

## Update on the Solar Community Fund & Village News



Since the last issue of the Bulletin the Village's 'Green Spaces' conservation work has carried on. (This work has been funded by the Solar Community Fund Money and also a Tesco 'Bags for Help' community grant).



### **The Village Green in West Beckham**

has had a further day's work by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to clear bracken and brambles and open up the area so a picnic bench can be installed in a clearing. The carpet of snowdrops was beautiful. The conservation 'management plan' will outline the next 5 years and suggests we plant some more, but actually it showed us if the brambles and bracken are removed the naturalised bulbs can pop up instead!



**In East Beckham Common** the guys from TCV have worked hard on our behalf clearing vegetation with their power tools and then followed up by West Beckham village volunteers Lorraine & Simon Wakeford and Ron Cornell who spent a Sunday burning the resulting debris. (No vegetation can be removed from sites due to potential transfer of disease, so burning is the best disposal option when possible). Long views have been opened up and a picnic bench site identified! Let's hope more bluebells emerge here too.





Lorraine Wakeford has also been very busy working and volunteering in conjunction with the Norfolk Coast Partnership, Norfolk Rivers Trust and Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Several Churchyards have been ‘earmarked’ and after we contacted the project team St Helens and All Saints Churchyard and Graveyard have been surveyed. In the Churchyard an amazing 49 types of wild flowers were identified. The surveys will carry on through the summer so we hope to find out more. The last time on record a survey was completed was back in 1982.



In addition to this work, the SCFC/Parish Council have applied for and received further funding of £580 granted via the Norfolk Coast Partnership to support the biodiversity work that is already being carried out in the Parish. To supplement our current efforts we want to get our community involved by putting together simple wildlife boxes (60 x DIY Bat & Bird kits with instructions) and place them into our ‘Green Spaces’. Please offer some of your time to build a kit (tools needed are a screwdriver and a hammer) and later help to install it.



Maybe we can get a few of you to volunteer and we can build a few other wildlife habitats!?  
Contact Julia Dovey (contact details on back page)

**East Anglian Children’s Hospital (EACH)** received £550 from the donations made at Councillor Dick Moreton’s funeral. Rose Moreton would like to thank everyone for their generosity and kindness.

In this Bulletin Edition the big Church news was the successful sale of the Mission Hut in East Beckham on the 15th February. This sold at auction for £44,000 and therefore, as in the original Deed of Sale to the Church, “in event of a duly authorised sale of the property the proceeds shall be used to provide a Fabric Fund for the maintenance and repair of the Parish Church of St Helen with All Saints East and West Beckham”. This money is timely to keep St Helen’s and All Saints Church in good condition, albeit sadly, not enough money to replace the roof! We eagerly wait to see what will happen to the old Mission Hut under new ownership.



In the meantime, quotes and designs are being sort by the SCFC for the Graveyard Entrance. The intension is to widen and improve the vehicle access, and make a better impression as you enter the Cemetery. This would include a signboard in keeping with the St Helens and All Saints Church along the road.

**Excellent news as** Bodham and Beckham Village Hall ladies and gents toilets have recently been refurbished, which will come as a great relief to everyone! They are now sparkling and ready for all coming events. We are commissioning photos of both the Beckhams' village signs which will be framed and hung in the Hall alongside Bodham’s existing ones, as requested by the Village Hall Committee.

## Allotments !

If you would like an allotment in East Beckham there are spaces available. The cost of the allotment for a year is only currently £10. If anyone wants to have a smaller size of allotment than the standard 80 feet x 30 feet this is possible. All enquiries to John Stibbons (Parish Clerk).



The Village Entrance Gates will look like this (but not saying Blackpool!?) There will be 3 sets in West Beckham - entering from Sheringham Road, entering from Bodham (The Street) and near St Helen's Church entering from Mill Road. These will be at the same locations as the existing 30mph signs.

In East Beckham, where there are no 30mph signs. The Gates will be close to the Abbey Farm turn off from Red Barn Lane, and entering via East Beckham Road from Gresham Village, close to Valley Farm corner.

These were approved by the NNCC highways department after a site visit last year to survey the best possible location options. The hope is that the gates will work as a traffic calming measure and also 'announce' the Villages to help find us! The gates have worked well to reduce traffic speeds in other villages such as Edgefield.



Benches and picnic benches like these are soon to be installed

The Play area on Church Road is being checked out for new and improved equipment. Quotes are being sought for a basket and pole swing, plus a toddler slide. The fencing will be reviewed too - hopefully making the area more inviting for families in the Parish, and any visiting children. A low climbing wall might be possible too!



Three Village 'Parish Walk' Notice Boards are to be installed. These are using the OS Land Ranger map as a base, so it will be familiar to many people who already use them. The maps will show where our Parish is in relation to footpaths, roads, parks etc. and help orientate people or emergency services around our general locality. They will have a green shaded area showing the Parish. It will also show the two locations for the Defibrillators which will be installed one in East Beckham and the other in West Beckham One to be sited in the Telephone box next to the Bus Stop in West Beckham and the other at the gable end of the Manor Farm barn almost opposite the East Beckham Village sign.

**FREE Events! Eel Events** - A month of opportunities to learn more about the enigmatic eel. Come and join a local, fun, free event (in **Cley, Holt and Blakeney**) between **May 21st - June 23rd**. For more details of what's on and where to see: [www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/the-glaven-eel/1105](http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/the-glaven-eel/1105)



## Calling all wildlife watchers!

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust are looking for volunteers to help them discover more about the biodiversity in our parishes. We have included the **Garden Bird Tick List** for anyone who would like to join in the project. You can send the completed forms directly to the address on the form or give them to Julia Dovey who will forward them on.



If you would like to investigate further, to look at plants, mammals or insects in your garden, or in the parish farmland and woodland, please be in touch and we could form a **Parish Wildlife Group** to collect more information.

Please contact Julia Dovey

Please can you let us know more about your needs for Transport. We have included with this Bulletin a **BUS SURVEY** which we would like you to complete. We need to find out from you who would use the Community Transport if the Solar Fund paid for the the bus to come through both East and West Beckham. We would like offer a service on a Saturday to go to Sheringham on Market Day, but firstly we need to know more and if there is actually a demand. What times, how often, when should it go and when it should return?



**your parish needs you!**

The **Solar Community Fund Committee** is open to all Parishioners in East and West Beckham. If you would like to join us we would really like more volunteers to help get things done. Some of our members have now moved away and are no longer able to sit on the committee so please come forward. We meet monthly in Bodham and Beckham Village Hall, usually on a Thursday evening for about an hour. Please contact Julia Dovey (chairperson) or Kathryn Lord (secretary)

**Appeal for Parish Councillors.** If you are interested to find out more or to offer your services as a Parish Councillor we are looking to fill 2 positions. It would be especially good if we could find representatives from East Beckham. Please contact John (Stibbons Parish Clerk)

### Contacts

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