

Update on the Solar Community Fund & Village News



Everyone has been talking about Brexit and politics - what will happen now we have voted to come out of Europe? No doubt this will continue to be top of the subject list for some while, but we have also got some updates for you on East and West Beckham news!



Ok, so now we are seeing things getting done. It's good that the hard work taken on by the Committee is at last seeing a few things coming to a positive conclusion - or maybe just a new start? I bet some of you are also wondering is there anything to see for all this Solar Farm money.

Here's the latest on any progress, action by volunteers, approaches for grants, useful information, plus a record of the Village 90th Birthday 'Afternoon Tea' Celebrations for Queen Elizabeth on June 12th held at Chestnut Farm, West Beckham by kind permission of John and Judy McNeil-Wilson.



Martin and Ann Waring expanded their social initiative of monthly 'budget lunches' (1st Thursday in the month - recommencing in September) held at the Wheatsheaf pub into a Celebration Event. Thanks too must go to Glenda Driver for organising the raffle and the donations of strawberries, cream, cakes, sandwiches and savouries. The raffle also raised £270 in funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, which was really impressive. There was a trail set round the beautiful garden with a quiz about the Queen - hard to answer though! Questions & Answers on page 3 if you want to have a go?



The North Norfolk **Dial a Ride** service operates in the North Norfolk District Council area and has been set up specifically for those people in communities where access to the usual public transport services is difficult or impossible. The enclosed leaflet gives details of membership and how the service operates.



You may have seen the North Norfolk Community Transport minibuses out and about in the area?

The same group also offers **MediRide** services for local people to have safe transport to medical appointments in doctors' surgeries and Norfolk hospitals. If you contact the service as shown on the back of the leaflet you can find out how the system operates and how to book and use the service. With the difficulties involved in reaching and parking at The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital it would be worth finding out about this service if you are having to make visits in the future.

The bus shelter in West Beckham

Recently, the Solar Community Fund Committee (SCFC) had a look at the bus shelter and the area around it to see what needed to be done to tidy it up. We had considered that we could get a working party together with the offers of help we have had from people in the village to tackle this but on closer inspection we realised that at first we could do with some professional input to get us started.

The whole area taken up by the bus stop and the telephone box is surrounded by a retaining wall which has not only been overgrown by ivy and other plants but has been buried under earth from the bank. This earth has even invaded the inside of the telephone box! This needed to be dug out and removed so that the condition of the retaining wall can be assessed and rebuilt as necessary. Some large, overhanging tree branches also needed to be removed. So we have arranged for this work to be done before requesting for help from our willing volunteers. The bus shelter is in good condition but will need a power wash to remove the algae and we would like to paint the inside white, to brighten it up. Then we could relocate the village notice board to the bus stop area together with a parish map showing footpaths and walks etc together with a more user-friendly bus timetable! We have a list of volunteers but if you are interested to help just get in touch and please expect to be contacted when we are ready to move on with this project!



NB The bin in the bus shelter has been emptied twice recently and seems to have become a substitute for a dog bin as well as being used for small scale 'fly-tipping' of broken glass and other decorating waste. As this is not the type of rubbish expected in a bus-shelter bin so it has been removed until further notice.



WEST BECKHAM GREEN AND EAST BECKHAM COMMON

These two small areas of woodland in both villages are regularly used and as a result of the returns from the questionnaires we were asked to look at their future management. We contacted the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who in turn put us in touch with Mark Webster, the Workout Project Officer of The Conservation Volunteers. You may have seen an article about the work of the group in North Norfolk in the local press.

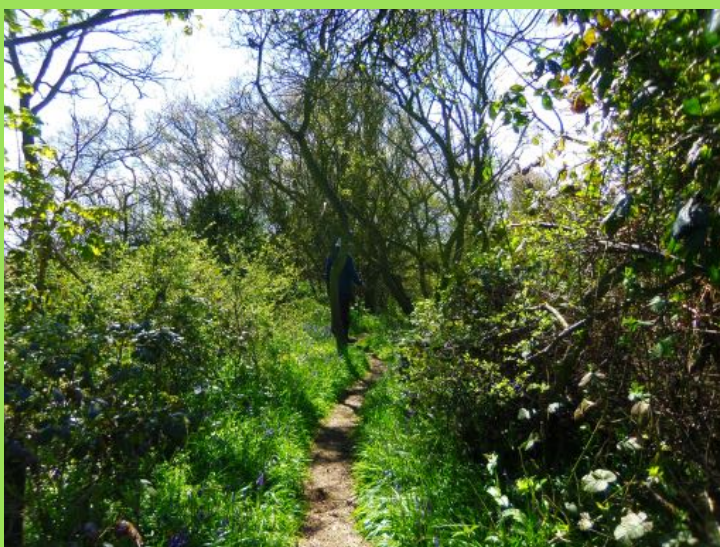
Mark came to visit the two woodlands on the 18th April and saw the great potential we had of enhancing these valuable community areas.



In West Beckham Green there is the ideal habitat for the rare White Admiral butterfly because of the large amounts of wild honeysuckle. This butterfly has already been spotted in Sheringham Park across the road so it is very possible that it also inhabits West Beckham – if anyone has seen it locally, please be in touch!



East Beckham Common is much more ancient and home to bluebells in late spring. It has an ancient boundary bank and, like West Beckham Green, some unusual veteran trees. Both woodlands are suffering from a lack of the traditional management that would have happened in the past and so urgent attention is necessary to stop the encroachment of bramble and bracken to keep these woods open for everyone to enjoy. Mark has drawn up a management plan and we have used that to make a bid for a grant from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' Fund which is designed to help with the management of green spaces. The Parish Council asked us to explore grants from other sources to make the money from the Solar Fund stretch as far as possible. We are hoping to hear in August whether money from this fund has been awarded but meanwhile we are looking at lower cost options to help us achieve a similar outcome should we not be successful. Watch this space!



If you would like to join a group of us to volunteer and help manage the areas (East and or West) please let Julia Dovey know, so we can confirm Autumn working party dates.

Queen's Birthday Garden Trail Quiz and Answers:

QUESTIONS 1. What is the full name including surname of the Queen? 2. Who was the great grandfather of the Queen? 3. How many great grandchildren has the Queen? 4. What rank did the Queen hold in the ATS during the war? 5. How many wax work models of the Queen have been showcased by Madame Tussauds? 6. The Queen has 4 corgi's or dorgi's. Can you name one? 7. The Queen has missed the opening of Parliament only twice. Why? 8. Who was the Queen's Grandfather? 9. Approximately how many diamonds are in the imperial state crown? 10. Who was the lead singer in the band Queen? **ANSWERS** 1. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, 2. Edward VII, 3. Five, 4. 2nd Lieutenant, 5. 23, 6. Holly, Willow, Vulcan, or Candy, 7. Pregnancy, 8. George V, 9. 2868, 10. Freddie Mercury

A defibrillator for West Beckham and possibilities for East Beckham

The next Parish Council meeting is on 14th July and a representative of the Charity Heartbeat will attend to explain how the system operates. If anyone wishes to attend the meeting to hear the presentation and ask questions, then please come along. This will start at 7.30pm.

The EB Allotment

The entrance and carpark is now complete and the new allotments are taking shape. If you would like an allotment please contact the Parish Clerk (e-mail johnstibbons@gmail.com or tel. 01263 577397) for details or Bob Lewis.



< East.....West > ROAD entrance	
28. occupied	1. occupied
27. car park	2. occupied
26. vacant	3. occupied
25. vacant	4. occupied
24. vacant	5. occupied
23. vacant	6. occupied
22. vacant	7. occupied
21. vacant	8. occupied
20. vacant	9. occupied
19. occupied	10. occupied
18. occupied	11. occupied
17. vacant	12. occupied
16. vacant	13. occupied
15. vacant	14. occupied

Church Projects

The Church Council met on the 23rd May to discuss the various projects. We are in the PCC's hands as they will be arranging quotes and re-inscription of the [The War Memorial](#) with a Roll of Honour. The only addition would be name of Shepherd, Charles Henry (missing on the current roll of honour) who lived in West Beckham and who died in Mesopotamia on 6th February 1915. [The Churchyard Entrance repairs](#) awaits quotes too and then the PCC would share that with the SCFC to see if the work could then be expedited. [East Beckham Mission Hall \(aka 'The Reading Room'\)](#) The Trust Deeds for the Mission Hall signed on the 23rd May 1996 make it clear that the Norwich Board of Finance Ltd is the Authority and that the Parochial Church Council is the Administrative Trustee. Unfortunately the PCC does not have money to restore or clear the site as the Mission Hall is in a very poor state of repair and is completely overgrown. It was therefore decided that Paragraph 3 (page 1) of the agreement and declaration be pursued with the Diocese i.e. to seek to sell the Property with the proceeds being placed in the Church's Fabric Fund restricted 'for the maintenance and repair of the Parish Church'. The PCC will seek guidance from the Archdeacon but if a duly authorised sale was agreed, the Parish Council/SCFC have written to say we have an interest in buying back the site for community use.

New steps.....

Thanks must go to Simon Wakeford, Lorraine Marks and Ron Cornell for installing the new steps which make it much easier to access this Post box!



Broadband Survey

Do you have Broadband available to you? If not, is this through choice or because you cannot get a reasonable service? We would be keen to hear from you either way. Please contact David McNeight.

Contacts

- ❖ Julia Dovey 01263 825457 jld@postmaster.co.uk
- ❖ Bob Lewis 01263 821223 r177lewis@btinternet.com
- ❖ David McNeight 07949 195645 chromis@me.com
- ❖ Ann and Martyn Waring on 01263 820148