it be the classic racing bird, or the fluffy, multi-faceted show pigeon, there seems to be a place in someone's heart for this doyen of the skies! Dovecotes and pigeon lofts are a feature of much village life across the countryside, and even the

rooftops of high-rise city blocks, so we cannot deny their dominance of the skies above our heads.

Now this is the point where public opinion can be found to be split down the middle! The enthusiast cherishes the sound and sight of *columba domestica*. However, I am sure there will be those who share my view that these feathered rats are thought of in a very different way! The coo-cooing all day long, especially during the mating season, which seems to be unending, is driving me crazy! Why do they have to flaunt their love-making so blatantly? Then there is the re-painting of every surface, high and low, with the results of their bodily functions? Our cars change colour before our eyes, with the passing of these air-borne squadrons, hell-bent on blanket bombing everything at ground level. They must be aware that they have free rein over our air-space, having no raptors to worry about, who need high level launch-pads, sadly lacking in this part of East Anglia.

Why did Mother Nature decide that these hit-and-run urban terrorists would be capable of light speed in level flight, and reproductive capability that outstrips the ability of any hawk or falcon to control their numbers! It might have to rest with us humans to find a solution.

### PIGEON PIE, ANYONE?

Frederick James

---

I remember **when I was eight** I used to go to Sonny Banham's of Feltwell with Alec Banham after school. That's the old school, what's now the WI hall. We used to have tea and then strike off to fetch the cows from Haythill fen off the Southery Road and bring them home to Feltwell. Banham's farm was in Paynes Lane, just to the side of the old caravan park, where we used to milk them at 6pm.

**YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES**

Mr Sidney Paine, recorded in 1997

## **EDMUND ATMERE (FELTWELL) CHARITY**

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Applications for assistance must be made to: The Atmere Charity Secretary, 16 Falcon Road, Feltwell, IP26 4AJ giving as much detail as possible about the need, hardship, distress or illness being experienced.

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## Good Job at Hall Farm Barns

In these days of 'knocking down and build new' it's a pleasure to see this company keeping our village looking like a village . The bricklayer told me

that he's justly proud of the gable end as it was missing and he made it look pretty original.

*Pictures and text from Graham Simons.*





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## From the ONS

*Many times throughout the lockdown I heard comments about how lucky we are to live where we do and have gardens into which we could go. Sympathy was always expressed for those living in tower blocks who don't have a garden or even access to a public park. The ONS (Office for National Statistics) has done some research in this area and it makes interesting reading.*

One in eight households (12%) in Great Britain has no access to a private or shared garden during the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown, according to our analysis of Ordnance Survey (OS) map data.

This rises to more than one in five households in London (21%), easily the highest percentage of any region or country of Great Britain. The next highest is Scotland, at 13%.

In England, Black people are nearly four times as likely as White people to have no access to outdoor space at home, whether it be a private or shared garden, a patio or a balcony (37% compared with 10%). This is according to survey data from Natural England.

Even when we compare people of similar age, social grade and living situation (similar area, with or without children), those of Black ethnicity are 2.4 times less likely than those of White ethnicity to have a private garden.

Access to public parks is more evenly distributed, with people from minority ethnic groups almost as likely as White people to say their local greenspaces are “within easy walking distance” (86% compared with 88%).

People from minority ethnic groups are less likely to have access to a private garden.

People in semi-skilled and unskilled manual occupations, casual workers and those who are unemployed are almost three times as likely as those in managerial, administrative, professional



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occupations to be without a garden (20% compared with 7%).

Meanwhile, older people – at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and advised to stay at home as much as possible – are among those most likely to have access to a garden. Just 8% of people aged 65 years and over are without access to any kind of private outdoor space.

Gardens in London are 26% smaller than the national average and the smallest of any region or country in Great Britain.

The median garden size for a house in London is 140 square metres, just over half the size of a tennis court. This compares with 188 square metres across Great Britain and 226 square metres in Scotland (the largest).

**Southery, Feltwell & Hockwold**  
(King's Lynn and West Norfolk)

**7%** of dwellings without private or shared garden

Median garden size for a house:  
**401m<sup>2</sup>**

There is wide variation by local authority, with gardens in Na h-Eileanan Siar in Scotland more than 45 times as big (on average) as in the City of London (a median of 727 square metres compared with 16 square metres).

As well as gardens, our analysis looks at how far people have to travel to their nearest park or playing field.

Using Ordnance Survey (OS) data, we estimate that more than a quarter of people (28%) in Great Britain live within a five-minute walk (300m as the crow flies) of a public park, while 72% live fewer than 15 minutes away (900m).

This rises to 52% and 95% respectively when we include playing fields, although our data cannot distinguish public and private playing fields so some of these areas may not be publicly accessible.

Despite being least likely to have access to a private garden, people living in London are most likely to have a park nearby. OS data show that 44% of Londoners live within a five-minute walk of a park, rising to 58% including playing fields. Both are the highest of any region or

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country in Great Britain.

Parks are most accessible in the poorest areas, with people in the most deprived neighbourhoods of England around twice as likely as those in the least deprived to be within five minutes' walk of a public park (34% compared with 18%). Including playing fields, this rises to 57% compared with 42%.

We see similar trends in Wales and Scotland, with greater access among those living in more deprived areas.

Parks and playing fields could be seen as especially valuable to those without access to a private garden, but some have closed temporarily during the COVID-19 pandemic with people failing to maintain social distance from one another.

The average park in Great Britain serves just under 2,000 people, although some parks in densely populated areas cater for many more. Around 46,000 people have Clapham Common as their nearest park, more than 20 times the average.

*There are a couple of interactive features on the ONS website. The box on the previous page is the result of one. The other gives you data on playing field access. Here is what I got back when I entered my post code.*

Your nearest playing field is **70** metres from your home.

This is closer than the average for your neighbourhood which is **430** metres.

This is the nearest playing field for **2,400** other people.

*This article and its interactive features can be found [here](#) (or, if you can't wait until this issue appears on the website, at:*

*<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/oneineightbritishhouseholdshasnogarden/2020-05-14>)*

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## LOCKDOWN



What a load of misery  
To say we cannot roam  
And all those over seventy  
Must stay inside their home

I have always been a rover  
Walking or on my bike  
So, to stay about the house  
Is something I'll not like

I will not be a prisoner  
And my home is not a cell  
So, when told to stay indoors  
It does not go down too well

Stay indoors four months they  
say  
That's sure to turn my head  
If this come to pass  
I might as well be dead

If the alternative is illness  
With this virus going round  
Then I will take my chances  
In my home I'll not be bound

But now I've thought things over  
And had a mighty groan  
It's better to obey the rules  
And with others merely moan

We have a good neighbour  
As Sarah helps us out  
By doing all our shopping  
As we should not be about

So, thank you Sarah very much  
You are so very kind  
If you had not volunteered  
I'm sure we'd lose our mind

Harry Gill

### Face coverings on public transport.

The guidance on face coverings has changed – face coverings are now compulsory on public transport in England. However, some people do not need to do this, including children under 11 and people with breathing difficulties. For more information on COVID-19 and safer travel guidance for passengers, see the Department for Transport's latest updates: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.



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## Feltwell's WW1 War Heroes No.19

*All of the information in the "Feltwell's War Heroes" series can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/43688219@N00/42905937225/in/album-72157679638767304/>.*

*This month's War Hero is:*

### Abbreviations used.

CWGC - Commonwealth War Graves Commission

SDGW – Soldiers Died in the Great War

IRC – International Red Cross

MIC – Medal Index Card

### **R. JOHNSON, 7TH NORFOLK REGT**

On the Church Roll of Honour he is recorded as R. Johnson.

Probably

Private JOHNSON, ROBERT

Service Number: 3/7633

Died: 12/10/1916

Unit: 7th Bn. Norfolk Regiment

Commemorated at THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

SDGW records that Private 3/7633 Robert Johnson was Killed in Action on the 12th October 1916 whilst serving in France & Flanders with the 7th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. He was born Feltwell, Norfolk and enlisted at Norwich. No place of residence is shown.

The Medal Index Card for Private 3/7633 Robert Johnson, Norfolk Regiment, is held at the National Archive under reference WO 372/11/16948

He qualified for the 1914 Star, having landed in France on the 31st August 1914. The related Medal Roll shows that he was "Regarded as dead 12.10.16"

He also qualified for the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The related Medal Roll shows that he initially served with the 1st Battalion and ended up with the 7th Battalion. The most likely reason for this is that he suffered a serious injury or illness and on

recovering was posted to the 7th.

His Card notes he was "Pres Dead 12-10-16".

The Army Register of Soldiers Effects records that his death was presumed on or since the 12th October 1916. The balance of his pay was sent at the end of 1917, start of 1918 to his mother Jane, brothers Arthur and Charlie, and sisters Alice and Matilda. His War Gratuity was paid to his mother Jane in November 1919.

### **1893 – birth**

The birth of a Robert Johnson was registered with the Civil Authorities in the Thetford District in the July to September quarter, (Q3), of 1893. His mothers' maiden name was Underwood.

The baptism of a Robert Johnson, no date of birth recorded, took place on the 7th October 1893 in the Parish of St Mary and St Nicholas, Feltwell. Parents were Charles, a Labourer, and Jane. The family live in the Parish.

### **1901 Census of England and Wales**

The 7-year-old Robert Johnson, born Feltwell, was recorded living in a dwelling on Chapel Street, Feltwell. This was the household of his parents Charles, (aged 38, a self-employed Bird Stuffer, born Feltwell) and Jane, (aged 36, born Cambridge). As well as Robert their other children living with them are:-

Charles, aged 13, born Feltwell

Arthur, aged 11, born Feltwell

Matilda, aged 9, born Feltwell

Alice, aged 5, born Feltwell

Frank, aged 2 months, born Feltwell

The death of a Charles Johnson, aged 44, was recorded in the Thetford District in the July to September quarter, (Q3), of 1906.

### **1911 Census of England and Wales**

The Johnson family were still living on Chapel Street, Feltwell, but head of the household is now the widow Jane, aged 47 and the Housekeeper. She states she was married for 23 years and has had

12 children, of which 7 were then still alive. Still living with her were her sons

Charles, (24, House Painter)

Arthur, (21, General Labourer)

Robert, (17, General Labourer)

Frank, (10)

Bernard, (6) – all born Feltwell.

Their marital status has not been completed, but considering they are living at home with their mother the assumption has to be that they were all single.

### **Army Service**

There is an entry in the Admission and Discharge Book for the 14 Field Ambulance dated 14th August 1915. Private 7633 R. Johnson, B Company 1st Norfolks, was admitted with a Septic Leg. He is recorded as aged 22 and had 2 years Army Service. On the same day he was transferred to the Divisional Rest Station.

### **On the day**

#### *Battalion War Diary*

*10th October 1916 (11 pm) Bulls Rd near Flers*

*This evening the 35th Brigade took over the front line from 36th Bde, 7th Norfolks+7th Suffolks in front line, 9th Essex in Support, 5th R.Berks in Reserve. Disposition of 7th Norfolk Regt are, D Coy Right Front, A Coy Left Front, "C" Coy in support in GIRD TRENCH, "B" Coy Reserve in SMOKE TRENCH. The Battalion front is from Road N.19.G.56 to Road N.20.C.49 (Ref.Map 1/20,000). 7th Suffolk Regt is on our right and 41st Division is on our left. We are due to attack BAYONET TRENCH, the Hun front line opposite us on October 12th. We have relieved 11th Middlesex, 36th Bde, this evening.*

*11th October 1916.*

*Last night was spent in digging assembly trenches for our coming attack. Today nothing has been done owing to enemy observation which will not permit of it.*

*12th - Attack on Guedecourt with 7th Suffolks on right, 7th Norfolks on left. Wire uncut and remnants of battalions back to start.*

*Gueudecourt*

*12th Div attacked Bayonet Trench and Rainbow Trench in this area. Despite a German MG barrage on the front line at Zero Hour, 8th and 9th Bns, Royal Fusiliers and 6th Buffs made it to their objectives. Later they were forced back.*

### **Battalion War Diary**

*12th October 1916. Flers Trench near Flers.*

*Today at 2.5pm we attacked BAYONET TRENCH. Last night the assembly trenches were completed + all the battalion lay out in them from 5 a.m. this morning until the attack. The attack was carried out with all four companies in the line, disposed in depth, one platoon behind the other, D on the right C,B,A. On our right, 7th Suffolk Regt and on our left 2nd Royal Scots, 30 Division. Battn HQ remained in BULLS ROAD. The object was to attack was first of all to capture BAYONET+SCABBARD TRENCH and then to sweep up + take LUISENHOF FARM and establish a line beyond it.*

*At 2.5 pm our artillery barrage commenced + our men advanced to the assault. After advancing about 50 yards, the Hun opened fire with M.G.s from both flanks + from in front. Our troops continued to advance but before reaching the enemy's trench ran into barbed wire which had not been cut. The wire coupled with the M.G fire prevented any further advance, and our men lay down in shell holes from where they brought rifle fire to bear on the Germans who were standing up in their trenches shooting at them. We caused considerable casualties in this way to the enemy. After dark we made a further attempt to cut a way through to the enemy's trench but the line proved too strong. The survivors then crawled back to our own line and then reformed. The 9th Essex Regt. then relieved us +the Suffolk Regt. In the front line + we came back to FLERS TRENCH, the Reserve lines near FLERS which we are sharing with the Suffolk Regt.*

*Our casualties during the attack today were:*

*Officers*

*Killed*

*2/Lieut C G Shepherd*

*2/Lieut S R Mitchley*

*2/Lieut C Sizeland*

*2/Lieut F Hogben*

*Wounded*

*Capt. J M Howlett*

*Lieut H R G Montgomery*

*2/Lieut H Thone*

*2/Lieut W J Jones*

*Missing*

*2/Lieut. H Smith*

*2/Lieut A Shaw*

*Other Ranks*

*Killed: 36*

*Wounded:125*

*Missing:51*

*13th October. FLER TRENCH, Today has been devoted to re-organising the Battalion. We have in the trenches now 8 Officers and 350 men in all.*

## **Hedgehog Care – June 2020 update**

Dear friends and neighbours,

I have been updating my knowledge of hedgehogs and have had some really useful information from Karen O'Neill a hedgehog carer in Brandon who is experienced and qualified to care for hoglets and hedgehogs.

On the basis of advice, information and research I am updating the advice and guidance I have been giving in the Feltwell Neighbourhood site.

### **Food to eat – weaned hedgehogs**

Dry cat food is the best. It is low in fat but high in protein. Kitten or Puppy food is better as it has a higher level of protein and all the required vitamins and minerals for hedgehogs to thrive.

All flavours are suitable including fish which the hedgehogs often smell first and will attract them to the secure feeding station.

Wet cat food attracts flies and the bacteria and eggs laid by flies can harm hedgehogs, so this is best avoided for outdoor feeding.

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However, it is suitable if you are overwintering hedgehogs indoors that are too small to successfully survive hibernation in their natural habitat.

## **Water**

Fresh water should be placed in a clean shallow dish every evening so that the hedgehogs get plenty to drink (all year round if possible).

This is especially important during warm weather.

At present it has been so dry that the hedgehogs food has gone deeper into the ground.

One thing you can do in your own garden is to water soil and your plants well as this will bring the food up to the surface where the hedgehogs can feed.

If you cannot afford to water the entire garden (expensive water meters!) then if you can water a corner that has weeds, lush plants / shrubs then this will give the hedgehogs an area where they can rely on their natural food.

The added benefit to you is that the hedgehogs will deal with your slugs and some smaller snails.

## **Food to avoid – all hedgehogs**

Milk, grapes, raisins, cheese, citrus fruits, avocado, pineapple, onion, garlic, potato, tomato, mushroom, processed and canned meat, raw meat, seasoned or fried meat, insects from bait shops, nuts and seeds and chocolate.

Mealworms strip hedgehogs of calcium and those rescued who have been fed on mealworms have skeletal damage and have to be put to sleep.

## **Hedgehog Care**

Due to the mild winter and warm spring hoglets have been born since mid-January.

If you find a hoglet (smaller than a tennis ball) with its eyes closed it is a sign that it has been abandoned by its mother who may have

been killed or frightened off the nest site by badgers, foxes, dogs, cats, rats, ferrets or weasels.

Speed is critical. If you only find one, then please look for the other hoglets, typically hedgehogs have between 3 to 6 hoglets each year from January until August (depending on our weather, they will breed for longer with warm weather).

If there is one there will be others who need your help.

Keep them warm in a towel in a box and get them to a hedgehog rescue centre with people qualified to treat them as soon as possible.

Hoglets need special intravenous feeding with specialist products.

In Feltwell our Vet nurse Louise (01842 828938 ) is qualified to provide medical treatment and feeding,

Karen O'Neill in Brandon (01842 814139) is also qualified to provide medical treatment and feeding.

Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital 2 The Hill Ousden Newmarket CB8 8TW (01638 500295) are also able to treat and care for hoglets and hedgehogs.

BHPS for advice and location of rehabbers.

Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre have a Helpline 01386 882 288 which is open daily from 7am to 5pm. They will give advice and guidance.

Their website is [info@valewildlife.org.uk](mailto:info@valewildlife.org.uk)

They run courses at their head office and have a regional course in Soham on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which I am booked on to attend.

The course costs £85 and runs from 9am to 4.30pm.

I can take 3 other interested carers in my car from Feltwell or Southery as I will pass through these villages to get to the course.

Please email me if you wish to attend this course and I will be happy to give you a lift. [Lindseydixon.davies@gmail.com](mailto:Lindseydixon.davies@gmail.com).

In the meantime, keep feeding, keep watering and keep your cats and dogs away from the hedgehogs and hoglets in your garden. Please also be very cautious when you trim/mow your lawns as horrific injuries are happening to hedgehogs.

Kind Regards

Lindsey Dixon-Davies

# Feltwellians Around The World

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## **John Messersmith**

My dad was stationed at Lakenheath. It looks like houses have been removed from our lovely Trenchard Square. I noticed barbed wire around the property and a middle school has sprung up. What a fun playground for me, especially the old Feltwell RAF base. We loved to explore the buildings and bunkers! Loved the village and candy we bought! Fun times.

## **Ann Summerville, Texas**

My great grandfather was Harry Jacob born 1865 in Feltwell and married to Kate Peasley. They moved to London around 1901. My grandmother was Emily Jane Jacob. The earliest records I have found for the family are Thomas Jacob married to Martha Gillman in 1752 at St. Mary's Church, Feltwell.

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I wonder if they counted the number of radishes used?



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# Lakenheath Fen

## A NEW BEGINNING AT RSPB LAKENHEATH FEN

At the reserve we are now getting back into the swing of things a bit, following the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown meant three of our five members of staff were furloughed- both our wardens Emma and Katherine and myself too. The remaining staff were unable to visit the reserve for any reason other than safety checks once a week, so it is now lovely to be back at work and doing what we can for our supporters. I thought it would be useful to put the word out about exactly what you can expect from a visit in the coming days and weeks!

Our Visitor Centre is closed for the time being, for the safety of everyone- it just isn't possible to maintain social distancing and adequate hygiene inside. However, we have done our best to adapt to a new system that is COVID-secure; we have a Welcome Point situated at the side of our Visitor Centre, which is manned by a volunteer or staff member. This is the spot to head to after you have parked, and here you can find out our latest wildlife sightings, what facilities are open for use and also which trails are open- we currently have a partial closure of a main path which I will come to in a minute. We have a toilet open for visitors to use now too, should you need to during your visit. We do ask that while you are here, and queuing at the Welcome Point, for the toilet or out on the trails, that you maintain a safe distance from all other visitors and our team, which will enable us to keep the reserve open permanently, if we can be sure everyone is safe.

For those visitors familiar with the reserve, the path closure covers the section of the hard stone track from the start of New Fen down

to Joist Fen, and as such there is no route through the reserve to Joist Fen Viewpoint. To reach this viewpoint, the only way to do so is along the riverbank footpath which you can pick up at Brandon Fen, the Visitor Centre (both via a footpath) or at New Fen (via a wooden stile). To get back to the entrance of the reserve from Joist Fen Viewpoint you will need to backtrack along the riverbank and not through the reserve. The reason for this closure is to protect sensitive breeding wildlife nesting very close to this path, so the closure is only temporary and the path will reopen after another month or two. During our opening hours of 9am to 5pm we have a volunteer stationed at either end of this closure to guide visitors to the paths they can use and also answer any questions about wildlife they may have during their visit.

The only other thing to mention, which I touched on a moment ago, is our closure of the reserve outside of office hours. During lockdown many of you will know that our steel gate at the roadside was locked 24/7 to protect the reserve while no staff were present. When we were planning our reopening we decided to keep the gate shut between 5pm and 9am every night as there has been an increase in antisocial activity and criminal damage in other local reserve car parks during lockdown, and we wanted to keep the site safe, for the wildlife itself as well as for those that enjoy coming here in a positive way. Eventually we hope to keep this gate open permanently to allow early risers to enjoy the reserve once more.

We hope as a team that this information is useful and that you can understand why things are a little different for the time being, and please do get in touch with us using the details below if you want to know more or have any questions for us.

With best wishes, and happy wildlife watching,

Heidi and the rest of the team at RSPB Lakenheath Fen.

Telephone: 01842 863400 E-mail: [lakenheath@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lakenheath@rspb.org.uk)

Address: RSPB Lakenheath Fen Visitor Centre, Station Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, SUFFOLK. IP27 9AD



# *Your Good Health*

by Dr Ian Nisbet

**Have magpies, the squirrel or, perhaps, the rabbits become the new Bluebells?**

Those of you who have been reading these articles for the past thirty years or so will be well aware of my long-standing war against Spanish (thug) Bluebells in the Feltwell garden. I was enjoying a long-fought victory when we moved to Worcestershire a couple of years ago and there are no Spanish Bluebells in this garden. I still have nightmares about the massive framed picture of Bluebells hanging on Dr Giselle Sagar's consulting room wall. Just for clarity, I have no problem with the dainty English Bluebells, of which there are many around here. Here, we have rabbits, Magpies and a grey squirrel (flying rat)! The mummy rabbit and the baby rabbit visit us. Mummy eats the lawn (no problem) but baby eats the

newly planted bedding plants (big problem).

I had been having a massive tidy up at the far end of the garden because Deannie wanted to create a wild flower garden of 8 square metres. On the ground, there was an old bird box which had fallen down a year ago. It was battered and I picked it up to throw it away; I looked inside and a blue tit flew out, leaving a nest with 4 eggs. Carefully, I replaced the house where it had been and consulted with Management, the resident bird expert. We decided that it would be unsafe to leave the box on the ground. However, if I hung it up at 6ft or so, the tit might be too confused. So, we decided to put the box on a garden chair in the same position. Because last year's occupant had died from overheating in the sun, we put an umbrella over the bird house and retired to our patio coffee

lounge to await developments. Within moments, the bird was back in residence and, feeling very proud, we congratulated ourselves on a job well done. We watched the box for several days and all was going well when DISASTER! We found the box on the ground with the roof broken off and empty of bird and eggs. The previous day, I had chased a squirrel from our bird feeding area and we have a pair of magpies who live in the garden (with a pair of pigeons, a pair of collared doves and a pair of robins – all we need is an ark). So, another high-level meeting with Head Office and we think the blame must lie with either the squirrel or the magpies who are now persona non grata in our domain. The rabbits, we decided, were not involved. I bought a new bag of bird seed, big and tough plastic it was, and left it outside my garden shed overnight. Next morning, Deannie was having her morning inspection of the estate when she noticed that the Magpie had clocked the bag of seed, bearing a very realistic picture of bird seed, had drilled a hole in the bag and was chomping merrily

away. Too clever by half! Enough of the Victor Meldrew!

Deannie's wild flower garden is growing well and should provide a profusion of colour later in the year. At the moment, it looks like a lot of weeds and it makes me very disquieted and I start thinking of weedkiller and a garden fork when I look at it. It will be interesting to see how it develops.

In March, we bought a bug hotel, otherwise known as a bug house, a bee house/hotel and so on. It looks like a bird box with an open front and numerous different sized tubes with open ends. Within a month, the garden was alive with little bees, zooming around and going in and out of the bug/bee/insect hotel, filling the ends of the tubes with mud. The local What's App went ballistic, asking "What are all these wasps doing in our house walls?"

It transpired that they are Masonry Bees who are solitary bees. The male bees exist to mate with a female, then die. Life span 2 weeks! Unlike honey bees, the females are all fertile, laying both male and female

eggs, and, after mating, she builds her own nest ideally in a tube 6" long or in a crack in masonry. Before laying her eggs, she needs to gather pollen and nectar. She does not have pollen baskets on her hind legs; she just dives straight into the middle of the flower, covering her body with pollen before diving into the next flower. She is not much good at collecting pollen but she spreads the pollen around between plants, each masonry bee pollinating as many flowers in a day as 100 honey bees can manage. She will visit 75 flowers to gather one load of pollen and 25 loads are required for one pollen wad which is destined to feed one larva. So, she will visit 1875 flowers to lay one egg in one cell. She goes into her chosen nesting site and regurgitates the nectar; then, she shakes the pollen wad on top of the nectar, repeats this process 25 times for one egg and then lays an egg on top of the nectar-pollen ball. She then caps the end of the tube or fissure with mud and moves on to the next tube or crack. During her 4-6-week life, she will lay 35 eggs.

So, after about a month, all went

quiet and we have a bug box with all the tubes blocked with mud. We shall be interested to see when the new life bursts forth. The good news is that they are harmless and do not sting. Theoretically, they do not damage buildings, but Judith Griffen remembers a lot of annual damage to the barns at Holly Farm in Methwold.

Next up, during May, a load of bees took over one of the bird nesting boxes at the far end of the garden. There was a constant buzzing of about 20 bees protecting the entrance and I gave it a wide berth while working down there. Apparently, we had been visited by the Tree Bumblebee. Female workers can be very protective of the nests, buzzing around if they hear vibrations. The bees flying around the entrance are usually a group of males engaged in drone surveillance. They do not enter the nest but they are waiting to pounce on and mate with new queens as they emerge from the nest. If they find a female, the pair appears to fight, falls through the air and mates on the ground. Ten what? All

*Continued on page 57*

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# Word Search

Submitted by Mrs J. Clements.

This month our usual word search is on **INSECTS**

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

Find the words from the list. They run vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and forwards but always in a straight line.

APHIDS  
 BAT FLIES  
 BILL BUGS  
 BLOW FLY  
 BUMBLE BEE  
 BUTTERFLY  
 CICADA  
 CICADA KILLER WASP  
 CRICKETS  
 DAMSELFLY  
 DRAGONFLY  
 DRIVER ANT

FIG WASP  
 FIREFLIES  
 FLEAS  
 GROUND BEETLE  
 LEAF CUTTER ANT  
 LOUSE  
 MAGGOT  
 TINEID MOTH  
 WORMS

*Solution on page 58*

## Home Learning Tips

What do these insects eat?  
 Find out how they are useful or not.  
 Do internet searches to find out what they look like.  
 Are they all native to the UK?

## DOWN MEMORY LANE - Early Days in Feltwell

Dr Ian Nisbet

At the end of the last “Down Memory Lane” article, it was 1970 and I was starting the 7 years I spent in a group practice of four doctors between Crawley and East Grinstead. The senior partner had no children at home and the other three of us had children. The school summer holidays lasted six weeks and each doctor with children wanted a two-week holiday away with his children. However, the senior partner always “bagged” one of the fortnights for himself; as a result one of the three younger partners had to go without a summer holiday with his children. I came up with a cunning plan. I would take a two-week holiday at some other time of the year, do a locum job to earn some money and then use those funds to pay a locum to replace me in the Crawley practice while my family and I had a summer holiday. Of course, lead balloons fell in the Crawley practice – two of the principals would be away at once, the world as we knew it would come to an end, and so on. I persisted

and, in 1975, I came up to Glemsford and Cavendish in Suffolk, working as a locum for two weeks, replacing a Dr O'Brien, who was away. The remaining partner, Dr Le Mesurier, with his wife, were charm itself, looking after me really well.

I loved the country patients and everything about the isolated country dispensing practice. During my two weeks, I had several meals out in patients' homes, one patient took me to the Bury Round Table meeting and the friendliness was amazing. This generated a desire to run my own single-handed dispensing practice and, two years later, I applied for the Feltwell job and for another in Wansford on the A1 (Had I got that job, I would have become a volunteer train driver on the restored railway). There were 240 applicants for the Feltwell job and, after three intensive interviews, two in Norwich and one with the General Practice Committee in London, I was appointed and started in Feltwell

on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1977. Purchasing 'The Old House' in Feltwell took three weeks and, during that time, Dr John and Pat Burgess had to remain in the property with me as a lodger. Pat fed me "right royally". Two butchers delivered to the house and there was plentiful meat on the menu. John would take me out every evening, visiting his favourite patients, and we would sit for hours drinking their whiskey before rolling on to the next venue. Fortunately, he was driving but was never quite able to reverse the car into the garage in the small hours when we arrived home. John and Pat were really hospitable and gave me a good start.

As you can imagine, moving house and starting a new practice was quite an upheaval. I was on call every night and had to work all day. The favourite greeting at the time was, "We get rid of our vicars and kill our doctors" - a bit unsettling but I soon got used to it! The first night, I had to visit patients at 1.30am, 3.15am and 5.15am. The rule in those days was that anyone who knew they needed a visit should telephone before

7.30am. Every morning, at 8am, I would go to the Garden House in Methwold, where Mrs Ruth Goddard hosted the branch surgery. Fortified by a really strong cup of tea, I would do several visits before the morning surgery which started at 9am and went on until it finished. During the surgery, I did all my own dispensing to patients from the small dispensary between the consulting room and the waiting room. I did the repeat medications during the day, making up bottles of white medicine (getting them to mix was a nightmare), cough mixture, and so on. I remember using a lot of Lin Meth Sal (like horse liniment) for musculoskeletal problems; the favoured cough linctus was "Covonia" and High Blood Pressure seemed to have only one treatment (Aldomet), the dose of which was increased progressively until control was achieved. If we failed to achieve control, the condition was called Malignant Hypertension and was often fatal. There were none of today's carefully refined therapies.

Evening surgery started at about

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6pm and went on until it finished – usually towards 9pm. In those days, many GPs would use the afternoon for relaxation, golf, etc. However, I had promised my predecessor, Dr John Burgess, that I would continue to visit his “chronic” patients, whom he would visit one a week or so. I carried on seeing them, but I had to change the day of the week. As a result, very often, they were out – on the allotment, at the market or visiting relatives elsewhere. It transpired that, during John Burgess' days, they would always wait at home on the day the doctor was due to visit and I had totally messed up the system by calling on another day.

All the repeat medications were left out in the porch of the house for patients to collect, with an honesty box for the prescription charges (2/- an item in those days -10p in new money). All telephone calls came into the house and either the doctor or, during the day, his wife, would answer the patient and deal with the matter. I inherited Betty Chapman from the Burgesses. Initially, her main jobs seemed to be dealing with two open fires

and two coke boilers every morning, polishing the tile floors on her hands and knees and answering the telephone. She took to the children, especially Grant (aged 18 months), who would follow her around the house with a duster in his hand, copying her every action. Later, when Duncan was born, she was absolutely brilliant. One morning, she went up to get him out of his cot and found him unconscious and navy blue. She flew about and “got him going” again. Happily, he made a good recovery after a spell in hospital but it gave us all a nasty shock and cemented her relationship with him. Before long, I took on her daughter, Jane (now Peckham) to answer the telephone and do the repeat dispensing. She was brilliant with the job and the children and stayed with us for very many years until her children, John and Kay, came along.

In my early days, there was a very small waiting room which would hold about 10 patients. This was luxury as, beforehand, there had been no waiting room and patients had to wait outside. In the early 1980s, we built a

large extension (currently, it can still be seen under the conical roof) which provided a large waiting room, a secretary's room and a nurse's room, with a WC for the patients to use. I have one serious regret about the building of the extension. Under the far corner of the building, on the side nearest the house, there was a beautiful chalk-lined well. Because it was situated exactly where the corner of the building was to be, we had to fill it in and build over it. Had it been a couple of feet away in any direction, or had we had infinite time to redesign the building, we could have put a light down it, thick glass on top and made a wonderful feature.

Gradually, the new premises at the house became inadequate. As a result, in 1991, Deannie and I designed a new surgery and got Joe Bamford from Mundford to build it. Of course, there was an architect and Alan Bunyan, a quantity surveyor, involved. The new surgery is still in use, modified and extended to fulfil today's needs, but fundamentally the same building.

General Practice in the 1970s was a way of life, not a job. The GP had to live in the village and to be available 24/7 for callouts. We spent quite a lot of time as "first attender" at road accidents. Most of the time, I was exhausted and it was a great relief when we eventually took on partners and, as they would say now, "grew the practice" to prepare it for the future. I retired from the practice at the end of 2005, after 28 years. It was a terrible wrench as I had so many wonderful patients.

Happily, the Neanderthals I had met in the early days did not manage to kill me, as they had promised, although we did have a fair turnover of vicars!

Our house has been the doctor's house since 1818 and, apart from Dr George Archer who is recorded as being in the house for 68 years from 1836 to 1904 (not all of them as the village GP), I have been the longest serving GP in the village. For those with long memories, Dr Burgess was here for 19 years ('58-'77),

Dr Macdonald 15 years ('43-'58),

Dr Naismith 6 years ('37-'43),  
Dr Cubitt 2 years ('35-'37),  
Dr Francis 9 years ('26-'35),  
Dr Rawson 1 year ('25-'26),  
Dr Neighbour 2 years ('23-'25),  
Dr MacArthur 1 year ('22-'23),  
Dr Cassell 1 year ('21-'22),  
Dr Debenham 5 years ('16-'21)

and Dr Ernest Archer 12 years ('04 – '16).

The first doctor at The Old House was Dr William Henry Roberts (1818 – 1836).

Ian G. Nisbet

## YOUR GOOD HEALTH *Continued*

seems to have gone quiet in the bird box at present and the temptation is to open the lid and have a look. Perhaps not!

Last year, I wrote about our leaf cutting bees who cut a really neat semicircle out of leaves. I have not seen any sign of them yet this year.

How are you getting on with the lock-down? We are fine but fed up not being able to visit our family. Saving money by not going out! I even have to admit to missing being able to pop to the shops.

*A lady was working in her kitchen during Corona lock-in when her friend arrived and chatted to her through the window. "Where's your husband?" "Oh, he's in the garden." Long pause while the visitor scours the garden "I can't see him." "You are not looking deep enough".*

Best wishes to you all

Ian Nisbet

## A Message from the Editors

We are acutely aware that during the lockdown some of our subscribers were unable to read the magazine as they don't have access to the internet. Plus, those of you who did manage to read a copy online or downloaded, didn't get a physical copy. In the light of this we have decided to give you all two free issues. Consequently our annual subscription renewal date will move from January to March 2021.

Paul and Susan

## Word Search Answer

*Submitted by Mrs J. Clements*

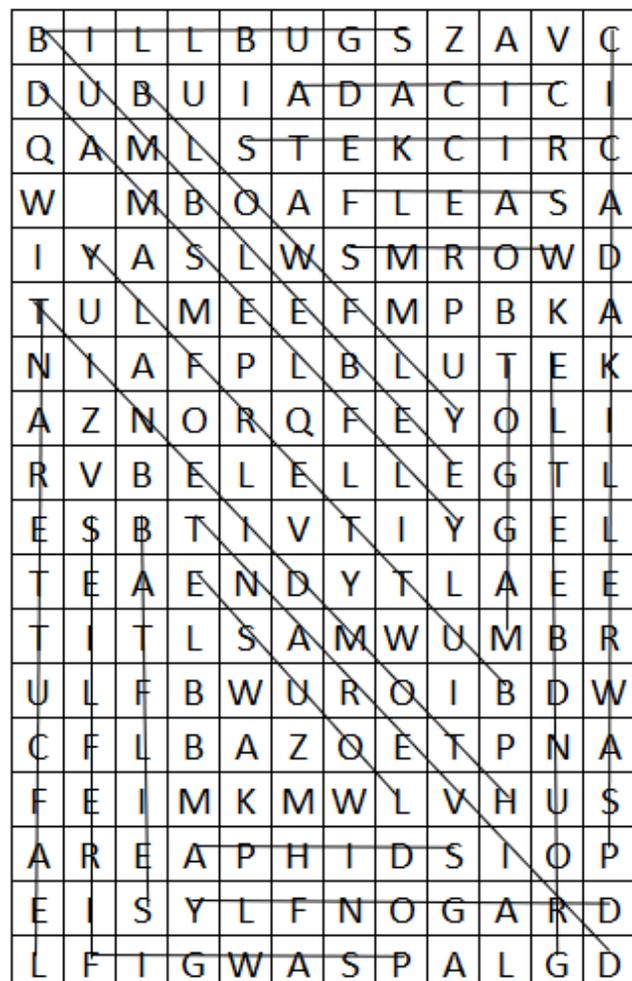
Next month's Word Search will be on **Herbs 'n Spices**



## Our Local Foodbank

If you would like to donate to your local Foodbank there is a drop off point at St Mary's Church, Feltwell.

Any food stuff which does not require refrigeration and is in date is ok. Thank you for all your donations, kindness and generosity. Ness Fry



## Money Matters

**Up to £15 billion of unclaimed financial assets in the UK lie in old bank accounts, pensions, life assurance and investments – yet most are easy to reclaim.**

So, whether the account's yours or belonged to a deceased relative, it's worth spending 10 minutes looking.

Some believe there is up to £850 million in old bank and building society accounts alone. There is also lost cash in Premium Bonds, pensions, investments and insurance policies – maybe up to £15 billion in total.

In fact there's so much lost cash, the Government has started to use it, setting up a 'Big Society fund' for social and community causes using cash in accounts that have been dormant for more than 15 years. As of January 2018, it was reported a further £330 million from dormant accounts was to be spent.

However, any cash that is yours should still be available for reclaiming. You just need to do it!

You don't need to pay to reclaim...

There's absolutely no need to pay anyone to do this. A growing market of companies offer to track down your old assets for a fee. Ignore them! It can easily be done yourself without forking out the cash.

## A Message from the Editors

We have been asked, now that the magazine has returned to its usual printed format, if we will also offer it for free download via the village website, as we did during the lockdown. As the purpose of producing the magazine is to raise money for local groups we are concerned that doing this will result in a loss of income. We have, therefore, decided to trial uploading this and all subsequent issues towards the end of the month in which the magazine is dated.



# St Mary's Feltwell

Your Parish Church

**GOOD NEWS.** Church will now be open for private prayer every Sunday from 9am to 6pm beginning on June 28th. There are notices and hand sanitiser as you enter the tower door and we ask respectfully that you follow all instructions. We welcome you to come and enjoy the peace of our beautiful building once more

## CONTACTS

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Depending on the type of product your assets are in – current accounts, savings, pensions, or various investments – a selection of organisations provide facilities to help search for unclaimed assets, many of which can be done quickly and at no cost online.

Tracing old accounts and reclaiming your money from them used to involve filling in a different form depending on what type of account you were trying to locate; a bit of a repetitive strain. The good news is you can now use one site to check a whole bunch of them.

The British Bankers' Association, the Building Societies Association and National Savings & Investments (NS&I) have a joint venture, [www.mylostaccount.org.uk](http://www.mylostaccount.org.uk) which replaces their separate account tracing tools.

To start reclaiming, simply go to the site, select 'search' and you can fill in the details about the account you are looking for.

After that it's a waiting game; banks and building societies say they'll respond within three months of the claim.

## **How to trace old Premium Bonds**

---

**Lost your premium bonds?** If you've lost Premium Bonds, or other NS&I savings or investments, the My Lost Account service helps you trace them. It's estimated there's over £400 million in lost NS&I savings accounts and Premium Bonds.

To start reclaiming, simply go to the site, select 'search' and you can fill in the details about the Premium Bonds or NS&I account you are looking for. NS&I says it'll get back to you within one month with the results of your search.

**Have the bonds, but want to check if you've won?** Once you've tracked down your Premium Bonds, and got your holder's number, you can check if you're owed one (or more) of the unclaimed prizes on the NS&I Premium Bonds prize checker. There's more than £50 million in unclaimed Premium Bond prizes.

Bonds that were bought more than 30 years ago are unlikely to have

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a Premium Bond holder's number associated with them – you're likely just to have the individually numbered bonds. If that's the case, you can write to NS&I to ask for one.

## **Find hidden pensions and investments**

---

It's not just bank accounts, in fact there's more money hidden away in old pensions. Use the services below to find yours.

- **Pensions (employer and personal schemes only)**

Always try to keep in touch with your pension schemes as it may affect your ability to claim pension benefits when you retire if you lose contact. With details of over 200,000 pensions schemes The Pension Tracing Service helps you find an up-to-date contact address for the scheme you're looking for.

Remember if a close relative has died without taking their pension, you may be eligible for that pension fund cash too.

- **Catch-all service, but fee to pay**

If you've lost a insurance policy, pension, or shareholding, then the Unclaimed Assets Register (run by Experian) can be used to trace it. It does a single search of all companies signed up to the register – 4.5 million records, from around 75 different providers.

If there's a match, you'll be given the provider's contact details so you can investigate further with them.

However, this service is not free. You're charged a fixed fee, currently £25 each time you do a search

David Cordner DipPFS

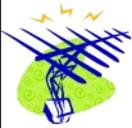
### **ALVEVA QUILTERS**

It is with regret that Alveva Quilters have to announce the cancellation of their Exhibition which was scheduled for October, this year. They hope to stage it in the spring of 2021 instead.

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## Do We Need a National Water Grid?

The unusual weather over the last few months, a warm and very wet winter followed by a long dry spell, has led me to wonder if it is now time for the us to think about a national grid for water. We have one for all the other utilities but building one for water presents its own unique set of problems. It's not as though we don't have enough water in the country, it's just that it isn't always in the location where it is required.

One way to deal with the water supply and demand problem in the country is to transfer water from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. The UK Government has been considering developing a national water grid, similar to the national electricity grid, for many years. This would involve water being transferred through a network of pipes. However, this has not yet been developed due to the high costs associated with setting up such a network.

There are a number of smaller scale water transfer solutions in place in the UK as shown on the map overpage. This includes water being transferred from reservoirs in North Wales and the Lake District to cities such as Manchester and Liverpool in the densely populated north-west of England.

Also, water from the Kielder reservoir is pumped into the North Tyne river. Water can then be transferred to the River Derwent, the River Wear and the River Tees. This allows water to be supplied to large urban areas including Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Sunderland.

About 5% of water supplied to homes and businesses in the UK comes from water piped in from outside the immediate area, but such schemes have fallen out of favour in the last decades as concerns have risen about the environmental impact on the areas donating the water, the cost and energy use.

### **Disadvantages of water transfer schemes:**

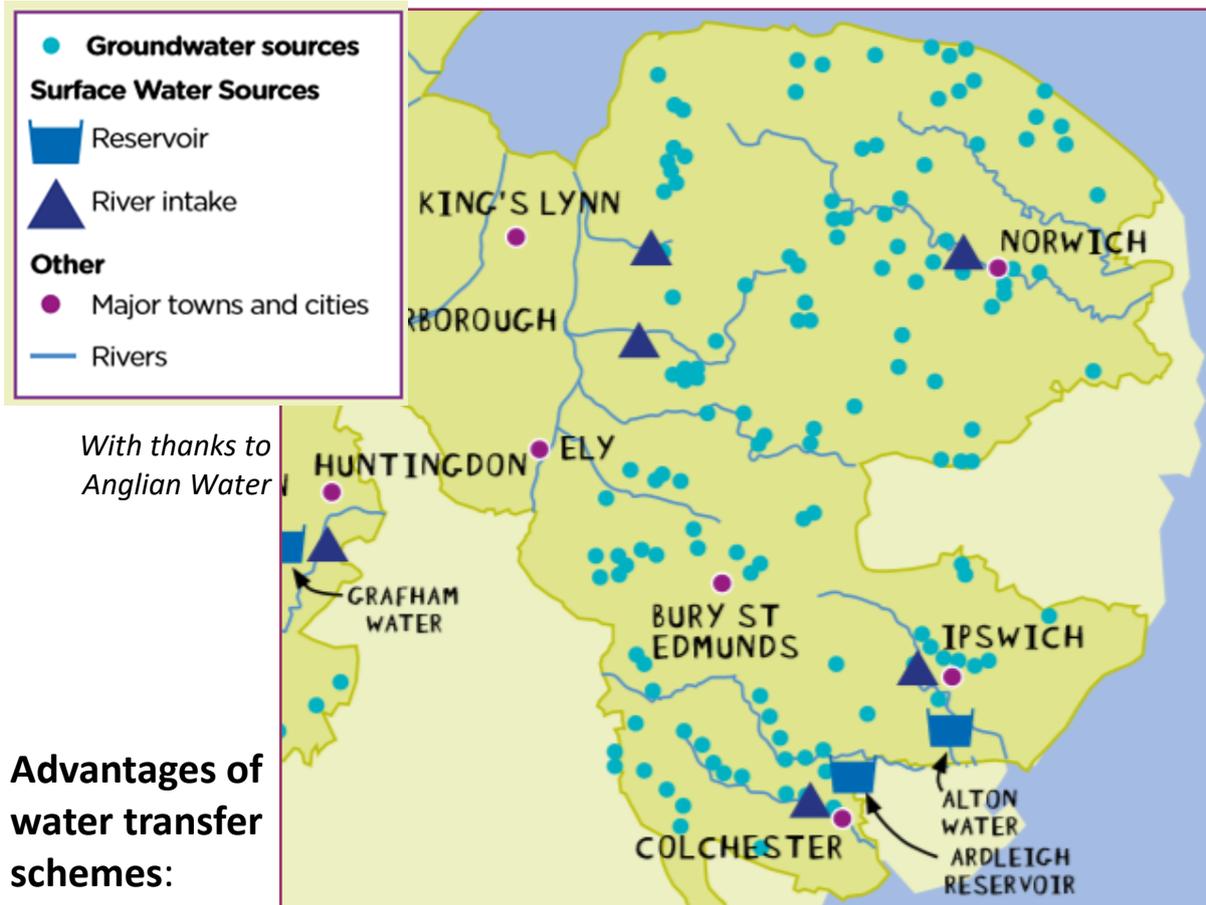
- Dams and aqueducts that are needed are expensive to build;

## Major water schemes in England and Wales



- Building dams can have a negative environmental impact, this includes large-scale flooding of natural habitats;
- Fish migration can be disrupted by dams;
- There might be political issues, e.g. people may not want water from their area transferred to another.
- There would be increased traffic and noise from the construction of dams to provide extra capacity;
- The river flow downstream would be affected, along with the wildlife;

- Mixing water qualities.
- Alien species moving further afield.
- Climate change leaving schemes redundant when rainfall patterns change.
- Also, more land would be affected when pipes are run across it.



- Areas affected by water scarcity will no longer face restrictions in water use during dry periods.
- Jobs will be created as part of the construction of dams, aqueducts and pipelines.
- The multiplier effect will lead to local businesses benefitting from goods and services being purchased.
- Recreational opportunities as the result of the construction of dams and reservoirs.
- Reservoirs offer new habitats for plants and animals.
- Food production in the eastern bread baskets will be more secure.

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Considering the pros and cons of such a major infrastructure project against the predicted impact of climate change, is the time right for us to consider, once again, a National Water Grid? Please email me with your thoughts at [garlandp@btinternet.com](mailto:garlandp@btinternet.com)

With thanks to [Internet Geography](http://www.internetgeography.net) for assistance with the text. (<https://www.internetgeography.net>).



Dear All,

We hope you are all keeping well and safe in the current climate. As like many groups, MTC has been unable to meet for their weekly meetings in person, but we have been meeting virtually on Zoom each week, which is great fun and will continue until some sort of normality is resumed.

Because of the current situation the Race Night that was scheduled for June has been postponed and hopefully will be re-scheduled at the beginning of next year.

With regard to our November play, this will be deferred to early spring 2021, when we expect to resume rehearsals, and the rules regarding social distancing and gatherings have relaxed. We will of course keep you informed.

Hope to see you all in the near future, meantime, stay safe in these unprecedented times.

Rose Gibson and all at MTC

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## FELTWELL BOWLS CLUB



Further to my report in the last issue of the village magazine, events have overtaken me in that the Green was allowed to open on the 1st. June, albeit with several restrictions.

Briefly as follows :-

- ◆ Only 2 players per rink i.e. singles.
- ◆ Each player to have a jack each.
- ◆ To be played a rink apart from any other players i.e. only 3 rinks can be played that only allows 6 players max.
- ◆ No score boards.
- ◆ No access to the club room or store.
- ◆ There will be a supply of anti bacterial cloths and sprays.
- ◆ To maintain social distancing at all times.

There are full instructions on the notice board of these requirements.

Since then Bowls Norfolk has advised, with the allowance of 6 people being able to meet outside, it may be possible to play pairs and triples albeit maintaining social distancing which of course may change soon.

Any member interested in a game? I will be at the green on a Monday at 6 o'clock.

Will update further next edition.

### More Books You've Never Read

Motoring by Phil Errupmate

We have no Oboes by Wilbur Soonsdo



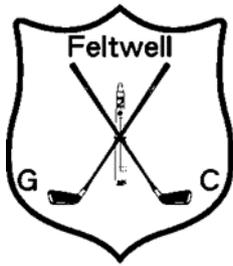
## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE No. 13

Photos taken from Mr P. Garland's "Feltwell: Yesterday and Today" presentation first shown in 2018 and provided by Mr C. Cock. Modern photos taken August 2018 by Mr C. Brown.



Looking towards the Oak junction. Pear Tree Farm wall is on the right. Pear Tree Farm is now the site of a couple of bungalows.





## FELTWEEL GOLF COURSE – STAY SAFE—PLAY SAFE – A COURSE TO BE PROUD OF

Our course is now open and we are still able to offer some tee slots to visitors at £15 for 9 holes. We have successfully introduced a booking system for Tee-Times for both members and visitors or you can simply call the club on 01842 827644 or Jo Bates on 07855 821116 before 3pm to book your slot. If you haven't yet joined the club or need to pay your subs then you will need to contact the office before you can book. We also encourage players to pay by card or electronically as we are not able to accept cash under the current circumstances.

Lessons with Jo are also available on a 1:1 basis or small groups of 5, so if you would like to improve your game or iron out some 'quirks' in your swing call Jo on 07855 821116 to find out more anytime until 3pm.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day**

Sadly, we had to cancel our usual Open Day this year, originally arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> May, however, as restrictions are relaxing we now feel it will be possible to hold a celebration Open Weekend at the end of August, over the Bank Holiday weekend in some form. It will take a different format so that we can spread the attendance over the 3 days safely, thereby still being able to maintain safe social distancing for our visitors, members and staff. Over the three days we hope to be able to hold Texas Scrambles for members and for families, Putting Competitions for all ages, Obstacle Pitching Competitions, Pro tips from Jo on the Practice Area, as well as play the course for as little as £5. There will be a BarBQ running all day, courtesy of Robert's as well as other treats still to be arranged. Entry is FREE, so you can come and go as you please. More details next month.

### **Second Club Members**

Already a member of a golf club but live locally to Feltwell, why

not take advantage of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Club Membership, you can come up to play most times during the day, just book your tee time beforehand; take part in all Social Golfing Events held by the Club as well as join in with the Friendly Fixtures with other clubs. Consequently you can enter, Texas Scrambles, Drive-Ins and other social golf events held during the year.

### **Robert's at Feltwell Golf Club**

Though the Clubhouse remains closed, Robert is still offering his 'Home Delivery Service' of meals together with some canned or bottled drinks. We know this is a life line for some locals who cannot get out at all during this time, our thanks to Robert and Steve for rising to the challenge. Check on our or Robert's Facebook Page for the 'Menu of the Day' - to order your meal phone 07376 182419.

Hopefully this email finds you all safe and well and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible up at Feltwell Golf Club now we are able to play golf again.

Take care and stay safe.

Follow us on  and be sure to keep up to date with what's going on here at Feltwell Golf Club.

**Remember you are never too young or too old to start playing golf and we look forward to seeing you soon at FELTWELL GOLF CLUB**

## **DRABBLE**

Each morning it's the same. We draw lots, and I always pull the short straw. It just isn't fair. However, off I go, take up my perch and try to attract their attention. It's not easy, but I give it my best shot. I bash the glass, repeatedly, until my head is pounding. They just stand there. Surely, they're not deaf. They probably think I'm fighting my reflection, but I'm not stupid. I bash away some more and after I've had enough, I open my mouth and scream, "For goodness sake, put some seed in our bird feeder, won't you!"

Edward Gee

## Hospital Happenings *by Tony Bennett*



*Monthly Ramblings about West Suffolk Hospital.*

### **News:**

We now only have 20 patients in with Covid, quite a reduction from last month's 39. Around half the patients being admitted have gone home, but sadly we have lost some as well. The hospital is beginning to start seeing less urgent patients as outpatients but routine stuff is still on hold. The plea to leave family and friends at home has been heeded, with thanks, although one comforter, carer, husband or wife can be of great support and certainly in nuclear medicine we will not bar one escort.

### **New Hospital:**

Although there have been rumours over the last few years some fairly solid information has come to light that the new hospital may well end up on a site near the Westley Junction with the A14. For readers living in our area the trip should be a little easier, saving us having to cross town to get to the hospital. I would expect the hospital to be up and running by 2030 but there is a slim chance it could be sooner.

### **Parking etc:**

Parking remains free at WSH and at the moment and fairly easy with many spare spaces. There is at least one free coffee machine near to F7 ward for patients and visitors with social distancing rules for the queue, which is not usually very long.

If you can, please arrive at your appointment time or just a few minutes early, we just don't have the room to social distance people if loads turn up really early.

for each patient. From the 15th, if not before, staff will be wearing face masks at all times in line with a government directive.

### Case of the Month:

#### The mystery man.

You may recall our patient from last month. To recap, he came in by ambulance very short of breath. He was not having a heart attack so the fear was that he may have Covid-19 so onto the Covid ward he went but he had no temperature. His nuclear scan for lung blood clots was negative and so was a Covid test. He looked to me like someone does when they have the 'flu, red eyes, wheezy etc and feeling rough. Sure enough he had a positive test result for Covid 19 two weeks later and has now recovered from that with another negative test. The mystery remains, did he have Covid on admission but the test failed, (they are not very reliable tests) or did he catch it from the ward he was put on? I guess we'll never know but hopefully he will continue to recover and I'll report back next month.

## Sudoku Puzzle

Each row, column & 3x3 square must contain numbers 1-9

|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|   | 1 | 7 | 5 |  | 9 |   | 8 |   |
|   |   | 6 |   |  | 2 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 |   | 6 |  |   | 5 |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   | 1 |  | 3 |   |   | 9 |
|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | 7 |
|   |   | 4 |   |  | 6 |   | 3 |   |
|   |   |   | 4 |  |   | 2 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   | 2 |  | 8 | 4 | 9 |   |

# Feltwellians Around The World

---



*On the 8th June I received an email from David Emery with the cryptic subject line, **RAF Feltwell/440-L***

Dear Mr Garland,

I am currently conducting some research into a missile early warning system known as 440-L, a component of which was located at RAF Feltwell from the late 60s until about 1975. The system used HF forward scatter with transmitters in the Far East. Feltwell was a receive station, and there would have been some fairly sizeable antennas associated with the system.

I stumbled across your website and wondered if you happen to have any information about this system, or know if anyone who might be able to help.

*Never having heard of this 440-L I sent emails to a few contacts, one of which was Chris Cock. Chris wrote back...*

Not something I know about although, yes, I do remember the large masts located near the now rifle range / PMEL facility building. From memory there were 4 or 5 masts and the concrete stanchions were still in place a few years ago. Of my time in the Royal Observer Corps I don't remember this system ever being mentioned, which surprises me. We were familiar with Ballistic Missile Early Warning Systems and equipment known as AWDREY but no knowledge of this system. All very interesting as I remember those masts as a young lad.

*I forwarded Chris's response to David, wondering if it would be at all helpful. Lo and behold, it was,...*

Many thanks for this. Actually it's potentially quite useful as it may help locate the former position of the antenna array. Please could

## Sudoku Solution

|          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>2</u> | 1 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 5        | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 3        | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 4        | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 6        | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 9        | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 1        | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 8        | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 7        | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 |

# Feltwell Village Yard Sales Day

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Feltwell Scouts have decided to hold the annual Yard Sales Day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. We have held off as we don't want to put anyone's health at risk. Hopefully by September things will be pretty much back to normal and we can welcome all those from outside the village once more.

Registration forms will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> August.

you or Chris tell me roughly where the rifle range / PMEL building is?  
To the north of the three white domes?

*This I did by reference to Google Earth and David replied...*

Thank you so much for the information that you and your contact have provided. This has enabled me to locate what I believe are the remains of the antenna arrays (see attached Google Earth image). There are in fact two arrays on slightly different alignments - the larger one to the NW (I assume the low band array) has left faint remains of its bases, but the smaller one (high band array) close to the large building appears to have its eight bases still quite clearly visible. They are aligned exactly as I would expect (pointing at Japan, where the transmitters were located).

Once again many thanks - and please pass my gratitude on to your contact.



*Which I did and Chris wrote back...*

Yes, that looks exactly where they were as I remembered.

Those concrete bases are quite sizeable things and, when I used to cut the grass there for hay, used to be a bit of an issue to mow around.

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